



Hunters Hill Trust Journal

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CHARACTER ASSASSINATION The invasion of the project homes

The character of large areas of Hunters Hill is being eaten away by an insidious invasion of a building type that is taking over Sydney – the 21st century project house. The photo above is in Farnell Street, where both sides of the street are in the process of being changed dramatically, as single-storey cottages are knocked down and replaced with two-storey, off-the-shelf houses.



Opposite the houses in the top picture in Farnell Street are the houses above. They are slightly less intrusive because of their somewhat reduced palette of materials and colours and less dominant entrances and garages.



Here is another recent example from Prince Edward Street.



An older-style project house from Abigail Street



This is a house still under construction at 23 Abigail that replaced a fine 1930s house, similar to the house next door at No 21 (below).



21 Abigail St – its neighbour demolished



Above is another project house under construction in Farnell St and, below, yet one more in Bonnefin Rd.





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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.

The invasion of the project homes
 – continued from page 1

While the examples featured here are from outside Hunters Hill's two conservation areas, the project home can also be seen within the conservation zones.

When people knock down and rebuild these days they tend to go for the maximum development of their sites.

Throughout Hunters Hill what were once predominately single-storey streets are becoming two-storey streets

Now two-car wide garages are built at the front replacing the old single-car garages that were down the back. As a result side boundary setbacks are effectively halved, the width of concrete driveways increased and the area of planting in front gardens reduced.

As can be seen in the row of new project houses in Farnell St there is less breathing space between the buildings and the view of trees in their backyards has been reduced.



The main document constraining what can be built is the Local Environment Plan (LEP), which sets out the numerical controls of height, garden area, floor space ratio and boundary set backs.

Project houses are designed to comply with these numerical criteria but such compliance is only half the story.

The planning controls that are supposed to mitigate the aesthetics of development are set out in the Development Control Plan (DCP).

The DCP describes the desired character of buildings in the Municipality and includes such objectives as:

"To ensure that proposed buildings are compatible with the scale and bulk of the locality's existing and desired characters."

"Exterior materials and finishes should be compatible with the immediate townscape and landscape contexts."

"Colour schemes should be 'understated' and should limit the use of light tones to façade details only."

"The primary purpose of these guidelines is to maintain qualities of this Municipality's townscapes and its tree covered environmental settings."

"These guidelines are necessary to address the recent proliferation of large carports and garages, which have a

detrimental effect on the townscape of the Hunters Hill Municipality."

Clearly we are failing to fulfill these objectives and only a much more proscriptive set of controls and more extensive conservation area would be capable of achieving them. In the current climate, where a person's house is not a home but a financial investment and where increasing mobility has weakened any sense of community, there is little chance of this happening.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of The Trust was held on April 28, 2016 at the Hunters Hill RSL Hall. The main item on the agenda for the AGM was the election of office bearers for 2015.

The following were elected unopposed –

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

The meeting received the annual reports from the President and Treasurer.

General Meeting

Immediately following the AGM was a general meeting, which included an address from Phil Jenkyn calling on Trust members to stand up for the retention of Hunters Hill Council as a stand-alone entity in the face of the State Government's attempt to force it to amalgamate with Ryde and Lane Cove.



Guest speaker

In the year of the centenary of the Gallipoli landing, it was entirely apposite that Trust committee member, Caroline Mackaness, Director, Veterans' Affairs, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet was the guest speaker in the Hunters Hill RSL hall.

Caroline described the Anzac Memorial Centenary Project in Hyde Park, which is to complete the architect Bruce Dellitts' original vision of a water cascade to the south (down to Liverpool St), and new plans to build education and interpretation spaces.

Caroline's talk, which she illustrated with a large number photos, drawings and videos of the proposed work, was well-received and drew attention to a really important heritage item in the city of Sydney that is often taken for granted. It prompted some who confessed to never having been inside the memorial to visit what is possibly Sydney's finest example of the Art Deco style.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your committee has continued to work on behalf of members to uphold our commitment to preserve the heritage and character of Hunters Hill.

On your behalf I'd like to thank the outgoing committee -

- Secretary, Brigid Dowsett
- Treasurer, Justin Parry-Okeden
- Vice President, Alister Sharp

And committee members

- Gully Coote
- Brigid Dowsett
- Maureen Flowers
- David Gaunt
- Bridget Hawthorne
- Caroline Mackaness
- Alister Sharp

• Thanks also to Kate Russell, our webmaster who attended most of our meetings

Bridget Hawthorne, who only joined our committee last year, has decided not to stand again. This is a great pity because her enthusiasm and energy will be missed. As well, she will be missed as a member of the next generation (that is, those under 50) and as the sole representative on the committee who lives east of the overpass.

Membership

Our membership remains stable, with a current total of 428 members, if one includes the 82 members who are currently not financial and allows three members for each family membership.

Single memberships = 143

Family membership = 285

There are 40 single life members and 8 Family life members from whom we receive no dues.

Website

Kate Russell has continued her job as Webmaster after recuperating well from a hip replacement operation. Kate does a

terrific job in maintaining and editing the website, which is becoming more and more important as a tool to get information out there, not just to our members but the community at large.

Journal

I have been editing the journal for the last four years and have put up my hand to continue the job this year. We hope to have two journals a year in May and October (*this one is a bit late – apologies*).

Email list

If your email address is not on file please let us know as it is an important way for us to communicate with our members.



Tree sculpture and tree Gladesville Rd

Working with Council

The Trust continues to work with Hunters Hill Council through our representation on various committees including:

The Conservation Advisory Panel (CAP) - Tony Coote

The Public Transport and Traffic Advisory Committee - Alister Sharp

The Bushland Management Committee - Brigid Dowsett



Figtree house

Conservation Advisory Panel

As The Trust's representative on the Conservation Advisory Panel I can report that we have had mixed success in

pursuing its basic aim to preserve the character of the municipality. The Panel is advisory and only assesses those proposals referred to it by Council's manager of development. Such proposals are usually only in the conservation areas or in the vicinity of heritage items. As well, most people tend to have a mistaken idea about the strength of protection of existing buildings provided by heritage listings and the conservation areas.

Walking the streets of the Municipality, it's obvious that we haven't been able to curb the spread of badly designed, ugly and unsympathetic development – particularly the proliferation of project houses. We are also losing houses that mark later eras in the history of the municipality – houses dating from the 1920s onwards. We desperately need a revision of the heritage status of these places or there will be a large hole in the history of development in Hunters Hill.

The Public Transport and Traffic Advisory Committee

Vice-president Alister Sharp is a member of the committee and reports that, while much of the issues brought to the Committee are trivial, involving local parking conflicts (largely of boat trailers left parked far from their owners' homes), and parking congestion around schools, they have had some successes. These include the introduction of speed limits and additional parking areas. The committee is working on provision of safe pedestrian access across the overpass and near Boronia Park, shared zones in narrow streets and the provision of cycle bays to encourage bicycle riding.

The Bushland Management Committee

Trust Secretary Brigid Dowsett is on this committee. Hunters Hill has over 100 registered bushcare volunteers working in the many bushland reserves we are fortunate to still retain. Many of these volunteers are Trust members. There are also at least four Trust members on the Bushland Management Working Group which meets quarterly at Council.

This group assists the Bushland Management Officer by reporting on emerging issues and offering advice on Plans of Management, policy changes affecting biodiversity such as the RFS 10/50 Code, and by helping to promote the importance of conserving these special places.

Update *Hunters Hill Council has received a \$98,964 grant for Habitat Restoration of the lower Parramatta River with the regeneration of remnant bush along the river, including the Gladesville hospital foreshore.*

Boronia park draft plan of management

Council signed off on The Plan of Management for Boronia Park last December. Alister Sharp addressed the Council meeting on behalf of The Trust to argue against the changes to the revised PoM that allowed for increased vehicular access and parking within the park, to no avail, unfortunately.

Trust committee member Brigid Dowsett also addressed the council meeting. Later, in a letter to the local paper, Brigid expressed The Trust's disappointment that the Council had signed off on more intensive use and access to the Reserve for the dominant sports, placing increased pressure on sensitive bushland and adjoining wetlands that are already impacted by their proximity to the roadway and sporting fields.

Council has ignored the ample space available for parking along Park Rd and favoured invasive parking along the internal roadway and increased vehicle access. This will place both pedestrians and the Park's natural values at unnecessary risk. In addition, if lighting is allowed for Oval 3, it will result in even greater pressure and disturbance.

The lengthy process of developing the Plan, and Council's ongoing attempts at remediation following the Oval 3 debacle, have come at great expense to rate-payers. Hunters Hill ratepayers will continue to bear the cost of implementing the provisions within the Plan that satisfy the demands of organised sports clubs, while the budget for bush regeneration languishes.

The Priory

Last year we reported Council was considering granting a 21-year lease for adaptive re-use of the building for a wedding and corporate function centre. We expressed our concerns to Council that it seemed wrong to be signing a lease when there was no detail of how the building would be impacted by the new use.



When preliminary plans were considered, it was clear that a proposed large function room in the rear courtyard would have had a considerable negative impact on the building. This proposal fell through and currently the deadline for Expressions of Interest in the site has expired.

The Trust's preferred option for the Priory remains for it to be leased to someone as a private house with an agreed restoration contract and a number of days when the house is open to the public. This would be similar to the arrangements made Waverley Council, which leases out Bronte House.



Gladesville shopping village (GSV) development

At last year's AGM we reported that the developer, Moch Pty Ltd had withdrawn his proposal and was in the process of preparing a revised scheme.

The developer has changed architects and taken the opportunity to submit a Planning Proposal (PP) for a much bigger scheme. The PP is a submission that seeks to overturn the existing planning controls contained in the DCP and LEP. Such a proposal is allowable and encouraged by the State Government Department of Planning and Development.

The GSV proposal consists of a number of multi-storey unit buildings rising up 16 storeys or 58m. This is almost double the current controls of 26m and 34m. The PP also increases the floor space ratio on the site from 2.4 and 2.7-to-one to 3.4-to-one. Council has employed a firm of consultants to advise it on the proposal and it is anticipated to go on public exhibition in late March 2016.

The Council, to its credit, voted against supporting to Planning Proposal.

Update *The Department of Planning is assessing the proposal. A response is expected in 5 – 6 months.*

The sale of 10 Cowell St and associated public land was finalised when the developer exercised the call option on 8 February 2016. By unconditionally selling off the publicly owned part of the site (around 25%) and by failing to ensure that

the heritage-listed Council-owned timber cottage at 10 Cowell Street was included, intact, as part of the proposal, Council has effectively washed its hands of any responsibility for what happens in this strategically important part of the Municipality and abrogated its responsibility to maintain its own heritage.

In response to the Council's handling of the GSV site, The Trust wrote an open letter to Councillors, which was critical of their attitude to the listing of 10 Cowell St and its sell-off to the developer. The full text is available on the website. This letter was published in the Northern District Times.

Currently there is an as-yet-unresolved issue that The Trust has with Council, which involves what we believe is a lack of procedural fairness and an abuse of process regarding a particular agenda item listed at the last minute in the March 2016 CAP meeting. The item relates to a consideration of The Trust's open letter to Councillors. The Trust's representative on CAP was excluded from the discussion by the Panel chair, Councillor Sheil.

Amalgamation

The proposed forced amalgamation of Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde has been the major focus for many over the past year. In last year's President's Report I wrote that, from the committee's point of view, there was not a lot of energy for manning the barricades in the anti-amalgamation fight.

It is clear from the turnout at the recent meeting at the Town Hall that, compared to the 2003 take-over bid by Ryde Council when the Hall was packed and people were standing outside, the energy for the latest battle has waned somewhat.

Last year I reported that we had doubts about whether we could have any real impact on the State Government's resolve to go ahead with the amalgamations. I also reported on a feeling of disillusionment with Hunters Hill Council's performance in relation to various important issues, including, for example:

The redevelopment of Gladesville Shopping Village (GSV) site.

The hodge-podge redevelopment of the Hunters Hill Shops, the developments along Victoria Road in Gladesville and along Hunters Hill's foreshores.

The debacle surrounding the redevelopment of Oval Number 3 at Boronia Park.

One could add to the list the impact of the proliferation of project homes throughout the Municipality, which Council seems to have no power to prevent. Trust members will have their own particular gripes to add to the list and they will make up their own minds as to what weight to give these gripes when responding to the amalgamation proposal.

Personally, I thought the amalgamation issue would wither on the vine once State Treasury had determined how much it was all going to cost. Twelve months on and it is clear that the State Government is fully committed to amalgamating Councils in NSW and is unlikely to be swayed from their resolve, particularly in relation to Sydney's smallest Local Government Area – Hunters Hill.

As we said in the letter to members that accompanied our submission to the Council Boundary Review: *If the State Government pursues its plan for a merged LGA, the Trust will continue to fight for the preservation of the existing character and heritage of Hunters Hill Municipality to ensure that it is safeguarded for future generations and that the existing level of services provided by Hunters Hill Council are preserved and enhanced.*

Within The Trust and the wider Hunters Hill community there is a range of differing views about the current council and about the proposed amalgamation. As well there are differing levels of passion and enthusiasm for the anti-amalgamation fight. Clearly we respect the fact that our members will have come to their own conclusions about this. We therefore urge members to make their own individual submissions and we hope that our Submission and the Rough Guide can be instructive and of assistance.

The Rough Guide was prepared by The Trust to consider in detail the impact of amalgamation. It examines what Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde do for their communities and how this might change with amalgamation. It also considered the impact of recent council amalgamations to see how those planning controls were affected.

An example of the impact on planning controls is what happened in Glebe when it was amalgamated with the City of Sydney. The existing planning controls relating to Glebe when it was part of Leichhardt were simply transferred to the City of Sydney.

The fear that amalgamation will result in Hunters Hill being overrun with high-rise development is unfounded. However, the fear that the State Government will

continue to introduce legislation to by-pass Local Government is extremely well-founded and will continue whether Councils are amalgamated or not.

As can be seen in Local Government Areas across Sydney, the major planning decisions for increased density have been taken by the State Government and foisted onto local Councils. Right now the State Government is considering expanding complying development to include two-storey medium density housing, which means that Council assessment of the impact of such proposals will be by-passed and handed over to private certifiers.

Any future increase in building intensity in Hunters Hill, amalgamated or not, will be as a result of direct intervention by the State Government.

Our analysis of the impact of amalgamation on the ordinary ratepayer, householder and renter is that most people will not notice the difference and that the sky will not fall in. Members should check out the guide on The Trust's website, which is unique, because it is the only detailed analysis available. There is nothing like it on the Council's website.

The latest news is that Hunters Hill Council has decided to pursue a legal challenge to the proposed merger with Ryde and Lane Cove and with an estimate of \$150,000 to cover legal expenses. Note that this is an estimate only with no allowance for possible costs incurred by the other side being awarded (see update on page 6)

SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW

We mailed all members copies of our submission to the Council Boundary Review and the submission is on the website. In summary, the submission included:

General aims, which related to integration of key areas, management of catchment areas, encouragement of transport connections, improved access to open space etc.

The preservation of the character of Hunters Hill in a merged LGA, which included:

The retention of Hunters Hill's existing planning controls, conservation areas and heritage listings,

The identification of specific areas within the merged LGA, and the establishment of additional provisions to be applied to these areas,

The creation of individual Wards, so that specific local identities within the merged LGA are recognised and represented,

The appointment of 15 councillors, which is the maximum number allowed,

The continuation of some form of design review panel, similar to Hunters Hill's Conservation Advisory Panel, which would advise the merged council on matters of heritage and conservation,

The employment of a permanent heritage officer on the staff,

The retention of council-owned buildings in public ownership and the increased use of publicly owned community facilities,

The potential for the improvement of existing services and programs

Better care and maintenance of roads, parks and bushland.

Retention of the festivals and events currently run by HHC

A more committed sustainability program

An improved website which would include webcasts of council meetings and an improved DA tracking service

Dissension in the ranks

A number of members, including current and former councillors, have taken the committee to task for our approach to the amalgamation issue. They have referred to the Aims and Objectives of the Trust that are set out in our constitution.

Clause 6 states: "The aim of The Trust is to maintain the unique and historical character of Hunters Hill."

Clause 7 sets out the objectives to "fulfill this aim" with seven sub-clauses. Sub clause v. is "to maintain the integrity of Hunters Hill as a separate Municipality".

Some appear hold the view that The Trust should be committed to "my Council, right or wrong" and that we should support the council no matter what.

This view is not supported by the history of our relationship with Council, which from time to time has been somewhat combative and adversarial.

To quote the late Don Chipp, we have always seen part of our role as "keeping the bastards honest". Richard Temple and Greg Martin's history of the first 20 years of The Trust recounts how The Trust was formed by a group of concerned locals

“at a time when the climate was ripe for residents’ protests against the bureaucratic indifference of the Council and the threat to the unique character of this suburb”

Even the battle for Kelly’s Bush was fought against the Council.

Here is another quote from the book: *“on November 4th 1969 Council, against all the public opposition, voted to rezone Kelly’s Bush to allow (the development of two-storey town houses proposed by AV Jennings)”* and that *“The Trust was not only in conflict with The State government over Kelly’s Bush. The majority of Council was also opposed to retaining Kelly’s Bush as open space”.*

Temple and Martin go on to note: *“It is interesting how Council officers and former aldermen, who at the time were either all for compromise or quite opposed to The Trust’s views, are now proudly asserting the value of such a recreational area in the municipality”.*

In our letter to members encouraging individuals to make their own submissions to the Boundaries Commission, we made it clear that **The Trust is not advancing the case for amalgamation.** However in the event that this were to occur and given the Trust’s Aim in maintaining the unique and historical character of Hunters Hill, we believe we need to put our energies into advocating for the inclusion of those things we have set out in our submission in any new merged Local Government Area.

Constitution

Speaking of the constitution, last year we formed a subcommittee to look at aspects of the constitution and whether it requires revisiting to ensure that it remains relevant. They have recommended that we consider a number of issues including, amongst others:

Inclusion of a Vision Statement with a more welcoming tone and sense of the history and purpose of the trust

To broaden the definition of Hunters Hill to specify all areas of interest.

To look at the aims and objectives to include the maintenance of the natural environment and the unique cultural and historical character of the area

To consider the definition of Hunters Hill if the Local Government Area boundaries change.

To consider membership qualifications in relation to financial currency.

We have not yet had a chance as a committee to properly consider any of this.

Any changes to the constitution will need to be made at a general meeting and agreed to by 75% of voting members present.

Clearly, in the current climate of uncertainty we need to wait for the final result of the proposed amalgamations before taking this any further.

The bigger picture

While much of the work of The Trust relates to matters that are parochial, we are also involved in the wider picture through our involvement with, and support for, such groups as the Better Planning Network, The Environmental Defenders Office, The Australian Conservation Advisory Panel and The Total Environment Centre.

These groups are leading the fight against poor government decisions in relation to wider planning issues, the exploitation and degradation of the environment and the protection of existing farming lands, habitats, indigenous species and bushland.

This year we donated \$2,000 to the EDO, which continues to do fantastic work in the courts on behalf of environmental groups.

Just one example of bad legislation is the NSW government’s proposal to introduce the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* to replace the *Native Vegetation Act* and *Threatened Species Conservation Act*. This will see broadscale land clearing not only in rural and regional areas but also urban areas which will see a loss of trees, bushland and wildlife.

Walks program

Maureen Flowers is the co-ordinator of the Sunday Walks program and she reports that they have been a great success, with walks well attended by members who enjoyed exploring our beautiful area and meeting other "Trusties". Our walks took us from little-known nooks and crannies to bushlands and the more familiar sights of our wonderful sandstone built-heritage. Feedback has been very positive, with members telling us how much they've enjoyed re-discovering old favourites or visiting places they've never been before.

We couldn't have achieved such a result without the commitment of our dedicated band of volunteers Leonard and Brigid Dowsett, Alister Sharp and Maureen Flowers who have generously given their time and expertise to find new and interesting routes. We'd love to hear from other members who could talk about their homes or who have a suggestion about areas to explore.



Christmas party 2015

Once again the Christmas Party was a great success. Alf and Julie Cocco opened their wonderful Jeanneret House, Waimera, to Trust members to come together and enjoy a fine night under Hunters Hill skies. Bev Sherry and Julie Cocco spoke about the house and its Jeanneret history. This is one of the great aspects of The Trust – the generosity of members to share their houses.

*Tony Coote
President*

AMALGAMATION UPDATE

The State Government proclaimed a number of new merged Councils in NSW in May this year. Hunters Hill Council was slated to be merged with Ryde and Lane Cove Councils. However, together with Lane Cove, Hunters Hill launched legal action in the Land and Environment Court against the Minister of Local Government and the Delegate requiring them to release the detailed financial analysis undertaken by KPMG, which was commissioned by the government to assist in determining Council’s financial *“fitness for the future”*. It is claimed by the two councils that the merger process is procedurally flawed.

The case has dragged on much longer than anticipated and has been further delayed by Commissioner Tim Moore taking leave. It is anticipated that the Commissioner will deliver his judgment sometime in August. As we understand it, the determination will only relate to the validity of the procedure. What happens if the procedure is determined to be unfair is not known.

Meanwhile neighbouring merged Councils such as the Inner West Council of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield are in the process of rearranging their various departments, restructuring their

organisations and working on ways to improve the delivery of their services, taking the best from each council.

It is interesting to note that, at the Hunters Hill Council meeting of 27 June, Councillors voted to adopt a budget that projects a \$270,000 loss and a forecast of 10 years of operational losses ranging from \$516,000 to \$1,539,00. At the same time Council considered a report that detailed how it has spent \$150,00 on the court case to date with the potential that costs will rise to \$200,000, with a risk they could climb higher. At present, the only assured beneficiaries of the court action are the lawyers.

Council is also considering the possibility of a plebiscite to see what we all think about amalgamation (cost \$100,000).

At the July 2 Federal election, the electors of Bennelong and North Sydney had a chance to tell their Liberal Party sitting members what they thought of amalgamation.

In the two-party preferred vote, John Alexander won Bennelong with 59.81% of the vote with a swing of +2.04%. Trent Zimmermann won North Sydney with 63.64% of the vote with a - 2.07 swing.

VALE RICHARD TEMPLE



Richard Temple with wife Diana and daughter Helen

Dr Richard Temple and his wife Diana were founding members of the Hunters

Hill Trust. Richard was co-author with Reg Martin of *The Vision and the Struggle, An Account of the Hunters Hill Trust's First Twenty Years*. From 1968 to 1970 he was The Trust's first secretary.

Richard died last month aged 95. His daughter and Trust member, Helen, spoke about her father at his funeral. Here is an edited version of what she said:

Richard was born 1921 in Leigh-on Sea, a seaside village in England, the youngest of four children. Their old house and rambling garden had a commanding view over the sea. Money was tight but the house was full of music and flowers and his mother put a high priority on a good education. All these things were very influential in his life.

With the encouragement of his teacher who recognized his intellect, Richard was lucky to go to St John's College Oxford in 1940, supported by two parallel scholarships.

As a science student, he was exempted from military service – a Government edict designed to maintain research and innovation. He graduated with a Doctorate in 1947 and he had great pride in his years in the beautiful, ancient limestone city.

His first job was Senior Scientific Officer in a Government research laboratory working as a spectroscopist using ultra-violet radiation. He was delighted to be near London's galleries and theatres but more delighted to meet our mother, the beautiful Diana, also a scientist and the love of his life. She was booked on a boat to return to Australia and Richard's response was a marriage proposal.

They lived in Washington DC from 1952 when Richard took up a posting as Junior Scientific Attaché in the British Consulate. I was born there. They travelled in the US, Canada and Europe. Australia called Diana, so Richard took a post at the newly proclaimed Australian Atomic Energy Commission Sydney, sailing on the Arcadia in 1957.

He was responsible for investigating the Commission's treatment of nuclear waste and became disaffected with the nuclear industry, convinced that the waste could not be safely stored. He played an important role in raising public awareness about the pitfalls this energy source and the need for future generations to be ever vigilant.

They settled in Hunters Hill and Jonathan was born. Richard moved to Sydney

University as Associate Professor Physical Chemistry. He set up the Carbon Dating laboratory, one of the first in Australia, which assisted in dating the arrival of modern humans on this continent and shed light on their activities during the last ice-age.

Richard retired, learned Greek and joined University archaeologists excavating in Greece. He and Diana shared a long and happy life together. Our family was very close and they were delighted grandparents to Charlotte and Nicholas and to Poss. They had a wide circle of old friends and continued to stay at their Kiama "Brown Hut", to walk annually in Kosciusko, to enjoy boating, to travel widely and to attend ballet theatre and opera. Richard grew to love the wide-open spaces and colours of his adopted country.

Richard Temple was an extraordinary man, a warm and loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a good citizen of the world with a keen social conscience! He will be dearly missed!

Helen Temple

VALE AILSA McPHERSON



Long time Trust member Ailsa McPherson died earlier this year. She was just short of her 80th birthday. Her obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald noted the following: Ailsa McPherson was born in Sydney on July 30, 1936. Her mother was Edna Merle Pugh, daughter of a family with Welsh roots who were pioneers on the mid-north coast of NSW. Her father was Wallace Raymond McPherson, always known as Mac and proud of his Scottish heritage. He served during World War II, was a Rat of Tobruk and later worked as a printer.

Wenona in North Sydney where she completed her schooling had a profound

influence on her life. An inspiring young history teacher sowed the seeds of a passion for history. With the strong support of Doris Fitton of the Independent Theatre, Wenona students frequently went to plays at the Independent and this was undoubtedly where Ailsa's love of the theatre was nurtured. Passionate about the theatre, she was drawn to work in the entertainment industry and could see the newly emerging opportunities in television.

In 1958 she gained a position at ATN Channel 7 as a director's assistant and by 1960 she was in charge of training recruits. From here she moved upwards, becoming director of news, possibly the first woman director in Australian TV, and then television studio director. While still working at Channel 7 Ailsa enrolled at Macquarie University. She received her BA in 1983, a BA Hons in 1986. In 1988 after 30 years with ATN she took early retirement and embarked on a completely new life.

She embarked on a PhD where her research studies combined elements of both history and theatre. McPherson was one of the first members of the NSW Branch of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA), a network of scholars pursuing interests in the humanities, arts and sciences. She was a respected contributor to the *Dictionary of Sydney* and the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, with entries about theatre, theatres and theatrical personalities.

Living in Hunters Hill she was active in many community groups including Probus, the Hunters Hill Quilters, Hunters Hill Trust, Hunters Hill Historical Society, a croquet club, an exercise class and a table tennis group.

Bev Sherry writes: I was so glad to see Ailsa's excellent chapter, "Exhibiting Gardening", in *Gardens of History and Imagination: Growing New South Wales*, edited by Gretchen Poiner and Sybil Jack (Sydney: Sydney University Press, 2016). I went to the launch a couple of weeks ago. This was very much a product of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia, of which Ailsa was a valued and much-missed member. The book was published to coincide with the bicentenary of Sydney's Botanic Garden, established in 1816, the oldest botanic garden and scientific institution in Australia.

TRUST WALKS PROGRAM

This year's program of Sunday walks is shaping up to be another wonderful

season. We started with a leisurely tour around the Gladesville hospital grounds and buildings. The walk included a special visit to the SPASM Museum rooms dedicated to the preservation of artifacts of surgery and medicine.



We were lucky to have the expert guidance of Bevan Stone who gave us some amazing insights into the various artifacts used in the Asylum, including the straightjackets and implements for brain surgery and electric shock!

In May we had another treat - a walk around the heritage of the 15 historic cottages in Batemans Road and the former dairy site.



Gladesville hospital site

This was led by Trust Member, Karen Presland, who kept us enthralled with a comprehensive history of this area, starting with a tour of her recently restored weatherboard cottage in Gladesville Road. Karen had videos and documents about its builder and previous owners and even generously treated us with her home made cakes! Her encyclopaedic knowledge and enthusiasm was truly appreciated by our walkers.

In June we explored the Industrial Village of Woolwich and historic Docks and next month we'll be taking a walk through the streets around St Joseph's College and discussing the many heritage homes and history of that area.

In the past owners of historic homes in Hunters Hill have opened up their houses to Trust members for short tours. If any of

our current members feel able to do the same, or would be willing to give us a talk about the heritage of their home, the Trust would be extremely grateful.

Maureen Flowers
Walks Co-ordinator

WALKS CALENDAR FOR 2016

- 24 July** - The 'Bible' streets around St Joseph's College
- 28 August** - Marist Fathers Enclave, Mary Street
- 25 September** - Ferry Street and Early History
- 30 October** - Jacaranda Walk



Holy name of Mary Church Mary Street with the newly restored statue of St Patrick

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2016

Trust members Barbara and Nick Dorsch have volunteered to have this year's Christmas party in their house at **7 Gale Street Woolwich**.

Be sure to put this date in your calendar

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER 2016

According to the *Green Book*, Wilberforce S Gale, after whom the street was named, originally owned the land at 7 Gale Street. Subsequently St John's Church owned the place and the rectory was listed as Avon, with the Rev. Hofferma residing there.