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Hunters Hill Trust Journal

Vol. 1. No. 2. - AUGUST, 1972

A THREAT TO **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

To those that consider the collection of garbage and provision of kerb and guttering as the essential need for our Council's existence, the time is here now for a close examination of the functions fulfilled by this most important 'grass roots' level of government.

for a close examination of the functions fulfilled by this most important 'grass roots' level of government.

The State Committee of Inquiry, currently investigating local government areas in New South Wales, will naturally be looking at Hunters Hill during its program. Questions as as to which direction local government is heading and why our current ful consideration.

The Historicals government is effective bear careful consideration. This is because the growth of government in other countries has often proceeded from small communities to the development of arger structures such as States. In Australia, this classes. In Australia, the States were formed before local government, which was states. In Australia, the States were formed before local government, which was stylen only that authority the States chose to delegate in their legislation.

The problems of urban development an increasing demand for local government. Which was a states. In Australia, the states were formed before local government, which was given only that authority the States chose to delegate in their legislation.

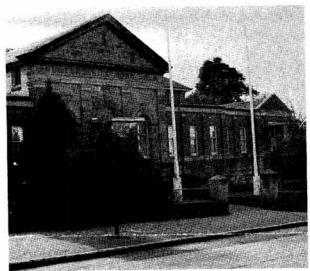
The problems of urban demands of fair representation and social provision the resultant isolation of individuals and breakdown of the social structure is critical if responsibility is not spread amongst a large number of partially autonomous units. Fortunately, in Hunters Hill we have this attention.

The size and shape of local government units is not just a matter of administrative convenience.

Planners concerned with the problems of cities are concerned with the community in which they community in which they be greated through process the summit of th

PRESENT IDENTITY

The Hunters Hill Trust stands categorically opposed to any boundary change for our municipal proposed to any boundary change for our municipal property of the first stands and the first stands are the first stands and the



n Hall . . . our scat of Government from 1866 until ? Hunters Hill Town Hall

cation, their personal horizons are still those imposed by their personal needs.

These needs are communicated to others today on still very much the same level as they were centuries ago. Hence local government.

FIVE REASONS TO SUPPORT

SUPPORT

There are five major arguments to maintaining a powerful and flexible system of local government.

(1) Local government gives a relatively direct and intimate avenue for the ordinary citizen to participate in the affairs of the community. It gives scope for self-expression and promotes two-way communication between the government in local units is more likely to adapt its acceptances and promote two adapt its and the continuity of the continuity of

perimentation and innovation. Because the inertia of a decision-making unit tends to vary directly with its size and complexity, lets government left to mit town devicty out ideas. Special methads to the size and complexity lets government seems necessary to correct an inbuilt distortion in the distribution of functions and powers between federal, state and local bodies. It seems beyond doubt that deliberate steps to decentralise some of the powers of government would increase the efficiency of the whole machine — if the test of efficiency is the raising of the quality of people's lives.

It is most wital that residents can be in reasonably close communication with one another, allowing for self-fulfilment, development of mew ideas and expression of dissent which cannot therwise be heard.

PEOPLE MUST CONTROL

Over a wide range of government activities there is a correspondingly large number of sets of optimal areas with a great dead of overlapping. In certain cases there are economies of seale to be gained from the standardisation of services. We have already seen this with the

handing over of management of electricity, water, main roads to larger units water population densities warrant it. The population densities warrant it. The population of ensities warrant it. The population of ensities warrant it. The population of ensities water to except the enough to congine these changing requirements and be able to edup to the end of the country of the end of t

· Continued, Page 2.

About Parks and Gardens

One of the most enjoyable features of life in Hunters Hill is the municipality's parks and gardens which provide sporting facilities and hours of relaxation in tranquil surroundings.

The importance to the city dweller of being able to 'get away from it all' in a situation close to home, cannot be over-emphasised. It provides the resident with time to reflect, enjoy casual conversation or take physical exercice.

Creation and upkeep of these areas is a significant expense for our Council and one to which they have generally given close attention.

Levies paid by landowners for the acquisition and maintenance of parkland, have been applied as standard practice when land is subdivided, for some years now.

The Hunters Hill Council's recent decision to absolve owners from payment of the levy, in circumstances where they have held the land for more than ten years, represents a loss of revenue in our municipality. According to the Town Clerk, W. Phipson, about \$5,000 to date, has been relinquished in revenue due to this resolution.

While the original intention of this levy may have while the original intention of this levy may have been aimed at developers and not individuals, its par-ticular use should be to provide park facilities for an increasing population. Those developers who intensify the population should definitely pay towards the levy.



Cremorne Point . . . the grand vista of Sydney Harbour.

Certainly, an amount of \$5,000 is a mere 'drop in the water bucket' if one is considering the acquisition of foreshore land for grand walks or large reserves. But the fact remains that Hunters Hill Council already owns a number of foreshore reserves in the municipality, which are without clear access. The beauty of these spots is well known to owners of waterfront land, but for those residents and visitors not living by the water the reserves are generally obscure. living by the water, the reserves are generally obscure.

Public areas located adjacent to Ferdinand Street, Vernon Street, The Point Road, Valentia Street and Fern Road, may be either improved or made access-ible for a minimum expense.

Foreshore access such as is provided at Cremorne Point, which offers perhaps the grandest vista to the harbour in Sydney, may be years away or not even possible in Hunters Hill.

However, the fact remains that the provision of footpath and bench could well transform land which, at present, appears as private property to the casual

The Trust considers that the funds available to Council have been reduced by this recent decision and these could well have been applied for parkland facility.

HUNTERS HILL TRUST JOURNAL

A THREAT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

• From Page 1

tunity to give expression to his views of what a good life should be. This means he must have some say in the determination of his physical and social environment.

TOWN PLANNING

Local government can pro-vide the machinery by which the common man can con-

tribut toward this end. It must recognise its responsibility in town planning (surely better called revironmental control, thus taking in all aspects of the balance between man and community services workiding social, recreational and cultural needs. This work demands a close communication between the people and their elected representatives. It means the

willingness of these representatives to meet and listen to citizen groups whether they agree with council policy or not.

Unless residents throw their weight and support into the struggle for the maintenance of small local government areas now, they will find themselves within a very short period sounding their cymbals in an acoustically dead environment.

Letter to the Editor

I was most impressed by the "New Look Journal" recently but was appalled by the 'Old Look Aerial Photograph" of part of Hunters
Hill. Is this to infer that the
Trust is merely interested in the parts of Hunters Hill that are old, or perhaps the Trust has forgotten that the municipality extends to Pittwaier
Road.
For too lone residents in

has forgotten that the municipality extends to Pittwater
Road.
For too long, residents in
the West Ward of Hunters
Hill have been forgotten and
the "Journal" made it perjectly clear in black and white
that they were not even on
the map. This attitude was
also demonstrated by an incurate map of the municipality distributed by the Auxiliary, once more leaving out
our end of Hunters Hill.
I would be grateful if you
would draw the attention of
members of the Trust to
these inaccuracies so that they
will not be repeated.
May I also point out that
although our end of Hunters
Hill does not boast the fine
old homes of which the Trust
is justly proud, we are extremely proud of the heritage
of trees and open bush which
add to the beauty and charm
making Hunters Hill a place
of which to be proud.

—MARGRETHE KNUINSEN

Address all correspondence

Address all correspondence The Editor, P.O. Box 85, unters Hill.

AUXILIARY COMMITTEE — 1972

President: Mrs. Maude Simpson.

Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Healey.

Treasurer: Mrs. Jean Ranken.

Mrs. Magaret Bowie Wilson.
Mrs. Morgaret Bowie Wilson.
Mrs. Norma Houen.
Mrs. Gai Shannon.
Mrs. Frances Bradfield.
Mrs. Margaret Cousins.
Mrs. Ness Wansey.
Mrs. Joyce Wood.
Mrs. Libby Cox.

On Leave

Mrs. Alice Oppen. Mrs. Mary Taylor. Mrs. Astrid Burden.

STUDENTS!

Competition still open

SEE BACK PAGE.

St. John O.C. speaks at Trust Meeting

More than 100 members together with other residents attended the Hunters Hill Trust's annual general meet-ing at the Town Hall on Wednesday, May 10.

Wednesday, May 10.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Mr. Ed. J. St. John, Q.C., who addressed the residents on "Conservation Action".

Mr. St. John said that he was pleased to have the opportunity to speak at Hunters Hill and he considered the suburb to be a fine example of a joint product between man and nature.

Resident action groups, such as the Hunters Hill Trust.

Resident action groups, such as the Hunters Hill Trust and the Hunters Hill Trust are recognised in many communities, Mr. St. John said.

"The woice of the little man."

communities, Mr. St. Jona said. "The voice of the little man is heard through these

"The voice of the little man is he ar 1rd. Inrough these groups".

Mr. St. John stated that an active education program must be maintained to interest people in conservation.

"A lack of a particular issue for conservation does not mean a lack of interest. A true appreciation of trees, wildlife and our environment should be created.".

Should be created. The control of the conservation was a unifying movement.

"Political differences were momentarily forgotten, and the powerful impact of public meetings was highlighted."

Mr. St. John said that schoolteachers could be of considerable aid in the cause for conservation.

ELECTIONS

Election of committee members for the Hunters Hill Trust was also held at the necting. Six members elected to the committee included — Dr. R. Temple, Dr. C. Coul-man, Mrs. R. K. Knudsen, P. Twigg, R. Budd and Mrs. H. Sheffer.

H. Sheffer.
Professor C. Munro, Mr. F. Kirby and Mr. P. Thorne, not being required to stand for re-election, made up the nine members for this year's committee.

Executive Officers appointed for 1971-1972 are —

President:
Dr. C. Coulman.
Vice-President:
Mr. P. A. Twigg.
Hon. Secretary:
Mrs. H. Sheffer.

Hon, Treasurer: Mr. R. B. Budd.

DON'T **FORGET**

SUNDAY, 15th OCTOBER

Join the Lane Cove River armada Bring your boat and your friends

> For details see Page 3.

AUXILIARY **ADVENTURES**

The Auxiliary . . . the "woman's world" branch of the Hunters Hill Trust, had a most rewarding walk through historic homes inspection on Sunday, April 23rd.

The area chosen was that fascinating Figtree area of Mary Reiby and Didier Joubert fame. It is one of the oldest and most historic parts of Hunters Hill, and the five huildings on view tweer in buildings on view were in-deed historic gems of their era.

From the record attendance of over 1500 people — from all over Sydney and from Newcastle and Wollongong — here is certainly no waning there is certainly no waning of interest or enthusiasm for these regular House Inspections. We were most delighted to see so many of our senior citizens there, many of whom had spent their childhood and early life in this area; often in two or three of the houses opened for inspection on that day.

We were also delighted to

on that day.

We were also delighted to welcome three families descended from the Jouberts and four families descended from Carlo Cerutit, the stone mason, who, we learnt, had built not only "Glenrosa" in Mark Street, but also "Coorabel" and "Annabel Lee".

There are many older residents in Hunters Hill who are indisputably part of our living history, and we would very much appreciate an opportunity to talk with them.

portunity to talk with them.

Research for the house inspections involves many
hours of reading in the Mitchell Library, perusing Council records, rates books and
various directories, and it is
most exciting to talk with
someone who has first-hand
knowledge.

knowledge.

Early next year we would like to "walk through history" in the Woolwich area, so please help us if we dare knock on YOUR door.

THIS EXPRESSWAY STOP

As surely as the motor car manufacturer incorporates 'planned obsolescence' into his design, so too has the N.S.W. Government in approving the Lane Cove Valley Expressway.

This mighty river of concrete scheduled to gouge its way through some of our finest, little remaining bushland, is out of date before it has started. In this article we will examine some of the reasons for this.

bushland, is out of date be article we will examine sor The residents of Hunters Hill do not stand alone in their condemnation of proposed expressways. Voices of objection are heard in Epping. Balmain, Glebe, Annandale and Leichhardt to mention a few. In fact, in a recent report to Leichhardt Council by its Engineer, Mr. Wilson, urgent reform was called The Minister form was called The Minister of Minister of Minister of Minister of Minister of the work o

TORONTO SHOWS

In a momentous decision taken early in June, 1971, the Ontario Government stopped the building of Toronto's \$237 million Spadina Expressway and abandoned its Urban Motorway Plans. By taking this step, Toronto demonstrated to the world that it does not want to be another North American City divided by expressways when the option of choosing modern public transport really exists.
"Toronto does not belong to the automobile," said their Premier.
In announcing their final decision he further said —

"Toronto does not beenomble," said their Premier. In announcing their final decision he further said —"If we are building a transportation system to serve the automobile, the Spadina Expressway would be a good place to start we are building a system to serve people, it is a good place to stop", the system to serve people, it is a good place to stop", the system to serve people, it is a good place to stop", the system to serve people, it is a good place to stop". Robert J. McAlpine, the noted Victorian Town Planner and President of the Town and Country Planning Association, supplies these statistics:

One rail track can carry

from one train, if in their own cars, would need ... 1,000 cars. Which was a constraint of the cars of the expressive to bring vehicles into a city. He says the next problem arises as to what to do with the cars when you get them there. Parking in the central business district — (a) At kerbide manner.

district—

(a) At kerhside meters—
1,000 cars would require
(allowing "loading" and
"No Standing" areas)
6 miles of kerb.

. 6 miles of kerb.

(b) Parking lot at ground level requires . . . 5 acres.

(c) Parking in city buildings — if all staff in a 20-storey building brought cars in and parked on site, they would need at least . . 30 extra storeys.

(d) On freeway at speed. 1,000 cars require (at 30 m.p.h.) one lane 11 miles long.

Add to this the staggering fact that each mile of free-way requires between 20 and 30 acres of land.

STEPS TO SOLVE

Five town-planning principles are advocated by Mr. McAlpine as reasonable steps in solving the problem. They include, an upgraded, balanced and integrated public transport system. Public participation in whatever major changes are planned — Recognition of the component of the city which have similarly the component of the city which have similarly control of pleasant new cities throughout the nation.

Informed sources close to the Government and the Department of Main Roads claim that a start on the Lane Cove Valley Expressway is eight to ten years away. However, now is the time for action for those supporting the position. Now, when Dr. Robott Neilson is undertaking his massive transport study of the Sydney area.

It is simply not good enough to suggest alternate routing of the freeway, this puts the problem in someone clee's backyard.

Lane Cove Council, in their expressional control of the freeway, this puts the problem in someone clee's backyard.

Lane cove Council, in their expressional control of the freeway, this puts the problem in someone clee's backyard.

Lane cove Council, in their expressional control of the freeway, this puts the problem in someone clee's backyard.

Lane cove Council, in their expressional control of the free control



Our heritage . . . awaiting destruction-



Each mile of freeway . . . 20 to 30 acres of parkland.

solved until we separate the two. Cities without cars would again give us the advantages of a more popular and therefore more efficiently the control of the

TRUST ACTION

The Hunters Hill Trust has formed a sub-committee working to save the Lanc Cove Valley. On October 15 this year, a 'flotilla' of small craft will travel over the

Lane Cove River and examine first-hand the destruction which will be wrought by the roadway's construction. Prominent ministers, press and TV representatives will be invited to join the cruise. More than 50 boats are expected to participate.

Trust members and all residents owning boats are urged to attend this function as it is a visible way of showing your concern. Details will be published in the local paper — JOIN IN . . and remember, it's not too late!

ANTI-AMALGAMATION

Our Mayor of Hunters Hill, Ald. Don Farrant, has advised the municipality that he will shortly be writing to all residents regarding this important topic. The Trust Committee is desirous that all members and residents reply to this vital communication. SAVE OUR SUBURB.

HUNTERS HILL TRUST JOURNAL

Challenge in Stone .

"Restoration — renovation — extension — re-modelling," the words have a familiar ring to owners of the many stone homes in Hunters Hill.

With the art of the stone-mason in house building slowly dissolving in history, the skilled tradesmen in the field are finding work highly rewarding in a monetary

nse.
Rising costs are facing us
all forms today, and it is
ally natural for anyone havg imagination, a keen eye,

Peter Thorne at work with "Opera House"

\$25.00 PRIZE Essay competition extended Following numerous requests from students and teachers in Hunters Hill, the Trust has extended the closing date for the Essay Competition to October 31st, 1972.

Students who have entered the competition so far have presented the judges with a very high standard of composition indeed. The topics highlight many reasons for an enjoyable life on the 'Hill' and reflect our young authors ability in a very real sense.

The essay competition is open to all primary and secon-school students RESIDING in Hunters Hill municipality.

Students are requested to write on "Life in Hunters

The Trust will present a cash prize of \$25.00 for the

With this broad heading, any aspect of life within the area or any community activity may be described.

The maximum length required for the competition entries is 600 words, but the essays may be shorter, even 150 words, if desired.

is our wortes, but the essays may be shorter, even 150 worder, if desired.

Envelopes should be marked "Essay Competition" to facilitate handling and judging.

Entries must be accompanied by an "Essay Competition" coupon, appearing in the Journal" and showing the student's name, address, school, age and telephone number. The winning entry will be printed in full in the Hunters Hill Trust Journal.

Judges for the competition will include two representatives from the Trust committee together with Mr. R. L. Rushbrooke, Principal of Hunters Hill High School.

and ability in their hands to give it a go' when it comes to work on the bouse.

Often, of comment with disaster. The roof leaks, walls don't quite stand true, and windows somehow jam in their frames.

The professional is called in.

their frames.

The professional is called in.

Fortunately, mishaps don't happen to everyone. In some cases true brilliance is seen, as in thehome of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Thorne of Batemans Road, Hunters Hill.

While most of us have hobbies ranging from golf or sailing to painting or simply reading. Peter Thorne's ambition has always been to 'do something in stone'.

The Thornes moved into their present home two years ago. In fact, the stone cottage was one of their main reasons in coming to Hunters Hill.

The house was small with

tage was one or their means reasons in coming to Hunters Hill.

The house was small, with two bedrooms and a kitchen tacked on the rear; but to Peter and his wife Jenny its charm was unmistakeable.

From the back garden, on the crest of the hill in Batemans Road, one can still see open paddocks reminiscent of farmland surrounding the area at the time the house was built.



Thorne residence . . . brilliance in stone.

Peter Thorne is a produc-tion engineer during the day, a field far removed from building. However, an exten-sion to the small cottage was inevitable and, to Peter, this extension must surely be made from stone. With a painstaking atten-tion to detail, Peter Horne, stonemason by night and weekend, extended the west-ern wall of his house to pro-vide a kitchen and family room.

ern wait of his nouse to provide a kitchen and family room.

First came the stone. This was purchased from a site in Wharf Road, Gladesville, where a cottage was being demolished. Peter recalls vividly the day his building material arrived.

They backed this enor.

"They backed this enor."

"They backed this enor."

"The stone was dumped in a heap with most blocks weighing more than 200 pounds. How will we ever move this lot? my wife cried".

rive this lot? my wife cried. Peter's ingenuity were work. He fashiond a crane, from second-hand pieces of steel, which was modelled the claimed "straight from the opera house." With hired pulley and tackle he was able to handle the giant stone blocks with reasonable ease.

Firstly a drain was set in

the bedrock below the concrete and run out to the street. This was essential to remove moisture. Peter selected interior stone which was covered in plaster and not weathered. Pic marks in the surface were identical to the existing house, indicating that the blocks were of the same age and likely from the same quarry.

The stone was scored and then chipped with hammer and chisel to break it into sections measuring 12 x 9 inches.

A lead dampcourse was

and chisel to break it into sections measuring 12 x 9 inches.

A lead dampcourse was placed in the concrete hase prior to building.

The work has taken approximately six months to complete. Interior fittings are yet to be installed but from the outside the matching stonework is remarkable.

We asked Peter Thorne which skill he felt most important in working with stone.

portant in working with stone.

"The application of logic-and commonsense," he replied.

He quickly denied that he was an expert, however he said that he would go glad to discuss stone work with any Hunters Hill resident secking advice.

Meanwhile, Peter is getting on with his next job—rebuilding the stone fence knocked down by the delivery truck.

DO YOU KNOW?

Following our first printing of this section on local col-our from the past, Mr. G. A. Lloyd writes . . .

Hunters Hill Golf Club

grounds. 'Cocky' Hancock was our Hon. Secretary and general factotum — his duty, amongst many others, was to purchase the weekend supplies of liquid refreshments and place a few blocks of ice on the concrete floor of the cow shed to keep them cool. The block are described to the honour system, the concrete floor of the honour system, the concrete beind 4d. for a soft and del. for a soft and del. for a soft and del. for a contract of the honour system, the concrete beind 4d. for a soft and del. for a s

wrath of the mouern generation!

Club liquor licenses were very rare and hard to secure in those days and the Hunters Hill Golf Club had No. I license. When the golf course gave way to the high school and hospital buildings, this license was transferred to the Pymble Golf Club on the winderstanding that all current Hunters Hill members be understanding that all current Hunters Hill members be not the Hunter Hill members be and a fair amount of 'leg pulling' I recall Mr. Tom Buckland, later Sir Thomas, who was regarded with respect and affection by all members, but who had a slight fad about his golf ball. He firmly believed that this one particular ball was vital to the success of his game and he had a large red cross painted on it. T.B. Would hold the game up for exasperatingly long periods if lost in the rough and until his caddy house and he had a large red cross painted on it. T.B. would hold the game up for exasperatingly long periods if lost in the rough and until his caddy house hand with Bred cross to appear identical to that of T.B. He arranged with his caddy to substitute balls at a convenient time, with disastrous results to T.B.'s hickory shafted club. Steel shafted clubs were not known then. Some of the old residents who were club members and whose names I recall were Shelley — Windeyer — Ranken — Groves — Lysaght — Pearland — Flater — Hunter — Hunter Hill Golf Chub.

or amplify the foregoing notes about Hunters Hill Golf Club.

It was one of the simple unpretentious and inexpensive institutions which made our little village a delightful place in which to live. The sad question today is how much longer we old residents can afford to live in our homes which, through circumstances-beyond our control, are taxed so unfairly and disproportionately".

G. A. LLOYD.

If you write to us, as Mr. Lloyd has kindly done, de-tailing your special point of interest, we will endeavour to print it. History and other information from senior resi-dents on the "Hill" would be particularly welcome.

Community Project Trust Centre

The Trust intends to open a much needed library and information centre in Hunters Hill where all residents will be welcome to information about their suburb and its history.

Since its inception, the Trust has steadily acquired a substantial collection of reference books on restoring old buildings, colonial and local history, architecture and other similar subjects. It will soon be possible to gather these records and display them to advantage for everyone's benefit, intervalled.

records and display them to advantage for everyone's benefit.

Residents will also be able to examine Trust books and publications and generally see just what the Trust is doing.

see just what the Trust is doing.
Negotiations for lease of the old library in Alexandra Street are well advanced and it should provide a convenient location for all. The centre will be organised and run by the Auxiliary, and when details are finalised, we will be asking for your help.
The Trust wants this to be a community project, so all residen's participation will be warmly welcomed.

Hunters Hill Golf Club

"I was a member from about 1928-1931 in the days when golf was regarded as an old man's sport. An injury at football was my excuse for switching to golf, rather reductantly in the winter months, but, I must confess the simple rustic atmosphere further the delighted per formation of the fine the delighted per the service of member we had made in the delighted per the service of member we had made of the farmland option of the Gladesville Hospital, to which the club most enjoyable. The course was of 9 holes and situated on the farmland option of the Gladesville Hospital, to which the club paid a peppercorn rental. The membership was £3 and the annual subscription £2. Club amenities consisted of an old cow shed which served as a bar and the Lady Associate members entertained us to tea and home made cakes, served in an old pavilion in the

Address

"Life in Hunters Hill" ESSAY COMPETITION P.O. Box 85, Hunters Hill. 2110

HUNTERS HILL TRUST JOURNAL

The Editor wishes to extend sincere appreciation to Messrs, D. Baglin and M. Santry, for providing pictorial content in the Hunters Hill Trust Journal.