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BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM
CIVIC TRUST
INCORPORATED

BULLETIN 1-93



FEBRUARY

8th February, 1993

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

PRESIDENT
KEN CREGAN
869-1068

SECRETARY
MICHAEL MOORE
871-1620

TWENTY NINTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY

8pm

ST JOHNS CHURCH HALL
BEECROFT ROAD, BEECROFT

All residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham are invited to attend the 1993 Annual General Meeting.

The committee for 1993 will be elected. If you are interested in joining the committee and would like more information, please contact the president or secretary prior to the meeting. You will be made very welcome, and the operation of the Trust will be fully explained to you.

Voting at the Annual General Meeting is restricted to financial members of the Trust.

The Trust was the first established in Australia, now established 29 years. It has become a respected and influential voice of the residents for expressing views on local community affairs to Local and State Governments.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership subscriptions are now due for 1993.

As indicated in Bulletin 5-92 members who were financial in 1992 will receive a separate slip with their mailed Bulletin 1-93 which will indicate their membership status as at 1st January, 1993.

The Trust committee urges all Beecroft and Cheltenham residents to join the Trust and support our efforts to preserve the amenity of the district. The higher our membership, the greater our influence. Join, have your say, and meet your fellow residents.

NOTE

Members financial in 1992 are considered financial until the completion of the Annual General Meeting.

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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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PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONCERNING TRUST ACTIVITIES IN 1992

1. COMMITTEE

At the 28th Annual General Meeting held Monday, 2nd March, 1992, ten members were elected and an additional member Mrs Sue Benson co-opted to form a committee. At the first committee meeting held Thursday, 12th March, 1992 one additional member Mr Ray Kidd (ill at the time) was nominated and Office bearers were elected. The final committee was:

President:	Mr Ken Cregan
Vice Presidents:	Dr Bill Greenhalgh, Mr Rod Howard
Secretary/Public Officer:	Mr Michael Moore
Treasurer:	Mrs Jocelyn Lloyd
Publicity Officer:	Mr Spencer Bough
Committee members:	Mrs Sue Benson
	Mrs Pam Conrow
	Mrs Julia Garnett
	Mr Ray Kidd (joined committee 7/5/92)
	Mr Tony Lewis
	Mr David Rowden

Leaders of Sub-Committees and Working Groups formed were:

Housing:	Dr Bill Greenhalgh
Parks:	Mr Tony Lewis
Transport:	Mr David Rowden

Mr Fred Waddington continued to organise Bulletin distribution and was elected Honorary Auditor.

During the year Mr David Rowden stepped down due to pressure of work. We were pleased to have Mrs Betty Grant accept a nomination to take his place on the committee. The Transport Group was disbanded and its responsibilities assumed by the main committee.

2. FREEWAYS

The Roads and Traffic Authority set the period May to August for public response to the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Maunsell Pty Ltd for the Freeway proposed to be constructed through the bushland and some homes of Beecroft and Cheltenham. This EIS provoked enormous interest and debate.

The Trust organised a meeting held 23rd June for Mr Bob Morris from the RTA and Ms Georgina Legoe from Maunsell to present the EIS to the membership and answer questions.

Based on this information, on 21st July the Trust held a restricted meeting for financial members only and conducted a plebiscite among members on the construction of the Freeway, and alternatives. Members voted on their preferences.

The results were:

FOR THE FREEWAY:

a) Construct F2 Freeway East

FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE VOTES (Note 1)
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127 (42%)	1171
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STATE LIBRARY
 17 FEB 1993
 MITCHELL LIBRARY

AGAINST THE FREEWAY:

b) Do nothing	18	1653
c) Upgrade Arterial Roads	12	1384
d) Upgrade Arterial Roads as recommended by Woodward Inquiry	67	1123
e) Provide public transport along the corridor	14	1375
f) Provide an upgrade of Arterial Roads as in (d) in conjunction with public transport as in (e)	67	1142
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	178 (58%)	
TOTAL VOTES (whether for or against)	305	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBLE TO VOTE	809	

NOTE 1: For the first preference votes, the favoured alternative has the HIGHEST tally, whereas for the weighted average votes, the most favoured alternative has the LOWEST tally. On first preferences, the Trust membership is AGAINST the construction of the F2 Castlereagh Freeway and favours alternative (d) "Upgrade Arterial Roads as recommended by Woodward Inquiry".

These results signed by the President and the Returning Officer (Trust Vice-President) were forwarded to the RTA 2/8/92 as the Trust's response to the Maunsell EIS.

3. TRAFFIC

Other traffic matters of concern included the Metroad System, danger at the intersection of Lyne Road with Beecroft Road, and closure of Mahers Road. The RTA Metroad System nominates Metroad M2 as the preferred route to Windsor. This route includes Beecroft Road and Pennant Hills Road. The implications of this, and why an EIS was not conducted, have been taken up with our local member, Hon Bruce Baird. Steps are in progress for erection of a "no right turn" sign in Lyne Road at the junction with Beecroft Road. In accordance with a resolution passed at the last AGM, Hornsby Shire Council was requested to investigate closure of Mahers Road. The Council traffic committee recommended closure in May, and this has since occurred.

4. MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING

Dual occupancy, medium density housing, development along railway lines, cluster housing and residential allotment sizes arising from the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP25), generated considerable concern among members. To clarify several issues, Mr Sean O'Toole, Assistant Director, NSW Department of Planning, was invited to address the Trust on 18th August. He explained government thinking and objectives on these matters. Government has a need to arrest urban sprawl by increasing population density in developed areas such as ours. Mr O'Toole stated his Department would be prepared to provide architects and urban planners to assist a study by the Trust into the type of medium density housing best suited to our area.

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A news release forecast rezoning of land within one kilometre of railway stations, including Beecroft and Cheltenham, but excluding stations on the North Shore line. This was taken up with the Minister of Planning who replied that this was only a pilot study and the stations nominated were case studies.

Eastwood, Epping, Cheltenham, Beecroft and Pennant Hills have since been removed from the list.

Hornsby Shire Council sought comment on its Dual Occupancy Development Control Plan and the Trust responded with a detailed submission examining procedures, assessment, lot size, floor space ratio, site coverage, design, set-backs, landscaping, and heritage aspects. We look forward to further participation with Council on these important issues.

5. TRUST PRIZES

The E. J. Richards Trophy was presented at the August meeting. This is a Trust competition in honour of the founder of the Trust, for the primary school student preparing the best poster to advertise the Trust's Spring Walk. The prize winners were Mahemet Savinly, Shaun Davies and Jenny Evans. Each was awarded a gift voucher for a book. Judge was Carol King from Macquarie Community College.

The Trust also awarded prizes for presentation to students of Beecroft Primary School and Cheltenham Girls' High School. The presentations were attended by Trust nominees Sue Benson and Spencer Bough, respectively.

Congratulations to Lauren White of Beecroft Primary School, awarded the Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust Dux of School Award and to Anita Mak of Cheltenham Girls' High School awarded the Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust Award for Excellence in an Academic Field.

6. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Among social activities was the Memorabilia Night, held in conjunction with the History Group at the Christmas function on 24/11/92. Members and residents brought along photographs, plans and documents portraying the history of the area. Catherine Bartho discussed families, and Helen Barker talked about houses. David Green from Hornsby Shire Council described Council's plans for coordinating history and heritage issues with other developments.

7. WALKS

The Western Walk was led by Sheila Woods on Sunday, 24/5/92 in perfect weather with 30 attending.

The Springs Walks were led by Ron Anderson and Sheila Woods on Sunday, 23/8/92, also in fine weather, with 100 attending.

8. ENVIRONMENT

A plan has been developed for Upgrading of Observatory Park, allowing for garden beds and a picnic shelter, in conjunction with widening of Pennant Hills Road. The Parks Sub-Committee has responded to the plan with recommended variations.

Council has been asked to consider provision of a second Otto bin to facilitate residents disposal of vegetation. Reply awaited.

Residents appear generally unaware of the danger of Rhus trees, as many are on private property. Council was urged to give more publicity to this plant as being an urban noxious weed.

Council has advised that it will include information on Rhus trees and Pampas grass in future Tree Preservation pamphlets.

Council intend to levy fees for tree inspections. The Trust has protested on the ground it should be a Council service.

The Department of Planning updated their Metropolitan Strategy and invited comment. The Trust responded, commenting on traffic, housing, bushland preservation and bushland regeneration.

The Council plans to charge residents for kerbing and guttering. The Trust objected and advised Council it thought this should come from Council funds.

9. MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

During the year membership surged strongly with interest in the Freeway debate and now stands at 455 compared with 395 last year. Such strong membership support is excellent, strengthening influence and resources. The total closing balance of Trust accounts as at 12/11/92 was \$ 8,040.

10. CONSTITUTION

A sub-committee is reviewing the Trust's constitution, proposing removing some ambiguities and anomalies such as grades of membership, and the voting rights of family memberships. The revised constitution is expected to be put before the membership during 1993. Members will have the opportunity for comment and should examine the document carefully, ensuring that the rules are in the best interests of the membership.

11. PLEBISCITES

The freeway debate in June made members realise that a code for conduct of plebiscites would be useful for future reference. Such a code is being prepared and will become part of standard procedures.

12. OTHER

The Trust became aware that Australia Post is considering converting Beecroft Post Office to a licensed agreement, possibly relocated. They were contacted for more information and advised that before any decision was made the community would be consulted.

The name of the Lyne Road Reserve in Cheltenham was checked with Council. Council advised it has no formal name and it is open for a historical or commemorative name to be assigned, if properly supported.

13. APPRECIATION

It is with pleasure that I take the opportunity, on behalf of members and residents, to express appreciation to the committee and all those who helped in advancing the affairs of the Trust since the last Annual General Meeting. Particular thanks must go to the secretary, Michael Moore, for excellent handling of correspondence and minutes, to Jocelyn Lloyd for keeping the accounts, to Spencer Bough for publicity, and to Fred Waddington for auditing and Bulletin distribution.

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Appreciation is extended to the Housing Sub-Committee: particularly Bill Greenhalgh, Spencer Bough, Sue Benson, and Rod Howard.

A very special thanks is due to our Parks Sub-Committee and for their work in bush regeneration, with special mention of Tony Lewis, Sheila Woods, Jenny Lewis, John Noble, Eva Jones, Fred Waddington, and Chris Austin.

The Trust also thanks the continuing interest and support of our C Riding Councillors, Barbara Baker, Owen Nannelli and Shire President Steven Pringle, and looks forward to close cooperation with them during 1993.

Ken Cregan

President

Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust Incorporated

BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION

Mr Fred Waddington has for many years worked behind the scenes to ensure distribution of the Bulletin to every household in Beecroft and Cheltenham.

Fred has indicated that he would like to relinquish this duty and would appreciate a volunteer or two to take on this essential aspect of the Trust's service to residents.

Fred coordinates a group of district distributors and has the task well organised.

If you can help in this regard or are willing to join the group of district distributors, please contact Fred on 876 6250.

WALKS

Don't forget to watch for notification of our 1993 bushwalks: The Western Walk and the Spring Walk in the Park.

NOTICE BOARD

From time to time we place notices that we think are of interest to residents on our notice board at the car park end of Beecroft Arcade.

So, keep an eye on the board.

MEMBERSHIP

You are no doubt bored with our continual pleas for membership but we stress the advantages of a strong Trust membership in maintaining our beleaguered urban amenity.

BEECROFT-CHELTHENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

for financial year commencing 1st January

Name..... Telephone.....

Address.....

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