



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 22 April 2015 (please note change of date) at the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available during the evening, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. Hot topic will be planning, with emphasis on the controversial St Leonards precinct development (see article right). This will be your opportunity to hear more about the projects that will impact Greenwich so hugely, and to ask the difficult questions.

GORE BAY TERMINAL HEALTH RISK REPORT STILL BEING BLOCKED

This is an issue that just won't go away. We explained in the February 2015 newsletter why the GCA is still so concerned that health impacts and future plans of the Gore Bay Terminal operations are not being made available for public perusal, despite extensive applications.

In short, since January 2012 Viva (formerly Shell) has significantly changed its operations at Gore Bay – predominantly petrol, not crude oil, is now being pumped from tankers through Gore Bay to Clyde as Clyde's refinery has closed. And despite a series of commitments the EIS has not been forthcoming.

We are now informed that Viva has been granted a two- year extension for its EIS until 2016.

In addition, Viva is doing all it can to prevent the Department of Health from releasing data about health impacts of the terminal operation. It has been fighting freedom of information applications through every legal avenue since June 2013 and it now appears that it will block release again through an appeal to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

It is time for Viva to spell out clearly what its plans are for Gore Bay and release the information it has about the health and safety impacts of its operations. We have been waiting far too long.

ST LEONARDS PLANS

The three proposals to radically alter the landscape of this area illustrate the haphazard and ill-defined nature of planning. In this instance, within a 2km square radius, there are three different councils (North Sydney, Lane Cove and Willoughby), applying three different planning controls, three different development strategies, with three different standards of height and density, and no apparent overarching control in place.

The GCA will only support the re-zoning proposals if the plans include appropriate provision of open green space and safe and useful shared paths for all users. There must also be consideration given to the impact of the increased population on existing public infrastructure including the local school, transport, Royal North Shore Hospital and traffic volumes.

THE PLANNING BATTLE

The pre-election Lane Cove Electorate **Meet the Candidates – Focus on Development** forum demonstrated how concerned the community is about planning issues that seem to be skyrocketing out of control. It was extremely well attended (140 people - standing room only) and speakers included architects, residents, representatives from the Better Planning Network (BPN) and other community groups and candidates.

A summary of the main issues raised in the session shows why community concern is so prevalent. Battles are local but issues have a commonality.

- Loss of faith in the planning system. There is a lot of uncertainty and insecurity throughout the electorate resulting from local experiences – particularly from the Mowbray Precinct, Gladesville and St Leonards developments.
- There is general disappointment and frustration at the current government's failure to realise their election promise of 2011 to fix the planning system and give planning powers back to the community.
- Need for a Sydney-wide plan. There was general acknowledgement that ad-hoc planning in local municipalities is a problem. The St Leonards development experience in particular (see left) demonstrates to local residents that their issues can't possibly be adequately addressed, and raises real anxieties that precedents are being set that will be well-nigh impossible to overcome.

LEGS AND ARMS AND WHEELS

The GCA Bicycle and Active Transport Sub-Committee was developed in recognition of the need for shared, safe and non-polluting means of travelling around Greenwich and its environs.

It is working on developing these facilities within and to and from Greenwich, Lane Cove, St Leonards and Crows Nest for all active transport users – pedestrians, prams, wheelchairs, scooters, tricycles, bicycles – anything that uses legs and arms and travels safely at a human pace.

Lane Cove Council has a well-developed bike plan with some ongoing projects along Greenwich Road, River Road and other thoroughfares, and there are great

opportunities to do more, particularly in light of the new routes and requirements that will be opened up by the St Leonards developments. An extra 3,000+ Greenwich residents means that easy pathways by foot and bike in the area are not only attractive and desirable – they are essential to escape traffic gridlock.

GCA wants your views on what will work best. Tell us where your favourite routes are for pushing the pram, where you think a safer road crossing is needed, what it would take for you to let the children ride their bikes to school. Tell us about access issues that need to be solved. Email us at michael.ryland@ashurst.com And don't forget to attend the next public meeting and have your say on this very important issue.

IN BRIEF

Subs up – thumbs up!! Even this early in the year the GCA has record membership – so we must be doing something right! A reminder to those who have yet to pay their subscriptions: you may use the payment slip included in this newsletter or pay direct into our bank account – all details on the payment slip.

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A tour of the historic Gore Hill Cemetery will be held from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Sunday 19 April, with particular emphasis on the resting places of people who played a significant role in the heritage theme of Conflict & Compassion, including those from caring professions and the soldiers who gave their lives in World War I. Bookings: John Flint 9436 2980 or flinchens@bigpond.com

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Young and socially active? Please help the GCA move with the times and volunteer to help us set up a **Facebook** site so we can better connect to the many young people of the Greenwich community. If you have skills, energy and some flexible time please contact Michael Ryland at michael.ryland@ashurst.com

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The Greenwich Hub is rapidly garnering more members and interesting activities. For information on how to keep abreast of things and receive their weekly newsletter emailed go to www.greenwichhub.org.au

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The GCA Gore Bay Terminal Sub Committee, has a vacancy. The person who will fill this important position will

hopefully have an OH&S background (now WH&S) with particular expertise in the petrochemical industry or environmental science. Please email Merri Southwood on southwood@bigpond.com

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Calling all artists in Greenwich. If you live or work as an artist in Greenwich, then the Greenwich Village Arts Trail, a group of artists who have been exhibiting together since 2005, warmly invite you to join them for the Open Studio weekend in October this year. The only criterion for joining is a working space within Greenwich boundaries. Contact Amanda Harrison 0409 398 128 or alharrison@hotmail.com for more details.

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Saturday 21 March 2015 will go down in Isabelle Heim fund raising history as the night when a 20 gram slice of Crozier Blue sold at auction for \$170 (\$8500 per kilo!) **The Wine & Cheese evening** raised over \$8,000. Six cheeses supplied by Blackwattle Deli were introduced by cheese expert Penny Lawson and matched to wines selected by wine educator Karen Macalister-Hohnen. The lucky winner, Ian Hayes, also conceded that the Rutherglen Estates Classic Muscat was the best wine and cheese match of the night.

MORE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ISSUES

There have been many complaints to Council re parking and traffic problems in the area comprising Innes Road, Ronald Ave, Wisdom Road, Crowther Ave and Balfour St, which has become a parking lot for workers at Gore Hill, TAFE College and other commuters.

Council's proposal is to have unlimited free parking on one side of the road and 3P on the other side, but do away with resident permits. Residents' concerns are threefold: that commuters will take all the free parking and penalise residents who pay for their parking permits; that following from the Innes Road example which already has 2P, it will be inadequately policed; and safety issues arising from the rat run through these streets have not been addressed.

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 website you will also receive newsletters and updates electronically.

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