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BULLETIN 2

September 2000

President
Bob Raymond Phone 9876 4137

Secretary
Gordon Winch Phone 9876 5865

An open invitation to all residents:

WILLIS COMMEMORATION

All Beecroft and Cheltenham residents are invited to attend a commemorative function be held in the Beecroft Community Hall **on Sunday 8 October 2000 at 11.30 am**, to mark the centenary of the death of David John Willis. A former Beecroft resident David Willis died on 1 October 1900 while on military service in South Africa during the Boer War.

Under the direction of Hornsby Council conservation work has recently been carried out on the Willis Memorial which stands near the Community Centre in Beecroft.

Hornsby Councillor, Steven Pringle initiated the concept of a commemoration so that we, as a community, could reflect on our past and the contribution made by earlier residents in erecting the elegant Willis Memorial

The Function will be attended by the Hon Philip Ruddock MP, Member for Berowra and State Member Andrew Tink MP, Member for Epping. In addition Councillors from Hornsby Shire Council, historical groups, the local community and representatives of the RSL will be in attendance.

The occasion will also see the launch of a biography of David Willis compiled by local identity Trevor McCaskill. The book traces the career of David Willis from his youth in Beecroft through the twelve months of military service in South Africa, before his untimely death just short of his twentieth birthday.

The book has received support from the Australian Government through its commemorative program, *Their Service - Our Heritage*.

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.

BEECROFT SHOPPING CENTRE - LOWER CAR PARK SAGA

The Trust considers the Beecroft and Cheltenham community should be aware of the problem that exists with the lower car park at the Beecroft Shopping Centre.

Background. The car park and library were built as part of the development of the lower shopping centre in 1974. The library was leased for a nominal amount to Hornsby Council for 25 years commencing in 1975, but on a separate title. This title included the driveway into the shopping centre as well as the 6 car parking spaces currently fenced off.

In 1987 the shops were expanded to their present size and subdivided into strata units with the car park as common property. The library, driveway and the 6 car spaces were not included in the strata subdivision. In 1999 Council decide not to renew its lease of the library. The land containing the library and driveway was then sold. The new owners are seeking approval to demolish the library and build a shop across the driveway. The strata owners were given the option to either purchase the driveway or relocate the driveway off the title. Relocation of the driveway would result in a substantial loss in car spaces and create a poor driveway design.

As the parties could not agree on a financial settlement for the retention of the existing driveway both parties decided to go their separate ways and move the driveway. The Trust objected to the Development Applications lodged with Council on the basis they were not in the public's interest.

Trust Position. The Civic Trust is not taking sides in what is essentially a private matter, but in the public interest is seeking the best outcome for the Beecroft community. It was the Trust who requested, through our councillors, that a solution might be negotiated through mediation. While the mediation process did not achieve the desired outcome it did open up purposeful negotiation between the principal parties, which is still continuing. To this extent the Trust has achieved its objective.

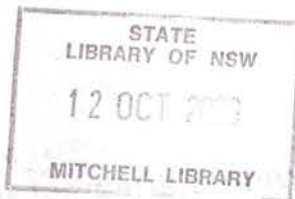
The Trust wishes to place on record its thanks to Andrew Tink MP and C Ward Councillors Robert Brown and Steve Pringle for their support in trying to achieve an amicable solution to a private problem that will impact on the Beecroft community.

ACCESS TO THE BEECROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Council is facilitating discussions between the Trust and the Community Centre Association to solve the long term access problem at the Centre. A number of designs are being considered. A final design is expected soon with construction anticipated to commence this financial year.

WHAT'S HAPPENING MR. SCULLY?

Following a recent serious accident at the corner of Beecroft and Cheltenham Roads in July the Trust has again written to the Minister for Roads and Traffic seeking immediate action to monitor vehicle movements along Beecroft Road. As well as pushing for traffic lights at this intersection and at Kirkham Street, we have also sought the Ministers comment on a 40 kph speed zone along Beecroft Road during school hours. The Trust is concerned for the safety of residents, school children and commuters who need to cross this busy and overused road. To date there has been no comment from the Ministers Office.



A MESSAGE FROM THE C. R. C.

Trevor McCaskill
Chairman of the Board, Cheltenham Recreation Club

In June the Cheltenham Recreation Club (CRC) hosted a planning day with representatives from the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust and Cheltenham Preservation Group. The planning day was facilitated by Eric Adam.

The day was successful and a planning process has been put in place which will develop short, medium and long term solutions for the Club. The success of the processes developed relies on input from the local community.

The following priority areas were identified on the planning day:

- **Vision:** the concept of the future Club
- **Membership:** to determine conditions and new classes of membership
- **Public Relations:** community awareness and consultation
- **Activities:** review of existing activities and prioritisation of potential new activities
- **Facilities:** priorities and costing of improved facilities
- **Finance:** source of funding for proposed activities
- **Lifeboat:** short-term fundraising activities to help the Club with its current financial problems.

An executive planning committee has been established to oversee several project teams, which will address the priority areas.

Members of the community are encouraged to provide input to any of the above priority areas and are asked to contact the Cheltenham Recreation Club, 60-74 The Crescent, Cheltenham, 'phone 9876 2629.

GRAFFITI

Recent editions of the Trust Bulletin have alerted readers to the graffiti scourge that has now hit Beecroft Cheltenham. Nothing is sacred and this hideous form of vandalism has desecrated schools, homes, commercial buildings, parks and railway stations.

This is such an important issue that Local Member Andrew Tink, C Ward Councillor Steven Pringle and the Trust are developing an integrated strategy that addresses this issue from a number of aspects. Council, Police, Chamber of Commerce the Trust and Youth organisations have been brought together to discuss this issue and assist in the planning of the strategy.

A plan involving prevention and action to deal with the problem is proposed including:

- Planting of shrubs and vines to reduce the opportunity for graffiti
 - Improved lighting and minor building modifications
 - Increased Police and Ranger patrols
 - A brochure on graffiti prevention and removal for widespread distribution
 - Consultation with Youth organisations and youth activity programs
 - Instant response is the key to a successful strategy to reduce incidents.
- It is proposed to have a "flying" gang to paint out graffiti immediately in a joint program between Council and the Chamber of Commerce.

Immediately following the Olympics, all stakeholders will be consulted and the draft strategy finalised.

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UP THE GARDEN PATH

What started out to be a way of disposing of lawn clippings and rose prunings has become an odyssey of Olympian proportions. Back in 1994 the General Manager of Hornsby Council volunteered knowledge that garden refuse could be recycled into garden potting-mixes and mulches. When sold back to home gardeners, these products would make a tidy profit for Council. This entrepreneurial venture would use a revolutionary patented process we now know as 'Bioremediation'.

Some six years down the track, ratepayers became aware that the revolutionary new technology lacked scientific back-up, was not a patented process, had involved the Council in considerable expense, and had not recycled a single barrow-load of garden waste nor produced a saleable product.

Faced with this reality, Council convened a public meeting last November at which some 350 residents called for a more thorough study of all technologies available for green-organics collection and disposal in the Sydney region (see February Bulletin). A Steering Committee was set up comprising two representatives of the Northern Sydney Waste Board, three members of our elected Council, two Council staff members, one representative of each of A, B and C Riding ratepayers, one representative of rural ratepayers and one each of community groups North Compass and Planning Power for People. The C Riding representative is the Trust President.

The Steering Committee was assisted by three consultants; Centre for Organics Resource Enterprises (CORE), Meyrick and Associates Pty Ltd, and Molino Stewart Environmental Services. Meetings were held from January to July by which time the Steering Committee was ready to release its strategy report.

All residents are urged to attend a public meeting on this long running saga to be held on Thursday 12 October at 7.00pm in the Council Chambers, Hornsby.

RE-DEDICATION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

We are pleased to report that the restoration of the WW 1 and 11 War memorial is now complete and plans are being made for its re-dedication, probably in November.

All residents will be invited to attend - please watch for further details in our next Bulletin.

BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC.
Annual Membership Year 2000

Membership Subscription

Family \$12.00

Single \$6.00

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(please print)

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