

**The Hunters Hill Trust
Inc.
Established 1968
Preserving Australia's
Oldest Garden Suburb**

The Hunters Hill

Trust Journal

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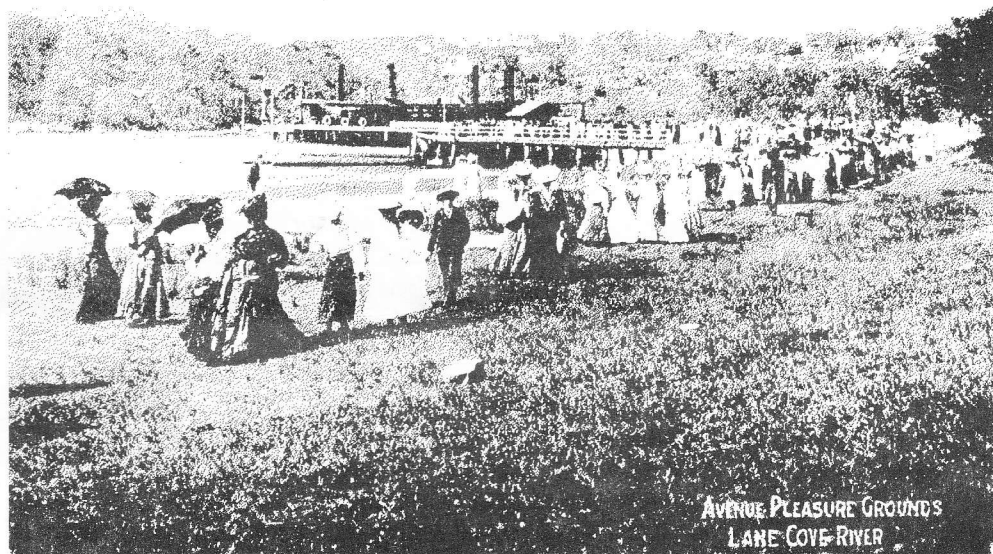
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The High School site about 1900 - Picture courtesy NSW State Library

We return to The Pleasure Grounds to celebrate Federation

The Three Patriots Walk at Hunters Hill is being declared open on Saturday, 12 May at 11 a. m. by the Hon. Joe Hockey MP, Minister for Financial Services and Regulation. The mayor of Hunters Hill, Cr. Susan Hoopmann, will welcome guests.

The walk has been constructed by Hunter's Hill Council on the Lane Cove foreshore of Hunters Hill High School. It is accessible from Mount Street and Reiby Road. It becomes a part of the Great North Walk from Sydney to Newcastle. The new pathway and its landscape are a celebration of the centenary of the Federation of

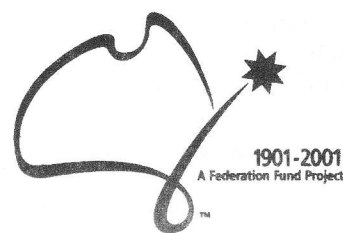
Australia.

The project was supported by the Commonwealth Government through the Federation Fund, following an application by the Hunters Hill Trust which resulted in a grant of \$50,000 for the work.

The opening comes at a time when the community is fighting to retain the High School which the NSW Department of Education and Training wants to close.

The Three Patriots of the walk were Hunters Hill residents who took part in the debate on Federation. They are Angelo Tornaghi (1834-1906) a spokesman

for the Italian community and a mayor of Hunters Hill, Charles Jeanneret (1835-98) a member of Parliament, and supporter of Sir Henry Parkes, and Sir George Dibbs (1834-1904) a former Premier. The walk features three interpretive signs – on the Three Patriots, history of the site as a picnic spot and film studio and local Aboriginal history.



1901-2001
A Federation Fund Project
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Federation Centenary Special Issue

An honour from the King

Angelo Tornaghi (born 1831) was a native of Milan, Italy.

He was a supporter of the campaigns of Garibaldi in 1848-49. He arrived in Australia in 1858 representing a firm of London instrument makers, Negretti and Zambra.

He worked on the installation of equipment at Sydney's observatory and went into business as a clock maker and instrument maker at Bridge Street and later George Street.

In 1863 he bought a stone house in Madeline Street from the Swiss-Italian stone-mason Antonio Bondetti and later purchased a 30-acre estate in Boronia Park. He was mayor of Hunters Hill in 1879 and 1882-3. Angelo Street is named after him.

Today his scientific instruments and clocks are valued by collectors. Some of his clocks still tell the hours in government buildings in Sydney.

In 1874 he took part in recording the transit of Venus from an observation post at Goulburn.

In his lifetime he was a leader amongst the Italians of the colony.

The 1888 volume *Australian Men of Mark* said:

"Mr. Tornaghi, by his life and work, has shown himself worthy of the highest respect, and by the interest he has taken in all that relates to the advancement of the city and the suburbs he has become one of our best known citizens.

"In the Borough of Hunters Hill, where he has resided for many years, he has devoted himself to development from the beginning and during the thirteen years he has served in its Borough Council.

"Three times he has been mayor, during the tenure of which he has given example to suburban mayors which might well be followed.

"In 1884, after being absent from his native country for thirty-five years, he left Sydney on a visit to Europe, on business and leisure intent.

"Before leaving the shores of Australia he was entertained by his fellow citizens at a banquet, in appreciation of the worthy place he occupied among them. This honor was all the greater in that the re-

cipient was not British born, but that he had come from Italy, a stranger amongst strangers, and had worked his way to a position of distinction in his adopted country. While in Italy during this trip he had conferred upon him by the King the distinguished honor of the Cross of Italy. This was given to him in recognition of the name and position he had won for himself in an English colony, and also for having on many occasions shown kindness and given material assistance to his countrymen when in distress in a distant land.

"In the year 1880 his charity had been put most closely to the test when the members of the expedition to New Ireland, organised by the Marquis de Rays, landed in Sydney in a state of utter destitution and wretchedness.

"Mr. Tornaghi on this occasion was most energetic in relieving his suffering fellow-countrymen and it was in recognition of these services that he obtained the distinction of the Cross of Italy."

Australian Men of Mark recorded that Tornaghi designed a clock for the Sydney Post Office, which was to be the largest of its kind erected in Australia. The minute hand was to be 8 feet long and the hour hand 6 ft 5 inches. Tornaghi proposed replacing the usual bells with tubular rods varying in length from 9 feet to 6 feet 7 inches, embracing an octave. The idea was that the sound of the tubes would carry much further than the usual bells.

Officials of the day balked at Tornaghi's ideas. They feared that Tornaghi would not adhere to the specifications for the clock drawn up by the Government Astronomer, H. C. Russell. They recommended that Sir Henry Parkes not buy the clock. The Government awarded the post office contract to an English company for a saving of £505 on Tornaghi's quote of £5480.

Tornaghi's clock is believed to have been installed at Lismore. Eleven country towns have clocks supplied by Tornaghi.

Australian Men of Mark described "his largest work as being two groups, representing Humanity, Dignity and



Angelo Tornaghi Picture by courtesy NSW State Library

Strength. These groups are cast in bronze, and are the largest known to have been made by the process ... of electro-metallurgy.

"In grandeur of conception, purity of design, and completeness of construction, these figures deserve our admiration and they form a noble finish to the block of buildings of the Mutual Fire Assurance Company at the corner of King and Pitt Street.

"The central figure stands up boldly to the height of 14 feet and from the beauty of its design it commands the admiration of all". The figures are no longer there.

According to NSW State records Angelo and Eva(Ellen) Tornaghi had five children, Angelo (1859), Josephina (1861), Remo (1864) Leoni (1889) and Eva (1890).

Angelo died at Hunters Hill in 1906.

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A whelp of a son became an honoured citizen

Charles Edward Jeanneret (1834-1898) is remembered today for the houses which he built around the centre of the Hunters Hill peninsula. The houses, their large, leafy curtilages, their appropriate scale, their fences are an expression of a lifestyle and an age which we may never see again. Yet the man who created this Brigadoon brought river transport to a high standard and built one of our first tramway systems. He was an active and persuasive legislator.

Charles Jeanneret's father Henry was a pioneering surgeon and administrator whose radical administration of the Aboriginal settlement of Flinders Island, Tasmania and his claims that the Aborigines had been shamefully treated resulted in a controversy and the closing of the settlement.

Governor Denison wrote on a volume of papers concerning Dr. Jeanneret "The whole thing is a tissue of absurdity from end to end. If Dr. Jeanneret had his deserts he would be whipped like an unruly schoolboy, and his whelp of a son as well ..."

The Jeanneret family returned to England in 1851.

The "whelp of a son" Charles came back to Australia when he was 18 to the Bendigo Goldfields. After three years he moved to Sydney and married Julia Anne Bellingham on 12 June 1857. He bought land at Hunters Hill where he built his family home Wybalena, named after the settlement on Flinders Island where he had spent his youth. He became a partner in a providing company and from this moved into ownership of steamships on the Parramatta River. Charles was manager of the Parramatta and Hunters Hill Steam Ferry Co. and the Parramatta River Steam Co. He bought the company goodwill and five steamers in 1875 and added fifteen more. His steamship company had taken over the coaling station and wharf at the foot of Ferry Street, Hunters Hill. Produce from farms as far west as Penrith was carted to this wharf to be taken across the river to the Sydney markets. Competitive freight rates by Jeanneret's company wrested this business



Charles Jeanneret and family at Hunters Hill – picture courtesy Ian Jeanneret

from steamboat operators further up the river.

He had a steamboat service at Gosford and on the Hawkesbury.

Charles financed the building of a number of houses near his own house in Hunters Hill.

While developing the river transport service he was active in civic life.

Australian Men of Mark 1888 records:

"The incorporation of Hunters Hill is directly due to his energetic advocacy and personal exertions. Since 1861, when that event took place, Mr. Jeanneret has been an alderman and for some years mayor of that Borough. In recent years he has been elected to the City Council where he distinguished himself.

"In 1875 he contested the electorate of Central Cumberland with Messrs Lackey, Wearne and A.H. McCutcho. The two former were elected.

"At the general election in the early part of 1887 Mr. Jeanneret contested another electorate and was elected to the seat in Parramatta which he still holds.

"He is a magistrate of the territory and during the time when his services were in active requisition at the Water Police Court his decisions were marked by a strict and intelligent justice and a

sound common sense not always found in the records of the work of the unpaid magistracy of the colony. Mr. Jeanneret has at present in view the establishment of tram communication connecting the fertile Ryde district, Hunters Hill and Sydney together with steam punts across the Parramatta River".

After Parliament passed his private Tramway Act, Jeanneret built a tramway connecting the wharves at Parramatta.

He supported Sir Henry Parkes in the move towards Federation and like Parkes, did not live to see it happen. He was survived by his wife, eight sons and two daughters and is buried in St. Anne's Church of England Cemetery, Ryde.

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The Hunters Hill Trust Journal (September 1994), Megan Martin.

Australian Men of Mark 1888

A dream of a "United Australia"

George Richard Dibbs KCMG was Premier of New South Wales on three occasions, 1885, 1889 and 1891. He was a robust Australian-born patriot, whose robustness upset many people; equally his "boots and all" approach, when times were tough and firm leadership and decisions were needed, regardless of the niceties, gained wide but grudging admiration. Love him or hate him, the people of New South Wales lived in interesting political times when Dibbs was at the height of his powers.

When the Legislative Assembly on 7 August 1889, was invited to lend its weight to a proposal to be placed before the British Parliament that responsible government should be granted to Western Australia, Dibbs spoke strongly in support. He used the opportunity to outline once again his dream of a united, self governing Australia.

"Australia is bound to be a nation separate and altogether free from the trammels of any country, even the mother country itself. We are willing to be the allies of England, we are willing to recognise that tie; but the day is not far distant when the whole of Australia will join as one nation".

That dream was to remain with him, except that he altered his views on the type of nation it would be, to that of a unitary system of government, and clearly articulated that concept in mid 1894.

Following an election speech in Tamworth in May, 1894, he wrote at length to Sir James Patterson, Premier of Victoria on 12 June, 1894, the letter being published in full in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 15 June 1894. In the letter he went to extensive trouble to set out his ideas, and put a cost against his proposals. Dibbs listed 14 proposals essential for unity, commenting on 13

of them. The fourteenth, the need for one supreme court, was, in his view, self evident. The proposals essential for unity were:

1. One Viceroy, or Governor
2. One Parliament of two Chambers
3. One Customs Tariff
4. One scale of Excise duties
5. One joint debt
6. One railway management
7. One land revenue and one land law. Until the laws are consolidated existing regulations hold good
8. One defence administration
9. One postal and telegraph administration
10. Provincial Government, with wide local powers
11. Surplus revenue of the Supreme Government to be apportioned to the provinces - partly on a population basis - partly on an occupied mileage area basis
12. Certain departments of the Public Service removed from political influence may have their headquarters in Melbourne, others in Sydney
13. One high Commissioner's establishment in London, representing the whole
14. One Supreme Court
15. Title, "*the United Colonies*", afterwards, when South Australia and Queensland come in, the title to be "*the Dominion of Australia*" or "*United Australia*".

One nation with one parliament

Dibbs further recommended to Premier Patterson that New South Wales and Victoria should start the process of unification by joining together as the "*United Colonies*", with a change of name to "*the Dominion of Australia*" or "*United Australia*" when the other colonies joined, as inevitably they must, in his view: "The consideration I have given to the various aspects of federation since the National Convention of 1891, but more



Sir George Dibbs

Picture by courtesy NSW State Library

especially since the fiasco of the banking crisis found us so injuriously divided, has led me to the conclusion that it would be easier first to completely unify the interests of the two great colonies of Victoria and New South Wales, and then to attract neighboring colonies within the sphere of our extended influence. But if our neighbours should elect to unite with us forthwith, I quite admit they should be welcomed cordially."

Reaction to the Tamworth speech and the letter to Premier Patterson was substantial and varied. Initially the response from all sides was that the

proposition set out was impossible and unrealistic, the rantings of an avowed "provincialist". It became obvious, however, as more consideration was given by editorial writers and other leading political figures to the points made that, although most did not believe the proposal feasible or desirable, substantial suggestions worthy of serious consideration had been made. The speech, and the letter, were significant contributors to the debate, as they gave a form and some financial numbers to the federal ideas then being discussed, and showed what had to be taken into account in a tabular and simple but comprehensive way. The estimates of the costs and revenues caused other, especially a leading Sydney banker, J T Walker, to put down their ideas on such matters, so enhancing the quality and depth of the debate.

Sir Henry Parkes declared that Dibbs had used ideas he (Parkes) had set out in a Melbourne journal some years previously, a claim quickly denied by Dibbs in a letter published in the *Daily Telegraph* of 19 June 1894. In that letter Dibbs declared that his inspiration had in fact been the Canadian constitutional model. Premier Patterson replied to the letter on 20 June 1894, by which time the election campaign was in full swing. In the event, with the defeat of the Dibbs Government at the polls, no further action was taken in the matter.

When he retired from politics in 1895 Dibbs moved his family to Passy, a home at Hunters Hill leased from Herbert Charles Mitchell and Ernest Ashdown. Dibbs lived quietly in the home until his death. Passy had been built by an early French Consul and rented to a number of people before Dibbs. It dominated the area at that time, when housing was less dense. A distinguished citizen of the Hunters Hill area, he was known to spend time with the Church of England vicar, the Rev. Philip Spry-Bailey, whose residence was close by, "to share a whisky and discuss 'philosophy'". On 11 March 1903 Dibbs performed

what was probably his last official function. He turned the key in the door of the new extension to the Hunters Hill Town Hall, which was originally constructed in 1866, and declared the extensions officially open. The honor undoubtedly was extended to him as being one of the most respected figures resident in the Municipality at the time. The photograph of the occasion clearly shows an old, somewhat bewildered looking man, in the front row of a substantial gathering; one can only guess that age and increasing illness was taking its toll.

George Dibbs died at the family home in Hunters Hill on 5 August 1904,

after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was buried on 6 August, the day of a general election in New South Wales, survived by two sons, nine daughters and 19 grandchildren. He was buried in the church of St. Thomas, North Sydney.

Excerpts from the book *George Richard Dibbs, Politician, Premier, Patriot, Paradox*, with the permission of the author T. W. Campbell. The book (355 pps.) has been published privately by Mr. Campbell and is obtainable from him at PO Box 63, Braddon. ACT 2612 for \$35 (cheques and postal orders only).

Indigenous plants placed in heritage walk landscape

All the plants used in the landscaping of the walk belong to species that were common here prior to European settlement. Many of them were used by the local people as sources of food, medicine or artefacts. An existing community of salt marsh plants is also present.

Eucalyptus gummifera - (Red bloodwood)
Melaleuca linariifolia - (Snow-in-spring)
Melaleuca quinquenervia - (broad-leaf paperbark)
Melaleuca nodosa - (Ball honey-myrtle)
Casuarina glauca - (Swamp she-oak)
Banksia serrata - (Old man banksia)
Acacia longifolia - (Sydney golden wattle) (Used as source of fish poison to tip spears)
Acacia linifolia - (Flax-leaved wattle)
Acacia terminalis - (Sunshine wattle)
Bursaria spinosa - (Blackthorn)
Dodonea triquetra - (Hopbush)
Grevillea sericea - (Pink spider flower)
Hardenbergia violacea (False sarsaparilla)

Hibbertia scandens - (Twining guinea flower)
Correa alba - (White correa)
Lambertia formosa - (Mountain devil)
Westringia fruticosa - (Coast rosemary)
Lomandra longifolia - (Spiny matt-rush)
Dianella caerulea - (Blue flax lily)
Entolasia stricta (a grass)
Microlaena stipoides - (Weeping grass)
Baumea juncea - (a sedge)

Other indigenous species already occurring on the site as part of the estuarine (salt marsh) community:
Casuarina glauca (Swamp she-oak)
Tetragonia tetragonioides - (Warrigal cabbage)
Avicennia marina - (Grey mangrove)
Atriplex hastata - (Orache)
Sarcocornia quinqueflora - (Samphire)
Zoysia macranthe - (Coast couch)

- Sally Gaunt

When Fig Tree Studios were in action

*Fig Tree Studio Research.
Frederick Daniell Papers at Screen-
Sound Australia*

By John Daniell AM

In March 1935, Mastercraft Film Corporation Limited bought the property known as "The Avenue" on the Lane Cove river near Fig Tree bridge. They or actually Raymond Longford purchased the property from the Harbour Land and Transport Co. Ltd. (a subsidiary of Sydney Ferries Ltd) for £9,250 (\$18,500). Paying £4,250 cash and taking out a £5,000 mortgage. The property had been used as a 'Picnic Ground' serviced by ferries from Circular Quay.

In July 1935 the prospectus issued by Mastercraft describes the property as: "Easily accessible from the city by road or river, the site is a positive sanctuary from interfering noises, and comprises about sixteen and three-quarter acres¹ of verdantly grassed park lands fronting on to the placid reaches of the beautiful Lane Cove River.

"The background of natural bush, and a splendidly preserved building that would almost seem to have been originally designed for studio purposes, makes 'The Avenue' a site par excellence for this Company's ambitious projects.

"The clear, lucid atmosphere intensified by mirror qualities of the calm river surface fringing the grounds is perfect for photographic activities.

"It has long been recognised that the technical advantages of sunny Australian skies and the clarity and purity of the atmosphere makes Australia an ideal country for cinema production."

"Mastercraft" was a Corporation formed in 1934 by Raymond Longford², John Bruce, Alfred Beszant, Arthur Titterton, Leslie Simpson and James Manning (the latter two being solicitors probably fronting for a client). It appears that they did not raise the nominal capital of £50,000 pounds or even enough for the company to begin production, because a further "Mastercraft" prospectus, private circulation only, was issued in April 1936. This time F. W. Thring³ was the managing director with Jack Bruce, Arthur Titterton, Nevil Bletcher. Raymond

Longford was listed in this second prospectus as Director of Productions and with 5,500 ordinary shares. It appears that Longford was issued with these shares a 'Promoter's Consideration' by Mastercraft for signing over the property to them.⁴

F.W. went to Hollywood in March 1936, at his own expense for the purpose of acquiring the latest knowledge of production, technique and equipment with the intention of placing such information at the disposal of Mastercraft.

Thring fell ill on the ship while returning home, he died on 1st July 1936.

My father Frederick Daniell who was general manager of National Productions and Argosy Films persuaded the interests of The Sun Newspaper/Denison Estate who controlled National Studios known as "Pagewood" to take over Mastercraft's studio at Hunters Hill.

This took place in 1937. The exact date is not as yet known.⁵

A "Private and Confidential Report" (Record 2141 Daniell Papers) states that Mastercraft Film Corporation issued in all five prospectus both private and public and failed to raise the necessary capital. They only managed to raise £17,267 of the £50,000 capital proposed. Their assets were £8,197 with an outstanding mortgage of £6,000 on the original land and building purchase price. So Fig Tree Studios Pty. Ltd came into being and took over the



Pictures from "The Power and the Glory" provided

Mastercraft studios in September 1937.

⁶ The valuation was £14,000. Exactly what the arrangement was between Mastercraft and Argosy/National/Denison Estates is not clear at this stage. But the December 1945 Balance Sheet of Mastercraft Film Corporation Limited shows that they had an investment of 5,500 ordinary shares of £1 each in Fig Tree Studios Pty Ltd. This was obviously Raymond Longford's original cash payment for the original purchase of 'The Avenue' from the Sydney Ferry's subsidiary.

The first film and possibly the only feature to be shot (partially only) at Fig Tree was:

The Power and the Glory (aka The Invaders)

The B&W feature film produced by Argosy Films was shot both at National Studios (Pagewood) and Fig Tree Studios Hunters Hill commencing on June 12th, 1940. The film was directed by Noel Monkman and starred Katrin Rosselle, Eric Bush, Eric Reiman, Sydney

Athens on the peninsula – two invitations for Hunters Hill Trust members

1. **Hear these guest speakers at the Annual General meeting.** Dr Lyn Carson, Government and International Relations, University of Sydney and Dr Stuart White, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney.



Title:

Democratic and Sustainable Futures

Themes:

Importance of reviving traditional values within a modern context--bringing the best of the past to the needs of the future. The speakers will pose questions such as: Is the democracy of Ancient Greece relevant to local politics in Hunters Hill? Returning bottles to the corner store--a nostalgia trip or a modern response to a local problem? Lyn Carson and Stuart White will weave together practical examples of innovative democratic processes with creative options for sustainable futures.

The venue is the RSL Hall, Alexandra Street and the time 8 p.m. Tea and coffee after the meeting. The date – Thursday, May 10, 2001.

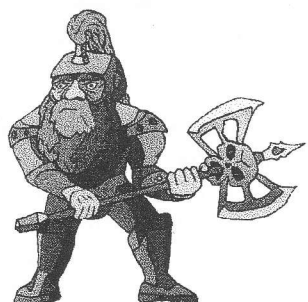
2. **Our Federation Walk project** will be opened to the public at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2001. You can have a sneak preview now if you want to. Enter the walk from either Reiby Road or Mount Street at the northern end of the Hunters Hill High School grounds. The project was supported by the Commonwealth Government through the Federation Fund. Construction by Hunters Hill Council. The Minister for Financial Services and Regulation, the Hon. Joe Hockey MP will declare the walk open. Come and see your taxes in action. May 12 is the High School Open Day and a big effort will be made to demonstrate the community need for the school which the State Government wants to sell.

Dates for your diary:
Thursday, May 10 at 8 p.m.
Saturday May 12 at 11 a.m.

A gentle Reminder that subscriptions are due. If you haven't sent yours in, our financial controller would like to receive it shortly. Either fill in the form which came with your April Journal or send this one with your cheque to

The Treasurer, Hunters Hill Trust, P.O. Box 85, Hunters Hill 2110.

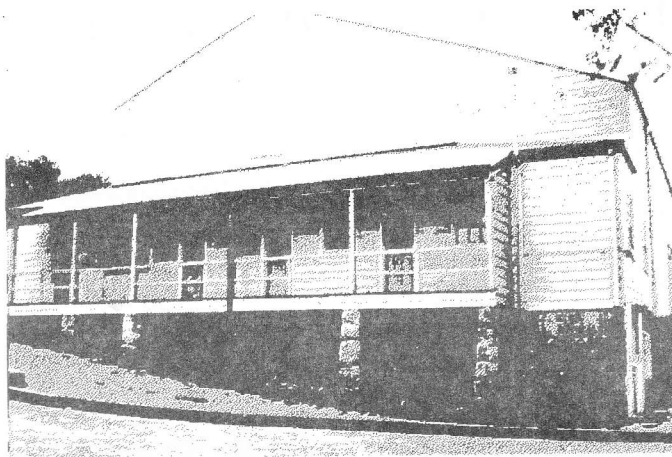
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The Pavilion, studio building, and High School Hall – 1998

Wheeler, Charles Kilburn, Lou Vernon, Joe Valli and Peter Finch. The film was released by MGM and opened at the Mayfair Theatre in Sydney on 4th April 1941. It did reasonably well in the box office but only had a limited release overseas. It was re-released in Australia in 1952 as *"The Invaders"*.⁷ As yet the exact date that the RAAF took over Fig Tree Studios has not evolved from the research files; but it was most likely some time in late 1940 or early in 1941. One of my reasons for saying this is that in April 1941, even though he was still GM of Fig Tree and Argosy/National Productions and very active in trying to sell the 3 Quota films overseas my father moved his operations to Bligh Street in the city. He was then producing a series of documentaries in Java. So I would assume that the Army had taken over Pagewood studios and the RAAF Fig Tree by that time.

The RAAF used the studio complex and grounds for a supply depot for Radar equipment for the whole of the Pacific area. They also spent over £20,000 on improvements to the property. Four substantial buildings were erected.

However Fig Tree Studios still had a connection with the film industry all during the war. The US film distributor MGM rented the film vaults under an arrangement first with Fig Tree Studios and then with the RAAF. MGM extended the vaults to hold over two million feet of film. In those days most of the negative for making prints were what was known as 'nitrate' film. It was extremely volatile under certain circumstances. MGM were still renting

the vaults when the RAAF moved out and the reborn Fig Tree Studio moved back in the early fifties.

Post war there were several attempts to once again open Fig Tree as a working studio. But none of them got off the ground. It was rented as casual storage space to transport/carrying companies.

In 1946 my father formed Trans Pacific Films P/L and in 1950 Trans Pacific Films leased what was still called Fig Tree Studios but it was used mainly for post production editing of documentary and educational films. In 1950 Artransa Films Pty Ltd⁸ took over Trans Pacific and also rented facilities at Fig Tree Studios.

In the mid 50s, Macquarie/Denison Estates who by then owned the property, sold it to the NSW Government who first used it as a bus depot and later passed it over to the Education Department and it became Hunters Hill High School.

¹ The second prospectus lists the area as 'sixteen acres, two roads, eighteen and three-quarter perches'.

² Raymond Longford was perhaps Australia's most prolific film director from 1911 to 1934. He directed the Australian cinema classic *"Sentimental Bloke"*. In later life he accepted acting bit parts in other peoples film to earn a living. One of those was *"The Power and the Glory"*, one of the few films that was shot at Fig Tree Studios, albeit only partly shot.

³ F.W. Thring of Efftee Films' a Melbourne based producer of documentary and feature films 1927 to 1936 One of the features he produced was *"A Ticket In Tatts"*. FW as he was known closed his Melbourne studios and announced that because of the lack of support of the Victorian Government he was moving his operation to Sydney where the NSW Government had an Australian Film Quota. His son Frank Thring (1926-1994) was a Stage, Film & Television actor of note.

⁴ Raymond Longford never made another film after 1934. Perhaps as Mastercraft never got off the ground he never did get his £4,250 and forfeited the land when the £5,000 mortgage became due.

⁵ Further research is continuing in the F. Daniell Papers now held by ScreenSound Australia - The National Screen and Sound Archive.

⁶ See Richardson & Wrench Valuation of Studio and Property dated 2nd. Sept. 1937 (Record 2087 Daniell Papers)

⁷ See colour promotional poster (Record 1155 Daniell Papers) In the credits of the film there is no nominated producer, but as my father Fred Daniell was General Manager and in charge of production for both Argosy Film and National Productions, history generally credits him as producer.

⁸ The name Artransa derives from a transcription association/company that Macquarie Radio formed during the war. It stood for 'Associated Radio Transcribers of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa'. Artransa was eventually taken over by the Seven Network and moved first to new studios at French's Forest and then later at Epping.

Rebuild the Pavilion

The Hunters Hill Trust supports the community campaign to retain the high school and to rebuild the pavilion destroyed by fire last year.

Prior to the announcement that the school was to be closed, the Hunter's Hill Council's heritage advisor Greg Patch was engaged in discussions with a government architect concerning the design of the replacement building. – G.W.

Flying Doctor rescued from the tip

The film historian Graham Shirley takes the Fig Tree story further in his book written with Brian Adams *"Australian Cinema – The First Eighty Years"*. (Currency Press).

Graham told me that film stored at Hunters Hill was ordered to be disposed of at the tip. An enthusiast stopped a council truck and rescued a copy of *The Flying Doctor* (1937) which is now in the National Film Archive, Canberra. Don Bradman appeared in the film – G.W.

THE HUNTERS HILL TRUST INCORPORATED

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Officers for 2000-2001

President – Tony Coote; 9817 3466
Vice-president – Gil Wahlquist phone 9816 2627
Secretary – Len Condon, 9816 2796.
Treasurer – Chris Rumble, 9879 0308
Journal editor – Gil Wahlquist
Committee – Sally Gaunt, Robyn Christie, Stephen Ramsey, Glenys Murray, John Birch.
Committee meetings are held at 8 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Vienna Cottage, Alexandra Street, Hunters Hill.

Our river is Turanburra

The Lane Cove River is known to the Aboriginal inhabitants as Turanburra.

There the Wallumedagal people fished for the abounding snapper (16-18 lbs was common), red bream, blackfish and mullett, flathead and garfish were also caught.

They fished from light canoes, made of bark taken probably from the swamp she-oak (*casuarina glauca*). The bark was removed after rains, usually in August, when it was stronger and more pliable. The ends were folded and skewered together before being caulked with resin from the grass tree (*xanthorrhoea arborea*). A clay pit on the



bottom held the fire. Seafood was their staple summer diet. Shellfish predominantly represented in the middens of the area are the Sydney cockle (*anadara trapezia*), rock oyster (*crassostrea commercialis*), hairy mussel (*trichomya hirsuta*) and the Hercules whelk (*pyrazus ebeninus*). Because fresh water was not plentiful the area was more visited than lived in. In winter more meat would

have been eaten, in the form of goanna, snake, wallaby, kangaroo and flying fox. The cooking method was broiling or roasting. This information was prepared by students of class 5W Hunters Hill Public School.

From Pleasure Grounds to High School

The site of the Hunters Hill High School was once "*The Avenue Pleasure Grounds*". Before the turn of the century the Joubert family developed about 16 acres for the purpose. In his *Abbreviated History of Hunters Hill*, Roy Stuckey describes it as "a very popular picnic resort ... (which) was patronised by clubs, organisations, parties and individuals, mostly conveyed by ferry to the old Mount Street Wharf (long since demolished) which was located on the Lane Cove River at the bottom of Mount Street". Later a special wharf was constructed at the Pleasure Grounds to allow a chartered ferry or ferries to tie up all day. Many a company picnic day was enjoyed at these grounds.

A very large timber pavilion was certainly the only building in Hunters Hill that could seat several hundred people for a meal. As the years passed, annual holidays replaced the company picnic day and the coming of the motor car and the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge lessened the demand for "*The Pleasure Grounds*". In 1935 Sydney Ferries sold the land "on extended payment" to the Mastercraft Film Corporation. In December 1956 the site was resumed by the Department of Education and compensation of £40,000 was paid. The pavilion and caretaker's cottage were still standing on the site. Thus the new high school was to inherit one of the finest sites in Sydney. The following year the Department of Public Works was asked to arrange for the erection of buildings for the new school. When the school commenced in January 1958 it comprised the aluminum buildings which were imported from England, later linked by a series of covered walkways. In all there were fourteen classrooms, a

library and accommodation for technical, home science and fine arts subjects. The old pavilion was refurbished and after receiving a new floor, it became the gymnasium. The total building cost was £256,069. The school's oval, fronting the Lane Cove River is partly reclaimed land. Apart from Parramatta High School (which was built to serve a semi-rural community), Hunters Hill was the first co-educational high school in the Metropolitan area. It was in the forefront of the new movement to provide comprehensive education for Sydney's rapidly increasing high school population.

The first Headmaster was Mr. J. H. S. Rae and the school began with 368 students and a staff of twenty. The school colours were adopted as two blues and grey and the motto is "*Opera ad Majora*" (To a Higher Endeavour). The school's houses were named after four of the ferries which plied the Lane Cove River, Rawson, Napier, Ferguson and Carrington.

By the time the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Eric Woodward officially opened the school on 9th August 1962 the enrollment had grown to 927 and the staff to 47. The brick classroom blocks 4 and 5 had been built to accommodate the increased numbers. The enrollment passed 1,000 in the late 1960's and exceeded 1,100 between 1972 and 1976.

- excerpts from a report in the school's
silver anniversary publication in 1983 by Nigel Hubbard.