

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of Hunters Hill
and show respect to Elders past and present.*



www.huntershillmuseum.org.au

“Bunk”

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

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Thursday August 24
10.00 for 10.30 start
At the council chambers

Guest speaker to be advised

Notification is hereby given that the annual general meeting of members will be held at the Hunters Hill Council Chambers on Thursday August 24, 2023 at 10.30am.

BUSINESS: 1.To adopt the annual and financial reports for the year ended June 30, 2023.

2.To elect officers and committee members.

3. To transact any other business.

Nominations for the committee close seven days before the AGM.

Tony Saunders, Honorary Secretary.

Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc

Office bearers and committee
2022/2023

President: Chris Schofield

Vice-President and secretary:
Tony Saunders

Treasurer:

Felicity McCaffrey

Committee: Dorothy Cubban, Jan Griffiths, Dean Letcher, Jean Pritchard, Rod Stewart

Newsletter editor: Kate Armati

Mystery painting’s history revealed



When Jackie Bradshaw looked at her new painting little did she realise just how much history was about to be revealed.

“Woolwich Night” was given to Jackie by her second cousin Robert Mostyn on the death of his father Bob last year who had lived for 60 years in Viret Street.

She knew it was painted by CG Taylor in 1956 (as identified on the painting) who was a talented Woolwich artist and resident but she was not certain of the location of the cottage.

For the past few weeks this mysterious painting has been the centre of a flurry of emails to place its location and time in the history of the suburb.

Jackie’s husband Robert sent a photo of the painting to historian Beverley Sherry, who immediately got to work with Jan Griffiths the Society’s archivist, who, like Jackie, grew up in Hunters Hill. They confirmed that it was 73 Woolwich Rd.

“I thought I recognised the house as having been in the family of my friend Greg Hyde, also an artist, but I wasn’t sure,” said Jackie.

With the location confirmed a wonderful story of art and family has unfolded.

The painter Cecil George Taylor, also known

“Woolwich Night” painted in 1956 by CG Taylor (left) and 73 Woolwich Road today.

as Paddy, lived at 20 The Point Road on the Lane Cove River and swam most days in his river pool on the Lane Cove River, according to Jackie.

“CG Taylor was known as Paddy and he and his wife Nora were close family friends of my parents. He gave my husband and I one of his paintings for our wedding present,” she said.

Born in Petersham in 1909, CG Taylor lived in Woolwich until 1970 and then moved to Kuranda in North Queensland. He later died in 2000. He worked at the Sydney City Council in Town Planning whilst also developing his painting style and entering many works in the Archibald, Sulman and Wynne prizes.

One of his paintings was of Greg Hyde, whose grandparents lived at 73 Woolwich Rd.

“Greg, a famous artist himself and born in Woolwich in 1950, lived with his parents Susie and Vic at 26 The Point Road Woolwich. Coincidentally Paddy painted Greg’s portrait for the Archibald in 1972. They only

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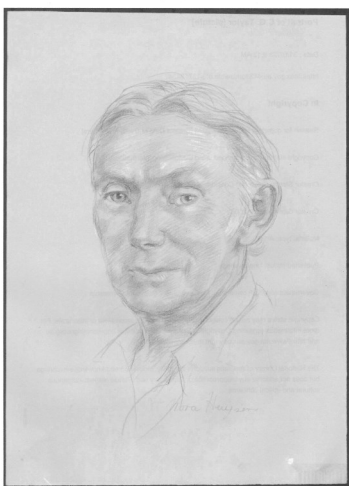
lived a couple of doors from each other on Woolwich Rd,” Jackie wrote.

“Greg said that Paddy was always very supportive and helpful with his art in those early years.”

In an email to Jackie, Greg was able to provide more background. Greg’s mother was Susan Betty Pearce and his grandparents were Stanley Banks Pearce and Jessie Field.

Stanley was an electrical engineer and Greg recalls him repairing Stanley Steamer cars in the backyard at 73 Woolwich Rd. His grandmother won many scholastic medals at Sydney University and started a small school in the boatshed at 26 The Point Road. (They lived there before moving to 73 Woolwich Rd). She died in 1954 and Stanley then moved to Queensland to be with his sons Bill and Bob although he continued to visit Woolwich.

The Society thanks Jackie for permission to reproduce “Woolwich Night” in this edition of Bunk and for her personal story which has added to history. Readers will be struck by the fact that the recent photograph of 73 Woolwich Rd cannot possibly convey the strangely evocative, moody atmosphere of the painting. **Kate Armati**



Portrait of CG Taylor by Nora Heysen: National Library of Australia - accessed by Trove. Taylor entered a portrait of his son in the Archibald in 1945 and another in 1950. He also painted Nora's portrait.

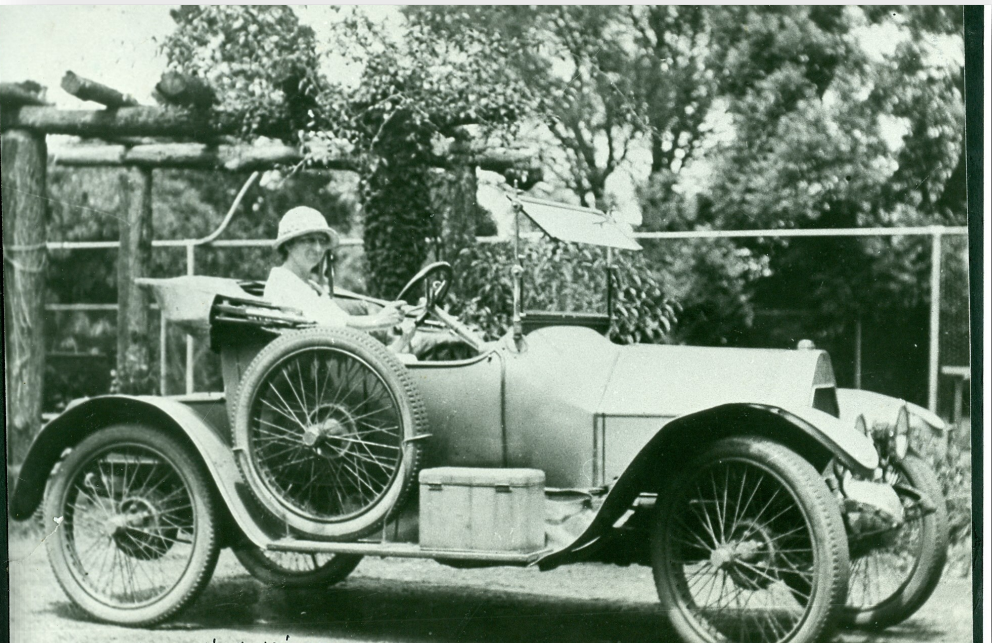
Exhibition to show evolving transport

When Hunters Hill was settled there was not one bridge in early Sydney to connect the harbour, north and south Headlands and the growing settlement of Parramatta. In fact it was not until six bridges were built over many decades that the suburb was linked by road to the city.

For more than 100 years ferries were the only practical mode of transport from Hunters Hill and that’s why there were 26 wharves dotted around the peninsula for commercial and recreational uses. Want to know more? Then visit the not-to-be-missed History of Hunters Hill Transport Exhibition at the museum from August 11 and you will see the story of how the suburb developed its transport links.

Rare and original photographs, memorabilia such as ferry lights, ticket operating machines will be on show. All members and friends are welcome to attend the official opening by the Mayor of Hunters Hill Mr Zac Miles on Thursday August 10 at 6pm. Refreshments of wine, cheese and crackers will be served.

Dean Letcher



From the HHHS archives the photo above shows Marian (Meg) Marshall, who lived with her family in “Eulbertie” in Stanley Rd, behind the wheel of an early motorcar in 1922.

Members visit Parramatta sites

Members of the Hunters Hill Historical Society travelled by coach to Parramatta to visit two important buildings in the history of the early colonial settlement in NSW: Hambledon Cottage Museum and Elizabeth Farm. Both buildings are associated with John Macarthur - prominent soldier and entrepreneur in early colonial life.

Elizabeth Farm, Australia’s oldest surviving European dwelling, was built in 1793 by Macarthur an influential yet controversial figure of the times.

The three-bedroom house was enlarged as Macarthur’s wealth and influence grew. It was named after his wife Elizabeth who lived in the house until her death in 1850.

Hambledon Cottage, in the grounds of Elizabeth Farm, is Georgian in style and was built in 1824 to provide additional accommodation for estate use and for extended family and friends when they came to visit.

The cottage is built of rendered sandstone brick. The joinery throughout the cottage is made of Australian cedar. Some of the internal ceilings and walls are of lath and plaster whilst one bedroom still has its original ironbark flooring. The cottage contains authentic furniture from the 19th century to provide a real sense of how living in this period looked, and this is expressed across all the different rooms.

Ian Adair