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**BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM
CIVIC TRUST**
P.O. BOX 31, BEECROFT. N.S.W. 2119.

Bulletin 2/75
April

**PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL**

The meeting will be held in St. John's Hall, Beecroft Road, Beecroft and will commence at 8 p.m.

**DR HARRY RECHER
THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

Dr. H. Recher, Curator of Environmental Studies at The Australian Museum, will speak on the "Effect of Fire on Wildlife" a topic of considerable local interest in view of proposals to "burn-off" local bushland areas as a precautionary measure.

Dr. Recher is also an expert in the compilation of Environment Impact Studies and has advised the Government on Studies submitted to them.

Everyone welcome

**TALK
DISCUSSION
SUPPER**

Supper will be served after the talk and a question and discussion period.

One may only guess as to why the installation of the Copeland Road lights has been repeatedly delayed.

Perhaps it was the widening of Copeland Road (now dropped), the Traffic Plan for Beecroft Centre (where is that now?) or the proposal for a new fire station.

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TRUST COMMITTEE.

At the first Committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting the following office Bearers were elected for 1975.

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|---------------------------|---|
| President | Mr. Spencer Bough, 86-4901 |
| Vice Presidents | Prof. Keith Campbell, 86-5808
Mr. Des Hillier, 84-3781 |
| Correspondence Secretary: | Mrs. Leslie Tregoning, 86-4483 |
| Minutes Secretary | Mr. David Slade, 871 1863 |
| Treasurer | Mr. Clive Huxtable, 869-2643 |
| Bulletin Editor | Mr. Alan Thomas, 869-1359 |

Remaining Committee members were Mrs. June Sanderson (869-7657), Mr. Bill Freeburn (871-1659) and Mr. Geoff Armstrong (Chairman Pennant Hills Park Sub-Committee, 86-2330).

Since that meeting Mr. Bill Greenhalgh and Mr. Garry Fairweather have joined the Committee, according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Should you have any comments, queries or problems please do not hesitate to contact any one of the Committee members.

RETIRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

At the A.G.M. two of our previous committee members were unable to stand for re-election because of work commitments.

The contributions of Sid Butterworth and Stuart Barker to the work of the Trust were considerable and I take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to them on behalf of all members of the Trust.

RAILWAY NEWS.

We are still awaiting a reply to our request for some "tidying-up" work at Beecroft Station.

A committee member has had discussions with the Railways Engineering Staff regarding restitution of the natural bushland and replacement of fencing where the Cheltenham derailment took place.

Following reports that the long awaited quadruplication of the Northern Line was about to be commenced we wrote to our State Member, Mr. Jim Cameron, requesting that we be allowed to see design proposals with a view to perhaps offering comment on the form and landscaping of what will obviously be major earthworks.

We received a reply from the Minister, Mr. Fife, through Mr. Cameron, promising to keep us informed of developments.

Train travellers will probably be aware that it is widely believed that fares are to rise after May 1st. We have heard that the frequency of the service north of Epping may be reduced at that time as well. The Secretary has written expressing concern at the possibility and seeking assurances that it will not occur. A volume of letters to the Public Transport Commission and/or Mr. Cameron on this matter may be of assistance in at least maintaining the present level of service.

NORTH EPPING BOWLING CLUB.

The Land Board Court hearing at which Council was opposing the Club's application to buy the 2 acres of Pennant Hills Park which they now lease had not been completed at the time of writing the Bulletin.

You will recall that our involvement is as a witness for Council, not opposing the fact that the Club has a Lease (although they are in breach of some of its Conditions) but pointing out that a large group of local people oppose the sale of Public Recreation Reserve for any purpose.

The ruling of the Court was, however, that the Trust President only represented the Committee members who had discussed the matter and passed a resolution on it. He could not speak for the Trust as a whole. In passing, the Chairman referred to Petitions as being worthless also, stating that the Lands Department never took any notice of them!

SUTHERLAND ROAD.

The Trust has on many occasions written about and discussed Sutherland Road with Council and the various other authorities concerned, since our original objection to its creation as a link between Beecroft and Epping.

The Police Department claims that this road has more warning signs per mile (sorry, kilometre) than any other road in N.S.W.. Just prior to the recent incident involving a child had again written asking that radar surveillance of the area be increased in peak hours as an added deterrent to excessive speed. The road has been patrolled more frequently lately and we hope that this will be maintained.

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B.P. FILLING STATION, CHELTENHAM.

Many members will have been aware of the recent application by B.P. Australia to the Hornsby Shire Council to expand their shop and bowser in Cheltenham to a full sized service station. It was felt by many that the Council were inclined to look favourably on the application, although plans were displayed in the Beecroft Arcade and comments invited. This site has been contentious for many years and the Trust has been consistently opposed to any commercial expansion. This time around a strong implication emanated from certain Council sources that B.P. were within their legal rights and that the only course was for Council to approve their application. The Trust sought its own legal advice, however, which indicated that any extension of this non-conforming commercial operation within a residential zone was clearly unlawful. Armed with this information and a large number of protest letters from residents near and far the Trust lobbied the Councillors fairly vigorously.

At the Council meeting of March 20th the application was rejected. This may not be the end of the affair, as an appeal can be lodged by B.P., but our legal advice is that the Council has excellent grounds to contest any such appeal and could call on the Trust to give evidence before the Local Government Appeals Tribunal.

The Trust feels that it is important to fight hard to prevent the unnecessary commercial intrusion into a largely unspoiled residential area. There will doubtless be increasing pressure for change exerted in the near future and precedents for undesirable change should be avoided. Most of the residents who protested this time would like to see the land returned to the residential use for which it is zoned. It is to be hoped that the clarification of the legal position will mean that this will be the last attempt by B. P. to build their big service station in Cheltenham. The Council listed the following reasons for disapproving the application -

- (a) The proposed use of the subject land is a trade and is prohibited by reason of the Residential District Proclamation dated 16th September 1938, made in respect to Residential District No. 19.
- (b) The proposed use of the subject land is a service station which is a prohibited use in a Residential A zone under the proposed Hornsby Planning Scheme which is awaiting prescription.
- (c) The development is likely to interfere with the quiet amenity of surrounding residential areas.
- (d) The area is adequately served by existing service stations.

- (e) The development is out of character with adjoining residential development.
- (f) The development is likely to create a traffic hazard in this locality.

Thanks to all those people who wrote to Council, ensuring that our C Riding Councillors were in no doubt as to the feelings of the residents of Cheltenham.

PENNANT HILLS PARK.

A further meeting of individuals assisting in preparation of the Plan of Management was held on 26th February, 1975.

The various groups are progressing steadily in the compilation of data for preparation of Part A of the Plan, which will contain all the basic resource information available at this stage.

The broad principles of management previously circulated were discussed and, with a couple of minor amendments, accepted as a desirable basis for overall planning.

When time permits, it is proposed that these principles be enlarged into a rough draft for approval by the Trust and submission to Hornsby Shire Council, so that Council will be aware of the likely ultimate content and recommendations in the final Plan. This will, hopefully, ensure that any decisions made by Council in the interim will take these principles into account.

Since the meeting on 26 February, 1975, discussions have been held with Dr. Robert Hall, Macquarie University, regarding a park visitor study to be undertaken by his students engaged in a questionnaire design course. On 15th instant a meeting was held with Dr. Hall and nine of his students in the Park, and this study will commence shortly. It is also planned to carry out an "off-park" survey, and when this is organised the assistance of a large number of Trust members, prepared to do home interviews, will be sought. This will probably be in a couple of months time.

The next meeting of the management group will be held on 7th April, 1975.

BEECROFT ARCADE.

Work has commenced on the extensions to the Arcade and Council has also approved the plans for the new building to house the Children's Library, in Wongala Crescent.

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GARBAGE SERVICE.

Council has recently let the Contract for garbage collection to a new Company which has resulted in different collection days and later times for many people.

Council has told us that the later times cut down on the very early morning noise nuisance to a certain extent and allow closer supervision of the service.

BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION.

Mr. Fred Waddington has for many years organised the large team of people who distribute the Bulletin to every house in Beecroft and Cheltenham - about 3,000 letter boxes in all.

The Committee wishes to publicly record their thanks to Mr. Waddington and his helpers for the vital job they do.

HORNSBY COUNCIL CONTACTS:

- Hornsby Shire Council - 476-3333
- Cr. Don Evans, Beecroft (Shire President) 84-3318
- Cr. Bill Hodson, Carlingford - 871-7317
- Cr. Ron Payne, Epping - 869-7410

Council meets every second Thursday evening and a Trust Committee member is rostered to attend each meeting. If you would like to attend a Council meeting to see and hear how Local Government works, phone Alan Thomas, who can put you in touch with whoever is going to the next meeting. Your company will be welcome.

MEMBERSHIP.

If you are not already a member of the Trust we urge you to join now. Our lives and our living environment are subject to more pressure from Local Government, Service Authorities State and Federal Government Departments and Agencies and Developers than ever before and it is essential that the residents of any area have a strong, authoritative body to monitor report on and make representations about proposals which will affect their suburb.

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust has carried out this function for over 10 years now and has built a reputation for fair and rational representation of the interests of Beecroft and Cheltenham.

The basis of our strength lies in that reputation coupled with a constant, large membership, representing all ages.

- Membership fees are -
- \$4.00 for Family Membership
- \$2.50 for single Adult Membership
- 50 cents for Junior Membership (under 18).

Send your subscription with name and address to:
The Treasurer
P.O. Box 31, Beecroft, 2119.

If you have any special skill or are willing to assist in any other way please let us know.

PUBLIC MEETING 30 APRIL 1975.

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Adult Membership \$2.50 Junior Membership 50¢ Husband & Wife \$4.00

Attached hereto is my cheque for \$ being renewal/new membership

I am willing to assist the Trust by

POST TO - BOX 31 P.O., BEECROFT, 2119.