



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

We warmly invite you to attend this meeting, the last for the year, on Wednesday, 14 December 2016, in the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. This meeting is being held a week earlier than usual because of Christmas commitments, and we will be celebrating the season with good cheer and refreshments during the evening. We will wrap up the year, see where we are up to in major concerns, and plan for next year. Everyone is most welcome to attend.



SO WHERE ARE WE IN TERMS OF OUR ONGOING CONCERNS?

PLANNING

SO MANY COOKS, BUT WHO IS RUNNING THE KITCHEN?

It is hard to recall a time when there have been so many plans for Sydney's development with so little clarity about who does what.

Council amalgamation is still up in the air despite the NSW government's attempt to force capitulation with threats of council elections for the recalcitrants being delayed until 2018 and possibly 2020. Councils who are fighting amalgamation are keeping their options open while waiting on a Court of Appeal decision.

Meanwhile major developments in East Ward are progressing. The St Leonards South Master Plan, that will create a high density residential pocket bounded by River Road, Park Street East, Marshall Avenue and Canberra Avenue, has passed the Department of Planning Gateway process. This plan will significantly alter the character of this precinct and will generate significant demands on infrastructure

which must be addressed as part of the Gateway approval. It is expected that the LEP amendment to give effect to this plan will go on exhibition in early 2017. Detailed maps of current and proposed development in the master plan area can be found on <http://leptracking.planning.nsw.gov.au/PublicDetails.aspx?Id=2543>

The recently formed Great Sydney Commission, responsible for "big picture planning" for Greater Sydney has released for discussion its Draft North District Plan. The plan is worth a read as its focus on St Leonards/Crows Nest as a priority precinct will undoubtedly impact Greenwich. The draft plan can be found on the GSC website:

www.greater.sydney, go to 'District Plans', then 'North', and it will be on exhibition for comment until the end of March 2017. The GCA will work on its response after Christmas/ New year.

VIVA AND THE EPA

Despite the EPA's assurances in August that the renewed Viva licence would include ongoing monitoring of emissions at the facility's boundaries, the licence allows Viva to continue operating without that monitoring in place, with a very loose condition

requiring Viva to "investigate the feasibility" of monitoring.

This is unsatisfactory in our view and we will continue to seek discussions with both the Premier and NSW Minister for Health.

SULFUR EMISSIONS

We were pleased to read a SMH report about how the Turnbull government has agreed to revive restrictions on the sulfur content of fuels used by cruise ships at dock in Sydney Harbour.

The GCA and other waterside community groups have long been concerned about harmful emissions from the 90,000-plus-tonne vessels that berth in the harbour. The NSW Government had enforced the use of low-sulfur fuel inside the harbour but in June a federal-state jurisdictional issue rendered the NSW law inoperative and the federally mandated minimum of 3.5 percent remained.

This has now been overturned and an upper limit of 0.1 percent for fuel-oil sulfur content has been instituted. The GCA welcomes this news and we will keep pushing for it to apply to tankers as well.

NEW CONCERNS WE WANT TO ADDRESS (it never stops, does it!)

You will notice on our website a list of Crown land properties in Greenwich. Crown land is a valuable community asset handed down to us residents in our Constitution, and it is ours to use to benefit the community, whether that be active as in parks and community facilities, or passive, as in maintaining green corridors and bushland.

Unfortunately, governments at all levels have cottoned onto that much of this Crown land is a valuable commodity, and as such could be sold or commercially developed to bring in revenue for government coffers. Comparing lists of Crown land parcels of today with even 10 years ago reveals just how much of Crown land has been sold off by stealth.

The recent changes to Crown land legislation reflect this disturbing trend, and we want to alert residents that this is happening here. Greenwich Baths is an important case in point. This is Crown land that has had a lot of money put into it, with current and recent upgrading, and Council may be wanting to recoup that investment. It is unfair of us to speculate; suffice to say that we are aware of the commercial advantages of properties such as this and we want to make sure it remains as a community asset.

To this end, we intend to establish a sub committee specifically for the Baths. If any residents are concerned about the future of the Baths and/or if you are interested in joining this sub committee then please come to the next meeting.



THE GAMES ARE OVER

CONGRATULATIONS to the ENGINEERS - the red team who have won the 2016 Greenwich Village Games, and also to the HEROES, second place getters.

The Bob Campbell oval in Greenwich was a hive of activity over the weekend of 3 – 4 December. In an extraordinary feat of organisation some 1600 participants – ranging in age from toddlers to seniors – ran, walked, tossed, biked, swam, canoed, pulled, skipped and jumped in a wonderful show of fun, good humour, and competition. There was lots of skill, many brave attempts, some mishaps. Probably many people surprised themselves, but all agreed that it was a fantastic weekend. The organising committee outdid themselves in holding such an extraordinary event – probably unique in Australia.



GREENWICH AT CHRISTMAS

Carols in Leemon Reserve

This year Carols will be held on Monday 12 December, starting at 6 pm and carols at 6.45. This is always a beautiful night with plenty of audience participation and community support. Come along and bring a picnic or enjoy the sausage sizzle.

Santa at Greenwich wharf

Santa will arrive on Christmas morning at 8 am. Tea and coffee will be provided for a gold coin donation to Sydney City Mission. Santa's helpers at 34 George St will accept clearly labelled gifts after 16 and before 24 December.

WE LOVE OUR TREES

So we want to protect them. It has come to our notice that some strategically placed trees in Greenwich have been poisoned. If you suspect or have evidence of this happening then email the Council, with 'tree poisoning' in the subject line and ask them to investigate. We would also like to know about it, Please email Merri Southwood on southwood@bigpond.com with details.

THANKS

To our newsletter deliverers and MaryEd who marshalls them every second month.

To our committee members and all our sub committees.

To our webmaster John Taylor for whom the GCA is a labour of love.

OUR NEXT AGM

Finally, we have our AGM coming up in February. We remind you that only paid-up members are able to vote, so if you want to ensure that your vote will count then we advise you to renew your subscriptions now. We are also aware that many residents who are not members read and enjoy this newsletter and rely on it for community updates. Unfortunately, this doesn't pay our printing bills!

So we are asking you -humbly - to support us in our ceaseless endeavours to keep Greenwich the clean, green, progressive space we love so much, and fork out your measly \$20 a year to keep us solvent, because at the moment our hard working treasurer tells us we are running on empty. Our stand at the recent Greenwich Village Games yielded a few new members, but not enough.

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 address on the GCA website you will also receive newsletters and updates electronically.

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