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SYDNEY

BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST

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

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust will be held on Wednesday 2nd March 1977, in St. John's Hall Beecroft, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Following presentation and discussion of the President's Report and the Treasurer's Report, the 1977 Committee of the Trust will be elected.

10 Committee members, who are responsible for the administration of the Trust's activities, are to be elected. Office bearers are elected by the Committee itself at the first of its monthly meetings.

The remainder of the meeting will be open for general discussion of any matters of interest. If you have any comment to make on the activities or attitudes of the Trust the new Committee will be very interested in hearing them.

Sadly, this meeting is usually very poorly attended. The Committee needs your input to ensure that it is always acting in the best interests of its members.

WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH 1977

PENNANT HILLS PARK

The recent fire in Pennant Hills Park burnt through about 85% of the Park area. It was the first fire in the area for many many years and the fuel level had built up to such a point that, under the conditions on the day, there was very little chance of controlling the blaze.

The fire has provided a perfect opportunity for the detailed study of bushland area regeneration after fire, and Macquarie University staff and students will be closely observing and measuring selected areas in the Park during re-growth.

The Trust has a sub-committee following the reaction of Council and other authorities to our Plan of Management and will offer further assistance in any areas in which it is required.

MEMBERSHIP

Do you want an effective Civic Trust?

Do you agree with the aims of the Trust towards preserving the village atmosphere and the natural beauty of Beecroft and Cheltenham?

Then please give your support by joining the Trust or renewing your membership. The Trust is effective only because State and Local Government authorities know that it represents a large group of voters.

Membership is declining. The Committee is asking for your support. Join now and your membership will increase our influence.

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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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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AMALGAMATIONS

You will have read of Hornsby Council's opposition to the amalgamation of Hornsby Shire into a larger Local Government Area proposed by the State Government.

The Civic Trust opposes the enlargement of Local Government areas, mainly on the basis of the increased difficulty in communication between residents and both their elected representatives and the administering bureaucracy.

This, of course, leads to the Council becoming less responsive to the wishes of the people.

The notion that the creation of a larger area leads to a more economical administration has not been proved, particularly when the area is already very large in Local Government terms, as is Hornsby Shire.

There may be some merit in certain Council services being provided by regional organisations, as electricity is, but to retain meaningful community involvement in planning and servicing the community, Local Government administration should remain "Local".

NOVEMBER 1976 PUBLIC MEETING

The Forum type meeting held on 24th November last year discussed a wide range of topics and some of the opinions expressed are passed on here -

Flats - The general topic of "flats" was discussed and the various types of flat accommodation identified. None of those present favoured the building of flats as exemplified by the 3 storey walk-up home unit developments prevalent in Sydney's suburbs. The majority also opposed the less dense Town House form. So called "Granny flats" which preserve the original building form and can be seen as a method of enabling long time residents to remain in their homes in times of escalating costs received more support, although if the owner was not resident in the property the justification for this type of accommodation disappears.

Car Parking - the extent and treatment of car parks for commuter use was also discussed. Most people did not oppose the creation of these areas although care needs to be exercised in the positioning of access points and in the treatment of landscaping to preserve and supplement worthwhile trees and shrubs, even at the expense of a few car spaces.

Cars should be prevented from parking on areas such as the Village Green.

Traffic Lights - The installation of traffic lights in Beecroft Road anywhere south of Copeland Road was seen as contributing to the use of Cheltenham Bridge and Sutherland Rd as an Epping by-pass. Lights at Kirkham Street may also draw more traffic through Murray Farm Rd which, with the curves down over the creek and the Midson Rd intersection, could soon become overloaded.

The 1977 Committee is to consider forming a sub-committee to study traffic problems in more detail.

Tree Preservation - This question is as old as the Trust itself. One of the Trust's originally stated aims is to preserve the character of Beecroft and Cheltenham and no one could deny that trees contribute massively to this character. A major problem with regard to tree preservation appears to be the lack of a competent authority to adjudicate on tree lopping applications. The principle of replacing any removed tree with an appropriate substitute would go a long way to ensuring the preservation of our residential environment.

Trail Bikes - The use of Trail Bikes in bushland areas continues as a problem. It is very difficult to apprehend a trail bike or to obtain official help on the scene before the offender has disappeared. Council has a fairly strict Code with regard to permissible noise levels and this can be mentioned when asking riders to leave prohibited areas.