



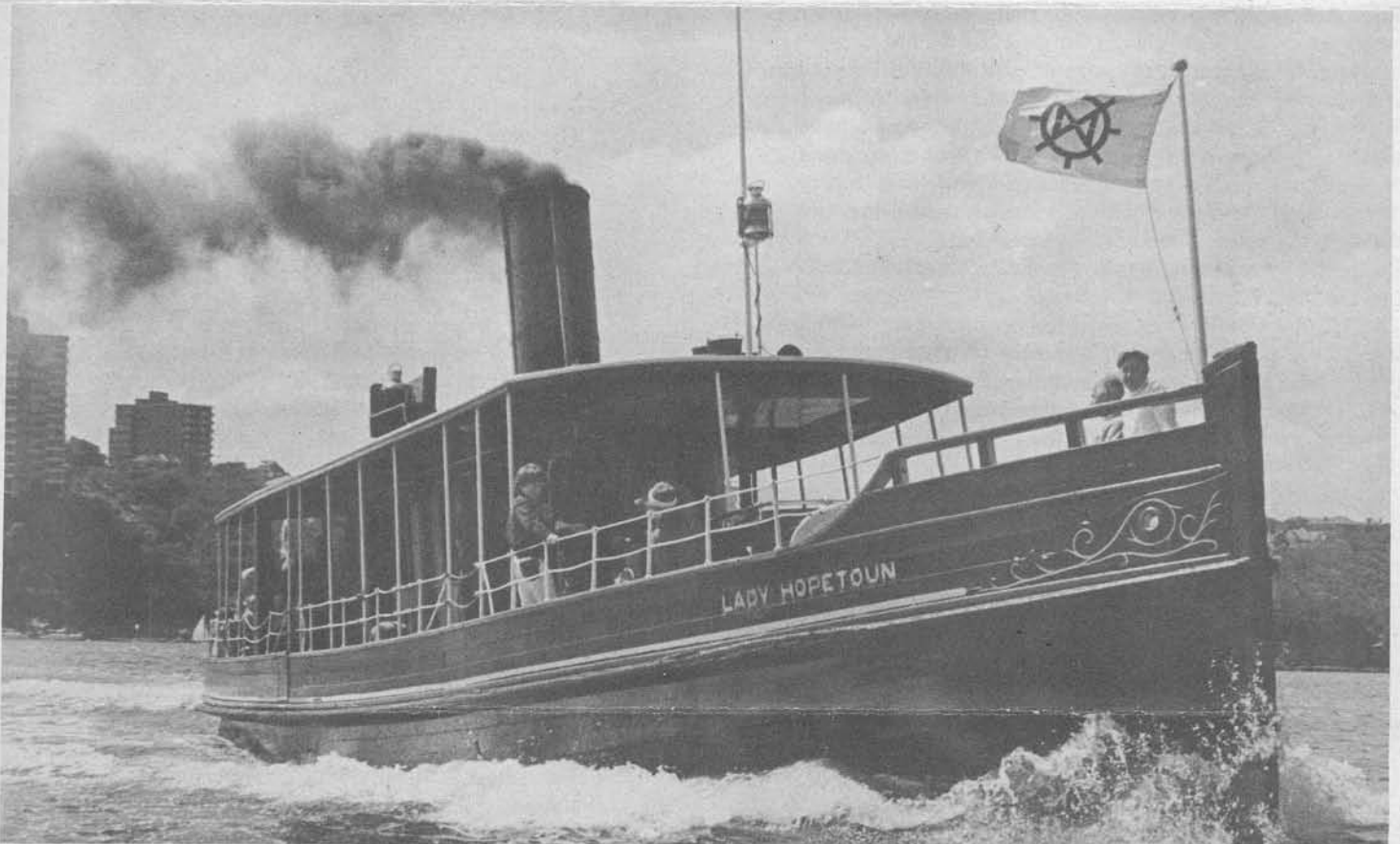
# Hunters Hill Trust Journal

Volume 5, No. 2 — AUGUST, 1976

## The Annual General Meeting was a Picnic

On a sunny Sunday, May 30th, the Annual General Meeting of the Hunter's Hill Trust was held on the waterfront reserve at Valentia Street. There the faithful consumed steak, sausages and salad, listened to a talk by David Saunders (see page two), and cruised around the foreshores of Hunter's Hill in that historic grande dame, the "Lady Hopetoun".

The Sydney Maritime Museum made the vessel available for several "voyages" to accomodate the crowd, and members of the Trust expressed great interest in the preservation of the beautifully restored vessel.



The story of the immaculate steam yacht "Lady Hopetoun" covers almost the whole span of Australia's history since Federation. The 30 ton ship was built by Watty Ford in Berry's Bay, Sydney and named in honour of the wife of Australia's first Governor General, Lord Hopetoun. Back in those good old days, "Lady Hopetoun" cost £4,500 and was Sydney's pride and joy. She was built for the Sydney Harbour Trust, now the Maritime Services Board, and her role was that of V.I.P. cruise ship and as general purpose harbour control vessel. During her working life from 1902 to 1965, "Lady Hopetoun" is thought to have carried more important people than any other craft in Australia. The list is almost endless but among them were King George VI,

when he was the Duke of York, the Duke of Windsor, the Duke of Gloucester, the King and Queen of Thailand, every Governor and Premier of N.S.W. during that period, and thousands of others. In 1920, the "Lady" was slightly altered to shorten the small deckhouse forward to allow installation of the minute wheelhouse she now carries. After her replacement by the present M.S.B. launch "Captain Phillip" in 1965 at a cost of \$190,000, the "Lady" was in danger of being broken up. A group of steamship lovers, feeling that she should not be allowed to go and believing that any great seaport should retain a little of its past while it looks to the future, were able to buy the ship for her scrap value. Since that time, they have spent almost ten years on a continuing programme of

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restoration, spending more than \$100,000 all of which has been raised by donations from interested people and groups and from the members of the Sydney Cove Waterfront Museum. "Lady Hopetoun" is a magnificent example of the technology of her day, and her hull, engine and general layout represent the best of the period around the turn of the century. The needle sharp bow of the ship compensates for the low power of the engines of the day.

"Lady Hopetoun" was used as an escort when animals were moved from Moore Park to the present Taronga Zoo; she accompanied the ferries carrying the animals in case they should escape, and it was reported that she carried a load of monkeys across to the Zoo.

To balance the matter she was then used to take politicians and other V.I.P.'s for the official opening. "Lady Hopetoun" worked as a command ship during many of the early defence exercises on the harbour in the early 1900's.

Equipped with a primitive radio she relayed messages from South Head to Garden Island headquarters. She was the subject of a discreet fight when U.S. Armed Forces wanted to take her over during World War II; if that had happened, she would have been given a diesel engine and would now no longer exist. "Lady Hopetoun" is just one of the fleet of ships that members of the Sydney Cove Waterfront Museum are battling to restore for the people of Sydney. These ships are being rebuilt and worked on by volunteers for the people of Sydney.

The Hunter's Hill Trust is proud to have been added to the list of passengers and admirers. We join in thinking that it is important to preserve some of the past as a living museum. Our thanks are due to Mr. Phippard and the crew of the "LADY" for giving us a credit day in a very pleasant past.



## DAVID SAUNDER'S REMARKS . . .

**The components** of this district's particular character which are readily observed from the water, and worth considering during the jaunt in the "Lady Hopetoun" are:—

The residential nature of the district, in which only Mobil and the Army buildings seriously intrude; The houses, with gardens, rather than more intense development, so that trees remain and the scale of buildings is small;

The generally leafy nature, so that the skyline is defined by trees.

The intactness of most of the natural edge of the land, so that the lower edge of the view is also nature-defined;

The proportion of Victorian houses, many outstanding ones prominent from the water.

The open spaces, including water-edge reserves in places such as Vernon Street and Ferdinand Street. Still there, Kelly's Bush.

**The Town Plan** has provisions which aim to guard those very components:—

Zoning, residential (for houses, not flats);  
Minimum size for any newly created house lots: 925 m<sup>2</sup> (say, 60 ft. by 165 ft.) so that trees may stand between buildings.

Tree preservation order.

Foreshore protection provisions.

List of protected old buildings (213 of them) and their sites.

**Close attention to the Town Plan** and to Council's implementation of it is still a vital function for the Trust perhaps more than ever, because of events which could overtake and change it:—

The Plan is still provisional, without ministerial approval, and still the subject of debate in Council; The recently elected State Government made election promises to change local government boundaries and consolidate municipalities; The last Government's Bill is still before Parliament, for the new Environmental Planning Act.

## CREDIT

Soon after the State Credit election, the Hunter's Hill Trust sent a letter to the Premier requesting that he instruct the Maritime Services Board to cease its practice of selling foreshore land to private individuals

(see March Journal). It has now been reported in a newspaper that the sales are to cease. The Trust wishes to congratulate the Premier on his environmental foresight.

## THE HUNTER'S HILL TRUST COMMITTEE FOR 1976-7

The following Committee was elected in May to serve for the coming year:

Mrs. Alice Oppen, President  
Judge Richard Barbour, Vice-President  
Mrs. Kay Fairfax, Vice-President  
Mr. Kerry Bennett, Secretary  
Dr. Alec Dircks, Treasurer  
Mr. Tony Coote  
Dr. Chris Coulman  
Mrs. Jenny Howarth  
Mrs. Anne McNally

Sub-committees have been established, and their conveners are listed here with a description of their projects and purposes. Please feel free to contact the conveners with suggestions and offers of help.

### THE TOWN PLANNING AND

AMALGAMATION SUBCOMMITTEE: Richard Barbour and Kerry Bennett

The Town Planning Subcommittee lies buried under voluminous State Planning documents. Its immediate purpose is to understand what the consequences of the Environmental Planning Bill would be, particularly in relation to what, if any, protection it would offer in the event of amalgamation.

ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE: Kay Fairfax and Jenny Howarth

The Activities Subcommittee runs the Trust's fund-raising and social activities. Morning tea walks through Hunter's Hill are being run for outside groups, and four major activities of varying sorts, including a house inspection in November, will be held this year. Jenny Howarth has recently found that she cannot attend Trust Committee meetings, but will help on this Subcommittee. The Centre is operating under the direction of Valmai King; helpers and visitors are enjoying the new surroundings, in the Hunter's Hill Gallery.

PUBLICITY: Alice Oppen

The Publicity Subcommittee is responsible for publishing the Journal, for contact with the media and for public relations generally. This year, "The Old Buildings of Hunter's Hill" (Part II) will be updated and republished, due to the generosity of the National Trust. New photographs will be taken by our honorary photographers, architectural comment, thanks to David Saunders, will be added to the historical account given of many houses.

### ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL

SUBCOMMITTEE: Tony Coote

This Subcommittee will provide the Trust with expert advice in instances where an old building may be in danger. Requests are sometimes made for information on how to restore a house to its original architecture, and in general, the subcommittee will assist in the republication of "Old Houses".

COUNCIL LIAISON SUBCOMMITTEE: Anne McNally

This subcommittee, with the help of Monica Sheehan, provides the Trust with an over-view of Hunter's Hill Council proceedings which relate to the Trust's objectives. Those who attend Council meetings will meet with each other to exchange information and plot trends.

## National Trust Campaign for Legislation to Protect Historic Buildings and Sites

The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) has written to the Hunter's Hill Trust seeking our help in its campaign for new laws to protect historic buildings and sites in this State.

Such law has existed for many years in Western Europe, North America and other "developed" nations. In Australia, the Governments of Victoria and Western Australia have already legislated to protect our national heritage within their State boundaries.

As early as July, 1973, The National Trust forwarded thoroughly researched proposals for legislation to the then Premier, Sir Robert Askin. In October, 1973, one month before State elections, the Premier announced that his Government would establish a committee to advise the Government on the preservation of historic buildings and sites. The Committee did not meet until early 1975, and not until March 23, 1976 (eight days before the announcement of an election) was the Environmental Planning Bill introduced into Parliament.

The National Trust is campaigning for the urgent introduction of legislation which provides for:

Compilation of an official list of historic buildings and sites in New South Wales;

Controls over the demolition of listed buildings;

Adequate fines for breaches of demolition regulations;

Financial assistance for owners of listed buildings.

In the view of the National Trust, the demolition controls and the penalties suggested in the new Bill are not adequate. In addition, the National Trust requests the Government to make opportunity for groups such as the Trust to offer comment on the proposals (see Hunter's Hill Trust comments in JOURNAL, April and August 1975 on preliminary proposals).

The National Trust concludes that, while the legislation will provide satisfactory solutions to many of the current problems, the administration of the proposed Act will have to be watched with great care to ensure that buildings do not continue to slip away as they have in the past.

The Hunter's Hill Trust joins with the National Trust to request interested members to write to your local Member of the New South Wales Parliament, drawing his/her attention to the urgent need for legislation and the provisions which the legislation should include.

**JOIN THE TRUST**

**Your name will give  
support to our work**

# TRUST LIBRARY



## HELP

The library of the Hunter's Hill Trust will soon be available for use. The Hunter's Hill Historical Society has very kindly agreed to make space available for it in the Historical Museum. The books, many of them very fine pictorial ones, have been lying unused in a member's home waiting for a space in the Fairland Hall. The Historical Society's solution to our temporary problem is a welcome arrangement for both organisations.

The Historical Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays; access is through the Town Hall.

Letters will be sent to occupants of historic houses in Hunter's Hill, requesting any information about the builders, early occupants, dates, and "tales". The Trust would be grateful for any corrections of material in the original Part II, or additions. Researchers and typists welcome



## RECOLLECTIONS

as related to Anne McNally  
by the late Mr. Henry Rassack

I vividly remember in the 1880's, when as a boy of eight or nine I would watch for the coach bringing the Makinson family from "Durham" to Mass at Villa Maria. The Makinson estate consisted of all the land from Gladesville terminus to the church, and at that time it was an orange orchard.

Catching a glimpse of the horses and coach through the trees, I would race several other small boys to be first at the church. The coach would roll up, the coachman in full livery driving with one, sometimes two, footmen riding at the back. Either it was beneath their dignity, or maybe they had to keep their hands clean — I never found out which — if I let the steps down I received one penny.

I would take the penny home to my mother, and when I had saved 2/6d., I would be allowed to buy an article of clothing (a good pair of serge pants cost 2/3d.). Of course, I had the advantage over the other boys as the coach house and stables built by the Makinsons was the stone cottage "Cambridge" in John Street only one hundred yards from my home. I would see the coach leave to pick up and could just about guess the time of the return. Mr. Owen Farley was the coachman for many years and eventually purchased the coach house, living there with his family until the early 1900's.

as related to Anne McNally  
by the late Miss Nell McMahon

Miss McMahon lived in Hunter's Hill for most of her eighty-six years, and one of her most vivid memories was preparing for and going to the Hunt meeting.

My mother, she said, would spend half a day ironing our dresses (with a flatiron hollow in the centre into which went hot coals). The dresses were long, white with dozens of frills which were goffered so each frill would stand out. Under these went two white petticoats stiffly starched. When ironed, all were put on a broom handle with white stockings, white buttoned boots and starched sun bonnets.

The next day Father, with his three young daughters and all the clothing carried across his back would walk bare-footed for the mile and a half to the Hunt Field (the present site of Holy Cross College). They had to ford across at least four creeks, and when they had crossed the last creek they would wash their feet, put on stockings and boots, dress in their finery and proceed elegantly to the Hunt Field to witness the start of the Hunt. Their everyday clothes were put in a hollow tree.

It was a typical English scene with hounds, pink coats, beautiful horses, and of course the fox. Once the Hunt commenced, the onlookers were treated to a picnic lunch complete, even then, with flies and ants.

At the end of the day, the finery was removed at the creek and the old clothes put on for the trip home.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name ..... Telephone.....

Address ..... Postcode .....

Willing to help with .....

Type of Membership: Single — \$2.00  
Family — \$4.00  
Pensioner — \$1.00  
Youth — \$1.00

The Hunter's Hill Trust,  
Box 85, Hunter's Hill, 2110

The Trust Centre  
The Hunter's Hill Gallery