

**GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
February 18, 2009**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The 2008 GCA committee was plunged into action from the very beginning last year, something that the President, for one, was not expecting!

It started with the public consultation process associated with the extensive re-write of the Lane Cove Local Environmental Plan. Whilst Council was, to a certain extent, constrained by a Department of Planning template, some sections of the plan were negotiable. The GCA felt that some of the changes had the potential to alter the character of Greenwich and, for this reason, it took steps to highlight them in both letterbox drops and information days. The Committee was heartened by the level of interest in the detail of the plan, with many residents taking the time to voice their concerns in writing and/or spending hours and hours in Council meetings.

Whilst the version eventually adopted by Council may be less than perfect, there is no doubt that the extensive community involvement helped to craft a document that goes a significant way towards preserving the character of Greenwich.

Detailed planning will continue with the drafting of Development Control Plans that will contain more of the specific requirements imposed on development in the community. Again some of this will be non-negotiable but the Association will be making constructive suggestions to improve the controls and hopes that the community will do the same.

The GCA continued to maintain an eye on development proposals before Council and the NSW Department of Planning. It has been the policy of the Association in the past few years to avoid becoming directly involved in making submissions in respect of individual proposals. It sees its role as rather one of providing residents with information about appropriate processes if they feel they are adversely affected by a proposal.

It is only in the case of blatant over-stepping of the planning controls or of developments that may significantly alter the amenity of the area that the Association has elected to make a submission in its own right. This was the case in relation to the proposed 10 storey hotel development on the Greenwich Inn site and the proposed hospital development adjacent to the Waterbrook residential development. The level of community involvement in opposing the Greenwich Inn

proposal was amazing. I believe that the Association's letterboxing and dogged information dissemination by some Committee members are the prime reasons so many people became involved. It is too easy for important issues to slip beneath the radar – the traditional Council notification process leaves many people in the dark.

The Waterbrook Hospital proposal is still being considered by the Department of Planning. The Association had representation at the developer's public information days and two representatives of the developer made a presentation at our December meeting. The GCA has made a submission and we now await the next step in the assessment process.

Council elections were held in 2008 – our August "Meet the Candidates" meeting was well attended. The GCA has long enjoyed the opportunity to hear from our Councillors at its public meetings. Thank you to those outgoing Councillors who attended regularly last year despite very demanding schedules. We hope that our new Councillors will be able to do the same.

Our newsletter has continued to be distributed to most letterboxes before our public meetings. We are still grappling with whether more of our information could be delivered electronically but, in the meantime, thank you to our intrepid distributors who risk their fingers in those lethal spring-loaded letterboxes every two months!

The financial position of the Association remains strong – our income is certainly sufficient to fund our current level of activity. The Committee welcomes suggestions as to how our surplus funds may be allocated but, as our Treasurer will explain later, they would not make much of an impact on a federal deficit.

So, all in all a pretty busy and rewarding year. Thank you to all members of the committee for their amazing support and for getting to meetings that are called at the last minute by a disorganized President. Special thanks to our Treasurer, Peter Walton, who never fails to have the figures when we need them and to our secretary, Michael Coombs, who produces minutes within days of our meetings!

And finally, best wishes to the incoming committee – 2009 promises to be a busy year.