



**1. 242-244 Beecroft Road** (currently empty site next to 7/11 Garage) – also known as the Landcom development: This land is owned by the government’s Landcom body and they are pursuing a proposal for another 450 units in three towers. This is strongly opposed by the Trust. It is still grinding its way through the planning process as it is designated a State Significant proposal, and sits with the Department of Planning. The City of Parramatta opposed the proposal on the grounds that the site should have a much higher proportion of commercial space and bring jobs back to Epping, but there are interesting new documents available showing that Landcom rebutted this opposition. There is also a photomontage of what the end development might look like. We will continue to monitor this proposal but have grave concerns that the State government will just waive it through to the next stage, which is the sale of the site to a developer.



Indicative development on Landcom site

**2. 21-23 Norfolk Road (DA/745/2019)** – Childcare centre: This DA was refused by the Planning Panel, but is going to the Land and Environment Court in June. The applicant has lodged an amended DA with Council. The Trust continued to have concerns especially with flood risks on the site and traffic on this busy road.

**3. 29-33 Oxford St – Our Lady Help of Christians school site (DA/586/2018):** At the time of writing, this DA is due to be considered at a teleconference of the Sydney Central City

Planning Panel on 6 May. Papers lodged for the meeting show council support for the proposal, which is very disappointing. This is a very large development with senior living and aged care in a large tower facing the railway line, and a new school facing Oxford Street, next to the Catholic Church. The Trust made submissions on a wide range of concerns with the original plans. The height of the new tower is particularly concerning (29 storeys instead of zoned 22 storeys).



29 - 33 Oxford Street - Our Lady Help of Christians school site



## Our Wireless Heritage

### WIRELESS WONDERS. WORLD AT WORK. WHAT EPPING HEARS.

- *The Sydney Morning Herald*  
(NSW : 1842 - 1954) - 23 Feb 1920

The rounded world is fair to see; Seven times folded in mystery. Cloaked in mystery it is, indeed, when you realise that you can, with receivers affixed...

[trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)

**Are you connecting with family and friends during this pandemic using wireless phone technology? We can thank our local heroes of long past who paved the way.....**

It was reported one hundred years ago

that an amateur wireless operator, Mr J.A. Pike, an Epping resident who lived in Rawson St, played an integral part in connecting people to the world. He had installed a small flagpole in his front garden connected to an old tree with a wire, standing some 25 feet (7.5m) high. It was not a towering aerial, but rather a scaled down version of something like a backyard clothesline, designed and built by himself. He would listen from the small receiving set, and hear distant messages from far afield places such as America, the Philippines and Germany.

Like other amateurs in Sydney, he was not allowed to transmit messages nor divulge what he heard due to government secrecy laws (unlike his English counterparts who could send messages

from the end of WW1). Mr Pike’s success was noted back in 1910 when he was able to pick up signals from a naval vessel on the far side of New Zealand – it earned him a trip to America as a wireless operator on a large passenger ship.

Searching on the old SANDS postal directory, Mr Pike’s property would have been located on the western side of Rawson Street, between Carlingford Rd and Bridge St Epping (in close proximity to the Rawson St roundabout intersection).

**Source:** Trove Digitized Newspapers - National Library of Australia: Sydney Morning Herald, 23 Feb 1920 Page 6.

**Website:** <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/15883155>

**1. Dence Park – Epping Aquatic Centre:** At the April Council meeting, a key paper was passed which starts the ball rolling on council implementing the Dence Park Masterplan. In particular, it progressed the first stage which is the works at the pool, including a new 8 lane outdoor pool (rebuilt in place of the current pool), new toddler water play area and an indoor 25 metre pool. The funding (from developer contributions primarily) is in place for this work. However, some questions were raised about sufficient funding of the new proposed building (pool office, new change rooms, lift access, café and gym). This section is integral to the whole project. The works are due to be completed by the end of 2022, so watch out for detailed designs to come.



**2. The Epping to Carlingford Cycleway:** This proposal originally exhibited in late 2019, was subject to a lot of comment by local residents, and a number of meetings with councillors and council staff. A paper went to the April council meeting which recommended an amended proposal, but this proposal was deferred for consideration at the May meeting.

**3. Council Planning Documents:** In late March, the Council passed its Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement which it was under time pressure from the State Government to complete (they get additional payments for meeting a schedule). The Trust raised several important issues with the draft presented to council and some amendments were subsequently made before it passed. There is no word yet though on two other key council plans - the Housing and the Community Infrastructure statements.

**4. Epping Community Centre –** Council is continuing to work on this new important community facility in the former Boronia Function Centre, next to Coles car park. A second DA was lodged for works on the site including an outdoor deck facing Boronia Park for use by a proposed café on site. The Trust is keen to see this facility open, but raised concerns about the café operating hours and impacts on Boronia Park.

**5. Boronia Park –** on a more positive note, council has allocated \$35,000 of funding in this financial year for nesting boxes in the park. This is very welcome as this is an important

space in the town centre and this will encourage increased birds and wildlife.

**6. Local Works –** Council completed a new path through Forest Park which improves access into the park from Blaxland Road.



◀ Flowers in Forest Park - the Salvias are lovely!



▶ Anzac Memorial - Forest Park

**7. Street Trees:** The City of Parramatta Council has sent out letters to residents in relation to the street tree planting instigated in response to the Epping Civic Trust's requests. It is anticipated these street trees will be planted in mid-May. A local resident has advised that the Council will also be planting 35 street trees in Norfolk Road, Epping. Council has advised that a Lemon Scented Gum tree removed 2 May from Council land at 7 Epping Road will be replaced in the spring plantings. We continue to advocate for more street tree plantings along Epping Road and throughout other parts of Epping.



◀ 7 Epping Road - lemon scented gum before removal

▼ After tree removal



## 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:

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PARLIAMENT OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES

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