

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

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# **The Hunters Hill Trust Journal**

## **Back to basics after Village plan dumped**

**W**ith the publication of Hunter's Hill Council's proposed changes to the Local Environment Plan and the Development Control Plan for the Village Centre late last year, it became clear that these changes were not in the best interests of the community. Trust member and former Councilor Phil Jenkyn brought together representatives of local action groups opposed to the plan and we decided to hold a Public Meeting.

Council supported the idea and agreed to facilitate a Town Hall meeting on February 13th 2002, and to pay for advertising and printing of flyers. The Trust co-sponsored the meeting and helped distribute the flyers to all households in the Municipality. The concerted effort in publicising the meeting was very successful with standing room only on the night. Estimates of the attendance varied from 300 - 600. As well as the concerned citizens, all the Councilors, the Mayor, the General Manager, Planning Staff

and representatives from Urbis (the consultant planners) were present.

The Council hired a professional facilitator to run the evening.

After a fairly lively start, order was established and the planning consultants made a brief presentation.

Then it was the turn of the 40 or so people who had asked to make submissions on the night.

With the exception of two property owners from Gladesville Road, all the submissions expressed strong opposition to the plan. It was interesting to hear the range of the objections. One submission was from a woman who lives in one of the houses in Ryde Road earmarked for rezoning as "mews housing". She had worked all her life in drug and alcohol coun-



***Didgeridoo at Hunters Hill***  
—see page 4

seling. The idea of a narrow back street leading from a pub, hidden from the main road and behind her house made her nervous. She felt it would be an ideal place for illicit drug dealing, prostitution and violence.

The meeting accepted the Trust's proposal that a resolution should be put to the meeting after all the submissions had been made.

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## THE TRUST'S SUBMISSION

... The Trust is totally opposed to the proposed 4-storey 16-metre height in the commercial core.

... The Trust is opposed to the rezoning of Ryde Road and supports the retention of the Conservation Area in that Precinct.

... The Trust is opposed to the idea of Mews Housing - not only is it inappropriate, but it is quite impractical.

... The Trust is appalled that the plans have been prepared in the absence of a Heritage Report or a Statement of Environmental Effect.

... The Trust does not support the 15 metres height in the King Street Precinct.

... We think the expressway building is a joke - for instance, where do you put the underground parking without causing a serious traffic jam?

... We do not support the alienation of any part of Figtree Park for a roadway and we are concerned that the use of Mathew Street as a through-road will destroy the amenity of its residents.

... After further study of the plan, it is clear that the idea to close off Gladesville Road is seriously flawed.

... The Trust is opposed to the so-called Signature Site. This will cause major access problems in Joubert St, and it will destroy the distinctive gateway to the Village made by the matching curved forms of the Real Estate Building and the Hotel across the road.

... The Trust is opposed to the large-scale redevelopment of the Hunters Hill Hotel, which the rezoning will allow.

... The Hunters Hill Hotel is recognised as a 20th century building of significance and the Trust has recommended that it should be listed as a Heritage Item.

The idea for upgrading the shopping centre was first suggested a

couple of years ago and at the community workshops to brainstorm ideas for the proposal, it was clear that everyone supported making improvements to the Village Centre. We wanted to tidy the place up a bit, improve the landscaping, fix up the foot-

paths, integrate the signage, calm the traffic, improve the park etc, etc.

Many of the ideas in the Urbis Young Plan, did not come out of the public consultation. For example, the proposed 16-metre height in the Central Core, the

15-metre height in the King St Precinct and the rezoning of Ryde Road were never discussed at any of the meetings.

The plans are unduly complex and difficult to understand and the planners have made little attempt to clarify the key planning controls. For example, a cursory reading of the LEP suggests that the maximum FSR is 1:1, which means that the gross floor area of a building can't be bigger than its site area. However, hidden away in part 4.2 of the DCP, you discover that the floor space ratio of 1:1 can be exceeded if you are making "shops with housing". In other words, provided a development complies with the 16 m height controls in the LEP and the design requirements in the DCP, there is no MAXIMUM FSR for this type of building in the Commercial Core.

It is clear that this plan is not for the benefit of the residents of Hunters Hill who like it the way it is. Rather, It is for the benefit of the landlords and the developers who would like to make a profit out of its redevelopment. The Hunters Hill Hotel, for example, has been one of the major drivers of this whole exercise, and it will be its major beneficiary if the rezoning goes ahead. Plans for a six storey addition to the Hotel have already been prepared and are included in their written submission, which argues that the 4-storey height limit is too low. We finished our submission with a plea that the Plan should not proceed in its present form, because if it ever did proceed, the "village atmosphere and sense of community and identity" that the DCP seeks to maintain, would be completely destroyed.

## THE RESOLUTION

When all the submissions had been made, Phil Jenkyn introduced the resolution to the meeting. The resolution had been drafted prior to the

**"It is clear that this plan is not for the benefit of the residents of Hunters Hill who like it the way it is".**

***The book The Industrial Village of Woolwich, by Connie Ewald has been reprinted.***

***Copies are available over the counter at the Hunters Hill Post Office,***

***Alexandra Street for \$12,***

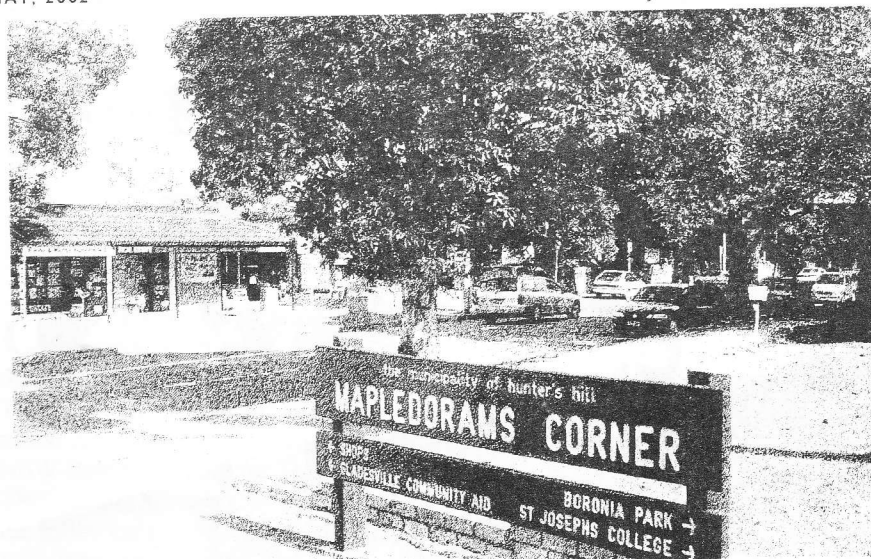
***or posted from the Treasurer,***

***The Hunters Hill Trust Inc.,***

***P. O. Box 85, Hunters Hill, 2110 for \$14.***

*The book has been published by The Hunters Hill Trust assisted by a grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society from funds allocated by the Ministry for the Arts, New South Wales.*

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

meeting and was based on an analysis made by Phil of all the 296 written submissions made to Council. This analysis showed the following:

*16 m height limit* - 92% against, 3% for, 5% no comment

*Retain the existing character* - 3% against, 92% in favour, 5% no comment

*Rezone Ryde Road*—81% against, 3% for, 16% no comment

*Traffic management* - 1% against, 90% in favour, 9% no comment

*Close Gladesville Road*—84% against, 2% for, 14% no comment  
89% said the scheme would have an adverse effect on the character of the area.

Part A of the resolution called on the Councilors not to proceed with the rezoning, the Village Centre draft Masterplan and the DCP for a the following amongst other reasons:

... The plan's impact on the character and heritage of Hunters Hill.

... The lack of a Heritage Report and Statement of Environmental Effect.

... The inappropriateness of the proposed heights of 15 and 16 metres.

... The failure to recognise the significance of the Ryde Road houses.

... The plans do not address traffic control and management.

... Gladesville Road should not be closed to traffic.

... Figtree Park should be enhanced and conserved not used as roadway.

... The existing zonings and controls are appropriate for the Village Centre area.

Part B noted that the meeting would support Council in developing a new process designed to have wide community support, to include the following:

#### ... The preparation of an independent Heritage Report.

... Plans and proposals that adhere to existing zonings and controls.

... Plans in keeping with the character and heritage of the municipality.

... Plans for the control and management of traffic in the area (with the RTA).

... Design guidelines for buildings appropriate to the existing scale of the village.

... Landscaping for the commercial area and its surrounds.

... Improvements in signage, footpaths, lighting, street furniture and the like.

... Appropriate parking which does not adversely impact on surrounding areas.

**The resolution was carried unanimously.**

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

At the Council meeting of 25 February, on the motion of Councilor Hoopman it was resolved that

... Council should not to proceed with the Draft LEP, DCP and Masterplan, and

... Council notes the resolution of the public meeting and moves that a report that establishes a working party in consultation with the community be brought forward to the Ordinary Meeting of 25 March.

### A report by Daniela Bantle (Senior Development Control Officer) was prepared for the Council meeting of 8 April 2002.

This report was very disappointing because it did not properly represent the resolution passed by the Public Meeting, particularly in reference to public consultation, nor did it reflect the resolution passed by Council at its February 25 meeting. However, in response to various representations, Council, on a motion from Councillor Hoopman, moved an alternative recommendation, which remedied most of these shortcomings.

It is now planned to have a workshop with the participants being Councillors, representatives of concerned community groups who attended the public meeting, representatives of shopkeepers and commercial property owners and relevant Council staff.

The workshop will consider:

... Groups or persons to comprise membership of the working party.

... The scope and objectives of the working party.

... The Plan area.

... Issues to be considered by the working party.

... Other relevant matters.

*-Tony Coote*



## Days of the Wattamattagal remembered

A project that has been under way since 1988 was completed on April 13 2002. During the Bicentennial celebrations in 1988, the council followed advice from a committee of Fred Lehany, Nancy Keesing and Geoff Grace and named an inlet on the Parramatta Foreshore near Gladesville reserve as Wallumatta Bay to commemorate an aboriginal language group which had lived in the area. This is now on the State maps.

It was intended that the inlet would be commemorated with a sign. Fred Lehany, Nancy Keesing and Geoff Grace have since died. Two years ago the group Bennelong and Surrounds Citizens for Reconciliation proposed to Hunters Hill Council that the identification of the site would demonstrate that Hunters Hill citizens have a positive attitude to the aboriginal reconciliation process.

At the ceremony on April 13, arranged by council engineer Don Cottee, a bronze plaque, set in stone, was unveiled. The plaque wording is:

*Honouring the country of the Wallumattagal people. The Hunters Hill Municipality lies within the traditional country of the Wallumattagal People, who lived here and belonged to this Land. We honour these people and celebrate the Spirit of the Land.*

A welcome was given by Allan Madden, educational officer of the Metropolitan Land Council. Gil Wahlquist spoke on behalf of the Bennelong and Surrounds Reconciliation Group.

The unveiling of the plaque is shown in the picture.

Hunters Hill Public School was invited by the Hunters Hill Trust to provide a wording for an interpretive sign as part of their aboriginal studies. Pupils of class 5W



2001 prepared the following wording:

*The aboriginal people of this area, the Wallumattagal, named the area around the Ryde/Hunters Hill area Wallumatta. Wallumatta is said to mean place of rushes, probably after the spiny rush plant (lomandra longifolia) which grows prolifically in the area. Both the flowers and the succulent white leaf base were edible and the seeds could be used in damper. The leaves were used to weave bags. The first encounter of the Wallumattagal with the white settlers was on 2/2/1788 but by 1789 large numbers of their people had died from the small pox. As people whose history was passed on orally, much of the language and culture was lost to future generations...*

The pupils also drew the plant Lomandra Longifolia.

As part of local acknowledgment of its past, the council invited Colin Gale, a Darug elder, to give a welcome at the Australia Day Ceremony at Clarkes Point. Colin Gale referred to the land of the Wallamatta, Darug language

**Acknowledgement plaque unveiled at Wallumatta Bay on Saturday, April 13, 2002 by (from left) Allan Madden, educational officer of the Metropolitan Land Council, didgeridoo player Glen Doyle, and Mayor of Hunters Hill, Cr. Bruce Lucas.**

speakers. He said that across the Lane Cove River are the Kuringai people.

The rock engravings either side of the Lane Cove River are quite distinct from each other- showing the river was a natural boundary between the two groups. Marriages and other social customs were shared. Back at Gladesville-Glades Bay Park etc, there are several good rock engravings and it is also the burial site of Bennelong and the last known Gadigal person Nambury who died in 1815. Baludari and Caruway were the other Gadigals who survived the smallpox outbreak of 1789-91.

Darug derives its name from the word tooth and also a yam which closely resembles the canine tooth.



# Proposed changes to the Trust constitution

**In preparing these changes the sub committee has retained the elements of the existing Constitution as far as possible**

**O**n 6 January 1996 a Special General Meeting of the Trust discussed incorporation of the Trust under the Association Incorporation Act 1984, administered by the NSW Department of Fair Trading. The meeting agreed unanimously to the following resolution proposed by John Birch seconded by Richard Temple

"That Incorporation should be sought using the present Constitution of the Hunter's Hill Trust, and Mr G Larkin be elected to chair a Committee which will have the power to change the Constitution, without further reference to the members, to effect any changes which may be required by the Registrar of the Department of Fair Trading in order to effect incorporation. These changes are to be circulated prior to, and discussed at the AGM May 31st 1996."

The decision to incorporate arose from discussions held at short notice in November 1995 between the Trust Executive Committee and David Saul, representing the Sydney Airport Forum, Phil Jenkyn, Matthew Baird and Kevin Rogers. The Forum proposed that the Trust should be the aggrieved person in a High Court action against the then Minister Mr Brereton about aircraft noise. To protect the members of the Trust it was decided to limit liability by incorporation.

The Trust was incorporated on the 6 February using an existing Constitution of the Trust, however a number of problems relating both to the Trust Constitution and its alignment to the requirements of the Association Incorporation Act have now been identified and the Trust Executive Committee at their March meeting established a sub committee of Nicola Allan, John Birch and Gil Wahlquist to prepare an

amended Constitution.

## ***Problems with the existing Trust Constitution***

1. 7. Membership  
There is a lack of clarity about the role of Life Members and whether they are required to pay an annual fee. Members of the Trust cease to be members if their annual fee is not paid by 31 May. Currently there are some 126 unfinancial members of the Trust and a strict application of this rule would exclude them from membership. A register of members is required to be kept but there is no record of such a register.

2. 13 Nomination for Committee  
This clause allows unfinancial members to stand and to be nominated by unfinancial members.

3. 14 Election of Committee  
This clause limits Office Bearers from serving in the same position for more than two terms. This requirement has been breached on many occasions and is very demanding in

its application to all Office Bearers.

4. 26. Insurance  
This clause requires insurance to be arranged to indemnify Office Bearers against any legal action. It has certainly not been done in recent years and is likely to be extremely expensive. Incorporation provides some protection.

In addition the Powers of the Trust do

not take account of many activities that have developed over the years.

## ***Alignment with the Act***

5. Membership  
As an Incorporated Association new members are required to formally apply for membership and to formally resign. They cannot cease to be members by not paying their fees. The liability of members is limited to their unpaid fees.
6. Public Officer  
The Trust is required to have a Public Officer who may be a member of the Committee and who is responsible for maintaining the register of members and submitting the annual returns to the Department.
7. Office Bearers  
Are required to be elected by the Annual General Meeting
8. Common Seal  
Incorporated Associations are required to have a Common Seal for affixation to any instrument.
9. Finances  
All accounts for payments must be approved by the Committee and recorded in the minutes.

The amendments proposed to the Constitution address all the above issues and provide a framework for a more manageable and transparent association

**-John Birch**

## **Lining up with the Association Incorporation Act**

**The proposed constitution is printed in full on the next three pages**

## HUNTERS HILL TRUST INCORPORATED

### PROPOSED CONSTITUTION, May, 2002

1. The name of the association is "The Hunters Hill Trust Incorporated" hereinafter referred to as "The Trust".

#### NATURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

2. The Trust is a voluntary not-for-profit association, incorporated under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 1984.

3. The Trust is-

- i) non-political and non sectarian;
- ii) is capable of performing all the functions of a body corporate;
- iii) is capable of suing and being sued;
- iv) has perpetual succession and shall have a common seal and
- v) has power to acquire, hold and dispose of property.

4. The income and property of The Trust whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the aims and objectives of The Trust and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the members of The Trust. Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any servant of The Trust or to any member of The Trust in return for services actually rendered to The Trust or reasonable and proper rent for any premises let by any member to The Trust, but that no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be paid or given by The Trust to any officer except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses.

#### INTERPRETATION

5. In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires;

**Committee** means Executive Committee of The Trust

**Financial Member** means those Ordinary Members who have paid their membership fees in accordance with Section 17 and Life Members and Honorary Life Members.

**General Meeting** means Annual General Meeting as well as Special General Meeting

**Hunters Hill** means all those pieces or parcels of land situated in the Municipality of Hunters Hill, a recognised area of Local Government in NSW.

**Officer** means a member of the Executive Committee

**The Act** means the *Associations Incorporation Act 1984*

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6. The aim of The Trust is to maintain the unique and

historical character of Hunters Hill.

7. To fulfil this aim The Trust has the following objectives-

- i) to limit the spread of home units, high density, industrial and commercial development within the Municipality;
- ii) to preserve all features of Hunters Hill having beauty, architectural and historical value;
- iii) to ensure that any planning of Hunters Hill should pay full regard to protecting and improving the amenities enjoyed by residents; and without limiting the generality of the foregoing;
- iv) to encourage high architectural and aesthetic standards within the Municipality;
- v) to maintain the integrity of Hunters Hill as a separate Municipality;
- vi) to cause to be maintained a planning committee of the Hunter's Hill Council responsible for conservation and policy matters, which includes nominees of the Hunters Hill Trust Committee and
- vii) to maintain the declaration of Hunters Hill as a protected historic area.

#### POWERS

8. For the purpose of achieving its aims and objectives The Trust shall have the following powers-

- i) to raise funds through annual subscriptions, donations, grants and entrance fees;
- ii) to accept gifts or bequests;
- iii) to print and publish periodicals, books leaflets or other documents;
- iv) to seek affiliation with kindred organisations;
- v) to sell, supply or otherwise deal in goods of all kinds and
- vi) to do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to achieving the Aims and Objectives of The Trust.

9. Subject to these Rules the Powers of The Trust shall be exercisable by the Executive Committee

#### MEMBERSHIP

10. Members of The Trust shall comprise

- i) Ordinary Members;
- ii) Life Members who joined before the year 2001 by payment of the appropriate once only fee and
- iii) Honorary Life Members, elected without dissent by the Annual General Meeting, for outstanding service to The Trust. No more than two Honorary Life Members shall be elected in any one year.

Who support the Aims and Objectives and agree to be bound by the Rules of The Trust.

11. Application for membership shall be in writing and-

- i) in such form as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine;
- ii) signed by the applicant;

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- iii) shall be accompanied by such fees as determined by The Trust from time to time and
- iv) lodged with the secretary of The Trust.

12. As soon as practicable after receiving the application the secretary must refer the application to the Executive Committee which shall determine whether to approve or reject the application.

13. The liability of members of The Trust to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of The Trust or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of The Trust is limited to the amount of unpaid membership fees.

14. A person ceases to be a member of The Trust if the person;

- i) dies;
- ii) resigns membership by written notice to the secretary and pays all outstanding membership dues or
- iii) is expelled from The Trust.

15. A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of The Trust-

- i) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person, and
- ii) terminates on cessation of the person's membership.

16. The Public Officer of The Trust must establish and maintain a register of members of The Trust which shall-

- i) specify the name and address of each member of The Trust together with the date on which the person became a member;
- ii) be kept at the principal place of administration of The Trust and
- iii) must be open for inspection, free of charge, by any member of The Trust at any reasonable hour.

17. i) Financial ordinary members of The Trust may determine from time to time at the Annual General Meeting the annual membership fee payable by ordinary members, which shall be payable before the end of the Trust financial year.

ii) Members who join between 1 January and the AGM shall be deemed to be financial until 28 February in the following year.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18. The business of The Trust shall be controlled and managed by the Executive Committee and, subject to any resolution passed by The Trust in general meeting, has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the Committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of The Trust, including the appointment of such sub-committees as it may consider desirable

19. The Executive Committee shall consist of the four office bearers of The Trust

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

And five other officers

Who shall be elected annually by the financial members present at the Annual General Meeting of The Trust

20. The Public Officer of the Trust shall maintain a register of the members of the Executive Committee containing the following particulars

- i) the names and residential addresses of each person who is a member of the Committee
- ii) the dates on which the member became and ceased to be a member of the Committee.

21. The President shall preside at all meetings. In the absence of the President the Vice President shall preside

22. The Secretary of The Trust shall be responsible for the performance of all secretarial duties required by The Trust including-

- i) preparation of an Agenda for each meeting of The Trust;
- ii) keeping minutes of all proceedings at Executive Committee meetings and general meetings.

Unless otherwise determined the Secretary shall be the Public Officer of The Trust.

23. The Treasurer shall receive and account for all moneys and banking of all moneys and the preparation of financial statements, including an annual balance sheet.

24. The Executive Committee will normally meet each month but must meet at least six (6) times in each term of 12 months.

25. Any five (5) officers constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Executive Committee.

26. An officer ceases to be a member of the Executive Committee if the officer-

- i) dies;
- ii) becomes and remains unfinancial
- iii) ceases to be a member of The Trust;
- iv) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Corporation Law;
- v) resigns office by notice in writing given to the Secretary;
- vi) is removed from office by resolution of The Trust in general meeting
- vii) becomes a mentally incapacitated person
- viii) is absent without the consent of the Executive Committee from three normal consecutive meetings of the Committee of which due notice has been given.

### ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

27. All financial members of The Trust shall be eligible for election as officers, provided that no more than two officers shall be resident outside the Municipality and no more than one officer shall be an elected member of the Hunters Hill Municipal Council or a State or Commonwealth Parliamentarian.

28. Any two financial members of The Trust may nominate another financial member for election as an office bearer or an officer. Such nominations shall be signed by the two proposers and shall bear the written consent of the nominated member and shall be posted or delivered by hand so as to reach the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

29. If insufficient nominations are received those nominated shall be declared elected and nominations for the

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

vacant positions shall be called for at the Annual General Meeting.

30. Each financial member present at the Annual General Meeting shall be entitled to vote in ballots for election of the Office Bearers and Officers.

31. All ballots shall be conducted by the Returning Officer elected by the Annual General Meeting. Optional preferential voting shall be used for all ballots. Candidates may appoint scrutineers.

32. Provided sufficient nominations are received the elected officers shall include at least one officer from each ward of the Municipality.

33. The President shall not serve for more than four (4) successive full annual terms.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

34. Determination of policy is the responsibility of financial members of The Trust and policy decisions shall be made by simple majority votes at General Meetings.

35. The Annual General Meeting shall be held every calendar year within six (6) months of the end of The Trust financial year

36. Business of the Annual General Meeting shall include-

- i) confirmation of the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any special general meetings held since that meeting;
- ii) A report by the President on the activities of The Trust during the last preceding financial year;
- iii) the election of Office Bearers and officers of The Trust and
- iv) to receive and consider the audited financial statements of The Trust for the last financial year.
- v) Appointment of an auditor for the ensuing financial year

37. A Special General Meeting may be called

- i) by the Executive Committee or
- ii) by the Secretary on receipt of a request in writing signed by ten (10) or more financial members.

38. The Secretary shall call a Special General Meetings within one month of receiving the request from members and advise all financial members of the purpose of the meeting including any proposed resolutions. The business of the meeting shall be confined to the purpose for which it was called.

39. Members shall be given at least seven (7) days notice of General Meetings and fourteen (14) days notice of the Annual General Meeting and General Meetings for which a resolution has been proposed.

40. Notices of motion shall be given to the Secretary in writing at least twenty-eight (28) days before the date of the general meeting.

41. The quorum at general meetings shall be twenty (20) financial members of The Trust.

### FINANCES

42. The funds of The Trust shall be banked in the name of

The Hunters Hill Trust Inc., and all cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by any two Office Bearers.

43. All accounts shall be presented and passed for payment at meetings of the Executive Committee and such approval shall be recorded in the minutes.

### COMMON SEAL

44. The common seal of The Trust must be kept in the custody of the public officer.

45. The common seal must not be affixed to any instrument except by authority of the Executive Committee which shall be recorded in the minutes. The affixing of the common seal must be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Committee or of one member of the committee and of the public officer.

### INSURANCE

46. The Trust shall effect and maintain public liability insurance with an approved insurer for a cover of not less than \$2,000,000 as required by section 44 of the Act.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

47. This Constitution (including the Aims and Objectives) may only be amended at a properly convened general meeting for which all financial members have been given twenty-one (21) days notice of the motion to be submitted. Seventy-five (75) per cent of financial members present and voting must agree to the amendment

### DISSOLUTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

48. The Trust may be dissolved upon a vote of a seventy-five (75) percent majority of financial members present and voting at a General Meeting called for the purpose, and shall be dissolved if the financial membership falls below ten (10) persons.

49. If upon winding up or dissolution of The Trust there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed among the members of The Trust, but shall be given or transferred to some other association having objects similar to The Trust and whose Constitution prohibits the distribution of its income and property among its members to an extent as least as great as is imposed on The Trust by clause 4 hereof.

Such association to be determined by the financial members of The Trust before the time of dissolution or in default thereof by application to the Supreme Court for determination.

### INTERNAL DISPUTES

50. Any disputes between members (in their capacity as members) and between members and The Trust shall be resolved by simple majority of the Executive Committee present at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

## The strange case of the lost document which recommended that Hunters Hill High School should not close

Following the announcement by the Hunters Hill High School P and C that it had received a "lost document" from the Department of Education and Training recommending against closure of the school, the Legislative Council has moved for a Parliamentary Enquiry into the closure.

A standing Committee has been directed to return a report by June 27, 2002.

The "lost" document titled the Ryde District Office Strategic Analysis Plan, Secondary Education 2000-2005 dated April 2000 was apparently only just discovered. In a press release, the P and C says that the discovery of this document coincides with an Ombudsman's investigation into the Department of Education & Training's handling of Freedom Of Information material.

Kathy Prokhovnik, Vice President HHHS P&C said: "This document is a damning indictment on a Government that claims to be transparent and honest.

"It shows that HHHS was not to close and supports our demographic predictions of growth for the area and the need for HHHS to be supported

"In fact, page nine of the report states '...given the risk of abandoning large sections of the District especially in the Lane Cove area and the strength of the numbers in the primary schools offering the potential for a large increase in secondary enrolments, further asset realisation in Ryde may be counterproductive.'

"The report also states that 'All schools draw significantly from outside their drawing area' yet one of the main reasons for recommending the closure of HHHS was

because it had out of area enrolments."

Kathy Prokhovnik said "The content of this document would have been of inestimable value to us in putting our case to the School Closures Review Committee. In fact, every reason for wanting to close the school is refuted in this report.."

There are no reports of documents or who commissioned or responded to this report, nor how or why its recommendations were not incorporated into the final Building the Future plan.

Is this a case of a Government stuff-up or a cover-up? Either way it proves that Hunters Hill High School should not close.

The Legislative Council has referred the NSW Government's decision to close a number of inner city schools to an Inquiry by one of its Standing Committees. Below is an extract from the Legislative Council minutes.

*Legislative Council - Minutes - Extract 10/04/2002-04-11*

That General Purpose Standing Committee No.1 inquire into and report on the circumstances, processes, effects and short and long term consequences of the proposed closure and restructuring of government schools in inner Sydney, especially the closure of Hunters Hill High School, and in particular:

- a) the validity, relevance and veracity of the demographic and other evidence advanced or used in support of the proposed restructuring,
- b) the effectiveness and integrity of the public consultation processes used to develop the plan and to determine the closure of the schools,

c) the accuracy and probity of the asset valuation process and the implications of conducting it before any assessment of educational needs was completed,

d) the role and functioning of the School Closure committee and the validity of its findings,

e) the risk to the future provision of school education arising from the loss of education sites in inner Sydney area,

f) the impact of state government funding policies, enrolment policies and investment infrastructure for public school on the attractiveness of public schools,

g) the impacts on availability of local comprehensive public education as an option for residents of inner Sydney,

h) the impacts on the educational and social needs of children and young people with welfare needs, and

i) the development of appropriate measures to ensure that children forced to move schools are not disadvantaged.

That the Committee report by 27 June 2002- put and passed.

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### Yes, we are on the web—visit us soon

Since June 1999 the Trust's website has been visited by 42,739 people. Current visitation is at the rate of more than 2,000 per month. You can find it by typing Hunters Hill into a search engine such as Google. The address of the site is [interweb.com.au/hhti](http://interweb.com.au/hhti)

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### Plan for Dock due by December

At the first meeting of the consultative committee of the Sydney Harbor Federation Trust held on April 11, the executive director, Geoff Bailey said that draft plans for all sites, including Woolwich, would be complete by December.

# Application for Heritage Grant to complete survey

**R**obyn Christie has prompted Hunters Hill Council to apply to the Heritage Office for a grant application under the Heritage Incentives Program to complete a full survey of the Municipality. For your information, here is what she wrote in support of the grant.

## HUNTERS HILL FULL HERITAGE SURVEY BACKGROUND

The Heritage Adviser for Hunters Hill Council, Greg Patch, has already commenced the project of linking a GIS mapping system with property information which includes title description and heritage information which is available to the general public and planning staff to assist in the process of controlling development within the Municipality. Historical information about heritage items has, however, proved thinner than anticipated and the Municipality is still largely dependent upon information available in *The Heritage of Hunters Hill*, first published by the Hunters Hill Trust in 1969 and currently available in a reprint of the 3rd edition published in 1982 (reprint 2002). Graham Hall, as part of his Master of Heritage Conservation degree, developed the project further and, together with Greg Patch, initiated a photographic survey sheet that was to be completed for properties in the area. The Hunters Hill Trust volunteered their assistance in completing the survey sheets and it was decided that a pilot study would include whole streetscapes, not just individual heritage items. It was felt that this would give a better context for the heritage items and a more complete understanding of the

morphology of the conservation area.

Concurrently with the project initiated at Council, the Hunters Hill Trust had decided to undertake research and preparation for a 4th edition of *The Heritage of Hunters Hill*. Robyn Christie was appointed voluntary editor of the new publication. It was felt that a complete survey of the Municipality had to be completed first, if subsequent planning for the content and composition of the new book was to be meaningful and well considered. This knowledge prompted the Trust to volunteer its assistance in undertaking Council's project.

The constraints of time and money have hindered the commencement of the proposed survey by both Council staff and Hunters Hill Trust volunteers to date.

## AIM

The aim of the project is threefold:

1) **To review the status of heritage items and contributory items with listed status on Schedules 6 and 7 respectively of the LEP.** It is already apparent that there are a number of heritage items which should no longer be on the list (either by demolition or inappropriate alterations and additions) and there are a number of twentieth century buildings which should be added to the list. The status of contributory items needs further clarification. Unlike other municipalities, the category was introduced as a way of protecting items outside the conservation area. The selection of those items was dependent upon their appearance on the Metropolitan Sewerage and Drainage Board maps prepared in the late 1920s.

In addition to a more methodical assessment being put into place, it needs to be considered as to whether, like heritage items, the class of contributory items should be applied equally within and without the conservation area..

There is also an additional group of noted items which have been identified as needing further research and investigation as to whether they should also be included on the local heritage schedule.

(2) **To review the status of the current conservation areas, its definitions and boundaries.** The Municipality currently comprises two conservation area precincts, the first including all of the peninsula and part of the area on the other side of the overpass. There is a large variety of housing stock within this area and particular historic subdivisions are not defined. The second conservation area precinct includes an area of uniform 1920s housing around Hillcrest Avenue and Sunnyside Street. Areas outside the conservation area have been divided into 11 precincts and are described according to their various natures. All information needs to be updated and the same level of description and boundary achieved for Conservation Area 1 as for other precincts within the Municipality.

(3) **To survey and document both the context of heritage items and the character of the different areas of the Municipality.** To isolate heritage items as areas to be protected from change and development and then to allow change and development immediately alongside a heritage item obviously renders the heritage item an anachronism.

The challenge is to protect both the heritage item and the conservation area as a whole. Both have listed status and need to be properly and fully recorded in the first instance to understand

(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 10)

their current morphology. Both need to be protected within meaningful contexts which can be protected and planned for once the survey is completed.

## PROPOSAL

The proposal is to undertake a complete physical and photographic survey of buildings within the Municipality of Hunters Hill. The process would be in two stages:

### (1) *Information gathering*

A current photographic record and physical description would be taken of every building within the local government area. Photographs would be taken on a digital camera to allow the images to be utilised directly in a computer data base. The physical description or survey sheet would adopt the same format and hence software currently in use by the State Heritage Inventory.

### (2) *Data entry*

The information collected would be entered into a computer data base that was linked with the Council's present GIS mapping system. Ease of access to up-to-date information about particular properties, their neighbours and streetscapes is thus provided to the general public, staff at Council and the Councillors. The use of the same programs as the SHI has the additional benefit of allowing the data collected to be freely available to different sources beyond the Hunters Hill local government area.

The Parramatta Regional Branch of the National Trust undertook a comparable housing survey of Parramatta's central business district and won a National Trust heritage award as a community project in 2001. The survey similarly comprised an information gathering process and a data entering process. The Branch devised their own software package, Perfect Pictures, together with Search Tech, but have subsequently been requested to transfer their information onto



## Green Book reprint shows most houses on local heritage schedule

When the third edition of *The Heritage of Hunters Hill* THE "Green Book" sold out in 2001 the Trust started work on a new study of the suburb's heritage environment, both built and natural. This will be a long job. We still had the camera-ready pages used to print the third edition and so the committee decided to use them for a reprint to meet the demand by residents who wanted a record of scheduled heritage buildings. The Hunters Hill Council's document *Schedule of Items of the Environmental Heritage* (Schedule 6, LEP No. 14) published in 1991 was prepared by Meredith Walker and Hector Abrahams in 1983 as part of the Hunters Hill Heritage Study. When you look at this reprint, bear in mind that it was substantially produced in 1982. When using this volume as a guide you will see that twenty years of tree growth has disguised many of the buildings. A few factual corrections have been made. A handful of pictures that have gone astray over the years have been replaced. For instance the original of Douglass Baglin's lovely cover picture could not be found. To retain the character of the volume a new picture was taken from approximately the same viewpoint on Figtree Bridge. Keen observers will note some changes along the river but the skyline is uncannily the same as it was in 1982. A heavier grade of paper was recommended by the printers. Centatime so the pictures present more finely and the book is bulkier. Recommended retail price is \$29.95 from selected bookshops, the Hunters Hill Post Office and the Hunters Hill Council. When ordering by post from the Trust, P.O. Box 85, Hunters Hill, 2110 please add \$8 for post and handling.

Meanwhile we hope you can make good use of this edition to enjoy, celebrate and defend your heritage. - *Gil Wahlquist*

State Heritage Inventory data sheets.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The heritage professional successful in their tender for the project would be supervised by a small committee of three persons. The committee would comprise

(1) Planning staff member from Hunters Hill Council - the 1st

point of contact on the application form.

(2) National Trust representative - Robyn Christie - the 2nd point of contact on the application form and also editor of 4th edition of the *Heritage of Hunters Hill*, and

(3) Hunters Hill Trust representative - Tony Coote, President, or Nicola Jackman, Vice-President.

## THE HUNTERS HILL TRUST INCORPORATED

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

### **Officers for 2000-2001**

President – Tony Coote; 9817 3466

Vice-president – Nicola Jackman  
Secretary – Len Condon, 9816 2796.

Treasurer – John Birch, 9816 4415.

Journal editor – Gil Wahlquist.  
Committee – Sally Gaunt, Robyn Christie, Stephen Ramsey, John Birch, Nicola Jackman, Brendan Stewart, Gil Wahlquist.

Committee meetings are held at 8 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Vienna Cottage,

**F**or some time now I have been contemplating the vision of what a contemporary struggle might be for our municipality. The small green booklet, "The Vision and the Struggle" is certainly a commendable historical document and it leaves us all proud of the work done over the last 40 odd years to preserve a part of the municipality. I draw our attention to the use of the description 'part of' because our municipality is indeed much bigger than that which is viewed and struggled over in this publication.

Gladesville, by way of example, is mentioned by name only three times. Twice in reference to Gladesville Road and once in regards an historical time, that is prior to the bridges and expressway complex when it was only possible to arrive in Hunters Hill via Gladesville.

A recent edition of the TWT compels me because here we are made aware, yet again of the possibility

## Perhaps it's time to claim Gladesville for Hunters Hill

of the municipality being absorbed into Ryde, and to cease being, as according to the mayor of Ryde: 'a puny barnacle on the back-side of Ryde'.

I am not at all convinced that to retreat behind the stone walls and the mature gardens and hope that a vision from 1972 can suffice in 2002 and will command the same respect from a much more diverse municipal community.

What I'd like to suggest to the Trust is to open up a community conversation that poses the possibility of imagining our municipality as bigger. Not by way of being absorbed, but rather by claiming for the locality all of Gladesville and all of Boronia Park. This would mean that the boundary begin as it does at Buffalo Creek Reserve and include all the roads adjacent to the reserve, turn up Cressy Road, across Victoria Road and down Charles Street to Kissling Point Park on the Parramatta River. With such a demographic area the municipality would be able to genuinely argue for a sustainable future.

Included here are substantial commercial properties, light industry, Hitech businesses, at least four other schools, the swimming com-

plex, Putney, all of the Gladesville shops and business district, the Boronia Park shops and businesses, and the historical homes and buildings along the Parramatta River including a number of identified aboriginal sites.

The case I am putting is to imagine the municipality as much more than a garden suburb museum. This particular version of the historical character of the district can't determine the vision for our community anymore. This doesn't mean that all of the work done to preserve precious historical sites and buildings would be put at risk, indeed I would think that a municipality more prosperous by way of greater economic diversity would be in a much better position to defend and enhance its uniqueness. And to mention as well, to put at the service of this greater municipality our expertise at safe guarding valuable open space, historical precincts and individual buildings. I'd even go so far as to suggest a change of name: the Municipality of Gladesville-Hunters Hill.

*- Brendon Stewart*

**The Annual General Meeting of  
the Hunters Hill Trust Incorporated will be held on  
Thursday, May 23, 2002 at 8 p.m.  
at the RSL Hall, Alexandra Street.**

### **Agenda**

**President's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Auditor's Report**

**Motions on proposed new constitution  
Election of Officers**

***Len Condon, Hon Secretary***