Best practice in heritage conservation

No.5 Alexandra Street now sits proudly amongst a myriad of historic properties along Alexandra Street.

Thanks to the Hawthorne family the property now boasts a completely restored facade that pedestrians and motorists marvel at.

Hunter’s Hill Council has received calls from residents praising No.5 for its sensitive restoration.

It is therefore no wonder that at the recent National Trust Heritage Awards the Hawthorne’s home won its ‘Conservation - Built Heritage’ category award.

‘When we first walked into the property we looked up and we actually could see the sky. Obviously we were shocked at the derelict state of the house. It had been laying dormant for 8 years since the fire,’ said Mrs Hawthorne.

Not daunted by this the Hawthorne’s went about completing the restoration in nine months.

Control, Steve Kourepis stated, ‘The Hawthorne’s have paid respect to the history of the property by retaining its original proportions, but at the same time adaptively reusing the site. This is certainly a ‘best practice’ model that Council endorses.’

‘It has been so interesting listening to residents who walk by and comment on the house. The support has been amazing,’ said Mrs Hawthorne.

The history of the property is certainly unique. Uses have included a general store, several restaurants, and even a hairdressing salon.

Council’s Group Manager, Development and Regulatory

HUNTERS HILL 60TH ART EXHIBITION

The recent Opening Night of the Hunters Hill 60th Art Exhibition was an outstanding success. Over 700 paintings were entered into the Exhibition, 400 of which were hung over three venues in Hunters Hill. Sale of artworks and visitor numbers were strong.

This year, to celebrate the 60th anniversary, a special Festival of Art weekend was held, centred around the Garibaldi Village. It included music, children's art classes and the Salon des Refuses showing a selection of the unselected works from the Exhibition.

Council extends its thanks to the members of the Hunters Hill Art Advisory Committee and the many volunteers who have helped make this Exhibition such a success.

Riverglade Reserve Grey-headed Flying Fox Camp

A Grey-headed Flying-fox camp has established in Riverglade Reserve along Tarban Creek. Flying-fox numbers are estimated to be 3,605 (counted 17 April 2014 by Royal Botanic Gardens) - a small camp compared to others across Sydney. Flying-fox camps are generally located in eastern Australia.

Grey-headed Flying-foxes are large pollen, nectar and fruit eating bats which roost during the day in large canopy colonies. They are important pollinators and seed dispersers. They will travel large distances often up to 30km from their camp to forage. Flying-fox numbers are likely to fluctuate as they migrate in response to the seasonal availability of food resources.

Grey-headed Flying-foxes are relatively long lived mammals, up to 20 years in the wild, with the average age of reproductive animals being between 6 and 10 years. They give birth once a year, usually to only one young. Mating commences in January with conception occurring in April or May, followed by a 6 month gestation period, after which most young are born in October or November. The noise and smell is related to their behaviour at the moment i.e. mainly males are defending territories throughout the night. This noise is likely to be reduced from around mid-May.

Grey-headed Flying-foxes are listed as a threatened species (vulnerable to extinction) under NSW and Australian legislation because of declining numbers (30% decline over 10 years between 1989 and 1999) and key threats such as habitat loss and urban conflict. Therefore a Plan of Management and licence is required to undertake actions that would impact on the camp.

Dispersal activities are often the last resort because they are expensive, noisy (loud noise is required at dawn and dusk over many months if not years), highly resource intensive and in about 70% of cases animals will relocate to within about 1 kilometre of the original site or unsuitable locations. Also, they need to be undertaken during the winter months i.e. June to August.

Grey-headed Flying-foxes pose no health risks unless you are bitten or scratched, so never directly handle them. Australian bat lyssavirus and Hendra virus are two diseases associated with Flying-foxes, however the risk of transmitting disease to humans is extremely low. Coming into contact with faecal matter or urine will not transmit disease, and provided basic hygiene measures are applied there is no reason for the community to be concerned. The Royal Botanic Gardens are continuing to monitor the camp. If you find an injured Flying-fox, do not handle them and please contact Sydney Wildlife on 9413 4300 for assistance.
Weed of the Month

Agapanthus (Agapanthus spp.)

One of the most widely planted ornamental landscape plants, Agapanthus have invaded natural areas including the Blue Mountains world heritage area.

Description:
Small trumpet shaded blue or white flowers that form large spherical clusters (umbels) at the end of long smooth tubular stalks. Very showy floral display in Summer. The fruit is a three-sided leathery green capsule, which forms in clusters at the end of stalks, drying brown and papery when mature.

Dispersal:
Seed and tubers spread by water, wind, humans, contaminated soil (earthmoving equipment, car tyres etc) and garden refuse dumping.

Control:
Hand pull/dig, bagging all plant parts and removing from site. Foliar spray, cut and paint.

This is a popular garden plant that needs active management in all gardens. This may be as simple as removing dead flower stalks prior to seeding, or as comprehensive as complete removal from gardens.

National Tree Day - 27 July 2014

Hunter’s Hill Council is inviting residents to get involved in Australia’s biggest community tree-planting and nature care event.

National Tree Day started in 1996 and since then more than 2.8 million people have planted 20 million seedlings! This community tree-planting site will also help connect a key Sydney wildlife corridor.

Gloves, tools and equipment for planting will be provided. Just come along on the day wearing sturdy shoes, long pants, and a hat.

Refreshments will be provided.

For further information please contact Hunter’s Hill Council, Ph: 9879 9439.
Guringai Festival

Hunter’s Hill Council is pleased to participate in the 2014 Guringai Festival, a celebration of Aboriginal culture and heritage. The Festival is being held between 26 May - 13 July 2014, with events across Northern Sydney. For more information visit www.guringaifestival.com.au

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE TALK & WALK

Sunday 15 June
2pm-4pm
Meet in park, opposite Woolwich Pier Hotel, Gale St, Woolwich

Learn about local Aboriginal culture with Dharug presenter Chris Tobin. Chris has worked as an interpretive guide for National Parks and Wildlife for the past 13 years. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the fascinating and proud Aboriginal history of the area.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ART WORKSHOP AND STORYTELLING

Wednesday 2 July
10am-12 noon and 1pm-3pm
Hunters Hill Town Hall, 22 Alexandra St, Hunters Hill

During this fun and interactive school holiday activity children will learn about Aboriginal art and culture; and how knowledge of their world is passed down to each generation visually through artworks and orally through stories. Children will learn about Aboriginal art and sand art, Aboriginal symbols, create artworks and experience storytelling with the didgeridoo.

The workshops are for school aged children only and cost $10 per child. Bookings are essential. Please Ph: 9879 9440 or email community@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Riverglade Reserve

Work is well underway on the upgrade at Riverglade Reserve identified in the recent Reserve Plan of Management.

The work includes a new shared path, small amenities building, additional seating, signage and garbage bin upgrade. The shared path was completed in May with the amenities building due for completion by the end of the financial year.
RESTORATION OF HISTORIC WORLD WAR 1 GUN - YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!

In preparation for the Centenary of ANZAC in April 2015, Council’s Military Memorabilia Committee is currently focused on the restoration and relocation back to the Town Hall of the World War I Howitzer gun that is currently located outside the Hunters Hill RSL Sub-Branch.

In preparation for the Centenary of ANZAC in April 2015, Council’s Military Memorabilia Committee is currently focused on the restoration and relocation back to the Town Hall of the World War I Howitzer gun.

The gun was captured at La Motte (near Estrees) France on 3 October 1918 by the 20th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the Battle of Beaurevoir Line (3-6 October 1918). This battle was the last engagement by Australian forces in WWI and hence the Howitzer is one of the last trophy guns captured by the AIF. Former Hunters Hill Mayor William Windeyer was instrumental in the formation of the 20th Battalion. The gun arrived in Melbourne in April 1919 as part of a consignment of 320 war trophies, and was awarded to Hunter’s Hill Council by the NSW State Trophy Committee in August 1922 in recognition of the war effort by the people of Hunters Hill.

402 residents of Hunters Hill, including four nurses, enlisted for active service during WWI, the greatest proportional response of any local government area in Australia. 44 residents of Hunters Hill were killed in action or later died of wounds, and a number of our residents were decorated for bravery.

The historic Howitzer provides a significant link between Hunters Hill and the extraordinary sacrifices of our residents on the Western Front. It is inscribed in the Register of War memorials in NSW. Council is now seeking funding through various Federal and State government programs, and would also appreciate any support, both financial and practical, from members of the community as we endeavour to complete the restoration works in readiness for the Centenary of ANZAC this time next year.

If you can assist in any way, please contact Ida Ozoux-Blessing, Ph: 9879 9430 or Email: corporate@huntershill.nsw.gov.au to express your interest.

Combined Anzac Memorial Service

Those present at the recent Hunters Hill Combined Anzac Memorial Service would have felt the emotion that this annual service engenders. Lt Cmdr Steven Pringle of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve (RANR), this year’s guest speaker, spoke with fervor in describing the effects of war on families and personnel engaged in wars and in peacekeeping operations.

Two Year 12 students from Riverside Girls High School, School Captain Lucy Burke and Sports Captain Cassie Siepen, read the Honour Roll and gave a thoughtful Anzac reflection. An assembly of 185 people, including local service veterans, clergy and residents, participated in the Memorial Service that brought our Defence Force members together, represented by Lt Nikolaus Beattie, Cpl Andrew Stenning (Flag Orderly) and a marching contingent of 9 members of the 8th Combat Service Support Battalion.

Lt Beattie from the 16 Transport Squadron delivered a speech on behalf of the Armed Forces. The march, supported by three Army Landrovers, two WWII Jeeps plus one Vietnam Jeep, under Police escort, left the RSL Sub-Branch Hall led by drummers and a bagpiper. The members of the Army Reserve, and the Hunters Hill RSL Sub-Branch, together with veterans and descendants, Scouts, the SES and local families, participated in the march. Council extends its sincere thanks to all who contributed in some way to this significant community event.
Did you know an eHealth record can make it easier for you and your doctors to manage your health care?

The eHealth record system has been developed by the Australian Government.

A great benefit of this system for many retired people is it can be accessed anywhere internet is available, so even if you are travelling or at an after hours clinic you can access your health details.

Other benefits include safer care, as key details such as allergies or bad reactions to treatment will be available. In an emergency your details may be accessed and it can save time as it will be easier to share your medical history with your doctors.

Your eHealth record is protected by existing and new privacy legislation and you have control over which organisations can view your information.

The Northern Sydney Medicare Local is offering free eHealth record registration sessions, where they have people available to set up an account for you on the spot.

Please call Council’s Aged and Disability Coordinator, Tania Gamble if you are interested in attending a registration session, Ph: 9879 9400.

Alternatively you are able to visit www.ehealth.gov.au or Ph: 1800 723 471 or visit a Medicare office.

Volunteer Profile

Max Kingston volunteers for Ryde Hunters Hill Community Transport (RHHCT), serving on the Management Committee for the past four years.

Community Transport provides an excellent service, enabling clients to access appointments and attend shopping and social outings. Max is a local Hunters Hill resident who has a heart for the community he lives in. He gives generously of his time and is currently serving as Chairman.

Throughout his life Max has been involved in tourism and hospitality and has volunteered as a member of the Executive of the American Club, Rotary International, Salvation Army Advisory Board and is currently Honorary World President of World Tourism Association. He is dedicated to the welfare of those around him. He stands tall with his generous heart and big moustache! You might even catch him on the tennis court.

RHHCT is seeking Expressions of Interest from members of the community who may be interested in joining the management committee. Skills or knowledge on management, human resources, legal or fleet management would be highly regarded. Please address your enquiries to Virginia Coy Ph: 9816 5000.

Moocooboola Computer Club

The Moocooboola Computer Club offers weekly self-paced computer classes. Each member is allocated to a computer and training manuals are available for people to work through.

Volunteer trainers attend each session to assist members as they progress. All computers have internet connection.

To cover the Club’s operating expenses, moderate fees are charged. On joining there is a membership admission fee, thereafter there is an annual membership fee which can be paid in two ways; either as a one sum on an annual basis, or in instalments at 3 monthly intervals.

Training sessions are held at the Gladesville Road Community Centre, 44 Gladesville Road Hunters Hill, on Mondays to Thursdays 10am to 12noon, and again at 1pm to 3pm. In addition a Tuesday evening session is held from 7pm to 9pm.

If you would like further information or to book a place Phone: 9817 2606, Email: Moocoo@netspace.net.au or visit www.moocooseniorscomputing.org
Council’s Delivery Program and Operational Plan are currently on public exhibition for community review.

Listed within these documents are the principal activities to be undertaken by Council to complement the strategies established by the Community Strategic Plan within Council’s available resources.

Where significant amendments are proposed Council must re-exhibit the program. Any submissions received must be accepted and considered before the final program is adopted.

For a copy of the proposed changes please visit the Hunter’s Hill Council website: www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au

For further information regarding Council’s Delivery Program and Operational Plan please contact Council’s Corporate Strategist, Ph: 9879 9400.

Just some of the major projects completed in 2013/14

Our Heritage and Built Environment
- Consolidated DCP Project.
- LEP Planning Proposal.
- Review of Significant Tree Register.
- Establishment of a Swimming Pool Register.

Moving Around
- Construction of Margaret St boat ramp and carpark.
- Completion of road and footpath restoration projects.
- Levelling of playing surface, and construction of amenities building at Weil Park.
- Repaired the collapsed wall in Wybalena Rd.
- Reconstructed Buffalo creek oval.

Our Community and Lifestyle
- Completed the Outdoor Sport & recreation strategy.
- Completed the Riverglade Reserve Plan of Management.
- Successful program of seniors activities, including iPad training.
- Successful program of events including new event Harboursculpture.

Our Environment
- Introduced an improved waste management system with improved recycling (mattresses, metal).
- Carried out 2 e-waste days.
- The River to River project to improve bushland and bird corridors.
- Coordination of over 100 bushcare volunteers annually.

possAbility Expo
A mini expo will be held by Hunters Hill Ryde Community Services at the Gladesville Road Community Centre. The expo is for anyone interested in finding out more about the activities available for people with a disability in the local community.

Groups such as Sailability, Riding for the disabled and the brand new Ability Links program will be invited to attend. It will be a good opportunity to discuss your needs with each of the organisations.

There will be a light lunch provided. Please RSVP by 4 July 2014 for catering purposes, Ph: 9817 0101.

For further information please contact Hunters Hill Ryde Community Services Ph: 9817 0101.
STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

**Strategic Review of Hunters Hill Section 94a Developer Contributions Plan**

Work on the strategic review of Council’s Section 94a Developer Contributions Plan is continuing. This plan enables a levy to be applied to all development with a cost over $100,000. The levy is used to maintain and improve the standard of community infrastructure in the Hunters Hill local government area. The plan includes the list of community infrastructure to which the levy will be applied over a five year period. An updated draft list of the community infrastructure projects Council would like to complete over the next five years has been prepared. Once a review of the plan has also been finalised both will be advertised for public comment.

**Housekeeping Amendments - Hunters Hill Local Environmental Plan 2012**

Council’s Local Environmental Plan 2012 commenced on 12 August 2013. Council staff are currently cross checking the instrument and the maps in preparation for making a request to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to process a minor amendment to the Plan under S73A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (Expedited amendments of environmental planning instruments).

**Strategic Review of Hunters Hill Consolidated Development Control Plan 2013**

At Council’s ordinary meeting held on 7 April 2014 it was resolved as follows:

*Minute No. 87/14*

1. Council endorse the commencement of the Strategic Review of its Consolidated DCP 2013 with stage one being:

*The review of Part 4 of the Consolidated DCP 2013 – Villages and Non-Residential Developments. The review will address controls that apply to development in the B4 Mixed Use zone and particular focus will be given to developing controls for the Gladesville Village area that encourage a high standard of architectural and landscape design. The review may identify complementary changes that are required to be made in other parts of the DCP especially Part 2 Character and Heritage of the Hunters Hill Municipality.*

The strategic review of Council’s DCP 2013 will involve public consultation and participation. Over the forthcoming months, Council will be notifying the community and stakeholder groups about how to engage in this project.

**SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER**

Council recently initiated a project to review, develop and update the Significant Tree Register (STR).

Over the last month, as part of the project’s first stage, property owners with listed trees and adjoining neighbour/s were invited to make a submission to Council. During the forthcoming months each tree recommended for the register will be inspected by a specialist consultant.

An assessment based on consideration of resident submissions and inspections will contribute towards ‘Statements of Significance’ for each tree.

The project’s second stage, currently scheduled for November 2014 will involve a public exhibition of the draft STR and include heritage listed trees. The Hunters Hill community will have the opportunity to:

- retain existing trees
- comment on the revised STR
- nominate new trees for inclusion, and/or
- seek the removal of trees from the register.

For enquiries about the Significant Tree Register please contact Council’s Strategic Planner, Edna Grigoriou, Ph: (02) 9879 9448.

**State Government - New Planning System for NSW – Exposure Bills ‘New Planning System for NSW’**

On 28 November 2013, former NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Brad Hazzard withdrew his Planning Bills (New Planning System for NSW) due to heavy Upper House amendments. Since that time no further announcements regarding the NSW Planning Bills have been made.

On 22 April 2014, the new NSW Premier Mike Baird as part of his first Cabinet announced the Hon. Pru Goward as the new Minister for Planning and the Hon Rob Stokes as Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage and Assistant Minister for Planning. Reforms initiated by the new NSW Planning Minister include setting up a new principal Department of Planning and Environment.

The position of Director-General of Planning and Infrastructure (formerly held by Sam Haddad) has been abolished. In its place a new role of Secretary was created with a broader scope of responsibilities, the secretary will serve the three ministers of Planning and Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Hunter’s Hill Council will keep resident’s informed on updates from the Department of Planning and its new Minister.