



www.huntershillmuseum.org.au

“Bunk”

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

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Diary Dates:

*Annual General Meeting
of members:*

**Wednesday 27 August
2025**

10 00 am for 10 30 am start in the
Hunters Hill Council Chamber.

Notification is hereby given to
member that the Annual General
Meeting of members will be held
in the Hunters Hill Council Cham-
ber on **Wednesday 27 August
2025 at 10 30 am.**

Business:

- 1. To adopt the annual and finan-
cial reports for the year ended
30 June 2025.**
- 2. To elect officers and committee
members.**
- 3. To transact any other business.**

**Nominations for the committee
close seven days before the AGM
and forms are available from the
museum.**

**Tony Saunders,
Honorary Secretary**

**Guest speaker will be Chris
Schofield on
The Industrial Revolution.**

Joubert family organ donated to museum

A reed organ which once
graced the home of the
Joubert family, early settlers
of the peninsular of Hunters Hill, is
being given to the museum by a close
relative John Dezarnaulds and his
wife Robyn.

The Reed organ which bears the key-
board stamp Naylor and Company, 153
Castlereagh Street, Sydney, was likely
imported from the Estey Organ Compa-
ny in the USA in the early 1900s and was
purchased by the Joubert family.

“Our family connection with the Joubert
family goes back to the marriage of Nu-
ma Augustus Joubert and my great
grandmother’s younger sister Margaret
Scott Henry,” John Dezarnaulds said.

Numa Joubert (1840-1926) was the first
born of Didier Numa Joubert and Louise
Marie Bonnefin who married in 1839 and
went onto have three more children Fer-
dinand, Louise and Rose.

Didier and brother Jules bought land and
built many sandstone homes in the sub-
urb. Didier and his wife Louise pur-
chased Figtree Farm in 1847 from Mary
Reiby and went onto build the stately
home St Malo which became an ideal for
much of the building in Hunters Hill:
central door, French doors either side,
two symmetrical chimneys, stone-paved
verandahs. (This home was demolished
to make way for the expressway). Didier
also built Coorabel, Annabel Lea, Warra-
willah, The Bungalow, and Figtree
House. He also established the Lane
Cove Steam Ferry Company and on his
death in 1881 his son Numa returned



John Dezarnaulds with the Joubert organ.

from New Caledonia to run the enterprise.

Back in Hunters Hill, Numa and Margaret
brought up their growing family: Elizabeth (b.
1873), Numa (Ferdinand), Lise, Alexander,
Didier Numa, Albert, Mary Adelaide and
Cecile.

“Margaret Scott Henry (b.1855) was a younger
sister of my great grandmother Mary Aitken
Henry (b.1847). Their parents Andrew and
Elizabeth Henry had earlier emigrated in 1848
from Scotland to Sydney and then to New Cal-
edonia,” John Dezarnaulds said.

“Mary married Augustus Martin and my grand-
mother Mary Elizabeth (May) Martin was born
in 1870, the second eldest of a large family
brought up in Noumea.”

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

As first cousins the Joubert family in Sydney and the Martin family in Noumea were relatively close. May married Camille Dezarnaulds in 1889 at All Saints Anglican Church, Hunters Hill.

Camille's family were early French pioneers in New Caledonia and his father Jean-Baptiste Bernard Dezarnaulds was the Mayor of Noumea from 1879 to 1882.

So back to the organ and how John Dezarnaulds came to have it in his home.

"This beautiful organ was passed onto my family by the Joubert family in the 1980s," John said.

"We had earlier returned from Canada and were living in Longueville when we were given the organ.

"Sometime after receiving it we had it faithfully restored by a specialist in Lane Cove, Mr Hogan."

Any serial numbers that may have existed on a small faded and torn paper label within the body of the organ are not legible, however, other pencil markings read no: 359762 which according to Estey information would approximate a manufacture date of 1906/07, John said.

A special piece of history with the organ is a hardcover copy of Music of the Liberal Catholic Liturgy, with a signature of Lise Joubert (Numa and Margaret's daughter) January 27, 1921. John and Robyn will donate the organ to The Hunters Hill Historical Society in 2026.



The hardcover copy of Music of the Liberal Catholic Liturgy with Lise Joubert's signature.

TOUR OF HISTORIC CARISBROOK HOUSE

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 1 October 2025 at 10am

Tour and morning tea

This historic house is managed by the Lane Cove Historical Society on behalf of Lane Cove Council. Built in the 1880s, it is Sydney's only house museum which captures the lifestyle of the Victorian era.

Closer to the date we will contact you for expressions of interest.

Tony Saunders, Hon. Secretary

Beverly Sherry who has written books on Hunters Hill has chosen this poem by New England/American poet Robert Frost for us to enjoy.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost (1874-1963)

Volunteer symposium for museum management

HHHS Committee member Felicity McCaffrey attended a Volunteer Symposium for NSW Regional and Community-run Museums at The Mint last week. The two-day event held on 28 and 29 July was designed for volunteers in small to medium-sized museums and was opened by former NSW Premier Bob Carr. Felicity said she learnt a lot over the two days from archival procedures, grant application steps; exhibition setups, to the importance of strategic plans for museums. The message was "respect the past to shape the future," she said. "To have clear goals, best museum practices, engage with the community and have tangible outcomes. The importance of labelling; protection of collections from insects, humidity; what to accept into a museum and the storage of photographs with acid free paper, no tape were all covered."

Photos: A group in the Caroline Simpson Library; photo of Bentham, 13 Wybalena Rd, in The Mint collection.



Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc

Office bearers and committee

2024/2025

President: Rod Stewart

Vice president \Treasurer:

Felicity McCaffrey

Secretary: Tony Saunders

Committee: Dorothy Cubban, Jan

Griffiths, Jean Pritchard

Newsletter editor: Kate Armati

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

ABN 72012103152

Address Mail To The Secretary
Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc
PO Box 98 Hunters Hill NSW 2110

Phone 9879 9443

www.huntershillmuseum.org.au

Email:

contact@huntershillmuseum.org.au

Editor: Kate Armati