

## **HUNTERS HILL DAY 2019**

**Celebrating Hunters Hill Municipality – our community, history and heritage**

**Woolwich Pier Hotel – Wednesday 31 July 2019**

### **Speech of Caroline Mackaness – “Hunters Hill - The Future”**

Sydney is a city of villages and communities. Tonight, we celebrate the village of Hunters Hill for its special qualities - qualities that make it one of the best places in Sydney to live.

It is special for its location, its topography and natural values – surrounded by water, with beautiful bushland, wildlife, aboriginal heritage and a strong sense of history. It has outstanding examples of our diverse built heritage, maritime, military and industrial history and continuous evolution in built form since the colonial era.

So, what of the future of Hunters Hill? The future is a continuum of the past and the present. We are fortunate that Hunters Hill has had a long tradition of people fighting to preserve its special qualities from the Battlers of Kelly’s Bush and the Hunters Hill Trust to more recent groups such as the Gladesville Community Group fighting to ensure the best outcome for our shopping precinct and the residents fighting to ensure appropriate remediation of contaminated land from our industrial history.

With Sydney growing, and increasing pressure on Councils to absorb more population, Hunters Hill will need to continue the fight to preserve the special qualities it has - but it will also have to adapt where it can and share its benefits with neighbouring communities and people from further afield.

We have wonderful childcare facilities, local primary schools and a high school that was fought for by the community to save it from development. And of course, we have St Joseph’s College and the Marist Sister’s College at Woolwich. We have parks and nature reserves, sporting and community facilities as well as aged care facilities and housing for those less fortunate. We have significant heritage buildings, churches, houses, beautiful gardens and significant trees - as well as places to eat, drink and gather. We have wonderful community events and a vibrant and engaged community that gets involved. All of these elements have combined to create a strong sense of place and community that planners aspire to create.

Being local, supporting local businesses, being involved - whether it be with running a sporting activity or volunteering at the local community centre, church or bush

regeneration group - Hunters Hill will continue to be the special place it is if we all value what we have and work together to support our Council and community groups to have a voice - to protect and pass Hunters Hill on to future generations as our legacy. So, if you aren't already - please get involved!

### **Caroline Mackaness**

Caroline is a sixth generation Sydneysider who has had a long association with Hunters Hill and has lived in the area with her husband Les since 1990, raising two sons locally. She is a proud committee member of the Hunters Hill Trust, continuing the work to preserve the special values of the area begun by the founding group in 1968.

Caroline has been responsible for some of the State's most significant heritage places, including delivering the Anzac Memorial Extension in Hyde Park for the Centenary of Anzac. She is also the author of *Bridging Sydney* and co-author of *Sydney Then & Now*.