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BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM  
**CIVIC TRUST**  
INCORPORATED  
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**BULLETIN 3**

**February 2001**

**President**  
Bob Raymond Phone 9876 4137

**Secretary**  
Gordon Winch Phone 9876 5865

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**8.00pm TUESDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2001**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL**  
**MARY STREET, BEECROFT**

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust Incorporated will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Mary Street Beecroft at 8.00pm on Tuesday 6th March 2001. All local residents are invited.

President Bob Raymond will report on activities of the Trust during 2000. The election of Committee Members for 2001 will also take place. Remember - only financial members are eligible to vote at the meeting.

The main matter for discussion at the meeting will be car parking at the Beecroft Shopping Centre. Committee members will give an update on the current developments. Other matters of concern which members may wish to raise will also be considered.

Local 'C' Ward Councillors have been invited to attend the meeting to answer members' questions concerning Council matters.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE**

Subscriptions for the period 1 January to 31 December 2001 are now due. If you are not financial please use the attached slip and forward payment to the Treasurer or alternatively you may pay at the Annual General Meeting. Remember only financial members are eligible to vote.

**BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC.**  
**Annual Membership**

Subscription **Family \$12.00** **Single \$6.00**

Mailing details: (please print)

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone:.....

Post to:- The Treasurer, PO Box 31, BEECROFT 2119

## **ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FACILITIES FOR MEMBERS**

Subscription payments, if supported by a completed membership renewal form, may now be paid in person at Raine and Horne Real Estate, 1 Hannah Street, Beecroft. It would assist if the exact amount payable was tendered. A pro forma receipt will be issued.

The Trust would like to thank David Meldrum of Raine and Horne for making this facility available.

## **HISTORY GROUP WANTS YOUR HELP**

The Beecroft History Group is looking for your help in locating copies of the annual aerial photograph of Beecroft Cheltenham published by Raine and Horne Real Estate Beecroft each year as a calendar for the last 10 years.

If you can help please contact Stuart Braga on 'phone 9980 5363.

## **MARIE BYLES BIOGRAPHY**

Anne McLeod is currently researching for a biography on Marie Byles who lived in Beecroft from 1911, when her family arrived from England.

They subsequently built 'Chilworth' at the end of Welham Street and donated the land that is now Chilworth Reserve. Marie bought land at the end of Day Road Cheltenham in 1938 and built a simple dwelling there living as close to nature as possible. In 1970 she donated this property, called 'Ahimsa', to the National Trust.

Marie Byles was the first female solicitor to practice in NSW having a flourishing practice in Eastwood, and was committed to equal rights for women. She was an active bushwalker, being a member of the Sydney Bushwalkers Club since 1928. She scaled Mt. Cook in New Zealand in the early 1930's and led a mountain climbing expedition into southern China in 1938 through Burma and Indochina. She developed her lifelong interest in Eastern philosophy from this contact.

Marie was an influential conservationist, ensuring the reservation of Bouddhi National Park and advising on the setting up of the Kosciusko National Park. With a group of her close neighbours, she unsuccessfully petitioned Hornsby Council in 1961 to stop the development of a section of Pennant Hills Reserve that includes Blackbutt Avenue. She became a foundation member of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust in 1964. She led a campaign to stop proposed roads going through Pennant Hills Reserve and was dedicated to the practice of bush regeneration in her local area.

Anne would like to hear from anybody who knew Marie through her law practice, her conservation work or particularly through her campaigns in this local area.

Contact Details: Anne McLeod 'phone 9555 2015, E-mail: [annimac@webtel.net.au](mailto:annimac@webtel.net.au)

## **ONE GREAT HOUR – DAVID WILLIS AND THE BOER WAR**

A biography of David Willis compiled by local identity Trevor McCaskill will be available for sale at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 6 March.

The book was launched late last year and limited copies are still available, but you will need to be quick. The book traces the career of the man behind the monument from his youth in Beecroft through the twelve months of military service in South Africa, before his untimely death just short of his twentieth birthday. The book is great value at \$15.

## VALE RAMSAY UNDERWOOD

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Mr. Ramsay Underwood on 27 October 2000. Ramsay, a passionate bush regenerator, was 76 and an active member of the Chilworth Bushcare Group. He suffered a heart attack while working on site in his beloved bush at the bottom of Welham Street, Beecroft. To his wife Margaret and the family we extend our deepest sympathy.

A new sign proposed for the Chilworth Reserve will be dedicated to Ramsay's memory. Further inquiries in relation to the unveiling of the new sign may be directed to Sheila Woods on 'phone 9484 6764.

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Following completion of restoration work on the Beecroft War Memorial, a re-dedication will be held on Saturday 28th April at 11am at the memorial, so keep this date free. All residents are invited to attend.

Community organisations are invited to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the re-dedication. For details please contact Betty Grant.

Anyone with a connection to those recorded on the memorial are also requested to contact Betty Grant on 'phone 9876 3521.

More details will be available in the next issue of the Bulletin.



### *Walking Tracks of the Lane Cove Valley*

Place your order now for STEP's new map, *Walking Tracks of the Lane Cove Valley*. Written by John Martyn and released in November 2000, this is an updated and extended edition to an earlier publication by STEP.

Here is an opportunity to purchase a quality colour map of the Lane Cove Valley incorporating our suburbs. The map encompasses the tracks, cycleways and firetrails of the valley with connecting streets and access points.

The map is an excellent guide for all ages and types of users, from the occasional suburban 'stroller', up to the dedicated bush-walker. At a scale of 1 cm to 100 metres (1:10,000) the level of detail is ideal for anyone looking to find that new interesting walk. The map includes beautiful colour photographs accompanying key locations of interest.

It covers the region from the mouth of the Sydney Harbour, up to Normanhurst and Thornleigh, with excellent coverage of the Epping / Eastwood and Beecroft regions. Printed on high quality gloss paper, it is a full colour publication, and includes notes of some outstanding features of the walks.

The map is available at the amazingly low price of just \$15. For copies of the map and other STEP publications please contact Sheila Woods on 'phone 9484 6764.

## **CHANGES TO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (SEPP) 5 Housing for Older People or People with a Disability**

Recent changes to SEPP 5, Housing for Older People or People with a Disability should now ensure that the policy can no longer be abused.

The principal changes effective from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2000 are: -

- SEPP 5 housing must be occupied by older people (55 years or over) or people with a disability
- Stronger adaptable housing provisions to make it clear that the policy targets older people and people with a disability, enabling them to live independently in a familiar area
- A clearer definition of what constitutes 'reasonable access' to community services and facilities. All development must be within 400 metres of shops and medical services or within 400 metres of a regular transport service
- Stronger design requirements to achieve better quality SEPP 5 housing. A two-storey height limit on site boundaries applies to areas that do not permit residential flats. Also a 15 metre minimum site frontage will apply to prevent 'gun barrel' type developments
- Where new housing leads to more demand for community facilities, Councils will be able to levy Section 94 contributions from May 2001.
- SEPP 5 housing can be excluded from certain sensitive lands such as high-risk bushfire and flooding areas.

Copies of SEPP 5 – Amendment No.1 and the SEPP 5 Guideline can be obtained from DUAP's Information Centre on 'phone 9391 2222, or visit their web site at [www.duap.nsw.gov.au](http://www.duap.nsw.gov.au)

### **CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY**

Sunday 4 March is Clean up Australia Day. For clean up sites in our area please contact Trish Whealy on 9876 5071. Remember all you need is sunscreen, a hat, sensible clothing, solid shoes and plenty of enthusiasm. As 2001 is the year of the volunteer a big response is expected.

### **BOOK REVIEW**

The book "Red Hill – Observatory Park its History and Regeneration" written by Trust Member John Noble has been well received. So well received in fact that it has been reprinted. The book was first published in June 1999.

Observatory Park is a small (2.1 ha.) reserve surrounded by Pennant Hills Road, Beecroft Road and Park Road.

The book describes the early days of the park when it was used as an observatory and traces its history and changes to its character over the intervening years. The Park's understorey was mown for decades until ten years ago when regeneration of native plants in the central park area was successfully encouraged. The area has responded well with the appearance of over 100 native plants.

The Park is a significant remnant of the original Blue Gum High Forest of which only 0.9% remains today. It is fortunate to have this unique area in our backyard which John has documented so meticulously in his book. It is an area that must be conserved.

Copies of the book are available from the Environment Division at Hornsby Council for around \$15.