



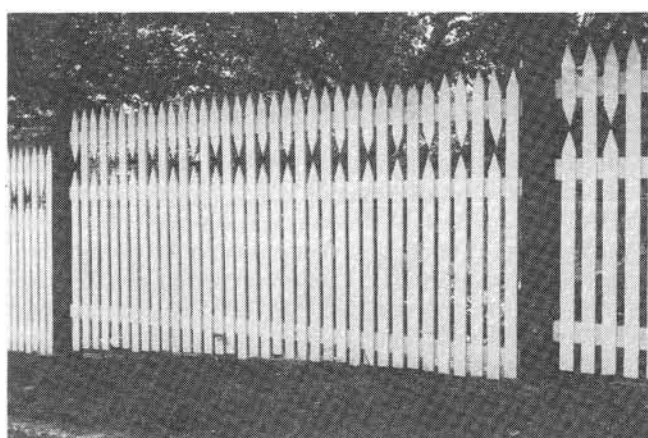
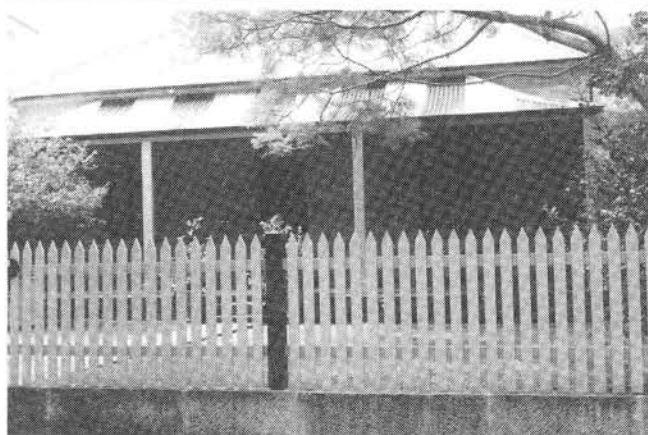
THE HUNTER'S HILL TRUST JOURNAL

PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST GARDEN SUBURB

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Top left: 69 Ryde Road, Hunters Hill
Bottom left: 5 Werambie Street, Woolwich.

Top right: *Arcadia* Townhouses, Matthew Street
Bottom right: 11 Short Street, Hunter's Hill.

ROTARY TOWNSCAPE AWARDS

Rotary's 1991 inaugural Townscape Awards unearthed some striking efforts by Hunter's Hill residents. The Awards were for buildings, gardens, walls and heritage maintenance which contributed towards the quality of the townscape. Items had to be completed since 1976, but designers, consultants and contractors were not eligible to nominate their own projects. The judges were encouraged by the response, although surprised at the lack of garden design in the properties nominated.

Category 1: Gardens and Streetscape Presentation, including front gardens, fences and walls, and a combination of fences and buildings.

Winner: 69 Ryde Road, Hunter's Hill.

For: Combination of garden, fences and building presentation.

Judges' Comments: An example of exceptional effort in tasteful restraint and faithfulness in execution of all those elements that culminate in a complete and classic image of Hunter's Hill Townscape.

Commended: *Arcadia* Townhouses, Matthew Street, Hunter's Hill.

For: Gardens as a group effort for a modern building.

Judges' Comments: An attractive overall streetscape impact where the garden elements dominate.

Commended: 5 Werambie Street, Woolwich.

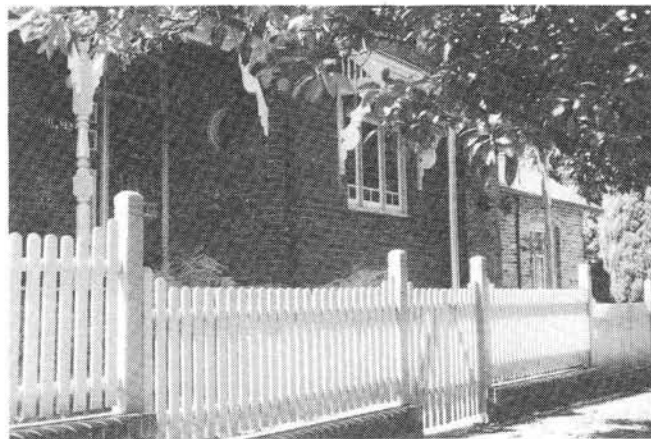
For: Front Fence.

Judges' Comments: Exceptional effort in research of the original design and its faithful execution making a unique visual contribution to the streetscape.

(Continued on page 2)



Left: 32 Ferry Street, Hunter's Hill.



Right: 10 Gray Street, Henley.

Alysoun and Carl Ryves bought this 1891 house in 1976. The front fence was then brick with pillars and wire railing. Carl Ryves thought it was built in the thirties. The architect's plans, which came with the house, showed the original timber fence's design.

Carl knocked down the brick wall, (to the mystification of the neighbours) and replaced it with a pattern faithful to the initial design. He discovered the original post holes, so the new post pillars now stand in the holes dug for them 101 years ago.

Category 2: Buildings, including alterations and additions, remodelling, new buildings and infill developments.

Winner: 11 Short Street, Hunter's Hill.

For: Infill building.

Judges' Comments: A sensitive solution to medium density housing in a residential flat zoning that maintains the original scale and architectural character of the original neighbours and the street.

Designed by Hunter's Hill architect, Kim Crestani of Sutters Architects Snell, this row of three cottages was built in 1991. Each dwelling is comprised of a north-facing front and rear wing, joined by a glazed corridor. This gives total privacy from the ponderous and crass unit development next door. Kim Crestani deftly appropriated the simple roof lines and the broad feel of tradition terrace rows without attempting to mimic historical details.

Commended: 32 Ferry Street, Hunter's Hill.

For: Infill building.

Judges' Comments: Commendable effort by the owners to maintain the scale and character of its adjoining commercial neighbours whilst expressing the owners' purpose of business.

Category 3: Heritage Maintenance, including conservation of buildings and sympathetic alterations and additions.

Winner: 10 Gray Street, Henley.

For: Sympathetic alterations and additions.

Judges' Comments: A clear and thoughtful effort by the owners to achieve alterations and additions to suit family needs whilst recognizing and maintaining the heritage character of the original building, its details and colours.

Christine and John Fenton wanted to expand their house four or five years ago, and engaged architect David Roberts. The result was accommodation under the roof, and a single storey wing in the back garden, into which the kitchen was relocated. The extension uses bricks that are harmonious to the original bricks of this c.1915 house, but which are different enough to allow the viewer to distinguish between new and old.

Oh, and the Category 4 Award for the Community Group which has contributed most to the heritage and townscape of Hunter's Hill went to The Hunter's Hill Trust.

BOXES AND BASKETS DISPLAY

Boxes are one of the most fascinating and varied areas of collecting. Many reflect the customs and gender roles of our forebears, and as these changed, this has resulted in the decline and eventual disappearance of these delightful articles.

So, come and see a display of boxes such as would have been found in the Victorian home and some fascinating and unique baskets. But especially, see (and buy) the beautiful work of **AUDREY SIMPSON** who will be making baskets as only she can, using imaginative materials. Audrey exhibits at galleries and an example of her work is displayed at the Powerhouse Museum.

WHERE: Vienna Cottage, 38 Alexandra Street, Hunter's Hill.

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, 30th and 31st May, 1992

11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. each day

Free entry - Enquiries: Ivana Puren - 816 1419

FRIENDS OF BORONIA PARK HIT THE TURPENTINE (GROVE)

Friends of Boronia Park are meeting at 10.00 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month in the Park, near the roundabout at the corner of Park and Princess Street. They are undertaking a small regeneration project, restoring the Low Woodland Turpentine Grove.

They are doing this work with Council approval, and with the guidance of the National Trust. They invite anyone interested to join in.

Enquiries: Geoff Grace (Secretary), 817 2807.

1841 LAND SALE IN WOOLWICH

THE AUSTRALIAN 26 January, 1841, p.3

Township of Woolwich—Seventy-four Allotments in Sydney Harbour and Lane Cove

MR. SAMUEL LYONS will sell by Auction at his Mart, corner of George-street and Charlotte-place, on THURSDAY, January 28, at eleven o'clock precisely,

Seventy-four very eligible building allotments, with frontages to the waters of Sydney Harbour, Lane Cove, and Government roads.

These desirable allotments, are situate on the North Shore, immediately opposite Cockato Island, and the Balmain Estate, and only two miles and a half from Sydney, bounded on the north by Lane Cove, on the south by Mr. Clarke's land; on the north-east by Onions' land; on the south-east by Sydney Harbour, and on the south-west by Mr. Edwards' property.

The superior advantages of this property as a site for an important commercial town, consist in having a deep water frontage on both sides, capable of

harbouring vessels of the heaviest tonnage; and most of the allotments are admirably adapted for the erection of wharfs, stores etc, having a depth of upwards of twenty feet at low water.

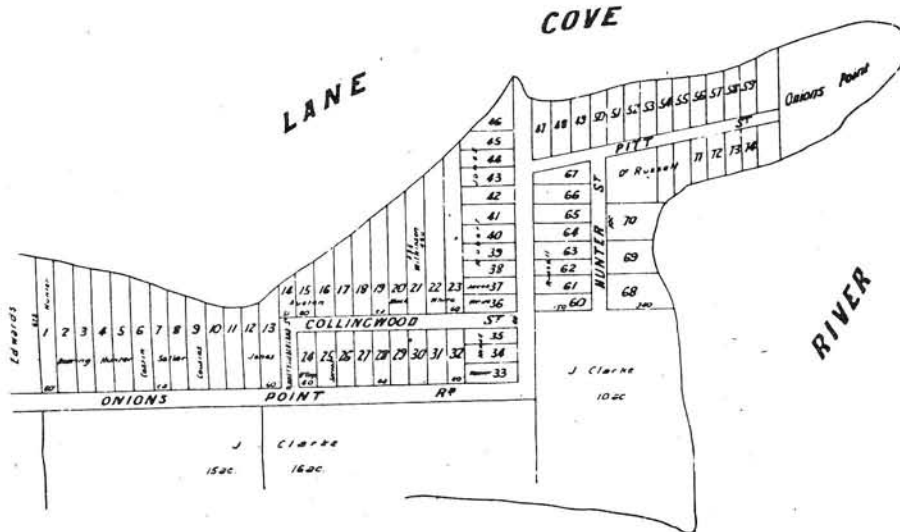
Many of the allotments are pretty spots for the erection of villa residences, etc. The ground work being of a very superior description, capable of producing anything that will grow in the colony; it is also abundantly supplied with pure water.

In bringing this splendid property under public notice, Mr. Lyons will merely remark that its natural qualifications must ensure its becoming a flourishing branch of the capital of New South Wales, consequently deserving the particular attention of the capitalist, man of family, or Industrious mechanic, as the terms are so extremely liberal, that an allotment may be purchased without the money being missed.

A plan lies open for inspection at the office of the Auctioneer.

Terms at sale

PLAN OF THE VILLAGE OF WOOLWICH



THOMAS DYER EDWARDS AND WOOLWICH

Thomas Dyer Edwards obtained grants by purchase of 35½ acres in Hunter's Hill between the years of 1835 and 1840. 27½ of these were to be advertised for sale in 1841 as the Village of Woolwich or Township of Woolwich. The remaining 8 acres were sold to James Barker in December 1840.

The Hunter's Hill Historical Society recently published a booklet about some of the original Land Grantees in Hunter's Hill; details are given of three

grantees in Woolwich – James Chisholm, John Clarke and Samuel Onions – but the fourth, Thomas Dyer Edwards, is not included. Our researches over several years into the history of Woolwich have revealed the following details on the life of Thomas Dyer Edwards.

Thomas acquired 11 acres of land between Gale Street and Samuel Onions' grant in the Point

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THOMAS DYER EDWARDS AND WOOLWICH Continued from page 3

Road, a further 11 acres from Gale Street to about Northumberland Street, and 5½ acres from Northumberland Street to the present Woolwich Public School site on the northern side of Woolwich Road. He had this land surveyed by J. Meredith in 1839/40 and sold it to John Hume in December 1840 for £550. The land was subdivided into 74 lots, with Pitt Street, Collingwood Street, Northumberland Street and Hunter Street all being named on the plan (reproduced on page 3).

The lots were advertised for sale in Sydney newspapers in January, February and March 1841 prior to an auction. Some lots were sold and the remainder mortgaged to William Joyner in October, 1841, who in turn sold the remaining unsold lots to Caroline Michel of Dorset, England, in 1844. Eventually, by 1846, most of the lots were sold.

Thomas Dyer Edwards owned land in many other places apart from Hunter's Hill but he lived in Elfred Cottage, South Head Road, Waverley. He was a well known merchant who was in partnership with Matthew Dysart Hunter in Fort Street, Sydney. In Minutes of Evidence on the Insolvent Debtors Bill before the Legislative Council in June 1838, Thomas Dyer Edwards reported that he had been acquainted with the Colony since 1829 and had been in business as a merchant since 1831.

The partnership with Matthew Hunter was dissolved in June 1840 and Thomas and his wife, Martha (née Sharp), and their family returned to England on the *Louisa Campbell* in March 1841.

The Edwards' first child, a daughter, was born in Sydney in 1837 and died aged four months. Their second daughter was born in 1838 and a third daughter in 1840. No further births are recorded in New South Wales. However Thomas had a son, born in England in 1847, whom he called Thomas Dyer Edwards junior, and two more daughters.

Thomas Dyer Edwards senior made two short visits back to New South Wales, one in 1844 and another in 1873. A Title Deed dated 1873 (made out when he was conveying some land he still owned in the Rocks to his son) says: *Thomas Dyer Edwards of Number 5 Hyde Park Gate in the County of Middlesex in England (a widower) presently visiting Sydney in New South Wales ...*

He also retained land he owned in Waverley for a number of years, some of which he gave for the building of St. Mary's Church, Waverley (1863-4) and some of which the Government bought for Waverley Park. "A History of St Mary's Church 1864-1964" includes a photograph of Thomas; the caption reads *Thomas Dyer Edwards, who paid for the land, who also gave £150, the Western windows, the Communion Plate and the Bible and Prayer Books*. The book quotes a speech at the laying of the foundation stone in 1863 which says, in part, we must make *honourable mention of a few gentlemen who, although residing in other parishes, have contributed very handsomely towards the erection of our Church. Mr. Thomas Dyer Edwards, a well-known and much respected colonist, now residing in London, besides giving an acre of land ...*

Although Thomas Dyer Edwards did not live in Woolwich there were at least two families with the name Edwards who were living there from the mid 1840s and 1850s. A Robert and a John Edwards are listed in early records, including baptismal and marriage registers, giving their place of residence as Onions Point. The first Hunter's Hill Rate Book (1861) lists two: "Edwards, Mrs" – owning a hut and land and "Edwards" (John?) also owning a hut and land. Descendants of these early Edwards families are still living in Woolwich on land settled by their ancestors. An early wooden house, 102 Woolwich Road, has recently been demolished and another,

11 Collingwood Street is due for demolition. Both of these houses were once owned by Robert Edwards, as shown on the 1884 Survey Map of Hunter's Hill. J. Edwards is also shown on this map as living in Collingwood Street and another J. Edwards in Gale Street, both in wooden houses.

It would appear that the early Hunter's Hill Council was unsure about the ownership of some 'lots' in Woolwich as T. D. or T. Dyer Edwards is listed in the Ratebooks as having *Bushland* in Onions Point, "between Cooks and Gale" during the years 1867 to 1881. However the "owner" and the "residence" of the owner are both listed as "Unknown".

Sources: Land Titles Office; Mitchell Library; Index to *The Australian*; Index to Births Deaths and Marriages; Sydney Directories; *History of St. Mary's Church, Waverley, 1864-1964*; *Centenary of the Municipality of Waverley, 1859-1959*; Hunter's Hill Rate Assessment Books, 1861-1881/2; Edwardes, T. Dyer, *Rambling thoughts of a rambling man during a voyage round the world, 1876*.

Footnote:

Additional information received from the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Melbourne, throws further light on Thomas Dyer Edwards and his family. It was written by the Librarian of the Benedictine Abbey, Prinknash Park, Gloucester, England. (Prinknash House was gifted to the Benedictines in 1924 by Thomas Dyer Edwards junior.) The Librarian wrote:

The elder Thomas was born in England at New Shoreham near Worthing, Sussex on 17th February, 1807 and went to sea at the age of twelve. "I took to the sea" he wrote "but the sea did not take to me". So in 1820 he took a post on a plantation in Jamaica and then joined the Customs. He then entered the office of an American firm of agents and brokers, Hopkins & Glover. In 1827 he realised a cherished dream by taking up official and mercantile duties in China, but his health broke down, and after fourteen months he sailed to Australia with a shipment of China produce which sold well. After further experience as importer and exporter he went into partnership with Matthew Dysart Hunter on 17th February 1832. Edwards and Hunter initiated direct cargoes from France and Batavia, and had most of the China tea trade. They prospered sufficiently for Edwardes to retire after eight years and four months with an income of £4,000 a year.

In April 1840 he had bought 885 acres of *Keelbundora 11* and 990 acres of *Keelbundora 12* outside Melbourne for £2,000 cash down ... Edwardes had a plan to subdivide the estate but it was never implemented. The area is now known as *Reservoir* and was divided by his son shortly before the war of 1914.

On 25th January, 1835 Thomas Dyer Edwardes married Martha Sharp, his junior by six weeks. Their only son was born on 21st February, 1847 and called after his father. Thomas died in his London House, 5 Hyde Park Gate, and was buried beside his wife on 9th January, 1885, at Broadwater Church, Worthing. His wife had died in September, 1851.

In 1889 Edwardes' son gave both the bells and the major portion of the cost of the organ to the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, Melbourne, in memory of his father. Thomas Dyer Edwardes junior died on 10th February, 1926.

(The spelling of the Edwards name is confusing. In 1855 Thomas senior decided to add an 'e' to the final syllable of his name. From then on both he and his son spelt their surname Edwardes).

Researched by Diana M. Drake
September, 1991