



CIVIC TRUST
INCORPORATED

PO BOX 31, BEECROFT N.S.W. 2119

AUGUST 2009

Web Site www2119.org.au

CIVIC TRUST SPRING WALK Sunday September 13, 2pm, Day Road, Cheltenham

The Bushland Sub Committee will be leading its annual spring walk on Sunday 13 September 2009. The walk will start and finish at the end of Day Rd, Cheltenham. Starting at 2 pm we will return at 4 pm for afternoon tea.

The walk will proceed up the walking track to Pennant Hills Park, then along the fire trail to the junction of Lane Cove River and Devlin's Creek and return along the fire trail via Whale Rock.

Please wear suitable walking shoes, an appropriate hat and bring water.

No need to book. All ages welcome, but keep in mind the walk involves a steep ascent to Pennant Hills and a steep descent to the valley. It is over 2 hours on well formed tracks and could have water covering parts of the track if there has been rain. The walk will proceed even if it is raining lightly.

Enquiries Ross Walker 9875 4446

BUSHCARE OPEN DAY Friday 28 August, 11am – 1pm.

The Bambara Roselea volunteer Bushcare group has been restoring the creek line vegetation along Devlin's Creek and the remnant Blue Gum forest in their local reserve for over 15 years. This open day represents the effort and successes that the group has achieved and to display the grant funded works that employed contractors to assist with creek restoration, noxious weed removal, replanting, fauna habitat enhancement and community education. This grant of \$16 000 was awarded through EnviroFund, a federal government grant.

You are invited to their open day on Friday 28th August 2009 at Orchard Road Park, Beecroft (access from Orchard Road between Norwood Ave and Karril Ave or off Norwood Ave or Marron Place off Karril Ave).

11am	Free sausage sizzle
11.30	Free guided bushwalk
12 noon	Official Opening by Hornsby Mayor, Nick Berman
12.15 – 1pm	Native tree planting

Ray Park Heritage Group Reminiscence Day St Aidan's Hall, 30 Downing St Epping, Saturday 26 September 9am to 4.30pm

A fun day for all with music by Springtide and John Dengate, photographic displays of local heritage, a model railway, Judith Dunn and her display of "Kitchenalia", Cavalcade of Fashion display and talks throughout the day including "When the Railway Comes to Epping, Carlingford and Beecroft" by Ken Williams from the Australian Railway Historical Society, at 11.15. We will Reminiscence at 12.15 with guest speakers including historians Alex McAndrew and Ralph Hawkins and "Colonial Ladies, Lovely, Lively and Lamentably Loose" by Judith Dunn at 1. Morning and afternoon tea and lunch available. Activities for children including baby animals, a clown and a children's heritage fancy dress parade at 3 with prizes. Gold coin entry. Official opening at 10am by Grea Smith. Member for Epping.

Footpath Trip Hazards

Residents have complained to the Trust about the uneven state of many footpaths in Beecroft and Cheltenham. Any gap that could be a trip hazard requires attention. So that we can inform Council of these hazards, please make a note of the exact location (e.g. street, house number, side, direction or nearest corner) and either write to the Trust PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119 or email colinjohnston@bigpond.com.

President: Colin Johnston Tel: 0408 751 915
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Vale Malcolm Bryant



The Committee of the Civic Trust were deeply saddened by the death of our esteemed colleague, Malcolm Bryant from motor neurone disease at the age of 61. Malcolm was a member of our housing and development subcommittee; he upgraded and managed our website, maintained our membership records and prepared our Bulletins for publication. Malcolm was highly regarded for his skill and ability at IBM where his quiet but persuasive manner resulted in great achievements. We recognise his invaluable assistance to the Trust. He will be greatly missed. Our love and thoughts go to Elizabeth and the family.

The Civic Trust and Development Applications

The Civic Trust is invited by Council to review all development applications in 2119. The vast majority of these require no action. On occasions when the Trust Committee believes that a development is not in keeping with the heritage or environment of our suburbs or is likely to have an adverse impact, the Trust will make submission to Council. We have members on our committee who have many years of experience and expertise, so any submission made is based on considered opinion.

The following cases have had significant outcomes.

66 Castle Howard Road Beecroft.

The Trust, resident objectors and Hornsby Shire Council recently attended two Section 34 Land & Environment Court conferences with regard to the constructions of two residential dwellings on this site.

Objections were raised with regard to building set back, loss of privacy, excessive tree removal and loss of habitat, building height, bulk and scale.

We are pleased to report that agreement was reached in court to reduce the bulk and scale of the buildings, adjust building height and roof line, reposition the buildings on the site to preserve existing significant trees, increased plantings to provide additional screening and landscape amenity on the two lots.

Concessions were made by all parties to achieve an acceptable outcome.

Seniors Living – 16 -18a Murray Road Beecroft

Whilst the Trust recognises the need for seniors' housing in our area, over 50 objections were received by Council to the development. It originally comprised 12 self contained dwellings, including refurbishment of a heritage listed existing dwelling.

The Trust and residents sought to reduce the scale and impact of the development to make it more sympathetic and consistent with the character of the immediate locality. Objections focused on the impact of extensive excavation required to construct a car park, the disruption to traffic on busy local roads and the removal of some 39 mature trees with inadequate space provided for the planting of replacement canopy trees.

Hornsby Councillors acknowledged the residents' concerns but also recognised the NSW Government's policy to provide housing for seniors and granted consent for the project to proceed with a reduction from 12 to 11 dwellings.

Subdivision – 68-86 Hull Road, Beecroft

This land originally formed part of the Convent of the Good Samaritan site at the corner of Hull and Pennant Hills Roads. The site is steep with a watercourse running through it and areas of remnant critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest. The original owners were granted approval by Hornsby Shire Council in December 2003 to subdivide the area in such a way as to preserve the natural features of the land, minimise impact on the remnant Blue Gum High Forest, and allow for its regeneration. The development was then sold to a new owner.

Considerable works then were undertaken and included the adding great amounts of fill to the lower steeply sloping portion of the site. The existing watercourse was filled in to attempt to redirect it. These works were contrary to consent conditions and resulted in the death of many mature trees, including Blue Gums. During heavy rains, the watercourse reverted to its original flow path, resulting in erosion and the silting of the drainage system. Applications to further subdivide two lots on the site were made in 2005 and 2007. The Trust supported local residents in their objections. In both cases, Council refused the applications. In 2009, two Land and Environment Court hearings were held on site between Council, residents, the Trust and the developer in an attempt to resolve the objections raised to the further subdivision of the site. No resolution was achieved and the developer withdrew the application before the matter was to be heard by the Court. This has been a long running situation in which Councillors and Council Officers have been most supportive of the residents and the Trust to obtain an acceptable level of development on this environmentally sensitive site.

9 Chapman Avenue, Beecroft

This important site contains critically endangered remnant Blue Gum High Forest and forms part of a significant wild life corridor worthy of preservation. Objections from residents were supported by the Trust. We congratulate Hornsby Council for considering these objections when approving the subdivision on this site. The consent conditions require maximum retention of existing canopy trees and revegetation of the site with indigenous species. Storm water pipes are to be laid in trenches bored under the tree root plates to avoid damage to the

Did You Know

- The Ambulance Service advises that people to indicate an emergency phone contact on their mobile phones. This number should be designated ICE (In Case of Emergencies). Additional numbers can be listed as ICE1, ICE2 etc.
- Police tell us there are about six burglaries a day in Beecroft/Cheltenham so take necessary precautions with your property.
- The Trust is delighted that a young Beecroft resident has taken the initiative to petition Hornsby Council for a roundabout at the dangerous intersection of Hannah Street and Hull Road.

You Tell the Trust

Residents have raised concerns about the following and the Trust has contacted the appropriate authorities.

- The narrow bridge in Hannah Street. We have written to Council requesting signage giving priority to traffic travelling west.
- Advertising appearing on poles and trees. This is not encouraged by Council and any notices put up without consent can be removed and impounded. We suggest you phone Council Compliance Section 98476666 and ask a Ranger to visit the site. Unfortunately prosecution is difficult.
- Road safety issues in Hull Rd due to speeding, lack of a footpath and the blocking of drains by leaves. The blocked drains have now been cleared. We have written to Council asking that a footpath be a priority.
- Drainage problems at Cheltenham Oval making playing and training there difficult in wet weather. Council has advised that there is no simple solution due to the underlying rock structure and fixing the problem will be expensive, requiring extensive excavation. They are looking into alternatives.
- While all residents appreciate the new quiet surface on Beecroft Road, one area near Cheltenham Road has buckled and needs replacing. RTA has been informed.
- The poor state of the footpath between Kandy Avenue and Carlingford Road, Epping. We have asked Epping Civic Trust to approach the RTA.

Federal Government Green Loans program and free Home Sustainability Assessment

From July 1st, residents throughout Australia are eligible to have a free home sustainability assessment that will entitle the resident to interest free loans of up to \$10,000 to undertake improvements in the home to make it more sustainable.

The assessment will involve the physical inspection of major energy and water systems relating to thermal comfort, water heating, lighting, refrigeration, cooking, entertainment, water efficiency and outdoor consumption, and waste management. The data will be entered into a sophisticated assessment software tool to allow environmental impact calculations.

For those households who take up the opportunity, the Australian Government will lower the cost of finance by providing a loan subsidy to participating financial institutions. This subsidy will cover the interest on borrowing of up to \$10,000 for a period of up to four years and the household can choose which participating bank, credit union or building society they wish to apply for a loan with.

For further information visit the website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/greenloans/index.html> or contact the Australian Government hotline on **1800 895 076**.

Greenstyle is a program for people that live in Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Willoughby Councils areas who wish to make their homes more sustainable and energy efficient. If you would like a Greenstyle visit, go to www.greenstyle.org.au to download an application or email greenstyle@kmc.nsw.gov.au

Beecroft and the "Rogue Nation"

ABC Television recently showed two dramatisations of incidents in Australia's colonial history. One of these concerned John Macarthur, the Rum Rebellion and Macarthur's quest for prime land on which his flocks might graze. On the most recent Trust bush walk one of the short history talks concerned Beecroft's link with this story.

John Macarthur's first land grant became Elizabeth Farm Parramatta. This initial grant was made in 1793 by a fellow officer in the Corps, Major Francis Grose, who was Lieutenant Governor at the time. About eighteen months later one of the Chaplains to the NSW Corps, Reverend James Bain similarly received a grant of 100 acres but this time in what is now the Dundas and Carlingford locality. Bain did not remain long in the Colony, leaving it for health reasons, and so he sold his grant to Macarthur a couple of months after he had received it. Never having lived or farmed the land, it became a commodity to be traded by Bain and other of his fellow members of the Corps, to produce a profit on their stay in the Colony.

This purchase, in 1794, formed the start of Macarthur's accumulation of land in this district. He quickly built a burgeoning land holding which expanded northwards from this holding near Brush Park. It was an expansion fuelled by acquiring undeveloped land from those who traded in it or the land of struggling settlers who lost it through a want of capital and expertise – combined with Macarthur's easy access to convict labour and his entrepreneurial skill to manipulate the market as portrayed in the television drama.

An Irishman in the Colony at the time called Joseph Holt, admittedly a man with no great fondness for Macarthur, described the methods used: "Every soldier got twenty-five acres of land in fee; many of them, when intoxicated, sold their ticket for a gallon of rum. Mr Macarthur used to supply them with goods, and so obtained from these improvident and foolish men their tickets, by which he acquired an enormous landed property."

By 1798 Macarthur had accumulated some 500 acres in this area and then doubled his holdings to over 1,000 acres within a further four years. This land extended from Dundas through Carlingford, then Beecroft and finally went right the way to near present day Thompson's Corner. Macarthur called this property his Cornish Hills Farms. The name probably derived from his father-in-law living in Cornwall.

Rogue Nation went on to portray Macarthur's trips to England during which time he lobbied to get the rich, fertile plains around Camden: a task in which he was eventually successful. But what was not made clear was that the new lands at Camden were not granted outright, but instead the size of this new holding was justified because (amongst other things) he agreed to surrender some of his other land. The significant holding of land that he transferred to the Crown in 1821 was his Cornish Hill Farms. Western Beecroft near the motorway and across to the golf course, had been traded as part of Macarthur's quest to establish his family's wealth and a new industry, in this our Rogue Nation, on the back of the merino sheep.

No. 16 in a series of articles on the history of Beecroft and Cheltenham by Roderick Best

BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST Inc

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The Trust is pleased to receive donations from residents to assist its work.