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Greens, Hornsby Council



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Thank you for taking an interest in what happens in your local area.

Here's the latest news.

A repair cafe?

Yes! Council is running a repair cafe tomorrow for broken electrical items and furniture. The idea is that residents bring along broken from home. Skilled people show you how to fix them - free! Tomorrow's sessions are booked out. The waitlist has 40 people on it. But staff are going to hold more of these workshops and I'll let you know dates.

Number 25,000

I've seen the 25,000th tree that Council has grown for the big tree-planting program. Is it a jacaranda? Lily pily? Moreton Bay fig? Turpentine? Blue gum? I'm not giving away the species, but let me tell you, it's a beautiful BIG tree!

Pennant Hills businesses

So many shops have shut recently. I've heard your concerns. The opening of the metro has meant an unexpected loss of people commuting from Pennant Hills, and uncertainty about possible development isn't helping. Although Council can't take responsibility for business conditions or rents, it can make sure that our town centres are attractive, convenient places to do business. Pennant Hills needs better parking arrangements in particular. When there's news to share on this issue, I'll let you know.

What's a VPP?

A VPP is a virtual power plant. There are several community groups that are interested in sharing renewable energy. Please let me know if you're interested too and I'll loop you into the discussion.

Remagine art ... and win a prize

The Remagine art prize is the waste-as-art competition run every year by Council and the Hornsby Art Society. Artists are encouraged to reduce, reuse and recycle. Entries are now open. The theme for 2020 is 'Fast fashion, fast food, fast running out of natural resources.' Find out more [here](#). The exhibition will run 4-28 June and will be FABULOUS!

Art in Epping

The Epping Arts Fair is a competitive, non-acquisitive competition and exhibition hosted by Epping Boys' High School and Rotary. They are currently seeking artists to enter the competition which has a prize of \$2,500. They also run a School Competition. Full details on the Epping Arts Fair can be found [here](#).

XR and HSCAG = local climate action

Extinction Rebellion (XR) and the Hornsby Shire Climate Action Group are doing great work on raising awareness about the need for urgent emissions reductions from all levels of government - and from residents. They are welcoming, dynamic groups that welcome new members: XRHornsbyShire@protonmail.com and hornsbyclimate@gmail.com

Major projects - an update

At the recent Council meeting, there were updates given about lots of major projects:

- A DA to start creating the basic shape of a public recreation area in the old Hornsby Quarry will be decided soon by the Sydney North Planning Panel
- A concept plan for new ovals and MTB routes is being prepared by staff - there should be lots to share around the middle of the year
- New signage will start appearing around the Shire in a few months
- The DA to put a new roof on the pool at Galton has been lodged
- The upgrade of Hornsby library may cost up to \$5 million so councillors need to look at funding sources

Other decisions included:

- to conduct a workshop for councillors on how much it will cost to repair or move the Hornsby water clock

- to pass new policies on EV charging and car sharing
 - not to write to the state & federal governments about a price on carbon
 - to formally adopt the waste strategy
- You can find the Minutes [here](#).
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On your bike, Beecroft & Cheltenham!

If you saw me walking along The Crescent in a high vis vest recently, this is the reason. The bike route between Pennant Hills and Epping is being finalised and the Council team wanted to walk me along the Beecroft-Cheltenham section. This route winds through the Village Green, behind the tennis courts and along The Crescent. The route mainly sticks to a path along the eastern side of the road separate from the roadway. And here's the bit that pleased me: the route weaves between the trees in a way that avoids all but one of them for the whole distance. When the bike path gets near the trees, it changes from concrete to a synthetic raised boardwalk material to avoid damage to roots or changes in water runoff.

At the low point next to Cheltenham Girls High School there is a lovely stand of turpentine and Sydney Blue Gums. They will all stay, but the one significant tree that has to be removed to get the path through is here at this point. It's a young Blue gum and it's hard up against the railway fence.

There is no getting around the fact that it is disappointing this one tree has to be removed to get the route through. But it is the only one.

The compensation is that the construction will allow significant planting (and removal of some of the weeds). This is also an opportunity for residents on The Crescent to have more trees planted on their nature strips if they choose.

I'll have more information soon about the rest of the route, and hopefully some dates for the feedback sessions. This part of the Pennant Hills to Epping cycleway will likely be built this year. I'm curious to hear what you think and I'll try to answer all questions.

January - February photos



Top row: Byles Creek in flood; Uncle Laurie Bimson does a smoking ceremony at Storey Park; trees down, power out - again.

Middle row: North Epping bushland after the rain; meeting new Australian citizens; 2GB Garden guru Graham Ross tours Council's nursery.

Bottom row: me speaking at the Australian Plants Society; learning about the Cheltenham-Becroft bike path from staff; cheering on female councillors with Greens mayor Carol Sparks.