



BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC

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BULLETIN 1 March 2014

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50 Years of Community Action Get Active and Fight to Protect your Community

Want to be better informed?

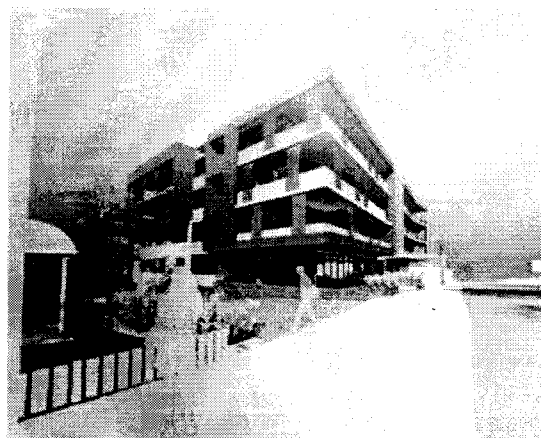
Your Trust delivers these bulletins regularly – many thanks to our dedicated team of 40 volunteer distributors! You might also check our website and weblog at www.2119.org.au. If you would like more regular monthly updates – and give your opinions on emerging issues, please join some 600+ Trust members and friends, who receive concise Trust emails. Just email comment@2119.org.au and we will keep in touch!

In this Bulletin:

- Public Meeting, Module development, Mon 31 March, 7 for 7.30pm
- Replant our Heritage – Secure our Future, Sat 5 April, 10.15 for 11am
- Annual General Meeting, Mon 28 April, 7 for 7.30pm
- Autumn Walk, Sun 4 May, 2pm
- The many *whys* for NWRL
- Trust's 50th Anniversary Dinner
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Bendigo Bank for Beecroft?
- Join the Trust

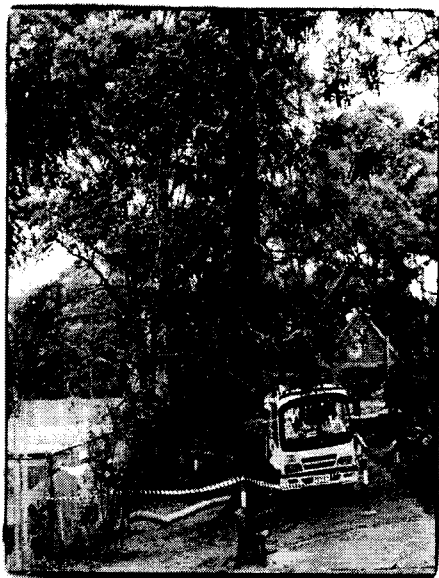
Public Meeting – Beecroft Shopping Village Redevelopment Why the Amended DA for the Module Site fails to meet Council DCP requirements Monday 31 March, Cheltenham Recreation Club, 7 for 7.30

Your Civic Trust is concerned that the current amended DA for this site still fails to meet all the requirements of the Council DCP. Unless there is significant resident backlash and pressure on Council to recommend rejection, the proposal is likely to be accepted by the JRPP (Joint Regional Planning Panel). Our community needs your action.



Saturday April 5 – Replant our Heritage – Secure our Future Entertainment from 10.15 and Addresses from 11am Beecroft Memorial Gardens, Wongala Crescent.

Support this community event organised by the Save Beecroft and Cheltenham Alliance. Come and hear local resident and well known horticulturist **Graham Ross, Jack Munday** and many others speak on how we as a community can help replant our heritage. This includes revegetation of the park and along the rail corridor following the clearing caused by the ETTT and the loss associated with the proposed North West Rail Link



Residents were horrified to see this truck parked right against one of our historic Bunya pines. An arborist said "This is totally unacceptable. Where are ETTTA & Active Tree Service's adherence to AS 4970 THE PROTECTION OF TREES ON DEVELOPMENT SITES? This also means civil construction." We have been told that ETTTA sought and received permission from Council to access the area around the Bunya Pine for the purposes of root mapping. The objective is to locate the important roots around the tree and guide where to place work around it to minimise root damage. So much for parking a truck on this root zone!

In another example, a tree at the Northern end of Beecroft station behind the blue screen (within the work-site) has been observed to have heavy equipment either parked very close or equipment left leaning against the trunk of this tree. It is one of the last surviving heritage trees in that area. There are no protection barriers around the tree. Apparently ETTTA's consent does not require them to have barriers around trees. So much for the Government protecting our environment!

Monday 28 April Civic Trust Annual General Meeting Cheltenham Recreation Club, 7pm for 7.30pm

Members are advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust will take place on Monday 28 April, 7 for 7.30 at Cheltenham Recreation Club. This meeting will, amongst other things, receive the committee's reports, the auditor's report, elect members of the committee and appoint an honorary auditor.

Members wishing to nominate for the committee should obtain an application form from the Secretary and return it 1 week before the meeting.

Sunday 4 May – Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust Autumn Walk Meet 2pm at Bunya Pines, Beecroft Station

We will meet in Wongala Crescent and walk along to Lilla Street, up to Observatory Park then back down Beecroft Road, Albert Road and Wongala, returning by 4pm for afternoon tea. See what is happening with the ETTT in this area. A member of the History Group will point out items of interest along the way.

Wear sturdy shoes, a hat if needed and bring water. All are welcome. Please note that Lilla Street is fairly steep but you could return along Wongala if you wish.

The Many *Whys* for NWRL??

Barry O'Farrell promised Sydney that he would build the North West Rail Link (NWRL) as a compatible double-decker service. So why has this undertaking changed? It seems the only three people that think that the downsizing of the NWRL to a metro is a sensible solution are Barry O'Farrell, Gladys Berejiklian and the NWRL Project Manager, Rod Staples.

The people of Sydney need to do whatever is necessary to reverse this decision before it is too late. Spending \$8.38 billion of tax payer's money to build a privately operated shuttle service with no chance of integration into the

Sydney network is incomprehensible. What is required is a parliamentary inquiry into the reasons for the change. There are many unanswered questions.

We need to know :

- Why did Barry O'Farrell state that he is saving \$200 million by building smaller diameter tunnels without any costing of the alternatives or evidence to back the assertion?
- Why will passengers from Rouse Hill have to stand for 37kms to Chatswood and then wait on a critically over-crowded platform to join an already crowded train into the city?
- Why is the State Government spending \$8.38 billion on a shuttle line that can never integrate with the Sydney rail network and gains no efficiencies through using existing maintenance or other support services?
- Why is the State Government gifting use of the state owned Epping to Chatswood line to a private operator without public discussion?
- Why is the State Government refusing to release non-commercially sensitive e-mails and documentation to and from Rod Staples covering the six months leading up to the decision to change from double-decker to metro?

The Transport Minister can avoid a complete disaster by building the tunnels large enough for the operation of a double-decker service to permit future integration into the Sydney rail network.

Over 2000 residents have signed the BCCT petition protesting against the changes to the tunnel size. If you have not done so please add your voice to this petition. Log onto the BCCT website at www.2119.org.au and you will see the links to our petition or use the following QR code for smart-phone scan. The petition will be presented to Barry O'Farrell in March.



Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust 50th Anniversary Dinner

Celebrating 50 years of Community Activism



Guest Speaker Dr Meredith Burgmann



Part of the audience

On Thursday 27 February, 225 people enjoyed dinner at the Pennant Hills Golf Club to celebrate the Trust's 50th anniversary, making it the oldest Civic trust in Australia. Past President of the History Group, Dr Stuart Braga outlined the history of the trust and why it was founded. He noted that 50 years later the issues were largely the same, trees and preserving our unique suburbs, although the job is now much harder. Beecroft matters . Cheltenham matters.

The guest speaker was Dr Meredith Burgmann who grew up in Beecroft and Cheltenham. Meredith is well known for her community activism. Meredith was elected to the NSW Legislative Council in 1991 and was President in 1999. She retired as President in 2007, making her the longest serving female presiding officer in Australia. Meredith amused the audience with her fascinating reminiscences of growing up in Beecroft and then moving to Cheltenham. She was amazed that there were now some 14 houses on the block where they lived in Hull Road and 3 houses on their block in Mason Avenue. But some things have not changed, there is still a Chemist on the corner in Beecroft

and Sparks Shoes is still next door. Many heritage houses and trees have been preserved, thanks to the Trust. However she was dumbfounded to see what has happened to Cheltenham Station and called it a planning disaster.

Meredith spoke of the many community actions which have saved some of Sydney's heritage, its buildings and bushland, as these were not protected by any legislation. Her message was that communities must fight to preserve what is valued, otherwise we lose. We may not always win, but we must try. By fighting, we really get to appreciate what we are fighting for, we develop a strong sense of community and we make strong friendships.

Past President, Carolyn Watt, thanked Meredith and reinforced the need for community activism now. Our suburbs are being destroyed by inappropriate development and we must all do what we can to oppose it.

These presentations can be seen on our website www.2119.org.au - then click on the NEWS tab.

Clean Up Australia Day

The Trust participated in Clean Up Australia again on Sunday 2 March, providing assistance to Rai and Zenda Pohl who had registered the Village Green. There were another group registered at Cheltenham Oval and another group at Beecroft shops. The wet weather kept numbers down but the volunteers managed to clean up around the Village Green, along Kirkham St to the M2 and Wongala Avenue opposite Arden School. The Trust has actively participated in Clean Up Australia for many years now and will continue supporting this. Thanks to all who came on the day.

Bendigo Bank for Beecroft?

A number of local residents are considering the establishment of a Bendigo Bank in Beecroft. As a community bank, the local community will receive direct benefits from this bank. This has been the case in North Epping and Galston. The first step is to have a group of community representatives who will form a committee of management. These people should represent a wide range of community groups including businesses, clubs, churches and community organisations. They do not have to have experience in banking. However, people with experience in banking, accounting and the law are also needed for expert advice. If you would like a new bank in Beecroft and could volunteer to be on the committee of management, please contact Margaret Talbot margaretlynette@gmail.com or Carolyn Watt 9876 3266 carowatt@ozemail.com.au. It is envisaged that the committee would meet in May with a representative of Bendigo Bank to commence the process.

Join the Trust and Support your Community - memberships are our income. Renewals are now due.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION FORM 2014 Fees are \$20 household (two adults), \$10 individual

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

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

Address

Phone Number Mobile No.....

E-mail address

Membership fees \$ as noted below. Method of payment please mark appropriate box:-

Post with cheque to PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119

Deposited in bank BSB 062 113 Commonwealth Bank Beecroft Account No 10068238.

Electric Funds Transfer EFT from your bank account via computer

BSB 062 113 Commonwealth Bank Beecroft Account Number 10068238 and use your name as reference.

So we know your details, please send a copy of this completed form to The Treasurer, PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119 OR email your name, address, phone no and email address to treasurer@2119.org.au