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BULLETIN 1

JUNE 2000



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

President
Bob Raymond Phone 9876 4137

Secretary
Gordon Winch Phone 9876 5865

TRAFFIC IS AN ISSUE

Traffic in the Beecroft Cheltenham district continues to be a major problem. Limited public transport in the northwest leaves no option for residents other than to use their cars to get to and from work. **Beecroft Road is becoming more and more a crowded and dangerous speedway.**

The Trust continues to make approaches to the Minister for Transport and the RTA in support of residents wishes for traffic control along the length of Beecroft Road. Our recent questionnaire showed overwhelming support for lights at dangerous intersections such as Kirkham Street and Cheltenham Road, but the matter has not been resolved by the government or RTA.

Surveys by the RTA place our needs low on the priority list in the State, but the Trust does not agree with the findings. Limited use of Beecroft Road for pedestrian crossing only underlines the danger of that action: people are driving to Cheltenham Station and parking their cars in adjacent streets to avoid crossing Beecroft Road on foot.

The Trust is now considering new strategies to push the responsible bodies into action. Residents will be kept informed as our plans develop. **In the meantime continue to send your letters of concern to the Minister for Roads Hon. Carl Skully MP. Parliament House, Sydney.** They will only help our case.

BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC.
Annual Membership Year 2000

Family \$12.00

Single \$6.00

Membership Subscription

Mailing details:

Name:

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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.

M/

RESULTS OF RAILWAY ADVERTISING SURVEY

In response to our question in the February Bulletin *Do you object to the recent action of State Rail in placing advertising billboards at Beecroft and Cheltenham Railway Stations?* a total of 105 responses were received.

There was general opposition to the hoardings (92 respondents); the main reasons are summarised below

- Not in keeping with the aesthetic beauty of the area
- Visual pollution
- There is too much advertising already inflicted on people

A further 9 respondents voiced strong opposition to the hoardings with lengthy supporting comments. Two respondents did not indicate a view, and of the remaining two, 1 supported the Trust on its recent stand while the remaining respondent supported the erection of hoardings with the comment "I don't mind the hoardings if it would help pay for some decent parking stations".

Readers would be well aware that shortly after our Bulletin went to press the hoardings were removed by State Rail acting on legal advice.

Thank you to all those who took the time to respond, you can be assured the Trust will continue to work with residents on these issues.

RECYCLE - WHY?

A comment from the BCCT Parks Sub-committee

Sydney is rapidly running out of sites for disposing of household rubbish. The Government is exploring the possibility of trucking our waste over the mountains at great expense - and with the possible introduction of new weeds and disease to those areas. The expense will be reflected in higher garbage collection rates. Garden waste is a significant proportion of total garbage.

Recycling garden waste can benefit YOU. Here are some simple things we all can do that will make a difference:

- Weeds and green leaves, prunings, grass clippings, household fruit and vegetable scraps can be all composted to provide a rich compost for your garden
- Never throw out fallen leaves - they can be spread over garden beds to reduce evaporation thus reducing your watering bill. They will break down to replenish the soil, reducing the need for fertiliser
- The chore of weeding, and hence the quantity, can be reduced by laying about 6 sheets of newspaper or packing cardboard over a weedy area after removing larger weeds and covering with fallen leaves
- Native plants produce fewer fallen leaves and need less pruning and watering
- By reducing lawn area and increasing garden beds you have a larger area on which to spread your leaves - less mowing and a more interesting lower maintenance garden
- Large branches can be offered to a neighbour with a fire, although not Rhus or Oleander as they are poisonous
- REMEMBER garden waste disposed onto bushland will not improve the bush, it introduces weed seed, garden escapees and too high a nutrient level for native plants, so they are choked out.

Recycling garden waste at home is a win for everyone!

Sunday 13 August is Clean Up Day for the Olympics. There will be a clean up at the Beecroft Village Green from 9.00am to 12.00 mid day. Anyone interested should contact Trish Whealy on 9876 5071.

DIARY DATES

The Trust's Annual Spring Walk in Pennant Hills Park will be held on 20 August 2000. Meet at Day Road Cheltenham in the picnic area at 2.00pm. The walk lasts about 2 hours. Wear sensible walking shoes and bring a drink. At this time wildflowers should be at their best.

Inquiries contact Jenny on 9869 1175, or Sheila on 9484 6764.

BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST - 2000 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members now form the Committee of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust:

President:	Bob Raymond	CHELTENHAM
Secretary:	Gordon Winch,	CHELTENHAM
Treasurer:	Wayne Yeo	BEECROFT
Vice Presidents:	Betty Grant	BEECROFT
	Brian Thompson	CHELTENHAM
	Vic Batten	BEECROFT
Housing Liaison:	Ross Walker	BEECROFT
Parks Convenor	Peter Salier	BEECROFT
Publicity Officer:	Glyn Evans	CHELTENHAM
Committee:	Diana Winch	CHELTENHAM
	John Mancy	BEECROFT
	Pam Conrow	BEECROFT

GREEN WASTE STRATEGY

In our February Bulletin we reported on the establishment of a Green Organics Steering Committee by Hornsby Council. The Committee is seeking economic and socially viable solutions to the management of green organic waste.

Unfortunately the Committee is still unable to furnish a report due in part to unforeseen delays and complications in the decision making process.

A clear strategy reflecting community wishes is however still achievable, and your representatives are working towards this outcome with the committee winding up hopefully in July!

SUTHERLAND ROAD LITTER BASKETS

Hornsby Shire Council has recently completed the design and construction of dual litter baskets housed below ground in a pit at the stormwater outlet of three pipes between the eastern entrance to Beecroft Station and Sutherland Road.

The works are designed to improve water quality entering the Lane Cove River by trapping leaves and general rubbish coming from Beecroft Road, the shopping centre and carpark. The traps will be regularly inspected and cleaned by Council contractors after periods of heavy rain and the results recorded to gauge ongoing performance. The work also included stabilisation of the eroded creek banks with rock, the removal of large amounts of privet and replacement with local native plants and the creation of a formal walkway from Sutherland Road to Beecroft Station.

The works have been financed through the Catchments Remediation Rate (CRR). For further information contact Anthony Collins in the Water Catchment Team at Hornsby Council on 9847 6860.

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SAFETY HOUSE PROGRAM

Residents will have noticed the new Safety House signs in the area replacing old faded and rusty ones and indicating that Beecroft Cheltenham supports an active Safety House program.

Safety House is a combined Police and community program that provides a safe place for children, gives them the skills and confidence to feel safe and provides a network of safe places for children within the community. The Beecroft Cheltenham Safety House Association is based at the Beecroft Primary School with all schools in the area participating in the program. National Yellow Day was celebrated in May and residents may have noticed the yellow balloons on Safety Houses in their area.

There are over 70 Safety Houses in Beecroft Cheltenham, and more are always needed. Interested? It is essential an adult be at home when children are normally walking to and from school and there must be clear access to the front door. Participants in the Program are screened by the Police to ensure the suitability of all applicants and houses regularly monitored by the group. There are no meetings to attend and all participants are given a procedure card to follow in the event of their house being used.

If you wish to know more and get involved with this great program give Janine Reid a call on 9871 3481.

BICYCLE SAFETY

To help make cycling a viable travel alternative, the NSW Government is committed to improving facilities for cyclists and making it safer to cycle. **Action for Bikes** is a 10-year plan to create an average of 200 kilometres each year of arterial bicycle networks across the State.

To promote cycling it is vital that a connected network of cycle paths is created to allow people to travel by bicycle. The network will be developed with links to employment centres, education centres, retail areas and recreational venues. Readers will have noticed the marked cycle lanes on a number of roads

Cycling is both healthy for the cyclist and good for the health of the community. It will contribute to the reduction of emissions from motor vehicles, thereby improving air quality in NSW.

Did you know there are nearly 2 million bicycles in NSW and that almost half the households in the State have at least one bicycle? In Sydney over 11,000 people ride to work on a typical weekday. In NSW about 160,000 students ride bicycles to school, college or university (Ref. *Action for Bikes BikePlan 2010* September 1999).

Cyclists are legitimate road users who have an equal right to be on the road and motorists have a major role in making cycling enjoyable for recreation and commuting. They also must be aware that their rights come with the responsibility to obey the road rules and share the road.

Statistics tell us that many accidents and near misses happen because drivers don't see a bike rider or pedestrian. So scan the road and look for cyclists, remember the road is there to share.

More information can be obtained from BICYCLE New South Wales on 9283 5200. Maps covering cycleways in Sydney and around NSW are available from The RTA, to obtain your free copy 'phone 1800 06 06 07.