



# BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC

**President** Kent Ross  
**Email** president@2119.org.au

**Secretary** Colin Johnston  
**Email** secretary@2119.org.au

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**ABN** 41 449 599 554

## STOP PRESS: BCCT AGM & Community Meeting

**When:** Monday 11th April  
2016, 7:30pm

**Where:** Beecroft Community  
Centre

Please come along to our Trust AGM and hear our special guest speaker, author Anne McLeod, speak about her book - The Summit of her Ambition: The Spirited Life of Marie Byles

### What and who is the Trust?

If you live in Beecroft and Cheltenham, you are part of the community that is represented by the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust. We have over 700 members who pay just \$20 a year to help fund our activities including this newsletter and the hiring of halls. We are a not for profit organisation with the goal to preserve the natural and built heritage of Beecroft and Cheltenham.

### What is the history of the Trust?

We have been around since 1964. We recently celebrated 50 years, making us the oldest operating trust in Australia. We originally formed to save a number of street trees and were successful!

### Who is on the committee?

Ten community members are elected at the AGM. Our President is Kent Ross, Vice President is Ross Walker, and Secretary Colin Johnston. We have a dedicated team of 40 volunteers who deliver the printed bulletin.

### Do you need special attributes to be on the committee?

The most important one is an interest in community. You also need some time to attend monthly meetings and maybe take on an active role. It can suit retired people but anyone and everyone is welcome. Meetings are held in Beecroft on the first Tuesday evening of each month.

We are always looking for volunteers to join the committee and welcome nominations. Nomination forms are available from the Trust Secretary - telephone 0408 751 915

### Why join the Trust?

- We keep you informed about events and happenings (via an e-newsletter).
- You keep us informed about what is affecting you where you live and what improvements you would like to see.
- Together we have a stronger voice to discuss our concerns with our elected representatives.
- If you are new to the area, joining the Trust is a great way to get to know people in the community.

### What other things do we do?

We hold public meetings about community issues to which local Council, State and Federal politicians are invited. At election time we hold 'Meet the Candidate' nights, conduct community surveys, organise Spring and Summer Walks, Clean Up Australia Day, and more recently Film Nights.

We welcome new ideas to help foster community.

### How do I contact the Trust?

Email: comment@2119.org.au  
Web: www.2119.org.au  
Find us on Facebook: Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust

### IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP...

Please protect our suburbs.  
Become a Member in 2016!

**Household:** \$20/yr;  
**Pensioner or Single Resident:**  
\$10/yr.

To renew your membership for 2016, please send a cheque with your name, phone and email details to PO Box 31, Beecroft 2119,

OR credit our bank account directly: BSB 062-113 10068238, using your name as a reference. Please also send an email to treasurer@2119.org.au advising that you have updated your membership.

## LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT HOLDS ON-SITE CONCILIATION MEETING AT BYLES CREEK



A group of locals meet the Land and Environment Court in a conciliation meeting with the developer. **Photo: Michael Bianchino.**

On Thursday 10 March, over 120 community members met representatives from the developer, Hornsby Shire Council and the Land and Environment Court, at a conciliation conference at 79-87 Malton Road. As a result of the community campaign, the conciliation has been adjourned until April, while ecologists do further assessments on the land. Ecologists Smith and Smith reported that there are possibly two endangered flora species in

this parcel of land which would further support the preservation of the Byles Creek Valley.

Surveys run recently by the BCCT and Hornsby Shire Council showed residents of 2119 want the council and NSW Government to purchase the Byles Creek Valley to protect the flora and fauna, but council has refused, despite receiving significant revenue from the sale of the Cheltenham Church.

**The fight for Byles Creek Valley is not over yet.**

## Twenty Bags with 60 kg at Clean Up Day Beecroft and Cheltenham

The BCCT participated in another successful Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 6 March. We had about 20 volunteers and collected about 20 bags of rubbish, weighing approximately 60kgs in total. Thanks to all who contributed.

The 'hot spot' this year was along the railway line in Wongala Crescent in the vicinity of Arden and the daycare. The origin of the rubbish appeared to be from the ETTT contractors and occupants of vehicles who park in this area.

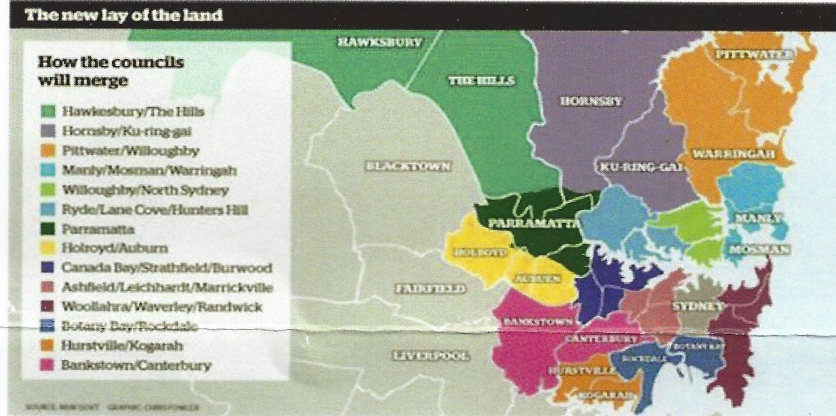
The Trust would like to hear your views on a Beecroft and Cheltenham Plastic Bag Ban.

Several residents have suggested that a Plastic Bag Ban might further improve the environment in Beecroft and Cheltenham. These have been implemented in other communities in Australia to reduce plastic pollution which is not only unsightly but harmful too. A Plastic Bag Ban would be a strong statement about our commitment to a clean environment here in Beecroft and Cheltenham. Please contact the Trust with your ideas.



Locals James Stanton-Cooke and BCCT VP Ross Walker collect rubbish on Clean Up Day

# COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS



**Two notable changes are proposed for our area:**

1. Beecroft – south of the M2 – will become part of Parramatta City Council.
2. The remainder of our area will join with the Ku-ring-gai Council area – indicated in purple in the map.

**Note:** Nearby facilities, including the Roselea Centre, Epping Library and Epping Pool would be transferred to Parramatta. These would still be available to residents from other local government areas, as they are now.

**The Trust's current views are:**

The Trust would continue representing 2119 to both Councils. The Trust will need to develop a working relationship with the Councillors on Parramatta Council, as well as Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai. This is likely to involve working with more councillors. The Trust will lobby the new Parramatta City Council to provide copy DAs for Trust assessment and comment, similar to what Hornsby Shire Council currently does. If either new Council decided not to provide copy DAs, that may mitigate the role of the Trust in promoting orderly development across the 2119 postcode area.

The Bush-care volunteer groups in the Parramattapart of our 2119 area. We may be

required to lobby Parramatta Council to continue the same level of support for our Bush-care groups. The Trust's bi-annual walks will continue and will not be affected by any merger. Any public meetings held by the Trust will likely involve inviting additional Councillors.

The merger with Ku-ring-gai – Your Trust has not formed a full opinion on such a merger and sought feedback from local residents on issues they see as beneficial and challenging. The common affinity with the significant green spaces that Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai would govern, indicates potential for enhanced recognition of our unique urban bushland context within sight of the Sydney CBD. The merger will imply issues of representation, as Council elections are likely to be deferred from September this year to March 2017. Councils will be required to amalgamate from 1 July this year.

North Epping – being north of the M2, is currently proposed to remain with Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai. The Trust believes in the interests of the local residents, that North Epping should be included with Epping in the same local government area. The current proposal means future Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai services (e.g. garbage, parks) would need to

travel through Parramatta's Epping to reach a North Epping 'island'. Sadly, this reflects more a line on a map than good, practical governance. The whole of Epping should remain with Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai.

The Trust has received over 35 comments from local residents. Ross Walker, the Trust's vice President, addressed two recent NSW Government 'Fit for the Future' merger proposal sessions – at North Parramatta and Pymble. The Trust noted that "the M2 is not an appropriate boundary. All of Epping and the southern parts of Beecroft should be included in any Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai Council and not in Parramatta. The Trust questions the merit of even considering a merger of Hornsby & Ku-ring-gai Councils at all. There appears to be little community or economic benefit for both councils...the only 'Fit for the Future' factor that the two councils do not satisfy is size".

## Dead Fish and Eels in Devlins Creek

The EPA is continuing to investigate and look for possible contaminants that may have caused the eel and fish deaths and is working with the local council to identify potential contaminant sources. Several building sites in Epping are currently under investigation. The ETTT and NWRL sites have been cleared of any involvement. Local residents with any relevant information are encouraged to contact the EPA's Environment Line on 131 555.

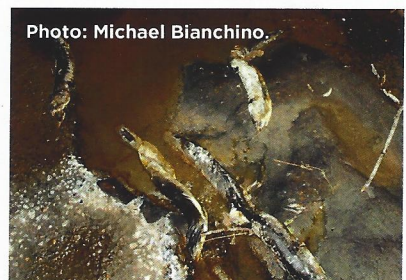


Photo: Michael Bianchino.

## FREIGHT TRAIN POLLUTION

There are no national standards in relation to diesel train emissions so the EPA are looking to regulate this industry. They want to ensure the accountability of diesel locomotive operators and to improve environmental performance.

Clean air is fundamental to our health and wellbeing. Poor air quality can be particularly critical to the health of children, older people, pregnant women and people with pre-existing health conditions. It also affects the natural environment and liveability of our communities. Beecroft and Cheltenham are being impacted by air pollutants from varying and worsening sources.

We now regularly have cars and trucks idling in traffic jams on Beecroft Rd, Pennant Hills Rd and on the M2 motorway. We are also impacted by diesel freight trains hauling uncovered coal wagons up the steepest incline in NSW. This will worsen with

increased rail freight traffic on the new third track.

Representatives from the BCCT attended an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) workshop held on 10 March 2016 in Sydney.

The workshop focused on the outcomes of retrofitting an emissions upgrade kit to old diesel freight trains when it came time to rebuild their engines. The kit reduced air particulate emissions however resulted in an increase of fuel consumption and CO2. The kit reduced noise levels while the locomotives were operational but there were inconsequential differences when idling. Diesel engines left idling polluted much more than when the locomotives were moving.

We learnt Australia's diesel locomotive fleet (about 2000 locos) is old, with an average age of 30 years. Many of the old engines cannot be rebuilt because they can

no longer get the parts. In contrast, new locomotives have greater fuel efficiency, are quieter and produce less pollutants than can be achieved by retrofitting old engines with emission kits. At a cost of around AUD \$5M per locomotive, it appears the operators would rather continue slowly retrofitting the old locomotives.

The EPA is proposing to put in place a regulatory framework requiring locomotives and wagons to be licensed. The licenses will require operators to meet noise and air emission standards. The standards are not yet decided and are likely to be different for new and old locomotives. The EPA hope operators will be licensed by the end of 2017.

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust is very supportive of the EPA's initiative to enforce the licensing of rolling stock operators and will remain a stakeholder in the upcoming working groups.

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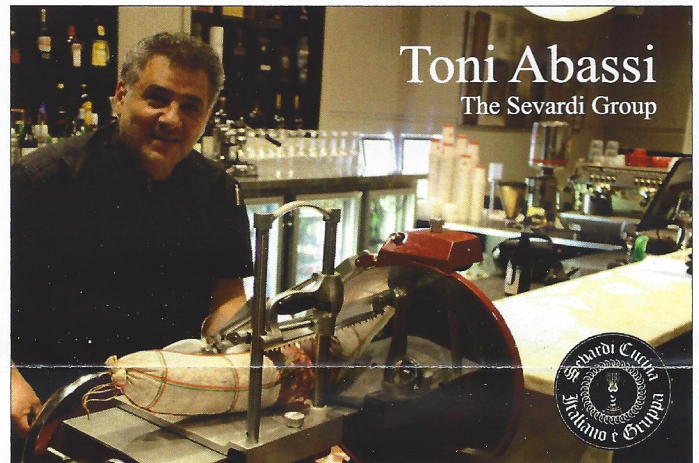


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[www.raywhitebeecroft.com](http://www.raywhitebeecroft.com)

# Ray White™

## Beecroft



**Toni Abassi**  
The Sevardi Group

A local favourite, the Sevardi Group has been operating in Beecroft for over 15 years.

- Sevardi** fine dining Italian restaurant
- Positano** Café Pizzeria
- Ravello** Wine Bar Ristorante

Toni loves cooking and takes great pride in the quality and presentation of his meals.

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