



# GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING IS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2019. It will be held at our usual venue, the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening and everyone is warmly invited to attend.**

This will be our first meeting for the year and the agenda will include the AGM, where office bearers for the GCA committee will be elected. All positions will be vacated so nominations are open for: president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and seven committee members. Nominations for the positions may be submitted beforehand in writing to the President, Merri Southwood (southwood@bigpond.com), or may be offered from the floor at the meeting. Please note that nominees must have accepted the nomination, be seconded, and be financial members of the GCA. Only financial members of the GCA are entitled to vote, so be sure to renew your subscription before the AGM or on the night. Subscriptions run with the calendar year. Subscription slips are included with this newsletter and contain details of how to join or renew. Please email our Treasurer, John Southwood, if you want to check your membership status.

However, as well as the AGM the huge topic of the night will be what on earth has happened to our once laid back community hubs of Crows Nest and St Leonards, and how right under our noses they are being transformed into Hong Kong /Manhattan style enclaves in what has been designated a "tsunami of overdevelopment".

See the following story of where we are up to in the whole frustrating shemozzle.'

## ST LEONARDS SOUTH REZONING 2012 – 2019 - THE NEXT CHAPTER

As we farewelled 2018 we had temporarily shifted our focus from the horror story of St Leonards South (see previous newsletters for the whole story of SLS) because the full scale of the huge developments along the highway, approved by our council, was becoming apparent – Mirvac's St Leonards Square. And we still have the enormous Landmark and JQZ developments to look forward to. Surely, we thought, Greenwich was shouldering more than its fair share of the rampant over development in our area that was showing no signs of abating.

So, there we were sitting on the edge of our seats waiting for the Department of Planning to release its plan for the whole St Leonards and Crows Nest precinct, expecting that it would tell us what it thought represented good planning for SLS.

We hoped that the DoP plan would say that we have had enough residential development inflicted on us and that it would have recommended changes to the SLS plan for 2400 units. Instead, SLS was whited out on the Plan with a recommendation that it be reviewed by an independent panel. The panel was not to say yes or no to SLS but to advise the Minister on whether the plan fits into the bigger picture of the precinct plan. But the final say still remains with our Councillors.

Here is the conundrum in a nutshell: the Precinct Plan designates that extra high density be built only along the highway; SLS is not on the highway, so the SLS plan as it stands sticks out like a sore thumb as being plainly not in accordance with the Precinct Plan's guidelines.

However, SLS is not under the Precinct Plan, it is under Lane Cove Council, who can still recommend that SLS go ahead despite being out of step with the 2036 Precinct Plan. But here's the kicker – even supposing Council ignores everything: the 2036 guidelines, the community outrage at the "tsunami of over development", the lack of infrastructure and green space of the SLS plan – and votes to go ahead with SLS, the DoP can still make changes to the plan if it doesn't conform to its overall plan for the precinct.

We are getting very despondent about whether our Council listens to what we are saying – it must hear us (how could it not?) but listening and taking us seriously is another matter. We have had two recent cases that reinforce our view that Council wants to treat SLS as a "dumping ground" for all the housing it says the Greater Sydney Commission is demanding for the entire Lane Cove area. On 12 December, 56 people (including SLS developers) spent two hours giving considered feedback on the plans for St Leonards / Crows Nest at a facilitated workshop run by Council. The message came through loud and clear that people did not like massive residential developments with little or no infrastructure. And the subtext was that they did not like SLS. The facilitator, summarising views, commented that "some demographics were underrepresented, particularly residents aged under 30 years, while other age groups were overrepresented". So, what did Council officers make the key point in their report to Council? - the under 30 factor! No mention of the facilitator's own compelling statistics showing that over 86% of responses indicated either dissatisfaction or high dissatisfaction with the Plan.

This all came to light at Council's recent Extraordinary Meeting on 4 February to sign off on its proposed response to the St Leonards / Crows Nest plan. We were astounded to see that the Council report proposed many recommendations on SLS despite the fact that the independent review into SLS has not yet been held. We, and the scores



of people in attendance from Greenwich and elsewhere, saw this as a sign that the review counts for little in Council's eyes. In a hasty scramble on the night, prompted by demands from the public gallery, references to SLS were removed but what happened that night shows that we still have a major battle on our hands.

So, where to now? First of all, thank you to all who made submissions to the DoP on the St Leonards/Crows Nest Plan. The GCA submissions are on our website. These submissions are important because SLS is supposed to reflect the principles of the overall Plan. Our next hurdle is the independent

panel review process. The Panel has been convened, the terms of reference have been fixed to our satisfaction and we await details of when hearings will start. So do not delete the all the submissions you have made so far on SLS – you will need them again soon!

## HOW GREENWICH CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS

### SANTA AT THE WHARF TURNED 50



Santa and his helpers would like to thank Greenwich residents for their support for Santa at the Wharf on Christmas morning. Their generosity in purchasing coffee and cold drinks while Santa did his thing raised \$300 for Youth off the Streets. This wonderful community event marked its 50th anniversary, and it shows no signs of lessening in popularity. Special thanks must go to The Hairdresser in the village who has been a constant supporter for a number of years.

### CAROLS IN THE PARK

Another beloved tradition was celebrated in early December on the Leemon Reserve, Greenwich Point. With adult and childrens choirs, a jazz ensemble and a sausage sizzle, a lot of fun was had by all and a respectable \$2,192.35 was raised for Youth Off the Streets. Many grateful thanks to the various businesses and local volunteers who generously support the evening every year.



## FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO EXERCISE THEIR GREY MATTER

St Giles Anglican Church at Greenwich is starting a new discussion group, which, although faith based, will be opening up a range of questions for people of all faiths and creeds. Sessions will be held on the third Wednesday of every second month, starting at 7.00 pm on 20 March, in a Crows Nest restaurant. The first session will be held in Mario Brothers at 134 Pacific Hwy Crows Nest, in a private room. Sessions will initially be led by Greenwich resident Professor Vernon Ireland. **More information and RSVPs to St Giles office on 9906 1280 or office@stgilesgreenwich.org.au.**

Upcoming topics for discussion will include:

- Is there a moral crisis in Australia with a number of church leaders, and banks breaking the law, and our cricketers cheating?
- Do science and evolution undermine the Bible?
- "Christianity is a statement, which, if false, is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."
- Do Christians get answers to prayer or it all just in their imagination?

## STAY IN TOUCH

We encourage all residents to visit our website regularly, and to sign up to receive communications from us. This is especially important now, as there will be urgent updates, new information and calls for action, and we need to be able to communicate quickly and effectively with the community. Even better, become a member of the GCA. Your membership fees are our major source of income, and we need you in order for us to continue to operate on your behalf. Many thanks.

There are two inclusions with this newsletter: the subscriptions slip and a flyer from the Overdevelopment Group. If you are missing either, please ensure you pick up a copy on the night.

**Merri Southwood,**  
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