



FOUNDED 1961

"Bunk"

*"History is more or less
bunk" - Henry Ford,
Chicago Tribune, 1916*

Exhibition tells the story of life in Hunters Hill over 100 years

As part of the 2013 National Trust Heritage Festival, under the theme "Community Milestones", Hunters Hill Historical Society and Museum identifies events in the life of Hunters Hill over the past 100 years. The exhibition is curated by Eunice Farram, and contains original photographs, documents and objects.

In the early days, lack of transport made schooling difficult, particularly for younger children. This resulted in many small private schools being founded to serve a very limited area, and in some cases only children from one or two adjacent streets would be pupils.

Some of the schools had church associations, but others were run by private individuals or groups, and in many cases the principals were women.

Places of worship have come and gone over the years, having been demolished, moved, sold and used for other purposes.

Villa Maria, or Holy Name of Mary, in Mary Street, was built between 1867 and 1871, initially intended as a chapel for the Marist Fathers monastery. The unusual architecture originates from the Marists' place of origin around south-east France.

In 1890 land was purchased on the peninsula for a second Catholic church. It was named for the martyred Marist Father Peter Chanel, who was killed on the island of Futuna in the South Pacific in 1841. All Saints Anglican was dedicated in 1888, but not finished until 1938. It has a fine Bevington organ, the only one remaining in New South Wales. The original St Marks Anglican celebrated its first service in 1858. Following resumption by the DMR in 1962, pressure to preserve the oldest public building in Hunters Hill resulted in it being relocat-

ed stone by stone to Figtree Road.

The attractive sandstone Congregational Church is in the retirement village in Alexandra Street. It was opened for worship in 1876, and John Fairfax was an early benefactor.

Perhaps the most famous of Hunters Hill's artists was Nora Heysen. Born in South Australia, the daughter of Sir Hans Heysen, she was the first woman to win the Arch-

ibald Prize in 1938, and was appointed an official Australian war artist in 1943. She came to live in Hunters Hill in 1954, and stayed here until her death in 2003. In 2011, the 100th anniversary of her birth, Hunters Hill Historical Society, in association with a generous donor and Hunters Hill Council, erected a bust of her by Susan Muranty in the forecourt of what is now Ottimo's Restaurant, where it was her custom to have a cup of coffee and read the paper.

There has always been a strong movement to preserve the heritage and character of Hunters Hill. This was dramatically demonstrated by a group of women who became known as The Batters For Kelly's Bush.

Kelly's Bush was named for the family who

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DIARY DATES 2013

Museum open
10 a.m. to noon
Monday to Friday

Meetings at Museum
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill

Thursday 27 June
10 am for 10.30am

At the Museum
**Can You Name
These Pictures?**

A collection of people
and places we can't name

**DON'T MISS OUR
HERITAGE WEEK
Community Milestones
Exhibition**

**Important events in
Hunters Hill's history**
in the areas of
Military
Schools
Churches
Sport
The Arts
Conservation

Industry & Commerce

**Open until
the end of August**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE
YOUR **BUNK** SENT TO YOU
BY EMAIL?

CONTACT US ON

museum@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

CAN YOU NAME THESE PICTURES?

On Thursday 27 June 10am we will
have on display pictures of people
and places we can't identify.

**COME
SEE IF
CAN HELP**



**IN AND
YOU
US OUT!**

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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founded the Sydney Smelting Company at Woolwich in 1892. The bushland was a buffer between the smelter, with its pollutants, and the residential area beyond.

When the smelter closed in 1967, developer A.V. Jennings took an option to purchase twelve acres of the bushland, with the intention of constructing three high-rise tower blocks and medium density housing.

Help was sought to stop the development, and at the last moment the Builders Labourers Federation through Jack Munday agreed to place a black ban on the site - soon to be called a green ban, the first in the world. After thirteen years, the State Government purchased the land from Jennings, and it became a permanent public reserve.

The Hunters Hill Golf Club was formed in 1900 with a nine hole course near Huntleys Point. Both men and women were members. In 1932 the Club had to go to make way for a nurses' home at Gladesville Hospital. Its most valuable asset was a liquor licence, and it merged with Pymble Golf Club.

In the 1880's engineering and manufacturing businesses began operating in Woolwich, aided by its proximity to Cockatoo Island and Port Jackson.

Besides boat builders and repairers and small manufacturing companies, early industries included chemical companies, a copper smelter, a tar distiller, the Mobil Oil storage depot, and the Radium Hill Company, which left a legacy of contaminated land.

Register of Historic Vessels

David Payne, Curator of the Australian Register of Historic Vessels, visited the Museum on Wednesday 24 April to give a presentation on the Australian Register of Historic Vessels. David is a self-taught designer, and was employed by his uncle, the naval architect Alan Payne as a draughtsman and designer. He is now the Curator of the ARHV.

The Australian Register of Historic Vessels was developed by the Australian National Maritime Museum in association with the Sydney Heritage Fleet. The objective is to assemble a picture of Australia's historic boats and ships, showing the various types, their numbers, distribution, uses, and condition. The objectives of the Register are to foster community interest in Australia's maritime heritage and help owners maintain and conserve their vessels.

Vessels built before 1965 are eligible to be included on the register, although some significant vessels built after 1965 are included. The register includes vessels of all types and lengths, from dinghies and small indigenous craft to sea-going ships which have a known history of ownership.

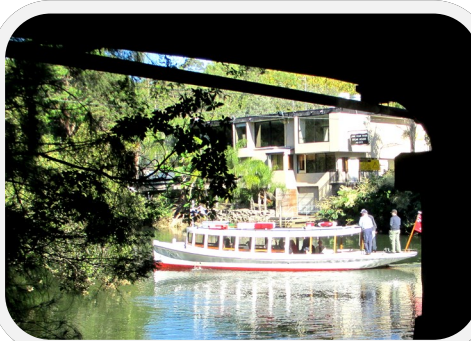
David presented an impressive display of pictures of all types of craft on the register, including tug boats, warships, ferries and indigenous canoes as well as yachts. His knowledge on the subject is impressive and he told many interesting stories about vessels as he went

The *Protex* only carries 20 people, so after Sydney Heritage Fleet crew **Alan Stannard** and **Ray Jenkinson**, that left room for our own **Graham Percival**, **Phil Jenkyn** from The Hunters Hill Trust and sixteen other lucky souls. It was a case of first in, best dressed, and unfortunately, a lot of applicants missed out.

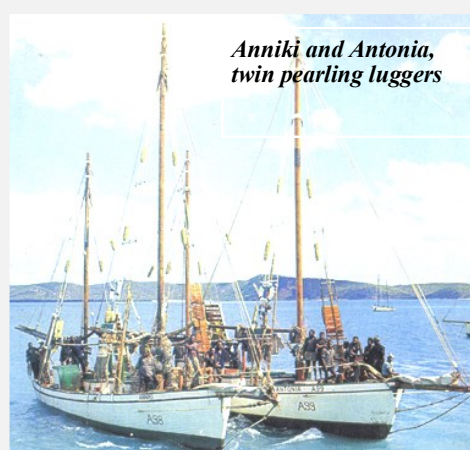
We left the Alexandra Street wharf in perfect weather, proceeding up the Lane Cove River, as Graham and Phil pointed out items of interest. Houses gave way to grassy river banks and mangroves, with river birds and fish jumping in the water. The Lane Cove River has never been in better condition.

We turned about at Fullers Bridge, and some of us disembarked to go on a walk through the bush back down the river to rendezvous with the boat at a riverside picnic spot for a combined morning tea and lunch, before cruising back with the tide.

It's easy to see why this cruise is so popular every year, and thanks must go to Graham and Phil for a lovely trip.



**Top: Well known landmark Figtree House
Bottom: Protex turns about at Fullers Bridge**



**Anniki and Antonia,
twin pearling luggers**

Cruising up the River

Hunters Hill Historical Society sponsored a cruise up the Lane Cove River on the Sydney Heritage Fleet's vessel *Protex* on Wednesday 15 May as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival. The *Protex* was built in about 1908 and was used to transport staff from the Colgate Palmolive factory at Balmain to the City. She was, of course, named after one of Colgate's soap brands. *Protex* is on the Australian Maritime Museum's Australian Register of Historic Vessels (see article on this page).

Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc.

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