



Hunters Hill Trust Journal

Volume 3 No. 2 MAY 1974

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The National Estate

Mr. Justice Hope, Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry into the National Estate, will be a special guest speaker for this year's Annual General Meeting, on Wednesday, May 1, 1974.

The concept of a "national estate" has now become almost world-wide with more and more individuals and groups concerned with preservation, ecology and the environment.

Some ten months ago, the Federal Government appointed an eight man Committee to investigate Australia's National Estate. Their broad terms of reference included parks, reserves and other places for the protection of plants and animals; buildings and structures by themselves or in groups which should be preserved and/or restored for historical, architectural or other reasons; areas of special scientific geological or archaeological interest including aboriginal sites; the coastline; waterways; recreation and amenity areas, together with scenic places.

During the course of its investigations, the Committee heard from more than 600 Councils, public and private organisations and individuals.

The Committee's report is now being edited and will be placed before the first sitting of a new Federal Government, prior to being made public.

Mr. Justice Hope's talk will detail the concepts of a National Estate and should prove of interest to all members and visitors.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKER.

Also at the Annual General Meeting, Miss Meredith Walker, representing the National Trust, will speak on a survey recently completed on Hunter's Hill.

Miss Walker's previous advice to the Hunter's Hill Trust has always been most useful, in particular her recent contributions to the Town Planning Sub-Committee in its preparation of a report on the Certified Scheme presented to Council.

**HUNTERS HILL TRUST
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 1, 1974
TOWN HALL 8pm**

Time to Participate

The Annual General Meeting is a highlight of the Trust's year. Once again, all members have the opportunity to participate in the society's activities by electing a new Committee and directing questions to the retiring officers.

For the information of new members, the annual election of Committee members takes place at this meeting each year.

The Committee consists of nine members of the Trust, who manage the Trust's affairs on an honorary basis. The nine members must include at least one representative from each of the three wards in the municipality.

According to the constitution, six members of the Committee, who have been longest in office, shall retire at every annual general meeting.

Members of the Trust are eligible for election to the Committee if they are residents or ratepayers within the municipality of Hunter's Hill, as long as they are not an elected member of a local Government body or of the State or Commonwealth Parliaments.

Any two members of the Trust may nominate another for election. Nominations must be signed by the two proposers and bear the written consent of the member nominated. They must reach the secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the annual general meeting.

Financial members only are permitted to vote at the meeting. Following the election of the Committee, the newly appointed members then elect office bearers at the first Committee meeting. Officers include a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

General Meetings of the Hunter's Hill Trust have proved popular events for all members and other residents during past years. From the first meeting, with an attendance of more than 500, interest in the Trust's activities has remained at a high level.

New residents are particularly encouraged to attend this year's meeting, which promises to be the most interesting held to date.

Your participation at the annual meeting proves that you, as a resident, care actively about the future of our unique suburb.

The meeting will be held at the Hunter's Hill Town Hall on Wednesday, May 1 1974, commencing at 8 p.m.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

by PROF. R.T. MARTIN PRESIDENT HUNTERS HILL TRUST.

The last year has been a busy one for the Trust Committee, which has met regularly each fortnight.

This year we have, as a matter of policy, restricted the number of members co-opted to the Committee, with the result that an even greater burden has been carried by the elected members.

Much of the Committee's time and that of its sub-committees, has been taken up with the Town Plan and the fight against amalgamation; however, many other matters of importance to members have been dealt with.

The following is a brief summary of major activities:

OBJECTIONS TO THE TOWN PLAN. The Committee prepared a lengthy and detailed submission outlining the Trust's objections to the Council's Certified Scheme, also a public meeting was held to discuss the Plan. Committee representatives are now waiting to appear before the Commissioners to speak to the Trust's submission.

AMALGAMATION. A submission entitled "The Myth of Bigness" was presented to the Committee of Enquiry into Local Government Areas and Administration and representatives of the Committee appeared before the Committee to argue the Trust's case for the retention of Hunter's Hill as an independent municipality.

Two Trust Committee members joined the "Save Hunter's Hill Committee" to fight amalgamation and the Trust financially supported the work of that Committee.

THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL ESTATE. The Committee presented three submissions to this Enquiry and representatives appeared in person at the hearing.

Our submission dealt with the Trust's views on harbour foreshores and parklands, another with oil installations and the foreshores, with special reference to Mobil, and the third was the Trust's submission concerning the Garibaldi Inn.

In the Garibaldi submission, the Trust argued that the Inn be acquired for the National Trust and be used as a permanent site for the Hunter's Hill Trust and for community service, generally.

This proposal, which was supported by the National Trust, was the subject of a supplementary submission from the Trust to the Committee of Enquiry.

Copies of these submissions may be examined at the Trust Centre.

ENLARGED AUXILIARY. One of the first actions of the Committee was to reconstitute the Trust Auxiliary so as to make its membership available to all members of the Trust and to make its management more widely representative of residents.

A new Constitution which, it is hoped the General Meeting will ratify, was devised and has proved highly acceptable to the Auxiliary and the Trust Committee.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE. A Working Committee representing a wide range of local residents has been formed to gather historical data on homes and people of Hunter's Hill.

It is hoped that ultimately the information collated may be published.

EULBERTIE. The Committee has continued throughout the year to make representations to have this building preserved. The Minister for Education has now advised us that the original stone building will be restored and used for educational purposes.

CLARKE'S POINT. The Committee continued to press for the resumption of Clarke's Point and, as is now widely known, the State Government has acquired the land for open space.

KELLY'S BUSH. For many years, the Trust has sought to have this land preserved as open space. It is noted with satisfaction that the Hunter's Hill Council has sought loan funds from the Commonwealth Government for the purchase of the land for open space.

OTHER MATTERS. The Committee has made representations to the Local Council, various State and Federal Ministers and Departments and a number of statutory bodies concerning a variety of issues affecting the district. Many of these matters were brought to the attention of the Committee by members of the Trust. These included various proposed development and demolition applications, the permissive usage, by private citizens, of Crown lands in the municipality and problems of pollution and traffic control in the municipality etc.

The Journal has been regularly printed and distributed, public meetings have been organized and the Committee has continued to co-operate with and support other civic bodies engaged in activities similar to the Trust.

I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the Committee, whose efforts over the year, enabled the Trust to continue to function as an effective resident's group.

I would urge members to nominate for election to the incoming Committee as the fresh ideas and enthusiasm brought by new members will enable the Trust Committee to effectively express the views and interests of its membership in the coming year.

Barnett Report Scrapped

Good news travels quickly, and it is common knowledge by now that the black cloud of Amalgamation has, at least for some time, been lifted from Hunter's Hill.

Recommendations in the Barnett Report, calling for the wholesale lumping together of many Councils, have been scrapped: the New South Wales Government received a clear mandate from the people of Sydney that this was not the answer for beating rising costs and other problems.

The work of the "Save Hunter's Hill Committee", largely spearheaded the campaign against Amalgamation in the Metropolitan area. Apathy disappeared, public meetings and rallies were well attended, forty two organisations banded together, and the people of Hunter's Hill made their one 'voice' heard.

The Hunter's Hill Trust was proud to be associated with, and financially support the "Save Hunter's Hill Committee" - a group showing true civic pride in action.

LEVY FOR PARKS

In November last year, the "Journal" reported that a recision motion, requiring property owners who subdivide their land after two years residence, be required to pay a Parks and Gardens levy, was defeated.

The Trust now reports that a further recision motion was passed at a recent Council meeting. This now means that funds will in future be available for the Council to maintain areas such as Morningside Reserve.

Council has previously been unable to clear such reserves of lantana and other noxious plants.

KELLY'S BUSH - Grant Sought

Hunter's Hill Council has applied to the Federal Government's Grants Commission for a \$675,000.00 grant in aid for public works.

A major portion of this would be earmarked for the purchase of Kelly's Bush so that it can be retained in its natural state.

Council has been advised that a recommendation was forwarded to the board of A. V. Jennings Ltd., owners of the bush, stating that an amount of \$405,000.00 be acceptable for the property on condition that the owners should not be required to complete the landscaping proposed in a tri-partite agreement.

Another \$100,000.00 would be for the purchase of the historic Garibaldi Inn, which has recently been reclassified by the National Trust as a building "which in the Trust's view is essential to the heritage of Australia and which must be preserved".

The Garibaldi was built before 1861 by John Cuneo, and is believed to have been the first hotel in Hunter's Hill. Garibaldi's successful campaign to unify Italy with his "thousand volunteers", took place in 1860. The old hotel has magnificent stone cellars and an attic dormitory, which once housed Italian Stonemasons brought to Hunter's Hill, to work on the houses being built in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Readers may be interested to know that the rates on this property in 1861, were 60/- annually.

Also in the Council's submission were requests for \$25,000.00 for improvements to Community Aid Service, \$50,000.00 to landscape that section of Clarke's Point, bought by the State Government, and \$50,000.00 for reconstruction of, and facilities for wharves and jetties.

THAT Expressway . . .

WHAT IS going on with Expressways?

All Trust members and particularly Lane Cove Valley residents, whose homes would be affected, want to know.

N.S.W. Minister for Highways, Sir Charles Cutler, is determined that all expressways now planned will be built regardless. N.S.W. Transport Minister, Mr. Milton Morris, favours a ring road system and the reduction of expressways. Federal Opposition Leader, Mr. Snedden has made an election promise to cut spending. Federal Transport Minister, Mr. Jones, claims inner urban freeways rip the heart out of cities.

AND NOW, the N.S.W. Opposition have accused the Government of releasing Dr. Robert Nielsens Sydney Transportation Study in dribs and drabs for political advantage.

Surely, for the public's sake "IT'S TIME" to find out where we are heading.

Council Elections

Elections for Hunter's Hill Council will take place once again in September this year.

The period of election is three years and three aldermen from each of the Municipality's three wards are called upon for the term.

It is hoped that interested Trust members will consider the importance of standing for Council to promote the aims of the organisation at this most vital level

Proposed Reclaimed Land

The Hunter's Hill Trust was intrigued to note on the Certified Draft Town Plan, a dotted line along the western shore of Pulpit Point, and the words "Proposed Reclaimed Land". Dismayed at the thought of Mobil acquiring land for expansion at the expense of the foreshore, and with a nightmarish vision of the edges of the Parramatta River "reclaimed" until Sydney Harbour were a trickle if such a principle were established in new town plans, the Trust consulted the State Planning Authority. The S.P.A. said that those who had worked on Hunter's Hill had received maps with the dotted line already on it. The Trust then wrote to the Maritime Services Board, and while their letter in reply does not explain the origin of the marking, its assurance will be welcome:

1st February, 1974.

Dear Mr. Sheffer,

I refer to your letter dated 14th December, 1973, in regard to the Hunter's Hill Planning Scheme and advise that the Board does not recognise any proposal involving reclamation off the west side of Pulpit Point. The Hunter's Hill Council has been requested to remove the words "Proposed Reclaimed Land", together with the pecked lines, from the draft planning scheme map.

No further reclamation whatsoever is envisaged by the Board in the vicinity.

Yours faithfully,

H. B. Cadell
Secretary.

The Hunter's Hill Trust then wrote to the Council, to keep them abreast of our correspondence on the matter, and formally request that the "Reclaimed Land" area be removed from the map: "We believe that the Maritime Services Board will have written to Council requesting that the "Proposed Reclaimed Land" with pecked lines be removed from the Planning Scheme. If the Board has not yet done so, the Trust would like to request that Council take appropriate steps to ensure that this proposed reclaimed area be removed from all pertinent maps, officially, forthwith."

The Trust received the following reply from the Town Clerk:

"
Dear Mr. Sheffer,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21st March, 1974, concerning reclamation of Parramatta River Foreshore on the western side of Pulpit Point. I am sure the identification of an area by broken line (and uncoloured) on the exhibited Planning Scheme Map was an error in drafting at the State Planning Authority, but in any case a formal objection has been entered by the Maritime Services Board.

Council is unable to make alterations to the Planning Scheme Map at this stage, but I have no doubt that the situation will be corrected following hearing of all objections.

The Council's attention will be drawn to your request at the appropriate time.

Yours faithfully,

W. Phipson
Town Clerk

In view of the discrepancy between the Maritime Services Board's statement that Council has been requested to change the map, the Council's statement that it cannot but that a formal objection has been lodged, the Trust will remain interested until the erasure has been made.

Auxiliary News

The Trust Auxiliary is responsible for fund raising, social events and the management and shopping of the Trust Centre in Alexandra Street. Its membership is open to any male or female member of the Trust, who desires to help - a levy of fifty cents (50¢) is made to cover cost of notices of meetings etc. The Auxiliary's twelve Committee members meet once a month and there are regular meetings open to all members. We have two members representing us on the Trust Committee and the Trust Committee has one member attending our meetings. These representatives have full voting rights, forming a most valuable liaison.

Elizabeth Harvey, who has been a most efficient publicity officer for us, has left for Hong Kong with her husband and daughters. We wish her and her family a happy and successful two years away.

In the meantime, Margaret Cousins has volunteered to undertake our publicity.

Diana Coulman, who now fills the vacancy on the Committee, agreed to manage the Trust Centre, in place of Joyce Wood, who had given many hours to this task since our formation last July.

Helpers are needed, and Diana Coulman (89 5811) or Adrienne Ryan (89 5884), would welcome any offers in staffing the Centre. Any member able to spare one week-day morning, one Saturday morning and one Sunday afternoon in a year. This is all that is needed with sufficient volunteers.

To make the Centre available to more visitors, the hours have been altered a little. It is now open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Saturday 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon, and Sunday afternoon 2 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

A History Sub - Committee, led by Joyce Wood, is engaged in research with the aim of gathering information towards a History of Hunter's Hill. Part II, which was researched by David and Daureen Saunders, is now out of print. Inevitably, there were some errors and omissions and we would be grateful for information regarding these, to be brought to our notice, so that the second edition will be as accurate as possible.

Any information about Part II, or of any historical interest, could be forwarded to Joyce Wood, 10 Ferry Street, Hunter's Hill (89 1703).

We plan to have more social functions this year, to enable everyone to get to know other Trust members.

A dinner, at the Surry Restaurant in April, was most successful and suggestions have been made for an evening fashion parade, a dinner dance, as well as a street market.

Later in the year too, we will be organising another popular House Inspection. When plans are finalised, these functions will be advertised and voluntary helpers will be welcome.

The summer holidays always bring a lull in activities of local organisations. However, these summer holidays brought a cry for help to fight the threat of amalgamation, as recommended in the Barnett Report. Several Auxiliary members and friends helped the Town Clerk and Staff to envelope Council's letter to ratepayers. Aldermen and staff expressed their gratitude for the help given.

For information re Auxiliary :- Jan Budd - 89 0280
Kath Lehany - 89 2248

VISIT THE TRUST CENTRE SOON
44 Alexandra Street

TUES. & WED. 10.00 A.M. - 12.30 P.M.
SAT. 9.30 A.M. - 12.00 NOON
SUN. 2.00 P.M. - 4.00 P.M.

RIVERS . . . RIVERS . . . RIVERS

1. THE LANE COVE

Renewed pollution in the Lane Cove River and the resultant closure of the Woolwich Baths points once again to the increasing need for concern of waterways surrounding Hunter's Hill.

With rivers on both sides of the Municipality, a significant part of Council's time is required to tend to foreshores and liaise with the other authorities involved.

According to a recent newspaper report the sewerage pumping station near Burns Bay Road, discharges material into the river whenever an excessive amount of stormwater enters the system.

A Water Board's spokesman claims this is unavoidable, otherwise sewerage would be banking up into people's bathrooms. He said also the Lane Cove sub-main had fractured after a landslide and had been temporarily repaired. Permanent repairs would cost between \$20,000.00 and \$30,000.00.

Hunter's Hill Town Clerk, Mr. W. Phipson, will raise the matter at the Clean Waters Advisory Committee.

It is hoped urgent action is taken.

2. BEYOND A JOKE

Every Sydneysider has enjoyed the joke, at the expense of Melburnians, that the Yarra is a river that runs upside down.

Just take a look at the Parramatta River above Ryde Bridge and that joke starts to turn sour.

Get closer to Parramatta and it positively stinks. We have no right to call the Yarra black when we have mud and pollution coursing through our own artery.

With this in mind, we applaud the N.S.W. branch of the National Trust which has released a wide-ranging plan to clean up the foreshores of the Parramatta River. It wants, among other things, to open up a public area at least 20 metres wide on each foreshore.

This is classed as a regeneration zone to allow the regrowth of natural vegetation partially destroyed because too many industries have properties running down the foreshore.

The Trust branch wants the river banks cleared of debris and a much tougher control to prevent polluting materials being allowed to enter the river.

If it is possible for London County Council regulations to transform the Thames from a running sewer into a clean river, it can also be done here.

The Trust has given us the plan. Now, it is up to the State Planning Authority, local councils and industrialists in the area to make sure it is implemented quickly.

(Reprinted with kind permission from Sunday Mirror).

See you at the
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, May 1 1974
Mr Justice Hope - THE NATIONAL ESTATE
HUNTERS HILL TOWN HALL
Refreshments Served