



Hunters Hill Trust Journal

Vol. 2 No. 1 — SPECIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ISSUE — APRIL, 1973

MAY 2nd . . .

Leading Environmentalist To Visit Hunters Hill



**"DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT MEN IN THE JOBS PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT?"
"WHAT VITAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTS?"
"WHAT IS THE OPPOSITION DOING?" "WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY — STATE OR
FEDERAL CONTROL?"**

Answers to these questions and other valuable guidelines will be given at this year's Annual General Meeting by the guest speaker — Milo Dunphy.

Mr. Dunphy is Director of Sydney's Total Environment Centre and he will be addressing Hunters Hill residents on the subject of "Australian Politicians — An Environmental Impact Study".

Matters affecting the way in which we live and let our environment be governed have been the focal point of much research undertaken by Mr. Dunphy.

He has closely examined parliamentary actions dealing with the environment, the overbalance of funds spent on development as opposed to conservation and the background and day to day workings of politicians involved. The activities of resident groups will be discussed also.

The Committee of the Trust commends this dynamic speaker's lecture to all residents. His views are far reaching and devoted to improving the way of life for all.

In addition to his post with the Total Environment Centre, Milo Dunphy is Vice Chairman of the Environmental Board of the N.S.W. Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Honorary Secretary of the Cooling Committee. He has been active in conservation issues ranging from the Myall Lakes to the Blue Mountains and the proposed gas pipeline.

All residents and visitors will be warmly welcomed at the Town Hall for this occasion.

**Hunters Hill Town Hall
8 p.m. WEDNESDAY
MAY 2nd
Please Be There!**

BUILDING AND HEALTH INSPECTOR RETIRES

Mr. Dudley See is retiring after serving Hunters Hill Council as Building and Health inspector for 28 years.

Prior to his war service he served Petersham Council.

On Boxing Day, 1940, he sailed on the Queen Mary for the Middle East

and in 1941 was commissioned as a lieutenant.

During his 28 years with Hunters Hill Council he has served under 8 mayors.

The members of the Hunters Hill Trust, many of whom have known him personally wish Dudley See a long and happy retirement.

THE TRUST — How it Works

Each year, Trust Committee members are asked how the Trust functions, what activities it is engaged in; and, most importantly — what are its aims.

The Hunters Hill Trust is now in its fifth year of operation. It is the largest residents group in the municipality and one of the largest civic trusts in Australia.

Membership, at the close of the financial year in February, stood at 621. This year's renewals and new applications coming in, indicate that this figure will be rapidly surpassed.

Membership is open to all persons endorsing the aims of the Trust for payment of an annual fee of \$4.00 for an entire family, \$2.00 for individuals and \$1.00 for students or pensioners.

Aims

The aims of the Trust are clearly set down in a Constitution, copies of which are freely available from the Honorary Secretary.

These aims broadly state that the Trust will work to maintain the unique and historical character of Hunters Hill; limit the spread of home units, high density, industrial and commercial development within the Municipality and preserve all features of Hunters Hill having beauty, architectural and historical value.

Area preservation, rather than individual buildings, is basic to these aims; and indeed, the Trust earlier in its history produced a draft Town Plan which was largely adopted by the Municipal Council.

In order to pursue these aims, the Trust recognises a need to promote wider thought for conservation within metropolitan areas.

At the same time the Trust has taken a firm stand in wishing Hunters Hill to remain a separate Municipality.

Administration

General administration of the Trust is undertaken by an elected committee of nine members. Members are eligible for election to the Committee if they reside or are ratepayers in Hunters Hill and are not elected members of a local government body or of the State or Commonwealth parliaments. Any two members may nominate another for election.

Elections take place at the Annual General Meeting when the six longest standing Committee members retire. Following the annual election, the Committee meets to elect honorary office bearers, namely a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

The elected committee has power to co-opt members to aid in the Trust's operation. Members co-opted have voting rights at Committee meetings. Sub-Committees are set up to undertake specific tasks which are designed to work toward the aims of the Trust.

Trust Centre

The Trust also operates an Auxiliary. It has recently been enlarged, and in addition to organising activities within the community, the Auxiliary operates the Trust Centre — an information bureau open to everyone interested in Hunters Hill.

The Centre contains many books, maps and early history of the area. It is located at 72 Alexander Street and is currently open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Sub-Committees

The key to success in any voluntary group is active participation. Members keenly interested in individual aspects of the Trust have an ideal outlet for channeling this interest by becoming active in sub-committee.

With only nine elected members and a handful of co-opted individuals on the main Committee, sub-committees are essential in spreading the work load and undertaking detailed studies. Currently the Trust has six such groups.

They include:

- The Anti-Amalgamation Sub-Committee — dedicated to ensuring Hunters Hill Municipality remains a separate entity. A threat exists presently with the State Government's Committee of Inquiry into local government boundaries and related matters. This sub-committee fully supports the stand taken by Hunters Hill Council against amalgamation and is undertaking the major task of preparing a comprehensive submission on reasons for our independence.
- The Lane Cove Valley Sub-Committee — concerned with the routing of the proposed northwest expressway on the banks of the Lane Cove river. This sub-committee arranged the widely publicised "Armada" on the river last year.
- The Town Planning Sub-Committee — creators of the Trust's proposed Draft Town Plan, this group is ever vigilant of the successful gazetting and subsequent approval of a plan for Hunters Hill.
- The Mobil Sub-Committee — serving residents concerned with traffic noise, possible expansion and hazerds associated with the oil depot at Pulpit Point.
- The Fund Raising and Publicity Sub-Committee — planning community activities and functions to stimulate interest in the Trust and Hunters Hill generally.
- The Clarkes Point Sub-Committee — recently formed to act as a "watchdog" on possible industrial development of this waterfront acreage.

Each of these currently active bodies seek additional manpower from the members of the Trust; however, our society's function is by no means limited to six groups.

What ideas have YOU ?

Any activity or worthwhile cause which falls within the broad aims of the Trust is certainly of interest. If, as an individual, you do not feel closely allied with any of the existing sub-committees or if there is something you would like to help in — there is every possibility of forming a new sub-committee to get the job done!

The Annual General Meeting affords an excellent opportunity for any resident to voice his or her views; only in this way can we effectively broaden our community service and seek a better understanding in Hunters Hill.

Ideas and Help are Welcome

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE

All nominations for election to the Trust Committee must reach the secretary no later than April 18, 1973. They may be submitted by letter or by posting the form below.

The Secretary,
Box 85,
Hunters Hill, N.S.W. 2110

NOMINATION FORM

I hereby nominate _____

Address _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

I accept nomination to the Committee of the Hunters Hill Trust.

Signed _____

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

In order that you may vote at the Annual General Meeting YOU MUST BE FINANCIAL. If you have not already forwarded your renewal form to the Honorary Treasurer, please complete the application below and bring it with you to the meeting.

APPLICATION

The Treasurer,
Hunters Hill Trust,
P.O. Box 85,
Hunters Hill, N.S.W. 2110

I wish to open/renew membership with the Hunters Hill Trust and enclose \$ _____ for subscription valid to February 28, 1974.

FAMILY \$4.00 () (tick appropriate space)

INDIVIDUAL \$2.00 ()

STUDENT OR PENSIONER \$1.00 () DONATION \$ _____

NAME _____ *OCCUPATION _____

ADDRESS _____ POST CODE _____

CHRISTIAN NAMES (Family Membership) _____

(*optional)

Preserve that 19th Century Suburb

Mr. Ian Grant, an English architect and authority on 19th century buildings and restoration, has recently completed a short tour of Sydney's historic areas and buildings. Mr. Grant was commissioned by the United Nations to write a report for UNESCO on Australia's 19th century buildings and their preservation. His tour covered all capital cities and some country towns. While in Sydney, he spent an afternoon inspecting a number of homes, and viewing and photographing our "historic areas" for his report.

With the Trust's two books under his arm, Mr. Grant and two members of the Auxiliary set out on a tour of the three "historic areas" and visited a number of private homes — some fully restored, some modernized but in character and some still in their preserved but unaltered state.

Mr. Grant commented "your 19th century buildings are just as important to Australia as the medieval cathedrals are to Europe. For God's sake preserve them. Preservation of old buildings is in fact an investment in the future".

The Trust's insistence on area preservation was completely in line with international thinking, he said, and because there is still in Hunters Hill and "historic environment", it was absolutely imperative for this fact to be recognised and all efforts directed towards environmental preservation. In-

dividual historic buildings of course, must be preserved, he added, but area preservation, where there is a totality of historic buildings in a landscape setting, must be the ultimate aim.

An historic suburb, such as Hunters Hill, was quite unique, but Mr. Grant rather sadly pointed out that a Trust should have been active in the 1940's, when much of the historic character was irrevocably destroyed in the rush of new subdivisions and "unacceptable building standards".

The Draft Town Plan with its "historic precincts", was, he considered, a major step in the right direction towards the preservation of the "historic environment", and, he emphasised, to own a declared historic building in a declared historic suburb, would become a privilege and a responsibility.

Safeguards must be employed to preserve historic character, and the thinking of the Law and the Government must be altered quickly — in favour of preservation, not desecration. The Trust and the Trust's Town Planner, Mr. David Saunders, were warmly congratulated on their Town Plan Proposals and their ideals.

So! Residents of Hunters Hill, another international authority has declared we have something worthwhile to preserve, protect and cherish — so do let's keep faith with the past — for the future's sake!

Footnote:- The National Trust has just allo-

cated a B classification to the "Garibaldi Inn" — and is presently considering the Trust's three Historic Districts for classification.

Certainly a major step in the right direction.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Sir,
Although the Hunters Hill Trust is by nature and constitution a non-political organisation, I feel that it must recognise that we have a new group of people, in the new government, formulating policies which will vitally affect Hunters Hill. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Trust might occasionally remind the new government of its election policies concerning conservation of the environment and the need for an over-all plan for urban development. Many more matters will now be considered as coming under Federal policy, and the wishes of residents here should be presented to the decision makers.

We must make a strong plea for conservation of areas close to and within the cities, rather than accepting the preservation of only those areas which have no commercial value. We must stress that a policy for urban development need not see "development" and increased human density as its only aim. We must present Hunters Hill as the best example of the many towns which would be worsened by further development, a stop gap solution as long as the population increases.

—ALICE M. OPPEN
3 Madeline Street,
Hunters Hill.

All correspondence should be addressed to . . .
THE EDITOR
P.O. BOX 85
HUNTERS HILL