

**Report from Hornsby Councillor
Emma Heyde (C-Ward)**

Here is the news for North Epping:

Better buses - I recently met with our local MP Damien Tudehope about more frequent 295 buses for North Epping. He said he would look into it, and also provide more information about KeoRide bus-on-demand service to Macquarie Park.

Tree planting - Council has been planting its 25,000 trees on bushland verges and parks. Come 2019, they're hitting the streets! North Epping is likely to be a huge beneficiary with at least 400 trees planted to create cool, green avenues.



Emma Heyde and Ross Rapmund at Hornsby Nursery

Waste - Council has had a major setback in considering what services to offer residents in the future. The Environmental Protection Authority has stopped companies processing the organics out of red bin waste. Extracting the organics was an option for reducing Hornsby's waste to landfill. But there are other options: more on that in early 2019. In the meantime, the simple message is for all of us to consume less.

Skate park - I presented to Council young North Epping resident DJ's petition with 112 signatures on it for a skate park in North Epping. Next steps: deciding if this is something the wider community wants and where it should be located. Let me know if this is a proposal you support.

I hope you enjoy a very happy, safe and peaceful New Year!

Trust Survey on Community Infrastructure



Thank you to all members who took part in the Trust's Community Infrastructure survey in October 2018. Results were shared at the November General Meeting, but also with our local councillors.

Subsequently, Cllr Donna Davis moved a motion at the last Parramatta Council meeting of the year to have the survey acknowledged and instructing Council staff to consider the survey outcomes in any planning for both the Rawson Street car park site and the Epping Library site. This was supported by Cllrs Wearne and Bill Tyrrell.

Shopping Trolleys

48 abandoned shopping trolleys were counted on one block near Carlingford Court Shopping Centre! The Trust has contacted Woolworths and Coles requesting their action.



Useful Contacts

Members who have concerns about issues in Epping are always free to contact the Trust through our email or website. However, if you have issues that you would prefer to discuss with our elected representatives, here are their contact details:

**City of Parramatta Council,
PO Box 32, Parramatta NSW 2124**

Councillor Lorraine Wearne
Phone: 0416 035 817
lwearne@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Donna Davis
Phone: 0447 745 402
ddavis@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Bill Tyrrell
Phone: 0488 666 335
bttyrell@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

**Hornsby Shire Council,
PO Box 37 Hornsby NSW 1630**

Councillor Emma Heyde
Phone: 0403 589 722
ehayde@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Vince del Gallego
Phone: 9847 6666
vdelgallego@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Michael Hutchence
Phone: 0466 008 375
mhutchence@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Member for Epping, Damien Tudehope
Suite 303, level 3, 51 Rawson Street, Epping
Phone: 9877 0266
epping@parliament.nsw.gov.au



EPPING CIVIC TRUST
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PRESIDENT: Janet McGarry (0408 071 707)
VICE PRESIDENT: Mike Moffatt (0421 859 070)
TREASURER: Alan Swales (02 9869 1954)
PO BOX 2509, Carlingford Court 2118

Ordinary General Meeting dates for 2019

Tuesday 19 February, Tuesday 21 May,
Tuesday 20 August, Tuesday 19 November
at 7.30pm

Church of Christ Hall, 31 Bridge Street,
Epping



EPPING CIVIC TRUST

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Newsletter
February 2019

NEXT MEETING: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Epping Civic Trust will be held on **TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2019** in the Church of Christ Hall, 31 Bridge Street, Epping at **7.00 pm** (please note earlier start time!).

- AGENDA:**
1. Welcome and Apologies
 2. President's Report
 3. Treasurer's Report
 4. Election of 2019 Committee
 5. Other Business

ORDINARY Meet the Candidates:

GENERAL MEETING: All candidates standing in the Epping constituency in the NSW State Election have been invited to participate. Includes Q & A session.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, JANET MCGARRY

Every election is important, but it is hard not to think that the upcoming State Election in March is of particular importance to Epping's future. Whilst the die has been cast with the excessive high density development in the town centre and can't be reversed, there are many key planning and infrastructure decisions ahead that could enhance or further degrade the area. Despite what some candidates may say about rolling back priority precincts, Epping's building spree is too advanced to reverse.

Despite this note of pessimism, there are important times ahead and we all have a chance to influence the outcomes. The Trust is focussed on lobbying for high quality key community infrastructure in the Rawson Street precinct, the Library site and Dence Park. But equally important is other open space – Forest Park, Boronia Park and others. The Creative Centre is a unique and important facility, whilst the Council's recent purchase of Boronia Grove will provide other meeting space and more. Our leafy environment has to be valued and protected.

Our state member, whoever is elected, has a duty to listen to the concerns of locals who are enduring construction,

traffic and parking woes. What many value about Epping - its green tree canopy, quiet residential areas and cohesive community - is threatened. Leadership is needed - leadership which puts Epping first.

This year, more than ever, people have a choice to make. The Trust will attempt to offer you relevant information, and the chance to ask the candidates the hard questions. Come along to our General Meeting on 19th February and have your say.

Get Involved

Being part of the Trust committee is rewarding and informative - and we need extra volunteers now. From taking meeting minutes, updating website and Facebook content, looking at council papers and Development Applications, and lobbying councillors, there is lots to do. Joining the Trust committee is a great way to give back to your local community and use and develop a variety of skills. Please consider getting involved by standing at the Annual General Meeting on 19th February. Feel free to contact the President, Janet McGarry on 0408 071707 for more information.

Help needed

Engaging professional planning advice or expert heritage consultant reports is expensive. But without this input, the Trust cannot properly counter some of the Development Applications being lodged in Epping. Membership funds cover the general expenses of running the Trust, but additional donations give us the resources to take on key issues.

Donations can be made by EFT to the Trust's account (BSB 012-290 (ANZ BANK Epping), A/C No. 224245488 and please use your name as a reference). Thank you.

The Trust is working hard to raise awareness at all levels of what is needed now - council and government to listen and act in our interest. Please spread the word by encouraging neighbours and friends to join us:

www.eppingcivictrust.org
www.facebook.com/eppingcivictrust/

Development Applications

Here is a brief summary of the situation for the Development Applications (DAs) concerning which the Trust made submissions in the last quarter of 2018.

The DA at 15-19 Essex St, which sought to increase the height of an already approved apartment complex from five to seven storeys has been refused by Council. However, the developer has already lodged an appeal with the Land and Environment Court. The Trust will participate in this process.

The DA by Uniting Care, which would have seen a 19-storey building on the corner of Chester and Oxford Streets, has been withdrawn. We hope that any subsequent DA will abide by the zoning, as well as being a more attractive building, retaining the beautiful mature gum trees, and offering future senior residents some ground-level outdoor space.

The DA at 24-36 Langston Place has been approved by the Sydney Central City Planning panel. This will be the fourth tower in this area – CBUS has already started demolition work at the old Westpac site.

Development Applications which remain under consideration in January 2019 include:

- The Our Lady Help of Christians' proposed 29 Storey Building in Oxford St.
- Proposed Eye Surgery at 32-34 Boronia Ave.
- Proposed Child Care facility at 21-23 Norfolk Rd
- Proposed six apartment building on the corner of Wyralla Ave and Bridge St



Development along Oxford Street, Epping

- Proposed building at 48-54 Beecroft Rd and 52-54 Rawson St
- Proposed Arden School raised pedestrian crossing across Essex St to Rockleigh Park
- Proposed 56-apartment 5-storey development at 19-21 Forest Grove adjacent to Essex St Heritage Conservation Area.



After receiving approval to demolish the Heritage Cottage at 44-48 Oxford St, the proponents have now sought a modification to that DA to provide increased parking which runs counter to the Planning Panel's very specific ruling on Green Parking initiatives. This matter is on public exhibition until February 7.

Two sites where the Trust alerted council to wholesale tree removal – in Essex and Derby streets – are subject, we believe, to action by council. We urge Council to strongly act on issues like this so developers know that all proper approvals have to be sought, justified and abided by.



Tree removal on Cbus site

Report from City of Parramatta Councillors Donna Davis, Lorraine Wearne, Bill Tyrrell (Epping Ward)

Happy New Year! With it comes fantastic news for Epping. The City of Parramatta Council has purchased the Epping Masonic Centre (Boronia Grove Function Centre). This new community asset will provide Council with the opportunity to deliver programs, room hire, activities and much more for local residents. This centre will complement our existing facilities - the School of Arts, Epping Library and Dence Park. We look forward to working with you to improve all of these facilities to accommodate the growing needs in Epping.



Just in time for Christmas, shade sails were installed at Henry Briggs Playground and West Epping Park. These shade sails will provide a sun-safe environment for children all year round. Given

the recent hot weather they couldn't have arrived at a better time.

City of Parramatta Council will soon be commencing the construction of a new two-storey sporting pavilion at West Epping Park. This will include a suspended concrete walkway link to the car park, demolition of the existing storage building at the northern end of the park and construction of a new single storey greenkeeper's facility. Work is expected to start in February.

Rehabilitation of Terry's Creek has commenced with an initial focus on the removal of noxious weeds. New walking track steps have been installed in the bushland below Dence Park. Re-vegetation works and the installation of finials/sculptures will commence in March.

Council and its consultant team have completed the first stage of the Dence Park Masterplan. Initially the consultation was due for completion in December but Ward councillors have moved amendments to the timeframes to ensure continued public consultation throughout the peak summer period.

A lot is happening. We are working together to ensure we deliver the best possible outcomes for Epping and the surrounding suburbs. Please feel free to contact us if you have any specific questions or suggestions.

NORTH EPPING SUB-COMMITTEE

Whilst the Epping Civic Trust includes North Epping, the Trust has created a subcommittee to lobby for this area, in particular with Hornsby Shire Council. Members of this subcommittee are dedicated to enhancing the unique character of North Epping. If you live in North Epping, and would like to be involved, please email the Trust at eppingcivictrust@gmail.com

A meeting was held with Bendigo Bank to raise interest in a possible project to beautify Nirimba Park. The next step is a meeting with the relevant council staff. A further project on street tree planting in the suburb is planned in collaboration

with Hornsby Shire Council.

Anne Mulherin, representing the Subcommittee, contacted Damien Tudehope MP requesting an improved North Epping 295 bus service. Problems include the 295 running late, insufficient runs during the day, no-shows, bus breakdowns, poor timing of the bus to train arrivals, and double parking often causing it to leave before schedule. Mr Tudehope advised that it is unlikely to return to the Macquarie Centre route while the Stationlink buses are operating. There was also discussion of Keoride and Ourbus.

WEST EPPING SUB-COMMITTEE

In order to effectively deal with issues of concern to residents on the western side of Epping, the West Epping subcommittee will begin meeting approximately two weeks after the AGM in

February. Its initial task is to identify the key issues, prioritise them and formulate action plans to have them responsibly addressed.

TREE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Epping Civic Trust Tree Subcommittee was formed to provide a focus for activities supporting retention and improvement of vegetation in the area. This Subcommittee meets bimonthly, reporting to the Epping Civic Trust committee, and welcomes new members from the Trust.

Current projects for the Tree subcommittee include recording approvals for tree removals in the Epping Civic Trust area (within City of Parramatta Council), and identifying where tree replacements have been required. For example, in addition to those trees removed as part of Development Applications or removed illegally, 14 trees were approved for removal in the Epping Civic Trust area during November, and in December, 21 tree removals were approved. In almost all cases, the council arborist required replacement of the tree. Despite the fact that "tree protection controls for most of the City of Parramatta Council Local Government Area generally apply to any tree" (quoted from the Council website), we are concerned at the devastating loss of tree canopy and bushland environment in the Epping/Carlingford area, and we are lobbying our Councillors for more action to ensure that these lost trees (including street

trees) are replaced. A recent article in the Northern District Times highlighted some of the lost trees. We are also concerned that inappropriate development does not adversely impact existing trees, for example due to poor pruning or inadequate soil depth allowances.



We encourage reporting of any illegal tree removal (in Parramatta local government area please phone 1300 617058).

If you have some time please email eppingcivictrust@gmail.com as we need your help!

TRUST MEMBERSHIP IS NOW ONLINE!

This year, you can renew your Trust membership totally online at eppingcivictrust.org as a new membership section has been launched on the site.

Payment is through Paypal, and all members are encouraged to use the system. You will set up a login to the site which will allow you in future to easily renew, update your address or other details and make a donation. This can be used on desktop or through your mobile - so do check it out now. Membership by post or at general meetings will also still be available.

Land Use Planning Harmonisation process for the City of Parramatta

The current Development Control Plans for the City of Parramatta for Land use planning harmonisation are open for public review. This is aimed to bring the whole Council area under consistent planning guidelines, and it may have implications for residents in the former Hornsby Council area.

The City of Parramatta Council area now includes parts of the former Hornsby Shire Council, resulting in different planning controls for different parts of the Council area. Council has proposed a Land Use Planning Harmonisation process to create a clear and more consistent set of planning controls. Council has prepared a Discussion Paper for the planning policies and controls that will form the basis of a new council-wide Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan.

This could result in changes to current planning controls such as:

- types of development allowed in a particular land use zone, including dual occupancies and design requirements for these developments
- changes to height and floor space ratio controls for residential zones
- changes to car parking, biodiversity and tree protection controls
- changes to zoning of some sites to provide a single set of planning controls across the local government area.

The Discussion Paper is on public exhibition for feedback until Monday 4 March 2019.

Epping Town Centre Parking Controls are likely to go on exhibition in 2019.