



BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC

the voice of our community

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FIRE TRAIL CLEARING DEBACLE



Photo: Michael Bianchino

Local residents met with representatives of National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on Monday 17 October to discuss what they agreed was excessive clearing of the fire trail in Lane Cove National Park from Day Road toward Whale Rock in late September, particularly along the riparian (creek) zone which should not have been touched. NPWS has undertaken to remediate the site with removal of tree debris along the riparian zone, engaging arborists to attend to damaged trees and monitoring/treating of weeds on the creek side. NPWS want to learn from this experience in terms of work practice, resource utilisation, equipment use and community consultation. This will include a regional workshop

for staff and update of training manuals with this site being used as an example/case study. The open and frank conversation was certainly appreciated, and we hope this is an opportunity for NPWS to better engage with the local community in terms of fire trail clearing and back burning in the future. We are fortunate to have the Byles Creek Valley wildlife corridor and Lane Cove National Park in our backyards, and are committed to protecting its flora and fauna (particularly our vulnerable Powerful Owl and endangered Gang-gang Cockatoo populations), while respecting resident's rights to feel safe from the threat of bushfire.

By Georgia Cameron

Bulletin to cease

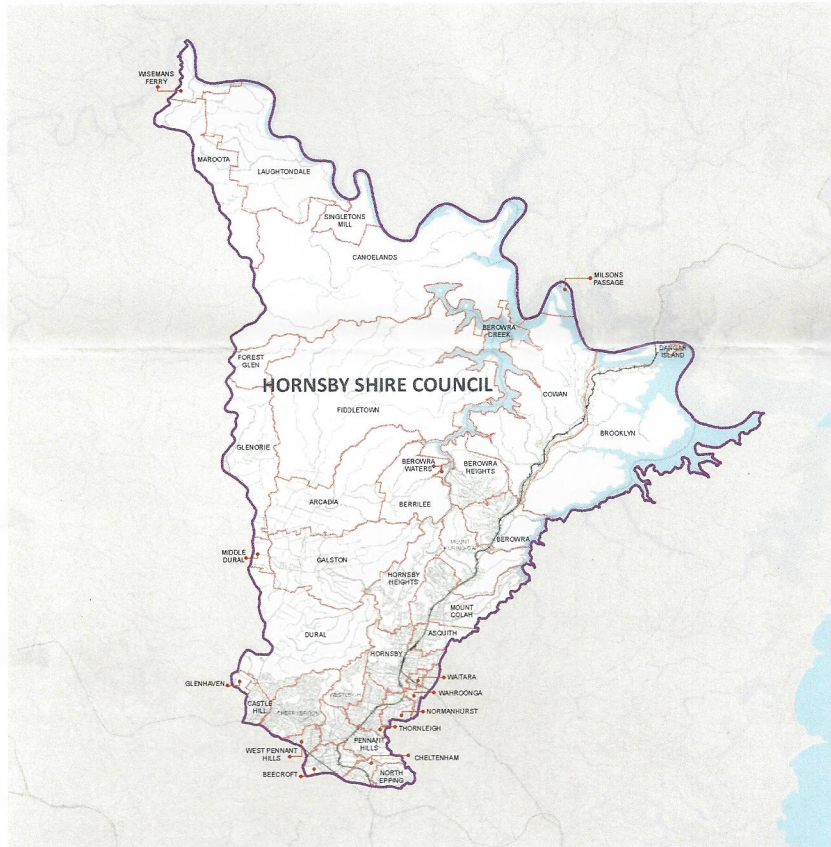
At our 2016 AGM, The Trust members decided to continue printing the bulletin for this year, but look to the future when the email version 'The eNews' could replace it. To save our precious pennies, the eNews can keep locals up to date more regularly, and at a significantly reduced cost to the Trust.

Therefore we need your email address!! You don't even need to be a Trust member. But it would be great if you were! To stay informed about what's happening in our community, send an email to: president@2119.org.au

DA update

There have been many Development applications received over the past few months, and the Trust Vice President Ross Walker has been flat out just keeping up. Many of them present no issues, but some require significant feedback to keep minimum block sizes, protect heritage items and conserve the environment. I would like to thank Ross for the time he dedicates to the community in supplying this feedback. The Trust is not anti-development, we are just opposed to inappropriate development.

WHAT DOES THE MERGER MEAN TO YOU?



What does the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai council merger mean for the residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham?

Boundary changes will have the biggest effect on Ward C (which includes Beecroft and Cheltenham) with the loss of all properties south of the M2 motorway including most of Epping, Epping commercial district, Roselea Community Centre and Epping Library.

A merged council will have a maximum of 15 councillors. Representation for residents is likely to be reduced from the current 16,000 to 20,000 residents per councillor.

Both councils have voting wards. HSC has a popularly elected Mayor and by contrast, KC's Mayor is elected by members of council.

Hornsby Shire Council's position:

HSC supports the merger and argues it will result in better services, increased infrastructure spending and a stronger negotiating position with the state government and business contractors.

HSC believes there will be less need for Special Rate Variations, which both Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai councils have had to institute in recent years to cover revenue shortfalls.

HSC believes it will benefit from the \$20 million the State Government is offering to help with the amalgamation process as well as increased revenue generated from the merged councils.

Ku-ring-gai Council's opposition is based on the following:

KC is in a healthy financial position and provides high quality services and facilities.

KC is opposed to the reduction

in representation and argues the majority of councillors in the new council will be elected from the current Hornsby Shire because of its significantly larger population.

KC believes the two areas have significant differences with Ku-ring-gai being more urban and the much larger Hornsby Shire being more rural and including remote communities like Wisemans Ferry.

Ku-ring-gai council conducted surveys using a model developed by Micromex Research. Opposition to the merger was expressed by 75% of residents who believed they would be disadvantaged and would prefer KC to be a stand alone entity. KC has taken legal action to oppose the merger.

The KC's case was considered and largely rejected by Justice Moore in the Land & Environment Court in September. An appeal was heard on November 23rd and is expected to result in a date being set for a hearing by the NSW Court of Appeal.

The research conducted by Crosby Textor for HSC demonstrated that residents were fairly evenly split with 47% opposed and 44% supporting a merger.

Hornsby Councillors expect amalgamation to be delayed past March 2017 and the September council elections will most likely be postponed.

More information on Council Amalgamations can be found at: www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au and click on "Council amalgamation". www.kmc.nsw.gov.au and click on "Stay up to date on council mergers".

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust is watching all these developments very closely and will continue to represent residents and give voice to community interests.

SOUTH DURAL PLANNING PROPOSAL

Many residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham have become aware of a proposed rezoning of rural land to residential land at South Dural. The draft rezoning plan has been prepared by a private company called Statewide Property Ventures on behalf of the South Dural Residents and Ratepayers Group.

So there is no misunderstanding, Council is not driving this proposal nor is it funding it but Council does have a statutory obligation to consider the rezoning proposal. Therefore Hornsby Council has placed the rezoning plan on public exhibition for public comment. The information below is taken from Hornsby Council's website.

Hornsby Council is seeking public comment to assist in the assessment of this rezoning proposal. The Proposal seeks to rezone land known as South Dural, bounded by New Line Road, Old Northern Road, and Hastings Road to allow residential subdivision.,

The draft Plan proposes to amend the Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013 and Hornsby Development Control Plan 2013 to:

- Rezone the predominately rural land for urban purposes;
- Amend lot sizes and heights of buildings;
- Allow approximately 113 hectares of infill residential development;
- Allow 2,900 dwellings comprised of detached, multi-unit and residential flat buildings;
- Create 5 precincts to be the subject of future detailed urban layout plans;
- Retain 62 hectares of threatened and endangered native forest and vegetation along Georges Creek;
- Use all existing roads, a new

collector road and identify future access points;

- Provide a sporting field and local parks; and
- Identify potential locations for water detention basins.

There is also an Infrastructure Strategy and Business Case which outlines a funding approach for local infrastructure and regional road network improvements to support the proposal.

Likely Impact on the residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham

Vice President Ross Walker makes the following comments;

Residents in suburbs immediately adjoining South Dural, like Cherrybrook, are very concerned about the likely impact additional housing will have on their current lifestyle and have been seeking support from residents in other suburbs including Beecroft and Cheltenham to object to the rezoning.

Will Beecroft and Cheltenham be impacted if this rezoning proceeds? The simple answer would be yes, just like the way the development of existing suburbs like West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook affected our suburbs 20 years ago. The most obvious change will be increased traffic.

The South Dural rezoning proposal will not be serviced by the new Metro train line and is separate to the State Government driven rezonings around the Metro train stations at existing suburbs like Cherrybrook and Castle Hill. So the modes of transport for South Dural will remain road based. The NorthConnex project is unlikely to alleviate traffic congestion in the future. While cross city and interstate traffic will be encouraged to use the NorthConnex, Pennant Hills

Road will continue to service local traffic. With more development in the surrounding suburbs then expect an increase in cross-flow vehicle movements along major roads with longer cycles at traffic lights. Beecroft Road, being a main feeder for the M2 and Sydney Orbital network, will be affected too.

The South Dural Precinct has been identified by the State Government for future residential development. However it is not the State Government that is driving this rezoning at the moment and as such the developer has been told to provide the infrastructure at no cost to the State Government. All rezoning proposals require extensive infrastructure upgrades including sewerage, water, roads and schools. While the documents submitted outline where upgrades and improvements will be provided there is likely to be additional costs not listed. So perhaps the issue with this draft rezoning plan is a timing issue. Is our area ready for additional housing at South Dural at the same time the State Government is proceeding with increased housing along the Metro train line?

Everyone is entitled to make a submission, regardless of where you live: hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Events Section

Trust Movie Night

With regret we announce that our 2016 Christmas Movie night has been postponed to late Summer 2017. This is due to a delay with the installation of the audio visual equipment. So our sincere apologies to everyone, but we'll be back better than ever with our great new screen next year.

MEET THE LOCALS



Juan and Sonia are the owners and lifeblood behind the Beehive Café. They came to Australia from Colombia in 2001, where Juan had been working for a large company as General Manager. They looked at existing businesses and decided to embark on a new and different venture in the hospitality industry. Having looked at between 30 and 40 cafes across Sydney, they then found the Beehive in 2003 and fell in love with it instantly. The

rest is history as their successful café continues to provide friendly and scrumptious delights for local and visiting patrons. In order to explore the people who make the “Beehive” such a special gathering destination, we asked Juan the following questions:-

Why did you choose Beecroft to start your new career in Australia?

“From the moment we first visited Beecroft, we loved the Village feeling and atmosphere. It is an area set amidst a beautiful environment, the people were very friendly and it was also close to where we decided to call home.”

What do you like about the Beecroft / Cheltenham area?

“We especially like the people and the feeling of belonging to a Community. Our daughters worked with us until they started their own families. This area is friendly and open to anyone who wants to visit or remain permanently. Our customers have become our friends; we are so pleased we chose Beecroft back in 2003.”

What do you think about the changes the area has undergone?

“Right now, it is sad to see Beecroft going through so much change with construction on so many fronts but I think it is going to be great. Customers have found coming to Beecroft more challenging but once the building has finished and the trucks leave, it will be a boom time for Beecroft.”

What might our readers be surprised to learn about you?

“Even though Sonia has never undergone any formal training as a chef, her passion for cooking has made of her the most versatile creator of delicious dishes. Beecroft has tasted meals from around the world prepared by Sonia and her team of chef’s hands and everyone keeps coming back for more. Isn’t that what any well-known chef would want? After 30 years of marriage I still love her... (just between us, even more than before!)”

New Options in Skin Solutions

Tucked away in Beecroft Village, Skin by Sarah Hudson is your private destination for beautiful skin.

Sarah is a 20-year veteran aesthetic practitioner, skin educator, consultant to plastic surgeons, qualified dermal therapist, and member of the Australian Society of Dermal Clinicians.

Offering Medical Grade Treatments & Clinical Skin Analysis for:

- Lines & Wrinkles ■ Pigmentation & Age Spots
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- Redness & Broken Capillaries

New to the Clinic:

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