



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 20 August 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. This meeting we are privileged to have Corinne Fisher from the Better Planning Network (BPN) as guest speaker. Planning is always a contentious issue, which affects us all as individuals and community members, and the BPN is at the forefront of efforts to make planning sustainable, relevant and community-friendly. Corinne's address is sure to be interesting and informative.

INPUT INTO CAPITAL WORKS

The GCA has sent a letter to our East Ward Councillors saying "we miss you". This arose from our perception that since the excellent upgrade of the Greenwich shopping precinct and the modifications to Leemon Reserve, we haven't enjoyed as much contact with our East Ward councillors as we used to.

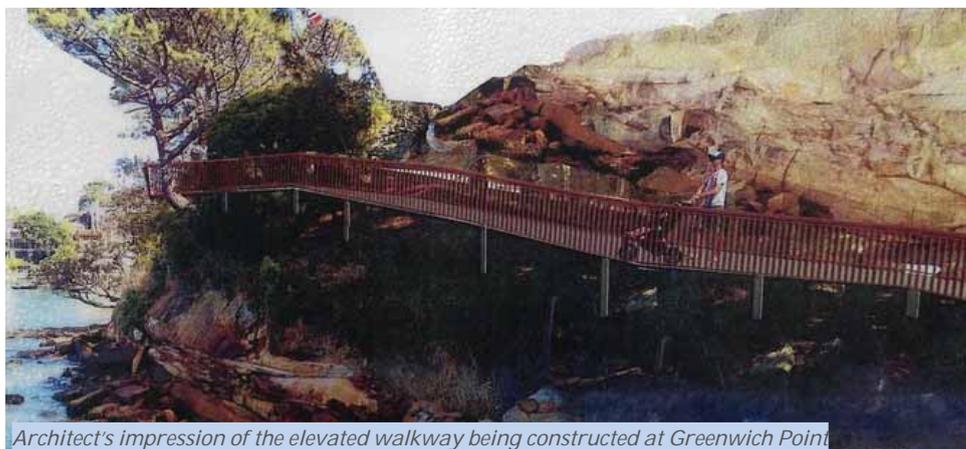
So, when we noticed that there are capital works being carried out on Greenwich Point that we don't remember being advised about, naturally our curiosity was piqued.

There is a construction plan and architectural drawing (see illustration) posted at both ends of the project, for an elevated walkway connecting the Sailing Club (and its parking area) with the Greenwich Baths, separating pedestrians from the roadway.

This is probably a good idea. It gives Bath's users an extra easily accessible parking area, and it provides a safe path for prams and pedestrians.

What we do question, however, is the need for a cantilevered viewing platform near the Sailing Club – surely there are enough natural ways to 'view' the water, and whether the projected cost (which we were unable to confirm, despite phone calls to Council) is the best use of funds.

It's very worthwhile to improve our beautiful suburb. However, surely it is not too much to ask to have community discussions in order to have input into major works— **before** they are done.



Architect's impression of the elevated walkway being constructed at Greenwich Point

GREENWICH INFANT SCHOOL

Have you been wondering why the scaffolding around Greenwich Infant School has been there so long? The school is on the Department of Education's heritage list and as such is undergoing restoration – a task that will possibly take a year given that much of the work can only be undertaken when no students are in the building. The major task is the restoration or replacement of the sandstone, which is the decorative feature of the building.

POSITIVE GREENWICH HUB NEWS

The recent HUB survey indicated positive level of interest in the concept, and Lane Cove Council also is lending its encouragement and logistical support. So the steering committee has decided to test the water with two popular activities – a walking group and a book club.

Volunteers to lead or assist with walks are invited to an inaugural meeting at Tom Gervay's home, 9 Mitchell Street on Wednesday 27 August at 7pm to discuss ideas and possible walks and to choose walk coordinators.

Karen Macalister Hohnen and Liz Walton will be forming a book club with meetings to be held monthly in the early evening (cocktail hour). If you are interested in joining contact Karen on 0413 221 227 or Liz on 9966 5359.

RENEWAL UPDATE

There is still time to renew your subscriptions for 2014. Please utilise the enclosed slip or pay direct into our bank account. You will find all necessary details on the slip and on our website www.greenwich.org.au

GCA GORE BAY SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

Astute readers will notice that this sub committee has dropped the word 'Shell' from its title. This is in response to a legal letter from Shell asking that we do this immediately, and also to cease immediately the "unauthorised" use of the Shell name. While the sub committee formulates a new title, this is its report to date:

In anticipation of the long-awaited publication of the Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS,) the sub committee is developing a network of people with technical expertise to assess and report back on key issues in the documents.

Given the imminent proposed transfer of control to Vitol, an entity unknown in the Australian context, the sub committee has written to our local federal member, Joe Hockey, asking him to help ensure that Vitol has the technical expertise and financial resources to operate Shell's downstream facilities, and has demonstrated social responsibility and commitment to best practice in relation to community and employee health and safety.

Emergency Plan

Responsibility for management of emergencies beyond the Shell boundary rests, not with Shell, but with a range of regulatory authorities, depending on the location and nature of an incident. The GCA has had difficulty in accessing clear detail about an overall emergency management plan for the site that encompasses both land and water based incidents and communities around Gore Bay as well as Greenwich. We have written to the Premier seeking his involvement in developing a coordinated emergency management plan similar to those operating for Port Botany and Caltex at Kurnell. Lane Cove, North Sydney and Leichhardt Councils have received copies of the letter, as have our NSW and federal members.

GCA BICYCLE SUB COMMITTEE BEGINS OPERATION

The GCA Bicycle Sub Committee has now been inaugurated with Dion Weston as chairman. Many resident cyclists and enthusiasts have joined already and we

welcome further appointments. Visit www.greenwich.org.au for contact details.

The objectives of the sub committee are to raise the profile of cycling and improve cycling facilities and infrastructure in Greenwich. We will do this by contributing to council and state government bicycle plans, liaising with similar local, state and national cycling organisations and working with other GCA sub committees, particularly Traffic and Access.

While there is strong support for cycling in the area there are real problems with shared use of roads and pathways. Slow cyclists climbing steep hills frustrate motorists. Pedestrians fear personal safety from bicycles passing close by. Media is often unhelpful. And creation of the most desirable solution - exclusive cycleways - is fraught with competing policy pressures. On-road cycleways cause roadway narrowing and loss of car parking spaces and off-road can threaten amenities and the environment. In order for us all to use the roads and related structures safely and to best advantage we must keep investigating solutions.

Early action proposals include:

- Facilitating events aimed at promoting bike safety, driver awareness, and the attractions of cycling (see the BIG FAMILY FUN RIDE details below);
- Affiliating the GCA with the Amy Gillett Foundation (named after the Olympian killed in training);
- Developing in conjunction with Council a specific 'reciprocal responsibilities' brochure for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians;
- Seeking to improve bicycle rack facilities around Greenwich and at Wollstonecraft station;
- Seeking to install a bicycle track around Bob Campbell Oval.

The Big Family Fun Ride Sunday 31 August. @ 11.15 am

Assemble: Corner of Epping Rd & Longueville Rd

The Lane Cove Bicycle Advisory Committee invites you to share their vision for safe cycling by enjoying a ride down the Epping Rd cycleway to explore the magnificent Bicentennial Reserve shared pathway network in Willoughby.

This year there will be two routes - a shorter route, all off-road, directly to Artarmon Reserve / Oval play area, for young kids and less accomplished cyclists. For more confident riders there is also a longer route via Bicentennial Reserve, back tracking though Artarmon to the same destination at the play area by Artarmon Reserve.

Following the ride there will be refreshments, music, activities and a sausage sizzle. This year entry to the Big Family Fun Ride is free, kindly supported by the Lane Cove Council. Register on the day at 10.30 am at the assembly point, or in advance online at: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/funride



Last year's fun ride for families on the Epping Rd cycleway

STAY IN TOUCH

And we encourage ALL residents to stay in touch and up to date with regular visits to our website www.greenwich.org.au and that of the 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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