



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 10 December at the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. This will be the final meeting for 2014, so Christmas fare will be served throughout the evening, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. This meeting we are privileged to have two guest speakers from long standing and much loved local institutions: Megan Lockery, Principal of Greenwich Public School, and Greg Purcell, senior anaesthetist and member of RNSH medical staff council executive.

Please note also that the GCA will be proposing a motion to raise membership fees from \$10 to \$20 per person, the same per household, and from \$5 to \$10 per pensioner. Subscription amounts have remained the same for some 30 years and no longer cover basic running costs.

THANK YOU

Because this is the final newsletter for the year, and because there are so many in the community who contribute their time and effort to work for our well being we are extending our grateful appreciation. Unfortunately we don't have the space to name all of you, but we must single out some special people...

Thank you to East Ward councillor Pam Palmer who attends meetings regularly and works tirelessly on many community issues. Thank you also to David Karpin and Mayor David Brooks-Horn, who attend meetings when their other duties permit.

VIVA PROGRESS

Thank you to Merri Southwood and Karen Coleman, who are keeping the health and safety of Greenwich residents to the foreground of our consciousness while dealing with the issue of the Gore Bay terminal.

To briefly recap on what has happened to date:

The closure of the [then Shell] refinery at Clyde in October 2012 was the trigger to change product at the Gore Bay terminal from crude oil to petroleum products. In January 2013 [now] Viva lodged two major development applications for Clyde and Gore Bay. The GCA maintains that as the import and storage operation for Viva Energy is essentially one operation connected by a 19 km pipeline, what happens at one end of the pipeline directly impacts what happens at the other end. So the two applications should be assessed together.

This hasn't happened. Clyde's DA was exhibited in November last year, with a draft determination to approve, and there is still no sign of the one for Gore Bay.

Why are there concerns about Gore Bay terminal? Despite the well-publicised dangers of petroleum product storage so close to residential areas, Viva Energy hasn't applied to change their licence (which does permit petroleum product storage), and storage capacity at Clyde is reducing from 113 tanks to 16 tanks, at a time of heightened concern around our national petrol security.

So the crux of the matter is: could Gore Bay become the back-up petroleum product storage option for Clyde?

At a November hearing of the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) appointed to make a final decision about Clyde, GCA representative Merri, leading a team from the

GCA and independent community members, and Karen, on legal argument, made impassioned, intelligent and well reasoned arguments that there are strong legal, commonsense, and health and safety reasons for demanding that the impacts on Gore Bay of the Clyde operation be addressed before the Clyde application is approved. The impact of their representations was impressive.

It is also worth noting that recent mainstream press articles on ship usage would appear to vindicate the stance of the GCA, which is to work to ensure that the terminal operates under the lowest noise and emission levels possible, for the sake of public health and safety.



Corinne Fisher addresses a 10/50 protest in front of Mike Baird's office. Photo courtesy of Michael Mannington.

THE ABUSE OF CODE

10/50

Thank you to Corinne Fisher, from the BPN (Better Planning Network), and Gaye White, who continually remind us that trees are an important part of our landscape deserving of their own place, respect and protection. They have protested the controversial code 10/50, under which some home owners are cutting down these gentle giants under the pretext of reducing fire hazard. Their efforts have now won an agreement to review the code, which is expected to be completed in the first half of 2015. This change will help ensure that those who are most at risk from bush fires can still protect their properties, while minimising risks of abuse of the system.

This is an important first step.

SANTA AT THE WHARF

Thank you to Santa who, after his long night will be stopping off at Greenwich wharf on Christmas morning at 8am with presents for the children. For those parents new to the area who wish to organise presents for their children, please contact **Garry on 0412 660 066**



or Santa's helpers **Mary and Tony on 9439 3927.**

Clearly-labelled presents may be dropped off at 8 St Lawrence St between 15 December and 24 December from 3pm to 8pm each day. Tea and coffee will also be available on the morning for a gold coin donation to Mission Australia.

CAROLS IN THE RESERVE

Thank you to organisers **Bernadette Hayes (0431 558 505)** and **Robyn Jones (9966 0543)** of Harbourline Real estate.

Date: Monday 15 December

Time: Entertainment from 6 pm. Carols start at 6.45pm

Location: Leemon Reserve, Robert St Greenwich.

Wet weather backup is the Greenwich Community Hall. Sausage sizzle, drinks and glow sticks will be available for purchase, and all funds raised will go to Youth off the Streets.

HUB UPDATE

Thank you to John May, who, together with Pam Palmer, has been the driving force behind establishing a Greenwich Hub. The GCA has been the steering committee and financier while it got going, including setting up a walking club and a book club, and we now let the Hub continue under its own steam.

It has formed an Establishment Group, headed by Helen Jones, is finalising a constitution, arranging incorporation, developing processes for membership records and event bookings, working on a website and has found a home.

If you would like to be kept up to date please email: **greenwichhub@gmail.com.**

HELP WANTED

Thank you to our newsletter deliverers, who traipse the streets every two months in order to keep you informed. We extend to them a personal invitation to come to the meeting and be thanked with a glass of the good stuff. We are also looking for a few new volunteers, as people have moved away or can't do it any longer. If you can help please contact MaryEd on: **maryedh@gmail.com**

Lastly, thank you to the hard working committee of the GCA who have somehow managed to survive the year intact if not unscathed, and who have had a lot of fun along the way.

RNSH - OUR HOSPITAL, OUR CONCERN

Following on from the major redevelopment at RNSH, there has been a proposal to sell off land in front of the hospital, despite the Health Minister promising a "freeze" on land sales until a campus plan was developed. The working group, which had been formulating proposals for use of the land, discovered that an expression of interest was put out this September to private developers to sell (or 99 year lease) an area of land of approximately one hectare on Herbert Street. This currently houses childcare and other university buildings.

The expression of interest, which was not for public access and was due to close on 20/11/14, includes two sites: one with a mixture of office space and ground floor retail, and the other to be a privately operated facility to include childcare, medi-hotel, medical suites, staff and carer accommodation.

There are two reasons for concern: the Minister for Health has publicly stated that hospitals should fund their own upkeep yet there has been no guarantee that money from this land sale would flow back to the hospital; and selling off the land could prevent bed numbers from expanding to meet the demands from projected growth in this area.

Details can be found on **save.rnsh.org**; **facebook page is helpsavernsh**; email: **savernsh@gmail.com**

STAY IN TOUCH

And 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 email address on the GCA's website you will also receive newsletters electronically.

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