

Q333.9099 11 / 1



BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM
CIVIC TRUST
I N C O R P O R A T E D
P.O. BOX 31, BEECROFT, N.S.W. 2119

BULLETIN 3

November 2002



President
David White Phone 9484 8992

Secretary

MAYORAL MEETING

In September members of the Trust Executive met with the then Hornsby Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Steven Pringle and Executive Manager, Planning Division, Peter Hinton to discuss a number of issues.

The main outcomes from that meeting were;

- **Development Applications:-** The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust raised concerns regarding the inconsistency in assessment of DAs by council. The Trust has been invited to prepare a draft Management Plan and Development Control Plan (DCP) for Beecroft Cheltenham. It is proposed that this be along the same general principles as the Dangar Island Management Plan which was formulated by the local community. The Trust will be seeking input from residents on this important matter in the future.
- **Footpaths:-** A site meeting in the Beecroft Village is to be arranged to discuss the condition of the footpaths, particularly in front of the Module.
- **Commercial Centre DCP:-** Council advised that this project has been delayed - a commencement date was still to be determined. The Trust will be invited to nominate a representative to participate in focus group discussions with local shopkeepers when the selected consultants commence preparing a Commercial Centre DCP for Beecroft.

Beecroft shopping centre is changing and the current development standards need greater control. The Trust is concerned at the delay in the commencement of the Commercial Centre DCP project for Beecroft and seeks your support in urging council to proceed with the project at the earliest possible date.

Front Fences

Residents should note that construction of front boundary fences over 600 mm high in masonry and 1200mm high as picket/open fences require a Development Application to be submitted to Hornsby Council.

*The future is not a place we are going to, but a place we are creating,
The paths to it are not found but made.
The making of these paths changes both the maker and the destination.*

(Motto of the Australian Commission for the Future)



MOUNTAIN BIKES AND THE LANE COVE NATIONAL PARK

There are many recreational users of our National Parks including walkers and campers. The Lane Cove National Park has over one million visitors a year, with these visitors come pressures on the natural and cultural environment. We must work together and protect our natural environment for our future generations.

One group in particular has been causing grave concern for local residents and the National Parks. A minority group of mountain bike riders have been using walking tracks in the Pennant Hills area. Extensive damage has been caused to these tracks including erosion and destruction of the fragile plants that have been trying to re-establish since the devastating Christmas bush fires.

Apart from the environmental damage caused there has also been social conflict. Walkers are encouraged to use walking tracks and cyclists are restricted to the management or fire trails – that is, trails large enough for a 4 wheel drive vehicle.

What are the issues?

Environmental:

- A bicycle wheel creates a linear track. Channels, gullies or troughs will form promoting the erosive flow of water;
- The 'skidding' of wheels and poor execution of brakes creates ruts that also channel water flow, loosen track surfaces and move material down slope; and

Social:

- Walkers are concerned about the safety of walking on narrow tracks, many have been frightened by approaching riders and experienced hostility from cyclists.

What is being done?

- The National Parks Service has tried to address the issue by erecting new signage. This has been very disheartening and expensive with vandals ripping out and defacing signs;
- Closing off unofficial tracks made by cyclists;
- The local community has been exceptional with providing information and support on the issue;
- Law enforcement will be undertaken in the area and on the spot fines of \$300 (maximum \$3000) will be issued.

There is over 40 km of management trail available to cyclists. We understand cyclists are a diverse group from the recreational cyclist who rides on management trails to the adventure rider who seeks out the excitement. Following the steps of the Royal National Park, Lane Cove would like to work with cyclists and create a park that can be enjoyed by all user groups.

If you have any enquires or wish to report any inappropriate activities in the Park, or would like a map of the area please contact the Lane Cove National Park Office on (02) 9412 1811.

WARD BOUNDARY

Following a period of public exhibition, Hornsby Council has adopted the preferred ward boundary for the Shire. It will apply to Council's new two-ward structure that will operate from September 2003 after local government elections.

The wards will be named East Ward and West Ward. Beecroft and Cheltenham are in the West Ward.

West Ward will extend from Epping in the south to Wisemans Ferry in the north. The division between the East and West Wards follows Berowra Creek and a line drawn along the northern area of Pennant Hills.

Starting at the eastern end of the Shire at Devlins Creek, North Epping, the boundary runs west along parts of Pennant Hills and Thornleigh to Berowra Creek. It then passes to the west of Bar Island and ends where Berowra Creek meets the Hawkesbury River.

A map showing the proposed new boundary is available from Hornsby Shire Council.

M2 ADVERTISING

Written submissions to Council against the development application from Manboom Pty Ltd for illuminated advertising on the M2 closed in October. To date no final decision has been made.

As previously stated the Trust opposes advertising along the M2, on technical issues such as safety, aesthetics, lighting and visibility from adjoining residential areas.

The question the Trust would like answered is why does Hornsby Shire Council allow signage on public roads when the adjoining local government areas of Ryde and Baulkham Hills do not. We know that it is controlled through Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) but why hasn't Council considered taking the necessary steps to prohibit it?

It would seem that our community is being disadvantaged as advertising is forced into our area. Residents should write to Hornsby Council requesting that our Shire's Local Environment Plan be amended.

ARE WE STILL THE BUSHLAND SHIRE?

The Trust is most concerned at what appears to be Hornsby Shire Councils indiscriminate lopping and removal of street trees. For a Council that promotes itself as the Bushland Shire it is hard to understand the current trend.

The most recent chainsaw attack occurred in Lyne Road Cheltenham when Council without reference to the local residents removed eleven 30 year old Jacarandas. This follows the removal of a Claret Ash in Sutherland Road and other trees in York and Hannah Streets and Copeland and Albert Roads to mention a few.

It is these trees that make Beecroft and Cheltenham so unique. Besides adding value to property they provide shade and generally control the temperature of the area, provide habitat and are part of the heritage of our suburb. Never the less it is acknowledged that trees have a life span, and should be selectively replaced.

The Trust calls on Hornsby Shire Council to address this issue and to establish a policy to better manage one of our area's greatest assets. If residents become aware that Council may be planning to lop or remove street trees they should contact a Trust Member.

E-MAIL MEMBERSHIP LIST TO BE PREPARED

The Trust is continually updating its records and looking for better ways of communicating with our members. With this in mind we are shortly to establish an e-mail membership distribution list for members who indicate that they would like to receive information via e-mail. As well as receiving the Bulletin members could also be regularly updated on current issues, meetings other items of interest etc. We hasten to add that it is not intended to do away with our printed Bulletin but rather to add a further dimension to our communication network. We are also working towards the development of our own web page. We will keep residents informed of progress in future Bulletins on this exciting new development.

WHO SORTS THE RECYCLING NOW?

If we don't sort the recycling, who does? That's the question many residents have been putting to Hornsby Shire Council's waste management team, following the introduction of Council's new waste service.

The old system required householders to sort their recycling, separating paper from glass and other recyclable material. With the new system all the recycling now goes into one yellow-lidded bin.

During National Recycling Week, 11 – 15 November, Waste Services NSW conducted free tours of their Chullora facility for residents to see how the recycling process works. The tours gave a first-hand view of how all the materials are sorted, using air blowers, magnets, lasers and good old fashioned people power. It provided a great opportunity to learn more about recycling and how we can improve our recycling habits, particularly as the amount of recyclable materials collected has increased to include milk cartons, tins and other steel cans.

The recycling of one glass jar, a milk carton or a newspaper may not seem much for the environment, however when you consider the cumulative impact of thousands of other people doing the same thing you realise that we can make a difference for our environment.

More than 27% of all material Hornsby Shire Council collects is now recycled. Under the new system 17,000 tonnes of paper, plastic, glass and steel will be recycled in the coming year, compared to only 10,000 tonnes in 2001/02. Beecroft and Cheltenham residents are supporting the new system as evidenced by the amount of material placed in the various bins.

HONOURS FOR HORNSBY HERITAGE

Hornsby Council's commitment to preserving and promoting heritage items across the Shire has been recognised by the National Trust of Australia, in being selected as the joint winner of the Sydney and Metropolitan area division for leadership in local government heritage conservation.

Council has along history of programs, statutory controls, and initiatives to look after and promote the rich and colourful history of the Shire and the many areas of historical significance we enjoy.

Several of the incentives that Council was applauded for include its Heritage Control Plan, Aboriginal Heritage Kit, Heritage Festival activities, and Local Heritage Assistance Fund to encourage the repair, conservation and restoration of heritage items by helping fund their maintenance.

Civic Trust member Rod Howard is a member of the Hornsby Shire Council Heritage Advisory Committee.

SEPP 5 SURVEY

Hornsby Council recently sent a random sample of 2000 residents across the Shire a survey regarding housing for older people and those with a disability. The surveys will help Council in its strategy to seek exemption from the State Government's planning policy SEPP 5.

Survey forms were sent to residents, aged care facility administrators, industry representatives and developers to ensure views cover all relevant groups.

The controversial State planning policy for older people and those with a disability has stirred much comment within the community. It has been misused by many to establish medium density style developments in low-density residential areas. It is important that this issue be addressed with community feedback to ensure developments of this nature are built in appropriate places.

The findings from the survey will help Council provide better housing for older people and those with a disability and ensure housing is close to support services and community, recreational and transport facilities.

For every survey returned, Council will donate \$5.00 to either the Australian Red Cross Bali Appeal, the Australian Red Cross Farmhand for Drought Relief or the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Rural Fire Brigade.

STATE ELECTIONS

Mark Lyons has stepped down from his position as Secretary of the Trust in order to be a candidate in the forthcoming State election. We wish him well. Our good wishes also go to Councillors Steven Pringle and Matthew Benson and Local State Member Andrew Tink who are all candidates in the forthcoming March State elections.