

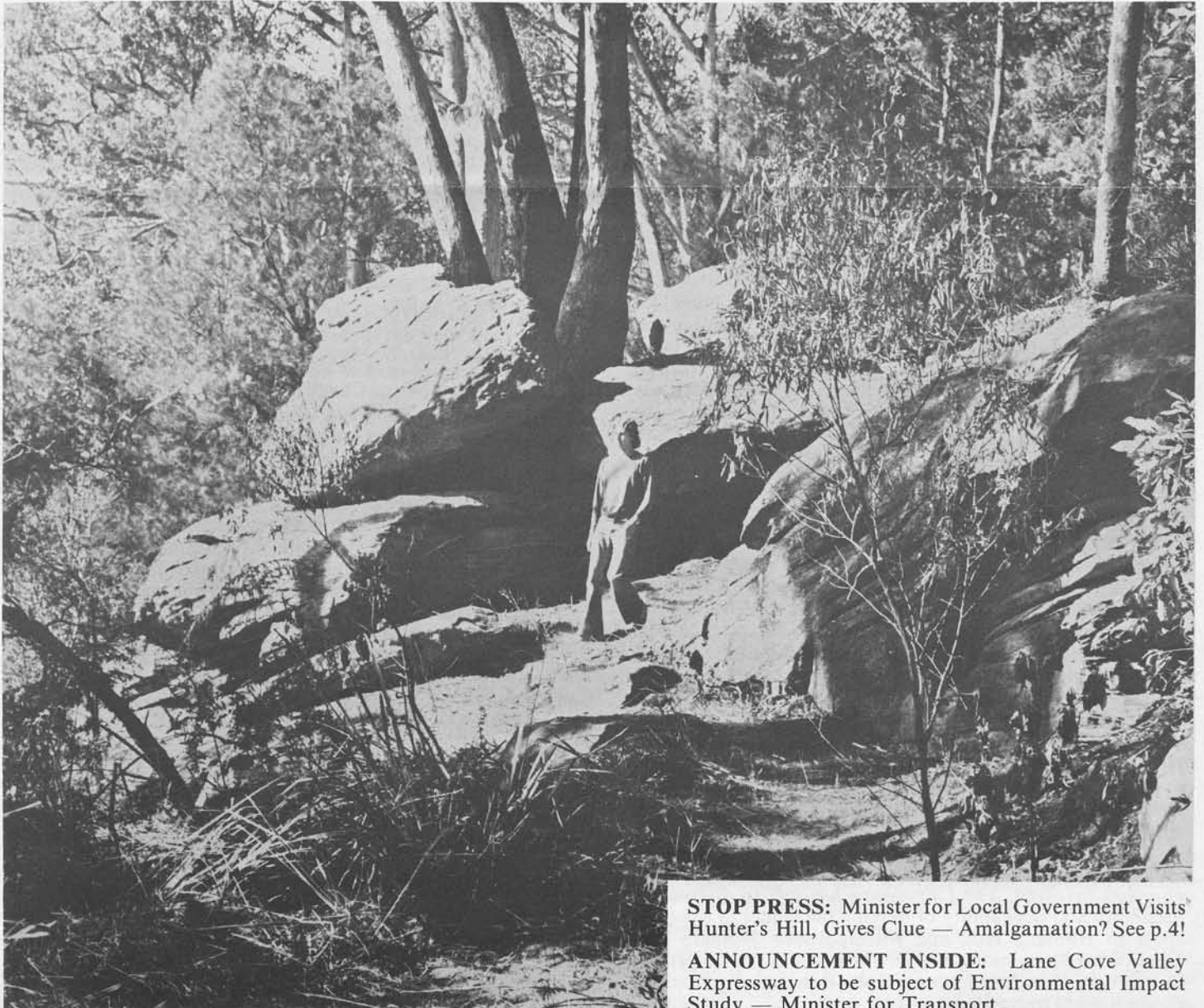


Hunters Hill Trust Journal

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LANE COVE RIVER FORESHORES



STOP PRESS: Minister for Local Government Visits Hunter's Hill, Gives Clue — Amalgamation? See p.4!

ANNOUNCEMENT INSIDE: Lane Cove Valley Expressway to be subject of Environmental Impact Study — Minister for Transport.

Latest Addition — Boronia Park Walk

The success of the Pools has enabled the State Government in recent years to offer grants on a dollar for dollar basis to local councils for projects in the area of sport and recreation.

Two years ago, Hunter's Hill Council drew up a list of suggestions for grants, including a request for \$2,500 to construct a walking track along the banks of the Lane Cove River. When the application proved successful, Council made its \$2,500 available, and construction on the path began during 1978. Undergrowth was cleared, weeds were cut back and the path was marked where necessary with logs and signs. There was minimum disturbance of the natural bush and the path followed the natural contours of the land. The entrance to the walk is at the end of Baron's Crescent, near the Meyers Avenue flats. At first, it runs over large rocks high above the river, then dips to a lower level and winds its way around to a fine stand of mangroves below Park Road. From there on there is a canopy of green, and boards are placed in damp areas until eventually the path emerges at the bottom end of Blaxland Street. From there, a short, sharp climb takes walkers to the junction of Baron's Crescent and Blaxland Street.

The path was officially opened in May of this year. Since then, many hundreds of people, both local and visiting, have used the track. Its greatest appeal is probably the peace and quiet of this riverside setting. The profusion of native flowers and the prolific and varied birdlife have led naturalist Vincent Serventy to write articles for the National Times and the Sun Herald, detailing the natural bushlife which should be preserved. As well, patterns of rock formations and wide expanses of water give pleasure far removed from city strata.

Recently, it was announced by the Minister for Sport and Recreation that a further \$4,000 is to be made available to Council to continue the walk along the shore of Boronia Park up to Boronia Avenue. Possibly the western end may one day be extended, by means of a walkway over the water's edge, through to the old tip at Buffalo Creek.

In its original town planning document, Town Planning and Proposed Historic Districts (Part I), the Hunter's Hill Trust advocated foreshore reserves accessible to the public around the perimeter of Hunter's Hill. Acceptance of natural areas — here the meeting point between water and land which provides breeding ground for wildlife and beauty for human kind — is a step forward.

HISTORIC HEADSTONES

Longtime resident and Hunter's Hill identity Clem O'Donnell has contacted the Trust and requested the Trust's interest and help in securing the future of several headstones at present in the churchyard at St. Charles Church in Ryde.

If, as appears possible, the headstones are to be moved from their present positions, Hunter's Hill would be an appropriate resting place for the monuments of Didier Joubert and members of the Bondietti, Makinson, Heydon, Fitzpatrick families as well as others. The Hunter's Hill Trust has rather tentatively approached these families to ask how they would feel about having headstones of their ancestors moved to Hunter's Hill, and most have expressed approval.

A committee has been formed, of Trust representatives, along with representatives of the Historical Society and the churches involved. The Committee has met to discuss the feasibility and desirability of moving the stones to a spot or spots in Hunter's Hill, and will approach Hunter's Hill Council for its opinion. Anyone interested in such a project in any way is invited to contact this Memorial committee through the Trust address.

Picnics for Preservation

A picnic was held for Trust members and friends at Mornington Reserve (below Vernon Street), on September 17th. The purpose was to acquaint residents with a foreshore reserve which adds to the treescape of the peninsula as well as providing an area for passive recreation. Picnics in other reserves will be planned for the future. Such picnics will be Bring-your-own-food, and the Trust will supply cold beverages and a donation box. This first picnic was so enjoyable that there were requests for weekly events. If the day is fine, telephone a Trust member; a loaf of bread, a jug of wine and two Trust members make a picnic.

Hunter's Hill has a number of delightful waterfront reserves which are not obvious from street levels. In some cases, these are being alienated from the public by owners of land bordering a reserve; garden planting, rubbish disposal and burning off spots can effectively annex parkland, thus diminishing reserves and making boundaries difficult to identify. The Hunter's Hill Trust feels that people should be aware of the land which the Municipality has acquired for everyone's use.

STATE ELECTION

The Hunter's Hill Trust requested answers to the following questions from the Liberal and Labor candidates in Fuller electorate:

1. What initiatives is your party planning (has accomplished) with regard to Hunter's Hill's
 - a. preservation
 - b. town plan
 - c. open space
 - d. transport
 - e. amalgamation?
2. If elected, what stand will you personally take on these issues?

The Hunter's Hill Trust is not a partisan organisation, but has noted that decisions which affect our policies are usually made on governmental levels.

Alderman Rodney Cavalier, Labor

1. a. and b. The Wran Government passed through Parliament the Heritage Act — interim and permanent conservation orders will preserve large parts of Hunter's Hill. The Lane Cove Valley Expressway, the most significant threat to Hunter's Hill, is now the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement. Liberals are committed to freeways. The Wran Government is still funding Regional Growth Centres and taking population pressure of Sydney.
 - c. The Wran Government is committed to acquisition of open space in inner city and underprivileged areas. The Government has spent 1.8 million dollars acquiring open space along the Parramatta River. More locally, the Gov. has offered half the purchase price on Kelly's Bush, and I am hopeful of a lot more.
 - d. The Wran Gov. has reduced fares by 20% and has implemented a five year, one thousand million dollar program. In the last year of the Liberal-Country Party Government, 59 million passenger journeys were lost. Transport under Wran is regaining those passengers.
 - e. None.
2. My record, as a political activist and alderman of Hunter's Hill, speaks for itself. I have never deviated

Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held on May 24th, at the Villa Maria Hall, following a sumptuous repast provided by voluntary Chefs To The Trust (membership open).

The Committee for this year was elected, and at the first Committee meeting office bearers were selected:

President, Ewan Cheyne-MacPherson

Vice-Presidents, Alice Oppen and
Alec Dircks

Secretary, Fred Hinde

Treasurer, Peter Pinson

Membership Sec., Anne McNally

Minute Sec., Melinda Buckland (on leave)

Centre Manager, Marjorie FitzGerald (on leave)

Social Secretary, Joan Croll

Sales Manager, Helen Sheffer

Co-opted members for 1978-79:

Jan Budd

David Bryant

Ron Barrelle

Members of the Committee will welcome suggestions, information and involvement. Contact any member personally, or telephone 89-5175 or 89-2035.

The speaker was Professor Frank Talbot, environmental specialist at Macquarie University. Prof. Talbot's talk featured two aspects of the Lane Cove River, wildlife and pollution:

Studies done at Macquarie University indicate that there are fifty-six species of fish in Brown's Waterhole, for instance, but that this is a lower number than would be found in a river untouched by a human population. Eighteen species of waterfowl have been found, and he suggested that the wider the fringe of natural bushland on either side of the river, the

more protection there is for breeding fowl. People are still shooting for sport along the Lane Cove River (*perhaps the Trust could offer a bounty for the heads of hunters?*). Many species of mammals, in some areas half the species, have been eliminated — wombats, wallabies, native rats, platypuses. Domestic animals, principally cats, account for thousands of killings a year along the long border of reserves. Fire frequency in these areas has increased, thus reducing the dense material which is important to the breeding of small mammals. There is nothing we can do to bring back these animals and little chance of protecting those remaining because the natural area is a long, thin fringe easily invaded.

Water pollution, however, is reversible, as has been shown with the Thames. More information is needed about estuaries, and what we do to systems should be done more sensitively. We use tips until the last possible moment, destroying more mangroves, filling up more gullies. There are heavy weed infestations, and studies have not yet been done to see how much of the biodegradable material present in the river is from land run-off from gardens and how much is from sewers. The growth of population in the Parramatta area has resulted in an over-loading of the sewerline, which results in overflows above Figtree Bridge many times a year. The river cleans itself within three to five days; it is normally a very clean salt water river and only in heavy rain is it a dirty water. The siltation pattern has changed with the population increase; where it used to be sandy, now it is getting more muddy. The silt has increased by four feet in Tambourine Bay.

Solutions are simple to see but difficult to ensure. To enlarge the sewerage system would cost from fifty to one hundred million dollars. The visual aspect of the river we can protect, but it will take a concerted effort to learn enough to ensure protection of other aspects of the river system.

Professor Talbot's talk was received with enthusiasm, and it generated keen discussion.

from the view that the Municipality of Hunter's Hill has unique features, is part of our national heritage and must be preserved. As an ALP candidate, I have had personal access to the Ministers of the Wran Government. My achievements are on the board: it was my intervention that blocked a boat ramp and ancillary parking facilities at Clarke's Point and secured the funds to extend the Boronia Park Walking Track. Most importantly with a lot of help from local people, I have persuaded Peter Cox (Minister for Transport) to announce that there will be no action at all on the Lane Cove Valley Expressway and that an Environmental Impact Study will be undertaken; local people will be consulted.

Peter Coleman, Leader of the Opposition, Liberal

1. a. The Liberal Party is in favour of the most stringent provisions for the preservation of the historic quality of Hunter's Hill including its buildings, properties and landscapes. Local Advisory Committees should assist the Council in this work. Compensation should also be available to individuals who may suffer financially from preservation decisions, and the Government must assume responsibility for this compensation.
- b. The Liberal Party requires such concepts included in the Town Plan but until the negotiations with the Planning and Environment Commission are complete and made public, I can comment no further on that.
- c. We are in favour of expansion of open space in the municipality. You will recall the Liberal Government's acquisition of Clarke's Point, Woolwich, which was characteristic of Liberal Policy. The

whole of Kelly's Bush should also be open space provided that cost of its purchase is not a burden on the residents. My Party also believes that the nearby Bedlam Point in Ryde Municipality should become open space and I have spoken several times on this in Parliament.

- d. The Party supports the reintroduction of night buses to serve the ferries and wants the Huntley's Point ferry service increased. It also wants to expand weekend ferry and bus services and introduce mini-buses. It opposes the ideas of 24 hour clearways which would destroy shopping centres such as Gladesville.
 - e. The Party is totally opposed to imposed amalgamations and in Government will reconstitute the Boundaries Commission to prevent it instituting reviews on Councils' boundaries on its own initiative and to require that amalgamation takes place it will have to have majority approval of all persons affected in each area in a referendum. It is clear to the Liberal Party that the Labor Party has deferred action on this purely for election purposes and because the Liberal Party has had control of the Legislative Council. As far as Hunter's Hill is concerned there is no justification what-so-ever for even considering the question of amalgamation.
2. I personally support all these policies and as you know have worked along these lines over the past 10 to 11 years.

The Hunter's Hill Trust asks its members to consider the candidates, their views, and the past record of their parties.

TRUST ACTIVITIES

Membership Fee Increase

With great reluctance, the Committee feels that membership fees should be increased, for the first time since the inception of the Hunter's Hill Trust. It is hoped that members will look back over the ten years and decide that fees have been too low in the past, especially in comparison with other groups.

The need for a strong, representative Hunter's Hill Trust will exist for a long time to come. Its formation led to more open town planning, with public discussion and virtual elimination of the sort of home unit expansion which was threatening to engulf the area.

The Hunter's Hill Trust compiled historical and architectural information and has supplied this to State and Federal Governments and the National Trust. Registers are now being compiled from this information. The Hunter's Hill Trust will continue to publicise the need to preserve the many old buildings which are becoming recognised as a classic form of nineteenth century Australian architecture. Stone walls, trees and bushland open space are essential surroundings for these buildings, and Hunter's Hill has become a sought-after residential area because these elements are being protected.

However, a quick look along the streets of Hunter's Hill will show that further improvement in development control is sorely needed. Should the long-awaited Town Plan prove to be less than perfect after compromises between levels of government and elements in the community, the Hunter's Hill Trust will be busy indeed.

Government bodies ask how many members there are in the Trust, and it seems possible that they tailor their response to the number of people behind our requests. Please be one of us, and add to our strength.

Life membership has now been introduced, for the dedicated and the forgetful.

Christmas Cruise

A Christmas Cruise will be held this year, on November 29th, a Wednesday. Remember the Cruise last year? Christmas fare — turkey, ham, salads, pavlovas and cake, champagne — those Trust chefs again! **Reserve tickets soon;** numbers are limited to avoid that 'sinking' feeling. The Cruise will be held aboard the *MV Eve* (tickets \$10.00) and will follow a General Meeting to be held at the Croll's home, 44 The Point Road. Every effort will be made to suit embarking and debarking times to members' needs, but advance notice will be necessary.

HOUSE INSPECTION

A House Inspection will be held in March, centering on Bateman's Road. Houses will include 2, 16, 22 and 29 Bateman's Road. *Details concerning the date and ticket applications will be published in the next JOURNAL.*

JENSEN SAYS NO TO AMALGAMATION HERE

The Minister for Local Government, Mr. Harry Jensen, visited Hunter's Hill on September 25, and was asked for his view on the possibility of amalgamation here. He said that any area that was viable, economically sound and enjoying popular support would not be amalgamated, and that Hunter's Hill would not be amalgamated with another area while he is Minister. The best clue, he hinted, was his ready approval for the loan to rebuild the Town Hall; he would not approve loans for places without a future.
(*Ed. Long life to Mr. Jensen and Hunter's Hill!*)

Do something for your area — JOIN the Hunter's Hill Trust

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name Telephone

Address Postcode

Willing to help with.....

Type of Membership:	1978-79	1979-80
Single	\$2.00	\$ 5.00
Family	4.00	10.00
Pensioner	1.00	1.00
Student	1.00	1.00
Life Member		75.00

*The Hunters Hill Trust,
Box 85, Hunter's Hill, 2110*

*The Trust Centre
The Hunter's Hill Gallery*