



BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM
CIVIC TRUST
I N C O R P O R A T E D
P.O. BOX 31, BEECROFT, N.S.W. 2119

BULLETIN 4

November 2008

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HOW WE CAN ALL HELP LOOK AFTER THE BUSHLAND IN BEECROFT AND CHELTENHAM.

Have a look at the new Council brochure delivered with this bulletin on the "DEVILS CREEK COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECT".

Even without joining a bushcare group all residents can make a difference to the impact our urban environment has on the bush. Here are a few suggestions of simple things we can all do to help preserve Beecroft and Cheltenham's bush whether it is Council Reserve or National Park.

- Take note of what is growing in your garden. Many bushland weeds such as Privet, Asparagus and Ochna are spread by birds and pop up in gardens without our knowing. By weeding the bush invaders out of your own garden you are helping native bushland.

- Compost your garden waste or use your green bin. Please never put any garden waste in bushland, it can introduce weeds and the nutrients that promote weed growth. Even dumped prunings can regrow and are also a fire hazard. You can get a second green bin from Council for only \$32 a year if needed. An increasing problem recently is dumping by garden contractors in the parking areas for some of the local reserves. Council is shortly going to use CCTV cameras in some locations in our area.

- **MOST IMPORTANTLY** enjoy our local bush. Go for a walk, look at the wildflowers, observe the birds, you can still see small birds such as Wrens and Finches in our bushland. Please stay on the formed tracks.

CONTACTS:- If you would like other brochures on local reserves or help to identify bushland weeds in your garden contact Hornsby Council Environment Service Desk on 9484 6853 or www.bushcare.hornsby.nsw.gov.au. or you can contact one of the local bushcarers Sheila Woods on 9484 6764 or sheilawoods@hotmail.com or Contact STEP inc at www.STEP.org.au for a map of the Lane Cove Valley.

If you notice any dumping in bushland take a note of the registration number of the vehicle if you can and report it to Hornsby Council's Waste Management Hotline on **9847 4856**. If you have any concerns about issues affecting our local bushland please let us know. With a bit of effort we can all help the local environment.

SPRING WALK

The annual Spring Walk was held on Sunday the 24th August. Weather was kind to us (again) remaining fine and cool as 40 walkers set out from Thornleigh Oval to explore the surrounding Lane Cove National Park. The walk consisted of two loops. The first loop took the party part way into the valley below the oval using the well used tracks leading to Lorna Pass and Conscript Pass. Both passes were constructed during the 1930's Great Depression.

Lorna Pass was named after Lorna Brand who organised the labour to construct the track. Conscripts Pass consists of a natural cutting in the cliff face with the profile and name of the then NSW Premier J Stevens cut into one of the sandstone rock faces.

The second loop was more leisurely and went out to the lookout south of the oval, from which the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

Afternoon tea was again provided and many thanks to the ladies who organised the beverages and food.

Next walk is Autumn 2009. The date of the walk will appear in the next bulletin. Expected venue will be the new walking tracks currently under construction around the Chilworth Reserve and Cheltenham Oval. See you on the next walk. Regards Ross Walker.



WAITING ROOM AT CHELTENHAM STATION

The waiting room at Cheltenham Station on the city side is currently being dismantled so a communications room can be made in that space. There is very little undercover space to wait at Cheltenham and the station.

This action has removed seating from a covered, enclosed area and will cause considerable inconvenience to commuters. There is surely plenty of space to build a new room for communications and not take this valuable space. To make objections or comments regarding this or other changes to State Rail operations you should phone State Rail 131 500 response line so the objections can be registered and collated.

MAKING A SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The Trust regularly works with groups of neighbours on objections to proposed local developments. To assist concerned residents, your Trust has also prepared guidelines that can be

downloaded to help make a submission to Council opposing a development application. Please visit the Trust website home-page: www.2119.org.au, then click on the Recent Submissions button (lower LHS). This material is drawn from Section 79C of the NSW Environment & Planning Assessment Act, which has more detailed information. This button also accesses links to recent Trust submissions to Council and other Agencies.

TRUST COMMITTEE BRIEFS NEW COUNCILLORS

On October 20, your Trust hosted a Briefing Session in Cheltenham for Mayor Berman and Councillors Hutchence and Browne (Greens' Councillor Martin was ill and unable to attend). Members of the Trust provided insights to the work they do to assist getting and giving good information for residents of the 2119 area.

The current Trust Committee includes people with expertise in local government law, landscaping / arborist, economics, town planning, health, education, community research, history, land surveying, information technology and demography. Key points included:

Community Engagement

- Some 60 local volunteers regularly give their time to distribute Trust Bulletins that go to some 4100 households 4 times a year.
- A recent evening provided residents with Planning updates by senior Council staff.
- Our 2008 Residents' Survey results are at Trust website www.2119.org.au
- The Trust coordinated a *Meet the Councillors Night* in August for local residents to meet and learn more of the range of candidates for the recent Council elections
- It has convened Special Interest Groups on Traffic and Parking from interested local residents - surveys will be sent to residents in early 2009 to get feedback.

Beecroft Cheltenham History Group ...

Gave a comprehensive brief on the early development of the area for quality housing, rather than agriculture, and notable changes since - explaining the significance of the work it does in researching and recording local history, resources and publications, and its proposed website.

Bushland Preservation

The Bushland sub-committee had a lively visual presentation and discussion with the Mayor and Councillors. The issues raised included Bushcare volunteers and how Council helps support and finance their operation, Council's own internal procedures where management of bushland can lead to problems and waste, how Council can manage and protect local high quality creek catchments and bushland.

Management of street trees in recent years was cited as a very contentious issue among many local residents who have seen tree loss with no replacements. Councillors were told of the ageing of our street trees and the need to proactively manage their ongoing replacement. However Councillors indicated they need the support of the community.

In response, during Autumn 2009, the Trust will form short-term Special Interest Groups to work using professional and Council inputs, to investigate and draft a local street tree replacement strategy; this will be later tested by survey with interested residents across our 2119 postcode area.

Local Building & Development

The Development sub-committee then outlined the Trust's monitoring and review of local development applications - especially those with likely impact on heritage, environment and bushland and how, on request, the Trust may assist residents in such matters. Concerns were raised with our newly elected representatives about inconsistency in Council's procedures and approvals from different departments. Other issues included the cumulative impact of subdivision on tree removal and destruction of valuable remnant forest communities, the lack of enforcement of approval conditions, the likely impact of new planning legislation and the requirement for (Fire) Asset Protection Zones on developments adjoining bushland.

Strategy - Major Projects

The Strategy sub-committee presentation slides traversed the loss of local amenity from major projects including:

- Rail quadruplication on the steepest grades in NSW,
- North West Rail Link or Metro if it ever occurs,
- Motorway widening of the M2 to 3 lanes each way and
- Proposed Pennant Hills Road tunnel - which

offers no real solution to the traffic problems especially of truck noise on this busy national road.

The Mayor and Councillors responded positively to the breadth and depth of work the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust indicated for our community.

AN EARLY UNISEX HAIRDRESSING SALON: DICK STUUT & SONS, HAIRDRESSERS

by Lesley Goldberg. No. 12 in a series of articles on the history of Beecroft and Cheltenham

In 1951 in the aftermath of World War II, Dick (Dirk) Stuut and his family, including four children, migrated to Australia from Groningen in the Netherlands. Dick had operated a hairdressing business since 1931. He claimed there had been Stuuts working as barbers in the Netherlands since 1761.

Beecroft was still a very small suburban shopping centre when two years later Dick Stuut purchased the rundown one-chair barber shop of Charlie Perry at 10 Hannah Street. The two-storey building was owned by the Public Trustee. Perry told Dick, 'You'll never make a go of it here'. Charlie's main business seems not to have been in cutting men's hair but in operating an illegal SP (off-course) bookmaking business. (This was before the introduction of the TAB.) Perry underestimated the industry and determination of Dick Stuut and the attraction for the locals of a 'continental' hairdresser.

Beecroft in 1953 had a sprinkling of shops along Wongala Crescent (then Railway Parade), and shops were dotted along both sides of Hannah Street and along Beecroft Road, almost all providing essential foods and services, except perhaps for the small lending library in Hannah Street. At first, Stuuts' clients were mainly local residents. Leading Beecroft and Cheltenham figures, the Arnott and Vickers families, arrived in their chauffeur-driven cars to have their hair trimmed.

However, after the building of Beecroft Arcade on the site of Ozzie Seale's house and dental practice, Beecroft's shopping centre became more attractive and very different from either Epping or Pennant Hills. It could easily be reached from burgeoning North Epping via Sutherland Road. The Common-

wealth Bank in Hannah Street was built, rivalling the existing Bank of New South Wales on the corner of Beecroft Road and Hannah Street. Beecroft's new businesses in the 1960s included Moongold Chocolates (which operated on the site now occupied by The Children's Bookshop and Capella Bookshop), and Valli's boutique in the Arcade, the first of a series of fashionable clothing shops.

There were gift shops such as Kenwick Galleries, which closed in 2007 and Polly Poppins, also now closed. These were the forerunners of a continuing chain of businesses which came to include the Treasure House, a jewellery business, and the Children's Bookshop which made Beecroft's shopping centre distinctively different from developments in adjoining suburbs such as Pennant Hills and Epping. Ron Stuuat believes that the establishment of an attractive array of 'boutique' businesses helped over many years to bring clients to Dick Stuuat's ladies' hairdressing salon which he established and which from 1955 operated upstairs in the building at 10 Hannah Street. Beecroft then had one of the earliest unisex hair salons in Sydney.

At the time men's and women's hairdressing trades in New South Wales were quite separate, and a men's hairdresser could cut women's hair only if qualified to do so by taking a specific course but he could not be licensed to perm, colour or set hair, unless he had completed the full trade course for ladies' hairdressing. Dick Stuuat did cut hair for female clients and he also employed a qualified female hairdresser who lived in Cheltenham. His sons Ron and Bert became his apprentices and his wife Diane worked as the receptionist. It was and remained a family hairdressing salon, catering to clients of all ages and both sexes and the business sign proclaimed Dick Stuuat & Sons Hair Dressers. Ladies' Salon Upstairs.

In the early 1960s Dick Stuuat purchased the building for £6,000. The main women's business, apart from cuts, was the weekly 'set' and the Stuuts' awning also proclaimed that the salon offered the services of a 'permanent wave specialist'. This was all to change later when hairdressing became part of the fashion business. Until then female clients would come to the salon about once a week for a 'set' and when needed, a trim, but would not have dreamed of the kind of expense women now regard as normal when they visit a salon less frequently. Stuuts always employed at least one specialist in men's hairdressing (at one time they had

three barber's chairs) whereas the newer salons that were established in Beecroft concentrated on ladies' hairdressing only. In 1964 Stuuts' advertisements in the monthly *Beecroft Express* boasted that the salon had '10 hairdressers in attendance'.

Dick Stuuat retired in 1970. He and his sons believed that it was important to train the future generation of hairdressers, so the business always had apprentices. Moreover, the Stuuts' business expanded and they opened hair salons at Castle Hill, Round Corner at Dural, Pennant Hills, Hornsby, Berowra, North Rocks, Westleigh and Parramatta. They offered employees ongoing training and employed hairdressers who gained a reputation as leading stylists and winners of NSW hairstyling competitions. They encouraged their staff to enter these annual competitions as they wanted their salons to achieve excellence. Eventually Ron Stuuat became the administrator and buyer in this chain of businesses and his brother Bert the staff manager, although both continued to cut hair. When Stuuts' Beecroft salon was sold, Ron Stuuat estimated that 40 of the current 50 or so hairdressers operating or working in five hair salons in Beecroft were former Stuuts employees.

None of the next generation of the Stuuat family continued the family trade. Stuuts had been operating a salon on the same site in Beecroft for almost 50 years when it closed in 2002, although another hairdressing business continues to operate on the site.

Please note: A subsequent article will celebrate the life of Miss Bessie Mitchell, MBE, the foundation Principal of Cheltenham Girls' High School. Many people remember Miss Mitchell, who established a great tradition of excellence at Cheltenham which has endured to the present. This year is the 50th anniversary of the school's foundation, and 2009 is the centenary of Miss Mitchell's birth. In particular, we would like a copy of the obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald. Any photographs showing Miss Mitchell as principal would also be appreciated. Please contact Stuart Braga, 9487 7825.

CORRECTION

The history article in the last Bulletin stated that Neighbourhood Watch was in recess. Neighbourhood Watch is alive and well. It meets three times a year at Cheltenham Croquet Club and usually has a Police Officer from Eastwood Area Command to give updates. New members are welcome. Contact Hugh Fulton 9876 1864.