

Dr. and Professor Elizabeth Mc Cusker is a resident of Beecroft Cheltenham area.

Neurologist, advocate and pioneer, Elizabeth retired from Westmead Hospital in early 2021 after more than 40 years championing the care of people with Huntington's disease (HD).

Trained in USA in neurology, she returned to Australia in 1980s and joined the fledgling HD clinic at Lidcombe Hospital.

Back then no treatment existed for this fatal genetic condition. Prof McCusker recognised that more could be done and alongside many others fought to help these struggling families.

In 1995 Prof McCusker made the move to Westmead Hospital. This clinic eventually went on to become one of the five largest HD clinics in the world.

She helped position Westmead Hospital as a key participant in crucial and ground-breaking international research.

She is Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology and Secretary General for World Federation of Neurology Research Group in HD.

She was actively involved in educating generations of doctors.

Thousands have benefited from her expertise, kindness, and wisdom.

She has done all of this with the greatest of humility, and compassion for families with HD.

Dr. Elizabeth McCusker was awarded OAM by the Governor-General in the Australia Day 2022 Honours List. for her service to medicine as a neurologist, particularly in the field of Huntington's disease.

Source: <https://thepulse.org.au/2021/01/29/westmead-hospitals-huntingtons-disease-champion-retires/>

Ms Lucie Gabb is a resident of Beecroft-Cheltenham area.

Lucie moved to Cheltenham in 1960 and has been heavily involved with many aspects including the golf club, bridge club, leisure learning programs and rotary.

Lucie retired from a long teaching career which included:

- Teacher/Infants Teacher, West Pennant Hills Infants and West Pennant Hills Public School, 1965-1976.
- Executive Teacher, Berowra Public School, 1976-1981.
- Assistant Principal, Kellyville Public School, 1981-1989.
- Day to Day Casual Teacher, Beecroft Public School, 1990-1993.

She has gone above and beyond to make the Beecroft / Cheltenham area a better place for all. Lucie has done so through active leadership and volunteering through a number of community organisations.

These include the following:

- **At Pennant Hills Golf Club she has held a number of positions including** President, Ladies Committee, 2006-2009, and Coordinator/Mentor for Female Junior Cadet Players, 2010-2014.
- **Coordination of Leisure Learning Programs run out of , Beecroft Pennant Hills Uniting Church**
- **At Rotary Club of Beecroft she was**
 - Judge, Young at Heart Art Awards, Virtual Neighbours Project, Youth Festival, 2020.
 - Paul Harris Fellowship, 2011.
 - Counsellor, In-Bound Rotary Youth Exchange Students, since 2003.
 - Host, Rotary Youth Exchange Students, 1970s.
 - Contributor, Annual Fete, 1974-2005.
- **Cheltenham Bridge Club**
- Australian Bridge Federation Qualified Instructor, since 2020.

This year Lucie was awarded OAM, for service to the communities of Pennant Hills and Beecroft.

Ms. Patricia Dewey retired teacher and historian

- retired as a teacher at Beecroft Primary School (BPS) where she taught from early 1989.
- Patricia is a local resident – having called Pennant Hills home for close to 40 years.
- Patricia has long held an interest in local history – and was both a member of and later president of the Hornsby Shire Historical Society.
- At BPS One of the first things she did was to prepare a booklet showing the places of historical interest in and around the school and for several years children in her various classes would walk around the local area with a copy of the booklet observing the landmarks and recording their own observations.
- When the centenary celebrations of the school were being considered the principal asked her to write a history of the school to mark this significant occasion. This she did – with The book completed in time for the centenary celebrations in 1997.
- At BPS she gathered all the historical resources held at the schools and systemically filed them in a space dedicated to securing the archives of BPS.
- When the North Connex Tunnel was being constructed her thoughts turned to the people who had owned property along its route so she wrote a book, They Lived Along Pennant Hills Road.
- The book was completed in time for the opening of the tunnel. Patricia and her husband were invited to and represented the local community at the official opening of the tunnel as community representatives.

The history of Beecroft Public School, 1897-1997

Ross Walker

Ross Walker has lived, with his wife Coral, in Beecroft for over 30 years. During this period of time he has been an active member of Beecroft life.

He joined the Committee of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust since 1991 until the present and has chaired Committees and served on the Executive during that time including being President for the maximum term permitted and currently a Vice President.

He is a member of the Hornsby Shire Council Bushland Management Advisory Committee and worked in the bushcare programme – primarily in Beecroft Reserve.

Ross is the local Beecroft Cheltenham organiser for Clean Up Australia.

Currently he is the Secretary of Beecroft Mens Probus.

Ross is a surveyor who for many decades worked in a State Government agency with responsibility for State roads. This professional background has given him superior knowledge and skills concerning not just roads but also planning, heritage and the development of a geographical sense of place.

Ross has brought his knowledge and skills to bear in improving the physical environment of Beecroft and Cheltenham.

His contribution extends from the very hands on tasks of weeding bushland, to twice yearly leading Civic Trust bushwalks for well over two decades on the one hand to dedicated honorary service on regional planning panels and advisory bodies for Hornsby Shire Council.

Ross is well known for his long and distinguished service for the local community through his role over decades on the Civic Trust. Sometimes on a daily basis he has reviewed development applications, appeared in development disputes provided advice on heritage and bushcare.

More recently he has served on Probus, connected with the education programme for Beecroft Uniting and is an active member of the Beecroft & District Garden Club.

Ross Walker personifies all that is good and admirable about Beecroft. His contribution over decades to life in our villages is of the highest standard.

Ross has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for Services to the Community.

Ms. Sandra Ross has lived in the Beecroft area for over 40 years,

- During that time she has given her time & expertise selflessly to community events and has been a strong advocate of the Beecroft community.
- Her love and contribution for the community includes:
 - Raising money for the Beecroft Spring Fair (previously run by Lions Club) with Planting programs
 - Tree Planting on National Tree Day in the Beecroft Village Green
 - Advocating for the local community and regularly bringing in outsiders to the Beecroft Community through events that are held at the Garden Clinic such as Cake + Cuttings and Garden Improvement lessons and events.
- She works tirelessly on beautifying and improving the ambience of the streets of Beecroft – planting watering, weeding, plants in planter boxes that line Hannah Street Beecroft.
- Sandra has been instrumental in rallying the local Hornsby Council to be gifted new planter boxes, that have improved drainage systems. These are being installed on Hannah Street in the coming weeks.
- Sandra works continuously with sponsors for generous donations of potting mix, flowers and bulbs, plant food substances, without these donations the beautifying of these planter boxes would not be possible.
- Sandra, supported by her companions, started a Facebook and Instagram page: giving updates, garden tips, run competitions to the local Beecroft Community.
- Sandra has never been one to flaunt her enthusiastic community work yet chooses to lead by example and encourage younger Beecroft community members such as Charlotte to have a love of plants and beautifying and giving back to your local community.

Ms Sheila Woods

Sheila is a resident of Beecroft. She arrived in her new home in Beecroft on New Years Eve 1967 and has remained there to this day.

In 1982 Sheila commenced bushcare in Beecroft Reserve. Working with Jenie Lewis and Esmá Blackmore.

From this point she has worked or organised bushcare groups across Beecroft and Cheltenham.

In a recent Hornsby Shire Council publication celebrating 30 years of bushcare in the Shire she was described as a “Bushcare Legend”.

Contribution to society

Sheila has devoted much of her time for over three decades in caring for the bush in Beecroft and Cheltenham.

Not only has she learnt her bush craft from leading exponents but has experienced the diversity of environments from the Pioneer Track near Ray Park to Observatory Park in the north.

She completed studies at Ryde TAFE to increase her knowledge.

She has always been generous with her time and knowledge in sharing bushcare with others and this is not only amongst the bushcare groups, that she has established, but also in response to general enquiries and students undertaking botany, environmental or bush care related studies.

One of the expert reports obtained during work on the M2 commented that the bushcare in Beecroft Reserve under Sheila, had created one of the best maintained bits of bush in Sydney.

She, together with Ross Walker, lead two bush walks a year for the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust – and has been doing this for decades.

The contribution that she has made to the quality of our environment, and to make Beecroft a destination for bushwalking is of the highest possible standard.

Dr. Tom Reeve is a long-time resident of Beecroft

Professor Tom Reeve AC CBE is Emeritus Professor in Surgery of the University of Sydney where he graduated in 1947.

He has a long history of involvement in oncology practice, research and cancer policy in Australia.

After working in Sydney and Queensland, he trained in General and Thoracic Surgery at Albany Medical College, New York. In 1958, the American Board of Surgery certified Professor Reeve and he became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1967.

He was Chairman of Surgery at The University of Sydney from 1982-1988 and chaired the Northern Sydney Health Area from 1988-1996.

On retirement, Professor Reeve became President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and held a role in Best Practice and Quality activities.

His appointment as Executive Officer by the Australian Cancer Society (now Cancer Council Australia) saw his involvement in the development of Best Practice Guidelines in Cancer.

He has also been a member of the Board of Management of the NHMRC National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre.

In 2019 Royal North Shore celebrated the opening of the Tom Reeve Academic Surgical Clinic.

The clinic was named in honour of Professor Tom Reeve as he was the inaugural Professor of Surgery at RNSH and a previous President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

“Under his leadership, Royal North Shore developed into a centre of surgical, educational and research excellence.

The purpose of the clinic is to acknowledge and build upon the foundations of academic surgery that Tom Reeve created on the campus, and to provide opportunities for surgical outcomes research and clinical trials in a supportive academic environment”