

24 JUN 1974

BEECROFT — CHELTENHAM
CIVIC TRUST

P.O. BOX 31, BEECROFT. N.S.W. 2119.

Bulletin 2/74
February

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Wednesday 27th March, 1974 at 8.00 p.m. at St. John's Hall, Beecroft.

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting is to conduct the official business of the Trust, including presentation of reports by the President and Treasurer and the election of a committee for the ensuing 12 months.

Following the election, time is made available for general discussion, questions and comments. If you can't be at the meeting but have a topic you would like discussed, please write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 31, Beecroft.

Supper will be served after the meeting.

In the long run, this is probably the most important meeting of the year.

THE BARNETT COMMITTEE REPORT

It has been intended that this Bulletin would only take the form of a notice of the Annual General Meeting, but in view of the serious nature of the implications of the Barnett Committee Report we have included some comment on the Report and its possible effects.

The Barnett Committee Report has received wide publicity since it was announced in the Press some weeks ago. This Report has taken 2 years to prepare but the public has been given only 6 weeks (until 6th March, 1974) to make any comment.

Q333.909911

One may only guess as to why the installation of the Copeland Road lights has been repeatedly delayed.

Perhaps it was the widening of Copeland Road (now dropped), the Traffic Plan for Beecroft Centre (what is that now?) or the proposal for a new fire station.

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BARNETT COMMITTEE REPORT

You will be aware that Hornsby Shire Council called a series of Public Meetings to explain Council's attitudes to the Report. They naturally oppose the recommendations, which include the dissolution of the Shire and the incorporation of Beecroft and Cheltenham in Ryde Municipality.

In summary, the Report recommends:-

1. Reduction in the number of Local Government areas in Sydney from 44 to 20.
2. Altering the functions of Local Councils so that the elected Councillors retain responsibility for fixing rates, voting expenditures, property transactions, accepting tenders, determining land use zonings on the recommendations of its Chief Officer, dealing with the Minister or Governor, payment of expenses to Councillors, public enquiries, industrial agreements, appointment of the Chief Officer and on his recommendation of the Secretary and Chief Engineer, and any other matter which may be prescribed.
3. Appointment of Chief Officers to attend to all other matters on behalf of the Council. The C.O. would have no vote at Council meetings but would take part in discussions.
4. Appointment of a Secretary, with the qualifications of present Shire Clerk.
5. Councils should have limited discretion to co-opt non-elected members to Council committees.
6. Review of present forms of Statements of Account and procedures.
7. Review of payments to Councillors.

The Trust committee feels that the implementation of the Report would be detrimental to the future of Beecroft and Cheltenham as we would obviously have far less representation proportionally in our new Local Government area, and would be included in a community with which we have no social or geographic links.

The basis of the recommendations seems to be that larger areas will be more economical and efficient administratively. The Trust does not subscribe to that theory. There are countless examples in Government and Industry to show that an organization does not become more efficient because it is larger and has more responsibility.

In any case, surely the point of Local Government is representation of the residents if an area in the policy making processes of the Council and the more remote the Council becomes and the wider the area it has to serve, the less involved it can be in the detail of day to day living, and therefore the less aware of what is appropriate for individuals and local communities within its boundaries.

PROTEST LETTER

Enclosed with this Bulletin is a letter which should be detached, signed and sent to our local member, Mr. J. Cameron, who will forward it to Sir Charles Cutler on your behalf.

Mr. Cameron himself, in a letter to the Trust, expressed the fear that lack of reaction by the Public would result in the automatic adoption of the amalgamation recommendations.

Your letter of protest must be sent this week-end as the time for objection expires on 6th March. Please do not delay. Unless it can be shown that a massive proportion of the voting public does care about its Local Government, and does not want to be reduced to being an even smaller cog in an even bigger machine, the State Government will go ahead and divide Hornsby Shire up between Ku-Ring-Gai, Baulkham Hills and Ryde. And you will be living in Ryde Municipality!