



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THESE ISSUES AFFECT YOU

- Sulphur emissions above acceptable levels
- St Leonards plan approved
- No alcohol at the Baths
- Commuter parking stressing residents
- 10/50 review

To learn more and join in the discussions, come along to our **NEXT PUBLIC MEETING** on **Wednesday 19 August 2015** 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.

LOW SULPHUR REGULATIONS – WHY NOT GORE BAY?

Australia’s regulations for sulphur levels in shipping fuel are well below the standards set for North America, the Baltic Sea and the English Channel – 3.5% as against 0.1%. The NSW Minister for the Environment has done ground breaking work in Australia by introducing regulations to ban cruise ships from berthing in Sydney Harbour from October this year unless they burn shipping fuel of 0.1% or less. This is because sulphur emissions have known health impacts.

However, the Minister has confirmed that no similar regulation is planned for commercial shipping, which includes petrol tankers coming into Gore Bay. This means that residents of Greenwich and Wollstonecraft could be exposed to

emissions from vessels burning fuel with 3.5% sulphur content. There is no ship to shore power at Gore Bay so tankers need to burn fuel the whole time they are berthed to run pumps and other utilities. White Bay usage is seasonal but Gore Bay Terminal usage is year round. It seems paradoxical that residents on one side of the harbour come under the regulation, but not those residents on the other side.

Viva says it is using low sulphur fuels at Gore Bay, but maybe it would go a long way to allaying community concerns if Viva applied to change their EPA licence to include this requirement when it comes up for review later this year.

ST LEONARDS MASTER PLAN/REZONING APPROVED

At a special open meeting of Lane Cove Council held on 13 July residents were given the opportunity to speak to Council about a range of plans to rezone and increase density in an area of Greenwich/ St Leonards bounded by River Rd, Canberra Ave, Marshall Ave and Park Rd.

Some residents from the proposed area supported the proposals on the basis that they would provide certainty for their future.

Others expressed concern regarding the lack of coordinated overall planning for the area by the three responsible Councils: Lane Cove, Willoughby and North Sydney. They were also uncertain about the ability of the Plan to cater for a population increase of more than 2000 residents and subsequent needs for upgraded infrastructure, increased traffic management, increased school capacity and provision of adequate green space, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

A major omission of the Plan was the exclusion of the existing commercial strip along the Pacific Highway. The shop and business owners in this strip expected that they would be incorporated into the proposed development, having been included in the discussions with Council even in the week prior to the announcement. They had submitted that this tired and dated strip needed revitalisation, so the exclusion came as a total surprise.

This entire development should ideally blend its commercial and residential aspects in a harmonious whole – and thus presents an excellent opportunity for Council to put its stamp on a landmark project on a landmark site. Planning without a clear vision and certainty that all community needs will be met is surely a waste of a golden opportunity.

AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Keen-eyed residents will have noticed the dwindling presence of *Bagus bagsharii aureus*, whose natural habitat is the bagshare bins in the Greenwich shopping precinct. We suspect that they have migrated to car boots and behind laundry doors and largely forgotten or used for purposes other than their natural one.

Although they are substituted by other, lesser, species, we miss them and would like to see them returned in all their yellow splendour to the bins, where they can usefully carry out their designated purpose of transporting shopping items for people who forget their own bags.



The elusive *bagus bagsharii aureus*

NO ALCOHOL AT THE BATHS

BlueFit's application to develop Greenwich Baths as licensed premises attracted significant interest, from both the local community and other parts of Sydney. Over 120 submissions and a petition were displayed on Council's website. Given this level of interest and the fact that Council was a stakeholder in the outcome, Council referred the determination of this application to its Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (IHAP).

Council's report to the IHAP recommended approval of the application, proposing that Blue Fit be permitted to serve liquor from midday to thirty minutes before closing time during regular Baths operation and until 10:30pm at twelve special events.

The Panel convened on 4 August and at the packed meeting over twenty members of the public took the opportunity to speak.

The four-member Panel reached a unanimous determination which was announced to the meeting on the night. The DA was refused on two grounds: the impact on local amenities and the public safety of Baths' users.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

While Greenwich overall has its share of traffic and parking problems, residents of Ronald Ave, Innes Road and Wisdom Rd are particularly concerned that Council, despite its resident surveys and modifying its recommendations twice, does not really understand how much the high volume of traffic using this area is causing danger and inconvenience to the residents.

Council has proposed to retain the Resident Parking Scheme and install 3P parking on one side of the road and unlimited free parking on the adjacent side. Residents say this will only benefit commuters and not residents; that what is needed is for Council to increase policing of the current 2P parking restrictions.

REVIEW OF 10/50 CLEARING CODE

The 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code was brought in by the NSW RFS in response to the 2013 bushfires in the Blue Mountains. The Code permits any home owner to self-assess without Council approval whether any tree within 10m of their home, or undergrowth within 50m, can be removed as a potential fire hazard.

This has led to community concerns that the Code was being abused and trees destroyed unnecessarily, so not only has the Code failed to achieve its intended purpose, it has also increased risks to people and property.

In response, the RFS is now reviewing the Code and the outcome is expected shortly.

KEEP YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS UP

A timely reminder for those of you who have yet to pay their subscriptions for 2015. As this newsletter demonstrates, there are so many issues that directly affect local residents, and the GCA is proud that we are an observant and energetic body that has the best interests of the residents at heart. We deserve your support. Subscription details are on the payment slip. Thank you.

DATE FOR THE ARTS TRAIL

Over the weekend of **10-11 October**, Greenwich artists long-standing and new will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the popular Greenwich Village Arts Trail.

From 10am-4pm both days there will be a huge variety of quality paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints, pottery, jewellery and photographs on display and for sale in the artists' studios.

From its modest beginnings in November 2005 in the Greenwich Sailing Club, this event has now grown in popularity as it has expanded to its current open studio format. Visitors now walk from one studio to the next to chat with the artists and explore their usually hidden workplaces, with maps available from local shops and on the website.

Enjoy a great day out and pop into the local cafes for lunch along the way. 4 Beans Cafe and Greenwich Baths cafe will be open all weekend

www.facebook.com/GreenwichVillageArtsTrail, or Amanda Harrison 0409 398 128, for more information.



Some of the artists from the Greenwich Village Arts Trail. Clockwise from back left: Lyn Burns, Cathy Jager, Peter Staveley, Amanda Harrison, MaryAnne Parry, Gulcin Sevin, Melissa McElhone

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 and updates electronically.

Tom Gervay, President 0418 230 889
Rob Hunter, Secretary 0413 451 209

Proudly Printed by

Snap Lane Cove/Artarmon

Unit F26, 1 Lincoln Street Lane Cove NSW 2066

t 02 8456 7111 f 02 8456 7110

e lanecove@snap.com.au www.lanecove.snap.com.au

If the question is *print, design or websites*
the answer is



Lane Cove/Artarmon