



EPPING CIVIC TRUST

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

Newsletter

February 2023

February 2023 Annual General Meeting and General Meeting

Tuesday 21 February 2023, 7.30pm in the hall at the rear of Church of Christ, Bridge St, Epping

Notice is hereby given for the 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome and Apologies
- 2) Confirmation of the minutes of the annual general meeting held on Tuesday 15 February 2022
- 3) Business arising from the minutes
- 4) President's report
- 5) Treasurer's report
- 6) Election of 2023 Committee
- 7) Any other business

The Trust is entirely dependent on people volunteering – it can be a small amount of time or expertise or a greater involvement. Without people stepping up to join the Committee, the Trust will cease to exist. There are vacancies at this year's AGM, so why not get involved? As well as the main committee, there are active subgroups looking at Trees, West Epping issues and North Epping. If you would like more information, please email eppingcivictrust@gmail.com Committee nominations will be taken in advance or at the meeting.

GENERAL MEETING:

The General Meeting will immediately follow the Annual General Meeting.
We have invited the local Councillors for Parramatta to join us and answer your questions.

2023 Membership - Now due for renewal

Membership of the Trust is now due for renewal. You are encouraged to renew on the website if possible as it helps reduce administration. www.eppingcivictrust.org/membership. But members can also renew by mail with a cheque, or through your bank account by EFT (but please fill in the usual membership form and email it to us so we

can mark you as renewed).

Donations: We are grateful that many members give additional donations to the Trust when renewing. This is very important as it helps us cover costs each year. You can donate via PayPal through the Donate section on the website, by EFT or cheque. www.eppingcivictrust.org/donate-page

Report from the interim President, Judith Dawes

Epping and nearby suburbs are undergoing very rapid change. These changes offer opportunities to improve our suburb in many ways, but we do not want to lose those things that we value about our community in the process. In 2023 we anticipate that the focus of new building construction may shift from the eastern side of Epping to the western side of the railway line, where there are several major development applications under consideration. We are also keen to see the Dence Park Aquatic Centre upgrade proceed, and to see the Epping bowling club site acquired by Parramatta Council as a public recreation area. With the large increase in population that Epping has seen in the past 8 years, we desperately need more green and open space for sport and recreation.

The Annual General Meeting of the Epping Civic Trust

is a chance for you to nominate and vote for your representatives on the Trust's committee. Please consider volunteering to join the committee.

Voting for our representatives at various levels is the basis of our democracy. We voted in the federal election last year. We will be hearing from the candidates for NSW State Parliament in the seat of Epping in our "Meet the Candidates" meeting at 7:30 pm on Tuesday March 14. We rely on those who volunteer to nominate for council, state or federal parliament to work for the good of the community in whatever ways they can. How can we support our representatives at every level, and ensure that they do indeed represent us as we hope? By getting involved in the process! I encourage you to join the conversations and participate in our democracy.

Development Applications

There has been little publicly-available activity on development applications in the last quarter, and nothing on the two large developments proposed for the north western corner of Carlingford Rd and Beecroft Rd.

An application to build a house at 25 Chester St, Epping has been withdrawn. (DA/750/2022)

A modified application for a childcare centre at 21 Norfolk Rd (DA/745/2018/A) remains under Council assessment, while an application for a childcare centre at 52 Essex St, opposed by many Trust members, has been refused.

The Trust has continued to oppose alterations and additions to a heritage house at 19 Epping Ave, Eastwood. The outcome is not

yet known.

The planning process for the Landcom site on Beecroft Road (242-244 Beecroft Rd) continues, with Parramatta Council lodging an objection to the State Significant Development. Council objects to the current proposal, citing traffic and transport concerns, issues with urban design and public domain, provision of affordable housing, landscaping, stormwater and flooding, waste management and site remediation. Council continues to advocate for increased commercial floor space in the development to deliver on the vision for Epping as a strategic centre and ensure job opportunities for current and future residents.

Development Application Information

Do you know how to find out about a local DA? There are a couple of ways to keep up to date. First, sign up to a service called Planning Alerts online at <https://www.planningalerts.org.au>. This is a useful free system that pulls information when development applications are first lodged with councils, and sends you email alerts. It is a good 'early warning' system, but **Council takes no notice of comments on Planning Alerts.**

To have council consider a submission you need to follow

<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/development/submissions>, review the DA papers and follow the submission guidelines. You can search for DAs on the DA Tracker website. The Trust circulates DA's we consider to be of interest to residents.

Report from the Lord Mayor, Cr Donna Davis

New café opened



The new Darcy St. Project Epping Community Cafe is proving popular since opening in December last year. The City of Parramatta welcomes this project as an addition to the Boronia Grove Community Centre that recently underwent a \$1.95 million revamp.

The café is being run by the Darcy St. Project, an organisation which supports the training and employment of young people in the hospitality industry. Our barista assures us that the coffee is excellent, and the café is pleasantly surrounded by trees and birdsong. The café is open 7 days a week from 8am - 2pm.

The northern wall of the Community Centre has been decorated with a colourful mural, funded by the City of Parramatta Council and the Bendigo Bank.



◀ Lord Mayor Councillor Donna Davis and Councillor Loraine Wearne opening the Darcy St. Project Epping Community Cafe.

Rawson St improvements

Council continues to improve the streetscapes around Epping, with progress being made on upgrades to Rawson Street. Bollards have been installed near the shops to enhance safety, and improvements have been made to signage and footpaths. Work is underway to upgrade and repair the bitumen footpaths along Rawson Street.



▲ Safety bollards



▲ New Forest Park signage

All local councillors were invited to submit a report for the newsletter, and only this report was received by the deadline.

Farewell to our President, Janet McGarry

Trust members and friends paid tribute to Janet's passion and commitment in support of the Epping community at a farewell event held in North



Epping in October 2022. We are very grateful for her hard work over the last 5 years in rebuilding an effective organizational framework for the Trust and in enthusiastically promoting the interests of the community in so many ways.

Thank You, Janet.

Tree Subcommittee

At our November 2022 General Meeting, we were joined by two speakers from Parramatta Council (Robert Cologna – Group Manager Strategic Land Use and Robert Sutton – Technical Specialist Manager) who explained their roles within council. Their input was thoughtful and addressed some of our concerns regarding tree preservation. Members of the Trust appreciated the opportunity to meet with these managers and to ask questions.



Local Residents' involvement in tree preservation:

It has been great to see so many residents getting involved in preserving the lovely trees.

Sydney Red Gum – 1 Willoughby Street, Epping:

After over two years of lobbying by residents, council finally moved to protect a Sydney Red Gum tree in line with its own compliance order from 2015. During this time a major limb was lopped off the tree to facilitate the developers getting the crane onto site. But residents didn't give up. Finally, appropriate protection was provided.



West Epping

Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

The ECT wrote to Epping Ward Councillors in November 2022 requesting that City of Parramatta Council inform Carlingford Court Shopping retailers of their obligations and penalties for non-compliance under the new Public Spaces (Unattended Property) 2022. Act which commenced on 1st November 2022.

Requested Bus Shelters on Bus Route 550

Following representations to City of Parramatta Cllr Cameron MacLean requesting additional bus shelters on bus route 550 between Carlingford Court Shopping Centre and Epping Station, Mahdu Pudasaini, Group Manager Roads Infrastructure, City Assets & Operations, City of Parramatta has responded. There are currently no funds budgeted for the construction of bus shelters. However, "Council staff are in the process of working to develop a framework to prioritise the delivery of bus shelters depending on potential usage by the community, public

need, potential revenue and technical feasibility. The need for the requested bus shelters will be considered as part of this framework... to be considered by council in 2023".

Completion of Ngarala Public School



The foundation teachers and staff have been appointed to Epping's newest school, which will enrol ~100 students from Kindergarten to Year 6 in Term 1 2023. Located in Chelmsford Ave, Epping, the school was given the indigenous name Ngarala, meaning 'learning together'. The school will eventually accommodate 600 students. Currently it comprises 25 new flexible learning spaces, facilities for special education programs, a library, hall and canteen. It also provides play spaces and a covered outdoor learning area.

West Epping Dog Park Update

To date there has been no start to work on the planned off-leash Dog Park at West Epping. Last year, City of Parramatta Council announced that this project would be funded from the 2022-23 Parks Improvement Program even if an application for partial funding from the State Government was unavailable. Keep an eye out for a much-needed resource for our "best friends".



Boronia Park Update

The rebuild of the Boronia Park sports pavilion now appears to be proceeding well and should be completed in the first half of this year. The new pavilion will include change rooms and amenities, a meeting room, kiosk, public toilets and Council storage areas. The building will be accessible from Kent St, and from the sports field. This building will be a welcome, and much-needed, upgrade to the sports facilities at Boronia Park.



Memorial for the late Margaret McCartney at Forest Park.

A completion date for this memorial at Forest Park has not yet been announced by Parramatta Council.

The Poplars (64-66 Norfolk Road, Epping)



◀ 'The Poplars' residence in 1920's

◀ 'The Poplars' Community Hospital

Have you heard of 'The Poplars'? Depending on how long you have lived in Epping, these words might suggest a type of tree, or a long-standing community health facility located in Norfolk Road which has cared for the people of Epping and surrounds for over 100 years.

'The Poplars', owned by Joseph Emerson and his wife, was built in 1908 as a private residence with stables and a coach house. The house was a classic-styled Federation brick home with patterned chimneys, terracotta tile ridge capping and finials, and a grand iron bull-nosed front verandah, which were complemented with exposed eaves and arched timber fretwork.

It was probably Emerson himself who originally planted a row of 'Lombardy Poplar' trees that are still growing along Somerset St. He sold the property to James Gibson Wylie in 1913, with a legal clause that the name 'Poplars' be retained.

The year 1919 saw the house change ownership to two nursing sisters, the Broughton sisters, to establish a private hospital in 1920. The property was sold two years later to three nursing sisters Lucy, Edith and Marjorie Hands. The cottage hospital consisted of eight beds at the time. In 1938, it was acquired by Sisters I.V. Chetter and E.M. Davies who expanded the facility to a 17-bed hospital for surgery and obstetric services.

In 1951 when it was up for sale again, the local community and medical practitioners formed a co-operative society and it became known as the 'Poplars Community Hospital' run by a voluntary board of citizens and doctors. Neighbouring properties were also purchased in 1956 and 1966 to expand the maternity section.

The 1960s was a very busy time for the Poplars seeing the

births of thousands of babies, with 488 in 1962 alone. It remained a well-used medical facility in the following decades. The not-for-profit community hospital was sold again in 1995 owing to financial difficulties and became a private hospital once more.

Sadly, the old house is long gone, demolished to allow works to renovate and modernise the facility. History was not forgotten however, as a time capsule, containing photographs, a newspaper, menus, staff badges, medical instruments and a bandaged bear, was laid within an old theatre wall before renovations in 1993. This time capsule was opened 20 years later after an extensive rebuild was completed for its new owners Estia Health Care. The new 103-bed aged care facility, with its Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired interiors and a Master Builders Excellence in Housing award-winning design in 2014, has created a place that reflects its historic beginnings as a grand home, and continues its important legacy of caring for the local community.

Source Material:

- ABC of Epping – A handbook for Residents by Alex McAndrew (2001)
- Hornsby Shire Recollects <https://hornsbyshire.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/4879?keywords=>
- Northern District Times 23/12/2014 <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/former-epping-hospital-dating-back-to-the-1920s-opens-time-capsule/news-story/38bbe75b1c960ac0d13182cd2aba4b6>
- Epping Civic Trust Newsletter October 2002
- Grindley Building contractor website <https://grindley.com.au/project/estia-health-epping>

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 is a list of their contact details:

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

Lord Mayor & Councillor Donna Davis
Phone: 0447 745 402
ddavis@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Lorraine Wearne
Phone: 0416 035 817
lwearne@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Cameron Maclean
Phone: 0422 141 415
cmaclean@cityofparramatta.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

Hornsby Shire Council,
PO Box 37 Hornsby NSW 1630

Councillor Emma Heyde
Phone: 0403 589 722
eh Heyde@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Verity Greenwood
Phone: 0402 444 456
vgreenwood@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Sreeni Pillamarri
Phone: 0499 116 664
spillamarri@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

EPPING CIVIC TRUST
www.eppingcivictrust.org

INTERIM PRESIDENT: Judith Dawes

TREASURER: Leo Hart

P.O. BOX 271, Epping 1710

Proposed meeting dates for 2023

Tuesday 21 February, Tuesday 16 May,
Tuesday 15 August, Tuesday 21 November

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

