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SYDNEY

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# BEECROFT — CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST

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

## ALL RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING

TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED  
MACQUARIE MUNICIPALITY

ON

WEDNESDAY JULY 11 AT 8.00 p.m.

AT

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, BEECROFT

Macquarie Association Officials, Local & State Members Will Be In Attendance.

### CIVIC TRUST SUPPORT MACQUARIE MUNICIPALITY ASSOCIATION

This Bulletin notifies of a Public Meeting to be held by the Trust to explain our support for the Macquarie Municipality Association in its campaign for the creation of a new Municipality in the Epping, Cheltenham, Beecroft, Pennant Hills area.

On 25th November, 1971, a meeting was held in the Roslea Community Centre to raise again the question of a new municipality based on the area of the unsuccessful 1967 appeal to the Boundaries Commission. Since then, members of the Trust committee have been involved in the discussion and research relating to the desirability and practicability of another appeal to the Boundaries Commission.

A survey in July, 1972 showed clearly that a majority of residents considered the formation of a new municipality to be desirable. In view of this result, and that in response to requests for members' views on the subject, the few letters received all favoured the idea, the Trust committee continued its association with the Macquarie Municipality Association.

At a recent meeting the Macquarie Municipality Association consulted Mr. E.L.S. Hall, a Solicitor considered expert in Local Government matters and subsequently agreed to retain him as legal advisor for the appeal. Following thorough consideration of all aspects of the situation, the Committee decided that the interests of the Beecroft, Cheltenham community would best be served by wholeheartedly supporting the Macquarie Municipality Association's campaign.

The Trust Committee would like it clearly understood that by supporting the Macquarie Municipality Association it is not doing so merely to oust the present three 'C' Riding councillors. If this was the aim, it could be done more effectively and simply during next year's elections by selecting Trust candidates to stand for election.

Why should we break away from Hornsby Shire Council? We feel that within the next few years the Council will be forced into increasing councillor representation. It is almost certain that the extra councillors will reside many miles from our district and could possibly not share the unique conservation interest that every Beecroft-Cheltenham resident has. Past elections have proved that persons connected with real estate or property development would not gain election in 'C' Riding, but the same guarantee can't be given for the remaining larger areas of the Shire.

The proposed Macquarie Municipality is approximately 15 square miles in area and the boundaries have been carefully chosen to contain residents sharing a similar interest, especially in conservation and high risk attitudes. If it becomes a reality, six or nine aldermen will be elected from this community. It would be impossible for a group of councillors living 30 or 40 miles away, living within a different community of interest to outvote them as they would belong to Hornsby Shire and be no longer part of our community.

To sum up, in a nutshell, we are aiming to emphasize the word LOCAL in the term LOCAL GOVERNMENT. After all, not with the wildest stretch of the imagination could anyone describe areas such as Brooklyn or Wisemans Ferry as part of our LOCAL community, yet they both belong to our 197 square mile Shire.

Of course, there are many more "whys and wherefores" attached to the Macquarie Municipality Association issue that will be fully explained at the public meeting on July 11th.

**SHOW THAT YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY BY ATTENDING – NON-TRUST MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME.**

### **COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE CHANGES**

At a recent meeting of the Hornsby Shire Council sub-committees on "Environmental Preservation", "Sewerage" and "Library Services" were disbanded, and a new sub-committee to "generally consider the sporting and recreational activities for the present and future needs of the Shire" replaced them.

The Trust certainly believes that sporting and recreational needs must be considered much more carefully in the future than they have been in the past but we are disturbed by the apparent lack of concern for consideration of the environment shown by the majority of the councillors.

Pennant Hills Park is a perfect example of the destruction of a natural environment for sports fields – many of them still undeveloped for lack of water – in an area with insufficient and inappropriate vehicular access for the scale of development envisaged.

### **E.J. RICHARDS TROPHY**

Local primary schools will soon be receiving entry forms for the annual E.J. Richards Trophy.

The poster competitions will be open to 3rd and 4th and 5th and 6th Class students.

It is expected the Trust Sub-committee will retain the same subjects as last year – "Dangers to the Bushland" and "Australian Wildlife".

The competition will be timed to allow the children to work on their projects during the August school holidays.

### **CORRECTION**

In the last issue of the Bulletin, we reported that Mr. R. Breckwoldt of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in a talk to the Civic Trust in December said: "Kangaroos as well as domestic animals were responsible for the depletion of many small species which require ground cover for their existence."

Subsequently, Mr. Breckwoldt has informed us that what he said at the meeting was that overgrazing in Western N.S.W. had altered the habitat. As a result many small marsupials had become extinct but the red kangaroo had increased in numbers.

### **COMMUNITY BUSHLAND AND 'THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS'**

In December, 1968, 'Science' published an article by Garnet Hardin, Professor of Biology at the University of California. The article was titled 'The Tragedy of the Commons' and, since its publication, it has become a classic in conservation literature.

In describing 'the tragedy' Hardin asks us to "Picture a pasture open to all". It is expected, he continues, that each herdsman on such an open pasture, i.e. 'the commons', will try to keep as many cattle as he can. This follows because each herdsman, being a rational individual, strives to maximize his own profit.

Soon, naturally enough, 'the common' reaches capacity. Then, each herdsman asks "What is the value to me of adding one more animal to my herd." Here 'the tragedy' is generated. The individual herdsman who adds one extra animal to his herd benefits as the profit margin per extra beast outweighs the feed lost to the entire herd. But the profit is met by all the herdsmen who, as a group, suffer the loss of feed from the extra beast. And so runs 'the tragedy of the commons'.

Take the world as one large 'common'. Look at the individuals and groups pursuing their own self-interest within it and one sees why the environment is in its present state.

Some examples: One manufacturer can pollute a river. That company makes a profit but the expense is borne by the community. One person can drive a car into the city instead of using public transport. That car uses only a little fuel and contributes little to the city's air pollution. Add all the cars and the result is disastrous. But each driver can say that the marginal utility to him as an individual is greater than the cost to the whole community. Yet another example is population growth. One family can have a third child with little added cost. Total the effect of thousands of families and the cost to the community in supplying schools, hospitals, roads, houses and other services for a mushrooming population is enormous.

Garnet Hardin, at the end of his thoughtful analogy, concludes: "River is the destination to which all men rush, each pursuing his own best interest in a society that believes in the freedom of the commons. Freedom in a commons brings ruin to all."

This theme may be applied locally to Pennant Hills Park and its adjoining bushland reserves. This area could represent 'the commons'. 'The tragedy' manifests itself in the self interest of the individual groups on 'the commons'. The cost borne by the entire community is the alienation of an invaluable resource.

An argument to justify the situation could be that since population has grown the demands on the area have increased. This is true but 'we can't have our cake and eat it too'.

Within the bushland common and visible one mile distant is a bowling club complex. Every utility has taken the path of least resistance in this area. Electricity lines cross the ridges, sewerage lines have been laid in the creek beds, where the overflow valves empty into the creek and cause pollution.

In another location, a huge 'sporting complex' has been bulldozed into the bushland. Given that this is also a community resource the design could have at least related sympathetically to the environment.

As any week-end and particularly school holiday periods show, this bushland is still in a condition able to meet the recreational needs of many people. Bushwalks and other passive recreation are an increasingly desirable outlet for urban communities. Furthermore, this bushland provides a reserve for native flora and fauna. With correct management, it could become an important area for field studies for schools and community groups.

However, either the community decides that further alienation of the local bushland must cease or it allows 'the tragedy of the commons' to take its remorseless but inevitable toll.

## HANNAH STREET TREES

Following representations from a member, the Trust Committee wrote to Hornsby Council requesting a tree planting programme in Hannah Street, Beecroft outside the new Module Centre.

The Council has decided to plant eight trees opposite the Centre.

The Trust has written back thanking the Council, and has again requested trees to enhance the new building and provide shade for pedestrians during the hot summer months on the southern side of the street.

It is understood that the Council feels it is not possible to plant trees on the southern side due to underground services and the sealed footpath. The Trust has pointed out that recent tree planting campaigns in the City and other suburbs have been successful in similar situations.

## COPELAND ROAD - LIGHTS

This long drawn out, contentious issue seems as far as ever from a satisfactory conclusion. The Trust has correspondence going back almost 3 years on this matter with promises and assurances, apparently quite meaningless, as the solution i.e. the installation of adequate control lights at Copeland Road and Beecroft Road, is still not resolved.

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

Whatever the reason, the accidents still occur. The corner is a major hazard, everyone has acknowledged this fact. Let us hope and pray that no more fatalities may occur before something is done, especially as so many children are required to cross these roads, coinciding with periods of heavy traffic flow.

The Trust would like people who have knowledge or experience of specific accidents, incidents or any information which could be used to strengthen our case when corresponding in this matter, to let one of our committee know or write to the President.

### RUBBISH DUMPING IN BUSH RESERVES

In discussions with a Trust Committee Member on the all too prevalent practice of dumping rubbish in bushland areas, a Council Health Department Officer pointed out the need for successful prosecutions of offenders as a deterrent. On many occasions residents have prevented or curtailed rubbish dumping by complaining to the offenders "on the spot".

If residents were prepared to take details of these offences and could afford the time required in Court to enable Council to prosecute the "dumpers" may be more effectively deterred.

### WHERE TO CONTACT TRUST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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