



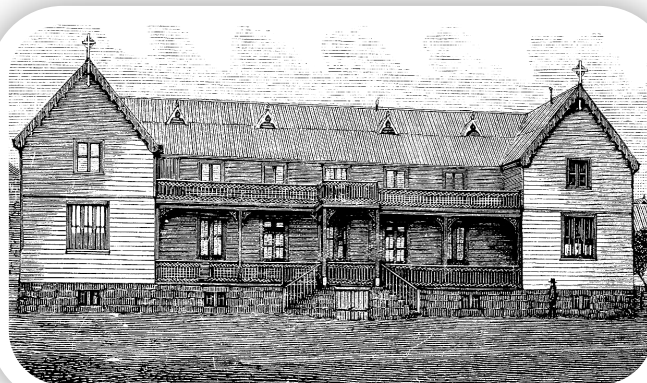
FOUNDED 1961

“Bunk”

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

Historical Society members visit St Joseph’s College

Members of Hunters Hill Historical Society enjoyed a rare treat when they were taken on a tour of St Joseph’s College by Hunters Hill Mayor, Councillor Richard Quinn, on Thursday 12 September. Councillor Quinn is the Director of Development at the College. St Joseph’s College is owned and run by the Marist Brothers, who transferred the College from Harrington Street in Sydney, where it was attached to St Patrick’s Church. The College’s first home was a temporary timber building built in 1882. Construction of the impressive stone building we know today was completed in 1894, with the exception of the Chapel, which was finished in 1940. We entered through the impressive iron gates,



which has a pipe organ made by Norman and Beard of Norwich. It was previously at St George’s Anglican Church, Hurstville. We discovered that Councillor Quinn is an excellent organist, as he proudly showed off the beautiful tones of the instrument. The Chapel also features historic stained glass windows, some coming from France and Germany.

A highlight of our tour was the climb to the top of the tower, a major landmark in Hunters Hill. Almost all of our group made it to the top. We were rewarded with magnificent vistas in every direction. Our thanks go to Councillor Quinn for this kind gesture.

*Top: The first timber building, 1882
Middle: Alja Brown made it to the top
Bottom: The Mayor welcomes us to the College*



which had previously graced Sydney Town Hall until they had to be removed for the commencement of construction of the underground railway station in 1927. As we walked up from the gates, we were greeted by the magnificent façade, where Councillor Quinn pointed out the College crest and the foundation stones of the main building laid in 1889, and the Chapel in 1940.

Upon entering the building, we walked up the marble staircase which had been acquired from Her Majesty’s Theatre upon its demolition, to the Upper Vestibule, which is adorned with works of art. We made our way to the chapel,



DIARY DATES 2013

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

Meetings at Museum
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill

Thursday 24 October
10am for 10.30
Speaker: Peter Colthorpe
Friends of Gladesville
Hospital
See Page 2

Monday 2 December
Christmas Banquet
Grandview Restaurant
Details to come

**Come and see our
new exhibition**
Hunters Hill

A Pictorial Record
Rare photographs
dusted off from our
archives show people and
events from “the old days”
up to the Hunters Hill we
know today
Curated by
Eunice Farram

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL

SOCIETY INC

ABN 72012103152

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Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc.

Officers for 2013-2014

President Ian Adair

Vice-president Pat Cox

Treasurer & Public Officer

Graham Percival

Secretary Tony Saunders

Committee

June Beck,

Jan Griffiths

Bob Mostyn

Dorothy Cubban

John Rogers

Chris Schofield

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2012-2013

The past year has seen steady progress in the activities of the Society. During the year, we mounted a major exhibition as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival entitled **Community Milestones**, which told the story of life in Hunters Hill from the earliest days of settlement. We are currently preparing an exhibition entitled **Hunters Hill – A Photographic Record**, in association with the History Council of NSW. This will be on display from early September until the end of the year. By arrangement with Hunters Hill Council, we have a permanent display cabinet in the Council foyer, which allows us to mount mini - displays during the year. The current display is entitled **Hunters Hill 100 Years Ago**, showing aspects of domestic life. We continued our strong program of guest speakers, and enjoyed visits to the Conservatorium of Music and Carisbrook House. This year the Society sponsored the Lane Cove River cruise on the historic vessel *Protex*, which we expect will become a yearly event. We had a record number of members and guests at the Christmas

John Vaughan speaks on Australian flags

Our guest speaker at the AGM on Thursday 22 August was John Vaughan, who is a vexillographer, or an authority on the design, etiquette, protocol and history of flags.

The subject of John's talk was **Australian Maritime and Heritage Flags**. He showed some twenty flags, variations on the familiar **Stars and Crosses**, used by the various Australian States and Merchant and Naval services.

We are familiar with the flag as it is today, but it has changed since the first flag won a national competition in 1901, with each entrant being required to submit two versions, a red ensign for merchant and public use, and a blue ensign for naval and official use. Over 32,000 entries were received, and five entrants, who had al-

most identical designs, shared the honours. They included a fourteen-year-old schoolboy and a teenage apprentice. *The Bulletin* of the day labelled it a stale imitation of the British flag, "with no artistic value, no national significance". Over the next few years, the exact specifications of the flag were changed several times, and the current specifications were gazetted in 1934. The Flags Act of 1953 defined it as the Australian National Flag.

John also showed us Southern Cross flag designs from between 1831 and 1853, as well as flags of Regional Australia and Lord Howe Island.

Australian National Flag Day falls on 3 September each year.

***Not sure whether you've paid your membership subscription?
Phone us on 98799443 10am to noon
Monday to Friday***

AUGUST SPEAKER
PETER COLTHORPE

Friends of Gladesville Hospital

Gladesville Hospital is the most significant hospital in the provision of mental health in NSW. Peter Colthorpe is the Coordinator of the Friends of Gladesville Hospital, a group that was formed to ensure the Gladesville Hospital site remains in public ownership and control. His presentation builds on the history of the hospital, and the legacy of Frederick Norton Manning.

Manning was appointed to Tarban Creek in 1868 and noted the prison-like conditions. In 1869 the name of the hospital was changed to the Hospital For The Insane, Gladesville. Manning minimized the use of restraint, and provided for patient activities. He brought humanity to the care of the mentally ill in the 1870s.

Dinner at the Grandview Restaurant, where guest speaker Beverley Sherry gave a reading of the poetry of Robert D. FitzGerald. Our local walks program continues to be very popular, particularly with Probus groups. This month we had our yearly stall at the Moocooboola Festival in conjunction with Vienna Cottage and the Hunters Hill Trust. This allows us to fly the flag and make good contacts.

It had been hoped to extend the Heritage Walk Plaques program to west of the overpass during Gil Wahlquist's Presidency, but funding could not be arranged. We have now received a generous offer, and have begun negotiations with Hunters Hill Council.

The Committee decided to discontinue the Broadband For Seniors program due to lack of patronage. The computers have been gifted to



the museum, and are being reconfigured for research use. Our oral histories have been converted to disc, and we are continuing with a program of interviews. We are about to embark on a program of digitising our photograph archives for easy reference. We are developing a Hunters Hill Historical Society and Museum website, to make our archives, pictures and exhibitions available to anyone, anywhere, who has access to the internet. The Committee decided not to continue with the Expression of Interest in moving the Museum to The Priory, but to continue in the present location, which is convenient for visitors and volunteers.

We continue to enjoy excellent relations with Hunters Hill Council, and are extremely grateful for the interest and support they have shown at all levels.

On a sad note, during the year we lost our former President, Gil Wahlquist. We are mindful of the great contribution Gil made to the Historical Society and Museum, and are striving to honour his legacy. We also lost our dear friend and colleague, Ed Gooley, who was the Society's Public Officer. Ed was active in many organisations in the Hunters Hill area, and was well known for his friendly personality and cheerful outlook.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and volunteers for the work they have put in over the past twelve months, and look forward to us working together to achieve our exciting goals in this coming year.