

**GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
February 16, 2011**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

At the beginning of 2010 the GCA was really wondering where it was headed. One of the GCA's traditional roles of oversight of development in the area had been eroded by changes to planning legislation. As is often the case, however, the gaps were quickly filled and the year turned out to be extremely busy and characterised by bursts of activity on a couple of fronts.

At our AGM last year the GCA took two significant steps – firstly, we resolved to discontinue public liability insurance on the basis that our activities currently take place at venues that have existing cover. We will continue to monitor our exposure and will effect insurance again if we decide it is necessary. In the meantime we are saving \$500 - \$600 a year which can always be used elsewhere.

Secondly, we approved the creation of our Environmental Sustainability Sub-committee. This group has beavered away all year exploring possible grant opportunities and canvassing community concerns. Their efforts have paid off and the ESS will host a Solar Expo in April this year utilising a grant of over \$1800 from Lane Cove Council. The ESS will report separately on the details of this expo.

The news that Lane Cove Council had approved a total of \$480,000 for refurbishment of the Greenwich shopping precinct certainly got us moving. Council was keen to get community input into the project and we knew that Greenwich people always have something to say! The level of community interest in the project was exciting and, what was more gratifying was that people gave very detailed and measured input to the process. Thanks to the support of many of our Committee members, we ran information displays at the shops on two weekends and held two very well attended public meetings in August and October. Stage 1 of the development is due to commence in March and more detail about this will doubtless be discussed tonight. I would like to acknowledge the fact that Council employees were very generous with their time throughout the discussion process – representatives came to our two public meetings and endured many hours of questioning with good grace!

Our membership base has expanded this year perhaps due to the increased exposure of the GCA in the shopping precinct project. We are now working on ways of expanding our email communication with residents. This is not intended to replace the system of newsletter distribution but will enable us to contact residents in the periods between newsletter drops if significant issues arise. On that note, I would like to thank all the newsletter letterboxers – we know that rain and dogs do not deflect you from your task.

And to other thank yous. Again, thank you to all members of the committee for their amazing support and for getting to meetings that are often called for the wrong date, as I keep reading the wrong line on the four year calendar next to my computer. Special thanks to our Treasurer, Peter Walton, who keeps the figures coming and to our secretary, Michael Coombs, who has decided to step down from his role after this meeting but we hope will continue on the committee as he knows Greenwich from back to front.

And finally, best wishes to the incoming committee for what will undoubtedly be a challenging but personally fulfilling time!

Merri Southwood