



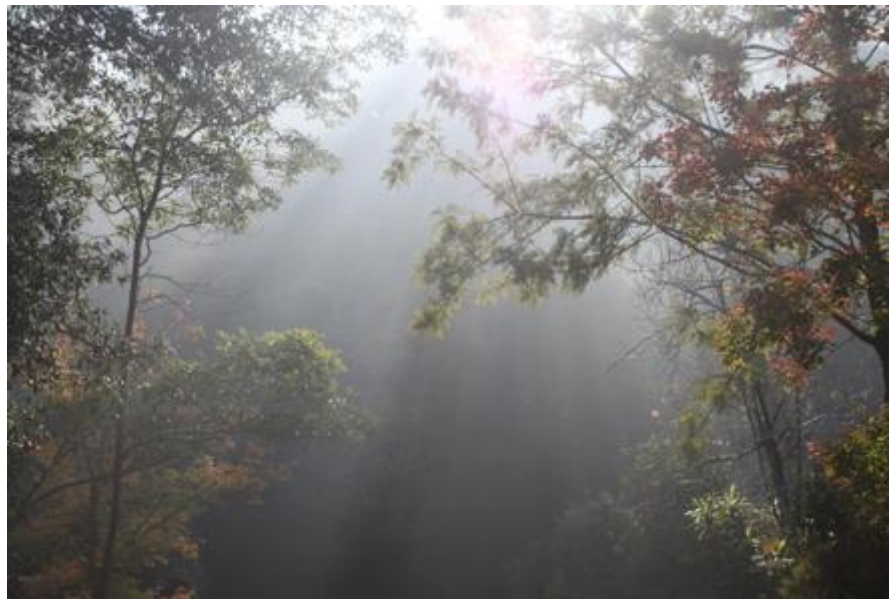
The Hoot

The Byles Creek Valley Union Inc. Newsletter March 2021

We hope this edition of *The Hoot* finds you well. Whilst the rain has caused unwanted problems for some parts of NSW, at least the Valley, the bushland and our local gardens are enjoying the drink and looking wonderful!

At the Civic Trust AGM, our local state MP, Minister Perrottet, promised to meet with BCVU as a matter of urgency to discuss the funds he again confirmed are set aside for Byles Creek Valley!

We will inform you of the outcome of this impending meeting!



We are also pleased to hear that Friends of Lane Cove National Park have noted that as a result of legal prosecution of an environmental breach, they have funds dedicated towards intensive rehabilitation work along the catchment of Byles Creek.

COUNCIL'S NEXT STUDY OF BYLES CREEK BEGINS

Hornsby Council has informed Byles Creek Valley Union Inc. that the study into the lands adjoining the Public Open Space in the Valley has begun. Council has engaged Elton Consulting along with Eco Logical Australia and AEC to undertake this work. The study is to consist of five parts:

1. Existing Situation – review of current planning controls and previous study findings
2. Land Use Surveys – field work and analysis of environmental opportunities/constraints
3. Community Engagement – discussion with landowners, residents and Community Stakeholders
4. Analysis of Information – collate all information obtained from above steps
5. Recommendations – provide planning recommendations based on findings (to be publicly exhibited).

If you would like to have your say at the community engagement (Part 3), please contact Fintan Langan, Strategic Planner, by email : flangan@hornsby.nsw.gov.au and let Council know you want to be consulted prior to the finalisation of recommendations.

POWERFUL OWLS ABOUT



Our Powerful Owls are out hooting most nights with romance in the air as we approach mating season, so keep your ears open for the “Hoo Hoo” and then if you are lucky, the answer from their partner. Please remember to let the Powerful Owl Project (powerfulowl@birdlife.org.au) – or us – know if you see any Powerful Owls (including dead owls as these can be used for research), and do ensure you stay at least 30 metres away from any owls, as they can be territorial and have large talons. They also do not do well with light, so please do not take flash photographs; and if you have bright lights outside, consider turning them off when they are not needed. Powerful Owls often use our road system as their flight paths and as a source of

picking up a slow possum. Consequently, many Powerful Owls are, sadly, hit by cars. Please watch out and drive carefully.

If you find any injured wildlife, please contact Sydney Wildlife as per below

Call the Rescue/Advice Line
02 9413 4300

VALE RAY SLOSS, MARY JO REEVES AND MARGARET McCARTHY

It is with great sadness that we note our community has lost three wonderful people. Not only were these people our friends but they were also warriors for our environment and for our Valley. They all challenged threats to biodiversity and while Ray was out with placards on Old Northern Road, Mary Jo was looking after local gardens and Booth Park, and Margaret was saving trees and heritage at Epping. We thank them all so very much for their selfless efforts to make the world a better place for all. These wonderful souls will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with their families.



Photo courtesy of Michael Bianchino
Ray Sloss fighting for Byles Creek Valley

ENDANGERED SNAILS DISCOVERED ON MIRVAC/ IBM SITE !!!!

A targeted survey by an accredited specialist has recently discovered 18 Dural Land Snails within the old IBM site and the adjoining Cumberland State Forest. This special little snail is listed as Endangered by both NSW and the Commonwealth Governments. Mirvac will now need to provide a revision to the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report– Demolition Stage.

The Dural Land Snail is known to exist only in an area of north-western Sydney. It seems that 90% of these endangered snails do not survive their first year and 99.8% do not survive past four years, hence it seems this find is very important and very exciting! We want these unique, endangered snails fully protected and the approval of this proposal may need to be reconsidered if the impact upon these critters is going to further threaten their survival and numbers. These snails are so rare they are noted as data deficient meaning there is very little known about the needs of the snails nor the best way to protect them. If you are also concerned about the potential impact of the Mirvac



Photo courtesy of Grant Webster

development upon these rare, endangered and very special snails, please write to the following and tell them: **MIRVAC MUST SAVE THE ENDANGERED DURAL LAND SNAILS !!!!**

Hills Council - council@thehills.nsw.gov.au

Hills Mayor - mayor@thehills.nsw.gov.au

Planning Minister Rob Stokes - office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au

Environment Minister Matt Kean - office@kean.minister.nsw.gov.au

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=20283>

Here is the NSW OEH Scientific Committee Listing which contains very useful information especially noting that clearing of Native Vegetation is a Key Threatening Process which has, and is, severely impacting upon the survival of this species:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/threatenedspecies/determinations/PDDuralLandSnailES.docx.pdf>

HERITAGE STUDY

Hornsby Shire Council currently has its Landscape and Archaeological Heritage Studies on exhibition, which closes this Wednesday 31 March 2021. Importantly, if there are heritage gardens or parts thereof, landscapes, public lands (e.g. church grounds, sections of the convict built Great North Road, visual landscapes, street trees, etc.) that you think are worthy of being included in Hornsby's LEP, you need to fill out the recommendation form and email it to these two email addresses, kvickery@hornsby.nsw.gov.au and projects@extent.com.au by 31 March 2021.

This will ensure that your nominations are considered in this Heritage Review. There is no limit to the number of items you can nominate: just use a separate form for each one and make sure you fill out both pages. You don't need to fill out each of the criteria but do make sure you fill out at least one. (We have added the forms as an appendix to this *Hoot*.)

If you need a bit more time to make a submission on the study itself, you can email Katherine

Vickery at kvickery@hornsby.nsw.gov.au and the consultants at projects@extent.com.au

If you can, we suggest you make a submission on the study as well as nominating any Landscape Heritage items. Here is the link to the relevant documents:

<https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/your-say/current-exhibitions/Archaeological-and-Landscape-Heritage-Studies>

DRAFT PUBLIC DOMAIN GUIDELINE

Hornsby Councillors approved the Draft Public Domain Strategy to go on exhibition. There are some wonderful suggestions for what we could have in our important public spaces, and there is also a section starting on page 122 all about potential plans for Beecroft. This, pleasingly, has more street trees and trees to be planted along the Village Green: hopefully, in conjunction with State Rail. However, we have concerns with what appears to be 5 Wongala Crescent shown as a plaza on what is private land.

However, there is presently a proposal for shop-top units on what appears to be this same lot, which covers the site down to basically the boundary with Wongala Crescent. This is puzzling. We also note the bottom of Hannah Street is to be one way downhill, reducing traffic on this section but making access to Beecroft Place very tricky to many residents as well as cutting off one of only two access points via lights to Beecroft Road and the western side of Beecroft. If this is to occur, it would seem another safe route must be proposed, such as lights at the corner of Chapman Avenue and Beecroft Road. This could potentially then allow the bottom of Hannah Street to be a plaza with no traffic.

We hope the heritage shops will be retained, including the Treasure House at 7 Wongala Crescent, but from the plans it appears future development may not mean these are protected. We highly recommend you look very carefully at the full plans as this will affect all residents:

<https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/your-say/current-exhibitions/Public-Consultation-Draft-Public-Domain-Guidelines>

Key Project #2 – Beecroft Civic Plaza



Figure E.31 Beecroft Civic Plaza concept plan

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU TO CHORLEYS

We are very saddened to hear that the Cheltenham Recreation Club has not renewed the lease for Chorley's Café. Luwis and his team have made Chorley's into the loveliest place to have a catch up with friends, with tasty fresh meals, yummy cakes, great coffee and friendly staff. It has been a haven to our community over the last few years and will be missed so very much.

FLASHBACK TO 2017

Remember the Rally for the Valley in 2017? Here we are still fighting and we will not give up! Thank you to you all for your ongoing support of our precious Valley.



Photo courtesy of Michael Bianchino

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

Thank you so very much to those who have paid their membership and to the kind folk who have donated to BCVU. It is greatly appreciated. Our yearly membership is due for renewal in April each year. If you would like to join, renew, or make a donation to Byles Creek Valley Union Inc., you can make a direct deposit of \$10 (with your details included, please) to the following account:

Bendigo Bank – Account Name: Byles Creek Valley Union Incorporated

BSB: 633-000 Account Number: 157229519.

Alternatively, send your cheque to the Treasurer, BCVU Inc., c/o 32 Kethel Rd, Cheltenham 2119.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT BYLES CREEK VALLEY UNION

Please email us at bcvu2119@gmail.com or go to our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Byles-Creek-Valley-Union-Incorporated-144512125967497/>

EXTENT

HERITAGE ADVISORS
TO AUSTRALIA AND
THE ASIA PACIFIC

Hornsby Archaeological Heritage Study & Hornsby Landscape Heritage Study

What are we doing?

Archaeological Heritage Study

An Archaeological Heritage Study looks at a broad area and considers its potential for historical archaeological sites, as well as their likely levels of significance, with identified sites being considered for listing in the next version of the Hornsby Shire Local Environmental Plan (LEP). It also provides clear policies and recommendations to ensure that significant archaeological remains are identified and appropriately managed during the development process.

While it may not capture every archaeological site across the Shire, it will try to locate and map the earliest sites and those identified as being most significant by the local community. This is where we need the community's assistance to understand what is most important to local residents and why.



Landscape Heritage Study

The Landscape Heritage Study looks at cultural and natural landscapes and attributes that may have heritage significance to the community and warrants consideration for listing on the Hornsby LEP. It provides greater detail and clarity around the landscape heritage of Hornsby Shire, as it exists today.

There are three broad categories, that are based on the World Heritage guidelines for cultural landscape types, that are applied to assess culturally significant landscapes. They offer a useful starting point for understanding landscapes. **Designed landscapes** are created intentionally. They include garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons, such as trees, avenues, parks, gardens, cemeteries and plazas. **Organically evolved** or 'vernacular' landscapes have developed over time in response to, and association with the natural environment. Organically evolved landscapes often develop through changes brought about by patterns of use. For example, an industrial landscape evolves around areas of industry like gold-fields or railway lines. **Associative landscapes** are primarily based on religious, spiritual, artistic or cultural connections with the natural environment such as explorers' routes, Aboriginal places, river crossings, places where celebrations have occurred or have stories told about them.



How do we assess significance?

NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria

When we assess whether a place or item is significant, we use the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria to guide our thoughts on the significance of a place and whether it meets the threshold for local or State heritage listing.

Criterion A

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Criterion B

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Criterion C

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

Criterion D

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Criterion E

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Criterion F

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Criterion G

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.)

What information would we like to know?

Archaeological Heritage Study

- Do you know of any historical archaeological sites in Hornsby Shire? Can you provide any further detail about these?
- What types of archaeological sites would you like to see listed on the Hornsby LEP?
- How would you like to see historical archaeological sites in Hornsby Shire managed?
- What types of public outcomes would you like to see from historical archaeological excavations in Hornsby Shire?

Landscape Heritage Study

- What type of heritage landscapes are important to you and your community?
- What other type of heritage landscapes and landscape elements would you like to see conserved?
- With reference to the Hornsby LEP are there any additional heritage landscape sites you would like to nominate?

Get in touch!

If you have any information to add to these studies, please contact us through projects@extent.com.au.

HORNSBY LANDSCAPE HERITAGE STUDY
Potential Heritage Item Identification

<p>Address</p>	
<p>Item Name (if any)</p>	
<p>Property ID (Lot/Section/DP) <i>(if known)</i></p>	
<p>Are you the property owner? (yes/no)</p>	
<p>What type of landscape is it?</p> <p><i>Examples: garden, memorial, group of trees, park, a natural place, a scenic landscape</i></p>	
<p>Do you have any information, or can you provide details of where we can get more information?</p> <p><i>Examples: Local history library, personal family records</i></p>	

**What specific characteristics of this place are important?**

a) Its history	
b) Its connection to an important person/group	
c) Its special heritage look and features	
d) Because an important event happened there	
e) Because it has research value	
f) Because there are not many left	
g) Because it is a classic example of this type of item	
h) Other	