



Hunters Hill Trust Journal

VOL. 2 NO. 3, NOVEMBER, 1973.

W. BUNNING AT GENERAL MEETING

One of the Rocks Authority's most distinguished members has been invited to speak at the Trust's General Meeting on November 13th.

Mr. Walter Bunning L/F.R.A.I.A., F.R.A.P.I., is an architect and town planner with many significant projects to his credit including the National Library in Canberra.

He will address Trust members and residents of Hunters Hill on the values of the Rocks scheme and outline the Authority's aims and achievements. Recent activities at the Rocks have sparked a new wave of publicity and November 13 should prove an interesting evening with the audience gaining proper information from someone in a responsible position.

Mr. Bunning's knowledge of town planning and related fields has resulted in his appointment, during recent years, as a Commissioner on the Paddington, Moore Park and Myall Lakes enquiries.

The meeting commences in the Hunters Hill Town Hall at 8 p.m. and all residents are urged to attend.

TOWN PLAN

The Town Plan for Hunters Hill long awaited by all residents, will go on public display on November 5th.

In the interest of your future with Hunters Hill as your home, everyone should inspect this vital document.

The time for viewing prior to the plan's return to the State Planning Authority, is 90 days.

See it this week!

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Your Municipal Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present at the meeting are Municipal officers together with the nine representatives YOU elected to office.

The public gallery is open to all residents and attendance is very welcome. Why not find out about local activities by calling in.

Your Alderman will thank you.

HOUSE INSPECTION THIS MONTH

Visitors will have an opportunity on Sunday, November 11th, of inspecting three interesting Hunters Hill homes, two old and one new, as well as the gardens of "Clifton" at No. 7 Woolwich Road.

The inspection is being arranged by the Hunters Hill Trust Auxiliary.

The three homes are at No. 2 North Parade, 66 Alexandra Street and 77 Alexandra Street.

The new home, that of Mr. & Mrs. J. Cummins at 77 Alexandra Street, has an old look, having been built of sandstone bricks in the pioneer style with French doors leading from each room on to a wide verandah.

No. 2 North Parade, "Woodbank", the home of Dr. & Mrs. Scrivener, is one of three original one storey stone cottages built in a row in North Parade, which in later years have each had a second storey added. Dr. & Mrs. Scrivener have made many alterations to their home in the five years they have lived there, combining old stone and antiquity with modern conveniences.

Mrs. Hayes home at 66 Alexandra Street, is a restored stone cottage which demonstrates her flair for interior decorating.

Mr. & Mrs. Howie regret that their home "Clifton" will not be opened for inspection as they have sold this property and will be moving on the 12th November. This will be the last opportunity to see the grounds and gardens of "Clifton" before it is sub-divided.

The Hunters Hill Gallery, opposite the Garibaldi Inn, on the corner of Alexandra and Ferry Streets, will be open. On display will be some interesting photos of this building over the years.

Tickets at \$2 per person for the House Inspection can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Box 85 P.O., Hunters Hill, or by calling at the Trust Centre on Saturdays, November 3rd and 10th.

General Meeting
November 13
8 p.m.
Hunters Hill Town Hall
See You There

OUR NATIONAL ESTATE

The Trust has recently completed extensive studies in preparing three submissions for the Committee of Enquiry into the National Estate.

On October 24th, Dr. Coulman, Vice President, Mrs. Oppen and Mr. Sheffer, Secretary, appeared before the Committee, representing the Trust.

The Submissions presented were:

1. A Sydney Harbour Foreshores National Park.
2. Oil and Water.
3. The Acquisition of the historic building "The Garibaldi Inn", for the National Trust.

1. This document is concerned with the already widely canvassed idea of a Sydney Harbour Foreshores National Park.

It is contended that establishment of a National Park embracing the entire foreshores of Sydney Harbour and adjoining waterways should be regarded as an aim of national significance. It is further recommended that all activity, current or proposed, which could further prejudice the achievement of such a National Park be frozen immediately.

A worthwhile National Park in Sydney will literally be "incredibly difficult to continue" unless urgent national investments are made to prevent the alienation of certain valuable areas of foreshore which are threatened by commercial, industrial and government plans for "development" and highway construction.

An ideal basic structure on which to build a Sydney Harbour Foreshores National Park, would comprise a continuous broadwalk at or about high-tide level, giving public access to the whole of the foreshores of Sydney Harbour and adjoining waterways.

It is recommended that -

- a) The Australian Government should take the initiative in the creation of a Sydney Harbour Foreshores National Park.
- b) The Committee of Enquiry should consider the establishment of a Joint Committee of National, State and Municipal representatives to work on details of composition and management of this National Park.
- c) Further alienation of suitable lands should be prevented forthwith.

Foreshore areas with National Park potential include Boronia Park; Lane Cove River Foreshore; Several small sections near to Fig Tree Bridge, Reiby Road, Ferdinand Street, Vernon Street and Northumberland Road; Gladesville Reserve; Kelly's Bush Foreshore; and Clarke's Point (State purchase intended).

The large foreshore area of some 10 hectares (26 acres) currently in use as an oil depot by Mobil Oil Australia, might become available of long term plans to move all oil terminals out of Sydney Harbour are eventually implemented.

This leads us to our next submission - Oil and Water - which concerns the effect of the Mobil Oil Depot on the environment of Hunters Hill.

2. Sydney Harbour and its foreshores are polluted significantly by the presence of four major oil installations: Mobil at Hunters Hill; Shell at Greenwich; Caltex at Balmain and B.P. at Gore Bay. It is the Trust's contention, as the State Government foreshadowed years ago, that these industrial complexes should be removed to Botany Bay.

The Trust considers that the Mobil Oil Depot has the following dangerous and deleterious effects on the residents of Hunters Hill:

Danger, traffic hazard, noise pollution, air pollution and appearance.

The Trust referred to the danger to residents on the day of the fire at Pulpit Point on 28th October, 1964 - "the biggest oil fire in N.S.W. history". The Premier at the time Mr. Renshaw, stated in Parliament, "All the principles of Town Planning recognise the need to isolate certain type of industries because of their tremendous potential for damage to life and property".

The Counsel for the Hunters Hill Council, Mr. T.R.H. Cole, referred in June 1970 to traffic and other hazards to residents:

"Mybalena Road is in parts as narrow as 26 feet ... the trucks traverse these roads from 6 a.m. in the morning until midnight and sometimes later and cause substantial nuisance and inconvenience to persons whose houses abut the roads or are in the near vicinity to them and to other persons who wish to use the roads for normal residential traffic purposes. The nuisance is created by the emission of noise, fumes and smell and has a very substantial deleterious effect on the amenity of the area".

From surrounding property and from the water, Mobil's terminal at Pulpit Point is ugly. A new road has been cut into the prominent harbour headland, and myriad storage tanks stand as reminders that industry is ever encroaching on the amenities our parents took for granted.

The Trust has investigated the legal avenues open to it in trying to remove Mobil from Pulpit Point or to alleviate its effects on the Municipality. Briefly, there is no existing legislative power in N.S.W. which is available and willing to deal with this problem. The local council has suffered a decision in Court that Mobil may expand and intensify. The legislation as presently framed protects the company's existing use of its land.

For these reasons the Trust has sought Federal assistance and has also forwarded a copy of this submission to the Royal Petroleum Commission.

3. Finally, the Hunters Hill Trust included a submission concerning the acquisition of the Garibaldi Inn for the National Trust.

Apart from the Town Hall and some church property, there exists no building of the period which is preserved for its historic and architectural merit and available for the enjoyment of the citizens, present and future.

Town Plan

Out November 5

AUDITORS - HELP!

Since the Trust's inception in 1968, the annual chore of auditing accounts has been most capably handled by Mr. Tony Jeffrey C.A., on a strictly honorary basis.

Mr. Jeffrey has now moved from Hunters Hill and the Trust is sincerely grateful for all his assistance over the period

We are now however, in the position of needing "new blood" for this financial year.

If any accountants within the Trust membership feel they would be able to devote time to this annual task, we would be most grateful.

As the alternative may force us to retain professional aid outside, perhaps involving several hundred dollars of members funds; the Committee are quite prepared to consider an honorarium for this duty.

Accountants interested should contact the Trust's Treasurer, Mr. R. Budd, on 89 0280.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Since the election of the Committee on 19th July, the Auxiliary has been very busy with regular monthly meetings of the Committee and a general meeting on the 3rd of October.

This meeting was well attended and saw a flow of ideas for social and fund raising activities as well as several sub committees being formed.

A circular letter sent to all Trust members informed them of the enlarged Auxiliary and invited them to join it and to offer suggestions for activities.

Unfortunately, Joyce Wood's name was omitted from the list of elected committee members. We apologise for this oversight; Joyce is a most valuable member - she has not only taken charge of the Trust Centre, but is most generous in giving us the use of her home for meetings and social functions.

We are very happy to report that Jean Ranken, Mary Farrell and Gay Shannon have agreed to be co-opted to the committee. They are most welcome as, with Joyce Wood and Margaret Cousins, they are experienced members of the previous committee, which worked so successfully for five years.

On the 10th of October, we held a morning tea at Joyce Wood's home and had as guest speaker, Mrs. Patricia Thompson who co-operated with Cedric Emanuel to produce the popular Hunters Hill Sketchbook. Mrs. Thompson delighted us with her account of Paddington as she and her husband had found it when they moved there; and of the struggle to preserve the area. The various obstacles which the Paddington Society tackled and overcame made plain to us the importance of supporting our own Trust.

Among the invited guests on this occasion were Mr. & Mrs. Roy Stuckey of the Hunters Hill Historical Society and "Cathy" of the Gladesville Weekly Times with her friend, Mrs. Montgomery. Despite the downpour, it was a happy function and the catering sub committee provided an excellent morning tea.

Preparations for the House Inspection on Sunday, 11th November, are well under way. We are indebted to the house owners - Dr. & Mrs. B. Scrivener, Mr. & Mrs. J. Cummins and Mrs. Hayes for lending us their lovely homes; to Mr. & Mrs. Howie for opening the grounds of "Clifton"; to Professor and Mrs. Wood for the use of their home for serving teas; and to Mrs. Steenbeek and her fellow directors of the Hunters Hill Gallery for arranging that it be open for the visitors. Without the generosity of these residents, it would be impossible to raise such large amounts for the Trust to keep on its good work.

House Inspections also require an army of volunteers to perform varied duties. The fact that these volunteers are so readily available in such a small community is quite remarkable.

For house - guardians, Cecily Martin and Margot Childs have had to find about seventy people; also teenage girls to act as "child minders" at each house. The grounds of "Clifton" require several people on duty, the teas many willing hands, also the Trust Centre and a Trust stall near the tea centre.

In consideration for the home owners the numbers for this house inspection will be limited, and no tickets will be sold at the houses. Tickets will be sent out in order of receipt of payment with local residents having the opportunity to purchase their tickets from the Trust Centre.

On two Wednesdays - 21st and 28th November, we are planning a dinner at Blacket's Restaurant, Balmain. This old home, well preserved and now tastefully decorated, was built in the 1860's by Edmund Blacket, Colonial Architect, who lived there with his wife and family.

The dinner, three course meal with wine, will cost \$6.00 per person and promises to be a relaxing social occasion, as well as modestly swelling our funds. If these dinners are a success, we will plan more social functions and would welcome any suggestions.

The Trust Centre continues to prove a valuable liaison between residents and the Trust. It too, requires quite an army of volunteers to man it three days per week. If you have time to spare for this, Joyce Wood 89 1703 or Adrienne Ryan 89 5884, would be delighted to hear from you.

In forming our sub committees, we have tried to draw in as many residents as possible and we are very grateful to those who have offered to help. If you can assist us in any way or have suggestions to make, please phone Kath Leahy on 89 2248 or Jan Budd on 89 0280.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Delkaren Investments has recently purchased a once stately home located at No. 6 Everard Street, Hunters Hill, formerly known as "Llanthony".

In the interest of the environment and the traditional character of Hunters Hill, we now wish to restore this once stately stone mansion, from its present state of disrepair, back to its former grandeur.

However, since this building was originally built in 1885, by Mr. J. L. Watkins, we now face the problem of trying to relocate the original drawings.

Therefore, we are asking the people of Hunters Hill to help us in this quest. If any resident knows of drawings, photographs or any other relevant information, please contact Mr. L. C. Goulding of 2/1 Avenue Road, Hunters Hill. Telephone 896 1725.

We would also be interested in purchasing any old building materials (Lead light windows, doors, mouldings, iron lace-work, verandah posts etc.) or antiques that may help us in the above restoration.

We ask your help that we may further beautify and help restore the traditional character of your suburb, and hopefully create a pattern that others may follow.

L. C. GOULDING.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO -

THE EDITOR
P.O. BOX 85,
HUNTERS HILL 2110

MAGAZINE FEATURE

The December issue of WALKABOUT magazine is running a major feature on Hunters Hill.

Photos of the area and some Trust activities are included. Circulation of this handsome monthly publication is rather limited, so those interested should order their copy early to avoid disappointment.

ANTI-AMALGAMATION

On Monday, September 24th, the Trust was given an opportunity of presenting its special report, "The Myth of Bigness" to the Committee of Enquiry into Local Government Areas and Administration.

Trust President, Professor R. T. Martin with Mr. T. Farrell spoke to the document strongly opposing any amalgamation for Hunters Hill Municipality.

Findings of the Committee are yet to be released, however it is fervently hoped by most residents that we are allowed to stay as we are.

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..... BY YOUR COUNCIL

Within the last few months, Hunters Hill Council has taken action which resulted in a small piece of waterfront land being added to the reserve at the Woolwich Baths. This land was formerly leased to a private individual, but when the lease lapsed Council formally objected to its renewal by the Lands Department and the land has now been placed under the care and control of the Council.

The incident immediately brings to mind the possibility of other pieces of Crown Land in the Municipality still being in private hands. When the Municipality was first gazetted, a strip 100 feet wide was reserved for public use all round the foreshores. Unfortunately this farsighted action has been progressively negated by allowing pieces of this land to be incorporated into nearby privately-owned blocks. As a result, only remnants remain and the public are often not even aware of those that still exist.

The Trust has often stated its belief that every scrap of public open space should be preserved and would like to congratulate Aldermen on their action.

Two recent decisions of Hunters Hill Council, which affect finance available for establishment and care of public parks and reserves in the Municipality, were:

1. The defeat of a motion moved by Ald. Swain, that a resolution of March, 1972 be rescinded; this resolution absolved owners who sub-divided land in the Municipality from payment of the levy for parkland if they had held their land for more than ten years. Voting in favour of the rescission motion were Ald. Swain, Crawley, Cheyne-McPherson and Baird, but it was defeated on the casting vote of the Mayor.

2. A recommendation from the Municipal Engineer, that the present actual ratio of recreation space to population of approximately 9.5 acres per 1,000 people be adopted as standard, was not agreed to. The contribution by developers of land towards establishment and embellishment of parks and reserves in the Municipality is at present based on maintaining a standard of 4 acres per 1,000 people, i.e. less than half the actual present amount enjoyed by residents.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

I wish to open/renew membership with the Hunters Hill Trust and enclose \$....for subscription valid to February 28, 1974.

FAMILY \$4.00 () (tick appropriate space)
INDIVIDUAL \$2.00 ()
STUDENT OR PENSIONER \$1.00 () DONATION \$.....

NAME.....*OCCUPATION.....

ADDRESS.....

POST CODE.....

CHRISTIAN NAMES (Family Membership).....

(*optional)

PRESERVING BALMAIN

Work undertaken by resident groups with kindred aims to the Trust has long been of interest to our members.

Through the pages of the 'Journal' we will endeavour to publish, from time to time, brief summaries of their activities. This month, we look at the Balmain Association whose impressive list of achievements may act as an inspiration for all societies.

The Balmain Association was formed in November, 1965, by a handful of Balmain people who wished to preserve the best of the suburb's architecture, town planning and natural beauty and to promote Balmain as a good place in which to live.

The Association currently has 325 members and its functions are arranged by three committees including Activities, Town Planning and Community Services.

Headquarters are located in "The Watch House", an early police station and lock-up, built in 1854. The building was handed over to the National Trust in 1970 and has been restored by the Association. Apart from being open for regular inspection by visitors, the Watch House conducts a children's library for the community.

In addition to the operation of the Watch House, the Association has, since its inception - published reports on Town Planning for Balmain, participated in the Leichhardt Municipal Council Town Planning Committee, to produce an Outline Plan currently with SPA, published "Balmain In Time" (over 3,000 copies sold), undertaken four annual street planting projects and formed the Balmain Theatre Group.

Currently, the Balmain Association is landscaping the Watch House grounds and Loyalty Square, building a kitchen annex at the Watch House, doing a pilot study of recycling waste, preparing a joint submission from schools for Federal grants, aiding P. & C. Associations to build adventure playgrounds and liaising with the newly appointed Council Social Worker for the area - A very active group indeed.

Early in their history, the Association discovered the benefit of working closely with the local council and other resident groups. This has resulted in a good relationship being established with Leichhardt Municipal Council and an Historical Journal soon to be published with the Glebe Society and Annandale Association.

In Balmain, as elsewhere, the achievement of so many benefits has not come easily. The committees within the Association have been singularly fortunate in gaining the assistance of many concerned individuals whose interests rise above personal needs and aid in protecting the environment and amenities of the area.

**Town Hall
November 13**

Special On 'THE ROCKS'.

GOVERNMENT GRANT

It appears that some of our historic buildings may soon have identifying plaques fixed outside.

The Trust was pleased to learn that the Hunters Hill Historical Society has recently received a \$200.00 grant from the N.S.W. Government for this purpose.

Naming of significant houses and public buildings in the area has been one of the Society's aims for some time and the grant will surely 'start the ball rolling'.