

# GEORGE ANDERSON OF VIENNA

Friends of *Vienna Cottage* were saddened to hear of the death last month of George Anderson the last tenant of *Vienna*. George was 82 and had moved to the Narrabeen Veterans' Home in 1991. His family rented *Vienna* from the early forties and George returned from the war to join his mother and other family members there. In fact they lived in the cottage about the same length of time as had the Hillmans.

George was a "Dreadnought" boy, sent out to Australia at the age of 12. Placed on a dairy farm at Binnaburra (NSW) he ran away and worked as a clerk and then as a mechanic. In the army, he was captured and escaped twice from the Germans on Crete. On his return home, he joined the militia and rose to the rank of Captain.

But it was in his later years that most of us knew him. Living in the cottage on his own after his mother died, he devoted himself to his garden -

with his beloved roses, azaleas and especially his rows of annuals. I understand that he got up at 4am, had his breakfast and read the paper, then into the garden. A brief break for lunch then back again until dusk. The *Vienna* committee cannot hope to re-create such a high-maintenance garden, but has plans to plant it out in such a way that it will recapture to some degree the brightness of earlier days.

George was not a communicative man and some people found him brusque and unfriendly. But his neighbours remember the kindness he showed to their children. He was bemused as to why people found *Vienna* so important. However, he tolerated the inevitable invasion of his privacy and was always co-operative with the Committee during the early hectic days.

So another Hunters Hill personality exits the scene.

S.S.

## Christmas Boutique

at

Vienna Cottage  
38 Alexandra Street  
Hunters Hill

from

Fri 25th Nov to Sun 27th Nov  
10am - 4pm

**National Trust gifts  
and local craft for sale**

Lots of lovely things to buy  
including **patchwork, pottery,  
folk art, glass, crystal decorations,  
antique hats & ribbon**  
and much more!

**Contact for sellers or helpers:**

Gloria Jenkyn 817 2677  
Jenny Lockyer 816 4922  
Alysoun Ryves 816 1741

You are invited to

## Hunter's Hill Trust Christmas Cocktail Party

on

Wednesday 30th November 1994  
6.30pm - 9.00pm

in the garden & on the verandah  
of 5 Werambie Street, Hunters Hill

Guest speaker will be  
**Stephen Davies**

Conservation Director of the National Trust (NSW)  
who will talk on  
**"Evaluation of historic buildings"**

Tickets \$25 per person  
payable in advance to  
PO Box 85 Hunters Hill 2110

Enquiries:  
Jenny Thompson 817 4440

# GLADESVILLE HOSPITAL

On 20 May 1994 Sheila Swain A.M., Chairman of the "Friends of Gladesville Hospital", wrote to Howard Tanner, Chairman of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, urging the application of a Conservation Order to the southern campus of the Gladesville Hospital. We reprint below the text of Sheila's letter.

Dear Mr Tanner

We the undersigned wish to draw the attention of your Council to the urgent need for a protective strategy for an item of considerable heritage significance: viz, the Gladesville Hospital (Southern Campus) site.

We understand that the relatively few remaining patients will be moved out by stages by the end of 1995 at the latest. Meanwhile, some of the buildings are being earmarked for other purposes, and a plan for a new police station for Gladesville has been approved, close to some significant buildings.

The site of the Tarban Creek Asylum (later Gladesville Hospital) was selected around 1837, and the original buildings designed by the Colonial Architect William Mortimer Lewis in the Greek revival style with an elaborate Ionic front porch. Some additions were made in 1849-54, with Edmund Thomas Blacket as architect. William Weaver added more in 1854-56. Further extensive building was carried out from 1862-1890 when James Barnet was the Colonial Architect.

Additional land was purchased in 1888, as well as *The Priory*. Around the turn of the century, the previously dominant classic style was replaced by the Queen Anne style in brick with stone trim, under the guidance of W.L. Vernon, then Government Architect. Between 1929 and 1935 there were extensive additions of a less interesting style and some second storeys were added to the old stone ward. Further extensions were carried out until the 1950s, but only minor works have been carried out since then. "In house" labour has been used to "modernise" some wards.

Recently the northern campus of Gladesville (the Riverglade site) including William Weaver's *The Priory*, has been abandoned for hospital purposes,

and plans have been drawn up for about 500 residences. *The Priory* and another small building have been retained with appropriate curtilages.

With an even more desirable real estate site becoming available in the near future, concern is being expressed that the southern campus should be preserved in its entirety. Not only should the buildings which are of great architectural, historic and cultural significance be preserved, but the whole of the site should, in our opinion, be protected by a Conservation Order and should remain in public ownership.

The Gladesville Hospital is the oldest purpose built asylum in Australia, and is of national significance with its unique collection of buildings demonstrating the evolution of mental health care in Australia, set in a unique and most picturesque landscape setting, designed by most of Australia's Colonial and New South Wales' Government Architects.

These buildings and grounds remain essentially intact today, a priceless legacy of our past. The hospital site is a significant element in the Parramatta Riverscape, presenting the effect of a huge amphitheatre, crowned with an arc of impressive buildings. From within there is a great sense of space, a factor which at one stage was seen as important in patient care.

The site is also studded with important trees, a cemetery, and hundreds of metres of stone walls, largely built by early Irish stonemasons from Hunters Hill.

We therefore urge that the Heritage Council act as soon as possible to have a protective order placed on the whole of the southern campus of Gladesville Hospital, while further studies are made as to its future conservation.

Yours faithfully  
Sheila Swain A.M.  
Chairman - "Friends of Gladesville Hospital"

# Gladesville Hospital Walks

## Sunday 30 October 1994

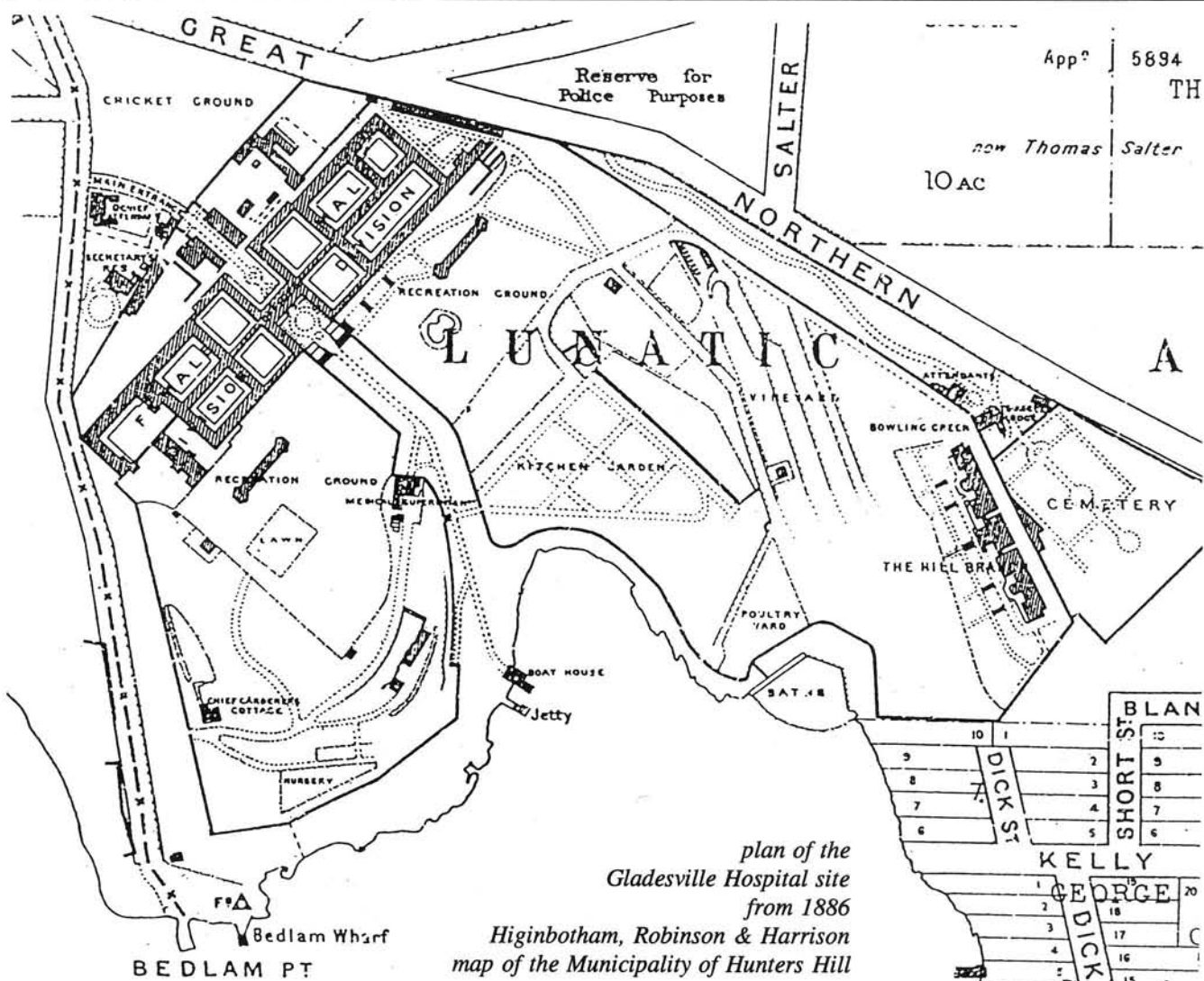
### 11am & 2pm

Gladesville Hospital heritage is at risk! It is understood that all patients will have been moved from Gladesville Hospital by July 1995. Yet so far no indications have been given as to the future ownership or use of the grounds and buildings. While the site is listed in Hunter's Hill Council's Local Environment Plan no.1 as a heritage item, at present the site is not protected by either an Interim or Permanent Conservation Order. Many of the buildings are classified by the National Trust (NSW) and the site is listed in the Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate but neither of these organisations has any statutory authority to control development. Only the New South Wales Heritage Council has the power to place a heritage order on the site and so far, although asked twice, it has refused to do so.

To draw public attention to this heritage treasure in our municipality, the National Trust Vienna Cottage Committee, the Hunter's Hill Trust and the Friends of Gladesville Hospital are organising two guided walks through the grounds on Sunday October 30 at 11am and 2pm. There will also be an exhibition of old photographs, plans and artifacts in the now empty ward 18 and there will be a pottery show and sale in the old pottery studio. Entrance fee for the walk will be \$5 or \$3 for National Trust and concessions.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO BE ON VIEW AT VIENNA COTTAGE ON THE WEEKEND OF 5-6 NOVEMBER.

ENQUIRIES: Sheila Swain 817-2510 or Doreen Carter 817-3410.





# FRED LEHANY & HUDSON SHAW

*During the month of August the Trust lost two of its longest-serving workers with the deaths of Fred Lehany AO (79) and Hudson Shaw (84) within a few days of one another. It was a coincidence that they were both New Zealanders who emigrated to Australia in the 30s. They were also both strong-minded men who staunchly and often vocally defended the aims of the Trust.*

**FRED LEHANY** was an honours graduate in Maths and Science from Dunedin, and was later awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science by Sydney University. He worked for AWA during the war, then transferred to the CSIRO where he remained for 34 years. As Chief of the Division of Applied Science he was recognized as a brilliant administrator, kindly leader, and largely responsible for placing Australia in the forefront of metrication. He was on several international committees and was for some time Chairman of ANZAAS.

But it was as a well-known and respected citizen of Hunters Hill that we best remember him. A keen fisherman, bowler, and worker for the Trust and *Vienna*, he also contributed much to our society by his quiet but persistent support of his wife Kath in her many causes - especially the Battle for Kelly's Bush.

I never saw Fred really angry. Annoyed yes, but his astute analysis of problems combined with his good humour always prevailed. We shall all miss his friendship, kindly and wise advice and especially his jolly company.

**HUDSON SHAW** also came to Australia as a young man, to work for G.E.C. in Perth. He later transferred to QANTAS and initially supervised the Catalina flights from Perth to Colombo. When he moved to Sydney he became the company's Property Manager. Hudson combined his

professional experience with a passion for aeronautical history and wrote two books - *Lawrence Hargrave: aviation pioneer, inventor and explorer*, and one on the history of aviation which is still to be published. For years after his retirement he was a familiar figure on the ferry on his way to his committee at QANTAS which was working on a collection of historical planes.

Hudson had a quirky sense of humour, matching his quirky bow ties. He was also a regular correspondent to Council, either complaining about the box trees outside his home, or demanding an analysis of what his rates were being spent on. Once he did a complete history of the Tíree subdivision, with a meticulous listing of every title exchange since the first grant.

The Trust meetings were always attended by Hudson and Liz, and often the proceedings were enlivened by his pointed and sometimes critical remarks. He was also a great worker for *Vienna Cottage*. I have never known the Shaws to refuse to go on the guardian's roster unless they were away or ill. And how he enjoyed the little post-exhibition drink we often had in the old kitchen, when, the rest of us exhausted or flagging, he would suddenly enthusiastically suggest an idea for our next function.

The Hunter's Hill Trust, in fact the whole of the Hunters Hill community, has lost within a few days, two of its most colourful personalities.

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## HUNTER'S HILL TRUST COMMITTEE

The Hunter's Hill Trust Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month at *Vienna Cottage* 38 Alexandra Street Hunters Hill. Committee members include President Jenny Thompson, Secretary Len Condon, Treasurer Rob Pillans, Vice President Diana Temple, Minutes Secretary Moya Crane, Robyn Christie, Chloris Latham, Megan Martin, Barry Swain and Andrew Giles.

The *Hunter's Hill Trust Journal* usually appears three times a year and contributions are welcome. Contact the editor Megan Martin on 952-8340. Subscriptions are \$25 per family, \$15 single and \$5 pensioner/student. To subscribe post your cheque to: The Secretary, Hunter's Hill Trust, PO Box 85 Hunters Hill 2110.