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

BULLETIN 1-88

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FEBRUARY

1st February, 1988

PRESIDENT
JIM VANDORE

SECRETARY
KEITH DAVIDSON

**TWENTY FOURTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 17th FEBRUARY
8 pm
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL
MARY STREET, BEECROFT
(NOTE CHANGED VENUE)**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1987

Ten committee members were elected at the 23rd Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 11th March, 1987.

It is the custom that at the first meeting of the committee the office-bearers are elected. Duly elected for 1987 were:-

- President ; Mr Jim Vandore
- Vise-Presidents ; Mrs Heather Thomas, Mr Spencer Bough
- Secretary ; Mr Keith Davidson
- Treasurer ; Mr Adam Markus
- Members ; Dr Bill Greenhalgh
- Mr Tony Lewis
- Mr Mike Briggs
- Mr Derek Barnett
- Mr Les Renfrey

Mr Ron Kitson was invited to rejoin the committee after the first meeting.

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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Committee members with special responsibilities during the year were:-

Mr Tony Lewis - Convenor, Parks Subcommittee.

Mr Spencer Bough - Publicity Officer.

Dr Bill Greenhalgh - Convenor, Village Green Subcommittee.

Mrs Heather Thomas - Delegate, History Project.

Mr Derek Barnett - Delegate, Hornsby Shire Bicentennial Committee.

Mr Fred Waddington continued to expertly manage Bulletin distribution as well as acting as Honary Auditor.

The committee wishes to acknowledge the retirement of Mr Tom Lloyd after a number of years of active service - many of them as Treasurer.

The year was a busy one with a number of very important and interesting issues debated within the committee. I would also like to acknowledge the extra workload carried by others because of the limited time I was able to devote to Trust matters this year.

ROADS

On 13th May, a meeting was held to discuss traffic problems. Concern was expressed about the possibility of creating a future through-way if Lilla Road was ever connected to Wongala Crescent. It was resolved that the committee should urge Hornsby Shire Council to declare the two gullies on the alignment of Wongala Crescent/Railway Parade as Public Open Space, thereby preventing any future development.

This meeting also discussed the Castlereagh Expressway and urged its early development and recommended that Epping Road to Pennant Hills Road be built as a single stage in the construction of the Freeway.

During the year the committee objected to a number of development applications on the grounds that more traffic would be generated on Sutherland Road.

Parking at railway stations is a continuing problem. The Trust asked Hornsby Shire Council to create parking adjacent to Pennant Hills Station and resolved to object to an increase in formal parking at either Beecroft or Cheltenham without a corresponding reduction in on-street parking.

A special meeting was held on September 14th, to raise objections to Hornsby Shires proposal to close Chapman Avenue at Bangalow and York. It was agreed that there was no real traffic problem and that the alterations proposed by Council were simply not necessary.

ENVIRONMENT

A number of environmental issues arose during the year. One of the main ones was the committee's response to the Shire's proposed Plan of Management for Pennant Hills Park. The Parks Subcommittee considered the very long and cumbersome plan in great detail, over many hours and gave Hornsby Shire Council a quite detailed response.

In a sentence, the committee welcomed the existence of the new plan and the conservation measures outlined within it, but was critical of most suggestions for development and improving accessibility as it was felt that these were, in themselves, anti-conservationist.

The Parks Subcommittee organised three Walks in the Bush in 1987:- a walk in the Devlins Creek area east of Pennant Hills Golf Course on April 12th, the annual Spring Walk in Pennant Hills Park on

30th August and a special long distance walk in Pennant Hills Park on October 18th.

The Parks Subcommittee also organised Leigh Shearer-Heriot and Garry McDougall who spoke to the public meeting on 2nd December about the 'Bicentennial Walk' from Sydney to Newcastle.

Of course the Epping to Pennant Hills Precinct Study contained much that was controversial. Again, the Trust made a lengthy submission opposing changes in zonings, opposing extensions of areas for active recreation (ovals), asking that any unformed roads be closed and dedicated as public reserve and proposing that Ahimsa and the Liquorland Store be added to the list of historic buildings.

The Trust made representations to the Shire Council about the need for a professional second opinion in relation to the danger caused by Bracket Fungus affecting a number of mature trees in Chapman and Cardinal Avenues. The verdict, however, went against the trees and many will be removed.

A great loss to local environmental causes was the departure of Alan and Florence Dwight - undoubtedly Tasmania's gain.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Trust committee debated at length the issue of whether or not it was appropriate for the Trust to endorse and campaign for a particular candidate. At the end of the day, it was decided that, even though Epping and Pennant Hills Trusts were supporting individuals for election to council, it was inappropriate for Beecroft/Cheltenham to sponsor a candidate and wrong in principle for councillors to have a special obligation to individual organisations within the Shire or Riding. A 'Meet the Candidates' evening was held on 9th September.

The Trust committee has met with new councillors Pringle and Alexander and expects to develop a good working relationship with them as we already have with councillor Payne.

HISTORY PROJECT

The Trust committee is pleased to claim that it played a small part in initiating the formation of a well-qualified group who are interested in writing a history of the area. An initial manuscript from an elderly former member, Mr. Colin Holt, triggered an interest in several residents who have formed a working party under the leadership of Ian McLeod.

The Trust committee intends to provide financial support for the group and will expect some recoument of funds expended over the three years or so of the project when the book is eventually published.

THE VILLAGE GREEN

This matter has now reached a critical point at Hornsby Shire Council. The new councillors were briefed on the issues and the matter of tasteful development, including the possible aquisition of a strip of railway land is under active consideration in the Parks and Gardens department. Recommendations for action are expected in Council quite soon.

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INCORPORATION

Unfortunately in this day and age, consideration of public liability can be involved in the Trust affairs and the possibility of action against committee members as individuals has given rise to consideration of whether or not the Civic Trust should become an incorporated body under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984. The cost is quite minor.

THE FUTURE

The new committee can look forward to an interesting Bicentennial Year. At this stage, the Trust is not involved in any celebrations related to the Bicentenary. However, I would like to see some community activity and would welcome suggestions from the membership.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Recent Civic Trust committees have been dominated by members from east Beecroft/Cheltenham. I would specially ask anyone resident in the western area of Beecroft or Cheltenham to make himself/herself known to me for nomination at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Jim Vandore
January 1988

TRUST MEMBERSHIP

The committee is concerned that community support, in terms of financial membership of the Trust, is really quite poor. We need your membership as an indication of your participation. We need the funds provided by the modest membership subscription to support outlays - for example, to the history project, to provide school prizes and to provide for the cost of publishing the quarterly bulletin. Annual subscriptions are now due and I urge you now to complete the membership form and send it to us with your cheque as soon as possible.

BEECROFT-CHELTHENHAM CIVIC TRUST

MEMBERSHIP

Name..... Telephone.....
Address.....

Annual Subscriptions

Family membership - \$6.00 Adult membership - \$3.50
Financial year commences 1st January

Please tick box if a receipt is required

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