

Thank you, as always, for your interest in what's happening at Council & how to have a say. Here is some autumn news 🍁🍂

Are you in Ward A?

The public forum is coming up: this is your chance to raise issues with Councillors directly.

WHEN: 6.30pm Thursday 11 April

WHERE: The Galston Club

REGISTER: register [here](#)

C Ward is Cherrybrook Community Centre Saturday 1.30pm 15 June

B Ward is Magpies Waitara 6.30pm 15 August

Butt-free Beecroft? 🚭

My campaign to declare Beecroft shopping area a smoke-free zone is going well - and could be rolled out to other areas. I'm going to amend the Smoke-free Policy at the May meeting to include Beecroft - and if other areas signal strong support, they could also be included. Email me if you're keen to have your area included.

No more private meetings 🚫

An update on my work to ban private meetings between councillors and developers and their lobbyists on big rezonings. At a workshop last Wednesday my push for a change in policy got broad support. And I'm on the right track: the state government is very likely to introduce rules by the middle of the year which will make it very clear such private meetings are not acceptable. The issue is likely to come to a public meeting of Council before the middle of the year- where everyone can have a say.

How can we make Galston, Asquith & Mt Colah and Beecroft better? ☀️

Council is doing a survey on what changes people would like to see in these town centres. I am thinking big: blocking off the lower half of Hannah Street for a pedestrian mall; much wider footpaths for pedestrians; trees & bike paths in Asquith & Mt Colah. Have your say [here](#).

Hornsby is much 'worse off' 😞

The premier promised that the residents of Hornsby Shire would 'not be left worse off' as a result of the bungled amalgamation with Parramatta where our Shire lost all land south of the M2. The fact is - we are much worse off. We have been given some compensation but the money is tied to big, fancy projects like the Quarry and the new Westleigh sports area which the local MP Matt Kean could announce with photos and fanfare. But recurrent funding is under real pressure. You can see the numbers for yourself in the recent report to Council from staff (Item 3) available [here](#). It's deeply wrong that all of us will eventually have to pay higher rates to keep our Council afloat because of a political mess created by the Liberal state government.

Meet your candidates 🗳️

There's another election and another chance for change. It's either 11 May or 18 May. And you can meet your local candidates personally 🗳️

WHEN: 7.30pm Monday 8 April

WHERE: Beecroft Bowling Club

RSVP: Just come along on the night - the Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust welcome all residents

Bookworms & travellers: this one's for you!

Monica Tan is a local writer and former journalist (and Greens candidate for Berowra) who has written a book about her 30,000 road trip around Australia. I can't put it down: Monica is great company!

Join Monica, myself and local Indigenous leader Mariko Smith for a conversation about local Indigenous and environmental action.

WHEN: 4-6pm Saturday 6 May

WHERE: The Children's Bookshop, Hannah Street Beecroft

Listen to Monica talk about the book on Radio National [here](#) and read Monica's op ed in The Guardian [here](#).

The next Council meeting is 11 April: watch out on [my Facebook page](#) for all the details or the Hornsby Shire Council website [here](#).

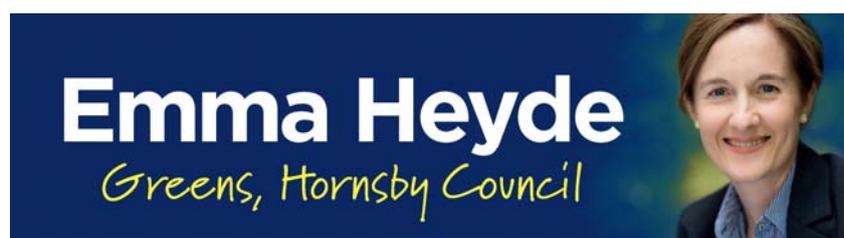
🍁 Have a wonderful autumn week,

Emma

The photo this month is from the event organised by Hornsby Shire Climate Action in Hornsby library. They had snacks, including fruit - and a little compost bin for the scraps 😊 Find details for the group on Facebook [here](#).



PS - please let me know if you don't need these updates any more.



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