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CIVIC TRUST

P.O. BOX 31 BEECROFT, N.S.W. 2119.

Bulletin 2-76
April

PENNANT HILLS PARK SPECIAL MEETING

The Plan of Management for Pennant Hills Park and nearby bushland areas has finally been completed. Adoption of the plan by the several authorities responsible for the lands covered, and the implementation of its proposals, in whole or in part, will have a significant effect on many residents in the area.

Consequently it is necessary that before it is presented for adoption, it should be examined as carefully as possible so that any essential amendments may be made, and that, equally importantly, it can be put forward with the full support of the members of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust.

To facilitate this, a copy of the Plan will be publicly exhibited at the Beecroft Children's Library from Monday April 5th, and at a General Meeting of the Trust to be held on Wednesday April 28th the recommendations contained in the Plan will be discussed.

To permit consideration of the contents of the Plan prior to the meeting, and to encourage maximum attendance and interest, a brief outline of the manner of preparation of the Plan and of its contents are set out in this special Bulletin.

The Committee of the Trust consider that the 100 plus pages of the Plan present a sound basis for the improved management and protection of this invaluable area. The comments and support of the members of the Trust are specially sought, however, to lend weight to the submission.

Your attendance on the 28th April is therefore vital.

WEDNESDAY EVENING 28th APRIL 1976, COMMENCING AT 8.00pm.

ST. JOHNS HALL, BEECROFT ROAD.

At the conclusion of the meeting, generally about 10 p.m., supper will be served.

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 (whether is that now?) or the proposal for a new fire station.

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PLAN OF MANAGEMENT. PENNANT HILLS PARK AND ADJOINING BUSHLAND AREAS

1. History.
Late in 1974, the Trust Committee contacted Hornsby Shire Council with an offer to prepare a Plan of Management for Pennant Hills Park. Council subsequently accepted the offer, and preparation commenced.
2. Those Involved.
A Planning Committee consisting of Geoff Armstrong, Bill Freeburn and Clive Huxtable, was established to organise preparation. Assistance was sought through the Bulletin, and about 25 members with expertise in a wide variety of fields responded. Some brought with them contacts with Universities, National Parks and Wildlife Service, etc. and hence the quality of the Plan was assured from the start.
3. Method of Preparation.
At the first planning meeting, groups were established to deal with various parts of the plan, particularly the recording of information on the resource and its past use. Then using this data as a basis, the Planning Committee formulated recommendations for the management and protection of the Park and adjoining areas.
4. Areas Included.
Although the plan was originally intended to only cover Pennant Hills Park (an area of about 274 hectares) the Committee soon realised that all adjoining bushland should be included so that it would be managed in a complementary manner. The Plan therefore now covers virtually all the bushland in the upper Lane Cove valley, viz -

Pennant Hills Park	274 ha
Scouts Association Lease	36 ha
Thornleigh Park	25 ha
Ku-Ring-Gai Municipal Council Area	100 ha
"Ahimsa" - National Trust	2 ha
Miscellaneous areas for addition.	10 ha
	447 ha

5. The Contents of the Plan.
The Plan is divided into two sections: Part A, dealing with the resource and its use, and Part B, containing specific recommendations for its management.

Part A

Part A contains chapters dealing with

History
Information obtained dates back to 1895, and details of the way in which the area of parkland has been eroded away over recent years are given.

Physical & Biological Description
This section describes the topography and geology, a general statement of soils, plant and animal life; a detailed description of the plant life and ecology; and some information on the animals found in the Park.

Development.
Details and descriptions are provided of all developments on the area - power lines, sewer lines, fire trails and tracks, sporting facilities, buildings, picnic facilities.

Use of the Park.
The Park is at present used extensively by sportsmen, for educational purposes, and for outdoor recreation.

Problems of Present Use.
Problems of erosion, rubbish accumulation, stream pollution, dieback of vegetation, fire, and weeds are covered.

Forecast Use.
Population trends within the Shire, and functions affecting use of the Park are examined.

Results of a Park Visitor study conducted by Macquarie University are expected to be available for inclusion in the final plan.

Appendices.

These include detailed information on -
 Flowering plants (native) - more than 140 species
 Orchids & ferns - more than 44 species
 Freshwater life in streams
 Detailed ecological survey
 Birds identified - 101 species.

Part B

Part B contains chapters dealing with-

Objects of Management.

Nine major reasons for introducing correct management and protection to the Park are outlined.

Zoning.

To facilitate management and protection, and ensure correct use, the area is zoned into development, natural and alien zones.

Acceptable Uses.

These are identified for each zone. If accepted, these will be of particular interest to park users as they specify where activities such as picnicking, camping, horse-riding, cycling etc., can be carried out.

Access.

It is proposed that no vehicular access be allowed within the Park. Parking areas will be developed at the periphery, and the trail system within the Park improved.

Sporting Facilities.

The development of these facilities is accepted, but the layout could be considerably improved. No further developments until a complete survey of need, use and alternatives have been completed are recommended.

Day Use Facilities.

These will be improved by new developments at selected sites, particularly for walkers and picnickers. It is also suggested that establishment of several "camp fire circles" for evening use by family groups be considered.

Protection.

Methods of controlling erosion, weeds and fire are discussed. Fire policy includes establishment of a "radiation zone" around the boundary where combustible material is reduced, desirably by neighbouring residents, to minimise dangers from fire to the park and to neighbours.

Education and Interpretation.

A continuation of use of the area by educational establishments will be encouraged. Interpretational material (maps, brochures) about the Park will be provided for visitors in due course.

Plant and Staff.

It is anticipated that some continued assistance will be forthcoming from Council staff. It is strongly recommended that a qualified full time Ranger be appointed specifically for park management and protection. The use of contract works, honorary rangers, seasonal rangers, and volunteers is discussed.

Security of the Area.

The need for conversion of the crown lands from their present insecure tenure to a much more secure state is discussed. This need is urgent, before further land is lost.

Future Management.

Appointment of a specially selected Trust Committee with representation from the responsible authorities as well as user groups, is recommended.

Period and Review.

It is recommended that action be taken immediately by Hornsby Shire Council to have the Plan adopted by all authorities involved, and that it then operate for a period of three years, or until reviewed by the Trust in the light of more accurate resource and use information.

Plan.

A plan of the area covered in the research and recommendations has been included on the back page of the Bulletin.

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