

THE PADDINGTON PAPER

PEOPLE PASSIONATE FOR PADDINGTON

The official newsletter of The Paddington Society. Registered by Australia Post Publication No NBG 1470.

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PASSION | CARING | ACTIVISM

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

**On 11 August 2014
The Paddington Society
celebrates 50 years**

supporting heritage, environment and community values in Paddington.

Established in 1964 to oppose pressure from private developers, council rezonings and arterial road proposals, The Society has been prominent and pro-active in seeking the conservation of heritage in Paddington and public domain improvements which provide a better quality of life for the community. Over this period dedicated residents from various walks of life have volunteered their time, energy and professional expertise to ensure the quality of this unique precinct is maintained, conserved and improved.

This edition of the Paddington Paper outlines the broad achievements of The Society over this 50 year time span.

You are invited to read and enjoy and recognize the considerable contribution which has been made on your behalf.

More importantly join us to celebrate this milestone at the Paddington Town Hall with guest speaker, Paddington's favorite son Jack Thompson, actor, film star and son of the founding members of The Society, John and Pat Thompson.

The Paddington Society
invites you to our

**50th Anniversary
Celebration Dinner**

Paddington Town Hall

Monday 11 August 2014

7:00 pm

Society Members \$110 | Friends \$115

Guest of Honour:

His Excellency the Honorable
Sir Peter Cosgrove
Governor-General of the
Commonwealth of Australia

Guest Speaker: Jack Thompson

Booking and information:

www.paddington society.org.au
Robyn Attuell | 0412 414 144 or
heritage@paddington society.org.au
RSVP Wednesday 30 July 2014



Jack Thompson

Jack Thompson, son of founding members of The Paddington Society Pat and John, and brother of filmmaker Peter Thompson, is a major figure of Australian cinema. He is best known as a lead character actor in acclaimed Australian films including such classics as *Sunday Too Far Away*, *The Man from Snowy River* and *Breaker Morant*. He has won Cannes and AFI acting awards and the recipient of a Living Legend Award in 2005.

Jack has also developed a love of poetry (his father was a poet) and features in a series of recordings of Australian poetry reciting the works of Henry Lawson, Banjo Paterson and C.J. Dennis.

Celebrating 50 Years of The Paddington Society 1964

1960s | the beginnings

The Paddington Society was formed in 1964 at a meeting in Paddington Town Hall, called to support the preservation of Paddington in the face of post-war planning schemes which designated Paddington as a 'slum' suitable for redevelopment.

A vigorous campaign was mounted in the mid-sixties to have Paddington recognized as a place of architectural and heritage merit and to combat proposals to widen a number of streets to improve arterial traffic flows. The widenings, in Liverpool Street and later Jersey Road, would have resulted in the loss of multiple terrace houses and streets, which threatened the fabric and substance of Paddington as a heritage precinct.

After much campaigning by Society members, including a major rally in Jersey Road, which attracted over 3,000 people - politicians, planners, architects and celebrities; it was the lead story on all four TV channels that evening. There appeared to be hope for Paddington's future.

Commissions of Enquiry led by Commissioners Bunning and Abraham resulted in these proposals being rejected. The Sydney Morning Herald stated "The Paddington Society has saved Paddington".



1970s | bold plans

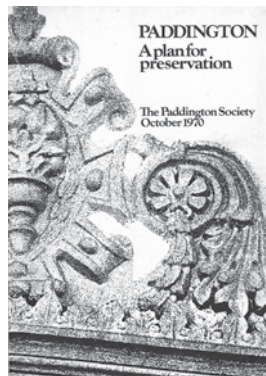
These resident actions lay the foundations to preserve the heritage village of Paddington.

The Paddington Society formed a Special Area Committee which met fortnightly, to prepare 'A Plan for Preservation' for Paddington to assist Woollahra Council in the preparation of its development controls.

The Plan was based on a thesis by Terry Dorough and prepared by Society volunteers including Don Gazzard, Keith Cottier, George Clarke and other enthusiastic members of the committee; its implementation was recommended and supported by the National Trust and to this day remains a milestone and a model for planning for inner city living.

- Five streets - Regent, Ulster, Newcombe, Stewart and Elizabeth were closed to prevent constant rat-running from Oxford Street to Moore Park Road.

- Sydney City Council purchased land on the corner of Oatley Rd and Oxford St, once the site of the derelict Glenview Hotel. It was developed into a park area alongside Walter Read Reserve and included a memorial fountain to John Thompson poet and founder of the Society designed by Don Gazzard.



1980s | saving heritage

Juniper Hall, a grand villa built in the early 1820s was the home of Robert Cooper, a gin distiller. A hundred years later it was turned into flats and hidden behind a row of shops along the Oxford Street frontage in the 1920s. When further commercial development was approved in 1984, The Paddington Society and the National Trust mounted another very public campaign organising a rally and march along Oxford Street leading to the removal of the shops and restoration of the building. Fortunately it was an election year and substantial funds were forthcoming - \$750,000 from the State Government, the National Trust contributed over \$1 million, \$200,000 from Woollahra Council, the Paddington Society members raised \$5,000 and Society member Lesley Bridle bequeathed her entire house and estate to its restoration

Juniper Hall March 1984



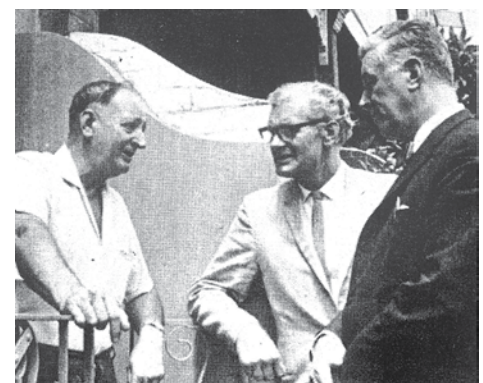
- The barricades once placed around Trumper Park Oval were removed returning this green space to community use.

- The reservoir site was saved from a multi-story carpark with a permanent conservation order placed on the site.

- RTA's proposal to make Barcom Avenue a two-way street at Oxford Street to increase its use as a distributor road was defeated.

< Impending devastation to Jersey Road. Photo shows terraces to be demolished. and was presented at the Commission of Enquiry 1967. Donated to the Society by Commissioner Walter (Wally) Abraham.

∨ John Thompson (middle), Commissioner Walter Bunning (right) with Paddington resident, 1968



1990s | taking control

In the early 1990s The Paddington Society took a pro-active approach to the redevelopment of the Royal Hospital for Women site. As part of the Reference Group set up by the Benevolent Society, Society members prepared and presented a concept for redevelopment of the site which was subsequently adopted by the Benevolent Society. The plan provided a total structure and form for site development and included a 0.5ha park on Glenmore Road, now enjoyed by many Paddington residents. At the time the process was considered a model for community engagement achieving excellent results for the Benevolent Society and the community.

- The Paddington Development Control Plan (DCP), as a separate detailed document was demanded by The Society and contributed to over 10 years by our technical experts, via the DCP Working Party. It is now the bible of advice on how to maintain our built heritage and neighbours' amenity when upgrading dwellings and commercial buildings. DAs are continuously monitored by The Society for compliance.

- A group of six Victorian 'Gothic' terraces in Stafford Street were saved from demolition.

- Our Integrated Traffic Management Plan for Paddington was developed emphasising it as a walking suburb where vehicle traffic is subservient to amenity.

- We successfully advised Sydney Grammar School that the upgrade to the Nield Avenue fence be transparent to allow views into the playing fields.

Concept plan for redevelopment of RHW site



2000s | overdevelopment

As the push for urban consolidation and re-development momentum gained tacit Government support, The Paddington Society campaigned ever more strongly against the overdevelopment of large sites.

- **White City** – the Society developed a concept plan and with further community consultation Woollahra Council drew up a DCP for the site, ongoing.

- **Cross City Tunnel** – our plans for gateway works at Glenmore Road/New South Head Road, pedestrian crossings and stop signs at the Cascade Street intersection, footpath widening on Nield Avenue and narrowed roadway at Dillon Street Park were implemented by the RTA.



Oxford Street proposal by The Paddington Society with wide median and rationalised traffic.

- **The Scottish Hospital** - the proposed overdevelopment of the site resulted in the Society putting forward detailed submissions.

- **St John's Church** Oxford Street is being restored and the site developed for retail and residential. The DA for a mix of residential and retail uses, for the OTC carpark owned by the Uniting Church, is currently in hiatus.

- After extensive community consultation, **The Paddington Reservoir** site was restored and transformed into a public garden by City of Sydney.

- We opposed the transfer of the lease on Crown land to **Paddington Bowling Club** and at the time, with Clover Moore MP and Mayor Petrie, met with the Minister Kelly, ongoing.

- The Society has promoted improved pedestrian facilities in Paddington and argued for traffic management proposals which are sympathetic to the heritage nature of the village. Over 20 pedestrian crossings have been introduced, gateway landscape treatments established, Fiveways upgraded, and road narrowings introduced to modify driver behaviour and provide greater pedestrian amenity.

- We successfully lobbied Government for a 40km speed limit throughout Paddington.

2014 | 50 years later

Oxford Street - the High Street – the Paddington Society together with BIKEast, has prepared a plan for the design of Oxford Street as a pedestrian friendly High Street to unite both sides of Paddington, slow traffic and foster improved commerce. The proposal, which reduces traffic speed to 40 kph, rationalises traffic lanes, repositions traffic lights and incorporates a wide pedestrian friendly central median, has been presented to the City of Sydney, Woollahra Council, and most recently to the Director of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) who has undertaken to conduct further studies into the concept.

The History of Paddington

To celebrate our 50th year, the Society is currently embarking upon an ambitious project to research and publish the definitive history of Paddington documenting the development of its early history, architectural, social and environmental aspects. This will take a number of years. Donations to assist with research and printing costs would be greatly appreciated.

We continue to:

- work with Council preparing Paddington streetscape plans to enhance public spaces
 - brief Councillors on Paddington issues and meet regularly with Mayors of both Councils
 - monitor all Paddington DAs, about 250 each year and support neighbours against non-complying development
 - participate in Land & Environment Court hearings on destruction of heritage and overdevelopment
 - consult with RMS and Sydney Buses on traffic and bus movements
 - promote the return of Nield Avenue and McLaughlan St to two-way traffic as a key principle of traffic calming in Paddington
 - promote a Public Domain Plan to provide a systematic basis for urban design throughout Paddington
- ...continued overleaf

2014 | 50 years later...continued

- submit detailed submissions to NSW Department of Planning
- keep members informed of local issues
- help 'Clean-up Australia' as annual volunteers
- hold social events showcasing galleries, restaurants and pubs
- support the 'car share' program to ease parking for residents and visitors.

Who has lived in your house?

The City of Sydney website now has the Sands Directory online – no more headaches from searching microfiche in libraries! From 1858 to 1933 residents are listed by street, businesses, professionals etc. Just go to <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/search-our-collections/sands-directory>

Choose a year your house may have been built, then look up the suburban street listing in the directory for that year. If you find it, go back to earlier years until you can no longer see it using clues about its position and/or tracking back the residents' names in your house or neighbouring houses. If you don't find it the first time or the houses are not numbered in that year, you may need to go to a later year. With no numbering you may need to work out the position of your house (and the terrace group it is part of) relative to the nearest cross street. Your house was probably built in the year first inhabited or in the previous year. Happy hunting!

Committee Positions

If you are interested in joining the Society's committee, come to a couple of meetings to understand how we work before the elections at our Annual General Meeting, which will be held later in the year. Our monthly committee meetings are held at 6pm (usually finishing around 8pm) at Juniper Hall, currently on the third Monday of the month.

The committee welcomes people dedicated to preserving Paddington with skills ranging from helping to write submissions, organising social events, conducting walks, assessing developments, attending Council and other meetings, providing planning, environmental, legal or other advice – in other words we would welcome your nomination and your interest.

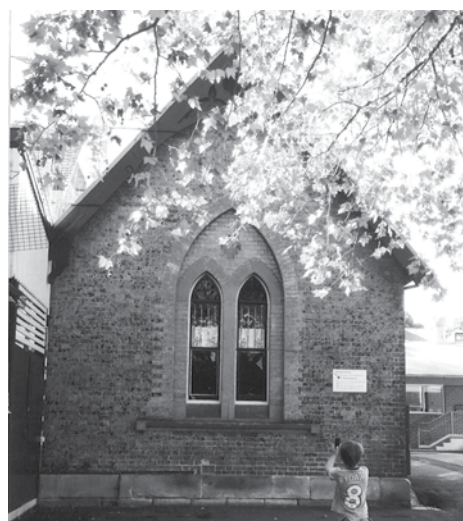
Nomination forms will be sent out to all members with the notice for the AGM.

Paddington Society Objectives

The Paddington Society was formed 50 years ago by concerned citizens with clear objectives that encompass architectural integrity, lifestyle, cultural development and maintaining Paddington's history. These farsighted urban activists developed aims that are still relevant today. They are:

- To conserve and maintain all features of Paddington having beauty, architectural, historic and social value.
- To conserve all significant heritage fabric, both internal and external to ensure changes to private property do not diminish the heritage value of the area.
- To conserve and improve all elements of the public domain including open space, parks, streets, lanes and passageways and to ensure that any changes recognise the heritage value of the place and do not inhibit public pedestrian access and movement.
- To promote Paddington as a sustainable, compact, pedestrian neighbourhood where the pedestrian has priority over motor vehicles.
- To promote the improved governance of Paddington as a place with special urban and heritage attributes which require appropriate care and consideration.
- To encourage improved traffic management and reduced traffic speeds through sympathetic urban design measures which are not detrimental to the heritage environment.
- To discourage inappropriate structures and advertising signage which have a detrimental impact on the heritage environment.
- To enhance existing amenities and introduce additional amenities, activities and facilities which serve to develop the Paddington culture and lifestyle.
- To identify, conserve, record and archive matters and items of significance to the social, cultural and physical fabric of Paddington and to make them available to future generations.
- To augment the sustainable form of Paddington by encouraging the introduction of appropriate technologies which reduce energy consumption without harmful effects upon the heritage environment.
- To promote a friendly, sociable and safe living environment for use by people and families of all ages.
- To educate residents, potential residents and visitors as to the heritage background and significance of Paddington as a unique example of a successful inner urban village.

Children's Photo Competition



Show us Your Paddington! 15 July – 21 August 2014

Age divisions: 5 – 8 years
9 – 12 years

If you live or go to school in or around Paddington, enter this competition.

Categories are:

My Favourite Building | My Favourite Street | My Favourite Shopkeeper.

Email photos to:

photocomp@daybukharchitects.com.au with your name, age school, photo category and brief description. There are prizes for each age group and category.

Winners will be notified on Saturday 13 September 2014 and prizes presented at your school assembly.

Winning photos and runners-up will be exhibited at Juniper Hall 250 Oxford Street, Paddington
Free admission:
Monday - Friday, 10am – 4pm
Weekend openings: 13 - 14 September and 11 - 12 October 2014

See submissions and information at: <http://paddophotocomp.tumblr.com>

We wish to thank our sponsors:

Opus, Berkelouw Books, Cristo's Pizzeria, Australian Centre for Photography and Friends of Historic Houses for their generous support.

The Paddington Society 2014 Committee

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The Paddington Paper is the official newsletter of The Paddington Society providing news and informed comment on local issues. Views expressed are those of the editorial committee and not necessarily those of the membership of the Paddington Society.



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Passionate for Paddington? Then join us and get involved! www.paddingtonsociety.org.au