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**BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM
CIVIC TRUST**
P.O. BOX 31, BEECROFT. N.S.W. 2119.

**Bulletin 1/75
February**

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust will be held on Wednesday 19th February 1975 at 8 p.m. in St. John's Hall, Beecroft.

At this meeting a new committee for 1975 will be elected, with the remainder of the meeting devoted to general discussion.

This meeting is traditionally the opportunity for Trust members to air their views on matters affecting Beecroft/Cheltenham and to make recommendations to the incoming Committee on the direction of the Trust's activities in the ensuing 12 months.

As a Committee member I can assure you that these comments are welcome and that the Committee is anxious to hear from as many members of the Trust as possible.

Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY

MEMBERSHIP

Membership re-novels are now due, and all current members will receive reminder notices with this Bulletin.

As mentioned in our last Bulletin we have found it necessary to increase subscriptions for the first time in the 10 year history of the Trust.

The new rates are \$4.00 for Husband and Wife joint membership, \$2.50 for individual membership, and 50cents for junior membership.

Your membership is essential to the work of the Trust in the representation of the interests of the residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham.

BEECROFT AND CHELTENHAM STATIONS.

The Trust has written to the Public Transport Commission requesting that attention be given to the improvement of fencing, and the removal of discarded sleepers and dead bamboo cuttings at Beecroft. Hornsby Council agreed to support our requests.

A letter has also been written querying the Commission's intentions in relation to the area cleared to allow access to the crash site near Cheltenham. Clearing of this nature provides an ideal foothold for the introduction of lantana and privet into the natural bush.

The Public Transport Commission has informed us that both matters will be investigated and that we will be contacted when further information is available.

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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 (where is that now?) or the proposal for a new fire station.

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NORTH EPPING BOWLING CLUB.

In 1966 North Epping Bowling Club was granted, by the Lands Department, a 20 year lease of just 2½ acres of Pennant Hills Park at the end of Boundary Road, North Epping, in spite of the objections of many local residents and other interested groups.

A 20' wide strip was to be kept free of structures and planted with trees and shrubs as a screen along the Boundary Road frontage.

To date the site is about 50% developed, the 20' screen of planting is non existant, cars park alongside the Clubhouse on land that isn't even part of the lease, the greens tower over Boundary Road atop a massive embankment, the unused portion of the site is untidy and overgrown with unmown grass, and drainage from the greens runs across the unused site and into the Park.

The Bowling Club has now made application for conversion of their Lease to a Conditional Purchase which would give them ownership of the land. Following discussion with Hornsby Council the area in question has been reduced from the whole of the lease to a smaller section, on which the Clubhouse stands.

The Trust originally opposed the lease, on the basis that Public Land should not be given over for exclusive use by a select group, especially as, in this case, other land was available. We see the purchase of part of the lease as a preliminary to possible purchase of the whole lease in the future, thus losing, forever, over 2¼ acres of public land.

It is not inconceivable that, in the event of financial troubles, a mortgagor could take over the site for residential sub-division.

Fortunately, Hornsby Council shares our feelings in this instance and has asked for our assistance in the Land Board Court hearings.

It is not our practice to involve ourselves so fully in disputes out of Beecroft or Cheltenham, but we consider that the principle of alienation of parts of Pennant Hills Park, which forms the eastern boundary of our area and in which we take a special interest, is so important that we have agreed to appear as a witness on behalf of Council.

The Club exists on its leasehold land and we are not objecting, now, to its existence. We do, however, most strongly object to this Public Land being sold to the Bowling Club.

A large volume of correspondence to Hornsby Shire Council expressing opposition to the proposal would be of great assistance in the case.

Your letter need not be long, but it will help Council present a stronger case for the preservation of Public Land in Public ownership.

PENNANT HILLS PARK

Work is continuing on the preparation of the Plan of Management for Pennant Hills Park under the guidance of Geoff Armstrong and his Committee of Clive Huxtable and Bill Freeburn.

A meeting of the 20 or so volunteers was held on 9th December and tasks allocated and discussed.

The format follows the usual pattern for such plans as prepared for National Parks, State Forests, etc.

The first part of the process details the present condition of the Park and involves investigation of location, physical description, history, access, protection from fire, noxious weeds, water drainage, and noxious animals, alien tenures, developments, regional data and visitor use.

The second part of the process makes specific proposals for future management under general headings such as - management objectives, zoning, permissible activities, access, developments, protection, alien tenures, public relations, staff and plant, programme for development, research, and date for review of the current plan.

Members who feel they may be able to assist in any of these tasks are asked to contact one of the sub-committee -

- Geoff Armstrong - 86 2330
 - Clive Huxtable - 869 2643
 - or Bill Freeburn - 871 1659
- whenever convenient.

BEECROFT SHOPPING CENTRE

Beecroft Shopping Centre has a fairly intimate, closely knit character in its present form. Its location just off the main through road keeps it quieter than many shopping areas, but it is large enough to offer variety and a wide range of shops.

As it continues to grow to occupy the Commercial area completely there is a very real danger of fragmentation of the shopping precinct and further haphazard proliferation of car parking areas. Or, even worse, further reduction of car parking areas.

The Committee would like your views on what is right and wrong with Beecroft Shopping area, what is needed, what could be deleted. In general - what direction should development take and what improvements would you like to see?

We believe that the Trust, with co-operation of the business community and the Council, may be able to act as a "collection point" for ideas from which a comprehensive development plan may emerge.

Please pass your ideas on to any Committee member.

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BP SERVICE STATION

We have been notified by Council that BP have made representations to them regarding the re-development of the Cheltenham Service Station. The details of the proposal are, so far, vague.

In line with the previous feelings of Cheltenham residents, the Trust has written to Council expressing our concern that the present non-conforming use might be extended onto land owned by BP behind and alongside the existing Service Station.

Four alternatives appear to exist for the site —

1. The existing development to remain.
2. The corner site be re-developed.
3. A major new Service Station be developed on two or three sites.
4. The land revert to residential use, in line with its Zoning and surroundings.

We urge you to make your feelings on this matter known to us, so that our discussions with Council can be truly representative and authoritative.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

From time to time the Committee has queries on legal procedures, interpretations, responsibilities, etc., usually of a general nature but requiring the opinion of someone with a detailed knowledge of law. If any Trust member could offer help in this field it would be of great assistance.

It is not intended that anything other than informal advice to the Committee would be called for.

MACQUARIE MUNICIPALITY ASSOCIATION

The MMA has been told by the Minister for Local Government that no consideration can be given to its claims until the Boundaries Commission has finished the investigations in the Country areas recommended by the Barnett Report.

LIBRARIAN

We receive several unsolicited pamphlets and booklets each month from a wide range of sources. More use could be made of the information in these publications if they were catalogued and indexed properly. If there is a Librarian who could spare a few hours per month to undertake this work, their efforts would be much appreciated.

Please contact Alan Thomas, 869 1359

PUBLIC MEETINGS

If you have any comments on the format or content of our Public Meetings and any suggestions for Speakers or Subjects the Committee would be pleased to hear them.

CONSTITUTION

Trust members will receive with this Bulletin a copy of the Constitution, revised to include the amendment recently adopted.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

The next Public Meeting organised by the Trust will be held on Wednesday 30th April 1975.

At the time of writing the Speaker had not been confirmed but we urge you to keep the date free.

The Committee endeavours to obtain Speakers of a high calibre for these meetings and the attendances are sometimes embarrassingly small for an organization with a membership of 500 or 600 people.

WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL

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COMMITTEE CHANGES

Toward the end of the year Mr. Ian Jefferson found it necessary to resign from the Trust Committee. We thank him for his efforts during his time on the Committee.

Mr. Des Hillier, already well known to many Beecroft and Cheltenham residents as President of the Beecroft Music Club, joined the Committee in November. His contributions since he has joined us have been most valuable.

TRUST COMMITTEE

- The present Trust Committee is -
- Alan Thomas, 869 1359 - President
- Prof. Keith Campbell, 86 5808 - Vice-president
- Sid Butterworth, 869 7658 - Vice-president
- Clive Huxtable, 869 2643 - Treasurer
- Mrs. June Sanderson, 869 7657 - Corres. Secretary
- Spencer Bough, 86 4901 - Minutes Secretary
- Prof. Stuart Barker, 86 3984
- Bill Freeburn, 871 1659
- Geoff Armstrong, 86 2330
- David Slade, 871 1863
- Des Hillier, 84 3781

HORNSBY COUNCIL CONTACTS:

- Hornsby Shire Council - 476 3333
- Cr. Don Evans, Beecroft (Shire President) - 84 3318
- Cr. Bill Hodson, Carlingford - 871 7317
- Cr. Ron Payne, Epping - 869 7410

Council meets every second Thursday evening and a Trust Committee member is rostered to attend each meeting. If you would like to attend a Council meeting to see and hear how Local Government works, phone Alan Thomas, who can put you in touch with whoever is going to the next meeting. Your company will be welcome.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

The Trust has been in contact with Council, through Cr. Evans, regarding proposals for the Lyne Road Reserve which are to be discussed with residents before any action is taken.

Mr. David Slade and Mrs. Maralyn Huxtable to be thanked for the re-painting and re-lettering of our Arcade Notice Board.

Mr. Bill Freeburn has attended meetings of the Union of Lane Cove Valley Conservationists as our representative.

In response to our query, Council has advised that a new Soccer Ground proposed for Pen Hills Park would be located on areas already cleared for Softball grounds and would not entail any further major clearing.

The War Memorial near Beecroft Station has been cleaned by Hornsby Council following request from the Trust.

The Trust has requested information on the use of weedicides by Council. Indiscriminate and extensive use of weedicides, which find way through street gutters and drains to creeks and the Lane Cove River, can have widespread effects on plant and animal life.

The Trust has been assured by the Fire Brigade that the formulation of a landscaping plan for the new Beecroft Fire Station is being undertaken by the buildings Architects.

We have, once again, written to the Sydney County Council about their butchering of trees throughout the area.

Council has approached the Local Government Noxious Plants Advisory Committee to have privet and morning glory declared noxious weeds.

An application for a Restaurant extension at Beecroft Arcade has been rejected by Council. Car Parking in the Hannah Street Car Park will be restricted to 1 hour during business hours.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE _____

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Adult Membership \$2 50 Junior Membership 50¢ Husband & Wife \$4.00.

Attached hereto is my cheque for \$..... being renewal/new membership

I am willing to assist the Trust by

POST TO - BOX 31 P.O., BEECROFT, 2119.