



www.huntershillmuseum.org.au

*"History is more or less bunk"-
HENRY FORD, Chicago Tribune, 1916*

"Bunk"

Historical Society receives Hunters Hill Council Community Award

Diary Dates 2017

Museum Open
10am to noon
Monday to Friday

Meetings at Museum
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill

Thursday 23 February
General Meeting
Morning tea 10am
Meeting starts 10:30am
Followed by
Guest Speaker:
Sue Castrique
Under The Colony's
Eye
Gentlemen and Convicts
On Cockatoo Island
1839-1869

Monday 3 April
Visit to
Sydney Town Hall
combined with recital
on the Grand Organ

The tour starts at
10:30am and the
recital at 12:30pm
Cost of visit \$5
Recital free
Travel by public
transport

Maximum of 30
Phone museum
98799443
or Tony Saunders
98171432
if you wish to go

The Historical Society was awarded The Hunters Hill Community Project of the Year Award at the 2017 Australia Day Ceremony at the Deckhouse at Woolwich.

The award was made for the Historical Society's publication, *Hunters Hill Heritage Walks*.

In receiving the award, on behalf of the Historical Society, from Hunters Hill Mayor Councillor Richard Quinn, President Chris Schofield said the publication would not have been made possible without the contribution and assistance of many people. As well as mentioning the work of many members of the Historical Society, he singled out the Mostyn and Armati families who have been benefactors of the whole plaques project.

The guide details the 70 his-

toric plaques installed across Hunters Hill, both east and west of the overpass.

It covers six heritage walks – Woolwich Walk, Jeanneret Walk, Garibaldi Walk, Figtree Walk, Missionary Walk and Henley Walk.

It is illustrated with significant photographs taken over several centuries of people and places prominent in the development of Sydney's oldest garden suburb.

Free copies of the guide are available for from the Museum at the Town Hall.



Mayor Richard Quinn with the Committee and friends of the Historical Society

Recollections of a Hunters Hill telegraph messenger

In September 1948, Mr J. Picard recorded his experiences as a telegraph messenger at the Hunters Hill Post Office. He was appointed on 22nd June, 1882. Here are some of them:

'As far as I can remember, the telephone exchange was established twelve or eighteen months after I was appointed. It started with four subscribers; Mr C.E. Jeanneret, No.1; Fern Bay Dockyard, belonging to Mr Jeanneret for docking his Parramatta steamers, No. 2; The Sydney Smelting Works, No. 3; and Atlas Engineering Works, No. 4. Then later, Gladesville Mental

Hospital, No. 5 and Riverview College, No. 6. This single line was the largest telephone line of one span in the Commonwealth. It ran

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FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER

Sue Castrique is a member of the Professional Historians Association of NSW and ACT. She has experience in bringing the past to the screen as a writer and editor of historical documentaries.

She has received three Australian Writers' Guild Awards and an AFI Award.

Under The Colony's Eye tells of the struggle to build a dock, and the secret fight club run on this penal settlement.

The other messenger and I used to play marbles in the street. We never troubled much about the phone

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC

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Vice President Pat Cox

Secretary Tony Saunders

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Bob Mostyn

Jean Pritchard

Honorary Auditor

Bob Love

Visit to St Joseph's College

Members of the Historical Society made their second visit to St Josephs College on Thursday 10 November last year. The tour was hosted by the Mayor of Hunters Hill, Richard Quinn, who is also the college's Development Officer. As we walked around the grounds, we saw preparations being made for the college's annual Spring Fair. A feature of our tour was a visit to the library and resources centre and the museum.



The life, death and burial of Bennelong

At the Society's October 2016 General Meeting, Dr Peter Mitchell, an environmental scientist and associate of Ryde District Historical Society, gave a talk entitled *Finding Bennelong*, on the Aboriginal man who was captured by Governor Phillip's men at Manly Cove in 1789, to try to communicate with the indigenous people around what is now Sydney Harbour. His full name was Woollarawarre Bennelong, and he was born around 1764. He was of the Eora tribe, and his second wife's name was Barangaroo, now made famous by the development near Circular Quay.

After his capture and escape, during which he was marginally involved in the spearing of Governor Phillip at Manly, Bennelong voluntarily returned to the Sydney Cove settlement in 1790.

He took readily to life among the white men and became attached to the governor, in whose house he lived.

In December 1792, he sailed to England with another Aboriginal, Yemmerawanne. Both men suffered from illness and loneliness, and Yemmerawanne died and was buried in England. Bennelong returned to Sydney with the new governor, Captain John Hunter in 1795. His influence within the settlement and his countrymen had waned, and he left to lead the Kissing Point Tribe – a group of Eora refugees who lived on James Squires' estate in the Ryde district.

Two years after his return, he had become a victim of alcohol, and had a reputation for violence. He died at Kissing Point on 3 January 1813. For two centuries, mystery has surrounded Bennelong's final resting place, but Dr Mitchell has gathered archival evidence which he believes pinpoints it to a patch of grass in a Putney street. It had formerly been part of the estate of James Squire, Australia's first brewer. He led a covert investigation with Ryde Council to find the site – not even the home's owners were told.

See findingbennelong.com



The house in Putney

Hunters Hill telegraph messengers

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across the Lane Cove River from Ady Street, then to the top of the hill to Riverview College.

'As the subscribers increased, so the trouble began. The other messenger and I used to play marbles in the street. We never troubled much about the phone. We got into very serious trouble for keeping the Governor, Lord

'Right you are, Old Toucher,' I replied to Mr Jeanneret

Carrington, waiting on the Parramatta wharf. Mr Jeanneret was trying to arrange for the Governor to be conveyed to Sydney by special steamer. We were cautioned and fined. Later on, I got into trouble for speaking dis-

The Police sergeant complained about his business being repeated. It was discovered a subscriber used to listen in all day for any cross talk she could pick up

respectfully to a subscriber. I answered a ring from Mr S. Jeanneret. He required line 2. I replied "Right you are, Old Toucher."

'The Police sergeant complained to the post mistress about his business being repeated, and blamed the switch attendant. However, it was discovered a subscriber used to listen in all day for any cross talk she could pick up.

'About ten or twelve years after the first telephone wires were erected, the Department decided to replace them with higher poles and cross arms. Two gangs of linesmen were sent out. The gang on the Woolwich section destroyed a lot of beautiful pine trees growing along Woolwich Road. They blazed a track through the side of them, and they looked like a lot of plucked fowls. There was a terrible to do about it at the Council'

From the archives of Hunters Hill Historical Society

2016 CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Hunters Hill Historical Society held its 2016 Christmas Banquet at the Hunters Hill Club on Monday 5 December.

Fifty three members and friends attended, and the night was a great success, with an excellent menu and an outstanding array of prizes in the raffle, conducted by President Chris Schofield and our vice president, Pat Cox.

It was a great opportunity for members and friends to spend time together.