



# BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC

PO Box 31, Beecroft NSW 2119

[www.2119.org.au](http://www.2119.org.au)

[bcct2119.blogspot.com](http://bcct2119.blogspot.com)

BULLETIN 2

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The Trust now has a blog, to provide information on current and evolving topics relevant to the residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham. You can find it at [bcct2119.blogspot.com](http://bcct2119.blogspot.com)

## BCCT WALK ON SUNDAY 17TH APRIL STARTING AT 2.00PM AT THE END OF WELHAM ST., BEECROFT

Join us for an interesting afternoon walk through the bushland west of the railway line. Quite a lot is happening here, some good and some not so good for the bush. We will look at the beginnings of regeneration after a control burn on 27th January 2011 near Cheltenham oval. We will then walk over the Murray Farm Road bridge and see the impact construction will have on this area for the widening of the M2. Walk to Ray Park where the Ray Park Heritage Group have a successfully gained Caring for our Country grant for a project to help educate the community about biodiversity awareness and the re-establishment of wildlife habitat. On the way we will be walking through areas of bushland that have had extensive restoration work over the last fifteen years. We will walk back and inspect the new M2 Construction Camp being built under and around the M2 Viaducts. A 25 m swathe has already been cut and metal fences are being erected, including far down the pedestrian pathway going east. Normal access will be permanently closed and the alternative western one will be closed during construction. We will finish at the Beecroft Scout Hall where our usual afternoon tea will be served around 4pm. You may bring your dog on a lead as long as the dog is people and dog friendly, you clean up after it and walk behind the main body of walkers.

*All welcome. Wear sensible shoes, a hat, and sun screen and carry some water.*

## NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BUSHCARE GROUPS IN BEECROFT AND CHELTENHAM

Bushcare is a very enjoyable activity where you can learn about the local flora and fauna and contribute to the health of our local bushland. Most groups work once a month but some work weekly and there is a wide choice of days and times. ALL WELCOME!

Council provide a bushcare trainer for each group and an interesting training day for new volunteers. Hats and gloves are provided for those who have completed the training and after a number of sessions with a group you become an accredited volunteer bush carer.

For more information on Hornsby Council's bushcare program contact: [bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au) Phone 9847 6362. Or for some local knowledge about the groups in the area you can contact Sheila Woods [sheilawoods@hotmail.com](mailto:sheilawoods@hotmail.com) or 9484 6764 or Dorothy Doolan [dedoolan@netspace.net.au](mailto:dedoolan@netspace.net.au) 9876 5713



## Australia Clean Up Day Sunday 6 March



Some 32 volunteers from BCCT, Beecroft Rotary and the community collected 26 bags of rubbish and 28 bags of recyclable materials.

A big THANK YOU goes out to these volunteers for making our suburbs a better place to live. We also thank Dr Rai Pohl, Rotary and all who helped co-ordinate the clean up.



## Meet the Candidate Night, Monday 14 March, 8pm

BCCT recently hosted an evening to meet the candidates for Epping. It was well attended by residents. Candidates present were John Thomas (Family First), Emma Heyde (The Greens), Greg Smith (Liberal), Amy Smith (Labor) and Joe Nagy (John Hatton Team). John Kingsmill (Christian Democrats) sent his apology. Each candidate spoke for six minutes then the meeting was opened for discussion from the people present. Issues raised included the need for public transport and community representation. The candidates then had two minutes to summarise their position.

## J.J. Hilder (1881-1916)<sup>1</sup> and his connection with Copeland Road East

*Article provided by the Beecroft Cheltenham History Group. See their website [bchg.org.au](http://bchg.org.au)*

A recent house sale at 143 Copeland Road East Beecroft drew attention to the connection between this home and a famous early Australian artist – J. J. Hilder. Jesse Jewhurst Hilder was born in Toowoomba Queensland on 23 July 1881. After completing schooling he was employed by the Bank of New South Wales which moved him to a number of locations including Bega in 1902 where he is believed to have contracted tuberculosis. In 1904 he was relocated to Sydney where he sold his first watercolour. In 1906 he enrolled in the art school of Julian Ashton. Julian Ashton said of him:

“Hilder was very shy and reserved. He used to come to my classes after four o’clock when the bank in which he worked was closed. He had a natural instinct for drawing and a sense of beautiful colour values. In nearly all of his

<sup>1</sup> Also see biographical articles by S Clifford-Smith on J J Hilder and B Hilder in Dictionary of Australian Artists on Line [www.daao.org.au](http://www.daao.org.au) accessed 23 April 2010.

work he conveys the impression of having attempted to express some individual form of beauty both in design and colour.”<sup>2</sup>

In 1908, and having spent time away from work because of illness Hilder was transferred to Young – hoping that its climate might help his consumption. Also in Young at that time was Phyllis Amy Meadmore. Phyllis was the daughter of Clement and Amy Meadmore of ‘St Elmo’ 143 Copeland Road East Beecroft. Her father was a commercial traveller. Mr Meadmore was actively involved in the community through participating in a large number of musicals (especially Gilbert & Sullivan) and dramatic works held in the Beecroft School of Arts. As a consequence of family connections, on her mother’s side, Phyllis went to stay with the Allen family of Young while she trained as a nurse at Young Hospital.<sup>3</sup>

While living in Young, both Phyllis and Hilder attended sketching classes together and fell in love. Not only did they decide to marry but Phyllis also convinced Hilder to resign from the Bank to concentrate upon his art. He resigned and they were wed in April 1909. In 1909 Hilder rented a house in Epping, which Phyllis described as:

“I shall never forget that first real homecoming. He had been telling me what a horrid little place it was, and I was rather relieved when I saw it. He had covered the floors of the three rooms, set out the china on the dresser, and put a few things about making the place look quite homely. And my mother was there with the table set for lunch.....For a time all went well and we had enough to live on in a very simple way and Jesse improved in health. About the end of 1910 we got a trap and pony and this made life much pleasanter for us all. The pony was slow and Jesse used to say that he had ample time to look about for landscapes as we drove gently along the rough roads. We found many quaint little by-roads with their charming trees and old fences which would have been too far from home without the pony.

Often Jesse came to me in the early morning and asked me to pack up some lunch and by nine we were off for the day; at other times we set out after a hasty supper to have a long evening in the moonlight. In 1911 we got very low in money and there was quite a lull in the sale of paintings. In March we only had £1 18s 4d, owed a month’s housekeeping bills, and on the 27<sup>th</sup> our second son was born. I had been so despondent for a few months that my mind had been constantly dwelling on death as an escape.

Could not face the acknowledgment that our marriage was a failure, and having to go back to my parents with the babies. They did not like Jesse, and I thought they had no sympathy for us. As to Jesse, he said he could only go to a sanatorium and wait to die, trying meanwhile to sell a picture sometimes and give me a little money...a terrible outlook for us all. However, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April came the usual account from [the selling agent] and he had done so well that we paid up all round and could hold up our heads again and face the future bravely. Things went well; the work sold and we took a cottage we thought nicer at Ryde, but, finding it damp, soon had to leave for one near Hornsby.”<sup>4</sup>

While Phyllis talks of a perceived lack of support from her family, it is noted that her first son was called after her brother and at least two paintings by Hilder are of his father-in-law in his garden at Beecroft. As Hilder’s health deteriorated Phyllis recorded:

“In January 1916 I asked Mother to take the children to her home in Beecroft, sending them to a kindergarten there. We had them home from Friday till Sunday evening, and had the other days quiet for Jesse who was painting when he was well enough to be up.”<sup>5</sup>

Hilder died of tuberculosis on 10 April 1916 aged just thirty five years.

Following Hilder’s death Phyllis and the two boys went to Melbourne where she kept house for one of her aunts. She then returned to Sydney where she completed her nurse training and eventually went to live at ‘Wildflower’ Castlecrag - a home designed and built for her in 1928 by her son Bim. After being widowed for almost thirty years she re-married Ernest Browning Kingsnorth. She died in 1951.

<sup>2</sup> J Ashton *Now came still evening on* (1941) p 117

<sup>3</sup> B Hilder *The Heritage of J J Hilder* (Ure Smith, Sydney, 1966) p 68

<sup>4</sup> B Hilder pp 72 - 3

# JOIN YOUR TRUST

## Do you know that your Trust:

- ✓ Evaluates all development applications for 2119 and makes detailed submissions to Hornsby Council on any which might breach regulations or might have a negative impact on our beautiful suburbs.
- ✓ Generally has a representative at Council meeting to monitor and put forward views of 2119 residents
- ✓ Supports residents where required in matters pertinent to area 2119
- ✓ Works closely with our bush care groups as well as heritage and history groups.
- ✓ Has ongoing communication with Local, State and Federal governments on issues that affect us.
- ✓ Distributes over 4000 bulletins to all households in 2119 to advise residents on matters which will affect our area, upcoming events and local history. We also send email updates to those on our email list.
- ✓ Organises two guided walks each year to inform residents about our beautiful bushland.
- ✓ Lobbies for the retention of critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, both of which are covered by the Threatened Species Conservation Act.
- ✓ Promotes the upgrading of footpaths, road safety issues and the much needed traffic lights at Kirkham St.

**Your membership subscriptions are our only source of income to finance these efforts.  
Please join the Trust so you can help us continue our good work.**

**Membership is normally due on January 1, 2011.**

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION FORM 2011

**Fees are \$20 household (two adults), \$10 individual**

Surname (1) ..... First name (1) .....

Surname (2) ..... First name (2) .....

Address ..... Post Code .....  
*Street address preferred* *Suburb*

Phone Number (02) ..... Mobile No.....

E-mail address .....

Membership fees \$ ..... as noted below. Do you require a receipt? YES /NO

**Where practicable, receipts will be issued by e-mail.**

Method of payment please mark appropriate box:-

Post  to PO Box 31 Beecroft by cheque only.

Handed in  by cash or cheque.

Deposited in bank  BSB 062 113 Commonwealth Bank Beecroft Account 10068238.

Electric Funds Transfer  EFT from your bank account via computer BSB 062 113 Commonwealth Bank  
Beecroft Account 10068238. NB Use your name as reference.

PayPal  go to Trust website [www.2119.org.au](http://www.2119.org.au) click onto PayPal and follow the instructions.

**For record purposes, please send a copy of this completed form to The Treasurer, PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119 OR e-mail to [treasurer@2119.org.au](mailto:treasurer@2119.org.au)**