

Parramatta City Council

Councillor,
Lorraine Wearne reports

To make way for the redevelopment of Parramatta Square, Parramatta City Council and Parramatta City Library will move to new, temporary locations during August 2015. The new locations are as follows:

Council Administration Offices:

126 Church Street, Parramatta (open from 10 August 2015).

Parramatta City Library:

1-3 Fitzwilliam Street, Parramatta

(open on 14 August after a short closure from 8 August).

Mailing details, telephone and email addresses will remain the same.

Development

108 Midson Road EPPING NSW 2121 (DA/382/2015)

This proposal is for the demolition, tree removal, and construction of a two-storey seniors' housing development containing 6 residential units over a basement carpark. The application is made under State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004.

Boronia Park Masterplan

The community has commented on the proposed Masterplan for Boronia Park with valid suggestions. The councillors have met and discussed these, with a number of changes to the plan to be made prior to its adoption by council. These include:

- the walking track to be 1.5m in width;
- the amenities block not to be moved, but instead to be

rebuilt/refurbished in its present location;

- no terracing on the open grass area of the park;
- the sports field to remain its current size;
- the proposed ping pong tables to be moved;
- more small picnic shelters to be provided;
- playgrounds to be upgraded and to include more equipment for older children

Council will be starting work on the park later this year, probably commencing with the walking track.

Local Heritage Fund

Council's Local Heritage Assistance Fund provides small grants to owners of heritage items and properties in conservation areas, for work that will improve the heritage value of a property. This might include maintenance work or reinstatement of missing original features such as fences, verandahs and decorative details. Individual grants have recently assisted ratepayers in Chelmsford Ave, Epping Ave, Wyralla Ave and Chesterfield Road.

Grants are limited to:

- \$1,300 for applications up to \$5,000 in value;
- \$2,650 for applications between \$5,000 to \$20,000 in value;
- \$3,300 for applications over \$20,000 in value.

For more information about these grants contact the Council Land Use Team Ph: 9806 5093 or visit http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/build/heritage/assistance_and_benefits

Boronia Park Draft Masterplan - Epping Civic Trust concerns

The Epping Civic Trust commented on Parramatta City Council's draft Masterplan and is pleased to note that Council has responded positively to many of our suggestions. However some issues commented on by the Trust do not appear to have been addressed by Council:

- The Trust strongly objected to the plan to knock down the existing sport club house (Ian Kendall Shed) and relocate this to the middle of the park next to the current children's play area. If additional toilet facilities were needed nearby, they could be located at a refurbished Baby Health Centre, where the current facilities are much underused and very dated.
- The Trust objected to the proposal for a large covered shed with capacity for up to 40 people as this would be out of character for the park.
- Support for the retention of the War Memorial in its present location. The Trust strongly objected to any proposal to move it to a different location to allow Victoria Street to be extended through the park precinct.



- The Masterplan's omission of a replanting program to regenerate the threatened blue gum high forest and turpentine trees. Such a program would encourage successful habitat and biodiversity in an urban park setting. The Trust urged Council to include a planting regime for the ongoing replacement of these mature trees in the Masterplan.
- Support for the idea of additional bridge crossings over the stormwater canal to open up under-utilised areas of the park.



EPPING CIVIC TRUST

www.eppingcivictrust.org

- **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

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING DATES 2015

- Tuesday, August 18th
- Tuesday, November 17th

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



EPPING CIVIC TRUST

PO Box 271 Epping 1710

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Representing the community since 1971

Newsletter

August 2015

NEXT MEETING: ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Epping Civic Trust

will be held on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015**

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

AGENDA: ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

1. Assessment of development applications - call for professional support
2. Electronic mailing of newsletters
3. Save the Epping Pool Group update
4. Councillor reports
5. General business

It's your community - your voice counts

President, Graham Lovell

As indicated in our February newsletter editorial, the Trust is having difficulty dealing with the increase in development proposals in the Trust's area of interest. The designation of Epping as an Urban Activation Centre has turbo-charged developer interest in the area and has meant that development applications are increasingly complex and ambitious.

The Trust's workload is still falling on a small number of members and our limited expertise is severely impacting on our ability to produce a professional response. The Trust needs more active members, and in particular, people with expertise in journalism, town planning, architecture, landscape design, transport and civil engineering.

It is my experience that working on issues that come before the Trust is a way of making a serious



contribution to our community life. I also find that being able to improve outcomes for the community is a very fulfilling experience on a personal level.

I therefore encourage Trust members, their families and their friends who could provide support or professional expertise to contact me personally on 9872 4950.

Our last call for help had a positive result and I am very pleased to welcome Maria Kirkpatrick-Jones as our new Newsletter Editor.

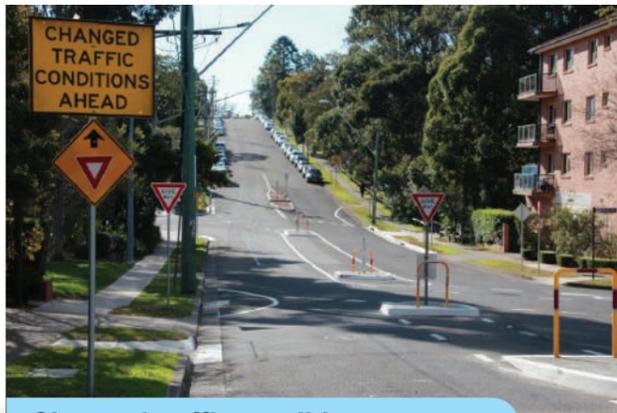
Communications with members

Vice president, Graham Medhurst

The Trust is working towards keeping members better informed on what is happening in the community. In future, news considered of immediate interest will be sent by email as a "News Update". Those members without email access will receive their news via post. Please note that this will not replace the regular newsletter. However, it is proposed that the regular quarterly newsletter is also sent electronically, except to members without an email address who will continue to receive them through the post.



If you have not provided your email address and wish to receive our newsletters electronically, please send your details to eppingcivictrust@gmail.com Non-members, please contact us through "your say" on our website www.eppingcivictrust.org



Changed traffic conditions on Kent Street to improve traffic flow.

Drop 'n' Go stops the flow

The Trust wrote to Parramatta City Council expressing concern that the unnamed laneway behind the Epping Hotel is not suitable as a 'Drop N Go' zone. This laneway is regularly banked up with cars as they drop people off, blocking regular traffic flow in Rawson Street. The Trust suggested two alternate 'Drop N Go' zones to Council. These would be in Hunts Lane, with one situated just off the Bridge Street entry point and the other situated just short of the Rawson Street exit point. To assist the flow, Hunts Lane could be made a "one way" road from Bridge to Rawson Streets. During busy periods Hunts Lane is considered to have reasonable vehicular access into Rawson Street. However, the Council has responded that no changes will be made to the existing "Drop 'n' Go" Zone behind the Epping Hotel. The Trust intends to make further representations.

Better Buses

On 26 June Trust President, Graham Lovell and Committee Member, Graeme Wyber met with senior management staff at the Office of the Minister for Transport, to seek improvements to existing bus services in and out of Epping Railway Station during peak hours. In attendance were the Minister's Special Advisor and two senior managers who had investigated all affected Epping bus routes following a meeting over a year ago.

Several alternatives were tabled to ease the frustrations currently being experienced by commuters. Some of the recommendations will be trialled in the near future, while other suggestions may take longer due to the involvement of other government departments such as the Roads and Maritime Service.

The Trust will be kept fully informed of the plans and actions to ensure a better bus service for commuters of Epping and adjoining suburbs. Watch this space.

Too many crossings?

While three pedestrian crossings on Rawson Street are great for those on foot, they are causing a headache for vehicles. During peak periods, traffic is banked up to the roundabout intersection at Bridge Street causing congestion in the surrounding streets. Bus routes to and from Epping Station via Rawson Street are also caught up in the congestion. The Trust will be recommending to Parramatta City Council that the following action be taken as soon as possible:

- Remove the middle crossing situated outside the Epping Club
- Install a signal at the crossing on the southern end of the Coles carpark to manage the flow of pedestrians. This could be deactivated at times not deemed necessary.

Local Government reform

The Sydney Morning Herald reported on 7 July 2015 that Office of Local Government statistics undermine the Government's case for Council mergers. The article, by journalist Harvey Grennan, revealed that the bigger councils are the worst financial performers. Yet the Government case for amalgamations has as a primary criterion that bigger Councils are more efficient.

It is understood that all councils have now submitted their response to the Government's 'Fit for the Future' initiative and judging by these reports, three Councils want Epping within their boundaries. The only position taken by the Trust on this matter is that Epping must be fully within the boundaries of one council area.



Crossings cause traffic congestion on Rawson Street



Buses held up on Carlingford Road because of the traffic.

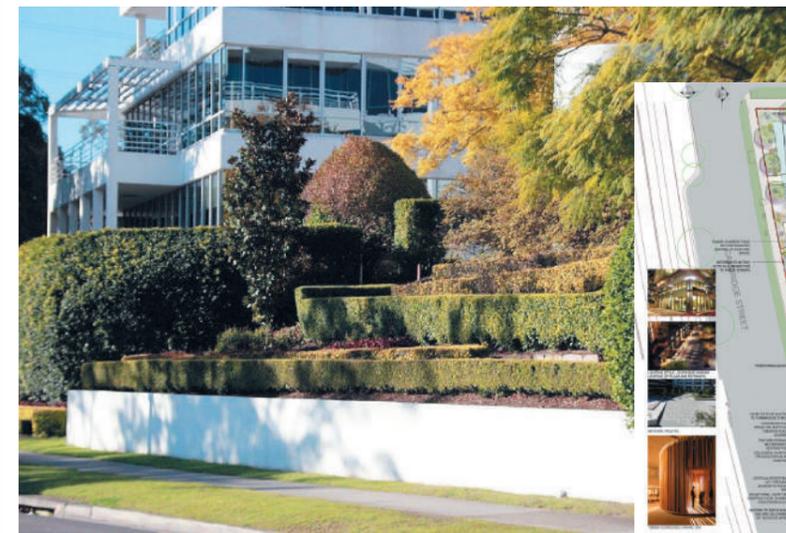


Hornsby Shire Heritage Awards

Each year, Hornsby Shire Council presents the Hornsby Heritage Awards to publicly acknowledge outstanding design work that helps maintain places of historical significance, as well as efforts to promote heritage. If you have undertaken, or are aware of a suitable project which would be eligible, please consider submitting a nomination by Friday 7 August.

More details can be obtained from the Council's Heritage Planner, Ph: 9847 6726 or www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/heritage

Development proposal 20-28 Cambridge Street, Epping



Proposed development location



Vice President, Graham Medhurst reports

An initial response on this development application has been submitted by the Trust to the Hornsby Shire Council. The Trust has advised Council that it is pleased that the development seems to comply with the zoning for the site (22 storeys) and that the landscaped area appears to be generous (see plan above). There is potential here for the creation of a vibrant and attractive plaza. However, the Trust does have issues with the development proposal.

Firstly, the buildings appear to be rather bulky and plain in design, and fail to conform to Council's design prescriptions. Clearly the architects could do better.

Other observations are that Council's requirement for a landscape feature on Cambridge and Chester Street appears to have been poorly executed. The Trust is also of the view that retail space is inappropriate along these frontages.

Council plans for this area include a laneway on the southern side of the development. There is little evidence that this has been dealt with adequately by the Council or the developer.

Council has advertised for private consultants to assist with its assessment of this proposal. The Trust also seeks the assistance and support from members who are architects and landscape specialists (see the President's editorial in this newsletter). Comments from Civic Trust members on this development would be greatly appreciated.

Fight for Epping Pool Continues

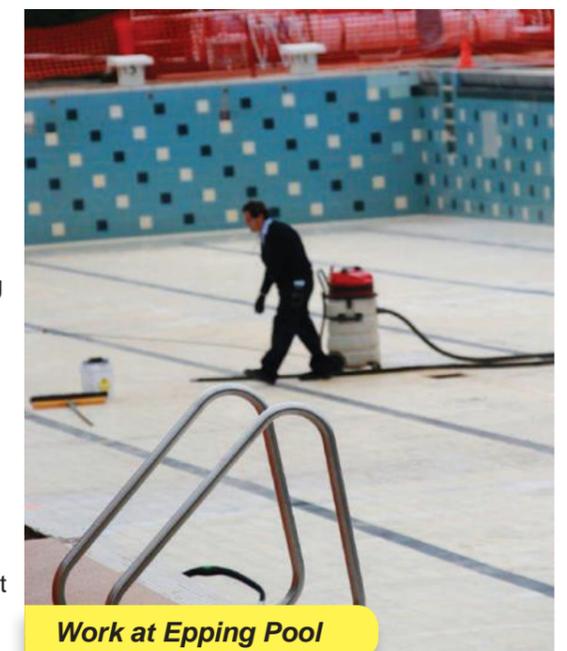
Report from Save Epping Pool Group

The fight to save Epping Pool continues. This is despite Hornsby Council agreeing to conduct geotechnical and structural investigations, with a view to opening in October for the summer season.

The decision to conduct these investigations was made at the June Council meeting where residents and representatives of community groups, including the Epping Civic Trust, Save Epping Pool and the Epping Bullets Swimming Club, spoke passionately against Council's motion to close and demolish the pool. The Hornsby Council Mayor, Steve Russell, and C Ward Councillor, Michael Hutchence, have both publicly stated their reluctance to continue funding what they describe as an ageing asset.

The battle is far from over. If you want to see this wonderful facility re-open this summer, please write to your local councillors and show your support for our pool.

The Save Epping Pool Group also acknowledges the vital support of the Epping Civic Trust through sponsorship of an information brochure prior to the June meeting.



Work at Epping Pool