



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 3

August 2008

Web Site: www.2119.org.au

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NSW Planning Reforms - Community Information Evening
7.30pm on Tuesday 16 September - Presbyterian Church Hall, 6 Welham Street, Beecroft

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Donation \$5 per person to cover Club costs

Autumn Walk

On Sunday 18 May some 40 residents enjoyed a professional, informative walk through some streets and bushland of Beecroft and Cheltenham – these included many family groups showing keen interest. Stuart Braga told us of the history of the War Memorial and the Willis Memorial. *Who knew that there had been a private school in Boronia Avenue?* With an excellent reference sheet, Stuart Pittendrigh explained the difference between Turpentine and Grey Iron Barks, Blackbutts and Blue Gums. Ross Walker explained the work of our keen bush regenerators in Chilworth Reserve and the recent financial assistance for this work by Transurban, operators of the M2. The walk started and finished at Beecroft Station with a magnificent afternoon tea.



Spring Walk

Sunday 24 August 2008, starting from Thornleigh Oval (Ferguson Street)

Join us on a walk with a difference. The annual Spring Walk will be on Sunday 24 August 2008, so put a note on your calendar for another enjoyable Sunday afternoon. The walk will start at 2pm and finish at 4pm at Thornleigh Oval. Further details will be available on the Trust's web site. [Details - Ross Walker 9875-4446.]

Local Parking & Traffic - Special Interest Groups

Hundreds of local residents identified local Traffic and local Parking affecting the amenity of our special neighbourhood, when responding to the Trust's March 2008 resident survey. Many expressed interest in taking these key issues further. Two initial short-term groups have been convened from those residents:

1. *Local Traffic* - Special Interest Group
2. *Local Parking* - Special Interest Group

Their work over the next 2 months will be:

- Review the detailed comments residents made about these issues,
- Seek resolution information from Council and other agencies,
- Highlight key issues for action – in a concise Position Paper,
- Seek resident feedback on the detailed issues raised in that Paper,
- Present a revised Policy Draft for adoption by the Trust – and forwarding for Council/agency action and Trust website publication.

If you would like to express your opinion on either of these subjects, please email colinjohnston@bigpond.com, or write to the Trust at the PO Box above.

Petrol Stress – car pooling and other options ...

With concerns for our local environment and difficulties with our public transport system & the rising price of petrol, the Trust would like to hear from local residents who might be interested in participating in a car pooling program. While 2119 residents are generally well catered for travelling to the city for work, those who may need to travel across the suburbs often find themselves without any real alternative to driving their own car.

Two or three people in a car during peak hours has got to be better than the one person to a vehicle, as we generally observe if we take a look around while stuck in a peak hour traffic jam. If you are interested in participating in a car pool with fellow local residents, the Trust would like to hear from you. Please telephone Richard Talbot on 0438 013 211.

Ray Park Heritage Group is holding two events of considerable interest to the community at the Plympton Rd Scout Hall, both 9am to 4.30pm.

Fri 10 Oct - Early Communication and Wireless in Australia.

Saturday 11 Oct - Back to Pioneer Days and Farm Life

The Swinging Social Life of Beecroft Cheltenham – *past & present*

by Catherine Bartho

No. 11 in a series of articles on the history of Beecroft and
Cheltenham

This is the continuation of the History Group's article from the last bulletin.

Four or five times a year, the Beecroft Forum meets over dinner at Pennant Hills Golf Club. This originated from the Presbyterian Church but is now under the auspices of MIAT (Major Issues in Australian Theology). The purpose of these dinners, very moderately priced, with a speaker of national standing, is to provoke thought and discussion about issues of ethics and modern life. They are open to anyone to attend.

The Beecroft-Cheltenham district has long been rich in musical talent. Local schools, both primary and secondary, have reputations for high standards in choral and orchestral music. The Beecroft Music Club flourished during the 1960s, but faded with the arrival of television and new opportunities to hear world standard musicians at the Sydney Opera House which opened in 1973. Choirs are generally linked to churches, though there was the Linnet Girls Choir for many years, and a smaller group called the Northside Singers. For over thirty years, a devoted group met each Friday morning for musical appreciation. Each member was expected to research and present at least one session annually, though the strength of the group was the founder who devoted endless time to sourcing recordings of rare works and presenting her research. The Beecroft Orchestra continues to provide for its audience.

Groups for outdoor leisure activities such as walking, bush regeneration and gardening meet regularly. The Civic Trust has a regular spring and autumn walk, usually attended by between fifty and seventy people. The Lapidary Club has long been established at the Community Centre.

Churches have home Bible study groups and strong networks of caring. Gardens are maintained by rosters of volunteers and occasional working bees to tackle larger tasks. One street has had an ecumenical Lenten group for twenty years. Catholic, Anglican, and Presbyterian neighbours meet together weekly during Lent to pray and this provides great unity in the street. Annual Christmas street parties are popular, some being on a grand

scale. The street which has the Lenten group also had an annual pantomime as part of the Christmas celebrations. This has now ceased but the residents still delight in memories of home-made entertainment.

The Leisure Learning Centre at Beecroft Uniting Church has been a boon for many years, particularly for retirees who have a choice of bridge, Australian History, art appreciation, creative embroidery and mah-jong. Other subjects have been offered when tutors have been available. Neighbourhood Watch has been active for many years, though at the moment is in recess due to lack of volunteers. The Civic Trust is another very worthwhile group which amongst other interests, lobbies with Hornsby Shire Council and parliamentarians when local interests are at stake. The Civic Trust has achieved a large amount for the district in almost fifty years of service.

With clubs such as Rotary, Probus, View and Lions, the residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham are wonderfully provided for. These groups also provide the 'social glue' which keeps the area so focused on retaining all that is good here. Values are maintained and strong family links and friendships through mutual interest groups provide support for residents of all ages.

The Beecroft Cheltenham History Group would like to hear about other social groups, large or small. We want to know more about the Champagne Friday group, the Saturday Philosophy Club and the Bangalow Bangers – just three of smaller groups happily meeting together.

The Beecroft Cheltenham History Group meets regularly – for further details please telephone 9487 7825.

Traffic Induction

The concept of traffic induction was presented by your Trust at the Perleman Enquiry on the above proposed *No Solution* Tunnel. It is a concept that helped persuade Commissioner Marla Perleman, a judge in the NSW Land & Environment Court, to document her support for the Western Option, involving a second crossing of the Hawksbury River. Traffic induction applies to new access corridors.



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