



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THESE ISSUES AFFECT YOU

- Is Greenwich population to double?
- Gore Bay – health and safety?
- Alcohol at the Baths?
- Cockatoo Island marina?
- Council amalgamation?
- Social media – can you help

To learn more, come along to our **NEXT PUBLIC MEETING on Wednesday 17 June 2015** at the Greenwich Community Centre, 26 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available during the evening, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. The issues above will be discussed, and as an acknowledgment of how important and precious are our bushland areas, our guest speaker, Helen Haigh, will address the topic of bush regeneration. Come along and have your say.

COCKATOO ISLAND - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has received an application from the Cockatoo Island Marine Centre for a development on the south-western corner of the Island.

This will comprise the construction of dry boat storage for up to 123 boats; installation of pontoons along the southern side of Sutherland Dock to provide marina berthing for up to 24 boats; berthing for up to 8 larger boats at Sutherland Wharf and an installation of a facility for minor maintenance of boats up to 40 feet (12.2m) in length.

Our main consideration is how it will impact Greenwich residents and facilities. Already there has been some concern

about the increased number of boats on the water and the amount of land on the island that will be alienated.

Documentation and submission information will be on public exhibition until **5pm on Tuesday 23 June 2015** when submissions close. Hardcopy documents can be viewed during office hours at the **Cockatoo Island** Visitor Centre, Hunter's Hill Library, Lane Cove Council Civic Centre and Lane Cove and Greenwich Libraries or online at: www.harbourtrust.gov.au. Further information at (02) 8969 2100.

A visualisation of the proposed development viewed from the south is below.



ST LEONARDS REZONING PLANS - BOOM TOWN

This rezoning proposal is based on a perceived need for more high-density residential apartments near St Leonards station. Local media recently reported an estimated 7,500 new apartments (for around 15,000 residents) currently under construction, approved or seeking approval (*North Shore Times*, 15 May) across the whole St Leonards area.

However, just looking at the Greenwich part - the part bounded by Greenwich Road, River Road, Canberra Avenue and Pacific Highway (called 'St Leonards South' for planning purposes but is actually Greenwich North) – we see that there are up to 2,000 new residences to be crammed into this area of historic homes, small parks and narrow streets. This will mean that the population of Greenwich could double.

This controversial proposal has polarised residents. Those for it say that full development will avoid *ad hoc* spot rezoning and could lead to lower council rates, those against argue that, as Lane Cove has already met its quota of increased density set by the State government, then these plans are simply developer – driven and therefore not sympathetic to the area, particularly the topography of the south facing slopes which will lead to overshadowing.

The GCA's position continues to emphasise two key considerations. The first is that infrastructure must keep pace with the influx of all these new residents, not be areas of secondary consideration. Key areas of concern include: school capacity, medical facilities, traffic management, parking, public transport, open green space, and capacity of existing essential services.

The second is making sure that the high-density development is compatible with the topography and historical importance of the area.

A final decision is expected at the July 2015 Lane Cove Council meeting.

GOING BUSH

Weed infestation, pollution, dumping and encroachment have had big impacts on our local bushland.

Bushcare has now been active in Greenwich for over sixteen years, beginning at Manns Point during the late 1990s to tackle weed problems in the native bushland. The health and variety of native plants have improved markedly, and the number of Bushcare groups has more than tripled.

Bushcare volunteers come from all walks of life and join for a wide range of reasons. Most people love to be out in nature and to socialise with others, while feeling like they are making a difference to their 'corner of the world'.

A newer branch of the Bushcare program is Bush Friends, funded through Council's Sustainability Levy. Instead of working in a group, Bush Friends care for their own site. There are nine Bush Friend volunteers throughout Greenwich working on bush adjacent to their properties with the assistance of Council staff. Council provides trained bush regenerators to supervise sites, on-site training, workshops and tools.



Greendale Bushcare group on smoko L-R Peter Ziegler, Jessica Whittick, Karl Mezgalls, the late John May, and Brian Learoyd

To help your local bushland, you don't need any experience to become a Bushcarer - even start your own group. Email bushcare@lanecove.nsw.gov.au

SOCIAL MEDIA - CAN YOU HELP?

Michael Ryland is convening a facebook team to upgrade our communication with the community. If you can assist please contact Michael at michael.ryland@ashurst.com

VIVA ENERGY - THE STATUS QUO PREVAILS AT GORE BAY

On 27 May, without any fanfare, and to a group of adjacent residents only, Viva advised that it has cancelled its terminal project, together with the SSD (State Significant Development), and promised that petrol and jet fuel will not be stored at Gore Bay terminal, and vessels will be turned away if petrol cannot be transferred to the pipeline to Clyde.

So, it appears that Viva has done some of the things we have been asking for over the last three years - importantly, it has verbally promised to not store petrol. We would still like Viva to confirm this by amending its EPA licence to specifically exclude petrol storage. To date Viva has refused to do this.

We also asked Viva to release the information it has about the health and safety impacts of its operations, but with the cancellation of its plans for the terminal the community will now be denied access to the various technical reports that would have been released as part of the EIS.

We are still requesting Viva to commit to world's best practice in operating the terminal instead of merely complying with current Australian standards.

Certainly, following public pressure, there

have been improvements to the noise and odour levels at the terminal. And although the promised Health report has been legally blocked in full, there is a redacted version now on its website.

The hard questions still remain. How do we convince Viva to confirm this verbal commitment about no petrol storage by including that in its application for EPA licence renewal? How can we make the EPA understand the importance of amending Viva's licence so that petrol storage will never be allowed at the terminal?

The GCA Gore Bay Terminal sub-committee will continue to work with authorities to ensure health and safety of the community; the EPA licence review is this year, and another issue - the high levels of sulphur in ships' fuel - has become a significant public health concern.

Sydney Ports announced it has barred cruise ships from White Bay until low sulphur fuel is mandated. Because Greenwich is in the unusual position of having a terminal situated adjacent to residential homes the same logic must apply to ships berthed at Gore Bay.

For more details about Gore Bay see our website.

A QUESTION OF ALCOHOL

We note that there is an application for a liquor licence at Greenwich Baths to serve wine or beer with meals and for special functions.

Opponents of the application express reservations about the mix of alcohol, deep water and children. Proponents on the other hand argue that the responsible serving of alcohol is a hallmark of a civilised society.

The full application can be viewed on the Council website or write to Ms May Li, c/- Lane Cove Council, lccouncil@nsw.gov.au

Submissions close 19 June.

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.

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