

Northwest Metro will lead to overcrowding at Epping Station

Epping Train Station is in danger of overcrowding when the new Metro line becomes operational according to reports prepared by a consulting firm and outlined in an article by Greg Miskelly of the ABC. **For the full article:** www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-20/overcrowding-fears-for-sydney-train-stations/8449138



Crowding at Sydney train station
Photo: Joel Forbes

Epping Maintenance

A Trust member recently reported a splash hazard at the bus stop in Rawson Street. Through his efforts the problem was rectified by Council. Members are encouraged to report maintenance problems to Council. **Parramatta Council Ph. 9806 5050 or email council@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au**



Rawson Street splash hazard

Repairs by Council

Vale Alex McAndrew

Highly respected local author and historian, Alex McAndrew passed away peacefully on 3 March 2017, aged 88 years. Alex was born in Drummoyne on 18 June 1928 and married Valerie, his sweetheart of five years on 9 January 1954. With the assistance of his father, he owner-built their family home in Dunlop Street Epping, taking up residency in the home in 1956. Valerie and Alex had three children, Mark, Janice and Lynda, and later adopted a son, Peter. Alex excelled academically and won a scholarship to Sydney University before beginning a career as a teacher of foreign languages in high schools. In 1968 he took up the position as the Director of the Language Study Centre at Sydney University.

In his retirement years, Alex started writing illustrated books depicting the history of various districts he had a passion for - such as Epping, Carlingford, Mobbs Hill, Conjola, Ryde, Mollymook, and many more - some eighteen in total with experts commending him on his extensive and accurate research.

Alex was a long serving member of Epping Civic Trust and he will be remembered for the outstanding contribution he has made to our local area. He will be sadly missed by all those who were fortunate enough to meet him and our sincere condolences go to his wife and family.



Vale Jean Sneddon

Jean Sneddon passed away on 24 March 2017. Jean was the widow of Andrew Sneddon, an original member of the Trust and later an Alderman and Councillor for Parramatta City Council from 1974 - 1983.

Jean was very active in the Trust in its early years from 1971, at a time when meetings were held in private homes. As funds were low and membership numbers far less than today, it was necessary to hold social functions to raise

money. Jean was always very involved in organising these functions to ensure their success.

She was a very hospitable and welcoming person to both existing and new Trust Members.

Her Memorial Service was held at the Epping Presbyterian Church on Friday 31 March, 2017. Our sincere condolences go to Jean's family.



EPPING CIVIC TRUST
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Meeting Dates for 2017:
Tuesday, 15 August
Tuesday, 21 November

Church of Christ Hall,
31 Bridge Street, Epping
at 7.30pm

- **PRESIDENT** - Graham Lovell Phone: 9872 4950
- **VICE PRESIDENT** - Graham Medhurst Phone: 0434 356 361
- **TREASURER/ MEMBERSHIP** - Alan Swales, PO Box 2509, Carlingford Court 2118 Phone: 9869 1954



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Representing the community since 1971

Newsletter

May 2017

NEXT MEETING: ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Epping Civic Trust will be held on **TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017** in the Church of Christ Hall, 31 Bridge Street, Epping at 7.30pm.

AGENDA: ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

1. New website progress report
2. Development report
3. Epping Town Centre planning review
4. Heritage conservation areas
5. Epping road works
6. General business

CALL FOR SUPPORT

Graham Medhurst, Vice President

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter.

Our President, Graham Lovell, alerted members in our February newsletter that the Trust is struggling to keep up with the issues that come before it. This problem has reached new heights since our last general meeting with Parramatta Council now conducting planning reviews into four Epping town centre issues with a great deal of community consultation. This is all very well, but at the same time, Council is also seeking input into eight of Council's draft plans and strategies, a town centre survey and Council's 2017/18 operational plan. This is without considering regulatory issues with developers in the town centre and issues of concern to our North Epping members. This workload is way beyond the capacity of the Trust to manage in its current operational form.

Graham Lovell has asked for more members to become



actively involved in the work of the Trust and some members have responded to this call. Their offers of support are very much appreciated and are progressively being taken up. However, we are still seriously under resourced.

A decision made at the last general meeting could however be the saviour of the Trust. That decision was to proceed with updating our website and to thereby provide the Trust with greater access to technology, and to use that technology to gain access to a wider audience in the community. As well as gaining a wider support base, it is our expectation that the use of social media will enable the Trust to recruit more active volunteers from the community to assist with our work and to make that work more efficient.



The changing face of Epping

NSW State Budget

Our local, MP Damien Tudehope has told the Trust that he has lodged some projects with the Treasurer for inclusion in the budget. The nominated projects are (in priority order):

- ▶ Widening of the Epping rail bridge.
- ▶ A bicycle track between Beecroft and Epping. It is understood that this project was nominated by the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust.
- ▶ An extension of the light rail between Carlingford and Epping.

Mr Tudehope was doubtful that the Government would be prepared to fund the light rail extension in this year's budget. The NSW budget is not expected to be announced until late June 2017.

Boronia Park update

The Trust has been advised that Council is proposing to substantially increase the size of the existing Council storage shed located near the Kent Street entrance of Boronia Park. The Boronia Park Committee has written back to Council stating that they are unconvinced of the need for expansion of the existing building.

The Committee believes that the new storage area encroaches upon and impacts the natural fabric of the park, and that Council should be increasing rather than decreasing the amount of open space available to cater for the rapidly growing number of residents in the area.

As such, the Committee has recommended that rather than converting the current storage space of the existing building to provide a large amenities/lunch room for Council staff, who may not even work in the park, Council should instead cater for the needs of staff at another location nearby, in less restricted reserves. The use of prime open space immediately adjoining a soon to be major CBD is not considered appropriate.

Council has also been advised by the Committee that if a new storage area is required for a mower, this could be provided in the proposed modified sporting pavilion, as it

appears that this can be built without impacting the grassed or planted areas of the park.

The Trust supports the Boronia Park Committee's recommendation that the existing Council storage shed should not be expanded and encroach on parkland.



Existing storage shed at Boronia park

Epping Aquatic Centre update

The local pool has just closed for the winter, after a successful season. The City of Parramatta Council took over the running of the facility in August, and had to undertake more than \$200,000 of immediate works before opening the pool in October. With increased promotion and better management, the pool has seen a sharp increase in patronage. The "Learn to Swim" lesson program has been expanded, and squads in the main pool added. Schools have been welcomed back for training, lessons and carnivals. The appearance and upkeep of the area surrounding the pool has been greatly improved.

During the winter closure, the Council needs to undertake essential maintenance to meet building code regulations - legacy work left after years of neglect under Hornsby Council. The small gym has closed, as the equipment was not maintained to standard, and the space will now be used for the Swim Club. The old demountable will be removed, with plans to turn this pool deck area into a small café or shop for next summer. Following the closure of Parramatta pool, some equipment will be reused at Epping. Clubs and squads have relocated to the Dence Park facility.

The Save Epping Pool Group continues to lobby Council to start planning now for a major renovation of the facility to meet the increasing need of the Epping community, as it is set to grow substantially in the coming years.



Existing demountable to be removed

Development Report

Look at what is going up in Epping

The major 'Forest Park' development proposal at 2-18 Epping Road, 2-4 Forest Grove and 725 Blaxland Road is being assessed by Parramatta Council. This proposal will be subject to Council's planning review which is currently underway (see report on the right provided by our colleagues from Save Epping's Forest Park Action Group).

The development application at 24-36 Langston Place (one 22 storey tower) was on public exhibition until 4 May, and subject to further information from the applicant, will be assessed by Council. It will be determined by the Central West Planning Panel.

The development application at 12-20 Langston Place (three towers 14 to 27 storeys) is being assessed by Council. It will be determined by the Central West Planning Panel.

The new development application at 37-41 Oxford Street (two 22 storey towers) is currently on public exhibition. Following assessment by Council, it will be determined by the Central West Planning Panel.

The amended development application at 30-42 Oxford Street (two 22 storey towers) is being assessed by Council. It will be determined by the Central West Planning Panel.

The development application at 44-48 Oxford Street (one 22 storey tower), subject to further information from the applicant, will be assessed by Council. It will be determined by the Central West Planning Panel. This application includes the demolition of a heritage cottage.

The development application at 50 Oxford Street (school redevelopment to five storeys) is being assessed by Council. It will be determined by the Central West Planning Panel. This application involves the destruction of all the trees on the site.

The development application at 123 Ray Road (boarding house) has been approved by the Land and Environment Court. The conditions of approval included a reduction in room numbers, improved setbacks and landscaping.



Cambridge Street Epping, eleven storeys and going up

Austino Property Group's Planning Proposal 2-18 Epping Road, 2-4 Forest Grove and 725 Blaxland Road

On 13 March, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) advised the City of Parramatta Council they had been appointed as the Relevant Planning Authority for this development. This allows the Council to consider the planning proposal in the context of the wider Epping Planning Review before progressing it to the DPE through the gateway determination processes. The Epping Planning Review Draft Discussion Paper is currently scheduled for exhibition in July/August, so the planning proposal is not expected to be progressed by Council until then at the earliest.

A letter to Save Epping's Forest Park Action Group from the Greater Sydney Commission's District Commissioner, Professor Edward Blakely states:

"The Planning Proposal would need to await the outcome of either Council's studies or resolution of the matters identified by the former Panel [Joint Regional Planning Panel] in its advice of 22 September 2016."

The Action Group is concerned that the recommendations by the Panel for the planning proposal could potentially be overridden by the findings of the Epping Planning Review so that the matters raised are not required to be addressed. Details of the actions recommended by the Panel are noted in the Trust's Newsletter for November 2016. The Action Group will be lobbying to ensure that the proponent will continue to be required to address the Panel's recommended actions, should they not be supported by the findings of the Epping Planning Review.

The Council received a further 590 signed "Save Epping's Forest Park" petition sheets after the Action Group delivered a bundle with 557 signed petitions on 18 January 2017. This shows over 1,000 Epping residents support the need for more open space in Epping and do not support this planning proposal.



Forest Park Epping



BPN Submissions for GSC District Plans and EP&A Act Reforms

Our colleagues at the Better Planning Network (BPN) have lodged submissions on the draft Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) District Plans and the Government's proposed reforms to the Environmental Planning & Assessment (EP&A) Act.

The submissions can be viewed on the BPN website: www.betterplanningnetwork.org.au and going to the Resources directory and then the Submissions tab.