***A Valuable, Enduring Trust***

Since I moved to Hunters Hill in 1977 and Alice Oppen kindly introduced Sean and me to Douglass and Elaine Baglin, I have been proud to be associated with the Trust and to contribute to its cause. It’s been the most worthwhile and rewarding voluntary work that I have undertaken.

It is unfortunate that, it is only when there is an immediate threat to the place that the foot soldiers rise *en masse* to defend Hunters Hill. The rest of the time the valiant Committee carries the load, and has carried it for a very long time. Ask people at random about the Trust and you will find that the general public do not realise that Hunters Hill would not be what it is today but for the Trust. I documented some of this in my book *Hunter’s Hill: Australia's Oldest Garden Suburb* with illustrations by Douglass Baglin. In the course of my research I saw, for example, A V Jennings’ plans for high-rise in Kelly’s Bush.

Recently Sean and I visited an interesting heritage site, *Bella Vista Farm* in the Hills Shire, the remains of one of the MacArthur family's pastoral holdings. It is well worth a visit, but all around it, the suburb of Bella Vista and more widely the Hills Shire are chock-a-block with development – light industry, commercial, residential, including high-rise – and the traffic is horrendous! Coming home to the suburb of Hunters Hill was like returning to a country village. A former neighbour and Trust member mentioned that she and her friends growing up here took the place for granted. Only today, coming back from time to time, does she really appreciate it.

Like Alice and Ros, I have done a stint on the Trust’s Committee. Today I hope I’m a kind of *de facto* Committee member in so far as I keep my eyes peeled for what is going on over the east side, both good and bad, currently the Catholic Church’s impudent plan to subdivide St Peter Chanel.

Best wishes to you all – “Not fare well / But fare forward, voyagers”!

 ***Beverley Sherry***

13 June 2018