

OCTOBER 11th OCT, 1993

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President Rod Howard Ph. 980 6796 Secretary Paul Goodrick Ph. 980 7129

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, 26TH OCTOBER

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

BEECROFT ROAD, BEECROFT

8:00 p.m.

## BEECROFT-CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST GENERAL MEETING

The Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust will hold a General Meeting at the St. Johns Church Hall Corner Chapman Street and Beecroft Road, at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 26th October 1993. Since the last General Meeting, Hornsby Council has issued its Draft Local Environment Plan (LEP) for community comment. It is important that all local residents understand the implications of this Plan, as it will form the basis of Hornsby Council assessment of future applications for development in the Beecroft-Cheltenham area. Due to the importance of this Plan in forming the future direction of development within our area, the Trust has invited an officer from Hornsby Council to address the General Meeting on the important features of the LEP. The issue of Dual Occupancy development, which was discussed at the last General Meeting, is also covered by the LEP.

The Trust requests that all concerned residents attend the General Meeting, so that they can judge for themselves the impact of the LEP and pass on their comments to Hornsby Council.

#### MONTHLY WALKS

As outlined in our last Bulletin the Trust has this year been conducting organised walks on the last Sunday in each month during the cooler months. Unfortunately the July walk was a "wash-out" since the day was pouring with rain, but other walks have been attended by up to 40 people. In past years we have had as many as 200 people attending our annual "Spring Walk", so we would like to know whether we are doing the right thing; do members prefer one big walk in Spring, or do they prefer to know that there is a walk on every month? Let us know your preferences. Our last walk for the year before the hot weather comes along will be on 31st October (see below) so we are hoping for a big roll-up. Next year walks will start again in Autumn.

# FINAL WALK FOR 1993: I.B.M. and Cumberland State Forest West Pennant Hills. October 31st.

This is your last chance this year so come along and enjoy some bushland outside our own suburb. Meet at the Forest Entrance in **Oratava Avenue West Pennant Hills** at **2:00 p.m.** The walk will take about 2 to 3 hours and will finish off at the starting point.

# CARING FOR OUR BUSH

Since its early days the Civic Trust has been keeping a friendly eye upon our local bushland. One of the joys of living in an area like ours is that our two suburbs are almost surrounded by bushland. However, unless we take an active interest in conserving our bushland then we will have nobody else to blame when it is gone. Our bushland would not disappear overnight, but within ten, twenty or fifty years it would be unrecognisable. The Parks & Bushland Sub-Group of the Civic Trust, amongst other things, organises the monthly walks, and it has members who take part in bush regeneration activities, and others who represent the Civic Trust upon bodies like Hornsby Shire Bushland Committee, and the Lane Cove Valley Union of Conservationists. We also have links with the Nature Conservation Council. The Parks & Bushland Sub-Group has a meeting every month and all members of the trust are welcome to attend this meeting to learn about what is happening in our local bush. (You don't get "elected" to the Sub-Group; if you are interested you just come along to the meetings). If you would like to find out more, or you would like to find out where and when meetings take place, you should contact the Convenor of the Sub-Group Terry Jessop (tel. 876 5507 or 481 9599 during business hours).

### SRA UPGRADING

The State Rail Authority has been busy recently upgrading facilities at both Beecroft and Cheltenham stations. Currently carpark upgrading works are being undertaken at Cheltenham station. It is planned to provide a sealed carpark area on both sides of the station with additional drainage, formed entrance/exit laybacks and provisions for handicapped and bicycle parking.

At both stations, Automatic Ticketing machines have recently been installed which provide a 24 hour ticket selling facility. Cheltenham station has had a ticket machine installed on its western platform, thus saving passengers the trouble of having to buy a ticket from the eastern platform booking office before commencing their trip. The machine on the western platform issues a receipt ticket at a minimum cost, which entitles a passenger to travel on a train, with the full fare adjustment to be paid at the destination station.

#### A THANKYOU TO RESIDENTS

To all those thoughtful residents who have heeded our plea to trim back your bushes and plants that impede the use of the footpath, a big thankyou from all our walkers. To those residents who have not yet responded to our plea we hope you will take a stroll along your footpath with secateurs at the ready to clop back anything that hinders your way.

#### CAR PARKING

Do you ever park your car on the footpath or on the nature strip? Residents are reminded it is an offence to restrict a pedestrian getting by on a paved footpath.

We report, with regret, two resignations from the committee. Firstly, Michael Moore who has done an impressive job as secretary. The Moores are moving from Beecroft and we wish them well in their new house. Secondly, Tony Mobbs who is undertaking further studies- we wish him success. Tony has also made a valuable contribution as publicity officer. We thank both Michael and Tony for their support of the Trust's activities. Paul Goodrick has accepted the position of secretary but...... POSITION VACANT FOR A PUBLICITY OFFICER. If you are interested in working with the committee as publicity officer for the Trust please contract the Trust's President:-Rod Howard- 980 6796(w) or 481 0892 (h).

#### MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Have you received a notice from Hornsby Council informing you of a proposed "dual occupancy" or "cluster housing" development? If so, and you would like assistance then please phone one of the members of the Civic Trust Committee to obtain the "Planning Power for People" step by step guide on how to check whether development applications comply with Council codes.

# HORNSBY COUNCILLOR STEVEN PRINGLE WRITES FOR BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST NEWSLETTER:-

Your Council has may initiatives in progress. Some of the highlights are listed below:

# \* Shire-wide Local Environment Plan (L.E.P.)

This is arguably one of the most important issues for our area as it will shape its characteristics for many years to come. Most residents will have received a summary of this important plan in your letterbox by now. The plan will be on exhibition until 3rd December 1993 and is available at the Beecroft Library as well as all other libraries and Hornsby Council Chambers. Your comments are vital to make this plan a success. The plan is written in plain English and will replace the now outdated Hornsby Planning Scheme Ordinance prepared in 1977 and the seven Regional and State Planning Policies, which must now be observed by Council, including SREP 12 and SEPP 25.

The Plan has a very strong emphasis on heritage and environmental matters and identifies precincts in Beecroft/Cheltenham as heritage areas as well as many individual properties. Beecroft and Cheltenham have been identified as "sensitive areas" and consequently have higher subdivision standards.

In summary, the Plan provides for a variety of housing styles and at the same time recognises the unique features of Hornsby Shire. Under the present State guidelines, an 800 sq.m. parcel of land can be divided to allow one (1) dwelling per 200 sq.m. which cannot be further subdivided although a package of initiatives has been formulated to maintain housing choice.

Hornsby Council is the first council to follow this initiative and has received considerable encouragement from our local State and Federal members as well as the Civic Trust and Planning Power for People. Council also seeks your support to have this Draft L.E.P. adopted by the Department of Planning.

\* Bushland Regeneration Workshop

A bush regeneration workshop will be held on Saturday, 11 November 1993. Professional regenerators as well as volunteer groups will be in attendance to exchange ideas and techniques. Bookings are essential.

\* Catchment Management

The suburbs of Beecroft and Cheltenham form a major part of the Lane Cove River Catchment area which covers 92,000 hectares and where approximately 160,000 people live in seven local government areas. A catchment is an area from which all runoff water flows to a particular destination.

The Lane Cove River Catchment Management Committee is made up of local residents, industry and environment groups as well as Hornsby Council representatives. Its prime aim is to raise public awareness of how individuals can make a contribution towards improving water quality. As a first step, all drain inlets will have "Drains to Lane Cove River" stencilled on them as a very public reminder that grass clippings, leaves, oils, detergents, etc. should not be washed into the drain.

Council will supply the paint and the stencils but needs volunteers to do the work. If you would like to get involved please let me know phone 872 5953.

BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUS	T INC.	
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