



# GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

We warmly invite you to attend this meeting on Wednesday, 19 October 2016, in the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. In view of the controversial developments currently taking place in the northern Greenwich/St Leonards area a large part of this meeting will be devoted to exploring what is happening, what will happen, and if these developments are meeting the needs of all residents. **YOUR** schools, **YOUR** parking, **YOUR** roads, **YOUR** green spaces will be affected. Come along and listen to experts on both sides of the topic, and have your say as well. Refreshments will be served during the evening and everyone is most welcome to attend.

## GORE BAY TERMINAL LICENCE REVIEW A DISAPPOINTMENT

At our last meeting representatives from the EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) addressed the meeting on proposed changes to the Terminal licence which the GCA has been asking for over the past four years. In a nutshell, we wanted solid assurances that: petrol will never be stored there; noise and odour emissions will be monitored and maintained within safe and tolerable limits; and that an acceptable and workable emergency evacuation plan will be a high priority with unambiguous lines of communication, including clear emergency signage to be prominently displayed. Details of the licence conditions have now been made available, and the GCA was very disappointed that the EPA apparently were not able to make all the changes that we have been pressing for. Even allowing for the EPA's legislative constraints we hoped that the provisions of the reviewed licence would have reflected better the key areas of community concern, but this does not seem to be the case. In summary, the licence variations only touch on many of the key areas raised in our review submission, with our biggest concern being that that responsibility for implementing the changes rests with the licensee, Viva, not the EPA. The language of the changes is lofty and aspirational, but, not specific, and we are being asked to trust that the operator will do the right thing to protect community health and safety. Things like the quality and quantity of data, reporting methods and time frames for implementing the technology required to bring the terminal up to the standard of world's best practice are not spelled out. We will continue to press the EPA to exercise its powers and responsibilities rather than leaving control of the process to the terminal operator.

## WE'VE BEEN BUSY

The GCA has provided detailed input to various community concerns. We have commented further on council mergers and requested that our proposal to merge Greenwich with the council that will eventually control St Leonards be given consideration. We have made submissions to the JRPP for Loftex's Marshall Ave development, the Legislative Council's Inquiry into Crown Lands, the Greenwich Green Grid, a possible pedestrian crossing on River Road, and we continue to assess the Human Health Report for Gore Bay. We have also established a relationship with the Greater Sydney Commission, so that we can be included in working groups for the St Leonards/ Crows Nest area.

## UPDATE ON COUNCIL AMALGAMATION

Hunters Hill council is to appeal the merger action. That leaves Lane Cove with the normal 28 days' right to lodge an appeal. A decision will be taken in Council on 10 October, after this newsletter has gone to print. By then, Council should have the results of the Woollahra appeal and detailed advice from its own legal team. It's impossible to know what their decision will be but there are good reasons to appeal - most residents don't favour a merger, and the latest financials show Lane Cove with a FYE surplus of \$2m while Ryde reported a \$4m deficit. It seems any money spent to avoid a merger could be a huge financial benefit to LC ratepayers. In addition, North Sydney and Mosman, have won their latest judgements and, going forward, have resolved their intention to appeal any subsequent adverse court decisions.

## GORE HILL CEMETERY TOUR

The tours of the historic Gore Hill cemetery are always extremely popular and people will welcome the news that the next one is to be on **Sunday 6 November 2016**, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. What to bring: water, hat, sunblock. **Bookings are required.** Please contact: John Flint **9436 2980** [flinchens@bigpond.com](mailto:flinchens@bigpond.com)

## YOUR LAST REMINDER TO JOIN THE BIGGEST EVENT ON THE GREENWICH CALENDAR!

Yes, the Greenwich Village Games. Staged in the Olympic years, this year they will be held over the weekend of 3-4 December and will see the eight teams of the Anarchists, the Builders, Commerce, The Engineers, The Governators, The Heroes, The Natives and Tribe battle it out across more than 30 events to see who will take out this year's crown.

More than 1,500 participants are expected to join the action in events for the sporty and not so sporty.

Three new events will be introduced: the Paper Plane Throw, the Slow Bicycle Race and Boule, in addition to perennial favourites the Tug O' War, the Obstacle Relay, the Mud Run and, of course, the Saturday night Revue.

Hundreds of spectators will flock to Bob Campbell Oval to cheer on the teams. If you want to participate but have not yet registered, some places remain in some teams. You can also express interest by emailing the Greenwich Games Recruitment team at [recruitme@gvg.org.au](mailto:recruitme@gvg.org.au) and the organisers will allocate you to a team. All events, except golf and swimming, will be held at Bob Campbell Oval.



## THE GREENWICH VILLAGE ARTS TRAIL

The 5th Greenwich Village Arts Trail Open Studio Weekend is coming up over the weekend of **5 - 6 November, from 10am to 4pm**, both days.

Last year's 17 artists has increased to 23 artists this year across 17 sites - paintings, sculptures, jewellery, pottery, photography, and linen, silk and paper prints. There will be indigenous paintings for sale in the 'plein air' at Shell Park and multi-award winning artists including those hung in the Sulman and Archibald.

For more information contact Amanda Harrison on **0409 398 128** or [www.facebook.com/GreenwichVillageArtsTrail](http://www.facebook.com/GreenwichVillageArtsTrail) or ring **1300 720 124**.

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE – THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS

The 'Stop the Chop' campaign, which was so vigorously prosecuted as supporters spoke up against the ill-considered Code 10/50 Bushfire laws which resulted in the loss of thousands of our iconic urban trees, has achieved a great result.

As you will remember, when the code was first enacted it stipulated that properties within 350 metres of Category 1 Bushfire Prone Land and 150 metres of Category 2 Bushfire Prone Land could cut down trees within 10 metres of their house without council permission. This resulted in some 90% of the Lane Cove council area being in the Code 10/50 entitlement area. Many other urban council areas were similarly affected.

Following community outrage the Baird government announced substantial reductions to these areas, and introduced an appeals process for councils to be able to review bushfire prone land with the RFS. Lane Cove council has downgraded its bushfire risk of its bushland reserves so that only 10% of the reserves remains in the area affected by the Code.

### NOW THE BAD NEWS

Threats to our green spaces are coming at us from every quarter. The Baird government has now released its biodiversity and tree clearing draft legislation. If this draft legislation becomes law, it will spell disaster for nature by enabling the return of broad-scale land clearing and habitat destruction across the state. Existing tree preservation orders will be overturned as will native vegetation clearing controls across urban areas in NSW. All of these proposals will have a profound impact on our lives and on the way our shared green spaces and trees are protected and managed.

**The Total Environment Centre** has launched a new campaign to protect our urban parks, trees and bushland. And they are asking us to sign their petition and share widely through your networks on social media. See links [#sosgreenspaces](#) [#standup4nature](#)

## STAY IN TOUCH

We encourage all residents to stay in touch with regular visits to our website, [www.greenwich.org.au](http://www.greenwich.org.au), and that of Lane Cove Council, [www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au). If you register your address on the GCA website you will also receive newsletters and updates electronically.

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