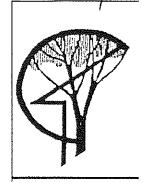
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BULLETIN 1

February 2015

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50 Years of Community Action Get Active and Fight to Protect your Community

Want to be better informed?

Your Trust delivers these bulletins regularly – many thanks to our dedicated team of 40 volunteer distributors! You might also check our website and weblog at www.2119.org.au. If you would like more regular monthly updates – and give your opinions on emerging issues, please join some 600+ Trust members and friends, who receive concise Trust emails. Just email comment@2119.org.au and we will keep in touch!

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Meet the Candidates for Epping

Thursday 19 February, 8pm, Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall, rear 6 Welham St, Beecroft

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust invites you to meet the candidates for Epping in the State election to be held on 28th March. To date, the candidates are:

Darryl ALLEN - Christian Democratic Party

Kerry FOX – Independent

David HAVYATT - ALP

Emma HEYDE - The Greens

Damien TUDEHOPE - Liberal

If more candidates register, they will be invited.

Come along and hear what they have to say on the critical issues affecting us and our suburbs. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Australia Clean Up Day- Sunday 1 March Clean Up Beecroft and Cheltenham

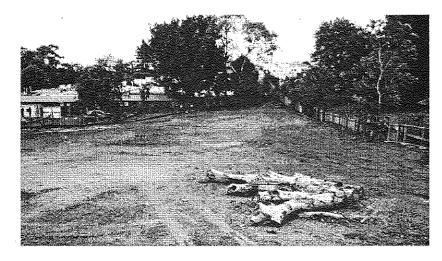
Be part of this great event in its 25th year. We encourage you and your family and friends to participate for an hour or so and make a difference. The Civic Trust will again have the Village Green as a registration site and from there you can go to specific areas to clean up.

Register between 9 and 12 at Beecroft Village Green.

- You must register for insurance purposes.
- Children must be supervised by an adult.
- Wear suitable clothes, closed in shoes and bring a hat, sunscreen and water.
- You will be provided with gloves and collection bags. Sharps containers are available.

Development in Beecroft

Following the approval late last year of 2 more applications for demolition and units in Chapman Ave, some 300 units have been approved in this area. One site has begun clearing. Looking from the car park for the village Arcade, you can see how many beautiful trees will be lost as the other sites are cleared. As well the Module redevelopment was approved in December.



Biobank for Beecroft and Cheltenham?

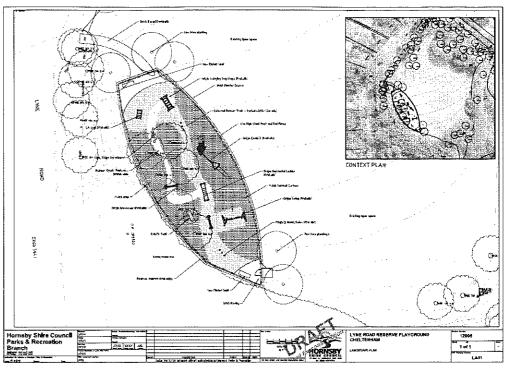
With the destruction of so many trees in our community it is to Hornsby Council's credit to have approached Transport for NSW (TfNSW) regarding the possibility of creating a local biobank to offset the environmental losses from the NWRL and ETTT.

ETTT and NWRL originally proposed a biobank in the Cumberland Plain which would do little to offset the environmental losses in Beecroft and Cheltenham. The development site at 79-87 Malton Road, Beecroft was rejected because the size of the site is 0.68 ha is considered by TNSW to be inadequate for biobanking to be a viable option. Hornsby Shire Council has recently advised that it has secured vegetation offsets for 9.2 ha of Blue Gum High Forest in Upper Pyes Creek Reserve and New Farm Road Bushland Reserve which are also not located in Beecroft or Cheltenham.

There is another site behind 65-79 Malton Road in Byles Creek that is 1ha in size and the Trust hopes council will consider putting this site forward as consideration for the biobank. This site has been shown to contain the now endangered species of Gang-gang Cockatoo, Callocephalon fimbriatum.

Lyne Rd Reserve

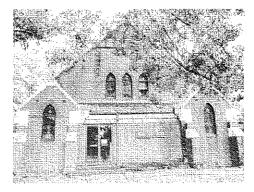
We congratulate a group of Cheltenham residents for offering Council a better plan for this area which will include a better children's playground, recreation areas and dog off leash area. The construction is expected to start in February with wooden playing equipment and monkey bars, improved paths and fencing. We look forward to this area being completed as it is a replacement for the loss of facilities at Cheltenham oval due to the North West Rail Link. The new plan is:



Cheltenham's Historic Old Church

The former Congregational Church property & informal car park at 179 Beecroft Road, Cheltenham [owned by Council], was previously used by the *Golden Kangaroos Band*. The *Golden Kangaroos* are now being relocated to the Beecroft Community Hall. Maintenance of that property indicates repairs are needed. Council has recently upgraded the *Roselea* Community Centre and says that venue is available for the Cheltenham community to use - as well as the Beecroft Community Hall. Council therefore intends the above church property Cheltenham to be sold. At its 12 November Meeting, Council voted unanimously to dispose of the 2 lots of land and heritage-listed church. Council's General Manager has indicated to the Trust that disposal action will commence in 2015.

The Civic Trust has conducted a survey of resident's views on this. The majority of respondents (75%) opposed the sale of the Church. If retained, 87% thought it should be used for Theatre and community meetings and 83% for a Gallery and Art Centre. If sold, most wanted the money used for recreational facilities and public reserves in Cheltenham. Some 88% opposed its use for medium density housing and 76% opposed its use for 2 single dwellings. 48% approved its use as a church and carpark. Full analysis of resident's views will be sent to Council.



Closure and Gifting of Epping to Chatswood Rail Line

On Monday 19 January, key members of Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust and the Save Beecroft & Cheltenham Alliance were amongst those who addressed commuters on the very questionable interim closure, then downsizing to Metro, of the highly successful Epping to Chatswood Rail Line. This publically funded line built at taxpayer expense, will then be gifted to a private overseas company. The line will be closed for some 6 months for modifications and commuters will have to travel by bus to Macquarie University, Macquarie Park, Chatswood or St Leonards. This will add to the already congested roads and increase travel time.

Trust President, Kent Ross, noted that, when completed, Beecroft and Cheltenham residents and those further north will be without a direct line to the City as trains via Strathfield will terminate at Central. Commuters would require 6 train journeys daily to travel return via Chatswood to stations beyond Chatswood. An alternative would be The Hills Bus Service direct to the city – Route 651 which will enable Beecroft and Cheltenham residents to avoid what will no doubt be a very busy Epping station and the delays in passing through Chatswood. Their timetable can be accessed at http://www.cdcbus.com.au

Why Join The Trust – your memberships and kind donations are our only source of income. The committee of volunteers works tirelessly representing the Community at Council and with state and federal MPs. We lobby for our community and to preserve our heritage and environment. We are frequently asked to assist residents regarding developments and other matters, all done on a voluntary basis. Your subscriptions pay for the 4 or 5 Bulletins we have printed and delivered to all households in 2119 by our volunteer deliverers. We hire halls and provide refreshments for public meetings and conduct two guided walks a year. Help us to help you by joining.

Join the Trust Now and Support your Community

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