

Hunters Hill Trust Journal

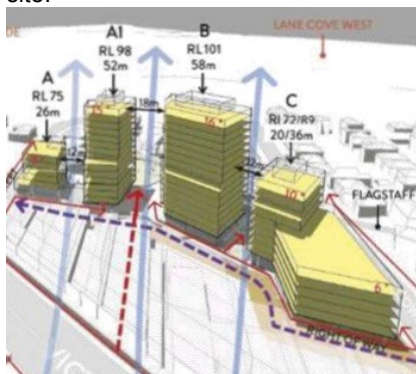
AUGUST 2017 ISN 0310-11 Volume 55, Number 1



A new location and use for 10 Cowell Street? Let's hope not!

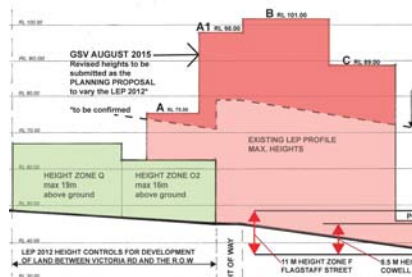
BORONIA PARK AND GLADESVILLE SHOPPING VILLAGE

Despite the physical differences, there is an interesting connection between the two heritage items, Boronia Park and No 10 Cowell Street. The connection relates to the recently approved Planning Proposal (PP), which allows significant increases of the current Floor Space Ratio (FSR) and height controls in the Hunters Hill Local Environment Plan (LEP) so that the developer can proceed with a very much larger development on the Gladesville Shopping Village (GSV) site.



The approved PP

The increases in density in the new planning controls compared to the original LEP are in dark red in the diagram below.



The Planning Proposal was approved by the NSW Department of Planning following a Pre-Gateway Review by the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel, which included Hunters Hill representatives, Greg Patch (Council's Heritage Advisor) and former mayor Sue Hoopmann.

Relocation of No 10 Cowell St
Included in the Gateway Determination are a number of conditions relating to

the provision of public open space, retention of the existing amount of commercial floor space and the provision of a revised traffic impact assessment. Condition 1 (d) is "reference relocation of the heritage item at 10 Cowell Street to a *site owned by Council.*"

So, where on earth could this building be relocated? Why, of course, let's put it in Boronia Park and kill two birds with one sausage – a place for this building, which Council washed its hands of, and an on-site clubhouse for the local rugby team. This is clearly a win-win solution.

Design excellence

Clause 1(c) of the Gateway Determination requires the proposal to only be allowed the additional floor space ratio and building height, "if the development exhibits **design excellence**". However, who is to be the aesthetic arbiter is not set out.

A bad result for the community

The increase in density and height is a bad result for the community. Existing residents in the vicinity of the new development will be incredibly inconvenienced and badly affected in the long term by this proposal.

AMALGAMATION UPDATE STOP PRESS

On Thursday 27 July 2017 the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian announced that her government was walking away from its policy of merging those Councils that have challenges to amalgamation still unresolved by the courts. This means that 14 Councils that were to be amalgamated into 5 new Councils will not be merged.

The non-merging will apply to
*Hunters Hill, Lane Cove & Ryde
*Hornsby & Ku-ring-gai
*Canada Bay, Strathfield & Burwood
*Willoughby, North Sydney & Mosman
*Woollahra, Waverley & Randwick

For those Councils opposing amalgamation and for all their supporters it would seem to be, at least in the short term, a victory.

Continued on page 2



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Publications

Heritage of Hunters Hill \$15
The Vision and the Struggle \$15
Members discount 25%

MEMBERSHIP

The Trust welcomes everyone interested in preserving the unique character of Hunters Hill to become a member.

Single membership \$30
Family membership \$50

Contact the secretary to join or download a form from the website.

AMALGAMATION UPDATE *continued from page 1*

Whether or not that victory is a Pyrrhic one remains to be seen.

As stated in the President's report to the May 2017 AGM: *The Trust recognizes that Trust members and residents have differing views about Hunters Hill Council and the amalgamation issue. There is no consensus. We respect the fact that our members will have come to their own conclusions about the issue.*

At the time of the AGM, which was just over two months ago, the Premier confirmed that her government was committed to pursuing Council mergers in Sydney. We wondered then whether the government could maintain its resolve. We now know that it has been incapable of doing so.

As we predicted, the media is highlighting the fact that *those leading the anti-amalgamation fight against a Liberal government are all from the wealthiest suburbs in rock-solid Liberal electorates.*

Hunters Hill, with 14,000 residents and by far the smallest Council, has been compared unfavourably with the newly-merged Canterbury Council, which has 360,000 residents. Some have called it *Government by postcode.*

Because of the ill-considered implementation of the merger process, we now have a situation where newly-merged Councils are struggling with a range of quite predictable problems. For example, the new Inner West Council is dealing with such things as:

- Most of the money allocated by the State Government to facilitate the process has been spent on redundancy payouts.
- The merged Council is now running a massive deficit.
- None of the existing premises are large enough to house the staff, who are now spread over multiple premises with many having to travel between the various offices for meetings.

The partial merger back-down is part of a growing list of failed initiatives and poorly considered planning decisions perpetrated by the NSW Government.

Whether you are a dyed-in-the-wool supporter of Hunters Hill Council, a rabid critic or indifferent, there is no question that the NSW State Government has, once again, proved to be incompetent at governing. The amalgamation initiative has been a complete schemozzle.

THE TRUST MEETS ANTHONY ROBERTS, MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

It has proved ironic that on July 20th, just a week before the no-merger announcement, The Trust had a meeting with The Hon. Anthony Roberts, who, as well as being our local member and the Leader of the Government in the house, is the Minister for Planning and the Environment.

There was nary a whisper of what was to come. Instead we spoke of matters planning and development, including the Gladesville Shopping Village (GSV).



Another view of the GSV PP

The GSV development is now typical of what is happening all over Sydney.

The Trust has made a number of submissions to the NSW government recently about initiatives the government has taken in relation to planning and development in NSW.

The issues canvassed included the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC), The Revised Housing Code and the Revised Medium Density Housing Code, as well as our specific concerns regarding the GSV.

Our main issues in relation to these proposals related to the position of heritage in the government's thinking, the lack of concern for residents' rights in having a say about what gets built in their neighbourhoods and the need to ensure that existing neighbourhoods are respected.

We also raised the issues around the impact of high-rise residential living on health, the unplanned population growth that is driving the development boom and the issue of housing investment that has resulted in one million houses Australia-wide being uninhabited. This translates into 200,000 unused houses in Sydney.

It is apparent that we are living through a rerun of the 1950s when progress with a capital P was the driving force. The government seems hell-bent on making it easier for developers to build and more difficult for locals to object. In the process heritage has become, once more, an impediment to progress.

We prepared an illustrated a power- point presentation and showed that at the Ministerial meeting.

As well as Anthony Roberts, Carolyn McNally, the secretary of the Department of Environment and Planning was present and clearly interested in our input.

We pointed to the need for stronger heritage protections to combat the loss of heritage across Sydney, together with the fact that most heritage listings have not been updated for decades. We provided examples of local items lost and under threat and noted Thompson Square at Windsor, which is under threat of destruction by the RMS for a major road and new bridge.

Concern was raised at the current juggernaut of poor development taking place across Greater Sydney. We made the point that current planning solutions are sledgehammer in their approach, with blanket re-zonings creating poor outcomes - and that most of what is being built in the current development rush, particularly the high-density, is ugly and badly located along high-traffic, heavily polluted roadways with toxic air quality, traffic noise and safety concerns.

People that are in 'urban growth' precincts or areas slated for 'densification' feel under siege. Communities are being destroyed and social dysfunction will follow from the poor quality of the developments without good civic design.



Victoria Rd Drummoyne

We referenced the numerous studies that indicate the detrimental health outcomes for people living in high-rise along transport corridors and The Department of Planning and Environment's own *Interim Guideline for development near rail corridors and busy roads*.

As well as these health studies, there are now many longitudinal studies that show that high-rise dwellings are not conducive to strong community outcomes and they are generally not environmentally friendly.

We also included a link to the Glasgow kids' Jeely Piece Song, about living in high-rise housing - see column 3.

A proposal to the Minister

In order to protect heritage there needs to be a mechanism to do so. In the UK, funding is available from the Heritage Lottery. There is very little funding or support available to preserve heritage in NSW.

There is funding for new infrastructure, schools, hospitals, roads, but there is nowhere near this funding for culture, environment and the arts.

The formerly named Historic Houses Trust began a project (no longer operational) that could have a lasting effect if rolled out through Councils. That project is the 'Endangered Houses Fund' - see: <http://blogs.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/ehf/>

Take for example, the historically important house at 18 Richmond Crescent, which was featured as being "under threat" in the last journal - see also an update later in this journal. With the encouragement of a grant from a scheme like the "Endangered Houses Fund", a sympathetic owner could buy this little house and have it sympathetically restored, adapted or developed appropriately, protected with heritage recognition and then sold to enable the profits to then be cycled into another property.

This, combined with stronger protections and mandatory notifications by real estate agents when a property is to be sold, would go some way towards assisting with preservation of places that are important to local communities. The notion could be extended to encompass a broader 'Endangered Places Fund'. We would be very pleased to meet again to discuss this idea and how it might work.

The Trust got a good hearing from the Minister and the Secretary - let's hope that some of what we discussed turns into action. **The power point presentation is now online at huntershilltrust.org.au**

HIGH RISE HOUSING



Glasgow high rise

The State Government's push to increase housing densities and building heights across Metropolitan Sydney not only ignores the health impacts of living in proximity to main roads and the inability of existing infrastructure to cope with the ever expanding population (Anthony Roberts said population was "a Federal Matter"), it also is inhumane.

The Jeely Piece Song

This is a song sung by Glasgow children in response to living in high-rise housing. It illustrates just one of the many disadvantages of living more than four stories above the ground.

*I'm a sky scraper wean, I live on the nineteenth floor.
But I'm no goin' oot tae play any more.
'Cause since we moved to oor new house I'm wastin' away.
For I'm getting one meal less every day.
Chorus
Oh ye canna fling pieces oot a twenthy story flat.
Seven hundred hungry weans will testify to that.
If it's butter, cheese or jeely, if the bread is plain or pan
The odds against it reaching us is ninety-nine to one.*

*On the first day my Maw flung oot a daud o' havis broon.
It came skitting oot the windae and went up instead o' doon.
Noo e'vry twenty seven hours it comes back into sight.
Cause my piece went into orbit and became a satellite.
On the next day my Maw flung me oot a piece again.
It went up and hit a pilot in a fast, low flying plane.
He scrapped it off his goggles shouting through the intercom
The Clydeside Reds have got me wi' a breid 'n jelly bomb.*

*On the third day my Maw tho't she would try another throw
The Salvation Army band was standin' doon below.
'Onward Christian Soldiers' was the tune they played.
But the Oompah man was playing piece 'n marmalade.*

*We wrote away to Oxfam to try an' get some aid.
We all joined together to form a Piece Brigade.
We're gonna march to London tae demand our civil rights.
Like nae more hooses over piece flinging height.*

Jeely Piece Glossary

Jeely piece - bread and jelly sandwich

Wean - child

Clydeside Reds – working class unionists behind the Glasgow Rent Strike of 1915

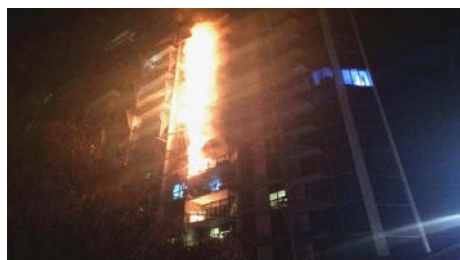
DEATH BY DESIGN



Grenfell Tower fire London

The Grenfell Tower fire in London caused the death of 80 people and the homelessness of the survivors together with the loss of everything they owned. This tragedy highlights the lack of care for the community, particularly the poor, and the avaricious greed of developers hell-bent on squeezing the last cent of profit out of their endeavours.

The illegal use of flammable cladding material that allowed the fire to spread so fast is not limited to London.



Lacrosse apartment fire Docklands, Victoria

Similar combustible cladding caused the 2014 fire in the Lacrosse building in Melbourne's Docklands that resulted in more than \$2 million worth of damage and the evacuation of 500 people.

The latest estimate is that around 1,000 high-rise buildings in Sydney may contain this incredibly dangerous cladding. This is yet another symptom of the current overriding philosophy behind so much of government at all levels in Australia today: "Greed is Good". It's distinctly Orwellian.

BORONIA PARK UPDATE

Plan of Management ignored

Works at Boronia Park are proceeding but it seems the original Plan of Management (PoM) has been lost, because things are not proceeding according to plan.

Newly-elected Trust President, Alistair Sharp, wrote to Council on 14 June about our concerns. At the time of writing we have received neither a reply from Council nor an acknowledgement of our letter.

We raised three issues – the *Looped Walking Track*, the *Princes Street access road* and *A suggestion for the future implementation of the PoM*.

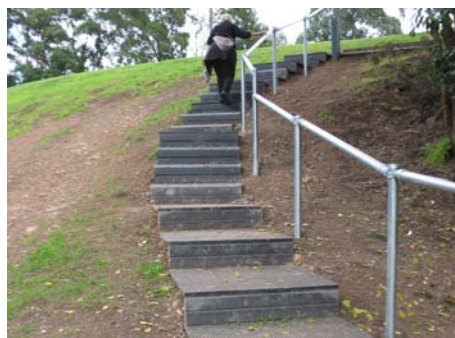
The Looped Walking Track

Parts of the looped walking track have been constructed using inappropriate fill of loose mulch, which makes it a trip hazard and quite unstable. It is already being washed away.



Track wash-away

Other new track work includes a gravel surface on the path between ovals 2 and 3 that is uncomfortable to walk on and wheel chair inaccessible. The path is too narrow and the new steps, which are constructed out of yet another material (ie lacking consistency with any overall aesthetic), do not even comply with BCA stair standards.



Non-complying steps

The Princes St Access Road

The PoM included the replacement of the lower part of the existing asphalt street because it "detracts from natural bushland atmosphere of site for walkers" with a 3m meandering trail and low indigenous vegetation to sides and improved swale to assist with storm water sediment control". Instead, here's what was done.

Not only this, but the lack of any overall coordinated design for work done in this extremely important Council-managed



The so-called "meandering track"

heritage item is apparent everywhere one looks. Once again, Hunters Hill Council has shown itself to be particularly clueless when it comes to design excellence and insensitive to the requirements of responsible management of its own heritage.

We have previously railed against the poor design of the shed at Weil Park and the lost opportunity to make something good (see HHT Journal May 2013). In the May 2012 and October 2012 Journals we took Council to task about the protracted work on Oval No 3 in Boronia Park and the poor management of the process.

This proved to be prescient, as the finished work does not drain properly and is subject to an expensive restitution program.

Other examples of poor design in Boronia Park include the random placement of the new, cream picnic shelters and benches.



Picnic shelter at the end of Princes St



"Why don't we do it in the road?"

The placement of the shelter at the end of Princes St is a blot on the riverscape and

its highly reflective roof gives off an unsightly glare, whose negative impact is doubled by its reflection in the river.

The location of the shelter halfway down Princes St is simply bizarre.

To add insult to injury, the simple, existing signage announcing "Boronia Park" has been replaced with a kitsch, self-important stone wall. This is the sibling of the sign at Mapledoram's corner announcing that one has arrived in "Hunters Hill", which could be somewhat confusing for a stranger who has come up the off-ramp from the expressway and is heading west.



Boronia Park kitsch



What's wrong with the old sign?

Heritage and Conservation Advice

As Hunters Hill residents will be aware, if you own a property that is heritage-listed and/or is in a conservation area, you need to submit a Development Application for anything except the most minor work to your property. Often such a DA will be referred to Council's Conservation Advisory Panel (CAP) for expert advice.

None of the work in Boronia Park was submitted to CAP.

Our Recommendations

- Rebuild paths that are uncomfortable to walk on and/or are being washed away.
- Rebuild non-complying steps to make the going easier.
- Reconstruct the road in accordance with the PoM.

- Reconsider the placement of objects and furniture in the park and get some advice on appropriate siting.
- At the very least, paint the picnic shelters in "dark recessive" colours in accordance with the DCP that applies to heritage works in Hunters Hill.
- Remove the kitsch stonewall and sign and replace it with the old sign.

Future co-ordination

- Implement the PoM's suggestion for the establishment of Stake Holder Working Group Meetings.
- Utilise Council's expert committee by running the details of proposals past CAP.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 30 2017

The Annual General Meeting, the 49th since the founding of the Trust, was held at the RSL Hall. The following were elected unopposed to the new executive committee for 2017-8

President	Alister Sharp
Vice President	Tony Coote
Secretary	Brigid Dowsett
Treasurer	Justin Parry-Okeden
Committee	Gully Coote
	Maureen Flowers
	David Gaunt
	Caroline Mackaness
	Karen Presland

The outgoing president, Tony Coote, expressed our special thanks to Kate Russell, who has stepped down from formal committee membership but has agreed to continue to be the webmaster and to attend meetings. Kate does terrific work as the webmaster and the website is becoming more and more important as the way we communicate with our members and the wider community.

The Trust welcomed Karen Presland to the committee. Karen is no newcomer to The Trust. She has been actively involved in our Walks Program and has volunteered to take the lead in updating The Green Book for next year's 50th anniversary. Karen is a member of the generation of Trust members who were born after 1968, The Trust's foundation year.

Angela Phippen – Researching your house history

The guest speaker was Angela Phippen, Local Studies and Family History Librarian, Ryde Library, a position she has held for 13 years. Previously, she was the librarian at the Society of Australian Genealogists. Angela has varied research interests, including NSW divorce records, Chinese

market gardeners in and around the Ryde area and the house-naming practices during and after the First World War.

Angela gave a really interesting illustrated talk on the topic 'Researching your House History', noting particularly that she is a willing resource for those wanting to look at their own house histories

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Justin Parry-Okeden submitted his report to the meeting, which was adopted unanimously. Justin explained that, after getting legal advice, the committee has adopted a policy of making, where appropriate, donations to like-minded organisations up to a cap of half the cash surplus of the preceding year.

In a nutshell, our finances are looking healthy, with net assets of just over \$35,000. There was an apparent decrease in membership fees, which was due to an expected pre-payment of dues in the prior period and had been anticipated.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is an edited version of the report given by outgoing president Tony Coote. The times are moving so quickly that some things are already out of date.

I've been president for 10 of the last 20 years, so it's definitely time for fresh blood and renewal. It's with great pleasure that I welcome Alister Sharp as our new president. I wish him all the best in these very interesting times.

The Trust's Golden Anniversary

On New Years day 1968, 95 citizens, concerned about the rampant destruction of Hunters Hill, came to a public meeting at the Hunters Hill RSL Hall - this very place. There was standing room only. 3 days later, on January 4th 1968, 11 residents met at Peter Elkin's house at No 2 North Parade.

This was the first meeting of The Hunters Hill Trust and January 4th 2018 will be its 50th anniversary. The committee is exploring a number of ways to commemorate this milestone.

Despite a number of significant achievements over the last 50 years, we are still grappling with many of the same issues. As well, we are now having to address wider issues that impact not just on our tiny Municipality and the wider metropolitan area, but on the planet as a whole.

The State Government and Local affairs

In Reg Martin and Richard Temple's history of the first 20 years of The Trust, *The Vision and the Struggle*, there is a vivid description of the disquiet in the community in the late 1960s, disquiet caused by the demolition of a number of fine stone buildings that were replaced with ugly 3-storey home-unit blocks.

The construction of the Lane Cove expressway at the time resulted in the demolition of St Malo and Mary Reiby's cottage, two highly significant heritage buildings. The expressway cut the Municipality in half and caused the relocation of St Marks Church.

Back then, the State Government was not at all interested in the concerns of residents who watched on as their unique local heritage, character and amenity was bulldozed to the ground.

Today, the NSW State Government continues its push to take over the last bits of planning and regulation that are still in the hands of Local Government. The latest proposal is to remove planning powers from Councils for developments that are over a certain size.

These will now be assessed by Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels (IHAPs).

All this is to say nothing of the State Government's Bio-Diversity Act, which will allow an increase in wholesale rural land clearing. On top of this is the Federal Government's failure to do anything about really pressing matters such as the urgent need to restrict carbon emissions in order to reduce Global Warming and its various consequences, including sea level rise and everything that will flow from that.

This last will have a particular impact on Hunters Hill. A map published in the Sydney Morning Herald last Tuesday (available from coastalrisk.com.au) shows the predicted high water mark in 2100, that is when a child born this year will be 83 years old.

In Hunters Hill, the Tarban Creek playing fields will be under water, as will the oval and tennis courts at Hunters Hill High School.

Amalgamation

See page 1 for an update.

The forced amalgamation of local Councils is yet another example of the State Government's push to take over planning control from local government and to continue to diminish its relevance.

Membership

This year we welcomed 9 new members. 12 single members and 6 family members did not renew their memberships. Some have moved from their current addresses and we have lost contact.

Including 92 un-financial members, we have 390 members, which is made up of 165 individual members and 225 family members. Family members are calculated by assuming that each family membership represents 3 people.

Last year we had 428 members. So our membership is on the wane. I'm not sure what this really means but it does seem to represent a trend. Certainly our membership is ageing and this is definitely a factor.

Website

The website is increasingly important to the way The Trust communicates with the membership and the wider community. It is also a repository for the history of The Trust via its trove of publications and documents from the last 50 years.

Email List

If your email address is not on file, please let us know. This is an important way for us to make contact and keep members in touch with goings-on.

Publications

I have been putting out the journal for the last six years and will continue the job this year. We are committed to publishing two journals a year. A subcommittee has been working on the digitising various Trust publications and already some are available as free downloads from the web. See page 8 for news of a new edition of the *Green Book*.

Working with Council

The Trust continues to be represented on a number of Council committees including:

- *Tony Coote: The Conservation Advisory Panel (CAP)*
- *Alister Sharp: The Public Transport and Traffic Advisory Committee*
- *Brigid Dowsett: The Bushland Management Committee*

Brigid reports that Hunters Hill Council is fortunate to have a number of keen bushcare volunteers working regularly in its many bushland reserves such as Kellys Bush, Ferdinand Street, Boronia Park and Riverglade Reserve. Many of these volunteers are Trust members. There are also several Trust members on the Bushland Management Working Group which meets quarterly at Council.

This group assists the Bushland Management Co-ordinator by reporting on relevant local issues and offering advice on Plans of Management and Community Education Programs. Of particular importance recently have been legislative and policy changes affecting biodiversity, weed management strategy and retention of our local trees. Proposed regulations via the Biodiversity Act will lead to the removal of Council's Tree Preservation Orders and weakened native vegetation protection through a new State Environmental Planning Policy.

Alister Sharp, who is our Traffic Committee rep, has only just got back from a bike trip in England and is still getting his breath back. His report will have to wait for another day.

Conservation Advisory Panel

I can report, as I did last year, that we have had mixed success. The controls on heritage in Hunters Hill are not strong, even when a place is a heritage item. A house that is not listed, even in a Conservation Area, is not guaranteed protection.

An example of this is the P and O style house at 48 Mary Street. Though it was featured as "heritage under threat" in the November 2016 Journal and was the subject of a Trust Submission, it has now been demolished (see page 8 for what replaced it).

A Trust member took issue with me as their representative on CAP because of the Panel's recommendation in support of proposed work to the house next door to him. I pointed out that the Panel is only an advisory body and that its advice is limited to matters that affect the heritage value of listed items and the character of the Conservation Areas.

The Panel does not comment on planning matters such as solar access, boundary setbacks, floor space ratio etc. Trust members can be reassured that there is considerable heritage experience on the Panel and that its recommendations are well considered.

Reports And Submissions

During the year The Trust has made a number of submissions to Council and State authorities. We have attended meetings of the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) as well as citizens' organisations such as the Better Planning Network and The Total Environment Centre. In our submission to the GSC we applauded its ambition to create great places for people to live. However we

could not find anything in their publicity material about heritage and conservation and the essential place these must take when planning the built and natural environs of Sydney.

The Planning Proposal for the Gladesville Shopping Village is yet another example of the State Government taking planning powers away from local government – see the update on page 1.

Joubert St Childcare Centre for 98 children

The Trust opposed this proposal, arguing that it was too big. Following a deemed refusal by Council, the matter went to the Land and Environment Court. The Trust addressed the court when it convened on site. Subsequently the Court approved a revised scheme, which reduced the number of staff from 17 to 14 and the number of kids by 10 to 88. This was not considered a victory by residents in the immediate vicinity.

HH Council and tree pruning

On behalf of an owner of a heritage-listed house, we wrote to Council questioning the need for a Development Application to prune a tree. We argued that it is counter-productive to require this level of oversight of what is basic maintenance. This is not required for non-listed places. We should be encouraging the owners of heritage, rather than making life more difficult for them.

Various other submissions

In brief we have made submissions on a number of other issues including:

- The demolition of the P and O house at 48 Mary St – this was unsuccessful.
- The Revised Medium Density Housing Code, which will allow medium density housing to be considered “complying development” and to be overseen by private certifiers with no requirement to notify any neighbours.
- I wrote to a new neighbour freshly arrived in Hunters Hill from overseas advising them of all the various controls that apply to their place. We sent this on to Council with the idea it might form a template to send to all newcomers to the area.
- We have also made a start on producing a how-to guide for residents wanting to challenge inappropriate development in their vicinity.
- We wrote objecting to the extension of the Hunters Hill Hotel’s trading hours. Council refused the DA. The pub’s appeal was subsequently rejected by the Land and Environment Court.

Christmas Party

Thank you so much to Trust members Barbara and Nick Dorsch for hosting the 2016 Christmas party at their house in Gale Street Woolwich. It was a great evening and such a pleasure and privilege to be in beautiful downtown Woolwich in a fine heritage-listed house.

WALKS AND EVENTS

Maureen Flowers



Gladesville Hospital walk

A stimulating walks schedule over 2016 saw us exploring more fascinating areas of Hunters Hill, including the heritage cottages of Batemans Road, the industrial village of Woolwich and the buildings and surrounds of the Marist Brothers Estate, new to many of our walkers.

Our 2017 program got off to a flying start with a lively bushwalk in Boronia Park, followed by a heritage walk along The Point Road and Werambie Street, where we were able to see some of the impressive homes up close.

In April we enjoyed a leisurely boat trip on the heritage wooden boat, The Regal, sailing along the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers and viewing many of our most famous houses from the water. Some wonderful commentary by a few of our longer-term members gave us fascinating insights into past and present struggles to protect our heritage and environment.

In addition to our remaining program of walks, we’re considering other events for the remainder of the year including a guided walk around Cockatoo Island and more interesting talks like the one we will be having this evening.

The April walk saw us exploring the interesting heritage of The Point Road including ‘Clunes’ the Federation home that housed the Woolwich Chemical Co, ‘Vineta’ the beautifully preserved former home of the Austro-Hungarian Consul and an amazing Regency patterned weatherboard villa at Werambie Street.

We were delighted that the owners of these important properties very kindly allowed us to wander through their grounds.

Our annual Gladesville Hospital walk in May was held on another perfect day which allowed us magnificent views of the river along the way. We took a leisurely stroll through the historic grounds of the hospital, through the surrounding bush and down onto the sandy shoreline. We saw the latest upgrades to the boatshed area near the Oval and followed the tracks through the bush and out onto Punt Road.

Our highly informative June walk on ‘The Bridging of Hunters Hill’ took us around the three bridges built in the 60’s, Figtree, Tarban and Gladesville. This was a fascinating account of the impact that these projects had on the local area and the devastating losses of the “missing 100+ houses” including the important heritage items of St Malo, Mary Reiby’s cottage and Figtree Chapel.

Editor’s note: None of these walks would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our volunteer guides, freely giving of their time and expertise. We owe huge thanks to Len Dowsett, Brigid Dowsett, Karen Presland, Alister Sharp and Maureen Flowers.

GUIDED WALKS COMING UP

Sunday 27 August

Field of Mars Reserve

Sunday 24 September

Mort Docks & Clarke’s Point

Sunday 5 November

Jacaranda walk

HERITAGE UNDER THREAT UPDATE



18 Richmond Crescent

Council refused the DA to demolish this house and replace it with a large new house. The owners have appealed and the appeal comes to the Land and Environment Court in September.



11 Mark St

Over the last few years, the Trust has actively campaigned to save this small workers cottage that its owner, St Joseph's Collage, had allowed to fall into gross disrepair. In the last journal we reported that a recently approved DA included restoration of the cottage. **Imagine our surprise when we saw this**



The demolition of the cottage was included in the DA documents approved by Council. The unfortunate need for this level of rebuilding is a result of years of deliberate neglect by its owners.

48 Mary St



Before



After

These photos speak for themselves.

HERITAGE RESTORED



The unsympathetic timber extension to the original stone wall at Wingadee, 20 Woolwich Road has been removed.

HOUSE STORY

Redruth, No 40 Ryde Road

This simple weatherboard cottage is a time capsule of an earlier age. While the exterior has changed, with its open verandahs being enclosed, much of its interior remains untouched from when it was first occupied.

The house has just been sold but its most recent owner, who will be 97 in August, was only 3 when her family moved into the house, which was built by her father and named Redruth after the village in Devon where he came from. She remembers Mary Street, which the house backs onto, as a dirt track where they used to play cricket.

Hopes for a sympathetic restoration of Redruth rest entirely with the new owner, as the house is not heritage listed.



The backyard



Living Room

THE HERITAGE OF HUNTERS HILL A new edition in the pipeline

To commemorate The Trust's 50th anniversary we are updating our most important and influential publication, the 'Heritage Of Hunters Hill' (aka the Green Book). We also want to include additional entries that were missed.

The Green Book and the work done by Trust members in producing the information were possibly the most important factors in the establishment of the current Schedule 5 heritage listings in Hunters Hill's Local Environment Plan.

The last edition was published in 2002 and contains information on 270+ houses as well as 100+ Hunters Hill identities. You can visit our website and click on the "New Green Book" tag to check out our progress.

Share your Story - we are interested in sourcing any additional information about the heritage of Hunters Hill.

- Is your house already listed?
- Is that information complete and correct?
- Some valuable heritage buildings have not yet been included in earlier editions. Do you live in such a house?
- Do you have additional information about the heritage of Hunters Hill that could be included in a new print and/or online version?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, please either email or write to us so we can improve our valuable community resource.

MISSING HERITAGE



Here is a photo of just one of a number of houses in Hillcrest Avenue, Gladesville that deserve to be listed in Schedule 5 of the LEP. It is a good example of the *missing heritage* that could be included in the updated Green Book.