

ANNE McNALLY

Anne McNally died on March 5 1994.

We publish here Alice Oppen's eulogy given at the St. Peter Chanel Church on March 9 1994.

I came to know Anne McNally, known to many as Mrs Mac, in the early 1970s when she was involved in collecting historical memories, especially concerning St. Joseph's College, Gladesville Hospital and surrounding areas. This often led her to rousing support to save old buildings whose importance had been neglected, particularly in John and Mary Streets and Batemans Road. Hers was also the childhood memory of Black Lucy, who was accorded recognition as the 'last' Aboriginal resident of the area in a ceremony in Hunters Hill.

Anne would never take credit for all the quiet work that she accomplished behind the scenes - the hours of telephoning, years as Membership Secretary, recorder of Hunters Hill recollections, helping to organise and provide food for Trust dinners - and when praise was due she would have to be coaxed from the kitchen to even hear the thanks.

When the threat of local government amalgamations led to the formation of the Save Hunter's Hill Committee in 1974, Mrs Mac was a core supporter. She was Secretary of the Hunter's Hill Trust in the mid 1980s. When Women Active Politically needed help, Mrs Mac was there.

Rightly, her enthusiastic involvement in these and other movements led to the award of Citizen of the Year in 1985. In accepting the award she said: "Take a pride in your area today and preserve it for tomorrow. Don't let it deteriorate, and make sure that the Council you elected doesn't let it deteriorate.

Don't be apathetic. If you think improvements are needed, get off your backside and do something! And ask the Council to do something - often all they need is to be asked."

When a sense of humour and a hearty spirit are combined, there is a formidable force for good operating in the community. Anne had a strong sense of community and the will to make the heart of the community a reality. She cared about people, and tended children of the next generation with one hand while organising a campaign on the telephone with the other. She expected justice and foresight in local government and was outraged if she found less. What I remember best is leaning on her veranda, talking the world better.

Planting seedlings yesterday, I felt that Anne McNally has been planting seedlings in us:

- . that a sense of justice must be followed by action;
- . doing what you can matters;
- . if enough of us get together and work hard we can make a difference;
- . you have to laugh.

These green shoots will grow, in memory of her spirit. Hunters Hill is a better place for her having lived here, and we are fortunate to have loved and admired Anne McNally

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

- Subscriptions are due on the first of March each year.
- Current rates are:

Life Membership	\$100
Family	\$25
Single	\$15
Pensioner/Student	\$5

To renew or subscribe please post your cheque to the:
Hon Secretary, The Hunters Hill Trust,
PO Box 85 Hunter's 2110.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Hunter's Hill Trust will be held at the RSL Hall
cnr Ady & Alexandra Street, Hunters Hill

on Wednesday 11 May 1994

commencing at 7.30pm

Speaker: **Wendy McCarthy AO**
Executive Director National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Enquiries contact Jenny Thompson 817 4440

THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY PANEL:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

by Robyn CHRISTIE

IN THE Municipality of Hunter's Hill conservation came to the forefront of public attention in the late 1960s, following the destruction of a number of historic dwellings and the building of modern strata title blocks of flats. The Hunter's Hill Trust was formed in 1968 and soon realised that the success of long term conservation in the area lay in the formulation of Council's Local Environment Plan.

A Draft Town Plan was sent by Council to the State Planning Authority in 1968 but was not formally gazetted as a Local Environment Plan No.1 until 10 December 1982. Part of the reason for this fifteen-year delay was that the original plan was formulated before the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) and the plan had to be rewritten to accord with the new state legislation and provisions. Another reason for the delay, however, was growing community concern for conservation. This concern had become more apparent in response to the first Draft Town Plan.

The Hunter's Hill Trust served as a voice for this conservationist lobby, and from this community derived its power to influence the political processes through which planning decisions were made. The Trust was able to recommend candidates for local council elections, ensuring a majority representation for the pro-conservation view. Inevitably the Trust's political powers have decreased over time, but many of the ideas that are today part of the formal policy of conservation in Hunters Hill were initiated by the Trust in its early years.

In 1969 the Trust published *Town Planning and Proposed Historic Districts in Hunters Hill: Part 1*. This document set forth the Trust's considered commentary and ideas regarding a town plan for the Municipality. The document put forward arguments for 'Historic Districts', public open space and foreshore rezoning (to name but a few), views which were then much ahead of their time in Australia. A companion publication, *The Old Buildings of Hunters Hill: Part 2*, was the first concerted effort to list the heritage buildings in the Municipality and formed the basis of subsequent listings in the Heritage Study and the now enlarged Schedule 6, *Items of Environmental Heritage in the Municipality of Hunters Hill*.

The Trust's arguments for town planning and historic districts also included a proposal for a District Preservation Committee. The concept of the Committee was explained as follows:

Expressed in broad terms, the Trust's proposal is that within an historic district, development will be so regulated as to ensure the preservation of the essential character of the district. This regulation will be undertaken by the local council as the responsible authority, and the Council will be assisted in reaching a decision by an expert committee representing both local and wider interests ... The Trust does not propose that the local enactment should require the Council to do more than consider and have regard to the views of the committee. (Town Planning and Proposed Historic Districts in Hunters Hill: Part 1, p.13)

The committee was to consist of one representative each from the Hunter's Hill Council and the Hunter's Hill Trust as well as others from the State Planning Authority, the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the (then) Institute of Landscape Designers, and the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Hunter's Hill Council took up the Trust's proposal in 1972 with the creation of the Townscape Advisory Committee. The constitution of this committee was drawn up Town Clerk Bill Phipson and Hunter's Hill Trust member David Saunders. Committee meetings were open to the public and provision for the Committee became an automatic part of the Local Environment Plan endorsed ten years later.

Significant developments in the role of the Committee are indicated by two subsequent name changes.

In 1983 the Hunter's Hill Council commissioned a heritage study for the Municipality. The study was prepared by Meredith Walker and Associates and adopted in October 1985.

HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

HOW THE CAP WORKS TODAY

by Michael STITT, Conservation Planner

At a general level the report embraced a wide definition of heritage. In addition to listing historic buildings, the study tried to identify the character of the suburb according to its natural landscape, pattern of subdivision, private gardens and evidence of past development such as stone walls and wharves. The report suggested that the word 'townscape' in the name Townscape Advisory Committee was too limiting as it focussed the Committee's attention on the external facade of buildings rather than the quality of a complete environment. The report recommended that the scope of the Committee be broadened to embrace:

- . Advice about all applications for new buildings;
- . Applications relating to heritage items, including subdivisions;
- . Development on land adjoining heritage items;
- . Major works of Hunter's Hill Municipal Council, eg. changes to stone kerbs and gutters.

In 1986, following the recommendations of the study, Council appointed a consultant Heritage Adviser and the Townscape Advisory Committee changed its name to the Environmental Heritage Advisory Committee (EHAC). EHAC later went through a particularly tempestuous series of meetings during which some architects and clients met committee members attended by solicitors. Key members of EHAC concluded that meetings should cease to be open forums. Thus a third change of name was recommended in 1989. EHAC became the present Conservation Advisory Panel or CAP.

Reconstitution as a panel enabled the Committee to close its doors to the public when discussing particular items on the agenda. The change from a committee of Council to an advisory panel also had other implications. As a committee EHAC reported directly to Council. As a panel CAP reported through the Heritage Adviser.

In 1991 the 14th amendment to LEP No.1 was gazetted, proclaiming a large part of the Municipality a conservation area. Further heritage items were added to Schedule 6 and a new class of building, contributory buildings, were identified for heritage consideration. In 1991, a new full-time Conservation Planner, Michael Stitt, was appointed.

IN MARCH the Mayor, Councillor Ross Sheerin, attended a meeting of the Hunter's Hill Trust committee to discuss various current planning issues in the Municipality. The Mayor gave his commitment to regular communication with the Trust in the future. Following this meeting representatives of the Hunter's Hill Council met with members of a Hunter's Hill Trust sub-committee to discuss concerns voiced by the Trust over recent changes to the functioning of the Conservation Advisory Panel. The discussion was aimed at clarifying the processes involved in considering development and building applications and at reaching a better understanding of the basis on which DA's and BA's are referred to the Conservation Advisory Panel for comment.

The Trust was informed of the complex process which takes place between first lodgement of an application and eventual formal consideration of the application by Council's planning and building staff and by the elected Councillors. This process encompasses a site inspection, neighbour notification, assessment of whether the application meets Council's heritage and planning provisions and other relevant adopted policies, and possible referral to the Conservation Advisory Panel.

The decision to refer applications to the Panel is made by Council's Conservation Planner who seeks their professional expertise and advice. This advice is then included in a report to a meeting of the elected Council at which those who took part in the Panel's discussion are also present. Council is then required to balance these heritage/conservation issues with other important considerations including planning, building and other 'public interest' concerns.

Hunter's Hill Council welcomes the opportunity to discuss matters such as the operation of the CAP with the Trust, particularly when these discussions might improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Council's heritage process. Improving the management of the Conservation Advisory Panel is in keeping with principles of Total Quality Management (TQM) recently adopted by Council.

