



## BORONIA PARK DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Hunters Hill Council has prepared a draft plan of management for he heritage-listed Boronia Park, which is in the process of being amended to include a number of changes to be made following the extended exhibition period. Council commissioned the plan from Thompson Berrill Landscape Design Pty Ltd.

The Trust's submission in February 2015 on the draft plan was one of 536. In it we congratulated Council on the draft, which we believe is an excellent document, well researched and clearly written and illustrated. Our main concerns related to the potential for further alienation of public access to parts of the park, particularly the wish list of the Boronia Park Sports Club Coalition (essentially the Cricket and Rugby Clubs) to reinstate the "Amenity Facility and Community Facility" at Oval No 3 and to increase vehicle access and car parking within the park. We are concerned that this is a clubhouse under another name.

Despite the fact that in 2007 the club proposed the construction of a licensed clubhouse on the site, they now say they don't really want this anymore.

## Revisions to the Draft PoM

Following a comprehensive review of the submissions, the consultants produced a report for Council dated May 19, 2015. The report recommended making a number of changes to the draft plan. The Trust has analysed the proposed changes and our main concern is the proposal to increase the amount of parking in Princes St. We have not had time to fully discuss all the changes, but in the main they appear to be reasonable.

The changes in response to The Trust's submission include additional planting of batters and embankments to ovals 2 and 3 to include the enhancement of adjacent bushland, the upgrade the Tipperary Falls picnic area and a recommendation to disguise the cricket shed and water tank with mass planting.

## **Council Meeting**

Council considered the consultants' report at its meeting on 25 May. A number of people spoke on this including Alister Sharp, who represented The Trust. Others included representatives from the Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna

Preservation Society, and the rugby and cricket clubs. Ross Williams the co-founder of the SHHMC spoke in favour of giving the sporting clubs even more facilities including clubrooms in a much larger building between ovals 2 and 3. He argued that the clubs did significant work on behalf of the community and stressed the work done on behalf local youth through junior rugby and cricket.

Some questioned why, apart from basic toilet and washing facilities, the kids would need a meeting room when their parents deliver them to games already togged up and then immediately after the game rush them away so they can get half way across Sydney for the kiddie's sister's netball game.

#### No vote

It was anticipated that the Council would vote to put the changes on public exhibition again to allow further submissions. This was subverted by a couple of councilors wanting to include additional changes. As a result, the vote was deferred to allow further submissions from Councilors.

## RIVERGLADE TOILET BLOCK



The Trust congratulates Council on the new toilet block at the Riverglade Reserve. This represents a huge improvement on the standard of recent Council-built public buildings at Weil and Boronia Parks. The design fits in well with the landscape and has solar powered lights and pumps and on-site sewerage disposal. It's an interesting example of global outsourcing with the electronic controls being monitored in New Zealand.

Continued on page 2



Preserving Australia's Oldest Garden Suburb

## **Hunters Hill Trust Contacts**

President Tony Coote

tony@tonycootearchitect.com

Secretary Brigid Dowsett

brigidd@optusnet.com.au

Journal Tony Coote

Mail PO Box 85 Hunters Hill 2110

Website www.huntershilltrust.org.au

Kate Russell

humanly@zeta.org.au

### **Publications**

Heritage of Hunters Hill \$15 The Vision and the Struggle \$15 Members discount 25%

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Trust welcomes everyone interested in preserving the unique character of Hunters Hill to become a member.

Single membership \$20 Family membership \$40

Contact the secretary to join or download a form from the website.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The annual general meeting of The Trust was held on May 14 2015 at the Hunters Hill RSL Hall. The main item on the agenda for the AGM was the election of office bearers for 2015.

The following were elected unopposed -

President Secretary Treasurer Vice-president Committee Tony Coote
Brigid Dowsett
Justin Parry Okeden
Alister Sharp
Gully Coote
Maureen Flowers
David Gaunt
Bridget Hawthorne

Caroline Mackaness

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your committee continues to work on behalf of members to uphold our commitment to preserve the heritage and character of Hunters Hill.

So, on your behalf I'd like to thank the outgoing committee -

- Secretary, Brigid Dowsett
- Treasurer, David Gaunt
- Vice President, Alister Sharp

And committee members

- Gully Coote
- Maureen Flowers
- Caroline Mackaness
- Justin Parry-Okeden
- Kate Russell
- Alister Sharp

This year Bridget Hawthorne has joined the committee. Bridget and her husband Peter own No 5 Alexandra Street, where we had our Christmas Party last year, which was such a great success.

The National Trust honoured Peter and Bridget's dedication to the restoration of their house with a Built Heritage Award. Until Bridget came on board there was no one on the committee from east of the overpass. With Bridget on board we now have three on the committee who are in their forties.

# Membership

We have a total of 431 members, which includes the 82 members who are currently not financial and allows three members for each family membership. 58% of the membership lives east of the overpass and 42% lives either west of the overpass or elsewhere.

## Website

Kate Russell has stood down from the committee but will continue her job as Webmaster. Kate recently had a hip replacement and is recovering well from the operation and is now back on the job.

I would like to thank Kate for all the work she has done on the website and for her commitment to keep doing it. It's a terrific tool that allows us to keep you up to date with the issues and what we are doing. The site has received quite a few hits from people looking for information, particularly during the ICAC hearings.

### **Journal**

I have been editing the journal for the last four years and will continue the job this year. We try to have two journals a year, in May and October – this year may be a little late.

#### **Email List**

Increasingly we are using email to keep members up to date, so if you haven't yet given us your email address, please do so.

# The Environmental Defenders Office and The Better Planning Network

The Trust Has supported these important organisations with cash donations. We are one of 470 community groups affiliated with BPN and have signed the Community Charter for Good Planning.

### Constitution

We have organised a subcommittee to look at our Constitution, which has been little altered in the last 40 years or so. Since then there have been significant changes to the Municipality, particularly in the Gladesville and Victoria Road precincts with the pressure for increased urban density and we think the Trust may benefit from minor revisions to the Constitution to ensure it is a robust basis for the Membership to respond to the challenges that the Municipality will continue to face. Any proposed changes will be put to a special general meeting for approval. Any input in the meantime is welcomed.



Restored Howitzer at Council

## **Working With Council**

The Trust continues to work with Hunters Hill Council through our representation on various committees including:

- The Conservation Advisory Panel.
- The Bushland Management Committee and
- The Public Transport and Traffic Advisory Committee

The Trust's engagement with the work of Council's committees and members' personal contact with Councilors and Staff allows us to maintain a profile and have some influence on Council decisions.

## Gladesville Shopping Village

The Trust worked with others in the community to have No10 Cowell St heritage listed.

See page 4 for an update

We also supported the change to the DCP to give a 4m setback to Flagstaff St at footpath level, which is awaiting ministerial approval.

The developer withdrew his first proposal and is now in the process of preparing a revised scheme, which includes a 25-storey tower and pays no heed to existing planning controls.



The preferred design option

It is a cynical attempt to bypass Council and the Regional Planning Panel by increasing the value of the proposal so the Minister can assess it as a so-called Gateway proposal.

# State Election – Meeting With Candidates

The Trust met face-to-face with the Lane Cove candidates standing at the last election. We quizzed them on a number of issues and put their responses on the website.

The result was a foregone conclusion but it was good to get down on paper Anthony Roberts' responses to our questions, which included support for exempting Hunters Hill from the 10/50 clearing code, his opposition to forced amalgamations and his belief that small councils are more responsive to their communities.

# Boronia Park Draft Plan Of Management

The Trust made a submission to Council in support of the thrust of the document, the details of which are on the website. We raised a number of concerns, mainly to do with the potential for further alienation of public lands – particularly the possibility of a Community Facility near oval No 3 as proposed by the Rugby Club.

Council has still to consider the DoP and if substantive amendments are made to the draft then a further public exhibition will be required.

See also page 1

#### 10/50 Code

The code allows people in the vicinity of bushfire-prone land to chop down trees 10m from their houses and remove vegetation up to 50m away without any formal approval or oversight.

Together with Council we have lobbied to have the code repealed for Hunters Hill – so far to no avail, despite Anthony Roberts' declaration of support.



The end of an ancient angophora

## **Development Along Lane Cove River**

As well as being denuded of trees felled under the 10/50 code, the character of the foreshore along the Lane Cove River between the Figtree Bridge and Boronia Park has been badly affected by new development.



In response to our submissions we got sympathy from some Councillors, but little in the way of how they might strengthen our planning controls or their policing to prevent the destruction continuing.



### The Priory

Council is considering granting a 21 year lease to Tranter Vass Pty Ltd for an adaptive re-use of the building for a

wedding and corporate function centre.

We expressed our concerns to Council that it seems wrong to be signing a lease when no one knows what is going to be proposed for the building.

Preliminary plans involved the construction of a large function room in the rear courtyard, which would have a considerable negative impact on the state listed heritage building.

The Trust's preferred option for the Priory is for it to be leased to someone as a private house with an agreed restoration contract and a number of days when the house is open to the public.



### 11 Mark St

Despite our efforts, St Josephs College continues to allow this heritage-listed cottage to fall into complete disrepair. The college has plans to demolish it for an extension to its carpark.

Council has indicated that it has no power to enforce the maintenance of the place except if it poses a danger to the public — for example, if it became a breeding ground for rats and vermin or if it could injure a passer-by.

The neglect of this historically important little cottage sends a message to the community that this publicly-funded and wealthy institution has little interest in looking after the more mundane items of its own heritage.

## Amalgamation

Like the smell emanating from a toxic swamp, the issue of amalgamation continues to pollute the political air in NSW. This issue has been around for decades and my first involvement with it was in 2003 when Ryde made a push to take over all that part of Hunters Hill west of the overpass.

The Trust was involved in organising a series of public meetings and much energy was expended in warding off the would-be interlopers.



The smell of a toxic swamp

In 2013 the State Government issued two papers prepared by consultants Future Directions for NSW and A New Planning System for NSW.

The Future Directions Paper suggested a reduction in the number of Councils in the metropolitan area.

The latest version of this is called *Fit For the Future*, which proposes reducing the number of metropolitan councils from 41 to 18.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal will assess Council's Fit for the Future proposals.

Most councils across Sydney are opposed to any merger. Hunters Hill has proposed that we keep our autonomy, our existing boundaries and our existing level of representation and gain economies of scale by entering into additional agreements with other councils to increase the extent of shared services and facilities. Councils are required to submit their responses to the government by 30 June.



Hunters Hill's historic town hall

## **Amalgamation Summary**

For a number of reasons there is not much energy on The Trust committee to man the barricades in support of *My* 

Council Right or Wrong.

This could be because of weariness and a lack of energy doing it all over again and doubts as to whether we could have any impact on the Government's decision. There is also a feeling of disillusionment with Hunters Hill Council, for example:

Council's role in the redevelopment of Gladesville Shopping Village where it completely abrogated its responsibility to look after its own heritage and blithely sold off the site without any consideration that it might set some conditions to ensure the community benefitted from the development

The hodge-podge redevelopment of the Hunters Hill Shops

The poor quality of the developments along Victoria Road in Gladesville and along Hunters Hill's foreshores.

The debacle surrounding the redevelopment of Oval Number 3 at Boronia Park, which Council has budgeted \$275,000 to rectify.

The silliness of the existing boundaries that split the shopping centres of Gladesville and Boronia Park between two Councils.

The list of negatives could go on.

Despite all this, the question remains as to whether there would be any improvement with a bigger Council area. There is little evidence that there would be any change and there is no indication that the State Government will cede any more planning powers to the larger councils.

Clearly there is a benefit from being so well represented by our elected Councillors. This allows some of us to know them personally and to be able to collar them if we happen to run into them up at the shops.

With a much larger Council, The Trust's profile and influence in the halls of power would be significantly diminished.

And, of course, with a larger Council, Hunters Hill residents can anticipate a significant increase in their rates.

Whether or not the State Government is prepared to accept Hunters Hill's proposal to team up with the other Councils to increase their shared services and at the same time keep its boundaries, rate base and councillors, remains to be seen.

Elizabeth Farrelly in her piece on amalgamation in last week's Herald (7 May 2015) noted that good local government benefitted from having increased powers and autonomy and that local councils should never be able to be sacked by a higher level of government as happens now in NSW.

In today's Herald, Ms Farrelly (14 May 2015) has a piece on the real story of planning in Sydney, or "how the rich are allowed to run riot on public land". She criticizes Paul Keating for "smiling benignly upon the biggest land grab in Australian history" at Barrangaroo and finishes with -



"The true destroyers of our public space are pusillanimous governments. The PM is no longer Prime Minister when shock jocks call the shots."

Tony Coote 14 May 2015

### 10 COWELL ST - UPDATE



The heritage listing of 10 Cowell St, together with some minor changes to the heritage schedule of the LEP, was considered at Council's Ordinary Meeting on Monday 25 May 2015.

Council's Reporting Officer, Phillipa Hayes, recommended that all of the changes should go ahead except the upgrading of 10 Cowell St.

Tony Coote addressed the meeting on behalf of The Trust in support of the

listing. We argued that there was no question about the heritage status of 10 Cowell St and that the listing should go ahead.

We noted that the developer's own heritage advisor acknowledged the status of the item even though he went on to argue that, despite this, the demolition of No 10 is acceptable because "the proposed development would seek to respect and enhance the historic character of the Gladesville Town Centre as a retail and commercial centre while at the same time providing for the needs of the local residents."

This begs the question — how can the demolition of a heritage item respect and enhance historic character? It's like the American air force justifying the bombing of a Vietnamese village by saying — "We had to bomb the village to save it".

The Hayes report recommended against the upgrade of No 10 Cowell St because the retention of the cottage "in its original location will compromise development envisaged for the Key Site and prioritise heritage over community resources much needed in Gladesville such as a green open town square".

This is nonsense because there is no Development Application before Council, so no *green open town square* has been proposed. As well, it was never part of the original scheme and has not featured in the sketches of the latest development proposal.

If an individual property owner in Hunters Hill comes to Council with a DA for the demolition of a house in a conservation area, or the demolition of a listed item, it is entirely their responsibility to prove that what is being proposed is an improvement on the status quo and therefore justifies the proposed demolition.

The process required for any demolition on the GSV site development is no different.

Three Councillors supported the immediate listing of 10 Cowell St and two did not. They wanted more time to consider a "50-page document" with legal advice about the implications of the listing, which Councillors had perused prior to the meeting. The motion to upgrade the cottage was lost on the Mayor's casting vote. As a consequence, Hunters Hill Council continues to give the impression that it doesn't care about its own heritage and it continues to conduct itself in a way that lacks transparency.

### **VALE TOM UREN**

Tom Uren died on Australia Day this year, aged 93. He was an extraordinary man with an amazing career. According his obituary in The Sydney Morning Herald –

He left school at 13, became a boxer, was fighting World War II in Timor on his 21st birthday, spent his next three birthdays as a prisoner of the Japanese, including on the infamous Burma-Thailand railway, and saw the sky change colour over Nagasaki after the atom bomb was dropped.



He became a minister in the Whitlam and Hawke governments, deputy leader of the federal Labor Party, and was largely responsible for the creation of the National Estate, protecting large areas of Glebe and Woolloomooloo from developers, and decentralisation to Albury-Wodonga.

Believing that one of the greatest advances of the 20th century was the new understanding of humankind's impact on the environment, he campaigned long after leaving Canberra for saving wilderness areas and the Sydney Harbour foreshores.

Tom Uren addressed The Trust on two occasions, the first in May 1975 just five months before the Whitlam government was dismissed by the Governor-General and again in 2007 at the Christmas Party at June Beck's house.

Here are some extracts from the 1975 talk:

There could be no better place to talk about Australia's National Estate than Hunters Hill. Here are many splendid survivors of our colonial past and fine river foreshores. Nearby are the delicate environmental areas of the valley of the Lane Cove River. Few parts of Australia are so rich in our national heritage, and in very few urban areas has so much of the historic townscape survived.

All Governments owe a debt to voluntary organisations like the Hunters Hill Trust, which work with dedication to guard and cherish this heritage. It is a pity to record that important parts of this heritage are under constant threat - fine old buildings

from home unit speculation, tracts of foreshore bushland from sub-division, delicate areas along the creeks and river valleys from freeways and drainage works.

Watchdog bodies like your organisation are the most powerful defence against the bulldozer mentality that has disfigured so much of our national heritage. Only ceaseless vigilance can keep the forces of mindless development at bay.

I am an admirer of your fight to retain Kelly's Bush as a unique part of the environment of the river foreshores. If there is anything the Australian Government can do to ensure the preservation of Kelly's Bush, then this will be done.



I stress that we must be realistic about the prospects. If the issue of Kelly's Bush had just arisen, then I am sure that it would be possible to preserve it. The decision to put the bulldozers through Kelly's Bush was taken in a different climate of awareness about the National Estate.

When we got into Government we acted quickly to discharge our election promises to set up the machinery to protect the National Estate. We appointed a committee under Mr Justice Hope to investigate and report to the Government on the nature and condition of the National Estate. It was also given the task of finding ways in which Government bodies and non-Government bodies such as the Hunters Hill Trust could work together to preserve and enhance it.



Sydney Opera House – on the register

In broad terms the work of the Heritage Commission has three aims: It will advise the Government and the Australian Parliament on the condition of the National Estate and how it should be protected:

It will establish and maintain a register of the things that make up the National Estate; and

It will require that the Australian Government, its agencies and all those working on its behalf will respect the National Estate and do all that they can to preserve it.

In short, it will have a watchdog brief over the broad range of Government activities that bear on the National Estate. This adds up to a completely new area of involvement by the Australian Government.

So far the only contribution we have made is a grant of \$20,000 to prepare a master plan for the Parramatta River. This has gone to the National Trust of Australia with the aim of finding ways to restore the Parramatta environment with its major open space and recreational values.



Parramatta River – much improved

It is a major tragedy that the river link between the first two European settlements on Australia's east coast should have been allowed to degenerate into what in many parts is almost a running sink. I hope we can reverse the process and restore the total Parramatta River environment to its proper place in our history and our heritage.

I am glad to have been able to speak tonight to one of the key units in the Australian conservation movement. The strength of this movement is one of the great supports the Australian Government has for its National Estate. According to our estimates, there are more than 500,000 members of conservation groups throughout Australia

The weight of this public interest in the National Estate is a source of great encouragement to the Australian Government and I thank you for your efforts.

The Australian Heritage Council now maintains the Register of The National Estate, which has 13,000 places listed and the health of the Parramatta River has been significantly improved. How refreshing it is to hear a politician speak with such passion about things that relate to how we live in the world and how we can best care about the places we love and all said without any suggestion of political point scoring.



Port Meirion

Incidentally, Wikipedia credits Clough Williams-Ellis as the first person to use the term *National Estate*. Williams-Ellis was an English architect who was passionate about the urbanisation of the English countryside and inspired the preservation of historically important sites throughout Britain and was also the builder of that marvellous place Portmeirion in Wales, the location for the TV series *The Prisoner*.

# MORE KNOCK DOWNS



23 Abigail St - gone!

We were too late to photograph this house, which is now a pile of rubble. It was a fine brick place with powerful stone columns on either side of the front porch. It had some of the features of the house



21 Abigail St

next door at No 21 including the diamond shaped leadlight windows and similar coloured face brickwork. Both houses probably date from the 1930s.

There are other houses from the same era in Abigail St but they have no heritage protection unless they are in the first few houses at the south end of the street, which just scrape into the Conservation Area. They may be knocked down as complying developments without reference to Council.

With the current knockdown-and-rebuild attitude, we are starting to lose examples of housing from periods that, unless we upgrade heritage listings across Sydney will not be represented in the living record of the history of our places.

## **MUSINGS**

An occasional column

### Chau Chak wing



Despite my negative response to the exterior of Frank Gehry's Chau Chak Wing at UTS and despite all the rude things I wrote about it in the last Journal, I was

bowled over by the building's interiors. It has some wonderful exciting spaces, which are surprisingly soft. There is also great use of materials, particularly the massive laminated radiata pine sections that make up the students' lounge.

It is much more like a 7- star hotel than any student learning space I have ever seen, which is weird. Let's hope its business graduates can have a real impact on making the world work more sustainably and equitably.

### Essex Chapel holiday house



Here is a truly outrageous building. It was designed by the English architectural firm FAT (Fashion, Architecture, Taste) in collaboration with the artist Grayson Perry. It is part of Living Architecture, holidays in modern architecture started by Alain de Botton, who wrote *The Architecture of Happiness*.

The building is a secular chapel that contains the story of an imaginary woman, Julie, an Essex Everywoman whose biography Perry has written in a long poem. The house is full of his drawings, paintings and sculpture that illustrate Julie's life.

You can rent the house for holidays. Check out the *Living Architecture* website to see more.

## **Phoenix Fungus**



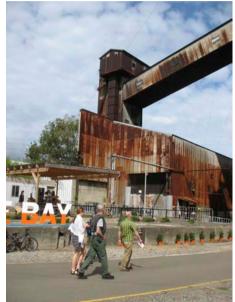
This is one of three *Eucalyptus pilularis* or Blackbutts that have mysteriously died in

our garden over the last twelve months. Just recently this magnificent fungal display erupted on the base of its trunk.

## White Bay open day

In April this year the White Bay Power station, wharf areas and passenger terminal were open to the public. Some of the industrial buildings are quite wonderful, often created by engineers following only the basic modernist adage that "form follows function" with no self consciousness about "good design".

Let's hope that some of these structures will be successfully adapted for reuse in the future development of the site.



White Bay Power House

## **AGM TALK - Tony Coote**

I was the AGM speaker this year, a last minute stand-in for our original choice who wasn't able to come. I had been asked to be part of an exhibition at the Willoughby Incinerator Art Space called Japan – Australian Perspectives and had already prepared a talk for the exhibition, which I gave at the AGM. Here is an edited version of some of what was covered in the talk.

Dr Mark Stiles was the exhibition's curator. It included the work of Australian architects, designers, photographers and artists whose work was influenced by Japan in some way.

My involvement with things Japanese relates mainly to my work with the Sydney Zen Centre and the design and construction of their retreat centre, Kodoji, which is located in a remote valley

surrounded by the Yengo National Park 14 kilometres from the old village of St Albans in the Macdonald River valley.



Kodoji complex Sydney Zen Centre

Zen is a Japanese form of Mahayana Buddhism that has been adapted from the Chinese Chan tradition. The word Zen simply means meditation and meditation is at the core of the practice.

I attended my first Zen retreat in 1980, which was led by Robert Aitken a Japanese-trained American Zen Teacher, whom I first met at John and Shirley Cooper's place, in Barons Crescent Hunters Hill.

We started building Kodoji in 1984. The project was inspired by a trip to America in 1982 when Gilly, Gully and I became part of a team gathered from all over the world that came together to build the Ring of Bone Zendo in Northern California.



Building weekend at Kodoji

Unlike the build in America, which, drawing on the tradition of barn raising, took a mere three weeks, building Kodoji has been an ongoing project for the last 30 years.

The work has been done almost entirely with volunteer labour. The design of the complex reflects the forms of the farm buildings and sheds that have been built in the area since white settlement in the 1820s. The simple pitched roofs and the surrounding verandahs also relate to the forms of traditional Japanese Buddhist meditation halls.



Private house in California by Paul Discoe

It's ironic that my introduction to the Japanese Zen tradition came via an American Zen Teacher in Australia and my introduction to Japanese architecture was in California, where there is a thriving traditional Japanese architecture scene.

The Japanese influence on Western art and architecture dates back to the 1860s.



Greene Bros – Gamble House Pasadena 1907



The Pebbles Neutral Bay 1922 - James Peddle

The Arts and Crafts movement, known in America as Craftsman style was strongly influenced by Japanese design, as was its offshoot, the California Bungalow.

When I finally got to see Japanese architecture in its native place it was a revelation. The old path and worn timber step in Saihoji Temple in Kyoto is a fine example of the aesthetic of *wabi-sabi*.

Wabi-sabi refers to a mindful approach to everyday life. Over time their meanings overlapped and converged until they are unified into wabi-sabi, the aesthetic defined as the beauty of things "imperfect, impermanent and incomplete".



wabi-sabi Saihoji Temple Kyoto



Marveen

Another long-term ongoing project is our house, *Marveen*, which is on the banks of the Lane Cove River, down 84 steps from Bonnefin Road Hunters Hill.

We bought the house from Tilly Shelton-Smith in 1972. She had not been able to live in it because of a protected tenant who wouldn't leave. So she subdivided the land and had her friend, Roy Grounds, design a tiny timber house on the top part of the block up by the road.



Tilly Shelton-Smith and Clark Gable

When we bought *Marveen* it was derelict and under a demolition order. All its windows were broken and the timber frame and weatherboards severely damaged by termites.

Over the last four decades we've gradually worked to restore the house and alter it to suit our particular needs.



The house from the rear

Parts of the original house interior in there own unsophisticated way owe something to the Arts and Crafts tradition and its Japanese origins.



Original Arts and Crafts features in the hall

Coming to grips with Marveen, I've come to understand *wabi-sabi*, which was never included in what I learned at University, which was essentially Bauhaus modernism.

The wabi-sabi aesthetic, with its celebration of the humble, the worn, the ambiguous, the shadowy and the derelict, underpins the work of the conservationist. It is the antithesis of our current obsession with the tabula rasa or clean slate, the knock-down-start-again mentality, which is ruining the planet.

## **TRUST WALKS**

On the last Sunday of each month for the next five months we will be having walks through parts of Hunters Hill. The walks will start at 9.30am and will last for a couple of hours and end at a local café. Trust members will lead the walks to some of their favorite places.

For details contact Maureen Flowers on info@huntershilltrust.org.au