



BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM

CIVIC TRUST

INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 31, BEECROFT. N.S.W. 2119

BULLETIN 3

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NSW Planning Reforms - Community Information Evening
7.30pm on Tuesday 16 September - Presbyterian Church Hall, 6 Welham Street, Beecroft

A senior town planner from Hornsby Shire Council will present a concise summary of town planning reforms recently announced by NSW Planning Minister Sartor. Some media have indicated the changes would allow a long list of building and development alternations, additions and extensions, without local advice or consultation, and with little or no right of appeal. Learn the facts about how these may impact our homes and *Bushland Shire* lifestyle.

A Bridge too Far!

Many residents were worried by the sudden change in the completion date of the new Cope-land Road Bridge across the railway line - from August to October 2008. Our MP Greg Smith has helped out with the following: *Rail Corp commenced works on the bridge in February. These works are designed to upgrade and update the rail bridge. RailCorp advise that the project should be completed in October, and if you have any further queries regarding this project you can contact the Transport Infoline on 131 500.*

Local Government Elections - what it takes to become a Councillor ...

Saturday 13 September is the day we vote ...

In NSW, there are over 1500 councillors in 152 councils who bring different qualifications, life experiences and perspectives to the role. Local government in NSW today employs more than 50,000 people and spends more than 5 billion dollars annually.

The services it provides range from the traditional town planning and waste management services to community development, environmental protection, economic development and

much more.

The ability of each council to provide effective services and meet challenges largely depends on the calibre of the councillors. Being a councillor can therefore be both a challenging and a deeply rewarding experience. Deciding to stand for local government election is not a decision to be taken lightly

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust is apolitical, and does not endorse candidates. We do encourage good people to nominate for these important local roles. Visit the State Electoral Office at www.elections.nsw.gov.au for further details.

Meet the Candidates Night

8pm, Monday 1 September - Recreation Club, 60 The Crescent, Cheltenham

Local Council Elections will be held on Saturday 13 September 2008. Your Trust is again be impartially conducting an evening for all Hornsby Shire Mayor and C Ward Councillor candidates to address interested residents, then answer relevant questions on issues of local and shire-wide concern. Come along and share an hour or so with them, to learn more about those who are seeking your vote for these key civic offices.

Donation \$5- per person to cover Club costs.

Autumn Walk

On Sunday 18 May some 40 residents enjoyed a professional, informative walk through some streets and bushland of Beecroft and Cheltenham – these included many family groups showing keen interest. Stuart Braga told us of the history of the War Memorial and the Willis Memorial. *Who knew that there had been a private school in Boronia Avenue?* With an excellent reference sheet, Stuart Pittendrigh explained the difference between Turpentine and Grey Iron Barks, Blackbutts and Blue Gums. Ross Walker explained the work of our keen bush regenerators in Chilworth Reserve and the recent financial assistance for this work by Transurban, operators of the M2. The walk started and finished at Beecroft Station with a magnificent afternoon tea.



Spring Walk

Sunday 24 August 2008, starting from Thornleigh Oval (Ferguson Street)

Join us on a walk with a difference. The annual Spring Walk will be on Sunday 24 August 2008, so put a note on your calendar for another enjoyable Sunday afternoon. The walk will start at 2pm and finish at 4pm at Thornleigh Oval. Further details will be available on the Trust's web site. [Details - Ross Walker 9875-4446.]

Local Parking & Traffic - Special Interest Groups

Hundreds of local residents identified local Traffic and local Parking affecting the amenity of our special neighbourhood, when responding to the Trust's March 2008 resident survey. Many expressed interest in taking these key issues further. Two initial short-term groups have been convened from those residents:

1. *Local Traffic* - Special Interest Group
2. *Local Parking* - Special Interest Group

Their work over the next 2 months will be:

- Review the detailed comments residents made about these issues,
- Seek resolution information from Council and other agencies,
- Highlight key issues for action – in a concise Position Paper,
- Seek resident feedback on the detailed issues raised in that Paper,
- Present a revised Policy Draft for adoption by the Trust – and forwarding for Council/agency action and Trust website publication.

If you would like to express your opinion on either of these subjects, please email colinjohnston@bigpond.com, or write to the Trust at the PO Box above.

Petrol Stress - car pooling and other options ...

With concerns for our local environment and difficulties with our public transport system & the rising price of petrol, the Trust would like to hear from local residents who might be interested in participating in a car pooling program. While 2119 residents are generally well catered for travelling to the city for work, those who may need to travel across the suburbs often find themselves without any real alternative to driving their own car.

Two or three people in a car during peak hours has got to be better than the one person to a vehicle, as we generally observe if we take a look around while stuck in a peak hour traffic jam. If you are interested in participating in a car pool with fellow local residents, the Trust would like to hear from you. Please telephone Richard Talbot on 0438 013 211.

Ray Park Heritage Group is holding two events of considerable interest to the community at the Plympton Rd Scout Hall, both 9am to 4.30pm.

Fri 10 Oct - Early Communication and Wireless in Australia.

Saturday 11 Oct - Back to Pioneer Days and Farm Life

The Swinging Social Life of Beecroft Cheltenham – *past & present*

by Catherine Bartho

No. 11 in a series of articles on the history of Beecroft and
Cheltenham

This is the continuation of the History Group's article from the last bulletin.

Four or five times a year, the Beecroft Forum meets over dinner at Pennant Hills Golf Club. This originated from the Presbyterian Church but is now under the auspices of MIAT (Major Issues in Australian Theology). The purpose of these dinners, very moderately priced, with a speaker of national standing, is to provoke thought and discussion about issues of ethics and modern life. They are open to anyone to attend.

The Beecroft-Cheltenham district has long been rich in musical talent. Local schools, both primary and secondary, have reputations for high standards in choral and orchestral music. The Beecroft Music Club flourished during the 1960s, but faded with the arrival of television and new opportunities to hear world standard musicians at the Sydney Opera House which opened in 1973. Choirs are generally linked to churches, though there was the Linnet Girls Choir for many years, and a smaller group called the Northside Singers. For over thirty years, a devoted group met each Friday morning for musical appreciation. Each member was expected to research and present at least one session annually, though the strength of the group was the founder who devoted endless time to sourcing recordings of rare works and presenting her research. The Beecroft Orchestra continues to provide for its audience.

Groups for outdoor leisure activities such as walking, bush regeneration and gardening meet regularly. The Civic Trust has a regular spring and autumn walk, usually attended by between fifty and seventy people. The Lapidary Club has long been established at the Community Centre.

Churches have home Bible study groups and strong networks of caring. Gardens are maintained by rosters of volunteers and occasional working bees to tackle larger tasks. One street has had an ecumenical Lenten group for twenty years. Catholic, Anglican, and Presbyterian neighbours meet together weekly during Lent to pray and this provides great unity in the street. Annual Christmas street parties are popular, some being on a grand

scale. The street which has the Lenten group also had an annual pantomime as part of the Christmas celebrations. This has now ceased but the residents still delight in memories of home-made entertainment.

The Leisure Learning Centre at Beecroft Uniting Church has been a boon for many years, particularly for retirees who have a choice of bridge, Australian History, art appreciation, creative embroidery and mah-jong. Other subjects have been offered when tutors have been available. Neighbourhood Watch has been active for many years, though at the moment is in recess due to lack of volunteers. The Civic Trust is another very worthwhile group which amongst other interests, lobbies with Hornsby Shire Council and parliamentarians when local interests are at stake. The Civic Trust has achieved a large amount for the district in almost fifty years of service.

With clubs such as Rotary, Probus, View and Lions, the residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham are wonderfully provided for. These groups also provide the 'social glue' which keeps the area so focused on retaining all that is good here. Values are maintained and strong family links and friendships through mutual interest groups provide support for residents of all ages.

The Beecroft Cheltenham History Group would like to hear about other social groups, large or small. We want to know more about the Champagne Friday group, the Saturday Philosophy Club and the Bangalow Bangers – just three of smaller groups happily meeting together.

The Beecroft Cheltenham History Group meets regularly – for further details please telephone 9487 7825.

Traffic Induction

The concept of traffic induction was presented by your Trust at the Perleman Enquiry on the above proposed *No Solution* Tunnel. It is a concept that helped persuade Commissioner Marla Perleman, a judge in the NSW Land & Environment Court, to document her support for the Western Option, involving a second crossing of the Hawksbury River. Traffic induction applies to new access corridors.

Traffic induction can operate positively or negatively – depending on the attractiveness of the corridor. The Trust’s initial research indicates that when new road space is created along travel desire lines, its capacity is used up for journey requirements. When this is not the case, for example the Cross City Tunnel (which was not built to interface with travel desire lines), it fails to achieve an acceptable level of use through induction, negative induction results – along with financial failure.

The Lane Cove Tunnel is another example of negative induction. While removing some choke points between Delhi Road and the Gore Hill Freeway, it failed to initially rise to a level of use which justified construction.

Forcing Lane Cove Tunnel induction by reducing Epping Highway through Lane Cove to one lane has created user resistance from motorists who are refusing as much as possible to pay any extra toll. This example of negative induction shows an estimated 20,000 cars have stopped using the Epping Highway between Delhi Road and Gore Hill for morning peak travel.

Positive induction on the outer Western M7 between Camden Valley Way and Dean Park (Blacktown) has resulted because of its coincidence with positive travel desire lines. As a result this section of tollway has experienced one of the world’s fastest corridor usage increases. It has also greatly contributed to economic development, with creation of an estimated 25,000 new jobs in M7 corridor since it was opened.

The concept of induction applied to a Western Option for a new link between Kariong and the M7/M2 via a new bridge across the Hawkesbury should be notably positive.

At the outset, it would eliminate the need for the Pennant Hills Road *No Solution* Tunnel route (20 km longer than the link Western Option between the M7 and Kariong). It would be considerably less per kilometre to construct than a tunnel under Pennant Hills Road. It would follow travel desire lines for many heavy vehicles linking the industry hub of Western Sydney with major freeways to the north, west south and east. It would be more sustainable and efficient than carting road traffic through some of the highest terrain in Sydney.

The additional induction of the western option would be parallel new road and rail construction to better link the northern rail line with those to the west and south, avoiding some 19th century rail engineering and the steepest rail grades in NSW.

The Trust’s research indicates the only real solution to fixing Pennant Hills Road congestion and other problems lies in a Western corridor connection. Though her Review of July 2007 meant the F3 to M7 corridor route selection was conducted under notably narrow terms of reference, Marla Pearlman to her credit, recommended that planning for the Western Connection must commence now. Disturbingly, no action has been taken on this high-level recommendation. The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust’s research indicates that the NSW RTA’s traffic modeling does not consider:-

- Traffic induction
- Community impacts from noise and pollution.

The lack of these factors in RTA consideration is most disturbing.

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