



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE WILL AFFECT YOU- COUNCIL AMALGAMATION

No, this is not just another boring bureaucratic shift. This will hit us where it hurts most –our right to be represented in local government at a time when Greenwich amenity is under real threat. The GCA has an exciting proposal to put to the community and we must act quickly -

Come along to **OUR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING** to hear this discussion. This will take place on **Wednesday, 20 April 2016**, in the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. Everyone is warmly invited to attend, participate in the discussions and ask questions. Refreshments will be served during the evening.

FORCED COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS - IS A MERGER WITH RYDE AND HUNTERS HILL THE RIGHT FIT? WE SAY "NO"

The GCA opposes forced local government amalgamations. This was affirmed at our meeting in February.

But the NSW government is giving every indication that they are going ahead regardless, and Lane Cove will be forced into an amalgamation with Hunters Hill and Ryde. This will mean that Greenwich will become a remote part of a much larger municipality, with offices headquartered in Ryde and our ability to select our own representatives very unclear.

Our previous newsletters have highlighted the shambolic and uncoordinated development of St Leonards and adjacent precincts, due largely to control being in the hands of three separate councils. This development has placed great strain on the infrastructure of East Ward, particularly Greenwich, and will only get worse. The number of demountable classrooms in Greenwich Public School is but one example (see photo).



The shrinking goalposts – there's not too much more room for actual sport, with all the demountable classrooms being added to accommodate ever more students.

A merger with Hunters Hill and Ryde will further expose East Ward residents to impacts of large scale development approved by councils in which they are not represented. It is critical for the planning of St Leonards that the area be managed by one council, and that East Ward residents have a voice. Recent NSW Government actions demonstrate its determination to push ahead with forced amalgamations. The GCA committee has responded to this urgency and we resolved at a specially convened meeting to seek new partnerships which would allow East Ward residents the best possible chance of having a say in developments so close to home and that affect us so dramatically.

Therefore, the GCA committee is proposing that East Ward be included in a future local government area that includes the St Leonards precinct and adjacent areas. We will be asking the community to support us in this course of action and committee representatives will be in evidence throughout the community in the next two weeks seeking this support.

The decision we have taken derives from our need to ensure, as far as possible, that forced amalgamation will not leave us on the edge of a new local government area with little or no ability to have input into developments that impact our part of Lane Cove so significantly. It is vital that residents attend the meeting next Wednesday as the NSW Government is moving very quickly.

See our website for the full text of resolutions passed and for further developments.

THE NEW COMMITTEE

At the February AGM the outgoing committee received kudos for its dedicated and hard working service to the Greenwich community. Tom Gervay, as the outgoing president, thanked the whole committee and talked about the various wins and misses over the past year.

Now we have a new committee (with some old faces remaining) and we look forward to seeing what we can achieve in this new term - always keeping in mind that our primary objective is to foster, build and support the well being of our residents. A big welcome to our new president, Merri Southwood, vice presidents Tom Gervay and Alan Winney, secretary Stuart Warden and committee members Liz Walton, Liz Gill, Susan Robinson, Penny Mabbutt, Rod Tudge, Michael Ryland and Piet de Jong.

We don't as yet have a treasurer. If there is anyone in the community who would like to step into that role which was so ably carried out by our past treasurer Patricia Quealey, then please contact Merri on the contact number at the end of this newsletter.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR 2016 -
DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

- 15 June 2016
- 17 August 2016
- 19 October 2016
- 14 December 2016

CYCLING UPDATE

Following the request from parents at Greenwich Public School who wish to accompany their children to school while teaching them safe cycling skills and etiquette, Council recently installed a 13 - scooter / 4 - bicycle rack outside the Greenwich Rd Infant School campus, directly opposite the shops (see photo).



Many parents are unaware that children up to 12 years of age and accompanying adults are legally allowed to ride on footpaths.

Last year Council upgraded the shared user pathway (SUP) through the bushland from Greendale Street to the Smoothy Park Bridge. This is now safer for cyclists, prams and pedestrians. The footpath along River Road from Greenwich Road to St Vincents Street was also widened to a SUP.

In January a large rock fell on River Road footpath on the narrow cliff section between the golf course and the rear entrance of Greenwich Public School. Council's Bicycle Advisory Committee, supported by Council, Anthony Roberts, the GCA and Greenwich P & C lobbied Duncan Gay, the Roads Minister, for this footpath to be made safe and widened to SUP standard. Council commissioned GeoTech Reports and will soon stabilise sections deemed most hazardous.

CRAZY WHIST NIGHT

The Isabelle Heim Fund will be running another fun and fund-raising evening at Greenwich Community Hall from 7.00 pm on **Saturday 30 April**. The ticket price of \$50.00 includes snacks, supper, drinks and a donation to the fund. Numbers will be limited to 80, so secure your tickets early! Ticket enquiries 9438 1339.

GORE BAY NEWS

The EPA has responded to our detailed submission on the licence review for the Gore Bay terminal. The Gore Bay Terminal Sub Committee has yet to fully digest the response but at first glance it was disappointing – petrol storage will remain an option. Release of the Human Health Risk Assessment continues to be blocked by Viva Energy.

Storytime

AT THE LIBRARY

Greenwich Library is happy to announce that it has added two new free events for littlies, on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 am. Open to all, there are themed stories, songs and crafts, and no bookings required.



UPDATE ON THE BATHS

Greenwich Baths is to turn 100 this year and renovations are happening. The Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (IHAP) has approved some modernisation of the residence, and new construction of male and female toilet blocks. Stay tuned for further news of centenary celebrations.



ALCOHOL BANS

Lane Cove Council has been seeking community input into the success or otherwise of the New Years Eve alcohol bans at Manns Point and elsewhere in Greenwich, and whether the bans should be extended.

Submissions closed on 13th April but it may not be too late for residents to email their comments to Council. More details on the Council website.

Greenwich Hub

Linking our community

THE HUB TURNS ONE

The Greenwich Hub, a local community group whose members meet to share common interests and friendship, has just turned one year old. Current activities include among other things, a book club, Scrabble group, film screenings, yoga, Tai Chi and a guided history walk around Greenwich. You can join for just \$20 per year. More details on the website www.greenwichhub.org.au or phone Pam on 0431 959 980.

STAY IN TOUCH

We encourage ALL residents to stay in touch with regular visits to our website: www.greenwich.org.au and that of Lane Cove Council: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au

If you register your email address on the GCA's website you will also receive newsletters and updates electronically.
Merri Southwood, President 0412 361 331
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