



THE HUNTER'S HILL TRUST JOURNAL

PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST GARDEN SUBURB

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Valentia Street wharf, harbour gateway to Hunters Hill with the Army land in the background.

Future of the Army land at Woolwich

The army water transport unit based at Woolwich will relocate to North Queensland next year. This was announced as 1997 began.

The mayor of Hunters Hill, Cr. Bill Phipson, told the Probus Club in January that the army had asked him to chair a meeting of residents to get their views on the future use of the land.

The area involved is seven hectares. There is the horse paddock, proposed in 1984 as a site for officer accommodation, and the dry dock area, now built up to house the Army Water Transport unit and its equipment. The site at the confluence

of the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers is one of the most important pieces of land in Sydney.

The land is part of John Clarke Junior and John Clarke Senior's land grants of 1835. Clarke Sen. died in 1838, his land was divided between his four younger sons and remained in their possession for many years. In 1884 part of the point was bought from Clarke Jun.'s family by Atlas Engineering Co then, in 1898 by Morts Dock Engineering Co. Mort excavated the dry dock, using the stone to fill in reclaimed land around the foreshore and to build the present stone wall. When the company went into liquidation in 1959

part of the land was bought by the Army and part by the Petroleum and Chemical Corporation Australia Ltd.

In the mid 1960s the residents of Hunters Hill, the Hunters Hill Trust and the council fought to save the land from PACCAL's high rise development plans. As a result the land was resumed by the Government and Clarkes Point Reserve was formed in 1973.

It was in 1984-5 that the residents and the Trust turned out again to save the horse paddock and land north of the dock from development.

In November last year Roger Elliott of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning presented to a meeting of the Hunters Hill Trust the Parramatta River Foreshores Development Programme. This was the latest in a series of plans (there was one in 1984) but it did not include the army land because it was, and still is, in Commonwealth hands.

Now that the Commonwealth is set to relinquish the land it can be considered as part of the foreshore improvement proposals. The Defence Department expects to be paid for the land.

In December 1984 the National Trust wrote to the secretary of the Department of Defence as follows: "The National Trust has a long standing

interest in protecting and improving the Parramatta River and foreshores. In 1976 the Trust commissioned consultants to prepare a prospectus for rehabilitation of the Parramatta River. In the resultant report Parameters for the River (1976) a number of recommendations were made to provide a comprehensive and systematic approach to the river. The 'Army Paddock' was one of a number of sites identified as having value for potential open space. In its most recent review of 'Parameters' the Trust has identified the site as a suitable addition to the Clarkes Point Reserve. The area is also within the Trust's Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers Landscape Conservation area which was classified in the Trust's Register of 24th January, 1983."

The return of this land to public use is of significance not only to Hunters Hill but to the whole of Sydney. The dock, carved out of sandstone, is an important part of the maritime heritage of Australia while the land at the Point at which the waters from a beautiful river join Sydney Harbour.

The mayor is expected to call a public meeting to hear citizens' views on the army land for Saturday, February 22 in the Town Hall

Putting the case for Heritage

As our guest at the Hunters Hill Trust Christmas party, Justice Paul Stein of the Land and Environment Court gave an interesting address, despite competition from overhead aircraft, timed by one guest at one every 40 seconds.

To give you a further opportunity to consider the points in his talk, Justice Stein agreed to make these notes available for publication in the journal.

Role of the Trust and intergenerational equity

Groups such as the Hunters Hill Trust are of utmost importance in ensuring equity amongst citizens and defending intergenerational equity.

Inter-generational equity is defined in the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991 as follows -

that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

This definition has also been incorporated into most key New South Wales environmental statutes. It is Principle 3 in the **Rio Declaration**.

Inter-generational equity is also accepted by the **Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE)** subscribed to by all Australian Governments - Federal, State, Territory and Local Government. The principle is closely linked with the **Precautionary Principle**. Put simply it means that our generation has an obligation to pass a healthy environment onto succeeding generations



The beach at 15 Dick Street

The Department of Housing has listed Weemala the block of 30 x one-bedroom flats at 15 Dick street, Henley, for disposal as part of its 1996/7 Asset Management Strategy. The block was completed in 1951. Hunters Hill Council has been told that the Department is not interested in demolition and rebuilding of public housing on the site. The 32 residents are currently being rehoused. The mayor, Cr. Bill Phipson has asked that the council prepare a position on the development. There is concern that if the building is left empty it will attract squatters. The Trust is concerned that redevelopment of the site should involve preservation of public access to the waterfront beach which has several fine trees and a park atmosphere. The site is at present in public ownership.

for their benefit. Local action to support ESD enhances State and National initiatives and ultimately global action.

In historical terms Hunters Hill is of great environmental significance for our national heritage. The Green ban movement began 25 years ago with the Battlers for Kellys Bush when the builders labourers, Jack Munday and other activists set a pattern of environmental conservation which was followed in many parts of Australia. I pay tribute to the Battlers, some of whom are present today.

The Court

I obviously cannot discuss cases which are or have been before the Land and Environment Court. I acknowledge that there is criticism from time to time of the court on heritage issues.

It must be remembered however that the court can only make decisions based on the evidence before it at the time. Nonetheless, in an effort to obtain greater consistency in decision-making we have embarked on a continuing education programme. For example our most recent court conference included three presentations on heritage issues (out of nine) and included a visit to Elizabeth Farm.

Heritage Council

In May, 1996 the Minister announced changes in the State Government's approach to heritage. A number of changes are significant. For example, the establishment of an independent Heritage Office headed by a director. The role of the office is to

- service the Heritage Council
- maintain a heritage inventory
- provide advice and education to the community
- provide policy advice to the Minister

The Minister's statement also announced a broadening of the Heritage Council, increased responsibilities for public authorities for management of their heritage assets, as well as introducing wilful neglect provisions in the Act where owners allow deliberate damage to occur.

This latter matter is yet to be introduced into Parliament. However, amendments to the Heritage Council have recently passed Parliament. Membership has been increased from 12 to 15 with a greater emphasis on community representatives than hitherto.

I think that this is a good move, although criticism in the Press, said to emanate from the Minister, that the Council had been dominated by lawyers and heritage architects is misplaced.

The establishment of an independent Heritage Office, separate from the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, is important.

In giving judgment in *Corkhill v. Hope* in 1991 (a natural heritage matter relating to Challundi forest) I said:

It might be thought that the development of a policy to be given effect to by the Heritage Council, its chairman and the Minister, without reference to the members of the council, is somewhat surprising. This is especially so when the policy circumscribed what otherwise might be seen to be the council's powers and duties under the Heritage Act. It may be the product of the inevitable divided loyalties of public servants - on the one hand to the director and the Minister, and on the other hand to the Heritage Council. The situation may underline the need for a statutory council with important powers and responsibilities to be serviced and advised by an independent secretariat (1991 74LGRA 33 at 37).

Commonwealth Review

In August 1996 the Australian Heritage Commission issued a discussion paper: **A National Future of Australia's Heritage**. More recently it has been holding 'round-table' discussions on the issues. There is an undoubted need for a more cohesive and national approach to heritage which embraces heritage protection and promotion. The Commission acknowledges that there is presently no effective national policy or strategy on heritage. This is an important review and I urge you to participate.

Built heritage

Living in large cities leaves us rather obsessed with preservation of the *built heritage*. We must however acknowledge that other heritage issues have equal claim for recognition: natural, industrial, rural (including landscape), cultural and Aboriginal heritage.

We also need to redouble efforts to find commercially acceptable *adaptive re-uses of heritage items*. This is especially important at a local level when resources are scarce and becoming scarcer. We need to be flexible and not overly purist.

New Heritage Council

The Hunters Hill Trust has learned that members of the 1997 Heritage Council, advised by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, are - Mrs. Hazel Hawke (chair), Howard Tanner (immediate past chairman), Jim Barrett (property developer), Joan Domicelj (worker in policy and law area of cultural and environmental change), Stephen Davies (National Trust), Louise Cox (Royal Australian Institute of Architects), William Wooldridge (labour Council of N.S.W.), Associate Professor Carol Liston (Royal Australian Historical Society), Gabrielle Kibble (Dept. of Urban Affairs and Planning), Robyn Kruk (National Parks and Wildlife Service), Chris Johnson (Government Architect). An additional three members are to be named.



Tarban Creek shown as it emerges after passing under Manning road. The area will be the focus of a new Bush Regeneration Group.

The last bandicoot in Hunters Hill

The last bandicoot seen in Hunters Hill was on Ryde road, three years ago and quite dead.

This information came to light when we proposed to the Parks and Trees Committee of Hunters Hill Council that a report on wildlife be included in the future management plans for reserves.

In the past, experts have been engaged to report on trees and plants, leading to efforts to protect desirables. What of the animals, birds, fish and insects?

As bush regeneration takes place, consideration needs to be given to the total bush.

This point was made in our Foreshores Seminar held last November.

The trust would like to hear from persons with knowledge in the fauna area who would assist in preservation work.

Tarban Creek Action Group

Bush regeneration, and the health of the Tarban Creek waters are top of the list for this new group which starts its activities by joining in Clean-up Australia on Sunday March 2 to remove rubbish from the bush around the creek. Volunteers are required. Contact Sally Gaunt 9816 4047

Tourists are supporters

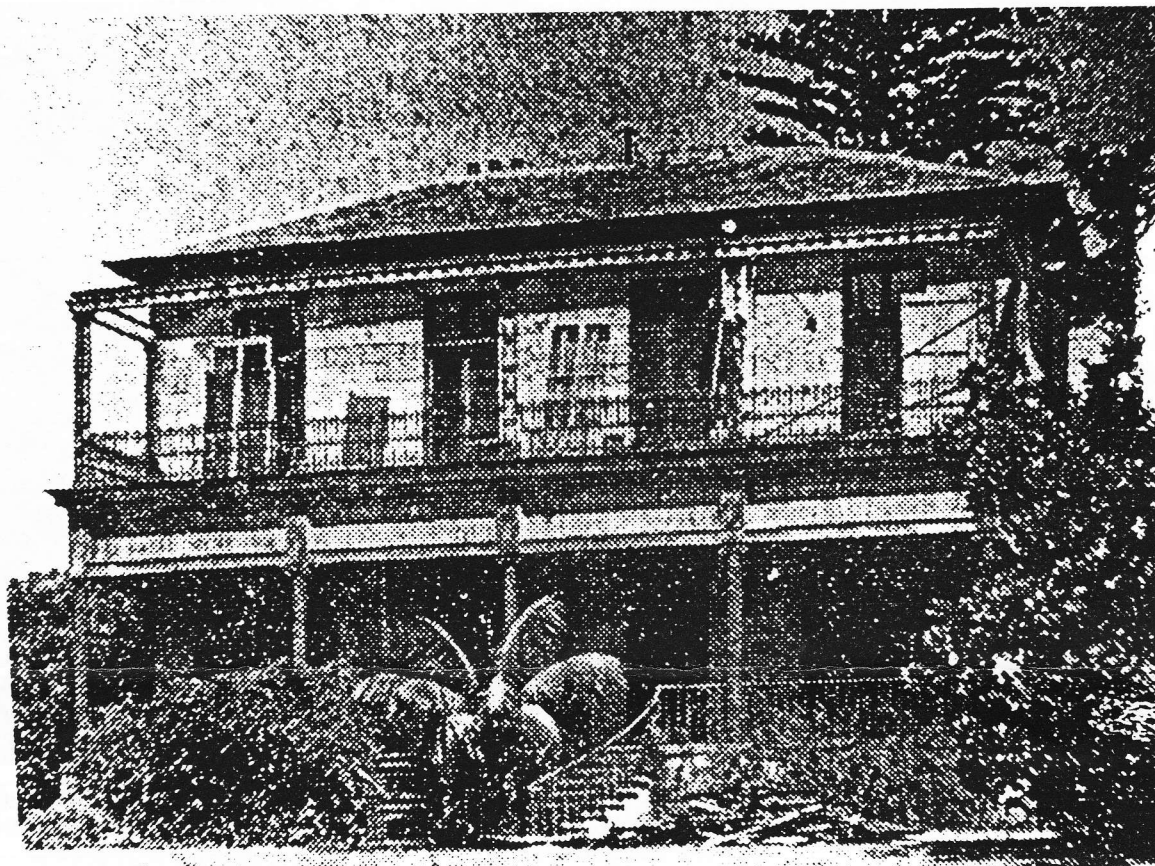
One of the topics under consideration this year is tourism which could be used as public relations for our heritage areas. We need to widen the base of heritage support. Visitors who see the heritage features of the suburb will see that Hunters Hill is not the elitist area portrayed by real estate developers. Is it known that when, in 1988, the residents of Hunters Hill decided to restore, for the nation, a heritage building, they chose a workman's cottage - Vienna

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 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.



Passy, before the verandah on the eastern side was removed - from a newspaper illustration

A confusion of names.

Hunters Hill and an Australian dynasty.

By Richard Temple

I live around the corner from "Passy", the stone mansion built between 1855 and 1857 by the Frenchman Jules Joubert for the then French Consul, when Hunter's Hill was called the French Village, because so many French lived here.

The second owner of "Passy" was a Mr. Manning, with the very unusual Christian name of Edye. In the middle of last century he was a very successful business man in Sydney and among other things ran steam ferries on the Parramatta River.

During the 80s I visited my relations in Dawlish, a small seaside town in Devonshire, not far from Exeter. A stream called the Dawlish Water runs through it, with a park called The Lawn on one side. While there I read a history of Dawlish, which mentioned that in 1804 a John Edye Manning reclaimed the land around the stream, embanking it with soil excavated in making streets nearby. He also built houses and bridges along it.

The coincidence of the unusual name Edye made me wonder what connection there might be between the Dawlish and the Sydney Mannings. The History related that in 1810, there was a disastrous storm on the hills behind Dawlish, which swept away the bridges and houses that John Edye Manning had built and he lost the then enormous sum of £10,000, perhaps equal to a million pounds in today's money. It seemed to me possible that a son, bearing the same name, might have come to Australia to repair the family fortune. An Australian connection was also suggested by the presence of black swans on Dawlish Water. The Australian Dictionary of Biography's entry on Edye Manning solved the mystery.

According to the ADB, a Reverend James Manning of Exeter had a son John Edye Manning who lived from 1783 to 1870, and in 1804 began to practice law. The ADB makes no mention of the Dawlish flood, but says that in 1811 he was declared insolvent and in 1814 made a deed of assignment of his property in favour of his creditors. Between 1814 and 1823 he lived on the Continent but returned to the UK in 1824 after the passage of the Insolvent Debtors Relief Act and sold his property. In 1829 he came to NSW to take up the post of Registrar of the Supreme Court of New South Wales at a salary of £800. He complained to the Colonial Office in London about the high cost of living in Sydney and that he had not immediately been given the usual land grant and town allotment. Governor Darling received instructions to remedy this and in 1831 granted him two allotments in Rushcutters Bay. He was also appointed curator of intestate estates by the Supreme Court, for which £2000 was required as surety. As he was unable to raise this money in Australia, his father and elder brother, who was a lawyer in Lincoln's Inn, entered into a surety on his behalf.

He became a director of several companies in Sydney during the 1830s and acquired houses and stores in Queen Street, Sydney, large holdings of land in at Wollongong, Gosford and Goulburn, and also in Melbourne. Unfortunately he was hit by the depression of 1841 and his properties were heavily mortgaged and his stock rendered worthless. In 1842 he was suspended from office because of irregularities with money from intestate estates, and the Supreme Court took out a writ for insolvency proceedings against him. When his town estate was sequestered, his debts amounted to £30,000. In 1849 the Legislative Council passed an Act to provide for payment of claims against him, but meanwhile he had returned to England, where he died in 1870.

Soon after John Edye came to Sydney in 1829 he had been joined by his son Edye Manning, who was born in Exeter in 1807. He was accompanied by his wife and a son, John Edye Manning the second. Edye Manning became a director of several companies and in 1838 entered the embryonic steamship trade with a paddle steamer of 103 tons, the "Maitland". He originated a method of salvaging wrecks and raised the Hunter River steam packet "Ceres", building her engines into a new ship, the "Victoria", in 1841. He bought the old paddle steamer "William the Fourth", and built the "Phoenix" around the engines of the "Sophia Jane", the first steamer to be imported into Australia from England. With these he traded with South Coast ports and the Clarence River, where he bought a station. He later, by amalgamation, formed the Illawarra Steam Navigation Co. and the Shoalhaven SN Co. In favourable weather his crack ship "Illawarra" was able to make the 70 mile ocean journey from Sydney to Wollongong in seven hours. Wollongong, where his father John Edye the first had acquired land, was being developed as the centre of dairying and timber-getting industries. In 1858 he bought Passy. Between 1854 and 1863 he sold five ships to China and Japan, which were beginning to trade with the outside world. He died at Wentworth Falls in 1889.

Thus I was correct in thinking the "Edye Manning" who suffered the disastrous loss in Dawlish in 1804 was not the one who had owned "Passy" although I had not imagined that his father might also have come to Australia, to repair his fortune. Had he not been caught by the 1841 Depression he might have succeeded in doing so, but it fell to his sons to succeed where the father had failed.

James Alexander Manning, who was born in 1814, third son of John Edye Manning the first, arrived in Sydney in 1834. He settled as a pastoralist near Yass in 1835 and later published details of the spiritual life of the local aborigines, with whom he established a rapport and whom he called "Nature's gentlemen". In 1840-41 he sent cattle overland to the Port Phillip District, and in 1853 joined his brothers Edye and William Montague to form the Twofold Bay Pastoral Association, which held 400,000 acres on the Monaro and Bega districts. From 1854 to 1862 he lived at at Kameruka, later famous for its cheese. In 1861 his large holdings were broken up by new Land Acts, and in 1864 he began again with 2000 acres near Bega, with successful vineyards, maize-growing and scientific methods of cheesemaking. He helped set up the telegraph between Bega and Sydney and sent the first message in 1868. In 1870 he moved to Queensland where, with Thomas Mort, he experimented with freezing and preserving meat. He died in Sydney in 1887.

Another famous Manning associated with Hunter's Hill was Charles James, second son of Edye Manning. He was born in Balmain in 1841, educated at Winchester and Oxford, and called to the bar at

Another famous Manning associated with Hunter's Hill was Charles James, second son of Edye Manning. He was born in Balmain in 1841, educated at Winchester and Oxford, and called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1865. He returned to Sydney and was admitted to the Supreme Court in 1866. He became a judge but suffered continued ill health. From 1872 he lived in Merilbah (formerly Merimbah) in Alexander Street, Hunter's Hill, which then had land reaching to Ferry Street. He died in Hunter's Hill in 1898 of tuberculosis.

An even more successful son of John Edye Manning the first was William Montague Manning, born in 1811 in Devonshire. He went to University College, London, soon after it was created in 1822, worked with his uncle, who was Sergeant-at-Law, and entered Lincoln's Inn in 1832. He joined his family in Sydney in 1837 and was soon appointed a magistrate and chairman of Quarter Sessions at a stipend of £800 pa. He acquired 1200 acres at Mulgoa, 50 town allotments at Kiama, and 1000 acres in the Illawarra. In 1848 he held 63,000 acres in the Lachlan area, was associated in the Twofold Bay Pastoral Association and shared in shipping ventures with his brother Edye. Both suffered severe losses when the uninsured "Phoenix" was wrecked. He was involved in the proceedings for setting up new responsible government in New South Wales, then, in poor health, he sailed for England in 1858. He was knighted by Queen Victoria and returned to Sydney at the end of 1859. In that year he had a house built for £10,000 in a fashionable part of Sydney. It had an "extensive garden, with rare trees, shrubs and masses of flowers, as well as tennis and croquet lawns and an archery ground". In 1868 at a harbourside picnic, he was walking beside the then Duke of Edinburgh, (visiting Australia on a round-the-world trip), when the Duke was wounded by an Irish fanatic named O'Farrell. By diving for the would-be assassin's pistol he probably saved the Duke's life at the risk of losing his own.

By 1869 his finances were in a precarious state, and he owed £20,000, two thirds of it to the Bank of New South Wales. However a few years later he had put his affairs in proper order, and after another visit to England he became a judge in the NSW Supreme Court, only to resign after a year to enter the Upper Chamber of the New South Wales Parliament. In 1878 he was elected Chancellor of the University of Sydney, which under his guidance expanded rapidly, establishing faculties of medicine, law, science and engineering in the 1880s. In 1881 he gained the admission of women to all university privileges "on an equal footing with men"; the women students' Union was named Manning House in his honour. He acquired the organ for the Great Hall of the University, obtained increased government grants for the University and freed the important Challis Bequest to the University from English estate duty. He died in Edgecliff in 1895. His daughter Emily was a well-known writer.

Thus a freak storm in what was at the time an obscure English village resulted in the establishment of an Australian dynasty. The Manning history illustrates many interesting things about early white-Australia. After about 1840 Australians with money often travelled quite frequently between Australia and "Home", as the British Isles were referred to. After about 1850 many travelled by Brunel's steamship the "Great Britain". The early pastoralists, as those who owned land outside Sydney were officially called, possessed tracts of land on which very large numbers of sheep or cattle were pastured. Early governors had sought to establish fair methods of land selection as the colony developed and in 1821 Governor Bourke had promulgated boundaries to the colony, beyond which he refused to grant legal title. In defiance of the law, however, men with wealth pushed flocks farther and farther across this boundary, using poorly housed "shepherds" to tend them and protect them from marauding aborigines, who understandably resented white intrusion into their traditional hunting grounds. Some of these pastoralists paid the Government a mere £10 a year rent for very large tracts of land (in a few cases for as many as half a million acres) and kept up pressure on Governors to allow them to acquire title to the land thus illegally occupied. By 1860 would-be immigrants were being advised by some of those already "on the land" that without capital of at least £8-10,000 (a large sum in those days) there would be no hope of getting any

land worth having. By that time the concentration of land ownership had become so scandalous that the first Land Acts were passed soon afterwards to break up the largest holdings.

It is also surprising how readily these families moved over many hundreds of miles between places in Australia by the 1860s. Much movement in those days was by coastal ship, as the roads were mere tracks in most places. Away from the coast men rode horses as much as possible. Wagons to move goods were unwieldy, but were easily bogged in bad weather and relied on large teams of bullocks for motive power. In the 1860s, passenger coaches with springs were gradually introduced by the American firm of Cobb and Co. and proved more comfortable than earlier vehicles but the use of coastal shipping by passengers persisted until the 1930s, by which time the railways were increasingly used, to be supplanted after the second world war by the car.

Report on Council is not a bedtime story

The Department of Local Government's management overview report on Hunters Hill Council (November 1996) is an important read.

The criticisms are of great concern to ratepayers proud of Hunters Hill and its independence.

How close did the municipality run to having the council removed and an administrator installed? If we can't do better, are we likely to be offered to either of the two big neighbours, Lane Cove or Ryde.

The criticisms in the report are seen as flowing from adverse consequences when the council attempted to effect a culture change to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

We appear to be surviving because of the shift in the power base at the council elections at the close of 1995. The resolve demonstrated to the Department of Local Government by the new council, its mayor and its new manager, has given Hunters Hill a new chance. But how many lives can a peninsula, shaped on the map like a recumbent cat, expect?

The Department records that seven of the nine members of council, including the mayor, accepted the invitation to discuss the management overview, which started on June 28, 1996. Two department representatives were appointed under section 430 of the Local Government Act 1993 to conduct the overview.

On the instructions of the Department, the council has made provision for every citizen to pick up their own copy of the 44-page report.

In quoting from the report for this journal, there is a risk of being titillating in the choice of subjects.

However, those subjects which are most important have been identified and the Trust urges every resident to get their own copy.

In the event of an answering document appearing from any quarter, we will publish it.

The report begins (Page 3):

"Hunters Hill Municipality is a unique local government area. It is the smallest in population (12,500) in the Metropolitan area. Development is almost wholly residential, with some property values among the highest in Sydney. The Council has 64 staff and, in a period of over 100 years, it had only three Town Clerks. One of these Clerks became the first General Manager following introduction of the Local Government Act 1993.

"Since that appointment a period of instability has occurred. This has been due mainly to senior staff changes and resultant organisational difficulties. A number of significant issues now confront the Council. They necessitate that the Council introduce policies, practices and systems to improve its overall efficiency and effectiveness and sustain its long term viability.

"Matters of prime concern are :

- Council's recent inability to manage its finances which has resulted in a major deterioration in its liquidity;
- inadequate human resources management;
- the lack of leadership and management direction to the staff;
- haphazard organisational development processes;
- a need to clearly define the role of elected members, the General Manager and staff and the way they interact;

- the administration which has failed to handle correspondence and complaints fairly and expeditiously;
- non compliance with statutory reporting obligations; and
- the need for an internal reporting system incorporating a suitable model to guide protected disclosures by both staff and elected members.”

“A significant area of concern is that Council’s financial position was unsatisfactory as at 30 June 1995 and required urgent attention. The Council allowed its working capital position, a measure of the funds available to meet day to day financial commitments, to deteriorate from \$847,000 in 1990 to a low of \$296,000 at 30 June 1995. The position at 30 June 1996 shows a marginal improvement despite an operating loss \$260,000 for the year. At 30 June 1996 uncommitted cash and investments totalled \$180,000 and available uncommitted working capital stood at \$125,000”.

Page 5. : On November 11, 1994 the services of the General Manager, and former Town Clerk, of 27 years standing were terminated. A settlement was negotiated. Although at the time Council took legal advice in relation to this action it would seem that the matter was not reported formally to Council nor recorded in the Council minutes..

“A new General Manager was appointed in May 1995. He came from the private sector with no prior local government experience. There is no documentation to indicate that this General Manager was subject to ongoing performance reviews. Certain alleged irregularities and inconsistencies were drawn to our attention in relation to this appointment and term in office of the incumbent. He resigned after some 12 months as General Manager.”

Page 6 : “Council has no formal policy with regard to the manner in which complaints should be received, processed and resolved, nor does it have policies with regard to the time frames within which these matters should be dealt. The absence of a complaints management system hampers Council’s capacity to monitor the nature and sources of complaints so as to identify and rectify problem areas of its operation and administration

“Interlinked with the issue of complaints management is the deficiency of Council’s correspondence tracking system. Not all documents are registered, and not all documents can be located. This has

accountability implications as well as being an area of concern for all operations of Council. It is a matter for Council’s management to devise an effective correspondence system to address this problem.”

Page 6 : “During the course of the overview allegations were made of corrupt conduct as well as concerns about mismanagement and maladministration. These related to use of Council plant and equipment without authority, harassment, patronage, incorrect purchasing of goods involving possible conflicts of interest and the like. These matters arose principally in 1995 during the term of the former Council. In accordance with section 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 the allegations of corrupt conduct were referred by the Department to the ICAC.”

Page 14 : “Council recognises that its financial position is not strong. In its recent Management Plan Council concludes that with careful management, the 1996/97 outlook is positive in tempering previous yearly trends. A number of factors have been attributed to the blowout in funds, the most significant being staff payouts and legal expenses in relation to planning litigation. Payments to employees for redundancy, etc. totalled in excess of \$0.5M during the 18 month period to 30 June 1995. Legal expenses totalled \$452,000 for 1994/5 and 1995/6.”

Page 15 : “The Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 1996 shows net current assets of \$95,000 which is a significant reduction from \$296,000 at 30 June 1995 and \$612,000 at 30 June 1994. This variation has been caused by an changes in current liabilities: Bank overdraft reduced by \$430,000 while creditors have increased by \$628,000”.

Page 18: “ Legal costs have been a matter of concern for the Council particularly as its budget had not included sufficient funds to meet actual costs. In 1994/5 only \$40,000 had been included for this purpose,. Actual expenses for the year were in the order of \$190,000. Costs associated with appeals exceeded \$220,000 in 1995/96.

“A special committee has been established by council to be vigilant in ensuring that its legal costs are kept to a minimum. Means by which this might be achieved include:

- making maximum information available to applicants;
- diligence in public notification;

- determining development and building applications within an acceptable time frame;
- maximising exposure to pre-lodgement to minimise problems at a later date; and
- the use of mediation.

The report refers to the organisational structure of the council and says that in response to a consultants review from 1989 which concluded that the then structure of four separate departments each with its own department head was top heavy. In response the council created a new management structure which was more top heavy than the one it replaced. (Details on page 22).

Criticism in the report of the council's management of its staff occupies many pages. Reference is made to a resultant low staff morale and decreased productivity among some indoor staff.

Inadequacy of the council premises is referred to.

The recommendations to council are lengthy, occupying at least one half of the report. A perusal of council minutes since the report shows that reforms are being implemented with an improvement in reporting taking place.

The charmed circle bigger? Trust supports expansion of conservation area

The Hunters Hill Trust supported a proposal that the N.S.W. Heritage Commission extend the conservation area to the boundaries of the Municipality with a submission to council in November.

The section currently excluded is to the west of a line starting at the Parramatta River at Punt road, along to Victoria road, Batemans road, Augustine street, Ryde road, Farnell street, High street and Pittwater road.

The Trust supported a submission prepared on behalf of the municipality by Brian McDonald and

Associates, principally that the integrity of the municipal boundary since inception is an important reason to consider the area as one. The drawing of a line through the area has been divisive in several ways.

Status, legality and a sense of place are to the fore as issues which can be resolved by taking the heritage area to the boundaries. The area at present excluded meets the criteria of the Burra Charter as follows -

The area contains buildings which are rare, it is representative of a period of development of the Field of Mars area. The area has features of local value both in the foreshore protection area and in the streetscape. The scale of the area has been adhered to in the years of its settlement and this confers regional and State value.

Too little attention has been paid in the heritage legislation to the value of this area to the harmony of the suburb. Lack of adequate protection could lead to an assault by developers on this section, possibly leading the council and ratepayers into litigation to defend the quiet character of the sector.

It appears that the intrusion of Optus overhead cabling is an exploitation of the difference which exists. This can be seen as the prelude to a testing time for the council and its conservation policies unless the heritage area is extended.

Although lacking the muscle, council has apparently until now been able by persuasion to effect Article 8 of the Burra Charter in this area. The article says: "Conservation requires the maintenance of an appropriate visual setting, eg. form, scale, colour, texture and materials. No new construction, demolition or modification which would adversely affect appreciation or enjoyment of the place should be excluded".

The scale, mood and ambience of the excluded area fits well with the rest of the suburb.

The volume *The Heritage of Hunters Hill*, prepared and published by the Hunters Hill Trust (1982 edition) has several houses in the area in picture and story.

The association of the Fitzpatrick family with the area, referred to under the entry for 10 Milling street, is an example of the richness of local history.

The selective nature of the book does not do justice to other houses in the area, which is rich in Federation cottages. Massey street in particular has

a significant collection of such buildings, many in pristine condition. Princes street is outstanding for its representation of houses from the 1920s.

A map published in *The Vision and the Struggle* published by the Hunters Hill Trust (1989 edition) shows the location of old houses. This list neglected Federation items.

The Municipality's Schedule of Items of the Environmental Heritage (Schedule 6, LEP No. 14) and the Schedule of Contributory Buildings (Schedule 7, LEP No 14) contain many references to buildings in streets of the western part of the suburb and is a more inclusive record.

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

Making the Trust work

Trust meetings this year will be held at the RSL Hall, corner Alexandra street/Ady street on the following dates at 8 p.m. -

- Thursday, May 22 - Annual General Meeting
- Thursday, July 24 - General topic
- Thursday, September 18 - General topic
- Christmas function - Thursday, November 28

The meetings provide an opportunity for members and friends to comment on issues affecting the municipality.

Topics for meetings last year were - Heritage, Aircraft noise, traffic and foreshores.

All showed lines of action to be pursued.

Bush regeneration gained impetus from the Foreshores seminar. The council has formed



The plinth commemorating the Battlers is now in place at Kellys Bush

a Bush Regeneration Committee and a trust member called a meeting of residents in the Tarban Creek area, forming a regeneration group there. At the meetings this year we will also provide space for topics requiring attention - the Local Government Report for instance, more on parks and foreshores, and the future of the Army land at Woolwich. The committee meets on the second Thursday of every month at Vienna Cottage, Alexandra street at 8 p.m. and members are invited to attend.

The Trust rents a room at Vienna. Our archives are housed there.

Trust contacts :

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