

MINUTES GCA PUBLIC MEETING - WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2019
Greenwich Memorial Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, Greenwich

7.35 Welcome

Councillors in attendance: Pam Palmer and Frances Vissel.

Apologies: Liz Gill, Arlette Jubian, Valeria, Reynolds, Patricia Quealey, David Brooks Horn, Sue Yelland, Andrew Zbik.

Confirmation of Minutes General Meeting 16 October 2019. Moved: Peter Deane,
Seconded: Greg Perry.

Matters Arising: To be dealt with in the body of the meeting.

Correspondence In and Out: Too extensive to be presented here. Mainly emails and multiple email trails. To be compiled by Merri Southwood and made available at a later date.

REPORTS

Treasurer – attached. Moved Accepted by Peter Deane. Seconded: Tom Lawson.

Sub Committees:

VIVA Terminal meeting – Penny Mabbutt – attached. Brief summary: There were 4 attendees from Viva, plus Pam Palmer and M. Hines from the Council Environment Team, plus 9 residents (with no opportunities for other interested residents to attend). Main topics covered: cleaning, replacing pipe, painting, landscaping, inspections, replacement of diesel fire pump, technical testing, insulation, increased capacity to load more fuel, security, emergency response, fire drill, lack of aesthetic maintenance included in on going maintenance, 16 tanks on site actively storing diesel on the eastern side and bunker fuel on the western side. Need to use other tanks to store jet fuel for Badger's Creek if required. In addition, odour was not considered an issue and no complaints had been recorded; testing - still no air testing, just surface and ground water and no contamination had been found. New operations manager has improved efficiency of the site; Note: regarding DAs for extra tanks, Merri S clarified that Viva doesn't need individual DA consent. Comment post presentation of report: Community liaison has been greatly reduced, but investment in the site has increased. – Tom Lawson.
Suggestion that Penny's Minutes be sent to Viva – Frances Vissel.

Active Transport – Cycling

Submitted **active transport grant** granted to Council as a school safety grant.

Funding River Road. Don Murchison moved motion that, following a recent accident at the dangerous narrow curve of River Road outside the school, Council be asked to immediately fund the widening of the footpath at the cliff section, stabilise the cliff, and provide a

protective barrier for pedestrians. See attached for complete extended wording of Motion.
Seconded: Lisa Perry.

Discussion: Peter Deane reported that he had had a look at the cliff to see if Jersey barriers could be erected and in his opinion it was not possible as the cliff would have to be cut back, which would be a slow and expensive process.

Peer Walton, while agreeing with the Motion, stated that the accidents were not necessarily connected to the narrowness of the footpath, but to other factors such as speed.

Councillors' Reports

Frances Vissel – see attached. In brief: DAs taking longer, SLS has been delayed, Christmas fund, opening events at Lane Cove - car park, new kindergarten in Lane Cove West, new library delivery service, Lane Cove pool.

No discussion.

Pam Palmer – see attached. In brief: *Go Fund Me* page on website, new swimming pool, Christmas meeting, azalea beds, new fenced dog park in Blackman Park, Mindari Park, two other parcels of land for parks, Bush kids, budget surplus.

Discussion around the issue of trucking water from the old swimming pool in Lane Cove to Armidale. Whilst everyone empathised with the intention of aiding drought-stricken areas that desperately needed water supplies, some people questioned the economics of trucking water over those sorts of distances and maybe alternative ways of helping could be found. Councillor Palmer referred the meeting to *Go Fund Me* page on the Council website.

NOTIFIED BUSINESS

1. SSDs - there are two in action at present: Greenwich Hospital and the International Chinese School.
2. The Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement - which has gone quiet, seemingly overshadowed by SLS and the Crows Nest Metro.
3. The Community Participation Program submission has been finalised by Lane Cove Council and approved.
4. Greateon and Top Springs Rezoning Review - we are not sure if North Sydney Council has made a decision on this.
5. 33 Greenwich Road DA - this has been approved as per LCC report last night.
6. The Telstra Site Planning Proposal has been under assessment, and has now been withdrawn.
7. Bushfire Management Plan for Greenwich - two committee members, Penny Mabbit and Don Murchison to identify areas of risk and develop GCA submission 30/12.
8. St Leonards South update: the Charette has taken place. The GCA requested to attend as observers, which was refused, and GCA then requested that Councillors attend, which was also refused. Attendees at the Charette were council officers, the Government Architect and departmental officers (DPIE). The facilitator took notes, from which a summary is to be produced, which will then be sent to the DPIE for finalising, then to the GA, then to LCC to correct, then back to the GA, then to the

DPIE, and then back to LCC, who will then share it with the community - hopefully by Christmas. The GCA asked Mayor Pam Palmer in the meeting if LCC will release the report to the community as soon as it gets it or will it wait until the specially convened meeting in February, and the Mayor responded yes, it will be the former, even though she doubts whether it will be before Christmas. Albert Jubian asked that community observers be reassured that community concerns about SLS be incorporated. David Astridge asked if Council had requested an extension to the submission date, and he was answered that yes, councillors have agreed to that time frame. Pam Palmer stressed that Council was trying to be transparent, and not just spring an extraordinary meeting on the community.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Sue Williams asked if Greenwich Baths were meant to be open every day, as they were not open on a Monday when she attended. Her calls to Council and Bluefit were not answered. Tom Lawson advised the meeting that next year (2020) was the year of the Greenwich Village Games. In addition, the Isabelle Heim Fund, which he ran for many years, will no longer hold fund raising activities as Isabelle is now under the care of the NDIS. Thanks to councillors and GCA committee for the work we do for the community.

Meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

ATTACHMENTS

1. TREASURER'S REPORT

Membership - Individuals or families registered

195 as at 11 December 2019

200 as at 31 Dec 2018

234 at 31st December 2017

183 at 31st December 2016

276 at 31st December 2015

Accounts as at 11 December 2019

Trading for Financial Year to Date

1 January 2019 to 11 December 2019

(Profit and loss attached)

Gross Income: \$4,539.99

Total Expense \$4,511.67

Net Income (Loss) \$28.32

Cash Book balance \$4,970.29

Bank Statement balance \$5,197.29

Cheques to be presented \$480.00

\$72.00

\$4,645.29

Deposits to be banked \$325.00

Revised Bank Balance \$4,970.29

Term Deposit \$12,989.11

Statement Attached

December Newsletter

Printing – M Southwood

Statement Attached

Estimated costs for remainder of year

Refreshments \$200.00

Comments

Donations \$285 with renewal subs and Interest \$192.98 bolstered revenue.
Small loss for year considered acceptable in face of a year of unprecedented activity.
Membership drive via email in January is proposed to past members

John Southwood

Hon Treasurer

2. MOTION FROM DON MURCHISON

The Greenwich Community Association notes with grave concern the recent accidents on River Road, when a trailer careered off the road landing on the SUP in front of the school gate, on 20 November, and also when a vehicle hurtled across the footpath landing in bushland approximately 100 metres from the narrow cliff section of footpath, on 18 March. We also have major safety concerns for falling rocks after significant rock falls on this section of footpath in January of 2015 and June 2017.

We ask Council to immediately fund the widening of the footpath at the cliff section, to continue the SUP from the school to the entrance to the golf course, thereby providing safe passage for school children, pedestrians and cyclists. In doing so we ask Council to stabilise the cliff and provide a protective barrier or robust fencing (whichever is considered appropriate), from Greenwich Road to the entrance to the golf course, to protect pedestrians from speeding traffic along River Road.

We note that the school population and catchment is growing significantly and that there is growing awareness for the public health and environmental benefits of active transport, while nothing has been done to upgrade this footpath to make it safe. With Council reporting a significant annual surplus, the GCA requests some of this surplus be used to immediately rectify this hazardous River Road footpath.

Moved: Don Murchison

Seconded: Lisa Perry

3.VIVA COMMUNITY MEETING Notes

Park View Room, Lane Cove Community Hub

27 November 2019

Attendees:

Lane Cove Council – P Palmer & M Hines (Council Environment team)

Viva – Gavin Barnes (Newly operations manager replaced James Crowden)

Poppy Papodopolous – Communications Advisor

Adam Speers – Environmental Manager

Julie Seymour – Viva (ex Clyde Conversion Manager – Engineer)

Residents – Debbie & Wayne Nye; Gino & Judith De Martino; Tony Ashton; Tom Lawson (TL); Penny Mabbutt; Lisa & Greg Perry; John Spry

Viva Summary of Current State and Plans

- Gavin Barnes is a 13yr employee with Shell/Viva who has lived in the vicinity of Gore Bay since childhood. Is responsible for Clyde and Gore Bay. He is not an engineer, but an 'Commercial lead' and Scientist. James Crowden is now working in another Viva business.
- All scheduled upgrades and general maintenance projects have been implemented to plan this year and has consequently increased efficiencies from their investment. These included:
 - Replacing loading arm 2 and pumps
 - Refurbishment on a tank at the South which is now being used for storage
 - Replacement of 40 metres of pipe near Shell Park
 - Painting undertaken by full-time painter
 - Landscaping at the lower level, near the site office.
 - Increased height of the bundwall to meet Standards
 - Underwater inspections of the wharf
 - Replaced Diesel Fire pump
 - Regular inspection program following the incident of 2 years ago
 - Technical testing of the pipe (wall)? With visual inspection and x ray technology
 - Insulation of pipes
- Viva will only invest in new works/maintenance which bring financial return. They have to compete for funds with other internal businesses and allocation of funds for productive assets (and not aesthetics) will always get priority. Grant said that they are confident they will be given the funds needed as they have good contracts including more cruise ships and the Navy. They are hoping to refurbish and bring another tank back on line.

Resident Q&A

1. **Resident**– Acknowledged that the pipeline replacement is functional and asked for an explanation of what security measures they have put in place as it is exposed and accessible. Eg Thermal imaging.

GB – They have 3 people who walk the full length of the (area or pipeline) twice daily when a ship is docked. Aside from these he mentioned that they have 'sophisticated leak technology'. He said they have video surveillance 'all over the place' but not outside their boundary.

He acknowledged that there is no continuous monitoring of the exposed pipeline near Shell Park. The Pipe is 'never or rarely' empty.

Residents requested that this exposure be addressed. Suggestions were made by residents to use thermal imaging or caging. Viva acknowledged the exposed pipeline was a risk and said they would raise with Viva management. Several residents raised the risk of terrorists gaining easy access.

2. Resident – Raised questions relating to Emergency Response.

GB – Said that Viva have participated in several emergency response simulations with various authorities (Fire & Rescue, Police, Ports, Council) over the years and in 2019. He said that there were 6 fire appliances that were on site within minutes when there were two false fire alarms this year which was a good demonstration of their automatic notification system with the F&R. (One was triggered when a contractor knocked on a trigger accidentally and the other was a fire on a tug??)

Same Resident – asked about a Casuarina which is located close to a tank however the conversation continued without this matter being addressed. LP advised PM on 11th December 2019 that she was going to forward a photo of the specific tree to P Popodopoulos and raise concern about fire risk. PM asked LJ to copy her in.

Same Resident – asked why Viva wouldn't coordinate a drill or information session with the authorities for the benefit of residents.

Viva Response – said this was better or more appropriate for the GCA to arrange.

Another Resident – said he has never seen any F&R explain anything or make the ER plan understood. **Another Resident** added that the GCA had received concerns relating the the Fire Response from other residents.

Julie – said Minutes and the resident advice is available online at the Viva website from the meetings held between Viva, Safework & GCA on line.

Another Resident – gave this resident the email address of the President of the GCA who would be able to provide him with links.

3. Two Residents – Asked about the aesthetic maintenance of the site as it is looking decrepit.

Julie – said that the look of the site is current discussion they are having and how it can be improved. The local management are disappointed that the visual representation of the site does not reflect its operational integrity and the investments being made.

GB – said one tank (which is still covered by scaffolding) has been totally repainted but acknowledged that that is not visible. Active tanks will be repainted only where there is a corrosive issue that might impact their operations. They said that painting for cosmetic reasons can't be guaranteed. The type of attention the outside of the tank gets depends on several factors, including how long they would want to use the tank.

No promises were made but they understood the complaint about the aesthetics that were raised by the residents. In a follow up email seeking further clarity on the possibility of improving the aesthetics of the site from PM to GB, he was firm that no expenditure was to be made on this.

4. A resident sought to confirm tanks on site.

GB – Total of about 16 tanks on site with 8 or 9 actively storing.

- Petroleum gas and Jet fuel pumped to Clyde and not stored.
- Diesel – stored in north of site. These tanks have the floating roofs.
- Heavy (bunker) fuel stored on south of site

No ships allowed to burn heavy fuel in harbour at all. Ships tick over burning Diesel to the sulphur limits allowed.

In an email confirming what was being stored see below:

5. A resident raised that several residents and I had noted instances of bad odour.

GB – acknowledged that there was odour when cleaning the tank and that EPA had contacted them. Said that EPA had contacted them also regarding odour when they were not doing anything (and said that people attributed odour from the laying of bitumen to them?)

6. Another Resident asked if they were planning any other works for 2019.

GB – enthusiastically said they had hoped to but all dependent on budget to be allocated. They have made their submissions. He said they would like to bring another tank into service and that general on-going maintenance would continue.

GB said that they make decisions to do cleaning based on the wind, wanting to avoid odour.

PM – sought confirmation from GB in an email exchange on 11 December 2019 that further works for tank refurbishment would require a fresh Development Application. GB's response was that they would use their current 'development consent' and no new DA was required.

7. A resident referred to the Coral Trees that had been removed. Two other residents insisted, along with GB that they were Council Trees unrelated to Viva.

AS – then spoke regarding Environmental matters. He said he has only a 'light touch' on the GB operations because it is well managed. He attends 2 structural inspections with EPA a year. GB said EPA & he have a very good relationship and that the EPA often drop in informally and unannounced.

8. A resident asked what testing goes on.

GB & AS said:

- Surface and ground water
- 24 hr noise monitoring
- No air testing
- They check for ground water contamination twice yearly.

9. A resident – asked if Viva still supporting the LC Youth Orchestra.

Julie & PP – no. Company-wide survey of 1200 employees nominated to direct gifting to indigenous youth and red cross? Spoke about supply of low-aromatic fuel to north Aust which has addressed petrol-sniffing issue and providing exposure of indigenous children to engineering and career opportunities & role models.

10. A resident said that there is concern by some in the community that Viva is refurbishing tanks for the future storage of fuel for Badgery's Creek Airport. GB's response was that this was not their plan as that would be an uneconomic option and that the Government will have several suppliers.

4. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

F. Vissel

The Rezoning Review of the Proposals, in St. Leonards South by Greateon and Top Springs were considered by the Sydney North Planning Panel (SNPP) on 6 December. The proposals were for 23-31 Holdsworth Ave, 42-46 River Road, 24-34 Berry Rd, 26-36 Park Rd and 27-39 Berry Road

The SNPP have deferred them as follows:

"In the Panel's opinion the planning proposal subject to a rezoning review by the Panel must be consistent with the final version of the Council's St Leonards South Planning Proposal within which the site is located.

The Panel considers that it would be premature for it to make a decision before a clear path is established for the Council's planning proposal".

OPENING OF THE CANOPY CAR PARK

It was quite an exciting event when the lower three levels of The Canopy car park in Rosenthal Avenue were officially opened on Friday, 6 December, providing more than 400 spaces in the heart of Lane Cove. Parking is free for 3 hours. Opening hours are 6:00am – 1:00am, seven days-a-week. There are six electric charging points in the car park. Enter via Rosenthal Avenue.

LANE COVE'S CHRISTMAS DROUGHT FUNDRAISER

Many of us are aware there are hundreds of communities in NSW suffering the effects of the drought. Council has launched an initiative to help support two of those communities in the grips of drought; Gunnedah, our sister city; and Cobar, in central western NSW.

We are inviting Lane Cove residents to make a difference in these communities this Christmas by donating a gift card which families and residents in need can use in their local town to buy essentials for themselves and also support the local economy.

To show your support, simply follow these two steps:

1. Purchase one of the gift cards from the list below for any amount you choose.
2. Drop off your Gift Card in one of the wishing wells located at the customer service desks at Lane Cove Civic Centre, Lane Cove Library or Greenwich Library by **Thursday 12 December 5:00pm**.

Donate to Gunnedah by purchasing: (no surcharges or merchant fees apply)

A Lane Cove Gift Card – these cards have been activated for use at the participating stores in Gunnedah, enabling Gunnedah residents to use Lane Cove Gift Cards.

Donate to Cobar by purchasing: (no surcharges or merchant fees apply)

An IGA supermarket Gift Card can be used by Cobar residents at Cobar's IGA supermarket.

Available from IGA Greenwich, 87-89 Greenwich Road and IGA Lane Cove West (Agora), 165 Burns Bay Road, Lane Cove West. Please ask staff at the counter.

Council will distribute the gift cards to Gunnedah and Cobar Councils which will give the cards to local charities for residents and families in need in these communities. Thank you to those who have already given generously by dropping off a gift card.

At the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 4 November, Council pledged to make a separate donation of \$2500 to each town (total of \$5000) to Gunnedah and Cobar Councils for residents affected by the drought before Christmas.

Please note: When making your gift card purchase Gunnedah does not have an IGA supermarket and Cobar does not have a Woolworths or a Coles supermarket.

UPDATE ON LANE COVE'S CHRISTMAS DROUGHT FUNDRAISER

Since the GCA meeting on 11 December, I thought you may like to see the following update from the Council's Website

Council is pleased to announce more than \$17,000 was raised for its Christmas Drought Fundraiser.

A total of \$26,021.24 was donated to the two towns, Gunnedah and Cobar, including \$17,168.24 in gift cards and cash from our Christmas fundraiser, plus an additional \$5,000 from Council.

An additional \$3,853 was raised by the Lane Cove Youth Orchestra and Hunters Hill High School ran a sister city Rain Bringer fundraiser.

These funds have now been sent to Cobar Shire Council and Gunnedah Shire Council for distribution to people in need in their community. Funds raised went to help around 100 farmers in Cobar living and working on the land as their sole income. Please note: each council receives the same donation in terms of monetary value.

*A special thanks to **The Alcott** and **In The Cove** for a total of \$10,674.34 raised at two trivia fundraiser events. These funds have been split 50/50 between Gunnedah and Cobar and the*

funds have been electronically transferred so that the funds will be available before Christmas.

Mayors from both towns have already expressed their gratitude and thanks to Lane Cove.

Acting Mayor of Cobar, Peter Abbott:

“On behalf of our Mayor and the community of Cobar Shire I would like to sincerely thank you and your generous community for their kind support and donations... it does make a significant difference to know that people do care and are prepared to help families in need. I can assure you that your donation will make a difference to our people and on the land and once again thank you so much.”

Acting Mayor of Gunnedah, Clr Rob Hooke:

“This support has been quite remarkable and a wonderful stimulus for our residents as they realise that their Sister City citizens in Lane Cove are willing to recognise our difficulties caused by drought... we are very proud that we have had such a partnership with Lane Cove residents for many years.”

LIBRARY TO YOUR DOOR

Lane Cove Library now offers Australia's first seamless online-shopping style public Library experience to Lane Cove residents.

For a small fee, time-poor residents will be able to reserve items and have them delivered within three (3) working days of the item being available.

A pickup service is also available.

Aged or incapacitated housebound Lane Cove residents can call the Library to register for the free [Home Library Service](#).

For detailed information on the Library to your Door, please refer to Council's website <http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Community/Library/Pages/LibraryToYourDoor.aspx>, or just simply go to Council's website and search Library to your Door.

RECYCLING OF BOTTLES AND ALUMINIUM CANS - RETURN AND EARN MACHINES

Return and Earn officially opened in Lane Cove on Monday 9 December 2019. Located on P1 of the Little Street car park, the reverse vending machine aims to reduce the amount of beverage container litter in the environment by collecting eligible containers such as cans and bottles.

How to use the Return and Earn reverse vending machine:

1. Insert your empty containers into the chute at the front of the reverse vending machine.
2. Containers will be scanned to ensure they are eligible for a refund.
3. When you're finished, select your preferred payout method on the screen:
 - **Digital refund:** [Download the myTOMRA app](#) and link it to PayPal, to transfer the refund to your account.
 - **Retail refund:** Take a printed voucher from the machine for a cash refund to Woolworths.

- **Donate your refund:** Choose on the screen the charity or community fundraiser to donate your refund to .

Until Sunday 23 February 2020, your 10c refund can be donated to Rural Aid for the Bottles for the Bush appeal. So far, more than \$100,000 has been donated to Rural Aid for much needed hay, food, water and services to farmers and rural families affected by drought and bushfire.

MAKE A SPLASH - WATER TRANSPORT TO ARMIDALE

Council is collecting funds to transport more than 1 million litres of water from its new 50m outdoor pool to drought-stricken areas in NSW.

As part of the construction of a new outdoor pool, and as part of the site safety testing, the pool was required to be filled with water and emptied. Instead of disposing of the water down the drain, Council dived right in to arrange for the water to be accepted by organisations in Armidale, NSW. The water will be used to assist firefighters and farmers with livestock.

Council is seeking donations to help fund the transport of the water from Lane Cove to Armidale. If all goes swimmingly, it is expected the water will be transported to Armidale in late 2019 or early 2020.

UPDATE ON WATER TRANSPORT TO ARMIDALE

As there were quite a few questions on this, I thought you would like to see the following update from Council's website.

225,000 litres of water have made a splash in drought-stricken Armidale! Trucks carrying the water arrived in Armidale on Wednesday 18 December with more trucks travelling north on Thursday 19 December delivering another 225,000 litres. The water has already been deposited into a water tank and a dam at Armidale Airport used by the Rural Fire Service (RFS) for RFS helicopters and firefighting efforts across Northern NSW from the Queensland border to Tamworth.

A [GoFundMe](#) page has been established to raise money to transport the water from Lane Cove to Armidale. Council will cover the costs of transporting the water to Blackman Park, Burns Bay Reserve and other ovals in the municipality. A total of 48,000 litres were transported to Blackman Park and 32,000 litres were transported to Burns Bay Reserve on 18 December.

Mayor of Armidale Regional Council, Simon Murray, thanked Council and the Lane Cove community for the water. "I wanted to thank you personally for thinking of us and choosing to donate the pool water to our Council and kicking off the donation drive to make it happen. Our Rural Fire Service's capability to provide air support from the QLD border to Tamworth from our airport is extremely important during fire seasons. We still have 17 fires burning on our shire boundaries and 2 within our shire. Please also extend our thanks to your Council and community."

Council is currently in the deep-end of construction of a new outdoor pool, and as part of the site safety testing, the pool was required to be filled with water and emptied. Instead of disposing of the water down the drain, Council dived right in to arrange for the water to be accepted by organisations in Armidale, NSW.

More than \$45,000 has been raised so far to fund the transport of the water to Armidale, NSW.

OPENING OF NEW CHILDCARE FACILITY

Council was pleased to officially open its newest facility at 2 Waterview Drive on Saturday 7 December 2019. The 1,300m² facility will be home to a new 0-5 year old childcare centre and a food and beverage store. This Facility will fulfil an extra much needed Facility in this area of Lane Cove.

When Hycorp purchased the land from Council, an agreement was reached that Council would own the ground level strata on the basis that Hycorp would build a Childcare Centre and a Food and beverage store. The Facility is most impressive and Hycorp have done a magnificent job in carrying out the design created by the Council.

NEW DOG PARK

Lane Cove's newest off-leash, fully fenced, dog park opened on Saturday 7 December at Turrumburra Park on the corner of Centennial Avenue and Epping Road. This dog park is a result of community consultation about upgrades to the park.

In addition to the new dog park, works at Turrumburra Park also include new seating, a new drinking station, planting of new trees and the maintenance of the park's historic steamroller. The new seating is made from 98% recycled plastic, helping to divert soft plastics from landfill.

P. Palmer

- The restoration of the iconic azalea beds on Epping Road. This project involved the planting of more than 500 azaleas. Council grew the plants from cuttings of the original azaleas which were planted on Epping Road about 60 years ago.
- A new fenced dog park at Blackman Park opened in May and is proving very popular with dog owners!
- Another new fenced off-leash dog park is now open at Turrumburra Park! As part of the project we've also rejuvenated the iconic steamroller which sits within the park.
- Stage 1 of Mindarie Park was officially opened in February which included a large all-abilities playground. Construction of stages 2 and 3 is now well underway and will be completed next year. The park as a whole will provide residents of Lane Cove North with 6,300 square metres of much-needed open space to enjoy all year round.
- We have also set aside land for 2 new parks: one on Mowbray Rd and another in the Lane Cove village, on the corner of Epping Rd.
- We have recently completed upgrades to Kimberley Playground (Osborne Park) and Bill Bryan Playground (Longueville).

- We created a natural playspace from branches of a lovely old Angophora tree in Central Park.
- We continued to fund important bushland track upgrades, improve our Community Nursery and our Bush Kids program proved exceptionally popular again this year, booking out regularly.
- Excellent financial results saw a surplus for the financial year of some \$60million dollars but that does include a once-off advance payment related to developments currently underway in the St Leonards commercial precinct. Still, it reflects Council's ongoing strong financial position established and maintained over several years. Once again, Council has significantly exceeded industry benchmarks.
- Council declared a climate emergency and introduced new sustainability initiatives including establishing a 2019 baseline for our CO2 emissions and water usage.
- The Planning staff made submissions regarding a number of 3rd-party planning proposals including Greenwich Hospital, and Greateon and Top Spring in St Leonards South.
- Construction of new 50m outdoor pool, grandstand and youth centre is well underway and on-track for completion later next year, in time for summer 2020.
- Hundreds of activities were held at the Library during the year – which continues to be one of the most popular libraries in term of patronage in the whole of Australia.
- We hosted the launch of the Shorelink Libraries' Mobile Makerspace where both adults and kids learn to program robots and little ozobots – a lot of fun!
- Council also installed two new street libraries
- 2019 also saw the continued success of our annual events including the Lane Cove Festival and Festival by the River.
- We joined with many cultural groups in our community to host multicultural events such as our first Diwali festival celebration in November – a traditional festival of light celebrated by the Indian community. We also hosted events for Lunar New Year, Hanukah and for the first time we incorporated a stunning traditional Indian floral display called a pookalam into the launch party for the Lane Cove Festival.
- In May we presented our Annual Citizenship Awards where we recognised local achievements across a number of areas; from music, sport and theatre; to charity work and the environment.

- Also in May, we launched the Lane Cove Gift Card just in time for Mothers Day – the Gift Card is a council initiative to encourage residents to purchase within our local economy. We've had more than 70 local retailers sign up to accept the Gift Card in their stores.
- Also to support our local economy - in October we launched and promoted our Shop Local Lane Cove initiative, with specials from local retailers across the village.
- And Council hosted another two Business Breakfasts with inspiring guest speakers presenting to local business leaders.
- Construction of a new child care facility and shop or cafe at 2 Waterview Drive was officially opened in December. The childcare centre will start operating in early 2020.
- In St Leonards we are working on providing a new library and more open space in this unique area of Lane Cove, including an amazing plaza to be constructed spanning the railway line.
- And of course The Canopy – wow what a change! We announced the new permanent name for the project this year. Previously known as The Rosenthal Project the official name of The Canopy was revealed in May after a public vote.

Construction has continued all year and I'm pleased to say the carpark opened last Friday 6th December providing hundreds of new car spaces in the heart of the village.

- A range of other exciting projects are coming up in 2020 including celebrations for Council's 125th anniversary, and the exciting opening for the retail and open space areas of The Canopy.
- Thankyou to my fellow Councillors for working so well together – we don't make progress like this without such good collaboration.
- In closing, I would like to turn our focus to communities under stress at this time of the year.
- A few weeks ago we launched our Christmas Drought Fundraiser to raise money for two communities in the grips of drought; Gunnedah, our sister city; and Cobar, in central western NSW. We have been so pleased to see many residents donating generously to their country neighbours. Over \$6000 has been donated so far. If you'd like to make a difference in these communities, you can donate via Greenwich Library with cash or an IGA gift card.
- Other ways to help our regions:
 - Council is collecting funds to transport more than 1 million litres of water from its 50m outdoor pool to drought-stricken areas in NSW. Council is currently in the deep end of construction of a new outdoor pool, and as part of the site safety testing, the pool was required to be filled with water and emptied. Instead of

disposing of the water down the drain, Council dived right in to arrange for the water to be accepted by organisations in Armidale NSW. The water will be used to assist firefighters and farmers with livestock. You can donate via GoFundMe with over \$16,000 pledged so far.

- And a third way to donate: Last Friday I opened Lane Cove's first reverse vending machine located in the Little St Carpark, opposite the Aquatic Centre. When you return your container and receive your 10c you can opt to receive a Woolworths voucher, pay cash to your PayPal account or select the 'donate' option and the funds will go to RuralAid. By the way, over 2.7 billion containers have been collected via the scheme so far.
- Finally, this year East Ward funds have been used for:
 - refurbishing the park on Mafeking Ave, leading to Longueville Rd;
 - refurbishing Mary Carlson park by the wharf including the installation of a Santa Seat, and
 - new play equipment in Sydney Cowell Park at Marsh Place in Osborne Park.
- I wish you all a very safe and the HAPPIEST Christmas with your family and friends.

End of Attachments