



THE HUNTER'S HILL TRUST JOURNAL

PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST GARDEN SUBURB

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Picture taken at the anniversary shows - a group of the Battlers: at rear, from left - Jack Munday, Neville Wran, Rodney Cavalier, middle row Miriam Hamilton, Joan Croll (head turned), Trude Kallir, front row Judy Taplin, Chris Dawson, Kath Lehany, Betty James, Monica Sheehan, Jo Bell.

25th Anniversary of Green Ban on Kellys Bush

By Rodney Cavalier

Notes for a speech delivered in the rain at Kellys Bush, Woolwich on Sunday, June 16, 1996

Has it really been 25 years?
25 years since Michael Lehany and I straddled a banner across Church Street so that no one entering the peninsula could but know of our picnic in protest at development?

25 years since the students of Hunters Hill Public and Hunters Hill High marched in protest to this bush and listened to a debate between Peter Coleman and myself?

25 years since Kath Lehany and Betty James entered my home suspicious as all get out by an offer of assistance from the local branch of the Labor Party and finding strong encouragement to approach the unions for help?

Was it only 25 years ago that progress had but one meaning -

- clearing bush,
- and filling up open space with new buildings, and tearing buildings with character and heritage,
- always to build something new and bigger.

That largely unchallenged development ethos was running head on into another set of values throughout Australia and the world, but nowhere more famously than right here.

Nowhere was the struggle more graphic or more clear cut.

Did bush have a value beyond the resale value of the land which it covered? Did any one portion of land fit into a wider sense of what a city should be? What responsibilities did we hold to future generations? Did private ownership of property confer unrestricted rights to do with that property what the owner wanted?

In 1970-71 these were questions outside the legitimacies of political discourse.

By asking those questions and insisting that the community had the right to determine the shape and character of their cities and towns and country, the people here and in Victoria Street and all over Australia in the 1970s changed themselves and they changed Australia forever.

Today is the day we are reclaiming History. No amount of nostalgia and pride in ultimate success should cause us to overlook one terrible truth of 1971.

To call on the Labor Movement was a most disreputable step by the Battlers in the Hunters Hill of that time. Only if you had lived here or somewhere as insular could you imagine the social death these women were conferring on themselves. It was truly courage - a word much overworked - which enabled the Battlers to approach the unions and, equally, it was courage for the unions to reject real jobs for their members because they perceived that there was a higher interest.

I can't help asking: What would have become of Kellys Bush if Australia had enterprise bargaining 25 years ago?

Let us not exaggerate the dimensions of the struggle either. We did not need to lie down in front of bulldozers - though we had one marvellous false alarm which galvanised us one Sunday morning. A.V. Jennings and Co were

positive gentlemen compared to Theeman and the wrecker crews of Victoria street. No one broke the law here - on either side of the struggle.

The rule of law prevailed. The protesters showed respect for the law at all times, they wrote letters to editors and letterboxed and debated and argued their case in all available forums. They contested elections. They supported candidates who supported them. The nature of that struggle meant that the significance of the community in protest, supported by enlightened unions, reached a very wide audience (Though it was certainly useful having Tom Fitzgerald living in Prince Edward Parade to ensure that Kellys Bush received more coverage in the Sydney Morning Herald than was, shall we say, customary for an environmental cause).

The struggle here helped to shift the values of NSW, it did change our attitudes to the balance between property ownership and proper planning, so that a new Government under the leadership of Neville Wran, elected in 1976, was able to pass legislation with strong community support which made the protection of a Kellys Bush so much easier.

The Wran Government did what was right when it purchased all of the site for the people of NSW. It took seven years for that moment because, as Paul Landa told me in 1976: "Jennings will never be able to build on it now, so we'll wait until they will accept a reasonable price which is about a quarter of what they're expecting". (I can still see his face, his wicked smile as he said the last words breaking into humour as he uttered them, the light and the life in his eyes, because nothing was ever quite so funny to Paul as his own impish humour.) But such are the joys for a Minister when you know you're going to go on being re-elected.

And by 1983, there was nothing in it for Neville Wran but knowing that he was doing the right thing. By then Kellys Bush was back in a safe Liberal seat. Nothing hung on the purchase, bar the word of the Premier, Neville Wran, and his predecessor, the late Pat Hills whose pledge to save the Bush it had first been in 1971.

To stand here today, with the Battlers, to speak between Jack Munday and Neville Wran, is a moment of exquisite poignancy. Could 12.1 acres of natural bushland on Sydney Harbour - our standard, simple, yet devastating, call to battle - could it have really meant so much?

The answer was yes. The answer is still yes.



Trust treasurer Andrew Yeo and vice president Samantha Biggs at the Moocooboola stall.

The public face of the Trust

The Hunters Hill Trust stall at the Moocooboola Festival on July 20, 1996 was a change from the usual. For a start it was staffed by treasurer Andrew Yeo and vice president Samantha Biggs wearing Georgian courtly costume. The stand itself, meant to evoke the spirit of the Australian verandah, was built from recycled fence palings by the President, Gil Wahlquist. Floating around as a mobile was the logo which the Trust is supporting as an identification of Australian Heritage. The stand identified issues with which the Trust is concerned - conservation of houses, infrastructure and parks and the protection of a decent quality of life for this generation and generations to come.

Leaflets, books and mugs were sold from the stand, which was staffed during the day by volunteers wearing contemporary gear.

Trust Publications

The Heritage of Hunters Hill published by the Hunters Hill Trust has 150 pages of historic houses of the municipality. All are accompanied by a description. The book also has an authoritative history of the peninsula. It is available for \$18 from the Hunters Hill Post Office.

The Trust has also published *The Vision and the Struggle*, by Reg Martin and Richard Temple, which tells the story of the foundation of the Trust and its early years. This is available for \$6.50 a copy and is given to new members.

The book *"The Battlers for Kellys Bush"*, priced \$10, is available from Hunters Hill Council, National Trust, Vienna Cottage and by mail for \$12 posted from The Battlers for Kellys Bush, P. O. Box 85, Hunters Hill, 2110.

When purchasing by mail, please send a cheque or money order with your name and address.



Kaoota Centenary

The centenary of the historic house Kaoota was celebrated with a garden party given by the owners, Phillip and Jane Meyer, on August 25, 1996. The public was invited to attend the party, which was held at Kaoota, 26 Avenue road, Hunters Hill.

Musicians played and at dusk players from the Hunters Hill Theatre performed a scene from Hilary Rudder and Ian Evans's play *Susannah Lillemont*. Home Sweet Home was sung in the living room by Kirsti Harms in an evocation of a performance given by Dame Nellie Melba when William Orchard, a director of the Conservatorium of Music, rented the house. The Trust's publication *Heritage of Hunters Hill* has this to say about Kaoota: "In 1896 Alfred Randall built this, his second of three homes, next to Saintonge (1885). Kaoota was built as a simple four-roomed stone house with verandahs, but with a stone studio at the back for his brother-in-law, artist W. C. Piquenit. Kaoota remained in Randall ownership until 1917-18, although tenanted after the first year. In 1918 the house was bought by John Edwin Branch who, as an artist, was attracted to the house by the studio. In 1939 the Hindwoods bought Kaoota, and over the years the garden has quietly enfolded Kaoota in an atmosphere of peace. Many of the early houses had aboriginal names and Kaoota means 'eventide'".

Philip and Jane Meyer have owned Kaoota since 1991. The centenary party raised funds which benefited a number of community projects, including the Hunters Hill Theatre.

Pictures show - Top - In the audience - centre - hosts Phillip and Jane Meyer.

Top Right - a toast to Kaoota from the verandah by (from Left) Phillip and Jane Meyer and master of ceremonies Bob Tait.

Lower right - The Susannah Lillemont cast on the verandah of Kaoota. From left - Chris Yorke, Margaret Bowman, Jill Pratten, Brett O'Brien, Sanjiv Roy, Kellie Mork.



Responsible Decision Making and The Haven site, Hunters Hill

By Robert Staas, director of Noel Bell, Ridley Smith and Partners Pty Ltd

The following comments have been written to answer the criticisms levelled at the decision to approve a limited and conditional subdivision of The Haven site in an article published in The Hunters Hill Trust journal, April 1996 by Roslyn Maguire, "Hunters Hill Council and The Haven". The article asks why a majority of councillors voted to permit subdivision of the National Estate listed riverside property.

The listing of The Haven site at Hunters Hill by the Australian Heritage Commission, contains errors of fact which have been transferred directly from earlier preliminary National Trust notes, without the benefit of detailed research or consideration of the relative levels of significance of the component parts of the place.

This is a process all too familiar in National Estate listings which rely almost entirely on other heritage organisations for information on items to be included on the Register. The most detailed investigation carried out to date in regard to The Haven site is that prepared by Margaret Bergomi in a study prepared in conjunction with determining an appropriate curtilage and development potential of the site in 1995.

The analysis contained in Ms Bergomi's study accurately describes the processes and events that have led to the present form and condition of The Haven site and its buildings and identifies the relative levels of significance of individual components of the site.

In 1968 when the present owners negotiated the purchase of the site, a proposal for an extensive subdivision was about to be registered by the previous owner. It was Mr and Mrs J. Beresford who rescued the property from this fate because of their genuine concern for its heritage qualities and continuing conservation. In the intervening 28 years they have spent considerable time and money repairing the house and its boundary walls and in rebuilding and replanting the terraced garden to its present form and condition.

The original curtilage of the house established in 1859, had been reduced substantially from its original extent in 1918 by the sale of the southern half of the site and subsequently by a boundary realignment on the western side of the site.

Existing heritage statements regarding The Haven site, and in particular the statement by the Hunters Hills Trust, have declared that the site is a rare and remarkable surviving example of a 19th century terraced garden. In fact a review of the available evidence shows that the present garden layout structures and plantings are largely the result of the last 30 years of extensive redevelopment by the present owners and bear little resemblance to the original 19th century landscape form or subsequent early 20th century manifestations of the garden. The house itself has also undergone considerable alteration from its original design and appearance, as discussed in the heritage assessment, and can not be accurately described as being substantially intact.

Following an earlier unsuccessful and inappropriate subdivision proposal in early 1995, the owners sought further professional conservation advice as to the physical constraints which would apply to any acceptable form of development proposal affecting the setting of the house and views to and from the Lane Cove River. An analysis of important site lines and remnant original landscape features was carried out to determine potential areas for modest additional sympathetic development.

It should be stated that the site to the West of the house had been identified as an appropriate and acceptable location for a possible linked pavilion addition to the existing house to increase the available accommodation. This area designated for a separate allotment in the subdivision proposal will have minimal impact on the garden setting or views to and from the house. This site is closely related to the stone clad garage building at the western end of McBride avenue.

Some statements have been made regarding the age of the structure, but it is obvious from physical inspection of the garage is that it is of relatively modern construction and has no established heritage significance. It does however show how sympathetic development can be incorporated into an historic precinct without detracting from the heritage qualities of the place. In preparing the development application, thorough consideration was given to the establishment of guidelines and policies for the retention of a suitable physical and visual curtilage for The Haven, which will ensure that any future building development will not significantly impinge on views to and from the river and other public vantage points.

To this end legally binding conditions and covenants were suggested in the application, accepted as enforceable by council's legal advisers and incorporated into the conditions of consent. These conditions restrict the height and form of any new buildings to be erected on the sites and constrain the design of any new fencing divisions. They also ensure that the entire river frontage of the site is always left in its present form and services access to the water from each site.

Throughout the process of design and review of the approved subdivision proposal, the Chairman of the Heritage Council was consulted as to the acceptability of limited and conditional subdivision of The Haven site. His informal advice was to pursue the potential for Community Title or Dual Occupancy development. In reply to a formal request by Hunters Hill Council for a determination on the issue from the Heritage Council, they indicated that it was a matter for the local council to determine. After further lobbying the Heritage Council wrote asking council to "define an adequate curtilage to the property using council's own endorsed curtilage guidelines" At no time did the Heritage Council of NSW recommend refusal of the proposal as stated in the journal article. It should be noted that the previous council had never adopted or implemented the Heritage Curtilage study prepared for the municipality or any of its recommendations, however the Beresford's

consultants compared the application against the curtilage study and determined that it was an acceptable form of development based on those guidelines.

The article by Ms. Roslyn Maguire, "Hunters Hill Council and The Haven" appears to have been published in an attempt to discredit the decision making process of the council. It could appear from the article that Ms. Maguire has a particular grievance against certain members of the council and is using the Hunters Hill Trust Journal as a vehicle to give political support to other members of that body. She says in her comments that the matter of The Haven subdivision deserved more thorough consideration, but it is plain from the amount of evidence available to public scrutiny, the length of time that council spent in the consideration of the issues and the numerous site visits by representatives of the Heritage Council, local councillors and officers of Council, that this matter was both fully canvassed and very carefully considered. Ms Maguire also compares Hunters Hill Council with Woollahra Council, stating that body is tackling the controversial "big" issues of curtilage. Woollahra Council in a similar decision has recently approved the construction of a large retirement village within the grounds of one of their earliest surviving Victorian villas, Brougham, following a similar analysis and definition of visual curtilage and the preparation of a development control plan for the site.

The issues of land subdivision and curtilage assessment are not as simple or as easily resolved as Ms. Maguire indicates, each case requires careful assessment and appropriate constraints and controls appropriate to the level of significance of the site and the impact of the proposals. Whilst she and others with a similar agenda may not agree with the majority council decision, the process was exhaustive and democratic.

Trust Christmas Party

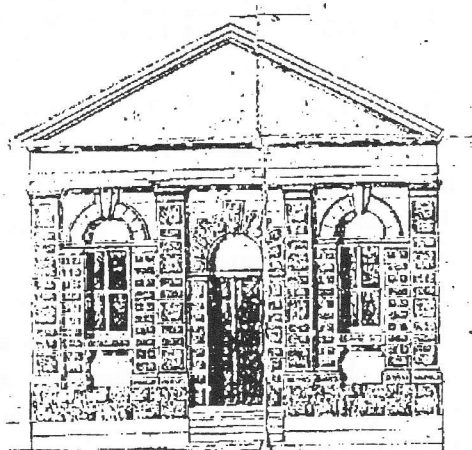
**You are invited to the Christmas Party
to be held
in the gardens of "Wyaldra" at
3 Madeline st, Hunters Hill 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
on Thursday, November 28, 1996**

**Our Guest Speaker is
Mr. Justice Paul L. Stein, A. M.**

**"Wyaldra" is the home of Mr and Mrs Conrad Oppen.
This description of "Wyaldra" appears in the current edition of the
Trust's publication Heritage of Hunters Hill":**

**This house is two cottages joined. The oldest section (east) of the
house was a cottage owned by Richard Jarman. In 1836 Jarman had
bought from Didier Joubert land known as the Mount Leitrim
(Leetum on one deed) Estate, which was bounded by the present
Alexandra, Mount, Madeline and Ferdinand streets. Jarman built a
one-room stone cottage in the middle of this estate, as shown on a
map of 1862. In 1878 Felix Cullen, mail officer, purchased the estate,
subdivided and built for rental and sale (1 and 16 Alexandra Street;
1, 3, 5, 7 Madeline Street and 15 Mount Street). Cullen added to
Jarman's cottage and lived here (5 Madeline Street) and his
descendants occupied it, according to his granddaughter, until 1976.
3 Madeline Street was built in 1885 as a four-room stone cottage and
was first tenanted by G. S. Adams. While Adams lived here,
"Lantana", 21 Mount Street was built for him, and he moved there
is 1889. Joseph Howard lived here for some years. 3 and 5 Madeline
Street were joined by an L-shaped stone addition in 1978 and the
name "Wyaldra" retained.**

***To confirm your attendance send cheque or money order to the
Hunters Hill Trust, P.O. Box 85, Hunters Hill, 2110,
or contact Gil Wahlquist, phone/fax 9816 2627
You are invited to bring friends who are (as yet) not Trust members.
Tickets \$25 per person.***



Turn here for Heritage

Historic towns and villages are identified on direction signs along N.S.W. highways with an outline of a castle. Apart from the rooks on our chess set we have never seen one of these castles in Australia. Castles are big for conservation and tourism in Europe but they are a touch irrelevant in Australia.

The Trust proposes the use of a Heritage logo which is identifiably Australian. I have developed a design which shows the profile used for important public buildings in Australia in the 19th century. Our vernacular architecture for official structures was post Georgian, with a touch of Francis Greenway.

Mechanics Institutes, Schools of Arts and Town Halls proclaimed their importance by building in this style. Our design has the classic pitched roof and three arches. What was it based on? The 1866 plan for the Hunters Hill Town Hall. This was unearthed for me by the council's engineer, Don Cottee, who has been supportive in this project.

- Gil Wahlquist.

Picture shows - 1866 architect's plan for the front of the council chamber. When built, the entrance doorway was made higher than the windows.

Aeroplane strategies

The Trust made a submission to Airservices Australia when that body called for comments on the development of a long term operating plan for Sydney Airport.

This is what we said -

The Hunters Hill Trust comes at this from two positions as follows -

1. Recognition that efficient air services are vital for the safe and prosperous conduct of business by Australians and their trading partners in both the public and private sectors.
2. Caution that the development of Sydney Airport will not lead to a further degradation of life style for Sydney residents.

Noise and its effects

We did not go over this ground in detail, reminding the authority that the arguments were well known.

The Trust put forward the following points -

1. The airport at the present site is being asked to perform a task which could not have been envisaged in 1970 when the international terminal was opened.
2. The airport has attempted to cater for all comers, to meet the requests of all air service operators on the one site.
3. As long as the operators of the airport take this on, an uneven social and economic benefit will result. That point has arrived now. For the airline and service providers, additional services into the airport mean additional profits. For those living under the airport footprint, additional services mean a decline in health and wealth.
4. There are alternate strategies.
5. The strategy which can be realised at first is to manage the air services at Sydney not as a sole airport but in conjunction with Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide. The movement of overseas passengers into and out of Sydney can be moderated by

a. requiring the tour operators to repackage, producing more realistic itineraries which recognise that a large number of visitors, particularly those from Asia, do not require

Sydney. A study of tourist figures, paying attention to visitor nights, show that it is a case of into Sydney, then off to the real destination, usually Queensland, and often the Northern Territory.

b. requiring airlines to terminate all future scheduled services at ports other than Sydney.

6. Another strategy which can make the use of Sydney Airport more palatable to residents is to make maximum use of routes which use takeoffs and landings over water and which use flight paths over parkland, industrial land and water.

7. The historic north-south path between Gladesville Bridge and the airport (16R 34R) will be with us as long as the airport is there, but the effect of this can be ameliorated by dispersing aircraft from the corridor as soon as practicable and by bringing them to the corridor over a varied approach pattern.

8. The principle which we believe is most important is that the noise of Sydney Airport, which serves all residents, should be diluted over as wide a footprint as possible.

9. The international terminal was built 26 years ago. Is it proposed that we still use it 26 years from now? Our air traffic and our overseas trade and commerce will be in a state of stagnation if that is the case. The management of Sydney airport must look to the future and to the complete re-location of the facility. Fast and super-fast train technologies make re-location to an area such as Goulburn, N.S.W. a real, profitable and efficient option. We believe that this should be the future strategy for Sydney air services.

Trust contacts :

President - Gil Wahlquist, phone-fax 9816 2627;

Secretary, Len Condon, phone-fax 9816 2796; Treasurer, Andrew Yew, phone 9816 3254; Journal editor, Megan Martin, 9952 8340.

**All mail to Hunters Hill Trust,
P. O. Box 85, Hunters Hill, 2110.**

The Hunters Hill Trust Traffic Seminar

By Andrew Yew

The Hunter's Hill Trust held its inaugural Traffic Seminar on 25 July 1996 at 8pm in the Hunter's Hill RSL Hall on Alexandra Street. The seminar signifies the growing activism of the Trust in matters concerning the quality of life of Hunter's Hill residents.

It should be noted that "traffic" is an extremely broad heading, encompassing many issues ranging from broken footpaths to public (and private) transport. Bearing this in mind, it was decided to approach "traffic" from two perspectives. Firstly, the immediate needs of residents needed to be addressed. To ascertain the concerns of residents, a survey was distributed to all Trust members and some non-Trust members. Members should recall that the survey covered topics such as footpaths, pedestrian crossings, street lighting, wandering animals, speed limits and parking. The response to the survey (to date over sixty have been returned) indicate that there is strong interest and concern among Trust members with regards to the issues raised. More importantly, whilst the survey was not exhaustive in its coverage of all issues, it has provided the Trust with solid evidence that there is dissatisfaction among residents regarding the provision of Council services. The results of the surveys have been processed and a report has been prepared which will be presented before Council.

It should be stressed that the Trust's role at the initial stage is as a facilitator, the objective being to work with Council to ensure that it addresses the needs of residents. If the facilitative approach is found to be ineffectual, then recourse to other means (ie the media) will be necessary. Some of the more notable (though not surprising) results of the survey were: 74 percent of respondents complained about the poor condition of footpaths, 80 percent of respondents complained that cars were parked in dangerous positions, and approximately half of the respondents complained about unrestrained dogs.

Of great interest was that two thirds of respondents were satisfied with the current

speed limit. This should be seen in the light of the NRMA's campaign for a lowering of the speed limit in residential areas to 50km/h.

It should also be noted that statistical aggregates are not useful indicators in all cases, as some items are very much dependent on location.

However, where responses are overwhelmingly one-sided (such as footpaths), this indicates a serious problem which Council has neglected for too long.

The second aspect addressed at the seminar was the broader issue of traffic and its impact on the environment. This was the subject of the talk presented by our guest speaker, Mr Jim Georges, a member of the NRMA Clean Air 2000 Team.

Discussion was based on the paper "Shaping Sydney's Transport - a framework for reform" and centered around two issues: firstly, the provision of good levels of access to urban activities (ie work, shopping and recreation) in an equitable manner, and secondly, the protection and improvement of the urban environment in a sustainable manner. It was concluded that whilst such a vision statement is admirable, there is a need for immediate action.

With regards to the future direction of the Trust's traffic interest group, it is proposed that the immediate needs of residents form the core of the group's activities.

In addition to this core area, a topic of contemporary relevance or controversy should be examined, such as light rail or improving transport links to and from and within Hunter's Hill. Comments are most welcome and should be directed to the traffic convenor, Andrew Yew, phone number 9816 3254.

Join the Trust.

Membership of the Trust is \$25 a year for a family. \$15 single and \$5 for pensioners and students. On joining you receive-

- a copy of **The Vision and the Struggle**
- a car sticker
- a badge
- copies of the Trust journal as printed
- copies of newsletters
- a lovely warm sense of belonging.

Please send your application with cheque of money order to The Hunters Hill Trust, Box 85, P.O. Hunters Hill, 2110

Cables in your sky

Optus overhead cables are on their way into the Hunters Hill Municipality. A node, in the area of Pittwater road, Makinson street, Milling street, is being fitted with cable. A "node" is the Optus jargon for an area which can be served by a master cable, the signal then being broken down through smaller cables to streets and houses.

The node area is a part of the suburb which was omitted (for no good reason) from the mapped Conservation area on the N.S.W. State map. This is despite the streets being rich in Heritage items listed in the council's Schedule of Items of the Environmental Heritage (Schedule 6, LEP No 14, September 1991). A map sent to the council recently by the Australian Heritage Commission shows the streets included in the Conservation area.

The question is, should the thick Optus cables be strung along these and other streets? The Hunters Hill Trust says they should not.

Optus appears to be working on the assumption that Australians are insensitive to overhead wiring and that they do not see it. Ryde Council seems to endorse this view. Those who are raised in a cage do not see the bars, the argument appears to go.

The fact is that overhead wiring is an anachronism, a remnant of the bad old days when scant regard was paid to public welfare against the interests of industry. Overhead wires first went up in Australia in 1910 and were at their thickest in 1920. It has been argued that the populace has been taken to a level of insensitivity by the shape, size and disposition of industrial structures. Robin Boyd, in his book "The Australian Ugliness" (1960, pub. F. W. Cheshire) claimed that this ugliness had led to the development of a sort of selective blindness in both men and women "Perhaps it began as an involuntary defensive mechanism against the few ugly, hasty things in colonial and gold-rush times; then it grew into a habit and encouraged more ugliness" he wrote: "The spiders' webs of overhead wires ... are more in evidence in Australia than elsewhere. They form a ubiquitous veil across the civic scene, but like

the sides of one's nose, they never register on the retina".

That this insensitivity is leaving us is shown in new housing developments and other places where all wiring is underground - the streets around St. Joseph's College, the shopping centre at Gladesville, Pulpit Point and the new development at the Riverglades site.

To allow the overhead Optus cables is to go backwards.

The Hunters Hill Trust made a submission on these lines to the recent Telstra inquiry.

The erection of additional overhead cabling will reduce the quality of Hunters Hill streets and the resale value of the houses.

On Wednesday, September 18, 1996 a public meeting was held at Hunters Hill Town Hall to discuss strategies to halt the overhead cable roll-out.

The tactic used by Optus is to use Z-cars - anonymous service vehicles which may appear to be from the local power authority - merely servicing the electric wiring. When you see men working up the poles, ask if they are installing Optus cabling. If you are suspicious, inform the Hunters Hill Council immediately. They may be working in breach of the law. Residents in other suburbs have blockaded streets to make the movement of the service vehicles difficult. Do not break the law.

Residents are writing to Optus to cancel telephone agreements and informing them that on no account will they use their services.

Councils have won a few points in the courts, largely on the need for consultation before work starts.

Above all, the problem is a political one, going back to the decision of the Federal Government last year to give the cable companies a free hand to roll out their cables. A word in the ear of a politician, followed up by a letter asking for an immediate curbing of this freedom, is essential. If you want the service, insist that it comes to you under the ground, as your telephone does.

**Foreshores seminar
on Thursday,
November 14
at 8 p.m.
at the
R. S. L. Hall
Alexandra street
corner Ady Street
Guest speaker:
Roger Elliott
Department of Urban Affairs
and Planning**

The Trust's third seminar for the year is on the subject of our foreshores.

The date has been changed from the earlier advertised September 26 in order to secure our guest speaker, Roger Elliott of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. Roger will discuss the draft Parramatta Reaches Report. The report, which was on view at Hunters Hill Council Chambers, recommends a number of foreshore improvements.

Hunters Hill Municipality has probably the longest shoreline of any in Sydney.

It is the joy of real estate developers and of residents who are able to glimpse and walk on parts of it. It is the despair of service providers, particularly those who have a vision of clear waters lapping over pristine sands and brilliant sandstone ledges. Reference will be made to an 1885 survey map of the peninsular showing bathhouses, boathouses wharves and jetties.

Convenor of the seminar, Gil Wahlquist, will outline the proposals for catchment management for Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers