



Hunter's Hill Trust Journal

Volume IX No. 2

July, 1980

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Carole Baker, Mayor of North Sydney, held her audience, spellbound as she told anecdotes which described her reasons for entering local government and her rise to where her ideas could have effect. Many issues ran parallel to those in Hunter's Hill which gave rise to the formation of the Hunter's Hill Trust and, a few years later, to the presence of two women aldermen who are on Council now. In North Sydney, for example, Mrs. Baker first campaigned on a platform of "Free North Sydney from the Clutches of Unscrupulous Developers".

Mayor Baker said that people are only unscrupulous when rules aren't there, and that, knowing what has happened with Hunter's Hill's Town Plan, where adequate rules are not there yet, the difficulties can be understood. "There is only one way to preserve the future; stay in there, niggle away, to make sure the best things of life are kept."

She deplored the "greatest brain drain, down the kitchen sink", and emphasised the role of women in bringing about changes in the quality of life, suggesting that women are in the community more, have a bias towards children and quality of life issues. "Progress is slow, and the price you have to pay is involvement."

Animated discussion followed the talk, and Hunter's Hill Aldermen Moira Baird and Sheila Swain

participated in outlining the role of local government in matters of interest to Trust members. Demolition control, notification to neighbours of development, the right to third party appeal, aesthetics were discussed, with humorous examples of past battles.

Hunter's Hill Trust President Dr. Alan Bradfield presented Ald. Baird and Ald. Swain with leatherbound editions of "The Old Buildings of Hunter's Hill" as a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of two local women who have added greatly to the calibre of local government representation.

Dr. Bradfield's Presidential Address outlined the continuing history of the Trust's efforts to see a Town Plan to control effectively pressures towards development. He announced that the Trust has engaged a town planner of great repute, Mr. Ken Latona, to advise the Trust. At the request of the Heritage Council, the Trust has submitted an additional list of buildings and landscape features which should receive special protection; the list includes fine examples of Federation houses, stone walls and rock outcrops.

Quote of the evening; Mayor Carole Baker had described the foiling of an attempt to establish a concrete plant on waterfront land (which recently was declared parkland), and she admitted that she felt badly that two of those companies went to the wall, "but I keep thinking that they are big boys, and if they are going to play with big girls...."

The Trust's thanks go to the weekly Times for printing this press release in June.

The Hunter's Hill Trust JOURNAL is now being posted to Trust Members. It will also be available at the Trust Centre, at the Hunter's Hill Gallery.

see inside for . . .

**THE TOWN HALL, Trust comment
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION
Metropolitan Waste**

THE TOWN HALL

The Hunter's Hill Trust, while delighted that the Town Hall is completed and ready for occupation and use, has noted that only the stone portion of the front facade is now of nineteenth century origin and appearance.

Even the windows and central door of the front facade are modern in character, as is the rest of the building. It must, therefore, be recognised that the Town Hall, save for portions of the front wall, is a modern building; the new building is not a "restoration" of the old.

The Hunter's Hill Trust and the National Trust have pleaded with Council to complete the detailing of the windows and doors of the front of the Town Hall, so that at least one side might contribute to the historic character of the area. The only official reply received has been that Council has deferred decision on whether to change from the present aluminium-framed picture-window approach, or not.

Other buildings in Hunter's Hill have been rebuilt after damage in a style in keeping with the original building. Eulbertie, in the school grounds visible from Stanley Road, is an excellent example; the Government Architect deemed it necessary and desirable to preserve the architectural character of the house, and this has been done superbly even while giving the house an institutional use. The Gladstone, on the corner of Alexandra and Mount Streets, was restored as a group of flats or units; the changes were not anachronistic, and many people gain pleasure from looking at the Gladstone, which is in a prominent position.

The mind turns to Garibaldi and one wonders whether the Government Architect's attitude or the Council's attitude will prevail. The Hunter's Hill Trust cannot repeat too often that this area needs a Town Plan which will strengthen Council's resolve in the treatment of old buildings of merit.

One only has to walk through the Rocks area in Sydney, or Beechworth in Victoria, or York in Western Australia to see the success of true determination to value the historic character of an

area. Then, one can reflect on what has been lost in terms of demolition, over-subdivision and over-development in the last few years. Why can't Hunter's Hill do better than it has in the past?

Take, for example, the small area which Hunter's Hill Council conceded should be an historic precinct in the Draft Town Plan. To the east of the Town Hall were two vacant blocks of land for sale. Council did not acquire them, although Council staff quarters were cramped. Each block now has a large house on it, in part obscuring a house on the hill which has the appearance of a Horbury Hunt house. To the rear of the Town Hall is the Council Works Yard, which is Hunter's Hill's storage yard for vehicles, machinery, gravel, sand etc. This yard has been enlarged because Council has resumed portions of the back yards of two properties to the rear of the Town Hall, one of them an historic property. It is quite clear that this area has not been enhanced by these developments, and that the "historic" character has been supplanted by something very much more contemporary.

The Hunter's Hill Trust has sympathy with the practical needs of the Council's employees, and certainly the new establishment will be better in comfort and efficiency. The safe-keeping of Council's historic records, for example, should be greatly facilitated.

Many groups will join with the Trust in enjoyment of the Town Hall facilities. The Town Hall has been proved to be an essential focal point for community activities; many groups have missed it greatly.

The Trust only regrets that, as one member put it, a higher priority was not put on the face of the building rather than landscaping in sawn sandstone at this stage.

The Hunter's Hill Trust, in future, will list only the front facade of the Town Hall, excluding the windows and doors, as worthy of note and preservation. As can be imagined, this is done with great regret.



Trust Comment



Photograph by Douglass Baglin

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Douglass Baglin and the Hunter's Hill Trust are mounting a photographic exhibition of early Hunter's Hill at the new Town Hall. The Exhibition will be on view from the time the Town Hall opens until after the Moocooboolah Festival on August 16th.

Photographs have very kindly been lent by members of Hunter's Hill's first families, and the Trust wishes to thank those who have gone to a great deal of effort in sorting through old family collections for us. Douglass Baglin has made copies of them, and it is these copies which are on display and which will exist as a permanent record of life in early Hunter's Hill. Mr. Baglin is generously doing this as a labour of love, and

those who have seen his magnificent photographs, in his own books and in others such as the Australian Encyclopaedia, will agree that we are fortunate to have Mr. Baglin as an interested and loyal resident.

We hope by this means to stimulate interest in the photographic history of Hunter's Hill and to touch a few memories. If you have photographs of scenes, houses, people doing typical or interesting activities, please contact the Baglins (See St.) or the Trust Committee. This collection will be a continuing one, and with your help it will become an increasingly significant one.

JULY 11 to AUGUST 16

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In May, 1978 (at the Trust A.G.M.), Dr. Talbot stated that the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board envisaged duplication of the northern suburbs outfall sewer to overcome the pollution of the Lane Cove River with raw sewage which overflows into the river twenty times per year when twelve mm. of rain falls. The estimated cost is \$110,000,000 and it appears that two other outfalls will eventually have to be duplicated. In addition the Water Board estimated the cost of extending the sewers three to four kilometres seaward at approximately one million dollars; a more recent letter from the Minister for Works and Ports, the Hon. L.J. Ferguson, states that the total cost of rehabilitation of the main sewers and the extensions is in the region of \$350,000,000. Therefore, it seems opportune for a stay of proceedings to enable a world-wide enquiry to be set up to consider an alternative to the Board's proposals which would close the sewer outfalls permanently.

My mission is to call a halt to these activities of the Water Board until a thorough investigation is made into aerating the sewerage and composting the resultant sludge with garbage.

My main thought at the moment is that the opportunity exists for a thorough investigation which will dissipate once the Water Board commences operation. The fact that in 1959 the City of Leicester, England, with a population of 300,000 was able to change its system from 1500 acres of filter beds to an aeration plant providing effluent acceptable to natural drainage and sludge which is mechanically composted with garbage in a sterilised condition at a cost of \$20 per head of population, makes it seem possible that a similar change could be carried out for the City of Sydney within the sum of \$350,000,000 mentioned by Mr. Ferguson. It should be understood that if the main outfall sewers permanently closed and the sewerage treatment carried out by aeration plants, then there would be no necessity for duplication or amplification of the three main sewers.

This whole question is under consideration by the State Planning and Environment Commission, who have the three impact statements for Malabar, Bondi and North Head water pollution control plants which were issued by the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board in December last. The Planning and Environment Commission is accepting submissions from anyone who is interested and it would be in the interests of the community if as many people as possible could express their views to the Commission.

Yours Faithfully,
Owen H. Miller

THE NEW TRUST COMMITTEE

The following Committee was declared elected at the A.G.M., and office-bearers were elected at the first meeting of the Committee.

President	Mrs. Alice Oppen (89-5175)
Vice Presidents	Dr. Alan Bradfield (89-4444) Dr. David Bryant (89-4139)
Secretary	Mr. Michael Lehany (896-1526)
Treasurer	Dr. Malcolm Lane Brown (816-2553)
Minutes Secretary	Mr. Neil Comerford (89-2137)
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Anne McNally (89-2035) Mrs. Annette Tait (89-0708) Ms. Caroline Burke (896-1526)

Advisory and working sub-committees are being established much as they were last year. Any Trust members who wish to be involved are urged to contact a member of the Committee.

The Committee wishes to express its great gratitude for the fine work done by retiring Committee members, Joan Croft (past Social Secretary), Peter Pinson (past Treasurer), Marjorie Fitzgerald and Alec Dircks.

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The Hunter's Hill Trust hopes to see candidates for the Council elections this September who understand the importance of decisions which establish long-term principles for preservation.

It will not be enough for Trust members to be prepared to vote in an enlightened way if all or most of the candidates have other priorities. If you are willing to consider running for election, we urge you to contact a member of the Trust Committee for more information.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Six months ago I tried to purchase a number for my cottage in Balmain and was appalled to discover that the only one available were either modern plastic or shiny stick-on-steel. The only other alternative being brass which I thought too ostentatious and attractive to the petty thief. It, therefore, occurred to me that having worked as a letter cutter in stone and marble, to make my own. This I did by carving the number with hammer and chisel in English Lakeland Slate thus creating a great deal of interest from friends and neighbours. I now make House and Business Name and Number Plates plus Clocks in Slate, Sandstone and various coloured Marbles. The lettering is hand carved and left natural or painted gold or white if desired.

If you wish to view my work a small selection is on display at the Hunter's Hill Gallery.

David Gee Phone 827 1647
8 College St., Balmain

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name Telephone

Address Postcode

Willing to help with

Type of Membership:	1979-80	Due March
Single	\$ 5.00	
Family	10.00	
Pensioner	1.00	
Student	1.00	
Life Member	75.00	

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

The Trust Centre
The Hunter's Hill Gallery