



EPPING CIVIC TRUST
P.O. BOX 271, EPPING 1710

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

In presenting the 40th Annual Report of the Epping Civic Trust, I would like to thank the outgoing Executive Committee and some members for their good work and support during the year. *In particular, the following deserve special mention:*

Alan Swales as Treasurer & Valma Swales as Assistant Treasurer for maintaining the membership list and organising distribution of the Newsletter; Chris Dunkerley and Graham Medhurst as Vice Presidents; Brian Berry as Secretary; Ron Dunstan as Minutes Secretary and for his community spirit; Committee Members, Helen Strasser, Anne Dean, Ruth Evans, John Goddard and Graeme Wyber.

My special thanks to: [See members edition]

Also my special thanks to: [See members edition]

I also wish to acknowledge with many thanks the outstanding work of your Local Government representatives – Cllr Lorraine Wearne of Parramatta City Council and Cllrs Nick Berman, Michael Hutchence and Robert Browne of Hornsby Shire Council. Their reports at our General Meetings and in the Newsletter were very much appreciated.

The Trust also gratefully appreciates the publicity given by the Editor and his staff at the *Northern District Times* on important issues during the year.

Membership at end of the year was 489 individuals, an 8% increase over 2009.

- General Meetings were held on 16 February, 20 April, 15 June, 17 August, 19 October and 7 December.
- Public Meeting was held on 23 March for Hornsby Council's proposed rezoning of five areas near Carlingford Court.
- Committee Meetings were held on 19 January; 16 March, 18 May, 20 July, 10 November.

My sincere thanks to every member who continued to support the work of the Trust and maintain their membership.

Matters dealt with and items of interest during the year

January / February

Councillor Lorraine Wearne said, "After many months and much deliberation we are about to exhibit our new LEP. The Department of Planning has agreed to give Council a certificate to allow exhibition on a number of conditions. The most important of these for our Epping community is "the removal of the proposed extension to the Conservation Area in Epping".

Hornsby Mayor Nick Berman said the Hornsby Shire Housing Strategy has been amended and will be placed on public exhibition from mid-March, giving the community the opportunity to have their say about proposed amendments to the Strategy. An additional four areas were proposed for the Carlingford precinct.

The Housing Strategy seeks to plan for the provision of additional housing opportunities for Sydney's growing population, which is expected to increase by 1.1 million people between 2004 and 2031.

Parramatta Council's "Dob in a Graffiti" Vandal scheme: Recently there's been an outbreak of graffiti in Epping; all over telegraph poles, signs and anything else these vandals can find to write on, said Cllr Wearne. Please remember if you see these vandals, phone the police immediately. Graffiti is a crime and if they are convicted you could be \$1,000 richer.

March / April

Epping Church of Christ Hall was packed with many residents standing, when well over 200 people attended the Information Meeting on 23 March 2010 to ask questions of Hornsby Council's Staff and the Mayor, why they were proposing to rezone five large areas near Carlingford Court for five-storey units.

Invited guests present were Mayor Nick Berman, Deputy Mayor Robert Browne, Councillors Michael Hutchence and Andrew Martin; Mr Scott Philips Executive Manager, Planning Division and Mr James Farrington, Manager Town Planning Services Branch.

Major concerns were: lack of public transport; too much traffic; flooding; narrow streets; loss of parking; and excessive over-development. There was no one in favour of the proposal when Chairman Graham Lovell sought the opinion of those present and he urged everyone to write individual letters to Council.

Further to the NSW Planning Department instructing Parramatta Council not to exhibit the proposed extension of Epping's Conservation Areas in the Draft Local Environmental Plan, we distributed a coloured leaflet following a recommendation from Councillor Lorraine Wearne for the Civic Trust to campaign strongly with her and show evidence that property owners are happy to support these new heritage areas.

We congratulated members Mrs Thelma Batey and Mr Andrew Sneddon who celebrated their 100th Birthday on 30 March 2010. Andrew was a member of the ACE Independent Team who represented the Trust on Parramatta Council from 1974 to 1983. Some of his many achievements were preserving the residential areas of Carlingford, Eastwood, West Epping and Epping from overdevelopment by medium density housing; major road and footpath improvements; and tree planting.

May / June

Mayor Berman reported in our June newsletter that the public exhibition of Council's amended *Housing Strategy* received more than 3,000 submissions from residents. On behalf of Council, thank you to all residents for taking the time to call and write to us, and for coming along to our community 'drop-in' sessions.

Hornsby Council workers and contractors were busy over the last few months installing water tanks to harvest and store stormwater at several ovals in Epping and Eastwood. Tanks were installed at Somerville Park in April. The work, which was funded by the Federal Government through its *Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan*, will continue over the coming months.

Cllr Wearne said Council officers informed me that we have received over 500 submissions from the whole Parramatta LGA during the exhibition period for the new Local Environmental Plan. They are sorting these submissions to allow us to identify areas of concern in the community about the proposed Plan.

It is surprising that we did not receive a greater number of submissions. Past plans and consultation has resulted in over 2,000 submissions. I hope this means that we have got the planning right and people are happy with it.

Parramatta City Council's efforts to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping are beginning to pay dividends with the latest clean-up figures showing a reduction of 20 tonnes in one month

Council had a number of ongoing illegal dumping investigations which they hoped will lead to prosecution and show the rest of the community that this type of behaviour won't be tolerated.

July / August

Epping Town Centre Study: The August Newsletter featured a coloured map of the study area up to 800 metres from Epping Station and a detailed article on the progress of this Study which will determine the future commercial and residential planning controls for Epping.

Clr Wearne advised that the Channel 7 site had again changed ownership being purchased by Meriton Apartments who plan to increase the number of units from 650 to 800.

The proposed dwelling at 19 Victoria Street was finally recommended by Council staff for approval with some changes including lowering the ridge height, using timber windows and doors, terracotta tile roof and bricks of a colour suitable for the Conservation Area.

Clr Nick Berman provided an update to Hornsby Council's Housing Strategy which requires an additional 11,000 dwellings by 2031 as directed by the NSW State Government. Council decided to remove four areas from the Carlingford precinct and retain the Keeler St / Carlingford Rd area.

September / October

Andrew 'Andy' Sneddon 30 March 1910 - 30 September 2010: We pay tribute to our former member who represented the Trust and the citizens of Dundas Ward, as a dedicated Alderman on Parramatta Council from 1974 to 1983.

The Trust is extremely grateful for all the magnificent work Andrew did for our communities. We extend our sincere and deepest sympathy to his wife Jean, children Phillip, Ian, Jeanette, Robert and their families.

Hornsby Council released its Housing Strategy Development Control Plan: This Plan applies to 5 storey residential multi-unit housing development, 5 storey mixed use development, and 8-10 storey mixed use development in Housing Strategy Precincts.

Clr Nick Berman said Council considered a report presenting an evaluation of tenders by the *Epping Town Centre Study* Steering Committee, which comprised representatives from Hornsby and Parramatta Councils and the Department of Planning. Council resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committee and accept the tender of JBA Urban Planning Consultants.

Meriton Apartments submitted an application to the NSW Department of Planning to modify the Concept Plan for the former Channel 7 site at 61 Mobbs Lane, Epping by increasing the number of dwellings by 150 and other amendments.

Mayor Nick Berman unveils a plaque at Oxford Street, Epping to celebrate Council's \$3.5 million project aimed to revitalise the street with trees, paved footpaths, allow space for outdoor dining and improve the poor quality of the road surface.

New guttering and innovative tree pits, which capture rainfall to irrigate the trees and filter stormwater, were also constructed as part of the upgrade. Council has pre-approved outdoor dining for cafes and restaurants to cut red tape and ensure that existing businesses can expand their trading immediately.

November / December

Hornsby Council seeks residents' feedback about how the Shire's trees and vegetation should be protected in the future.

New state legislation means that tree and vegetation protection (and all development controls) must be combined in a single Development Control Plan. Council recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Tree Preservation Order, but that document must now be replaced.

Hornsby Council won the Resource Recovery and [Waste Management](#) Award at the 2010 National Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards. Council also received highly commended for the [Water Conservation](#) Award.

Epping Town Centre Study: Cllr Wearne said a majority of the Study would examine the existing traffic problems in Epping, including congestion on Rawson Street, Beecroft Road, Epping Road and Carlingford Road. Eventually we want Town Centres on both sides of the railway line. Hornsby Council controls the area north of Carlingford Road and east of the railway line. Parramatta Council controls the area south of Carlingford Road and west of the railway line.

The Trust turns 40 years old in 2011

Finally, my sincere thanks to everyone for the support and encouragement I have received this year.

GRAHAM F. LOVELL – President