



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING IS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2017

(Please note a week later than our usual 3rd Wednesday)

*Time and venue remain the same: 7.30 pm at the Greenwich
Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road.*

This will be our first meeting for 2017 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, or can 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. Subscriptions run with a 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 on your membership status.

Refreshments will be served throughout the meeting and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

There has never been a more exciting time to join the Association. With the new Premier of NSW comes new challenges and opportunities to make a difference as proposed contentious actions are reviewed. Planning, land clearing, conservation, mining, council amalgamations, Crown lands are just some of the controversial topics up for review. The Viva terminal at Gore Bay is under the spotlight as the need for 24/7 monitoring of emissions becomes even more urgent (see item on page 2). Come along and see for yourself what fun it is to participate and actively work towards bettering our community. You might even be tempted to join the Committee!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription may be paid online, by mail, or by dropping them into the GCA box in the pharmacy, at any time and at the door on the night with the correct amount. No receipts will be issued. Individual and Family memberships are \$20, Pensioner \$10.

Electronic bank details are as follows:

BSB: 062247

ACCT# 10104085.

How Greenwich Spent (At) Christmas

Santa and his helpers would like to thank Greenwich residents for their generous support for **Santa at the Wharf** on Christmas day. A long standing tradition, this was the 49th time this has occurred and more than 200 kids and hundreds of parents enjoyed the morning with refreshments raising \$300 for 'Youth off the Streets'.

Heartfelt thanks also to 'the Hairdresser' in the village for their ongoing support.

Another beloved tradition took place in Leemon Reserve. **Carols in the Park** featured local school and music groups, and a sausage sizzle, and some 250 children and adults attended, with \$2,051.45 raised for 'Youth off the Streets'. Many grateful thanks also to the local businesses which generously support the evening.



WHO'S FOR SOCCER?



Vinay Chand is recruiting for the local over 35s soccer teams (but all ages are welcome to enquire). They are a social team that plays for fun on weekends in the Northern District Competition.

Season starts in April so you need to register your interest soon. It's a great way to meet new friends and get fit.

Contact Vinay on 0421 993 325 or email at:
chandvinay@hotmail.com

A VERY SIGNIFICANT EVENT

On 30 December last year Greenwich residents were jolted out of their preparations for New Year's Eve with the news of a product spill at Gore Bay terminal. Events have unfolded quickly since then and recent media items and radio interviews on our website offer troubling reading and listening. As this relates directly to our focus on requiring the terminal to be as safe as possible, here are the details, as we understand them, and the actions we have taken.

- Both the EPA and Viva confirm that the spill occurred as product was being pumped to a bunker vessel from one of the tanks adjacent to the loading arm. The product was discharged through an overhead pipe – but the cause and volume spilt have not been revealed.
- In the week after the spill the EPA posted some comments on Twitter but little detail has come from Viva Energy. Until a recent advertisement in *The Village Observer* for February, information from Viva has been limited to letter box drops to some neighbours on 3 and 13 January, and advice on the Viva Energy website.
- There was a strong odour from the spill, which confirms what we have always said – that there needs to be more transparency around regulation of the terminal operations including ongoing monitoring of emissions. We have been seeking support from regulators since 2012. The GCA sent letters on 3 January to the Premier, Minister for Health, Minister for the Environment, Anthony Roberts, and Lane Cove and North Sydney councils with only routine acknowledgments. No one from NSW Health inspected the site after the spill was reported. However, Trent Zimmerman, our federal member, took the opportunity to walk around the terminal to get a better understanding of the issues concerning the community.
- Lane Cove Council was unhappy about Viva's apparent delay in advising of the spill, given the close proximity of the spill site to Greenwich Baths and the large crowds assembled to party near the terminal on New Year's Eve.
- Management of the emergency response to the spill was poor and revealed inherent weaknesses, especially in holiday periods such as New Year's Eve. We have expressed our concern to

Council, for the umpteenth time, and received no response, also for the umpteenth time, about this poor response management and also about the fact that the local disaster management plan hasn't been altered since the product changes at the terminal in 2012. In addition, we have received very troubling information which suggests that the fleet of emergency vessels which services both Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay will soon be scaled back.

- We are also perplexed by a recent media statement from NSW Health which seems to suggest that NSW Health has now changed their minds about the need to monitor emissions in order to protect public health.
- On 1 February the EPA issued a prevention notice to Viva Energy to undertake a number of measures to prevent another leak, with penalties of up to one million dollars for non compliance. The notice also compelled Viva to implement a system of regular inspection and maintenance of pipes that transfer petrol products outside bunded tank farms.

This is good news for the GCA Gore Bay sub committee as it means that the regulators are starting to listen to our concerns, but it is only a first step and while it largely vindicates our work and focus it doesn't address our ongoing concerns of the health impact of living in such close proximity to the site.

It is not up to the GCA to speculate on how and why the spill occurred, nor the volumes involved, as the EPA investigation is ongoing and as such is *sub judice*. The EPA, however, would like to hear from anyone with information directly relevant to the spill.



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.

Merri Southwood, President 0412 361 331

Stuart Warden, Secretary 0421 680 353

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