



BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC

PO Box 31, Beecroft NSW 2119

www.2119.org.au

bcct2119.blogspot.com

BULLETIN 5

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President

Michael Stove

Acting Secretary

Peter Hewitt

Email

mstove@optusnet.com.au

Email

secretary@2119.org.au

BCCT was established in 1964 and has been protecting our community for 47 years.

We wish all residents of 2119 a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Dates for your Diary

- ✓ **Clean Up Australia Day** – Sunday 4 March 2012. Register at Beecroft Village Green, 9 – 9.30am.
- ✓ **BCCT Annual General Meeting** will be held in March 2012. If you wish to nominate for the committee, please contact the Secretary (see above) for a nomination form. Details next Bulletin.

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President's Report

2011 seems to have flown by, as the end of the year approaches it is appropriate to look back on the year and how Beecroft and Cheltenham were impacted.

However, firstly I would like to thank all of our Bulletin distributors, Brian Sippel and his helpers, for their efforts throughout the year. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for giving up their time for the good of the community. We have a dedicated committee with expertise in advocacy, law, architecture, planning and environment.

This year the Civic Trust has been involved in:

- Clean Up Australia Day.
- Organisation of two very successful bush walks.
- Negotiations to have the Murray Farm Road bridge open with one lane controlled by lights instead of closure and improving pedestrian access.
- Having rail deadeners installed on the tracks between Cheltenham and Beecroft. We hope that TORFMA units will be installed to reduce the flange squeal from freight trains.
- Negotiations with Hornsby Council to improve the outcomes of the Housing Development Strategy for Beecroft.
- Negotiations with Hornsby Council to improve footpaths and drainage.
- Lobbying to save critically endangered Sydney Blue Gums and to improve street tree plantings.
- Reviewing all development applications for properties in 2119.
- Holding displays to inform residents of the impacts of high density housing and of the plans for the North West Rail Line.
- Holding two very successful public meetings and distributing five Bulletins to every residence in 2119.

Why not join the Civic Trust and help protect our beautiful local area- it comes at a very reasonable cost- only \$20 for couples and \$10 for singles. Your membership helps a dedicated group of volunteers to provide strong representation for our suburbs throughout the year. **Please fill in the membership form on page 4 of this Bulletin.**

Standing Room Only at BCCT Public Meeting

Some 200 residents packed into Cheltenham Recreation Club on Monday 31 October for the BCCT open meeting. Guests included Mayor Nick Berman, C Ward Councillors Michael Hutchence, Robert Browne and Andrew Martin, and Council Officers James Farrington and Jason Rawlings. Member for Epping, Greg Smith, was unable to attend.

Local issues raised by BCCT Committee members included Transport, Development and Trees. Very few residents were aware of changes to Council's Tree Protection Order. Noise from freight trains and old locomotives was discussed and residents were informed of a project to lubricate the rails. Despite numerous attempts by BCCT to get someone to speak on the proposed additional northern freight line, no speaker or information was available. The meeting agreed that a western option for freight was preferable. A new application for a lift at Beecroft Station has been made. One resident noted that ramps were preferable as they didn't break down.

James Farrington gave a presentation on the **Hornsby Housing Strategy** as it applies to Beecroft Shopping Village. He explained that Hornsby was required by State Government to find 11,000 new homes and that this would be done in stages. The DCP came into effect on 15 September. *(The DCP can be seen on the internet at hornsby.nsw.gov.au/media/documents/planning-and-building/dcp/area-plans/housing-strategy-dcp.pdf)*

Beecroft Shopping Village has been zoned to provide:

- Residential area adjacent to Chapman Ave to five stories.
- Commercial south from there to the Fire Station mixed five stories.

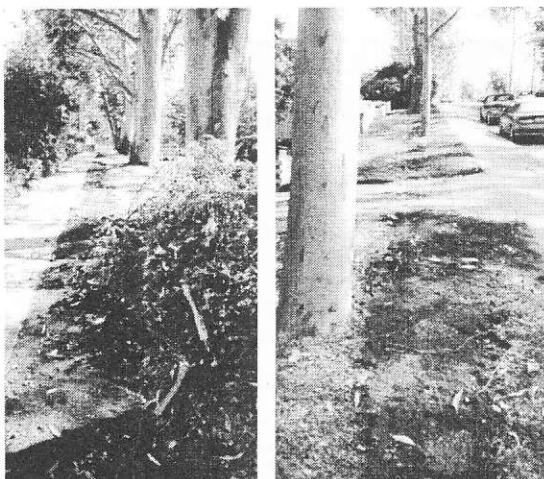
Given that this development has been imposed by Government against the wishes of the majority of residents, BCCT has been meeting with Council to gain the best possible outcomes and concessions for Beecroft. As a result, the DCP makes specific mention of the special requirements of heritage precincts - specific to Beecroft - and includes greater setbacks, restrictions on size and finishes, the retention of trees, walkways and open areas. As a result of our negotiations, Beecroft received some 20 pages in the DCP in comparison with other suburbs with only 1 or 2 pages.

Questions were raised about parking. Parking requirements are defined for residential, commercial and retail developments. Council has no obligation to provide parking and State Government is responsible for commuter parking. Residents also asked about the need for additional schools, hospitals and sporting facilities and were told that State government gazetted the rezoning without any public strategy to resolve these issues. The need for traffic studies was raised. Other issues included quality of development, provision of a supermarket and that there would be no compulsory acquisition of properties.

Discussion of the former Congregational Church in Cheltenham, home of the Golden Kangaroos, resulted in the meeting passing a motion "This meeting wants the council to retain community ownership and use of the former Cheltenham Congregational Church".

Residents then had the opportunity to discuss issues with individual representatives over tea and biscuits.

Damage to Sydney Blue Gums in Cardinal Avenue



A row of significant mature Sydney Blue gum trees located within the Cardinal Avenue nature strip had their roots prejudiced and probably severed during the installation of communication cables, laid into a newly installed Optus box. This work may very well result in the death of these trees, which have taken many decades to reach maturity.

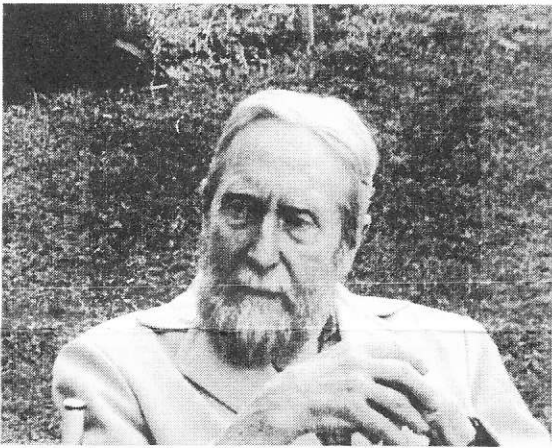
Blue gum trees belong to a Critical Endangered Ecological Community, and are protected by a Threatened Conservation Species Act. The cutting of roots close to the trunk within the structural root zone affects the tree's stability and cutting roots further to the drip line of the foliage, known as the tree protection zone, severs the important feeding and anchoring roots. This work is in complete contravention of AS4970 with regard to tree impacted by construction.

BCCT has written to Optus and relevant authorities to investigate this and to seek remediation and compensation. If you see any similar activities in your street please contact BCCT secretary@2119.org.au or PO Box 31 Beecroft.

We Remember

2011 saw the passing of two prominent Beecroft residents who contributed much to improving our beautiful environment. The community thanks them for all they have done for us. Our love and thoughts go to their families.

John Noble



The Beecroft and Cheltenham Civic Trust lost one of its founding members on 8 September 2011. John Noble was a true environmentalist, one of those special residents who in his own quiet unassuming way had the foresight, determination but also the perseverance to protect the suburb's natural environment. He was one of the pioneers of bush regeneration many years before it became a household word. John met his wife Grace while bushwalking with the Sydney Bushwalkers Club. Together they purchased a vacant lot in Fiona Street Beecroft soon after WW2 and, after building their house remained in the same house for over 50 years and raising their family of three children.

A mechanical engineer by profession John recognised the significance of bushland protection and the need for its long term management. In bush regeneration circles he was revered as a pioneer and inspired others in the Beecroft and Cheltenham community to take on the challenge of preserving our local bushland. He started a small local group as early as 1965 to remove the weeds that sprang up in Devlins Creek Chilworth Reserve following the disturbance caused by Sydney Water when installing the sewer lines.

In 1989 John began the regeneration of the remnant indigenous understorey vegetation in Observatory Park at the intersection of Pennant Hills and Beecroft Roads. It was through his perseverance and hard work that the NSW Scientific Committee and the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney recognised Observatory Park as an important remnant of Blue gum high Forest. Hornsby Shire Council consequently published John's book "Red Hill Observatory Park, Its history and regeneration"

Many of his achievements were small but over time significant. Like when his daughter Dorothy was at Cheltenham Girls High School and many of the trees were to be cut down. John joined the school's gardening committee and was instrumental through persuasive argument in the preservation of many of the trees in the school grounds. John also was heavily involved in the Trust's preparation of the original Plan of Management of Pennant Hills Park in 1976, years before plans of management became obligatory under state legislation in 1993 for public assets such as bushland.

John was always a keen photographer and over the years built up a large collection of photographs. He developed an interest in spiders using macro photography and developed an ongoing relationship with the Australian Museum, to such an extent that the Museum made him an Associate and colloquially described him as their 'spider man of Beecroft'. The Museum has a full collection of his photographs and has even credited him with the identification of new species.

John was instrumental in the formation of the Civic Trust in 1964 and together with Marie Byles, another local environmentalist, ensured the Trust's constitution contained a strong environmental focus. John remained on the committee for many years and on the Trust's bushland sub committee for over 40 years. John was made a life member of the Trust, in recognition of his contribution to the environment.

Noble by name and noble by deed, John lived for 95 rewarding years, undoubtedly benefiting from his outdoor lifestyle.

Donald Bartho



Donald was born on 15th June 1933 and spent his early years in Watford not far from London. He attended Merchant Taylors one of Britain's famous private schools. He became a Kings Scout and attended the World Jamboree in Austria. He qualified with honours in electrical and mechanical engineering and in 1957 was required to do his two years of compulsory national service which he chose to do in the navy. The navy took him to the far east to Cambodia, Japan and Hong Kong.

In early 1961 he met an Australian girl while on a skiing holiday in Austria who was to capture his heart and by June that year he was flying to Australia to marry her. Catherine was to be his wife for the next fifty wonderfully happy years. They moved into their Beecroft home in 1963.

Donald has always been generous with his time both for his family and for the community. In the early years it was mainly with the church, running the fruit and vegetable stall at the annual fete, painting the hall and mowing the lawn and also playing in the church cricket team. As his three daughters grew he joined any working bee and was chairman of the committee running the art show at Cheltenham Girls School. He helped plan the building of the Guide Hall in Beecroft and had a fall while painting the high ceiling. The guides awarded him one of its top honours.

On retiring he found much pleasure working with the local bushcare group in Chilworth Reserve where he had enjoyed taking his daughters for walks on Sunday afternoons when they were small. He worked with the group every Friday morning for almost ten years until his health required him to slow down a little.

The last few years of his life presented Donald with many challenges and problems which he accepted along with all the good things of his earlier years. He never complained and remained good company and cheerful, especially in some of the caring situations where a sense of humour was needed. Donald died on 5th August 2011 sustained by his faith and his wife and family.

The service at St John's on 12th August was inspiring and attended by over 400 people from near and far. It was a memorable occasion for a remarkable man.

Join the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION FORM 2012.

Fees are \$20 household (two adults), \$10 individual

Surname (1) First name (1)

Surname (2) First name (2)

Address Post Code
Street address preferred Suburb

Phone Number (02) Mobile No.....

E-mail address

Membership fees \$ as noted below. Do you require a receipt? YES /NO

Post this form to PO Box 31 Beecroft with your cheque or

*Deposit BSB 062 113 Commonwealth Bank Beecroft Account 10068238 or

*Electric Funds Transfer from your bank account via computer BSB 062 113 Commonwealth Bank
Beecroft Account 10068238. NB Use your name as reference.

***If you use either of these methods, please send a copy of this completed form or the same information to The Treasurer, PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119 OR e-mail to treasurer@2119.org.au so that we can update our records. Thank You.**