



# GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

This will take place on **Wednesday, 16 June at 7.30 pm in the Greenwich Sailing Club, Manns Point**. As is usual these days, there will be heaps to discuss, and everyone is warmly invited to come along and participate.

## YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Television news recently featured Planning Minister Rob Stokes talking about the emphasis on green spaces and how keen government is to "give" the people of NSW the gift of these spaces. Unfortunately he minimised the quid pro quo - that councils have to speed up the approvals process and provide more dwellings. But, apparently, we have to be grateful for small mercies. The community has been asked to comment on quite a few projects lately; this is where we are up to:

### GOLF COURSE PRECINCT

The future of the whole golf course precinct is a 'work in progress'. There are many in the community, not just golfers, who are watching this space with a keen eye. Some people are concerned that we will lose yet another precious green space, others fear the potential for a future high rise development.

Council has divided the site into two separate projects – the Sports and Recreation Facility and the golf course.

In its April meeting Council approved the concept plans for the Sports and Recreation Facility which will sit on the site of the current club house and car park. The development application for the facility is now on exhibition with **submissions due by 18 June**. <http://ecouncil.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/trim/DAInformation.asp?DANum=DA2021/00000064-01>. The estimated cost of the facility is \$51,968,392.30 – a big spend with no definite time frame for funding other than a \$20 million loan that Council has secured from TCorp.

The development application will be determined by the Sydney North Planning Panel.



The future of the actual golf course is being determined through a separate process. Community members will have received from Council an explanation of the Community Panel process. The Panel has been charged with defining a vision for the land but it cannot influence the Sport and Recreation Facility, the zoning of the land, the strategy for other open spaces in Lane Cove or its bushland features.

Council has reserved the power to make the ultimate decision about the site.

### ST LEONARDS PLAZA - Welcome to Xanadu

Council has plans for an open space area over the rail line between the JQZ development (under construction) and the completed Embassy building. Funding for this space will come from Voluntary Planning Agreement contributions and a grant from the NSW Government.

The Concept Plan for the plaza is now out for consultation **to 11 July**. It is very much a 'concept' with views to the Pacific Ocean and Sydney Harbour and swathes of sunlight. We have to ask - how are we to properly assess

the concept when we are subjected to an 'artist's impression' that includes features clearly not achievable in the plaza's location?



Council is also calling for suggested names for the plaza. Might we suggest - Xanadu!

More information can be found on **Lane Cove Council - St Leonards Plaza (nsw.gov.au)**

### COCKATOO ISLAND DRAFT VISION

The Harbour Trust is calling for feedback **by 11 June** on its draft vision for Cockatoo Island. The proposal includes an arts and creative industry hub, a maritime hub and a playground. **Cockatoo Island Draft Concept Vision | Have Your Say - Agriculture, Water and the Environment (awe.gov.au)**

Lane Cove Council will be making a submission on the proposal.

### GREENWICH WHARF UPGRADE

Submissions have closed and we await a consultation report on community feedback.

### MEET YOUR CANDIDATES FOR THE 4 SEPTEMBER COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Local government elections will take place on **4 September**, having been delayed by a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Community members have never been busier with local issues than they are now and the results of the

elections will be awaited with interest.

Councillors will be elected for a 3-year term rather than for the standard 4-year term.

The GCA will host a 'meet the candidates across the three wards' event. At this point, the event will be held in conjunction with our scheduled 18 August meeting but we may need to reschedule around candidate availability.

### **BOB CAMPBELL OVAL (BCO) – BREAKING ALL SPEED RECORDS, FROM “A LONG WAY TO GO YET” ON 15 MARCH TO REQUEST TO TENDER ON 31 MAY**

Remember the BCO rescission motion back on 15 March which was defeated 4-4?

We were told that Council needed to “consider the recent feedback on synthetic surfaces from Planning Minister, Rob Stokes”, that Council was definitely “at Stage 1 in our plans” and that “there’s a long way to go yet” with BCO.

In the 19 April meeting the Mayor outlined in her Mayoral Minute the “next steps” in the BCO process:

1. Refine the design according to best environmental practice;
2. Finalise the design and all supporting documents;
3. Finalise the REF (review of environmental factors);
4. Publish all documents; and
5. If synthetic turf supported, proceed to tender.

Then, on 17 May, after a year of being told that rubber infill synthetic turf was fine and some Councillors being silenced in meetings for even daring to suggest that it wasn't, we suddenly heard that Council had had a change of mind about the technology it was going to use.

BCO was going to be the site for *“Australia’s first 4G synthetic field with no performance infill, making it the most environmentally sensitive synthetic field in Australia.”*

What a wonderful “gotcha” moment for Council – no supporting technical data,

no information about how the turf will perform in Australian conditions and a turf not accredited by sports governing bodies.

Given the complete change of direction, we would have expected our Council to take some time to fully explore the environmental and public health credentials of the new turf, especially as the Minister for Planning (whose \$3.62 million worth of funding is going into BCO) is now in the middle of a review of the environmental, social and economic impacts of synthetic turf sports grounds.

But no.

Back to the “next steps” – here is what happened:

1. Refine the design according to best environmental practice - **not sure when**
2. Finalise the design and all supporting documents – **some are dated 25 and 26 May**
3. Finalise the REF - **21 May- 4 days after Council meeting when the 4G turf was announced!**
4. Publish all documents **24 May – a week after the Council meeting – some later**
5. If synthetic turf supported – **25 May Council officers determined that the entire BCO project “has minimal environmental impact”**
6. Request to tender for synthetic ground at BCO **published 31 May 2021**
7. Tenders close **21 June.**

In short, Council has rushed from new technology to REF to approval under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act to tender in just 14 days.

Is this the right decision for the environment in the middle of a Ministerial review of synthetic turf?

Is this a Council dealing in good faith with its community?

We are just 3 months from a new election. The synthetic BCO decision should be made by a new Council, not one that is only in office by virtue of a COVID-19 extension of office.

**This battle is not over.**

### **NORTH SYDNEY CONVERSATIONS**

Have you ever felt marginalised, left out, as if your opinions didn't matter? You're not alone. North Sydney Conversations is a newly formed, not politically aligned group that aims to host high-quality, informed and respectful conversations on issues that matter to residents of Sydney's lower north shore.

The group aims to help people connect with other like-minded locals to discuss and explore what we can do to make a difference. It holds regular events at local pubs and clubs, inviting expert speakers to share their views on issues of concern to the community, including climate change, women's right to equality and safety, media ownership, and integrity in government.

North Sydney Conversations' sold-out launch event in May featured Climate Councillor Professor Lesley Hughes, New York Times bestselling author Sarah Wilson and comedian Dan Ilic, who participated in a conversation on the current climate crisis, and the individual and systemic changes that we can make to address it.

More high-profile speakers have been confirmed for upcoming events, including Former Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW Greg Mullins, co-founder of climate change advisory and investment firm, Pollination, Martijn Wilder AM, and Zali Steggall MP.

North Sydney Conversations is funded and run by a passionate group of volunteers from Cremorne, Hunters Hill and Greenwich. More information: <http://www.northsydneyconversations.com.au>

### **STILL ACCEPTING SUBSCRIPTIONS**

There is a subs form included in this newsletter for those residents who have not yet renewed. Note that payment options are detailed on the form. Many grateful thanks for your support.

### **STAY IN TOUCH**

Ideally, we'd like all Greenwich residents to join. At least keep up to date by joining our mailing list by emailing John Southwood on [jsouthwood@spectrafin.com.au](mailto:jsouthwood@spectrafin.com.au).

**Merri Southwood,**  
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