Mr and Mrs C. H. Oppen

3 Madeline Street

Hunter’s Hill, NSW 2110

February 18, 2015

The General Manager

Hunter’s Hill Council

P.O. Box 21, Hunter’s Hill 2110

For the General Manager:

We are concerned to hear of the possibility of losing more urban green space, due to pressure on the management of Boronia Park. At the very time when climate change is becoming widely evident, to allow replacement of green open space with built structure and further vehicle intrusion in parkland would be a ‘planning’ irony. The Draft Plan of Council’s consultants recognises some important aspects. of the nature of Boronia Park.

Management of the Royal Botanic Gardens is the current ‘horrible example’ (to use Charles Dickens’ phrase). Established with vision, the RBG has been a vital public service, a delightful refuge and lungs of Sydney. Now new management has been imposed by a State Government which seems intent on privatising ever greater proportions of public green space into buildings.

If parks paid for themselves, they never would have been set up by governments. A park should be able to be a park. Indeed, this is its greatest benefit to all and is the reason Boronia Park exists and is heritage-listed.

If the Municipality wishes to provide Rugby facilities and parking, that should be done on land which is not intrinsic parkland, such as along streets and verges.

We submit that:

1. Boronia Park contains and is contiguous with sensitive bushland and core habitat areas. Respect for this value should have highest priority.
2. Recreation areas should be accessible to all, with no alienation of facilities for use by groups by lease or other exclusive arrangement.
3. Lighting must not extend to streets or bushland, particularly must not affect wildlife or on-coming traffic or private property.

Sincerely yours,

(Conrad H. Oppen and Alice M. A. Oppen)

cc. The Hunter’s Hill Trust

the Boronia Part Alliance