



EPPING CIVIC TRUST

PO Box 271 Epping 1710
www.eppingcivictrust.org
eppingcivictrust@gmail.com

Newsletter

November 2021

Meet the Candidate Meetings

The Local Government (Council) elections will take place on 4 December 2021 - having been delayed twice by COVID restrictions. These elections are for councillors and Mayors (where popularly elected). Councils have important powers for planning and development, community infrastructure like parks and sports fields, as well as general maintenance of our suburbs.

The Trust covers two local government areas so we are running two Meet the Candidate meetings (replacing our usual November general meeting) as follows:

1) Monday 15 th November, 6.30pm – C Ward and Mayor election for **Hornsby Shire Council** (for people living in North Epping) North Epping Bowling Club, Boundary Rd, North Epping
(Please note the earlier starting time)

2) Tuesday 16 th August, 7.30pm – Epping Ward for **City of Parramatta Council** (for all other Epping residents) Epping RSL, Rawson St, Epping.

All are welcome so please encourage neighbours and friends to attend.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, JANET MCGARRY ▶▶▶

I am embarrassed to say that until relatively recently I was disengaged from the Local Government elections. They seemed a bit of a bother - fitting in a trip to vote on a busy Saturday. And I didn't know the candidates or why I should vote for them. The only thing distinguishing them was political party allegiances. Well, it will come as no surprise, that I will now be carefully considering my vote. It seems a cliché to say that these Council elections are more important than any others before them, but they really are.

It has been more than 4 years since the electorate had the chance to choose their local representatives. In that time, thousands more people call Epping home. Our skyline has changed, the traffic has worsened and COVID lockdowns have demonstrated how critical local community space and facilities are to our quality of life. And that is before considering the pace of knockdown/subdivision and tree removal.

For all the extra new residents, what have we gained? New community infrastructure is insufficient. More is

promised, but delivery is glacially slow. The budget of the City of Parramatta for key projects sees a net loss of rates money from our suburb to the Parramatta CBD. We have gained no new open space or parks, and have waited over two years for a new community centre to open. We are still waiting for the new Epping pool and other community facilities at Dence Park.

It has been no better in North Epping with Hornsby Council. The upgrade to Nirimba Park has taken four years and little else of substance has happened.

This is where your councillors come in. We should hold the current councillors to account – some achievements can be acknowledged but they must deliver more benefit faster. We should question those councillors who are never seen in our suburb. We should consider who will represent our views, fight for our patch of paradise, and not back down from delivering what is needed. It should not be about party politics or vested interests (or property developers). Please join our Meet the Candidates meetings, and become informed so your vote counts.

Membership and Committee

Thank you to the many members who promptly renewed, many of whom also added a donation, which makes a big difference to the Trust's funds. If you know others interested in local issues, please tell them about the Trust and encourage them to join. You can find out all the necessary information at <https://eppingcivictrust.org/membership>

Congratulations Premier

Congratulations to our local State MP, Mr Perrottet, who became Premier of NSW in October.

59 Beecroft Road, Epping (DA/944/2021)

The Lyon Group has submitted a DA for its site between the Genesis building and the Epping Hotel, leaving most of the Rawson St frontage undeveloped at this stage. The buildings will be 20 and 22 storeys, containing 126 residential units, and 5128 sqm of commercial space. There will be a five level car park beneath the building. There is no doubt that the site requires rejuvenation!

The proposed main section of the building is of interesting design, being twin towers in a Vee shape. Pedestrian access between Rawson St and Beecroft Rd will be via the existing laneway on the northern side of the Epping Hotel. The proposal also uses Council's existing north-south laneway midway between Rawson St and Beecroft Rd, where it proposes an "Eat Street" bordered with alfresco restaurants. The proposal foreshadows a future development along Rawson St with this "Eat Street" running between the two developments.

An obvious problem with this development is the effect it will have on traffic entering and leaving the proposed building via an already congested Rawson Street. We are also concerned about the huge future developments on Rawson St. The Trust has argued for years that Council should work with developers to produce a Precinct Plan for the area comprising this western heart of the Epping CBD.

The Trust will make a detailed submission on the proposal. We encourage Trust members to examine this application, which can be found on Council's DA Tracker, and let us know your thoughts.



Artist's Impressions from Beecroft Road and Rawson Streets



74 Oxford Street, Epping (DA/449/2021)

This DA proposed to demolish a house in the East Epping Heritage Conservation Area, divide the block into two, and build two houses. The Trust opposed it on grounds of overdevelopment, tree removal, and the impact on the Heritage Conservation Area and streetscape. The application was refused by the Local Planning Panel, which mentioned the concerns raised by the Trust and residents about the unsatisfactory impact on the East Epping Heritage Conservation Area.

19 Epping Avenue, Eastwood (DA/830/2021)

A DA was submitted for the demolition of a one hundred-year-old house. The Trust objected to this application and notes the application was recently withdrawn.

16 Victoria Street, Epping (DA/4774/2021)

This resubmitted application, currently under Council consideration, involves modifications to a heritage home in a Heritage Conservation Area.

2-16 Epping Road and 2-4 Forest Grove, Epping (DA/397/2020)

The Austino development application, for five buildings at 2-6 Epping Rd and 2-4 Forest Grove, was rejected by Council last year, but the developer submitted revised plans earlier this year, and has appealed to the Land and Environment Court. In the Trust's view, the revised plans do little to improve the application.

73 Kent Street, Epping (DA/180/2021) – Boarding House.

A final sad update on this DA, which was rejected by Parramatta Council, and subject to a strong and persistent residents' campaign, with over 100 submissions. The residents clearly

showed that the DA failed to meet key provisions of the planning laws. Despite this, Council negotiated behind the closed doors of the Land & Environment Court, and the DA was passed. This is a dismal example of Council not acting in the residents' best interests.

65 Boronia Avenue, Epping (DA/594/2020/A)

The DA was passed previously with incorrect drainage provisions. An intrusive easement over a neighbour's property is required. The Trust is concerned about the precedent this compulsory easement would create.

60 Rawson Street, Epping (DA/817/2021)

A DA has been submitted for a temporary new café/restaurant to replace the Topiary Café which was destroyed by fire last year. The Trust welcomes the return of this business, and has requested landscaping of the area near the new building.

Swanes Nursery, Marsden Road has closed. A 160-bed aged care facility DA/873/2021 has been proposed for this site, to be decided by the Sydney Central City Planning Panel.

Epping South Public School, Chelmsford Avenue, Epping.

This will be a new public school for up to 1,000 students. It is an environmentally sensitive site with remnant Sydney Blue Gum forest. In an amended DA, the Phase 2 school building is moved from the south west corner of the site to the northern side. The amendments still fail to provide appropriate sports facilities or playground space, and there is no pedestrian access from the southern boundary. The project will commence this year.

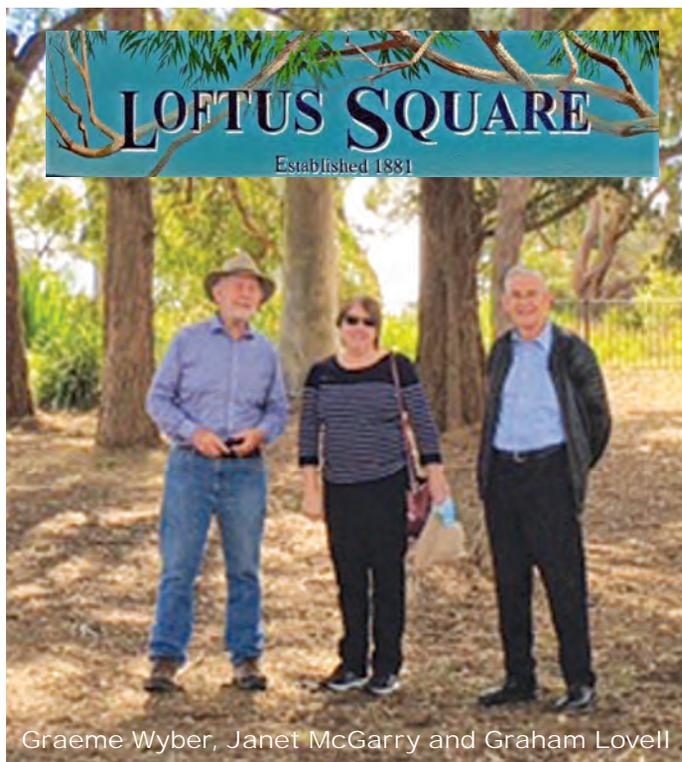
Loftus Square Park - Willoughby Street Epping

Loftus Square Park celebrates 140 years of history in Epping. The local park committee (with council staff) proposed to councillors to display photo boards in the park describing Epping's history through the decades, to commemorate this milestone (with a COVID safe plan), but the project has not progressed.

In March 1881, developers advertised land for sale around Loftus Square Park, named after Lord Loftus, then Governor of New South Wales. The Square was set in the highest point of Field of Mars (known now as Epping) and promoted as "Brushgrove" an area "surrounded by the finest oranges in the world and the loveliest views in NSW". The approval for the building of the railway line came in April 1881. Not much has changed over 140 years with real estate speak, developers and inside information!

Loftus Square has changed over the years. Willoughby Street travelled around the park initially. After World War II, the road was cut through the park, allowing easier access for cars, trucks and buses. From the early days the orchardists and families used the park for picnics, fairs and Red Cross fundraisers. The Carlingford Cricket Club played cricket, despite the council's concern about "a cricket ball knocking down a passing horse". The play equipment has been regularly updated for safety, and the netball courts and handball wall were replaced with 4 basketball half courts. The Park was, and is, well-used by the local community - especially in lockdown.

City of Parramatta Council's Parks and Gardens staff take pride in the quality of the park. Loftus Square Park



Graeme Wyber, Janet McGarry and Graham Lovell

Committee acknowledge the support of the Epping Civic Trust over a long period, as noted in the ABC of Epping by Alex McAndrew "The fine stand of younger eucalyptus trees by the south-western boundary planted in August 1975 by Graham Lovell and members of the Epping Civic Trust". They, like the Trust, are still standing strong and healthy.

Leo Hart, Chair of Loftus Square Park Committee

City of Parramatta Council Matters

Epping Library:

Renovations to the lower ground level of the Library building are underway to create meeting rooms that will be available for booking. There are minor renovations to the Library, but no increase to the size of the facility. Epping needs a larger library, with more study areas for students.

Boronia Grove Community Centre:

Epping's new community centre (adjacent to the Rawson Street car park) was renovated over a two year period but its re-opening was delayed. The Trust looks forward to using the new centre.

Draft Sportsground Strategy:

Council recently sought public comment on the plan for sportsgrounds for the entire Parramatta Local Government Area. All four recognised sportsgrounds in Epping are

already heavily overused. Relatively minor upgrades of existing grounds are proposed, but there is no plan to acquire additional land for new sportsgrounds in the Epping Ward. The Trust will continue to request more open space and sportsgrounds for our rapidly increasing population.

Dunlop St East Pedestrian and Cycle Paths:

A proposed plan for pedestrian and cycle paths offers a partial solution for access to the proposed Epping South Public School, but a plan for connections for the whole school catchment area is needed.



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
btyrrell@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

PARLIAMENT OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

Member for Epping, Dominic Perrottet
Suite 303, level 3, 51 Rawson Street, Epping
Phone: 9877 0266 **Email:** epping@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Reports from Councillors

All local Councillors were invited to contribute to the Newsletter, as for previous newsletters.

Councillor Donna Davis, Parramatta

One thing is for sure, Sydney's Lockdown taught us a lot about our local government area. When travel was limited to 5km from our homes we discovered parks and walking tracks we had never been to before. It was delightful walking across my local park with the swallows ducking and diving. Lockdown reminded us why a mix of active and passive open space is so important. In the past 4 years Council has designed new playgrounds at Forest Park, Pembroke Street, Lynbrae Avenue and Dunrossil Park, and installed a new playground at Bingara Park and shade sails at Henry Briggs and West Epping Parks.

Following discussions in 2019 with the Community Bank Epping Board, plans are underway for a co-funded mural on the Epping Community Centre, which is now open for bookings. The library and pool have re-opened.

Finally, there is a battle brewing with the state government over developer contributions. Under the Infrastructure Contributions Reform Bill, the Government plans to divert developer contributions into a Treasury-controlled fund, with no Council involvement as to how the money will be allocated. This could have huge ramifications for future infrastructure funding in Epping.

Councillor Emma Heyde, Hornsby

I recently received a lovely email from a resident on Grigg Ave about the new footpath I helped get funded.

"I thought I would let you know the path is almost complete... This allows people to walk to the North Epping shops. Such a fantastic result ... People of all ages are using the path, it really has made a difference and the Council is definitely getting a good return on their investment."

Those words summed up what I hope I've achieved as your councillor: practical improvements that benefit everyone; value for money for ratepayers; and a willingness to listen - and deliver results for you.

We are close to the end of my first term of Council so I'm reflecting on what's been achieved, including: saving North Epping Kindergarten from unfair rent hikes; a Council commitment to resurface Norfolk Road at Devlin; a footpath on Eastcote Road; bio-retention basin for Nirimba Park; and hundreds of new street trees. There's more to be done: a pump track for kids and teens; better sports facilities; support for the Men's Shed; more footpaths and more regular street-sweeping. North Epping residents have given me a long to-do list! But I wouldn't have it any other way. Thanks to everyone who has provided ideas and requests over the last 4 years. North Epping is a really special place and I hope I've proven just how hard I'll work to look after it.



Cr Emma Hyde with Men's Shed President Brian Bailey

SUBCOMMITTEES

North Epping:

Major works by Hornsby Council are underway at Nirimba Park (behind the shops). These address drainage problems on the sloping site, and include welcome enhancements to landscaping and seating, creating a pleasant quiet park.



Nirimba Park, North Epping drainage works

West Epping:

In October, Epping Civic Trust President Janet McGarry presented Graeme Wyber with a plaque in recognition of his 30 years' service to the Epping community and the Epping Civic Trust. Graeme's wife Beverley and special guest, Graham Lovell, former long-term President of the Trust, also attended the presentation in Loftus Square Park, West Epping. Thanks to Sue and Leo Hart who provided refreshments.



Graeme Wyber is presented with his long service plaque by the Trust's President Janet McGarry

Traffic Lights:

The Trust has contacted Parramatta Council expressing concern at Council's decision to locate traffic signals at the intersection of Hepburn Avenue and Carlingford Road rather than at the intersection of Pennant Parade and Carlingford Road. The Trust also approached Parramatta Council through the Epping Ward Councillors requesting the erection of more shelters on Bus Route 550 along Carlingford Road. Councillor Bill Tyrrell has undertaken to refer the matter to the Traffic Section for advice and action and raise the issue at the next Traffic Committee of Council meeting.

Trees:

Members have lobbied council to replace dead or vandalised trees in parks and streets. The Trust has also written to Parramatta Council to confirm Council does not support removal of mature healthy trees for the reason that they may shade rooftop solar panels. Tree removal is counterproductive: Epping has already suffered considerable loss of tree canopy resulting in increased urban heating. See the urban heat maps on Council's website: <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/environment/connected-resilientcommunities/urban-heat/heat-maps>

EPPING CIVIC TRUST
www.eppingcivictrust.org

PRESIDENT: Janet McGarry (0408 071 707)
VICE PRESIDENT: Mike Moffatt (0421 859 070)
TREASURER: Leo Hart (0417 424 580)
P.O. BOX 271, Epping 1710

Annual General Meeting 2022

• Tuesday 17 February 2022 at 7.30pm

Please tell your local friends and neighbours about the Trust.

