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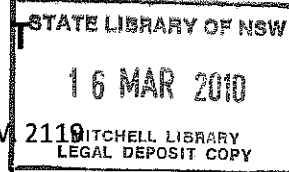
BEECROFT CHELTENHAM

BULLETIN 2

CIVIC TRUST

INCORPORATED

PO BOX 31, BEECROFT N.S.W.



March 2010

www.2119.org.au

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- **Join the Trust. Help us preserve our suburbs. Come to our Annual General Meeting March 15 - 7 for 7.30**

Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust Annual General Meeting and Public Meeting on Draft Hornsby Housing Strategy

Monday 15 March Cheltenham Recreation Club 7.30 - 10 pm

Members and residents are advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust (BCCT) will be held on **Monday 15 March** at Cheltenham Recreation Club, The Crescent, Cheltenham between 7.30 and 8 pm. Only those who are financial members of BCCT may vote. Join now or if you wish to join on the night, come between 7 and 7.30. Please come early to register.

Nominations for Committee positions have now closed

The AGM will be followed at 8pm by a **Public Meeting on the Draft Hornsby Housing Strategy**. Key Council Planning Officers will make a presentation and the Mayor, C Ward and other Councillors will be present to answer questions. This is possibly the greatest change that could come to Beecroft. The meeting is your opportunity to gain an understanding of how it could change Beecroft so that you can make informed submissions to Council.

Thanks to all the residents who completed our Survey on the Draft Hornsby Housing Strategy. Over 200 responses were received. Results will be shown at this meeting

Join the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust

Annual Subscription Rates 1/1/10 to 31/12/10 - \$20 per household or \$10 for pensioners and single person households. A household membership includes two adults.

Name(s) of people covered by this membership _____

Amount paid _____ Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Payment Options:

1. Post this form with cheque to: The Membership Secretary, BCCT, PO Box 31, Beecroft, 2119 or
2. Direct debit to Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust Inc, CBA BSB: 062 113 Acc: 10068238 and include your name as the reference. Please then email treasurer@2119.org.au with your name, address, phone no, email address and amount paid or post this form to PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119.

Note: We are currently experiencing difficulties accessing PayPal and ask that you please do not use this method of payment. If you have paid by PayPal this year, please will you contact the Treasurer with your details as above. Thank You.

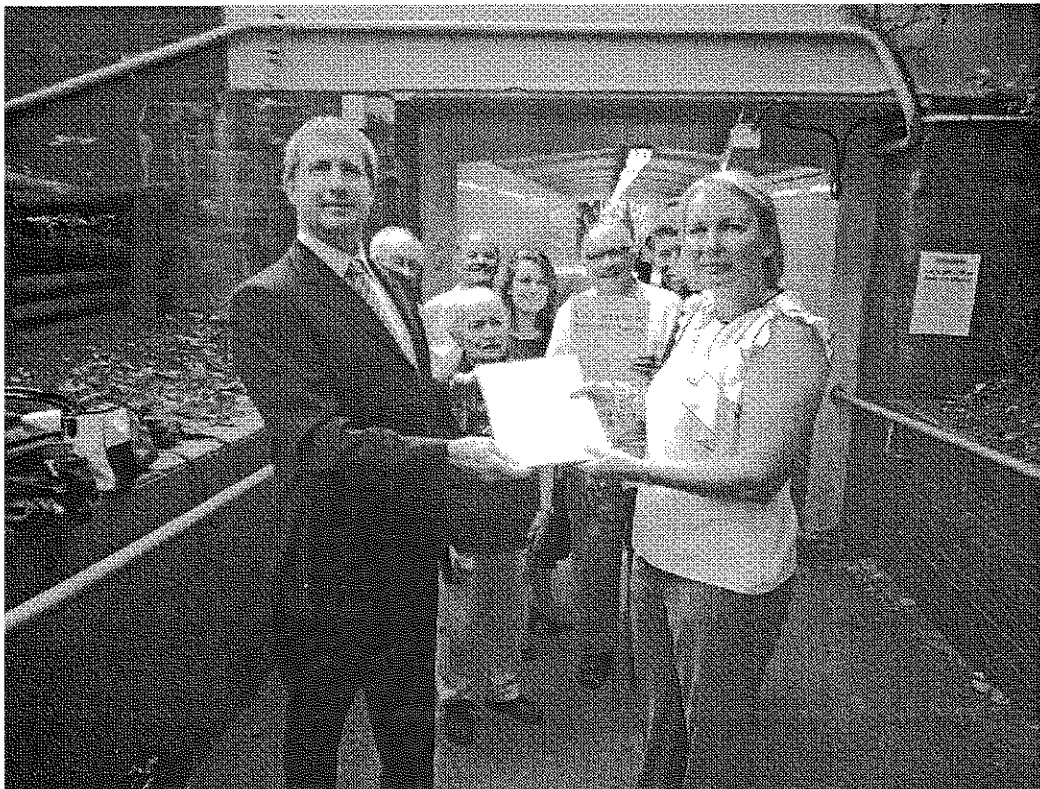
2119 SIGN UP FOR LIFT AT 2119

Following an approach by Beecroft resident Dennis Hale, BCCT became aware of the need for a lift at Beecroft Station. The 32 steps are difficult for the elderly, disabled, injured and people with luggage or prams. There have been several accidents and falls on the steps and some people who alight from the train to attend businesses in Beecroft find themselves unable to use the steps.

Investigations by BCCT committee member Michael Stove found that there were no plans to install a lift at Beecroft in the current round of the City Rail Easy Access program ending in 2016. It was considered unnecessary as 'people can go to Pennant Hills or Epping'. He became aware of the numerous accidents that have occurred on these steps and of the need for many commuters for assistance. It appears to be feasible to install a lift.

While collecting signatures, one volunteer was told by a young lady that she had approached City Rail some months ago when she had a broken leg and had difficulty using the station. People were surprised that there were no plans to install a lift at Beecroft and willingly signed the petition.

Lynda Voltz, MLC whose responsibilities include the Epping electorate advised us to seek signatures on a petition and she would present it to the Minister for Transport. Volunteers from the community collected 2119 signatures at Beecroft and the petition was presented in Parliament on Tuesday 23 February.



BCCT Trust committee member Michael Stove hands over the petition to Lynda Voltz MLC watched by residents Mary Jo and Tom Reeve, Adam Marcus, Dennis Hale and BCCT committee members Ilona Kernick and Rod Best. Photo Carolyn Watt (BCCT committee)

DID YOU KNOW

E-Waste unwanted items including electrical appliances (except fridges, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers), computers and peripherals, TVs, videos, CD and DVD players, game consoles, faxes, phones, stereos, cabling, microwaves and irons can be taken by Hornsby Shire residents to the Waste Management Depot, 31 Sefton Rd, Thornleigh 9 – 4 Mon – Fri and to 7.30pm Tues for a 6 month trial from March 1 2010.

Compact fluoro light globes require special disposal. Wrap them in newspaper and take to the Sefton Rd depot during business hours as above.

PROPOSED COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

How many residents read the small pamphlet *Investing in the Future of Hornsby Shire* that was enclosed with their last quarterly rates notice? If you paid your rates in full, you may not have even received it.

Hornsby Council is planning to impose a **5.8% levy on your rates** commencing in July 2010 for the next ten years. It is estimated this will cost the average household \$60 - \$70 per annum with a \$10 discount for pensioners. The purpose of this levy is to fund projects including the rebuilding of **Hornsby Aquatic Centre and the pedestrian overbridge at Hornsby and construction of recreational facilities in Old Mans Valley, Hornsby.** In addition, \$1.5 million will be allocated to each ward over the first 2 years of the levy for infrastructure projects such as playgrounds, footpaths and community centres and residents are able to nominate projects. **Just how far will this go in the whole of C ward?** The majority of your money will be spent in Hornsby.

This is the **third levy** on our rates. We are already paying a 5% Catchment Remediation Levy and a 5.3% Hornsby Quarry Loan Levy.

Whilst one could argue the need to improve infrastructure and that Council would need to raise extra funds for this purpose, BCCT is concerned that most residents may be unaware of this levy. The slip in the rates notice could be easily overlooked. There may have been some publicity in The Advocate but this paper does not come to Beecroft or Cheltenham. It appears that neither the BCCT nor the Epping or Pennant Hills Civic Trusts were asked for input.

As well as focus groups for invited guests, Council has held an on-line forum and community workshops in October and November last year. On November 21, an all day community consultation held at Asquith Leagues Club only attracted some 66 people and when a vote was taken, the majority of people were in favour of the levy. The levy did not attract any community speakers when included in Report No GM 18/09 'Community Strategic Plan including Special Variation to General Income' on Dec 9 2009. No mention was made in the title to an infrastructure levy. At this meeting Council determined that it would approach the Minister for Local Government for approval of the levy commencing in July 2010.

Two meetings have recently been announced in the Northern District Times. They are at 7pm on 11/3/10 at Berowra RSL and on 15/3/10 at Pennant Hills Bowling Club. The latter unfortunately clashes with our AGM and Public Meeting on the Draft Hornsby Housing Policy to which the Mayor and C Ward Councillors had already accepted our invitation. To register for these meetings, telephone 9847 6747 and leave your name and phone number or email yoursay@hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

To find out more about the infrastructure levy go to:

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/ourcommunity/index.cfm?NavigationID=2499>

Have your say on the Infrastructure Levy. Make a submission on line at www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au or post to Corporate Strategy Branch, Hornsby Shire Council, PO Box 37 Hornsby 1630 or fax to 9847 6592. You can also nominate infrastructure projects in your ward on line or phone 9847 6747. Please also see <http://future.hornsby.nsw.gov.au> where you will be able to **nominate projects** for your ward,

DRAFT HORNSBY HOUSING STRATEGY

It is expected that the Draft Hornsby Housing Strategy will go on Public Exhibition in March. You are encouraged to look at the exhibition and make a submission to Council.

NEW RESIDENT KIT

In a joint project, Beecroft Rotary Club and the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust have prepared a booklet of information for new residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham. It contains information on local history, businesses, medical and dental services, cafes, schools, sporting groups and other services. Copies are available at Beecroft real estate agencies or from Rotary or the Civic Trust. Please contact any committee member of BCCT or write to PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119 if you want a copy for yourself or a new neighbour.

KNOW YOUR LOCAL HISTORY - BEECROFT RESERVE – PART 1

Beecroft and Cheltenham History Group by its members Lesley Goldberg and Sheila Woods
Part 2 of this article will be published in the next Bulletin.

From the foundation of the suburb of Beecroft, it was envisaged that there would be sections of open space for public recreation.

Development of the Beecroft Reserve

Beecroft Reserve developed in stages. In 1893 the newly formed Beecroft Progress Association suggested that seven unsold allotments totalling 23 acres along the north side of Devlins Creek should be set aside as Beecroft Park. In 1938 the Byles family donated five acres to be known as Chilworth Reserve, as a flora and fauna sanctuary, under the care of the Wildlife Preservation society, but in 1942 they handed it over to Hornsby Shire Council with covenants on the title to protect the bushland. The Byles family's love of the Australian bush also led to Baldur Byles erecting a sign near the scout hall at the end of Welham Street which read 'Practise good manners in the bush. You are welcome'. In 1953 another valuable donation of land came from Evelyn St Ives McConnell behind Finlay Avenue on the south side of Devlins Creek. This was followed by Council's acquiring the adjoining block of bush the following year. In 1959 John Noble, who had moved to a new home in Fiona Road in 1949, petitioned Hornsby Council to add a strip of land behind houses in Austral Avenue to the reserve. A patch of land formally belonging to Beecroft Public School was added to Chilworth Reserve in 1967 and the unformed area of Mary Street through to York Street was added in 1969.

Attitudes to the native bushland

Some early residents wanted parkland that allowed for 'improvements' which included somewhere for cricket games. Charles Churchill Tucker, prominent in the Progress Association, complained about the 'uselessness' of Beecroft Park and its unsuitability for a cricket pitch. He saw it as a place for 'picnics and chasing butterflies or something of the sort'. Early in the 20th century The Village Green became a place for organized community functions. Part had already been used for tennis courts. More of the land was used for the building of the School of Arts (now the community centre). In 1907 the local Progress Association initiated a move to purchase seven acres of land known as Wilson's Grant which ultimately became Charles Tucker's long-desired sports ground -Cheltenham Oval occupies a large part. This left what is now known as Beecroft Reserve as native bush.

While it was seen by some as a 'rough' place, full of snakes and lizards, which ought to be cleared for 'more ornamental plantings', other early residents valued it as a place for tranquil picnics, picking wildflowers, bird watching and walking. Albert Wachsmann built his home in Murray Road so he could be close to the bush and the calls of native birds. In 1890 *The Cumberland Argus* records that visitors were pulling up ferns, and there was some concern about how to preserve the reserve's wild beauties. However, from early days tracks developed which allowed residents on the south side of the creek to walk through to the railway station.

Community action in the 1960s

In 1961 and 1962 the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board (MWS&DB, now Sydney Water) installed the main sewer line to the suburb through Beecroft Reserve. The arrival of this infrastructure was welcomed by residents, who quickly began connecting their houses to the sewer line, but after the construction was completed little thought was given to the effect of these works on the health of the creek systems and the bushland. Although the MWS&D had been lobbied to minimize the necessity for tree removal during construction and had then altered the sewer line slightly, there was scant regard to the problem of exotic weeds, and the general degradation of the reserve in the aftermath.

Beecroft-Cheltenham Bushland Reserve - Council e-Survey

Hornsby Shire Council is working to protect and restore Beecroft-Cheltenham Bushland Reserve and wants your feedback. You can have a say at www.bushland.hornsby.nsw.gov.au by completing Council's online survey by Wednesday 31 March 2010. The survey will take less than five minutes of your time. Just by completing the survey, you go in the draw to win one of 15 vouchers to win five free native plants from Council's Community Nursery in Pennant Hills. For more information contact the above website or phone 9847 6832.