



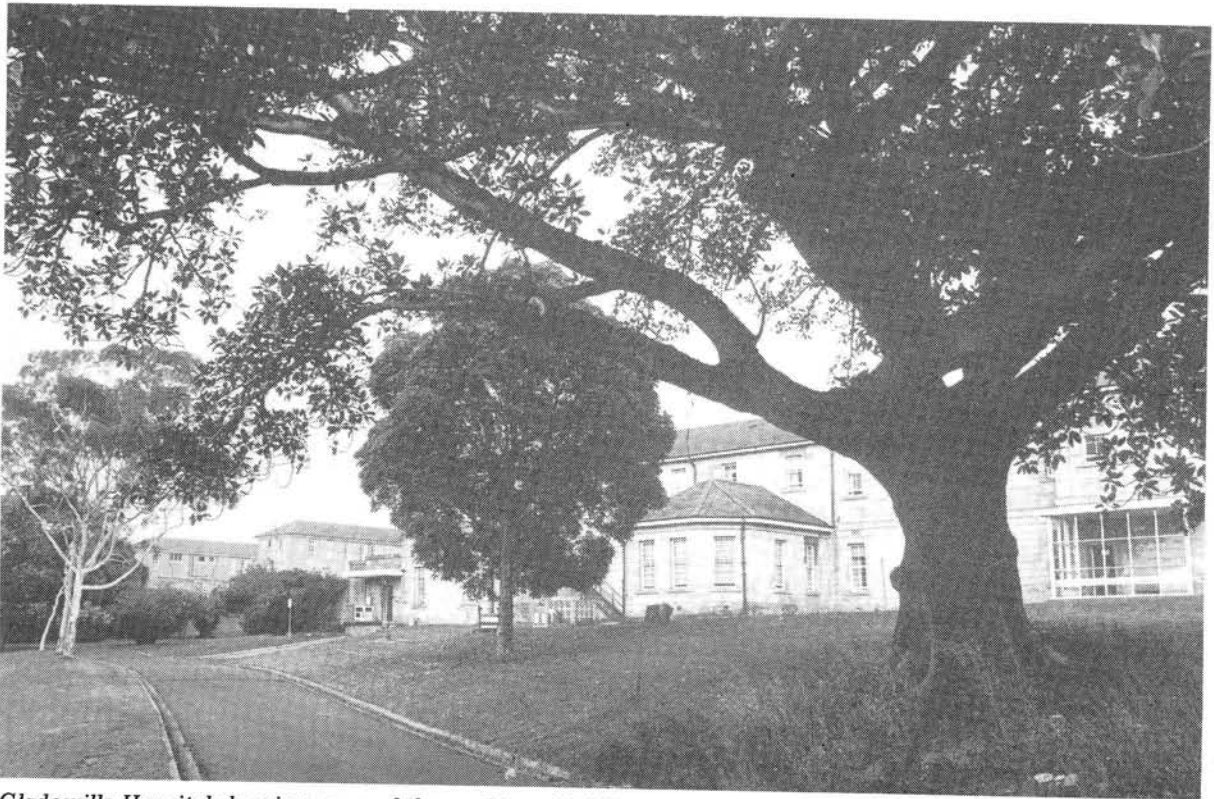
# Hunter's Hill Trust Journal

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## GLADESVILLE HOSPITAL



*Gladesville Hospital showing some of the sandstone buildings*

*Photograph by Douglass Baglin*

The Government has recently announced that it intends to sell a number of mental hospitals which it no longer needs. The media has reported that Gladesville Hospital in Hunters Hill will be one of the first to go.

As far back as 1981 rumours were heard that Gladesville Hospital was to be sold. The **Hunters Hill Trust Journal** of February 1982 published an article entitled "SANITY FOR SALE" in which it said that "*widespread reports that the State Government intends to sell the Gladesville site have not been denied*". It went on to say that much of the site remains intact because it has been protected as a hospital, immune from commercial over-development, and that the foreshore grounds and amphitheatre are remarkable, a living museum of early and more recent designs for outdoor space, a natural setting for imposing institutional buildings and their attendant cottages.

The article concluded:

**"In the view of the Hunters Hill Trust, it is long-term sanity to preserve this site for the enjoyment and enrichment of future generations. The Government of 1835 had planning and site choices which will not be ours again; the best of what is left now must be kept and valued in human and environmental terms."**

The Australian Heritage Commission has recognised the significance of this site and has included it in its Register of the National Estate. It states "*The Gladesville Mental Hospital Precinct is included in the Register of the National Estate because of its architectural and historical significance, being the first purpose built lunatic asylum in the colony. The precinct nestles around a small valley rising from the Parramatta River and both its buildings and surviving late 19th century landscaping make considerable contributions to the environment of the river. The precinct is located within the Hunters Hill Conservation Area, which is included in the Register for its combination of natural landscape features, fine harbour views and historic buildings to form an outstanding environment.*"

The Environment Writer of the Sydney Morning Herald, Mr. Joseph Glascott, wrote on Saturday, 10th October, 1987 "Will the present Statement Government honour the promise of the former Premier, Mr. Wran, to return all vacated harbour foreshore land to the public? The question arises with the Government's decision to close its psychiatric hospitals, including Gladesville .... The Government on Thursday called on State authorities to indicate their interest in the sites by yesterday, a sign that some would be sold to private companies ...."

If there is any property in New South Wales worthy of being given the protection of a permanent conservation order surely it is the Gladesville Hospital site. That these notable and historic buildings with their magnificent grounds should be sold and the site subdivided for housing or other purposes, is inconceivable.

Members will have been encouraged by the report in the Sydney Morning Herald of Wednesday, 21st October, that our local member, The Minister for Education Mr. Cavalier, is considering part of the old hospital for a College of the Arts. It is obvious from the report that many political problems have to be solved, and then the residents of the Hospital have to be accommodated elsewhere, so we cannot hope for an early solution. However present indications are hopeful, if as appears a use has been found for the buildings.

## COUNCIL ELECTION

**SEPTEMBER 26th**

After several weeks of busy campaigning in all wards of Hunters Hill (there were respectively six, eight and nine candidates in East, Central and West Wards for the three positions in each) Polling Day provided some lengthy counting and close results. Those elected were:

EAST:	PHIL HALDEMAN MATTHEW BAIRD SUSAN HOOPMANN
CENTRAL:	BRUCE EDELMAN JOHN WATKINS ROSS WILLIAMS
WEST:	ROSS SHEERIN SHEILA SWAIN PHILIP DANIELS

The new Council met on Monday, 12th October, to a packed public gallery, including a very large number of young citizens of Hunters Hill.

Ald. Sheila Swain, who has served on Council for sixteen years, was elected Mayor for her third term, having filled this position previously from 1980 to 1982. Those Committee members who have attended Council meetings in the past few years are aware of Ald. Swain's consistent attitude on environmental and heritage matters. Ald. Ross Williams was elected Deputy Mayor.

We congratulate the successful candidates and trust that all Councillors will remember and continuously maintain their electoral philosophies and pledges. We wish them well in the work ahead.

At the end of this first meeting, the many visitors were pleasantly surprised to be invited by the Mayor to join her and the other aldermen at supper. Residents were thus able to meet their representatives on Council, an innovation that the visitors hoped would continue. Such an arrangement is a regular feature of meetings of many other Councils which enables residents to talk to their aldermen in an informal atmosphere. Now that the ice has been broken it is hoped that this "getting together over supper" will continue and so encourage residents to attend Council meetings.

## I'M ALL RIGHT JACK ...

Sometime ago the new owner of an historic property applied to the Council to subdivide. The application was refused on a unanimous vote. A few months later another application was made for much the same subdivision and this time it was approved by a simple majority. The reason given for this extraordinary about face was that "an owner should be able to do what he likes with his own property". It is more than passing interest to demonstrate where such a philosophy can lead. Some members will have seen the 'Investigators' programme screened by the ABC on Tuesday evening the 6th October.

It showed how the owner of a property in a good Melbourne suburb erected a huge framework of structural steel almost overnight, intended to support his new residence. The structure, not only dominated all the houses adjoining his property, but the whole of what was a good class of residential district. Distraught neighbours found that there was nothing they could do about what was, not only a blot on the landscape, but a total invasion of their privacy.

While such a monstrous structure would not be permitted in Hunters Hill, there have been many instances of property owners endeavouring, and often being permitted, "to do what they liked on their own property". It is one of the watchdog aims of the Trust to prevent or minimise such happenings.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

The Library Society of N.S.W. is making a record of Sydney suburbs in the 80's. Towards this end they are encouraging amateur photographers to photograph

- buildings in their shopping areas
- street scapes and vacant blocks.
- Free films will be provided and a discount given on processing.

They point out that commercial, industrial and domestic buildings are being demolished every day. While some may be unlovely and their passing unmourned, they are all part of our present day history and deserve to be recorded. More information from Alan Davies at the State Library, 230 1478.

# MOBIL SAGA CONTINUED



*The naval ammunition barges with Schnapper Island in foreground, Spectacle Island and Pulpit Point at top of picture. Reproduced by kind permission of The Weekly Times.*

Our last Journal of July, 1987 provided a progressive history of the Mobil re-development project. The following is a brief account of happenings since then when we advised that the Hunters Hill Council's Draft Local Environment Plan (L.E.P.) was expected to be completed in the near future. It would then be placed on view in the Council Chambers.

**1 JULY.** Announcement in the Weekly Times (TWT) that the LEP would be on view in the Council Chambers and would remain there until 17 July. Also that written submissions would be accepted from the public until 22 July. It was expected that the Council would discuss the proposals on 10 August.

**2 JULY.** The Mayor in his weekly column in TWT advised that Mobil had now made a formal application for the re-zoning of Pulpit Point for medium density housing. The application was accompanied by traffic and environmental assessment reports which were unlikely to be considered in detail for several weeks. These proposals were on view for public scrutiny.

**3 JULY.** Mobil's proposed re-development was mentioned in the Northern Herald and that work carried out at Pulpit Point would be transferred to Silverwater and Yarraville, Melbourne, provided any approved re-development was financially viable.

**19 JULY.** We wrote to the Council congratulating them on the stand they had taken against considerable pressure from the Minister in the production of their LEP. We thought it was undesirable that so much land should be occupied by access roads as indicated on the Council's plan, that the ring road should be amended to provide two feeder roads and some standards laid down to ensure that the residences should have some architectural relationship to the domestic architecture of Hunters Hill. (Members will remember that the Council's LEP provided for some 105 dwellings, while the Mobil proposals provided for 400 initially but subsequently modified to 350 dwellings, some of which were to be multi-storied). (The Trust's submission is available on request).

The Trust prepared a leaflet with a copy of the Council's LEP in colour, and distributed it to the majority of the residents of the Hill, pointing out weaknesses in the plan and reminding them that objections had to be lodged to the Council by 22 July.

**29 JULY.** The Mayor advised in his weekly column in TWT that about 100 submissions had been received, and as this number was far in excess of that expected, it would be some time before consideration could be given to them all. He went on to say that many of the letters followed suggestions made in a leaflet circulated in parts of the Municipality which referred to a four-lane highway through the Mobil land. He said "*the leaflet (the Trust document) had misled a lot of people, perhaps deliberately*" and said those concerned should have checked with the Council's Planning Office, (presumably to verify that Council had made an error in their drawing! One might be excused in questioning the purpose and value of an LEP if its intent was not clear.) The Mayor went on to assure his readers that the submissions would receive thorough consideration before the LEP was completed.

**6 AUGUST.** The Northern Herald reported that changes in Naval safety codes placed part of the Pulpit Point land within a munitions blast zone. This meant that 20% of the site would be affected. On the Town Clerk's estimate this could mean a reduction in the number of dwellings on the LEP of nearly 50%.

**19 AUGUST.** The Northern District Times announced that Mobil proposed to call world-wide tenders for the sale of its Pulpit Point property, and hoped to receive \$35 million for it. It was believed an expensive book had been published with full details of Mobil's development application and the Council's LEP. As it was realised the Council's proposal would have been unattractive to developers, Mobil stated that they believed the Council would be obliged to approve a compromise for 250 dwellings rather than face an action in the Land and Environment Court. Mobil advised potential developers that they could expect to start construction on the cleared site in the latter part of 1988.



## MOBIL SAGA CONTINUED

**28 AUGUST.** The Trust wrote to the Mayor of Hunters Hill objecting in the strongest possible terms to the uncalled for criticism by the Council's Health and Building Surveyor at the previous Council meeting. He was reported to have said, according to the Northern District Times of 2nd September, "*The residents who took the trouble to write to Council basing their observations on the Trust circular, have been badly served by the Trust and in the main their comments lose weight simply because of reiteration of ill-informed opinion*".

The Times' article went on to say that the Council had received submissions from the Hunters Hill Trust, CRUSH, the National Trust, the Navy, the Department of Environment and Planning, the Health Department, the State Pollution Control Commission, the Water Board, the Maritime Services Board and nine letters from private individuals. Only two letters fully supported the LEP.

**3 SEPTEMBER.** The Northern Herald reported concern and disbelief of members of the Council to the Navy's revelation of the extended blast zone.

**3 SEPTEMBER.** Angered by the Council's Health and Building Surveyor's criticism of the Trust, a letter was sent to the Editor of the Northern District Times expressing concern about its article in the issue of 2 September, and asked that the Trust's reply be published.

**9 SEPTEMBER.** The TWT reported in large type on its front page "Navy drops bomb shell on Hunters Hill Point". The article went on to say that a special meeting of Council was shocked to learn of the new R.A.N. prohibitions (which incidentally they knew about a month before on 6 August; see above). The Council resolved to seek legal advice and an urgent meeting with the Minister for Defence.

**10 SEPTEMBER.** A well attended public meeting was held in Drummoyne at which the State Member, Mr. John Murray was present, which expressed great concern at the risk threatening the whole foreshore adjacent to the Navy's area in which hundreds of people live. The State Member undertook to take the matter up with the Government with a view to an early removal of the hazard to life and limb.

## OBITUARY

### ALAN BRADFIELD

Dr. Alan Bradfield, who died on September 19, 1987 was among those who planned the inauguration of the Hunters Hill Trust in February, 1968. Alan masterminded the drawing-up of the Constitution of the Trust and was elected to its first Permanent Committee of nine at the second Town Hall meeting on July 24, 1968, becoming President. He discharged this office with charm and ability during the strenuous time when the Trust was preparing its submissions to Council on the Draft Town Plan and Revised Plan and when the Trust succeeded in having nine new aldermen elected to Council in 1968. Stepping down in 1970, but remaining on the Committee, he again became President during 1971-72.

In spite of very heavy demands made on him by his profession, Alan continued to serve on Trust Committees, taking a valuable part in the many battles of those days — the fight to preserve Kelly's Bush, to save Clarke's Point, the fight against the proposal to enlarge Mort's Dock at Woolwich and to prevent the building of the Lane Cove Valley expressway. The Trust minutes continue to record his contributions until the severe heart attack he suffered on New Years Day 1973 forced him to retire from an active part in Trust affairs.

Nevertheless his support continued, and in 1979-80 he was again elected President. Finally, pressure of work and a need to conserve his energies obliged him to withdraw completely from the Trust in 1981.

As one who worked with him, I shall always remember with affection, his unfailing courtesy, his readiness to smile and to listen patiently, his willingness to undertake yet another task in spite of his professional load. I shall also remember his calmness even in times of tension and crisis. He had strong ideals and did not spare himself in following them. He was a fighter for what he believed in, but without being aggressive. He will be sadly missed.

The Trust Committee has sent its sincere condolences to Frances his wife, and to his children. Reg Martin, Tom Farrell and I represented the Trust at his memorial service, held at St. James' Church, King Street, Sydney, which was filled to standing.

October, 1987

RICHARD TEMPLE



# HERITAGE CONSERVATION

## PART TWO

The Heritage Council of N.S.W. was established by the Heritage Act of 1977 following a recommendation of the Hope Inquiry that each State should initiate its own legalisation to ensure conservation of its environmental heritage, including buildings, works, relics and places of historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, national or aesthetic significance. The Council's chief role is that of advice and recommendations on matters affecting the environmental heritage and implementation of the Act to the Minister for Planning and Environment. The Act is concerned with a wide range of conservation from basic protection against damage, demolition or neglect, to restoration and enhancement.

Such protection is carried out through a range of powers, in particular conservation orders, both permanent and temporary. From 1977 to 1986, 360 items have been protected by permanent conservation orders and 550 interim orders have been made — about 90% warrant being converted to permanent orders after the assessment of their heritage significance by the Council in the intervening two year period. Other powers include orders to control or halt demolition or alteration, modification of laws affecting environmental heritage and issue of permits for archaeological excavation. The Council provides finance through its Grants and Loans Programme to assist restoration projects and can provide rate and tax relief where permanent conservation orders have been served and in certain cases the Minister can waive building and planning restrictions on conservation projects.

The Heritage Council Register consists of all buildings or works, relics and places that have been subject to conservation orders — obviously not a complete list of places which should be preserved.

N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 enables the service to acquire and maintain land as national parks and reserves. The Act also covers sites of historic significance and those of special significance to the Australian Aborigines — in N.S.W. the Register lists over 13,000 such areas.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 extends the responsibility for heritage conservation to local

government — encouraging councils to include conservation provisions in local plans.

In Hunters Hill the **Environmental Heritage Advisory Committee** (formerly the Townscape Advisory Committee) is concerned with any development, including alterations and additions, or demolition within the Municipality, which will have an affect on a heritage item. This Committee, presently comprised of representatives from Council, the National Trust, Institute of Architects and local citizens, should give informed and objective advice on such matters to the Council, who retain decision making responsibility.

Another very important aspect of this amended heritage legislation is the commissioning of detailed and comprehensive heritage studies to identify more clearly potential heritage items. Such studies are funded jointly by the Heritage Council and local government bodies. The Heritage Study of Hunters Hill by Meredith Walker and Associates, 1984 was one of ten such jointly funded studies. It is hoped that eventually such studies will be carried out in every local government area, leading to town and environmental plans sympathetic to heritage values.

**Historic Houses Trust of N.S.W.** was established in 1980 to administer various historic houses owned by the Government, including Vaucluse House and Elizabeth Farm.

Heritage conservation is obviously now an issue of great importance and although most people will be principally concerned with their local environment, the Hunters Hill Trust continues to serve the municipality in this matter. However we can both contribute to, and be helped by people and bodies involved with the preservation of our natural and historical environment and heritage elsewhere.

Although Government at all levels and legal provisions have developed enormously in the past fifteen years to promote and maintain heritage conservation, it is clear that the interest and participation of individuals and groups, as in the days before such official concern, is still essential and must continue.



From **Hunters Hill Trust Journal** Vol.1, No.1, April 1972

### MASTHEAD . . .

The masthead for the new "Hunters Hill Trust Journal", was designed by prominent graphic artist E. A. Foster of Mount Street.

In order to express the bucolic values which were reinstated in Hunters Hill from late 18th century Europe by the early settlers of property, Mr. Foster has referred to the work of Thomas Bewick whose wood engravings depict aspects of life close to nature.

The indigenous Wood pigeon is an example of Bewick's work selected from the *History of Quadrupeds* published in Newcastle in 1790.

The typeface, Baskerville Old Face, is a revised form of an original cut in the 1750's which ideally compliments the period flavour of the design.

# ACTIVITIES

## The Hunters Hill Trust

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON and GENERAL MEETING



will be held at

ALEXANDRA'S RESTAURANT  
Alexandra Street, Hunters Hill



on

SUNDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 1987

12 NOON

Please come and participate in discussions on local problems.

A Buffet Meal will be served at the conclusion  
of the meeting.

Cost of Luncheon:  
\$20 Members    \$25 Non-Members

RSVP to:

Jenny Lockyer, 4 Foss Street, Hunters Hill, Ph. 816 4922  
Elizabeth Shaw, 8 Tiree Avenue, Hunters Hill, Ph. 817 2311

by FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 1987

(The Restaurant must know the final numbers by this date.)

**VIENNA** is to be opened on 29th May, 1988.

The Vienna Committee who have worked so hard for so long can now see the way ahead. Decisions have been made on the work which is to be done and it is expected that it will be put in hand before the year's end.

## MOOCOOBOLA

The Hunters Hill Moocooboola Festival was held early in September and one of the more attractive stalls was that of the Trust. Homemade goods were in great demand, with much interest in Trust publications.

Over \$600 was raised. The ever popular **Hamper Raffle** was won by **Di Berry of Henly**, with second prize to **Peter Bowden**.

Our thanks go once again to our Activities Group and their helpers, without whom representation of the Trust on such occasions would not be possible.

**NOTE:** The activities Group is seeking ideas for the Trust participation at the 1988 Moocooboola to provide something special for the Bicentenary year. All suggestions would be welcomed by Jenny Lockyer — phone 816 4922.

## CORRESPONDENCE OUT

- To the Director of the Department of Environment and Planning, pointing out that some years have elapsed since the various management committees were formed to plan and care for Kellys Bush, but nothing has been done. We are concerned that this beautiful area is becoming more and more neglected.
- To the new Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Richardson, asking what is being done to implement the proposal to provide some tax concessions to the owners of Heritage properties, as a means of offsetting repair and maintenance costs. Also enclosing a copy of the Trust's submission to the Hunters Hill Council on the development of the Mobil site.



## A CHRISTMAS GIFT

History, architecture and the environment of Hunters Hill is described in the "HERITAGE OF HUNTERS HILL", a book of 150 pages with over 400 photographs of the "old buildings". It was published in 1982 and is the third edition of "OLD BUILDINGS OF HUNTERS HILL". Cost \$17.50. Available from Hunters Hill Newsagency (Alexandra Street), Q Gallery (Ferry Street), Hunters Hill West Post Office (Gladesville Road) and the Hunters Hill Trust (P.O. Box 85, Hunters Hill, with an additional cost of \$2.50 for postage). An excellent gift for Christmas.

Greeting cards are also available.

## TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We have made a booking of **Hunters Hill Town Hall** for a **Cocktail Reception on Saturday evening, February 2, 1988** to celebrate our Twentieth Year in fine style.

In the meantime the Committee is open to other suggestions. Some help will be needed with invitation lists to be sure to include all past members. Enquiries — Anne McNally 817 2035 or Roslyn Maguire 816 4614.

Richard Temple and Reg Martin would welcome old material regarding the headier days of local conservation for the Trust history they are going to compile. Ring Richard Temple 817 4941.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name ..... Phone .....

Address ..... Postcode .....

**Type of Membership:** **1987-1988**

Single ..... \$ 5.00      Student ..... \$ 1.00

Family ..... \$10.00      Life Member ..... \$100.00

Pensioner ..... \$ 1.00

Please post to The Hunters Hill Trust, P.O. Box 85, Hunters Hill 2110.