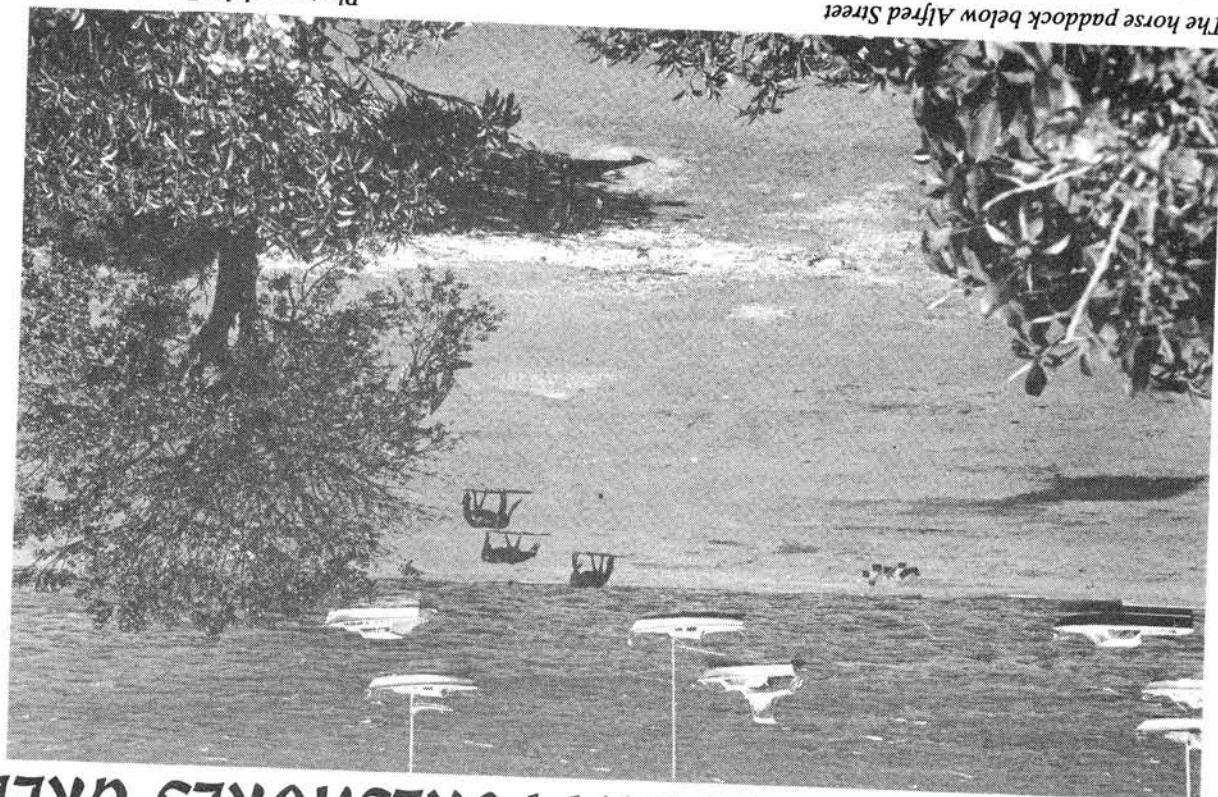


Hunter's Hill Trust Journal

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KEEP THE PARKRAMATTA FORESHORES GREEN



Photograph by Douglass Baglin

2. A Foreshore Scenic Protection Area should be re-introduced.
3. Foreshore preservation and/or improvement are most needed for the Gladesville Hospital grounds and the Army land between Clarke's Point and Kelly's Bush.
4. Recreational Activities and a botanic garden should be considered in a study of the Tarban Creek area.
5. Reclamation of land and sports lighting should not be allowed.

The whole submission reflects the Trust's continuing concern for the foreshores of the municipality and draws particular attention to a proposed development of town houses at Woolwich:

Clarke's Point and Kelly's Bush are at the entrance of the Parramatta River and set a standard of green space that is desirable for the whole region of the river. However, a serious threat has occurred in the form of a proposed development of town houses for Army personnel on the open area between these two foreshore parklands [the area known locally as 'the horse paddock' — see photo].

Trust's Submission to Government

The State Government is presently drafting a comprehensive Regional Environmental Plan for the Parramatta River. A representative from the Government (Department of Environment and Planning) recently addressed a meeting of the Trust Committee and explained some of the features of the Plan. It will focus upon recreational uses along the foreshores; it will not be implemented in one fell swoop but will be 'an incremental plan'; and one of the main tasks initially for the Government is to find out who the major landowners are along the river and make approaches to them.

The State Government invited the Hunter's Hill Trust to submit proposals for consideration within this Plan for the river. In response the Trust undertook an environmental study of the Parramatta foreshores from Valentia Street to the municipal boundary at Punt Road. An 18-page Report was drawn up, together with colour-keyed maps, and the whole submitted to the Government. The submission includes description, evaluation, and recommendations for land use. The main recommendations are:

1. Green Space along the foreshores should be considered as an entirety, and foreshore foliage screening encouraged for all land ownership and uses.



Keep the Parramatta Foreshores Green (continued)

The question is, will the Government see the logic of the Trust's submission, take notice of it, and act upon it — in particular with regard to the horse paddock? The logic that should not escape the Government is this. Its own stated objective for the Parramatta River is **recreational uses** — this means that the Government will be surely making every effort to keep the foreshores green. At the entrance to the river there should be one Green Area from Clarke's Point to Kelly's Bush. Army build-up between these two recreational areas would make a mockery of the Government's own proposals.

While it is conceded that the Army has shown indulgence in allowing residents to use its land as a horse paddock for years and while it is recognised that the Army has to be somewhere, the following points should be argued in the strongest possible terms:

1. Yes, the Army has to be somewhere but does it have to expand its facilities at the end of a peninsula which has only single-road access? There is only one road to Woolwich which is already overburdened, particularly with ferry commuters.
2. Must the Army expand in one of Australia's most historic suburbs? The Australian Heritage Commission (a Commonwealth Government body) has listed the entire peninsula of Hunter's Hill as part of the National Estate and the Army (also Commonwealth Government) is answerable to the Heritage Commission for what it does with this land.
3. To lose the horse paddock as part of a green belt from Clarke's Point to Kelly's Bush would be to lose a great deal environmentally. The Harbour is precious not just to Hunter's Hill but to Sydney and Australia.

Indeed our Harbour is one of the wonders of the world and every endeavour on the part of federal, state and local government should be made to save what open space remains around it.

4. For the same reasons the foreshore strip to the north of Mort's Dock should also be saved from development.
5. The Sydney Harbour National Park should extend to the Upper Harbour so that the open space from Clarke's Point to Kelly's Bush might be incorporated into it.

WOOLPAC

WOOLPAC - the Woolwich People's Action Committee - grew out of an association of residents who fought for and won Clarke's Point for the people. Now it is fighting for 'the horse paddock' [see photo, p.1]. The short-term objective of WOOLPAC is to prevent Army development of this land. The long-term objective is to have this land and another foreshore strip on the northern side of Mort's Dock handed over to the people.

For further information, or volunteers to assist, please contact: David Ingham (816-4550) or John Boots (816-3261).

PUBLIC MEETING

The Trust, in association with WOOLPAC, held a Public Meeting in the Hunter's Hill Town Hall on October 23rd. Over two hundred people attended, including the sitting Member for Bennelong, Mr. John Howard, and the ALP candidate, Ms. Margaret Duckett. The meeting voted overwhelmingly to oppose any development of Army land at Woolwich, to work for the incorporation of this land into the Sydney Harbour National Park together with Clarke's Point and Kelly's Bush, and to undertake consultations with state, federal, and local authorities in order to achieve these ends.

'The Government is committed to saving Harbour foreshore land. All the foreshores which are green will remain that way.'
(Premier Wran, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5/9/83, p.3).



'ALLOWAH' TO STAY

'Allowah', the historic timber cottage at 6 Bateman's Road, is there to stay.

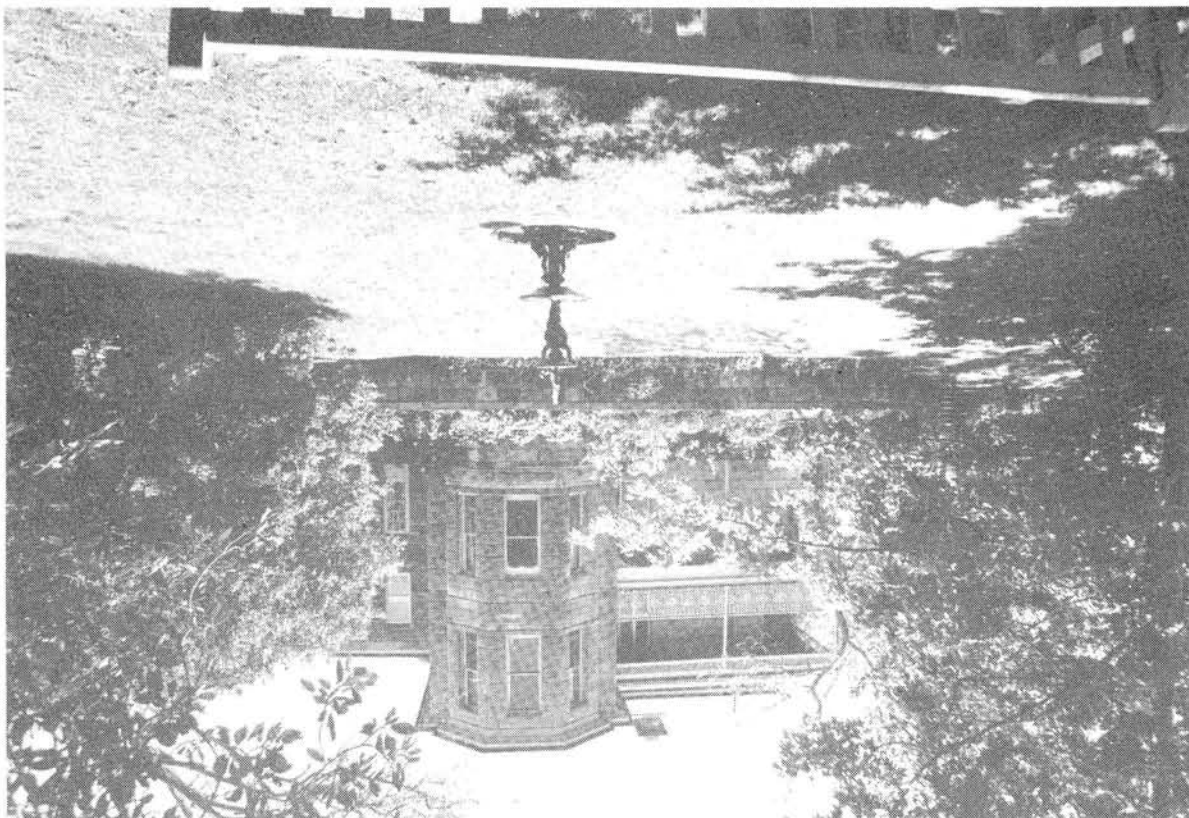
An appeal was taken to the Land and Environment Court after the Hunter's Hill Council refused permission for demolition. The appeal was lost and Council's case was strengthened by the evidence of Hugh Fraser (architect, Heritage Council of NSW) and Michael Lehany (landscape architect and Member of the National Trust Historic Buildings Committee) and by a report from Meredith Walker (conservation consultant). The house was built in 1899 and is intact.

[*'Allowah'* is an aboriginal word meaning 'stay here'. Sources: Mitchell Library.]

Hunter's Hill Trust Tree Survey: The trees of Glencairn [see p.3] are being entered in the Hunter's Hill Trust's register of trees. We would be very grateful if residents would let us know what trees are growing in their gardens so that the register might be as complete as possible. Please send information to: The Secretary, Hunter's Hill Trust, P.O. Box 85, Hunter's Hill 2110.

The Australian Garden History Society: This society identifies historic gardens and prepares guidelines for their retention, restoration, and maintenance. See their publication, **Historic Gardens in Australia: Guidelines for the Preparation of Conservation Plans** (Sydney, 1983). For enquiries write to: The Secretary, Australian Garden History Society, Box 300, Post Office, Edgecliff NSW 2027.

THE GARDEN OF GLENCAIRN



Glencairn in its setting

Glencairn (25 Glenview Crescent) is one of three stone houses in a row (the others are Glenview and Glenrock) which were built by Charles Edward Jeanneret (1834-1898) for his children upon their marriages.

Built in 1888, the house displays many of the picturesque effects of High Victorian architecture - rusticated sandstone, cast-iron lace, elaborate chimneys, and (inside) ornate arches and cornices, ceiling roses, marble fireplaces, face the Parramatta River and are not seen from the street; like most of the early villas built on the peninsula, Glencairn was meant to be seen and admired from the water, which was the principal access to Hunter's Hill in the nineteenth century.

Nearly three years ago Paul and Sheila Andrew bought the house and decided to redesign the garden to complement the Victorian house. They are members of the Australian Garden History Society and did much of the research themselves. They also consulted Howard Tanner, an authority on Victorian gardens; he designed the entrance from the street and the layout of the garden and gave advice on basic planting. An old stone retaining wall was rebuilt and now gives good definition to the shape of the house; a semicircular area was created for a lawn, with stairs leading down from above and with flower beds as a border; a fountain was then installed in the middle of the lawn. All these elements are characteristic of the Victorians' sense of order in creating their gardens - this is evidenced, for example, in the many paintings of Victorian houses and their environs by William Tibbits (1837-1906).

The Victorians also liked to have a few 'noble' trees as features in their gardens - palms or fig trees, Illawarra flame tree, camphor laurel, Norfolk Island pine, or jacaranda. When the Andrews bought Glencairn the garden was overcrowded with trees, all competing for the sunlight. The process of reconstruction began with the removal of many spindly, useless trees and three massive privets. Several really good trees remained and a feature was made of these. The result is a thoroughly Victorian garden, formal, architectural, and enhanced by a number of fine, individual trees.

Noblest of all is a Port Jackson fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*, the small-leaved fig indigenous to the Sydney Harbour region). This tree predates the house and could well be as old as the

Port Jackson fig at Figtree House (1 Reiby Road) which as early as 1838 was described as 'an expanded figtree'. The Glencairn fig thrives on sandstone outcrops and has expanded amazingly; it has at least ten roots which have travelled far and wide, some growing perpendicularly from branches into the ground. One needs the pen of a poet to describe it, particularly when it is laden with figs - Yeats' 'great-rooted blossomer' comes to mind.

The other really grand tree is a mature southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). This had been stilled by surrounding vegetation but is now able to breathe again. While the fig was inherited from the land itself, the magnolia is a North American tree and was planted by early residents. Six other trees were retained as features - two jacarandas (*Jacaranda minosifolia*, originating in Brazil), a liquidambar (North American), a very old port wine magnolia (*Michelia figo*, a native of South-East Asia), a box, and at the street entrance a camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*, from Japan).

The principal flowers bordering the lawn are camelias and azaleas. But beyond the lawn, sandstone steps at each side lead down to two recently-planted 'secret gardens' - one English, the other Australian. On the shaded side is the English garden planted with such nineteenth-century roses as Madame Plantier, Madame Pierre Ogier, and Souvenir de la Malmaison. Interspersed with these are lavenders (white, pink, Old English, Hidcote, dwarf Munstead), irises, treeas, foxgloves, and brooms. A path leads from this garden in and out of the roots of the fig tree and in its shade are growing snowdrops, bluebells, and a *Monstera delictosa*; this area is softened by a carpet of native violets and ferns. The path emerges on the western side of the garden, which receives the hot afternoon sun. Here an Australian garden is planted with waratah, banksia, bottle-brush, and native mint.

By 1888, the year of Australia's centenary, some houses were beginning to reflect an amalgam of cultures, that of the 'old country' and the new. Glencairn shows something of this. While its architecture strongly suggests the 'old country', the etched glass around the front door combines the name 'Glencairn' with waratahs. That amalgam of cultures has been appropriately extended today in the reconstruction of the garden.

Photograph by Douglas Baglin

HUNTER'S HILL AND THE LITERARY GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA

The entry on Hunter's Hill for the forthcoming **Oxford Illustrated Literary Guide to Australia** has been completed, illustrated with photographs by Douglass Baglin. Many thanks to those who so kindly offered information. You may be interested to know that Hunter's Hill emerged with the highest concentration of literary associations of all Sydney's suburbs. Some surprise was expressed at this (**Sydney Morning Herald**, 29/6/84, p.1) but considering the early date of settlement and the fact that Hunter's Hill has never gone to seed but has remained a pleasant residential area for so long, it hardly seems surprising at all. The definition of 'literary' for the **Guide** went beyond the conventional categories of poetry, novels, and drama, so that we were able to include under Hunter's Hill writers as diverse as Sir Francis Anderson (1858-1941), Sir John Ferguson (1881-1969), A. D. Hope, Nancy Keesing, Vincent Serventy. At least thirty writers have lived here and, in addition, a number of books have been written about Hunter's Hill or have been set here.

Together with Oxford University Press's **Literary Guides** to Britain and Ireland and to the USA, the Australian **Guide** represents a new way of looking at the environment, apart from adding to our knowledge of literature. For example, the splendid Norfolk Island pine in Madeline Street, Hunter's Hill, is more splendid still seen in the light of R. D. FitzGerald's poem, **Height: pine-tree, Madeline Street**; and Tarban Creek, the place itself and its history, are given new dimensions by FitzGerald's delightful narrative, **One Such Morning**. Both poems are in **Product: Later Verses of R. D. FitzGerald** (Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1977). It is useful to be directed to places where writers have lived or to places described in literature; and if we can't actually get to those places, it is useful and pleasant to read about them and look at illustrations in a reference book. The **Literary Guide to Great Britain and Ireland** has already given me much pleasure just sitting in an armchair. So look out for the Australian **Guide** when it is published.

Beverley Sherry.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Ian Evans, Clive Lucas, & Ian Stapleton, **Colour Schemes for Old Australian Houses**. Sydney, Flannel Flower Press, 1984. All the white iron lace on Victorian houses should change colour after this book.

Ian Evans, **The Australian Old House Catalogue**. Sydney, Methuen Haynes, 1984. The last word on where to buy what for old houses.

Portraits in the Landscape. The House Paintings of William Tibbits 1870-1906. Compiled by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW. Sydney, Historic Houses Trust of NSW, 1984. Catalogue of a recent exhibition at Elizabeth Bay House. If you want to know what Victorian houses looked like in their settings, this will show you.

ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come to the Trust's Christmas Party

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25th, EVENING

HUNTER'S HILL TOWN HALL

6.30 p.m. drinks — 7.00 p.m. dinner

Everyone welcome, bring your friends

\$10.00 each

Enquiries:

Jenny Lockyer (816 4922)

Allysoun Ryves (816 1741)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

There will be the usual brief General Meeting at the Christmas Party. We will vote on the constitutional changes of which notice was given at the A.G.M. in May. Any members who would like information about this, please ring Hudson Shaw (817 2311).

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### PARRAMATTA RIVER STUDY

The Trust's environmental study of the Parramatta River is available to members for loan. Please ring: Roslyn Maguire (816 4614) or Doreen Carter (817 3410).

### "VIENNA"

The National Trust 'Vienna' Appeal Committee is busy with a continuing round of fund-raising activities. Particularly successful was the House Inspection on October 14th. A total of \$3,625 was raised! Hunter's Hill was overflowing with people (600 came), the sun shone, and it was great to see the National Trust, the Hunter's Hill Trust, and many local people all working together.

### MOOCOOROOOLA 1984

The Trust ran two stalls this year and made a total profit of \$623. The food hamper was won by Mr. Jim Ryves of Passy Avenue.

### TRUST MEMBERSHIP 1984-85

**MEMBERSHIP** fees are due on March 1 each year. Types of membership:— Single \$5.00; Family \$10.00; Pensioner \$1.00; Student \$1.00; Life Member \$75.00. Please post to Hunter's Hill Trust, Box 85, Hunter's Hill, 2110.