



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 7 May from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, at the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Rd. Refreshments will be served during the evening and everyone is warmly invited to attend. .

YOUR GCA

In February this year, for the first time in its history, the usually uneventful election of the 12 GCA committee members went to closely contested ballots –indicating a healthy community interest in the issues to be undertaken this period. Details of the new GCA Committee can be seen at www.greenwich.org.au

The GCA holds open general meetings every second month, with the next being on Wednesday 7 May. Subsequent public meetings will be held on 18 June, 20 August, 15 October, 17 December and 18 February 2015 (AGM).

The committee works on issues together and through a system of subcommittees, which are formed in response to issues considered pressing.

Subcommittee convenors must be members of the GCA committee, but anybody from the community may participate in any subcommittees by contacting the appropriate convenor.

Current subcommittees and convenors are:

Environmental Sustainability: Helen Smith helenesmith55@gmail.com

Bicycle Paths: Rod Tudge rod@tudge.com.au

Shell Gore Bay: Merri Southwood southwood@bigpond.com

Transport & Access: John Southwood jsouthwood@spectrafin.com.au

Greenwich Hub: John May jmay42@bigpond.net.au

GCA Newsletter: Liz Walton liz.walton@bigpond.com

We will look at some of the subcommittees each issue and keep you up to date with the work they are undertaking.

PLAZA UPGRADE

It is pleasing to see that the Council has heard the vehemence of the opposition to the proposed Lane Cove Plaza Phase 2 works and modified their plans accordingly. While the amended plans will retain some of the trees and do away with the balustrades, the horizontal glass roof which was opposed due to aesthetic and practical problems still remains.

There is also concern as to the potential cost of this upgrade, which has now risen to \$5.1 million. It could be queried if the money would be better spent on projects considered more urgent, such as bicycle facilities.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2014 DOWN – ARE YOU PAID UP?

You may now pay electronically into the GCA bank account (details below) or use the enclosed subscription slip, which lists options of how to pay, and how to find out if you are up to date. **Please do not forget to identify your electronic deposit.**

Bank details: BSB 062247
Acct no 10104085.

Household: \$10.00; Pensioner/single household \$5.00.

AT THE LIBRARY

One of Greenwich's best kept secrets is the Majorie Propsting Library, tucked away modestly next to the Community Centre in Greenwich Rd. Although small it is perfectly formed, and provides a large range of print and electronic material. In addition to the free WiFi we mentioned last newsletter, readers are invited to download books, magazines and audio books onto their devices (except kindles).

There will even be staff members on hand to assist in these downloads throughout the year (session times to be advertised).

The library also hosts community and school activities. The next 'Knit In', for example, will be held on Thursday 5 June, and everyone is invited to come along to knit, chat, and have a cuppa. Materials will be provided for those who don't bring their own.



THE PROPOSED HUB



Helen l'Orange, the dynamic organiser of the Waverton Hub

You will notice that included with this issue of the newsletter is a survey which we ask you to fill out (**preferably on-line**). The GCA is investigating the possibility of starting a HUB in Greenwich, based on the very successful Waverton HUB, which is in turn related to a concept called 'Ageing in Place'. Over 230 members of the Waverton HUB are helping each other – to enjoy life as they grow older, to be as healthy as they can, to stay in their own homes as long as they can and have a lot of fun along the way. We will analyse the results of this survey only to gauge the level of interest in proceeding with this idea; your information won't be used for any other purpose or shared with any other entity. Additional survey forms are available at the pharmacy.

The GCA has also organised two information sessions where members of Waverton HUB will explain all about their HUB and how it works. The sessions are on Friday 9 May starting at 7.30 pm and Saturday 10 May starting at 2.00 pm – both sessions are in the Greenwich Community Hall, 46 Greenwich Road and are planned to last about 90 minutes,

For details call John May 9906 5106, Pam Palmer 9436 3971, Libby Hunter 9439 5582, Liz Walton 9966 5359, Christine Lopacinsky 9439 1727 or John Southwood 9436 1331



Iyengar yoga class



Tai chi in Brennan Park

SHELL

Because Shell is situated very closely to its residential neighbours of Greenwich and Gore Bay areas, an ongoing concern of the GCA is that Shell adopt world's best practice in their operations in the interests of community health and safety.

To that end the GCA and other interested community groups ask for transparency of operations, full consultation with residents and the highest level of compliance with regulatory authorities. The GCA is also aware of its important role in acting as a forum for those in the community who are interested in these matters but who lack the time and resources necessary to examine the issues in depth.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Subject to approval, Royal Dutch Shell has agreed to sell its entire shareholding in Shell Australia to global oil trader Vitol in a consortium with the Abu Dhabi Investment Council. This means that all of Shell's petrol stations, fuel storage operations (including Gore Bay Terminal), pipelines and refineries will be controlled by a new entity. The Shell name will continue for a term to be announced but a new (and unknown in the Australian context) board will be making decisions.

This transaction is happening when public exhibition of an application to the Department of Planning together with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major works at Gore Bay is imminent. These major works include: removal of redundant tanks, covering one of the large tanks with a geodesic dome to facilitate storage of jet fuel (kerosene), and upgrading the current control systems to increase efficiency and safety.

Given the potential change of Shell ownership at Gore Bay, it is vital that the

community stay on top of any concerns about operations and the Department of Planning impose strict conditions to protect health and safety if approval is granted for the Shell application. One major concern is the potential to store petrol at Gore Bay. Shell is permitted to store petrol on site under its current EPA licence, berthed vessels hold large quantities of petrol, and the refurbished tanks will also have that capacity. Current Shell management has assured us that petrol storage is not planned; however, it is a topic that must be examined further in light of the planned changes.

To access detailed information about the Shell operation go to:

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=5148

The time frame for the public submissions is likely to be between 30 and 60 days, very little time for the community to understand and comment upon what will run to at least 1000 pages of complex technical data. Lane Cove Council has agreed to host an information session about the application. This will, of necessity, be brief and cannot hope to explore fully the data in the documents and the implications for the community.

This is an urgent SOS for help from people with current technical skills in areas such as public health, risk assessment and petrol transport and transfer. You are needed to assist community members understand what they are reading so they can form their views on the application and make submissions.

Please call Merri Southwood 0412 361 331 if you wish to be involved in this very significant issue. More information is available on the GCA website.

STAY IN TOUCH

And we encourage ALL residents, new and long standing, to stay in touch by regularly visiting our website, and the website of Lane Cove Council – www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au.

Tom Gervay, President 0418 230 889
Rob Hunter, Secretary 9439 5582