



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

We warmly invite you to attend this meeting on Wednesday, 19 April 2017, in the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm.

THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT MEETING ON PLANNING, so anyone who is even remotely interested in how significantly our environs are about to change should find this an essential update

It is incredible that an issue which is SO expansive, SO expensive, SO controversial, and SO needing a steady hand on the tiller seems to swing between tilting dangerously, going round in circles, or being becalmed through duplication of responsibilities and conflicting aims. And the limbo state of council amalgamations just adds to the confusion.

We cannot risk a worsening of the shambolic state of the St Leonards/Crows Nest development. We hope our speakers at this April meeting will shed some light on what is happening and what is planned. We will be joined by Ann Maree Carruthers – Director, Urban Renewal (Sydney Metro), Julie Urquhart – Communications Manager, Urban Renewal (Sydney Metro) and Coby Tomlins – Senior Planner, Sydney Region East.

They will provide an overview of the St Leonards and Crows Nest strategic investigations and upcoming community consultation. We hope for a good turnout. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening and everyone is warmly invited to attend.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE - WHAT IS HAPPENING?

From the top down, government and non-government and quasi government and nearly-but-not-quite government, it seems that there are more planning authorities than we've had hot dinners. And when we asked some of them where all of them fit together and a clear line of hierarchy, we left them scratching their heads. We at the GCA emphasise that for planning to be successful there must be clear areas of responsibility, and where there are overlaps, as there must inevitably be, then authority must be recognisable. If this doesn't happen then we fear that local issues could fall between the cracks.

So the fact that the various authorities themselves are unsure of their areas of responsibility doesn't augur well for a well-planned, intelligent, inclusive best practice design for this city we call home. Sydney, bless her heart, has grown up rather like Topsy, which in the past was rather endearing. But these days it's a different story: there are definite government targets for shoehorning hundreds of thousands

of more inhabitants into all areas, with most going to so-called strategic areas round train stations and other hubs.

The GCA has been consistent in its approach – that population growth and development must be planned intelligently, with due regard and best outcomes for the health and well-being, lifestyle, and education of current and future inhabitants. The Greater Sydney Commission (GSC), the latest in the line of planning authorities, has as its remit to coordinate and align planning for the greater Sydney area. It recently invited interested parties to submit their concerns, ideas and vision, and the GCA took up the challenge for our area, which also takes in St Leonards and Crows Nest.

Our submission is on our website, but here is a brief synopsis:

While celebrating and protecting the individual nature of each community we should also encourage areas such as roads, pathways, transport hubs be integrated and connected, to make for easy flow and interchange. Schools, hospitals, shops, libraries, sewerage etc should keep pace with increase in population and not put undue strain on local resources.

Zoning round train stations and other public transport nodes needs to balance commercial and residential needs with adequate green, public spaces and bushland.

Housing must integrate adequate public and social housing, rental and ownership. Community facilities such as clubs, hospitals, churches, shopping centres, community halls, baths etc must be given due importance as community hubs

Active transport and cycling needs must be met by building networks linking Greenwich to Crows Nest, Wollstonecraft, North Sydney, St Leonards and Lane Cove. It seems simple enough, but when we look at what is actually happening, it's enough to chill the blood.

A recent disappointing example of a disconnect between planning principles and the reality of planning decisions is the St Leonards South development. This newsletter has given extensive coverage to this issue in past editions, and we are still gobsmacked at how rezoning can be reinterpreted by council and other authorities, seeking massive changes to height, density, use, quite outside the LEP, and get passed despite sustained objections.

VIVA - THE EPA HAS DISAPPOINTED US

We seem to have gone backwards in our push for ongoing and transparent boundary monitoring of emissions from the Viva Gore Bay Terminal.

After a specific recommendation from NSW Health to add such a condition to the Viva Licence review released last year, we finished up in August with a rather general requirement for Viva to do a feasibility study of the technology. Then suddenly just before Christmas with no warning, the condition was gone! We were promised a replacement and we got it in late March – not a word about boundary monitoring, just a vague requirement that Viva should commission a report on emissions from the terminal and impacts on the environment. Where are they going to get their data when there is little monitoring and recording in place? And should Viva and the EPA not know already the impacts of what is emitted from the terminal?

We have no news on the cause or impact of the December product spill. We note that Viva was due to report to the EPA by 3 April on what it has done to test and inspect pipelines at the terminal and it has until 3 June to report on secondary containment.

LOOKING FOR MORE GREENWICH ARTISTS



The Greenwich Arts Trail, a group of local artists exhibiting since 2005, welcomes new talent. If you work out of a space within the boundaries of Greenwich you will be eligible to participate in the Arts Trail of the weekend of 4 - 5 November 2017. Art forms of all descriptions are welcome. For more details contact Amanda Harrison 0409 398 128, or alharrison@hotmail.com



CRAZY WHIST NIGHT

The Isabelle Heim Fund will host another fun and fund-raising evening at Greenwich Community Hall from 7.00pm on Saturday 29 April. The ticket price of \$50 includes snacks, supper, drinks and a donation to the fund. Numbers will be limited to 80, so secure your tickets early!

Ticket Enquiries 9438 1339

GORE HILL CEMETERY TOUR

The next Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery Tour will take place during the Heritage Festival, April-May 2017, on Sunday 30 April 2017 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Visit significant monuments and hear about the history and lives of some of the North Shore residents buried there. At the end of the tour there will be an opportunity to locate family graves.

This is always a popular event, so don't miss out. Bookings are required.

Contact: John Flint 9436 2980 or email flinchens@bigpond.com

GCA MEETS WITH COUNCIL TO DISCUSS BATHS LEASE

The lease for Greenwich Baths ends on 30 June. Mindful that Council has not sought community input on the terms of the next lease (as was the case with the current one), the GCA authorised representatives at our February meeting to meet with Council to discuss aspects of the Baths operation that we would like to have addressed in the new lease.

This meeting has taken place and, as requested by the General Manager, the GCA will now write to Council with more detail about our suggestions.

Once finalised, the lease will require approval of the RMS and the Crown Lands Department.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS – WE'RE NOT THE GUARDIAN BUT...

A cursory read of the mainstream press shows that they're all begging for money to stay afloat and do the job that readers appreciate. Well, we're not *The Guardian* but we also need your support to enable us to print and deliver your newsletter that keeps you informed of what is happening in your suburb. Thank you to the 129 residents and families that have renewed their membership of the GCA for 2017. But we need more to meet our budget! All support is gratefully received so please consider renewing or joining up! No obligation, just give us the money, honey.

There is a sub renewal slip included in this newsletter. Please fill out and post to: PO Box 5057, Greenwich NSW 2065 or drop into the GCA box at the Pharmacy in the village. Alternatively you can pay online to our bank:

BSB 062247, Account # 10104085

Don't forget to clearly identify the payer.

STAY IN TOUCH

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 address on the GCA website you will also receive newsletters and updates electronically.

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