

One may only guess as to why the installation of the Copeland Road lights has been repeatedly delayed.

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT SURVEY RESULTS

The reply to our public transport survey has been amazing with well over 500 responses being received. Thank you to all who took the time to complete a questionnaire.

Most rate our train service as good (44%) very good (10%) or fair (35%). Responses were evenly split on the general frequency of trains on our line but most felt they would like an improved service during peak times. The majority of respondents can get a seat always (30%) and most of the time (15%). It was felt the trains were clean and comfortable most times (58%) sometimes (29%). Personal safety is a issue (64%). The Trust has undertaken to pass your concerns onto the appropriate authorities.

Most respondents travel to the city and surprisingly travel off-peak. Over half walk to the station (52%) or go by car (44%). Of the 8% who sometimes use the bus, respondents felt the service is poor (33%) adequate (25%) and good (28%).

For those brave enough to try their hand at the ticketing machines about half said they had a problem and those with problems have occurred between 2 and 15 times.

With regard to improvements, more parking spots at Beecroft and Cheltenham stations ranked highly as did traffic lights on Beecroft Road at Kirkham Street and Cheltenham Road. Pedestrians would also like to have safe crossings at these locations.

Many respondents also made comments which will be helpful to the Trust in formulating its policy and direction in regard to transport matters generally.

A full listing of the results can be seen on the Trust notice board in the Beecroft Arcade.

BUSH REGENERATION - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are lucky to live in a part of Sydney where areas of bushland still remain. Our bushland is, however, under threat from the invasion of privet and other exotic species many of them escapees from our own backyard. In 1989 Hornsby Shire Council commenced its Volunteer Bushcare Program. One of the first groups supported by Council was a Beecroft group formed in 1987 working in the Beecroft Reserve.

This small group of volunteers have, since 1991, directed most of their effort in Chilworth Reserve. Other residents have joined the program and worked on areas adjacent to their property. Good progress has been made, but a lot more could be done with more volunteers.

Bush regeneration is the rehabilitation of weed infested and degraded bush into a community of plants which occur naturally in an area. It involves removing weeds and encouraging native plants in their place.

The Beecroft Reserve group have also recently mapped the walking tracks in the Reserve between Pennant Hills Golf Course and Cheltenham Oval. Included with this issue is a copy of the map. A small brochure is also planned.

Congratulations also to the Bambara Bushcare Group who were successful in obtaining a grant from the Lane Cove River Catchment Management Committee to assist in a series of workshops and a planting program.

Volunteers for bush regeneration are needed. If you are interested in helping contact Hornsby Shire Council's Bushcare Program on 9847 6797.

THE URBAN FOX

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NP&WLS) have recently launched a campaign to limit the urban fox population. A brochure funded by the Lane Cove River Catchment Management Committee and prepared by the Urban Feral Animal Action Group, supported by NP&WLS and Councils, has been prepared to assist the community in understanding the problem.

Foxes are predators of native wildlife, and their spread is supported by food scraps, pet food and garbage near residential areas. Community support is possibly the most effective way in the Lane Cove catchment to control their spread as baiting is not possible due to restrictions near residential areas.

We can help by not feeding foxes, not leaving food scraps or pet food outside, advising council of any sightings or den locations and borrowing and setting a council trap, if there are foxes on your property.

Further information can be obtained from the NP&WLS Pest Species Officer, 'phone 9412 1811 or Hornsby Shire Council 'phone 9847 6591.

GRAFFITI

The Trust has expressed its concern to both the RTA and Hornsby Shire Council regarding the increase of graffiti on buildings, signs and other structures in our area. We are currently waiting on advice from them regarding suitable action that can be taken.

HELP REDUCE THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

It is well known that trees will help absorb the nasty greenhouse gases. As trees grow, they take in carbon dioxide, effectively doubling the saving in greenhouse gases. When we plant trees we should choose species which are native to the area. The trees attract native birds which in turn help control insect pests.

Over the period 1995 to 1998 this is just what the Pennant Hills Golf Club has been doing. During this period 13,000 trees, shrubs and other vegetation have been planted around the course. Over 10,000 of the plantings are native species. The virtual forest established through the planting program is effectively maintained by the Club creating their own "Greenhouse Park". Good for the environment and good for the wildlife.

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WALKING TRACKS IN BEECROFT RESERVE

between Pennant Hills Golf Course and Cheltenham Oval

