



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

BULLETIN 2

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F3 TO SYDNEY ORBITAL LINK STUDY

The Trust executive recently met with representatives from the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and Sinclair Knight Mertz who have been commissioned by the RTA to carry out a study to investigate options for a new National Highway connection between the F3 (Newcastle Freeway) and the proposed Sydney Orbital.

The study is being funded by the Federal Government and coordinated by the RTA. The study area extends from the Newcastle Freeway at Kariong to the northern section of the Sydney Orbital and from Dean Park in the west to the M2 Motorway at Macquarie Park. It aims to identify a new route to meet current and future traffic demands on the National Highway north of the Sydney Orbital.

The Western Sydney Orbital from the M5 Motorway at Prestons to the M2 Motorway at West Baulkham Hills is expected to be completed by 2007. This will replace the Cumberland Highway as the current National Highway route.

The study team will take into account issues such as current and future traffic levels, future planned land developments, public transport needs including the proposed duplication of the northern railway line and the Parramatta - Chatswood rail link. In addition the potential environmental, social effects and the economic benefits will also be considered.

Currently three options are being evaluated:

1. a link from Dean Park to north of Kariong,
2. a link from the M2 in the vicinity of Windsors Road to the Hawkesbury River and
3. a link from the M2 east of Pennant Hills Road the F3 at Wahroonga.

Whatever the decision the new route will need to:

- Provide an improved north-south National Highway through northern Sydney
- Reduce traffic congestion, including heavy vehicles along Pennant Hills Road
- Remove long distance traffic from local roads
- Improve access for freight and other traffic from the Hunter and Central Coast to Sydney's industrial centres markets and ports.

Currently Pennant Hills Road carries 75,000 vehicles a day. On present growth estimates, in 20 years this is expected to be 110,000 vehicles a day.

It is not difficult to see, from a cost benefit point of view the likelihood of the M2-F3 link being a preferred shorter term option, although the representatives went to great lengths to stress all options were on the table.

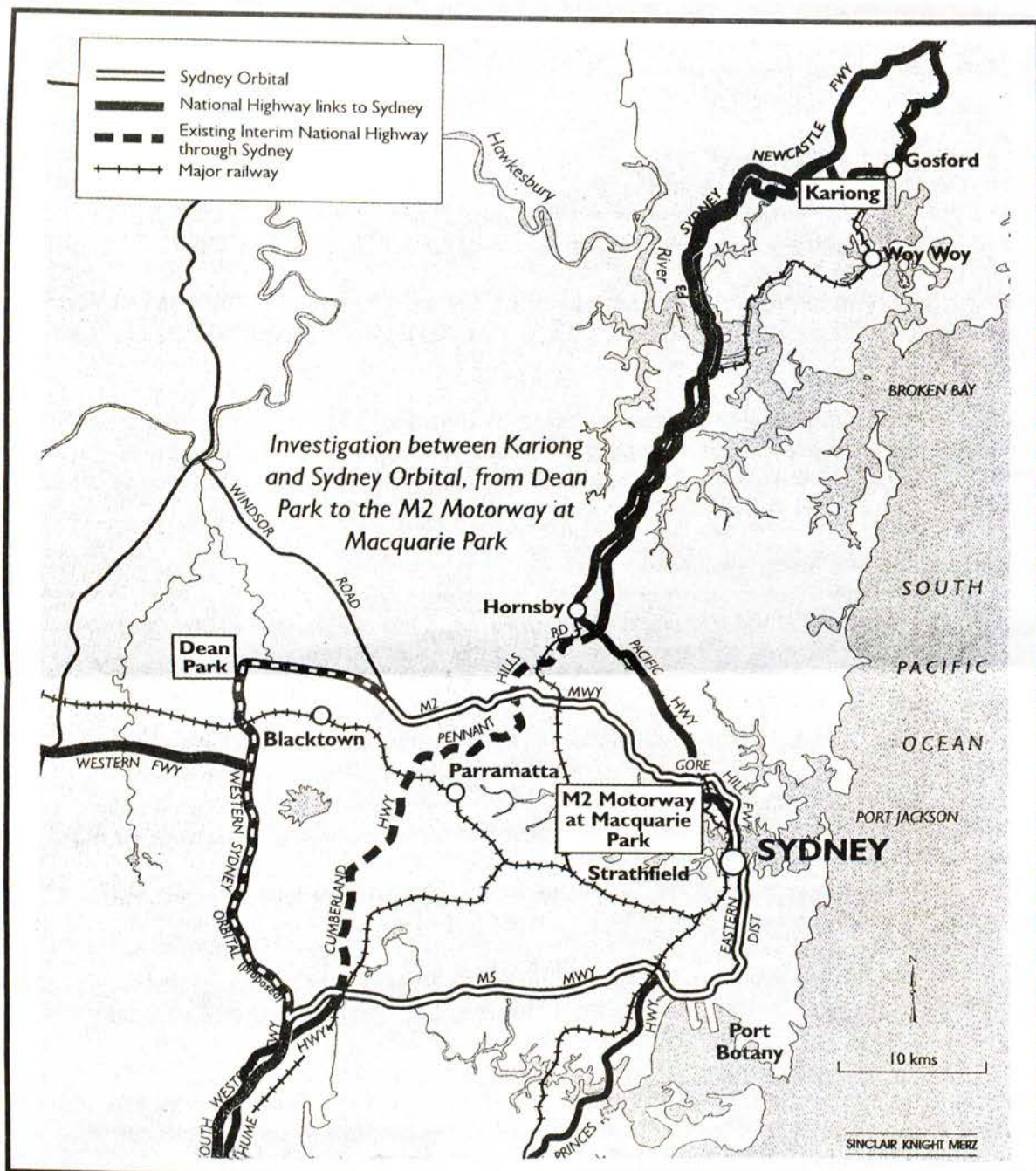
The study team is currently preparing a number of information days during September to provide the community with an opportunity to discuss issues with them. These are to be widely advertised and will be similar to an earlier series of information days held in May this year. The study is scheduled for completion in November 2002, when the preferred scheme will be recommended to the Minister. An Environmental

Impact Statement would be prepared following acceptance of the proposal. Realistically construction on the preferred option would not be feasible before 2007.

Having only just come to terms with the M2 and still lobbying the State Government for the installation of traffic lights on Beecroft Road for improved safety of pedestrians and all road users we now find ourselves facing yet another transport issue. While we would all applaud any initiative that reduced traffic volumes particularly heavy transport on Pennant Hills Road, any proposal must be carried out with extensive community consultation.

The Trust is anxious that all residents are aware of this proposal and have the opportunity to participate in an informed way. To this extent the Trust has offered to facilitate a public meeting to enable the study team to present its proposal to residents of Beecroft Cheltenham. We will keep you informed of progress in this matter in future Bulletins.

More information may be obtained by calling the Study Information Line (Freecall): 1800 550 050, or visit their web site <http://commcons.skm.com.au/f3tosydneyorbital> or e-mail f3tosydneyorbital@skm.com.au



AN AFTERNOON AT AHIMSA

Ahimsa, the home of Marie Byles will be open on Sunday 8 September 2000 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm.

Jenny Tindale the caretaker of Ahimsa has invited interested residents to call in on Sunday 8th and to view the video "A Singular Woman", the story of Marie Byles' life, and to see the sanctuary and enjoy the bush. If you wish bring along some afternoon tea.

Marie Byles lived in Beecroft from 1911. She bought land at the end of Day Road Cheltenham in 1938 and built a simple dwelling, 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 was a foundation member of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust.

SUNDAY WALK - 10TH NOVEMBER.

On Sunday 10th November join us for a walk through the reserve from Roselea School to Midson Road. Interested walkers are asked to meet at the corner of Orchard Road and Norwood Ave Beecroft at 2.00pm. See what can be achieved through a joint effort between the community and Council.

Since 1993 large sections of this area, extending some 2km have undergone bush regeneration and revegetation by the Bambara Bushcare Group. In 2000 an artificial wetland was installed behind the Scout Hall in Plympton Road using the Council's remediation levy. This is now successfully improving the water quality of this tributary to Devlin's Creek.

In July this year a planting day was organised for National Tree Day and over 150 residents and two classes from Beecroft Public School came to plant 3000 plants in an area of Ray Park where Council has just completed a further remediation project along the creek bank.

The North Shore Group of the Australian Plants Society will be joining us for the walk so there will be a few expert plant identifiers for those interested. The walk will take about 2 hours followed by afternoon tea in Ray Park. A car shuffle will be organised for those wanting a lift back to their cars in Orchard Road or Norwood Ave. Don't forget sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat.

THANK YOU

From time to time in response to our regular call for membership subscription renewal some members have made a donation to the work of the Trust. This additional revenue assists the Trust to maintain its costs and has greatly helped in our work on behalf of all residents of Beecroft Cheltenham. The Trust wishes to formally acknowledge the generosity and support of those residents who have donated additional funds to assist in our work.

CHELTENHAM X 2

Some residents have expressed interest in the suburb name signs erected by Council a few years back, particularly the reference on the Cheltenham signs to 'Twin with Cheltenham Borough UK'.

In 1996 while looking at environmental education initiatives around the world, local Beecroft resident Raymond Pohl visited Cheltenham Borough in the UK. It was during a meeting with the Lord Mayor of Cheltenham Les Freeman, that Ray realised the two areas had a lot in common. Both communities had a concern for the environment, had active community groups working on restoration and rehabilitation projects and shared similar values.

On his return to Australia Ray took the matter up with Steven Pringle the then Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council. Steven was keen to link the two communities through a common bond and concern for the environment. Cheltenham Borough was happy to acknowledge this unique relationship as one community to another. The rest as they say is history!

COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS and 2119

Following a recent meeting with the Mayor the Trust will now receive notification of all type 1 and 2 Development Applications (DAs) in postcode 2119. In the past the Trust has only received notification of DAs that affected sensitive properties such as those with a heritage listing. However there are many significant properties in Beecroft and Cheltenham that are not heritage listed.

This is important as the Trust is increasingly called upon by residents for assistance when developments are planned and which may adversely affect their enjoyment of their property. In one month the Trust considers many applications and in a number of cases makes written submissions to Council where it is considered there are serious implications to residents. Issues might include over-55's housing (SEPP5), proposed subdivisions, stormwater issues, house extensions and matters affecting the visual amenity of our area. In addition practical and impartial advice is offered to residents on inquiry to our Housing sub-committee.

Over the last few years an increasing amount of the Trust's effort is being directed towards these issues. For instance over the last few months committee members have been active attending council meetings and site meetings with a view to obtaining improved developments on a number of properties including 177D, 198A Copeland Road East and at 11 Albert Road, where a 15 lot community title subdivision is proposed. This has involved over 50 hours of the committee's time. When you consider that the committee consists entirely of volunteers the commitment to the preservation of our unique environment is considerable.

M2 ADVERTISING

It seems the issue of advertising on the M2 will not go away. The Trust executive has again met with Manboom Pty Ltd, consultants for the Hills Motorway who presented five new proposals for signage along the section of the Motorway from North Epping through to the Pennant Hills Road.

Preliminary information indicates signage on the North Epping tunnel portal heading west, on the noise wall above Terry's creek at North Epping, on the cutting below Ferndale Road, on the cutting wall adjacent to Pennant Hills Road and under Pennant Hills Road.

The Trust in principle opposes advertising along the M2, and while we cannot prevent Manboom Pty Ltd from submitting DAs they have undertaken to consider our concerns on technical issues such as road safety, aesthetics, lighting and visibility from adjoining residential areas.

Congratulations to Trust Member Jenny Lewis who recently had her paper "**Regeneration of remnant Blue Gum High Forest vegetation following the cessation of mowing**" published in the Royal Botanic Gardens official publication *Cunninghamia* vol 7 (2) 2001.

BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC.

Annual Membership

Subscription Family	\$12.00	Single	\$6.00
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Mailing details: (please print)

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