



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

We warmly invite you to attend this meeting on **Wednesday 17 August 2016, in the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm.**

You will have the chance to hear senior representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency update us on the progress of the Viva/ Gore Bay licence renewal.

We have been waiting since November 2015 for this report, so it is highly anticipated.

Refreshments will be served throughout the evening and everyone is most welcome to attend.

JOHN MAY, OUR LOCAL HISTORIAN HONOURED

Who knew that the history of an association could be so fascinating! John May, whose untimely death in February last year saddened us all, was a loved and respected citizen of the Greenwich community he loved and respected in return. He had commenced a history of the GCA and had unearthed some interesting and wonderful stories he was preparing in book form. When his death intervened his widow, Celia, took over the project and together with their friend Jill Pain completed and published it this July.

The book was launched on 30 July, the date Celia had chosen because it was John's birthday. In the Greenwich Community Centre a large and admiring crowd of residents, friends, members past and present of the GCA, and dignitaries including John Dowd, former Attorney General, Trent Zimmerman, Federal member for North Sydney, and Anthony Roberts, NSW member, gathered to hear Bill Henningham - whose parents founded the previous Greenwich Progress Association - pay tribute to John, his work and his extraordinary contribution to the community.

The book is a fascinating and important contribution to the annals of Greenwich history, and can be viewed on the Greenwich website.



Jill Pain (L) and Celia May show John's book in front of a portrait of the author



Rod Tudge, Anthony Roberts, John Dowd and Bill Henningham at the launch

HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR GORE BAY TERMINAL

The GCA'S technical review of the Assessment is yet to be finalised. In the meantime we have sought, through a freedom of information application, access to the Department of Health's internal findings which led it to recommend to the EPA emissions and noise abatement monitoring and reporting in its licence review.

In an ironic footnote, media reports suggest that the NSW Government's advances in terms of reduced sulfur levels for vessels in NSW ports, an improvement that we have been pushing for, have since been undermined by recent federal legislation. More information on request.



CALLING ALL LOCAL HISTORIANS

The Lane Cove Historical Society is awarding a \$2,000 prize for the best original, unpublished work of local history.

The research can be submitted in either written or audio/video form. Full details from Dr Kay Leiper, kayleiper@optusnet.com.au and entries must be received by 5 pm 31st August.

EAST WARD TO MERGE WITH ST LEONARDS?

The NSW Government appears intent on proceeding with the forced merger of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde councils. Readers will remember that the GCA formulated a three-pronged practical proposal to: slice East Ward (of which Greenwich is a major part) from the Lane Cove Council as it will be too remote from the new headquarters in Ryde; recognise that the current situation of three councils having jurisdiction over St Leonards will clearly lead to chaotic overdevelopment and strain on the amenities and services of Greenwich; and it is in the best interests of Greenwich residents that they be amalgamated into the St Leonards local government area so they can have vital input into the future of this area. The GCA ran a public petition over the course of a few weeks and obtained more than the requisite numbers to present the proposal to the Minister for Local Government.

To our dismay, the Minister has refused to consider our proposal as, in his opinion, there was insufficient clarity on the new boundaries and as a consequence we had insufficient signatories in support.

The GCA has since worded a strong reply to the Minister and we will keep you updated on progress.

ST LEONARDS PLANNING – WHAT IS GOING ON?

Our October public meeting and newsletter will be all about this issue because, whether we succeed in our request to be amalgamated with St Leonards or not, the inescapable fact is that the quality of life of Greenwich residents will be forever changed by the rapid rate of high rise development in this area.

A look at the Greater Sydney Commission Strategic Plan for the area, plus Council's St Leonards South Master Plan leaves us in no doubt about this.

The Loftex DA for Marshall Avenue which was re-submitted after a previous knock back when applying to have the height increased, was then approved on 29 June by the Joint Regional Planning Panel. This approval was granted in unbecomingly haste and disarray, in order to accommodate the developer. The GCA was only one of many who made submissions about the unsuitability of the extra height due to overshadowing, wind factor, floor space ratios and other technicalities, not to mention impacts on local amenity.

Rather than expend resources appealing this decision, the GCA now thinks that we must put all of our efforts into staying abreast of developments in this area, noting the proposal for a metro station at Crows Nest and the linkage to the Greater Sydney Commission.

A GREEN GRID FOR GREENWICH?

There is no safe way to cross River Road between the lights at the Greenwich Road intersection and Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft, intersection, a distance of over a kilometer. Every day pedestrians wait just past the bridge over the railway at Lithgow Street and hope for a break in the traffic so they can get to the bus stop on the other side. It is certainly not for the faint hearted, for prams, children on bikes and scooters, the elderly or anyone not fleet of foot. It is impractical and unsafe and will get even more so with the massive increase in population on the St Leonards side of River Road, and no parking. However, hope is at hand. The NSW Planning Minister, Rob Stokes, has asked the government architect to map Sydney's green grids, pockets or channels through which people should be able to walk through the city's suburbs (SMH 25 July 2016).

The GCA Active Transport sub committee has identified a stretch of pathway that could be used to provide a green grid connection across River Road: the wide strip on the west side of the rail line between Lithgow Street and the Russell Street bridge/ Smoothey Park.

With the new rail line through Crows Nest, that space on the old rail line can sensibly be set aside for safe and accessible green uses. The committee is preparing a submission to the government architect. If you would like to help, particularly if you have graphic design skills, then we would love to have you. Please contact Peter Tiffin via the GCA committee (admin@greenwich.org.au).



Amanda in her studio

THE BEAUTY OF CLAY

This year's Australian Ceramics Open Studios will be held over the weekend of **20 – 21 August** and Greenwich potter, Amanda Harrison, will open her studio at 1 Ford Street (studio entrance in Carlotta). Open from 10 – 4, entrance is free and the public can participate in workshops and unleash their inner artist. Visit www.australianceramicscommunity.com or ring **1300 720 124**.

WALKING TRACKS

Greenwich residents are avid walkers around their suburb and environs, but it was only when a resident queried the ownership of certain tracks and ambiguous signage that we decided to clarify the situation. We have asked Council for a map of the walking tracks, and also clear signage and advice of track clearing and maintenance programs, and these will be posted on our website.



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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