



www.huntershillmuseum.org.au

“Bunk”

“History is more or less bunk”-
HENRY FORD, Chicago Tribune, 1916

THE HUNTERS HILL MASONIC LODGE

Diary Dates 2019

**Museum Open
10am to noon
Monday to Friday**

**Meetings at the Museum
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill**

Thursday 27 February

**10.30am
GENERAL MEETING**

In the Museum

**Morning tea will be served
at 10am**

**GUEST SPEAKER
ROSS McBRIDE**

Numismatics

**Stories of the currencies
of Britain, the USA and
Australia**

HUNTERS HILL STREET NAMES

Our website

www.huntershillmuseum.org.au
now contains information about the
origin of street names in Hunters
Hill.

It can be found under *Publications*.
We welcome any additions or
corrections.

Please email us at
contact@huntershillmuseum.org.au

The first recorded meeting of the Hunters Hill Masonic Lodge was held on 25 July 1885. There were 22 foundation members, the better known names including C.E. Jeanneret, Numa Joubert and Thomas Cuneo; Numa Joubert was the proprietor of the Lane Cove River Service. He employed a shipwright who had six sons and six daughters. Three of the sons, Ray, Cliff and Hec Howard later became members of the lodge. Giuseppe Garibaldi, the Italian patriot after



whom the Cuneos named the Garibaldi Inn, is claimed by some to have been ‘the greatest Grand Master of all time.’ Charles Jeanneret was installed as the first Worshipful Master and eighty people attended the installation banquet.

The first meeting place was the Hunters Hill Town Hall. In March 1890, due to lack of funds and local support, the meeting place was changed to Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Unfortunately, this didn’t improve the financial situation and it was decided to return to Hunters Hill. The financial situation still didn’t improve, so in March 1896 the lodge’s

charter was handed in and it went into recess. But local masons who were also civic fathers came to the rescue and under the guidance of W Bro. Harry Aspinall, three times mayor of Hunters Hill and the first president of the Hunters Hill Bowling Club, the lodge was reopened in March 1904. In his address the Grand Master of the United Grand

Lodge of New South Wales said it was ‘a disgrace for the brethren of Hunters Hill to let their lodge go into suspension as this suburb should have one of the strongest lodges.’

In 1908 the Royal Foresters, a Friendly Society, offered to build a hall if the Hunters Hill lodge would use it. The offer was declined, but the Royal Foresters went ahead and built the stone hall in Mount Street opposite the Harry Shelley Reserve. It is now a residence.

In early 1917 a start was made on a permanent meeting place; a building fund and building committee were established. After WWI, there was a surge in returned soldiers joining freemasonry. A

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Hunters Hill disturbed by ‘disgraceful conduct’

Moved by Councillor Jeanneret, seconded by Councillor Joubert:

That a letter be sent ‘to inform Mr Cuneo that several cases of disorderly and disgraceful conduct arising out of the want of proper management of Garibaldi Hotel have been brought under notice, and that in the event of a repetition of such nuisances it will be necessary to take

measures which will be both painful to them and unpleasant to Mr Cuneo. The Council have particularly remarked the Sunday selling and games in the neighbourhood of the Garibaldi which they would remind him are quite contrary to law.’

*Hunters Hill Council Minutes
Saturday 18 April 1863*

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC

ABN 72012103152

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2019-2020**

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block of land was purchased in November 1920 and the building was commenced in February 1921. The foundation stone was laid on 12 March 1921 and Bro. Harry Thomas was installed as Worshipful Master. The final cost was 5,028 pounds. From 22 members in 1885, membership rose to about 200 in February 1968, when Peter Cuthbert compiled his history. Since then, membership declined until the lodge was no longer viable.

The building was sold in April 2019 on behalf of Sydney Masonic Holdings Pty Ltd for use as a residence.

Information for this article was taken from the booklet *Early History of the Hunters Hill District, the Municipality and Freemasonry*, compiled by Worshipful Bro. Peter W. Cuthbert and Worshipful Bros. Roy M. and Harold C. Rousell.

Picture: Meeting room, Hunters Hill Masonic Temple, courtesy The Northern District Times.

Hunters Hill High School 1968-1971

Hunters Hill High School opened in 1958 and was the first co-educational High School in Metropolitan Sydney.

After the introduction of the Wyndham Scheme in New South Wales Secondary Education the Leaving Certificate was replaced by the Higher School Certificate.

I was appointed as an Art Teacher to Hunters Hill High School, commencing in January 1968. At this time a new Principal, Ron Rushbrooke was appointed. He

was the schools second Principal, succeeding James Rae who retired in 1967. Mr Rushbrooke was the President of the powerful Combined High Schools Sporting Group and thus sport played an important part in school life while he was at the school. Bill Myles was the charismatic Deputy Principal whose great commitment to education inspired both staff and pupils. As well as being a great teacher and administrator, Bill led the staff to the Tivoli Theatre in Sydney in 1968 to vote for the first ever Teachers' strike in NSW.

Hunters Hill High School had an enrolment of 1100 students in 1968 and every boy and girl on the Peninsula attended the School. The girls wore a blue suit, complete with stockings and a hat, while the boys wore white shirts, school tie and long trousers. There was a very active Cadet Corps and I became a Second Lieutenant, replacing Peter Richmond. Peter was later promoted and became the first Principal of Muirfield High School.

As I had a Basketball background, being 195cm tall, I became coach of the First and Second Grade basketball teams. When we played against Marsden High School, their coach was the late Richard Gill. Richard later became famous as a music educator, a conductor and as an advocate of music education for children, he was awarded an AO. Tragically he died aged 76 of cancer in 2018. A life-time friendship developed between us.

From the Hunters Hill High School *Viewpoint* August 1966

The first thing I must do is apologise for my name not appearing under last month's editorial. It's not that I was ashamed of it, only that it got lost on the way to the printers, These things happen.

An example of 5th form irresponsibility on the recent geography excursion: Three 5th form boys were bashing a 3rd form pupil half their size. The fact that two of the boys were prefects only serves to make the matter

Our basketball games were played in the School Hall – originally The Moocooboola Pavilion, dating from the 1880s and used as a dance pavilion and picnic centre. It was known as 'The Avenue Pleasure Grounds', with visitors arriving by ferry at the week-end. During my basketball coaching time, the basket-

ballers were the only ones allowed to wear shoes in the Hall. The floor was kept "sparkling" by Mrs Ivory, the long-time 'martinet' cleaner. The school was famous for its yearly Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas produced by



the Maths Master, Alan Ferguson.

I clearly remember taking my Art Class into the nearby Music Room which had a black and white Television and we joined with other classes to see the first Moon Landing in August 1969 - an event we will always remember!

Hunters Hill was a happy and lively school at that time. The students worked hard and produced great results in academia and sport. We had a great swimmer, Wayne Farthing and Jay and Mandy Tomkyns were excellent athletes.

The school site was used as a storage depot for the Navy during and after World War II and authorities used the reconditioned Defence Department huts when the school was opened in 1958. Those huts still comprise most of the classrooms in 2019.

I became Art Master at Cheltenham Girls High School in 1972, and Rick Hedley replaced me and was Art Master for many years until he retired. Ron Rushbrooke retired in 1973 and Bill Myles went on to be Principal of Dulwich High School and lived well into his 90s.

1968 to 1971 – a most happy four years in my teaching career in a great school – Hunters Hill High.

**Ross McBride
Picture: The Avenue Pleasure
Grounds 1910, site of Hunters Hill
High School**

worse.

Speaking of the geography excursion, one boy looked rather out of place. Judging by his boots, he would have been more at home on a ranch in Texas.

We hear that a certain maths teacher has been forced to buy her own lock for the door between rooms 3 and 4. Is it meant to keep outsiders out or inmates in?