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BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM
CIVIC TRUST
INCORPORATED
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BULLETIN 1-91
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FEBRUARY
11th February, 1991

PRESIDENT
BILL GREENHALGH

SECRETARY
PETER DUCKMANTON

TWENTY SEVENTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 20th FEBRUARY
8 pm
ST JOHNS CHURCH HALL
BEECROFT ROAD, BEECROFT

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will elect the Trust Committee for 1991. Any Trust member can nominate or be nominated for committee. All that is required is attendance at monthly committee meetings and availability to attend Hornsby Shire Council meetings on an observer basis approximately once every two months. This is an interesting and rewarding way to foster the interests of our unique community and to keep in touch with its affairs and welfare.

NOTE Only financial members of the Trust are eligible to vote. If you have not received a copy of this Bulletin by mail then our records indicate you as being not a member. Any resident wishing to do so may join the Trust prior to the Meeting or mailing the tear off slip on the back page of this Bulletin.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1990.

At the 26th Annual General Meeting held on March 7th 1990, ten members were elected to form a committee. Office bearers elected at the first meeting of the committee were as follows:

President	Dr William J. Greenhalgh
Vice Presidents	Mrs Heather Thomas & Mr Tony Lewis
Secretaries	Mr Peter Duckmanton & Mrs Sheila Woods
Treasurer	Mr Ron Anderson
Publicity Officer	Mr Spencer Bough
Working Group Leaders	
Parks	Mr Tony Lewis
History	Mrs Heather Thomas
Transport	Dr John Goldberg
Public Officer	Mr Ron Anderson
Committee Member	Mrs Julia Garnett
	Mr Michael Hund

In addition, Mr Fred Waddington continued to organise Bulletin distribution and to act as Honorary Auditor.

During the year it was clear that Dr John Goldberg was unable to give time to the Transport Strategies Working Group, and Mr David Rowden was invited to assume leadership of this working group.

Members were diligent in attendance at monthly meetings of the committee; at rostered attendances at meetings of Hornsby Shire Council, and at convened gatherings and social outings. I am deeply appreciative of the support of committee, in a year which surpassed even the 1989 year for the breadth of issues confronted, and the political sensitivity of certain key issues.

THE FREEWAY/TOLLWAY ISSUE.

The year began with what appeared to be the closing phases of a long saga of what was for 25 years known as the Ryde-Castlereagh Expressway. The Woodward Commission was in the final stages of its lengthy hearing on the E.I.S. of the F2 Tollway. As promised to the Commissioner in December, this Trust made one further submission, providing details of the plebiscite which showed that two-thirds of our members opposed the F2, while one-third favoured its early construction. We were present at the resumption of the inquiry in April and awaited the findings. In August, Commissioner Woodward released his report. His findings were controversial and there followed a period of criticism of those individuals and organizations that had advocated that the F2 be not constructed as planned. Our plans to convene a public meeting were not acted upon in September; rather a public meeting was convened for November. At this meeting, we focussed on the plans that must be made for improved road and rail transport in the absence of the Freeway.

In the meantime, the State Government announced its intention to conduct studies of "environmentally friendly" freeways. By November it was known that there would be two such studies; one conducted by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation would deal with the F2 west of Pennant Hills Road, the other conducted by Maunsell Pty Ltd would review the F2 options east of Pennant Hills Road. Your committee has already met with the latter and is giving such assistance as necessary to allow these studies to reach their proper conclusion.

Meanwhile a major road issue came before this community. The matter of the necessity to widen Pennant Hills Road had been foreshadowed by our former President, Jim Vandore, in the years 1987 and 1988. The matter came to a head with the release in early June 1990, of a "Review of Environmental Factors" prepared at the request of the RTA by Connell Wagner, NSW Pty Ltd. The Trust's response to this was the calling for a formally prepared E.I.S.; the Review of Environmental Factors being seen as an inadequate expression of the provisions of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act of 1979. A meeting was convened of all residents directly affected by the issue; such meeting

to establish public attitudes to the road widening proposals. A week later, a formal meeting of all residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham considered these views and the Trust adopted the stance that it would withdraw its earlier call for an E.I.S.. Since other groups had, by then, also called for an E.I.S., the consultants Connell Wagner, proceeded to formally prepare an E.I.S..

OTHER TRAFFIC MATTERS. The problem of increased traffic remains constantly with us. The proposal to have a Local Area Traffic Management study for this area does not appear to have come to anything. Earlier plans for the orderly flow of traffic and orderly parking in Hannah St have been promoted but the Beecroft Chamber of Commerce claims to have conducted its own studies and consequently finds little in sympathy with our proposals. Plans that were in place for the closure of Sutherland Rd subsequent to the construction of the F2 Freeway, are now in abeyance, following the Woodward report. Traffic lights were installed at Cheltenham Railway Station, at the intersection of Cheltenham and Sutherland Roads. Traffic is becoming worse in Beecroft Road; accidents appear to be more frequent on this stretch. Murray Farm Road was closed off at Pennant Hills Road for reasons that remain obscure. Residents of Mahers Road believe they have equal rights to have their road closed. Mystery surrounds the proposal to have a roundabout constructed at the intersection of Chapman Ave and Beecroft Road. Epping and Carlingford residents call for the condemnation of the proposals of the Woodward Report, and the early construction of the F2 as planned.

HOUSING AND PLANNING.

The State Environment Planning Policy No 28 came into force in April. Long before this we had expressed concern that the imposition of medium-density housing in an established area such as ours was fraught with problems. Residents had repeatedly approached this Trust to defend the existing amenity of the area against the excesses of developers of villas, town houses, strata-duplexes and the like. In previous years, Councillors had been supportive of the residents; but increasingly the State Government imposed its powers and effectively nullified the best efforts of our Local Government elected representatives. The stand-off came to a crunch over the case of 36/36A Sutherland Road. This matter being currently before ICAC, it is not appropriate to expand further.

Hornsby Council was granted "exemption" from SEPP 28 on the grounds that their approach to the question of medium-density housing was sympathetic to the objectives of State instrumentalities. To verify precisely what were the Councils regulations, we invited Councillor Shirley Alexander to speak to a public meeting in May. At the conclusion of that meeting, a resolution was passed (with only one dissenting voice) condemning the concept of medium-density housing in this area "as such development is detrimental to the unique single residential character of the area". The message was forcibly conveyed to the senior members of Hornsby Council present at that meeting, and by letter to the Premier and a selection of his ministers. No satisfactory response has been received from any of the above; and this Trust remains adamant that the medium-density housing policy is totally unacceptable to residents, ratepayers and voters in this area.

In concluding her address to the May meeting, Councillor Shirley Alexander issued a challenge that if the various Civic Trusts, Progress Associations etc could unite to press the case with unanimity, the politicians may be disposed to listen. Accordingly I called together the executives of the Epping Civic Trust, the North Epping Progress Association, the Pennant Hills Civic Trust, the Westleigh Progress Association and the Cherrybrook Progress Association. In a series of meetings we hammered out a joint statement on the question of medium-density housing for our region. Council was asked to heed these views in the compilation of its Cluster Housing Code. Since this

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code has yet to be ratified by Council, we await advice on whether Council wishes to support its ratepayers, or to capitulate to its political masters and turn its back on its own citizens. In all these dealings with other Trusts and Progress Associations, I had the support of Spencer Bough, to whom special thanks are due from all Trust members.

Peripheral to the above is the interesting case of Stanley Road, Epping. At this site, the Commonwealth Defence Housing Authority established numerous villa style units and then proceeded to replicate this with a similar set on the block alongside. As this is clearly contrary to Council's proposed code, it sets the Local Government at odds with the Federal Government, with the State Government providing the machinery for highly unsuitable town-planning developments. Residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham should watch this issue with deep concern.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

A number of developments in matters concerning the environment are worthy of note:

- * noise arising from construction work carried out out of specified hours. Hornsby Council requested to conform to its own guidelines, particularly at Austral Ave.
- * the concept of "detention tanks" to hold stormwater on site was introduced in the planning of new residential developments.
- * the whole question of drainage came under the spotlight during the "big wet" of autumn and winter 1990.
- * a better code was needed to manage bushland adjoining residential areas. This matter arose out of roadworks and drainage in Kedron Ave and Austral Ave.
- * the publication "Making Your Garden Bush Friendly" was warmly welcomed; some 20 copies were purchased by our committee for wider distribution.
- * attention was drawn to the need for a review of the status of Devlins Creek following the decision not to build the F2 in this corridor.
- * a formal response was made to the request for views on the proposal to establish an "Environment Protection Authority".
- * Hornsby Council published its revised Tree Preservation Order in May. Some actions resulting from decisions under this Order have been questioned by local residents. In one instance (152 Copeland Rd East), the complaints by local residents could not be supported. In other instances, action was taken to invoke the Order where trees had been needlessly removed.
- * our guest speaker at our Christmas function was from the organization Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRS).
- * Hornsby Council discontinued its "Dumster" service for removal of household refuse; instituting instead a curbside clean-up service. Opinions differ as to which is the more effective.

"WATCHDOG" and "OMBUDSMAN" ACTIVITIES.

An increasing number of residents turned to this Trust for remedies to their respective local issues. Most concerned planning and housing issues unresolved by Council; some concerned non-compliance with Council's own regulations. Among the grievances were:

- * Wongala Crescent; proposal to extend the commercial zoning into residential sites; proposal to introduce a Local Environment Plan. This long-running issue was taken up with the recently revitalised Chamber of Commerce who refused to discuss the issue until the eleventh hour. The Trust remains opposed to the commercial development of the residential sites; the Chamber of Commerce favours the proposed L.E.P..
- * floodlights at the tennis courts of the Cheltenham recreation Club are not to be installed. This Trust supported local residents in their campaign against these lights.

- * failure to develop the site at 25 Sutherland Rd has been brought to the attention of Council on a number of occasions. Council claims that, since the developers are now insolvent, nothing can be done to repair the damage.
- * site-works at Clarke Rd and Byles Creek are the cause of much local concern. This Trust has a history of contributing to the inquiry into the environmental impact of this development, and continues to be concerned at the present state of "development".
- * non-compliance complaints have been lodged repeatedly with Council on the matter of the vehicle repair activities in 46 Castle Howard Road.
- * dual occupancy of 37A Copeland Rd. Need for a geotechnical report.
- * 24 Murray Rd - complicated development proposals involving strata titles combined with duplex development.
- * enforcement of 312A of the Local Government Act, (concerning the notification of "contiguous" neighbours.
- * 20 Old Beecroft Rd; complaint on duplex development; neighbour supported by the Trust, but Council continued to recommend approval.
- * 17A Malton Rd; lighting of tennis courts, contrary to Councils approvals, matter now before the Courts.
- * 14 Beecroft Rd; compliance by developer of villa units questioned by neighbours. Issue remains un-resolved. Engineers specifications may have been exceeded.
- * contiguous development on 16 Beecroft Rd appears to be contrary to spirit of the proposed Council Code. Issue remains un-resolved awaiting ratification of Councils Code.
- * 125 Beecroft Rd; use of private residence for consulting rooms; problems of access and egress not resolved. Development of this site linked also to earlier concerns over duplex building facing 4A The Crescent.
- * pedestrian access from the Module carpark to the lower shopping area has been blocked off. No good reason why.
- * 82 Hannah St; concern at proposed duplex development.
- * 10 Murray Rd; non-compliance alleged on issues of implementation of 312A of Local Government Act, (notification of contiguous or affected residents) and over-development of site in context of drainage.

DOMESTIC MATTERS CONCERNING THE TRUST.

- Committee attended to the following matters:
- * a logo was designed by Julia Garnett. This was adopted by committee and incorporated into our letterhead and Bulletin. The logo shows a Federation style residence as seen through the leafy branches of a gum tree.
 - * the Trust and public noticeboards (removed and lost during refurbishment of the Beecroft Arcade) were replaced at our cost.
 - * Thanks to Sheila Woods for her persistence on this matter at the request of our two Vice-Presidents, a review was conducted of Trust policies as developed over the years 1983 to date. A summary of these policies to be published soon.
 - * the archives of the Trust from its inception to 1982 were inspected at Hornsby Library. It is proposed to augment these with documents from 1983.
 - * new supply of letterheads printed. These incorporate the new logo.
 - * prizes were awarded to local school students for winning the competition for the E.J. Richards Trophy.
 - * book prizes were awarded to a number of students at respective Speech Days.
 - * an application was made to Hornsby Council for Financial Assistance-Donations, 1991.

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PARKS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT 1990.

We had quite a busy year. Members are Christine Austin, Eva Jones, Jenny Lewis, Sheila Woods, Ron Anderson, John Noble, Fred Waddington and Tony Lewis (Convenor). Matters dealt with included:

1. Our annual Spring Walk was well attended and split into Botanical and Adventure walks. The two-yearly poster competition was held and our members also made posters to advertise the Walk.
2. One of our group is on the Shire Bushland Committee which advises Council on all bushland within the Shire. This also gives us good feedback and a chance to raise issues affecting our local bushland.
3. We send a delegate to the Union of Lane Cove Valley Conservationists. John Noble has done this task for some years, but is talking of retiring.
4. The dumping of a great deal of unsuitable spoil along the Devlins Creek Fire Trail enraged many residents and caused much heartburn at Council. Remedial work has since been undertaken after much lobbying by us.
5. Several groups doing bush regeneration in Beecroft and Cheltenham. They find this very rewarding work and if you would like to help please contact one of us. Council has helped the volunteers with plants, tools and occasional physical assistance.
6. Biggest threat to the local bush was the F2 Tollway. The Commissioner of Inquiry suggested alternatives to the RTA proposal and another EIS is under way.
7. Council has put up the new signs at the main entrances to Pennant Hills Park and has done landscaping work at some entrances including Day Road and Boundary Road.
8. Austral Avenue. We wrote to Council about run-off into the bush at each end of this street from the new roadworks. Council has just placed small sandstone blocks downstream from the ends of the pipes to break the force of the water flow.
9. Western Walk was attended by about 60 people. Points of interest included bower bird, bush regeneration, swimming pools washed away, route of F2, mysterious cairns.
10. Proposed Environmental Protection Authority. We made a submission to the Minister on this.
11. Observatory Park. John Noble has done a great deal of bush regeneration here and we now have a list of 75 native plants within the area. Is under threat from the proposed widening of Pennant Hills Road. Trust has made a submission.
12. Junction of Old Beecroft and Beecroft Roads. We recently made a submission to Council about dumping of spoil near Devlins Creek and the old roadway which is of interest to the Heritage Council. Council has just advised that the spoil will be removed and a gate and barrier placed.
13. Code for Development adjoining Bushland. A good move by Council, but after some incidents during the year we suggested that Council's own developments and officers should be subject to the Code. Also that public authorities working abutting or within bushland be advised to meet the Code.
14. Devlins Creek Fire Trails. The entrance walks from Somerset Street and Day Road are to revert to walking tracks. Much concrete has been laid near the three causeways to save constant remedial work after each heavy rain. We hope it works.

BEECROFT CHELTENHEM HISTORY GROUP REPORT 1990.

The twelve members of the group have had an active year pursuing the fascinating story of the history of the district. We are fortunate to have as members of the group senior office bearers of the Hornsby Shire Historical Society, the Royal Australian Historical Society and the Society of Australian Genealogists.

"The Book" is the main long term object of our endeavours, the first volume of which is planned to cover the history of Beecroft-Cheltenham to 1914. Areas of interest being researched are:

1. The early inhabitants to 1850.
2. Opening up the Field of Mars Common 1850 - 1890.
3. The Growth of Beecroft Village 1890 - 1900.
4. Early Families 1887 - 1907.
5. Village Life and Activities 1900 - 1914.
6. Special areas such as School of Arts, local schools and early churches.

A notable feature of the year was the publication by the group of "A Sure Foundation", a monograph describing the first six years of the history of St John's Anglican Church, Beecroft, to coincide with the centenary of that church. Copies have sold well and a limited number are still available at three dollars each. An exhibition of historical material was held at St John's during the centenary weekend and was well attended. Preliminary discussions have taken place concerning a local history workbook for school children.

Our fund raising efforts towards the cost of publication have been continued by an enthusiastic group of supporters. A Cheltenham historical walk was held (in the rain), a musical afternoon took place, a Christmas stall offered mementos relating to the district including a new edition of the Beecroft tea towel. The shopping basket with the words "I'm an old bag from Beecroft" also sold well.

The continuing support of the Civic Trust and the whole community is appreciated. We ask only for your patience as we seek to bring alive the past of our interesting district.

Trevor McCaskill
Secretary

TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Copies of "Community Voice" printed by Maunsell Pty Limited who are looking at transport options between Pennant Hills Road and Epping Road at North Ryde, have been lodged with the Committee. These will be available at the Annual General Meeting or from committee members.

The consultants have set up a Hotline to give information and to record residents suggestions. The Hotline number is (02)9543790 (Monday - Friday, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm).

WATER AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

We have also received from the Water Board four booklets which are designed to accompany four videos available for loan from the Board. These videos and booklets would be valuable for students for project work. They are:

The Water Way - explains why water is important to us, and looks at how we interfere with and change the natural water cycle.

Hard Rain - examines how our drainage system copes with the 15 billion tonnes of rain that fall on Sydney every year.

Beyond The Bend - takes a detailed look at sewage treatment and why it's needed.

The Cost of Living - examines the impact of the Water Boards' Trade Waste Policy on industry and the environment.

These are part of the Special Environmental Programme of the Water Board developed to respond to community concerns about the environment.

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MEMBERSHIP

Do you often think you should join the Trust but never get around to it?

If you wish to preserve the amenity of our two suburbs of Beecroft and Cheltenham, do it now.

As this Bulletin indicates, the Trust is working continually for you so why not support it with your membership. Our strength is in membership numbers and while you may not agree with everything we do, we are guided by our membership, and you can have your say at the regular general meetings throughout the year. Most of our critics have never joined the Trust or attended a meeting. These meetings are open to all residents whether they be members or not.

The district is continually under threat from excessive and unsuitable developments and the Trust needs all the help it can get to maintain our district in its present unique condition.

Coming events, including Local Government elections will make this an important year for Beecroft and Cheltenham. If events do not turn out as you would wish and you have not had your say then you will have no basis for complaint.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

JOIN THE TRUST

NOW

BEECROFT-CHELTHENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL
for financial year commencing 1st January

Name

Address..... Telephone

Annual subscriptions - Family \$10.00
Single Adult \$5.00

Post to: The Treasurer, P.O. Box 31, Beecroft, NSW 2119

Thank you for your support