



# The Hoot

## The Byles Creek Valley Union Inc. Newsletter August 2021

### DRAFT BYLES CREEK PLANNING STUDY IS ON EXHIBITION

Please "Have Your Say" on the Draft Byles Creek Planning Study. We hope everyone will write to Council and express support for the implementation of the recommendations of this study. Byles Creek Valley is a unique and glorious part of our Shire, and we are so very lucky to have this gem, rich in biodiversity. The Valley is home to numerous endangered and threatened species reliant upon the protection of Byles Creek and the superb, majestic forests, which provide their sustenance, their protection and their homes.

This study finally confirms what we have been saying for decades regarding the need to further protect the valley whilst still allowing appropriate residential development. It includes several recommendations for changes to planning controls for residential zoned land in the study area, and increased community awareness programs to protect and maintain the environmental qualities for the Byles Creek corridor. Council has stated: "The recommended changes to planning controls outlined in Part 11 include rezoning residential land to E4 Environmental Living, increase to minimum lot sizes, strengthening LEP objectives of Clause 4.1 Minimum Lot Size, new LEP provisions for riparian zones, as well as community education and awareness programs".

The study can be seen here: <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/your-say/current-exhibitions/exhibition-of-draft-byles-creek-planning-study>

We hope you will email Council and express your support for these recommendations being implemented as per this Planning Study. Please also ask your family and neighbours to do the same! Please mark your submission "Draft Byles Creek Planning Study" and email by the close of business on 1 November 2021 to [hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au), [pruddock@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pruddock@hornsby.nsw.gov.au) and [councillors@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:councillors@hornsby.nsw.gov.au).



Although not covered by this study, Byles Creek Valley Union Inc. continues to lobby both Council and the NSW Government to acquire the large blocks in the Valley where potential development poses major threats that are still not addressed. As many of you would have heard, Mr Perrottet, our State Government Member, publicly promised there are funds set aside for the Valley. Please help us by emailing Mr Perrottet at **[ElectorateOffice.Epping@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ElectorateOffice.Epping@parliament.nsw.gov.au)** and ask him to make good on his promise and ensure that Byles Creek Valley is protected, and that these large blocks are acquired.

### POWERFUL OWL BABES

We have had a fabulous start to the Powerful Owl breeding season this year with the hatching and fledging of five chicks to date – but watch this space, as there may be even more. This is a most unusual situation, as our owls for some reason, all breed in close proximity to one another. Whilst this is great for numbers, it seems from the latest research carried out by Dr Mott of the Powerful Owl Program, our owls do not have genetic material that is as diverse as those in other areas. This is yet again why we must ensure we preserve and enhance the connectivity of green spaces, canopy of bushland and urban gardens to allow our owls to breed with owls from further afield. **This is yet another reason to ensure we pressure Council to adopt and implement the recommendations in the Byles Creek Planning Study!** The ongoing, cumulative impacts of further inappropriate residential development is noted by the experts to be further eroding the biodiversity values in the Valley.



As for our owls, please keep your eyes and ears on alert. If you are lucky enough to see our Powerful Owls, please ensure you keep at least a 30-metre distance away and be aware the male will protect his chicks. Please also do let the Powerful Owl Project know (or you can email us, and we can do so on your behalf) noting where and when you saw the birds – but we ask you do not advertise the location, as the owls may reject the chick if there is too much interference!

These youngsters are learning to fly, and the parents will be requiring extra “dinner”. This can mean owls may fly in front of your car, so please do be careful, especially around creek crossings.

### OTHER CRITTERS IN 2119

There have been numerous reports of echidna sightings around 2119. It seems there is romance in the air, so once again, please do be watchful when driving. However, on a more concerning note, there are also funnel webs out and about in 2119. If you do come across a funnel web, be very careful. If possible, safely collect it in a jar with some very small holes in the lid and take it to Hornsby Hospital where the venom will be collected and used to create antivenom.



### 5 WONGALA – MULTI STOREY SHOP TOP DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS WITH BYLES CREEK CATCHMENT

DA/20/2021 is back on notification and can be seen here:

<https://hscenquiry.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/Pages/XC.Track/SearchApplication.aspx?id=1012790>

The plans have been amended but the building height is still non-compliant, the development isolates the corner buildings, and it seems that although we will be losing numerous shops and businesses for this proposal, including Con's Deli and Beecroft Vet, we will only be getting two shops if this development is approved. Furthermore, the outside plaza shown in Council's recent Public Domain Guidelines on this site is nowhere to be seen in this DA.



It appears there have been further investigations, as we have requested. Long-term residents know there once was a service station adjoining this site for many years. It seems this investigation has revealed an aquifer in which the underground water chemical levels “were above water quality guidelines for ecosystem protection”. Therefore, the report states this water must be removed and should not allowed to flow into the stormwater system.

There are multiple maps (for example, see below) showing stormwater drainage leading into a tributary of Byles Creek directly downhill of, and opposite to, this site. We are most concerned with the potential impacts to our creeks and waterways from this proposed development, especially the impact on Byles Creek, the Lane Cove National Park, Lane Cove River and the Sydney Harbour Catchment.





Byles Creek is known to have unique biodiversity, and it also has some of the cleanest water in the Sydney Harbour Catchment. This then flows through the Lane Cove National Park and the Lane Cove River. Although eventually joining up with the Parramatta River, there is no excuse for understating the exceeded levels of contaminants which may enter our pristine waterways by stating the exceeded levels will make little difference due to existing pollution in the Parramatta River, as shown in the screenshot below from the developer's investigation report:

- It is noted that the groundwater at the site is likely to flow into the Parramatta River & Sydney Harbour Catchment area. This catchment is highly affected by urban development. Because of the extent of development, the waterways are affected by poor water quality and a changed flow regime. The waterways have been modified with creeks channelized or hard edged with concrete, wetland have been degraded or destroyed, infiltration of weeds and rubbish is also a

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July 2021  
Detailed Site Investigation, Ref: E2359-3 Rev 1  
Site: 5 Wongala Crescent, Beecroft NSW

Page 12 of 117

significant issue. Therefore, the exceeded GILs / drinking water guidelines will likely have minimal onsite and/or offsite ecological risk to the surrounding environmental and/or development.

Please send a submission regarding these latest plans to **devmail@hornsby.nsw.gov.au** and the **councillors@hornsby.nsw.gov.au**.

### **AMAZING BARANGAROO AND AMAZING STUART PITTENDRIGH!**

One of our local Living Legends, Stuart Pittendrigh, has recently been recognised by *The Sydney Morning Herald* for his wonderful work at Barangaroo Reserve. We have inserted the link to the article below the photo. Mr Pittendrigh's meticulous care for the trees on this site as well as his assistance locally is outstanding. BCUV Inc. thanks Stuart for his wonderful work and achievements at Barangaroo – and in 2119!!



[https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/thriving-barangaroo-reserve-sets-the-standard-for-landscaping-20210624-p5840g.html?fbclid=IwAR0rHCBA7F5\\_7L6wWS4-y\\_1UfBTrB40o\\_6ttMmdszYW0nXGvk0Db-Cc4gMM](https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/thriving-barangaroo-reserve-sets-the-standard-for-landscaping-20210624-p5840g.html?fbclid=IwAR0rHCBA7F5_7L6wWS4-y_1UfBTrB40o_6ttMmdszYW0nXGvk0Db-Cc4gMM)

## **181-183 BEECROFT RD CHELTENHAM UPDATE**

On Wednesday 25 August 2021, BCVU Inc. and three other passionate women spoke at the Land and Environment Appeal in the hope that the community's concerns with the proposed childcare centre would be addressed. Despite the Planning Panel having refused the DA, the Appeal had reached a stage where Council and the developer had agreed upon Conditions of Consent. The Commissioner was still happy to allow us to speak about what we feel are ongoing issues. As a result, the Commissioner has already ensured additions to the conditions and will hand down the final decision when amendments have been made.

## **MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES**

Thank you so very much to those who have paid their membership subscriptions, 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 INC.**

Please email us at [bcvu2119@gmail.com](mailto:bcvu2119@gmail.com) or go to our Facebook page:

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