



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING IS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 18 February 2015 at the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. This will be our first meeting for 2015, and the agenda will include the AGM, where office bearers for the GCA committee will be elected for the coming year. Positions vacant will be: president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and seven committee members. Nominations for the positions may be submitted beforehand in writing to the president, or can be offered from the floor at the meeting. Please note that nominees must accept the nomination, be seconded and be financial members of the GCA. Only financial members of the GCA are entitled to vote. Subscriptions may be paid online at any time prior to the meeting, and on the night at the door. If you wish to pay online, please make sure your payment can be clearly identified. If you choose to pay on the night please have the correct money to save time. Please note, no receipts are issued.

Electronic bank details are the same: BSB 062247. Acct number 10104085.

Refreshments will be served during the evening and everyone is warmly invited to attend. Come along and see how the GCA works for the community and learn of the major issues that are still unresolved at the beginning of 2015.

At the last meeting, in December, we had two outstanding speakers: Megan Lockery, Principal Greenwich Public School and Dr Greg Purcell, Senior Anaesthetist from the RNSH medical staff council executive.

The featured speaker for this meeting is Gaye White, convener of Stop the Chop, the alliance formed to have the controversial Code 10/50 repealed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2015 – IMPORTANT CHANGES

At the December 2014 meeting the GCA successfully put forward a motion in two parts: (1) to raise subscriptions from this calendar year (2015); Individual membership rose from \$10 per member to \$20; Family member from \$10 per family to \$20; and Pensioner member from \$5 per member to \$10.

Part 2 of the motion amended the relevant GCA Constitution Clause which stated that a member including each family member has one vote, to read: each family membership shall have one vote only, and **where a family wishes to have additional votes, then members of that family shall take out additional individual memberships.**

INVITATION TO MEET THE CANDIDATES

All Greenwich residents are warmly invited to come and meet the local candidates standing for the coming NSW Government elections in March. The GCA will be co-hosting the event with the Lane Cove Bushcare and Conservation Society and 11 other local associations. The meeting will be headed:

‘Planning for People: a Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW’

and will be held on:

Thursday 5 March, at 7pm
St Andrews Uniting Church
47A Kenneth Street, Longueville

This is a great opportunity to present issues that are of concern in Greenwich.

VALE JOHN MAY

It is with great sadness that we report the untimely and sudden death of one of the leading identities of Greenwich - John May.

John had a seizure and died on 2 February in Bikaner, India, on his way with his wife Celia to the PLAN charity project with which they were involved to aid underprivileged children in India.

John was an ex Mayor of Lane Cove and long time Councillor representing the East Ward (Greenwich), and was currently a vice president of the Greenwich Community Association. Apart from his civic life, his interests were wide ranging and there are very few aspects of local life that do not bear a John May stamp. He was a talented artist and photographer, a traveller, cyclist, tennis player and walker; passionate about taking care of the bush and the environment and preserving local history. He will be a huge loss to our community and his many friends. Our condolences go to his family: Celia, daughters Helen and Naomi and their partners and children.

John will be greatly missed.



Photo of John May in his mayoral robes courtesy of Lane Cove Council

IN BRIEF: ONGOING CONCERNS FOR 2015

GORE BAY FALLEN ON DEAF EARS

The ramifications of the storage of petroleum products and Gore Bay terminal operations were covered extensively in newsletters last year, so, here is where we are up to and why the GCA is so concerned with this issue.

Since January 2012 when Viva (then Shell) lodged its application for modifications to the Gore Bay terminal, the GCA, among other concerned residents, has tried to gain full access to the Human Health Risk Assessment Report (HHRAR) covering 156 compounds associated with terminal operations, which Shell was required to complete.

Over 2013 and 2014 attempts to gain access to the report via various authorities have been met with obfuscation, outright refusals or carefully edited access. In its latest development Viva has the right until March this year to appeal to NCAT (NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal).

In other disappointing related developments, the GCA, which was invited to make submissions to the PAC (Planning Assessment Commission) in November last year on the advisability of assessing Clyde and Gore Bay terminal DAs concurrently, has received notification from the Department of Planning and Environment that the DA for Clyde

had been approved. Thus the PAC has taken the extraordinary view that the Clyde DA has no social or environmental impact on Gore Bay.

We have also yet to be advised how the partition circulated last October on the Emergency Plan for Gore Bay has been received. So, still lots of work to be done.

SALE OF ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL LAND

Dr Greg Purcell from the RNSH Staff Association spoke to the GCA at the December meeting about the proposed sale of a portion of the Gore Hill site to raise monies to fund new medical services for the site. The Staff Association opposes the sale on the basis that it limits future use of the site for health services and is a short term government solution that transfers any potential profits from the public to the private sector. Because the staff is limited in their ability to protest about the sale it is seeking support from the community in their campaign. There is a petition accessible through the save.rnsh.org website.

The NSW Minister for Health avoided the recent rally at the opening of the Clinical Services Building and no reply has yet been received to GCA's letter to her. Tenders for the land sale have closed and the selection process is underway.

TREES GET THE CHOP

It has become very apparent that Code 10/50, which was effected to reduce bush fire hazard, is being misused by some home owners to cut down trees for other reasons. Concerned community groups, alarmed at the extensive unintended consequences for hard-won conservation measures of our neighbourhoods and urban wildlife habitats, have formed an alliance to stop this from happening and to bring about an immediate review and possible repeal of the legislation.



STOP THE CHOP is the eye catching name of this alliance, and it is supported by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the peak NSW environment group, and at least twenty other groups.

STOP THE CHOP needs your help in carrying out campaigns to keep this issue to the forefront of public consciousness.

If you would like to help please contact Gaye White at the following:

f: facebook.com/LCBCS

t: @SocietyBushland

Don't forget – come along to the meeting on 18 February and hear Gaye speak on the issue.

WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT

The Isabelle Heim Fund will be holding a Wine and Cheese night at Greenwich Sailing Club on Saturday 21 March hosted by Greenwich wine master Karen Macallister-Hohnen and local cheese expert Penny Lawson. Attendees will be entertained by the Swiss Yodellers. Tickets will be distributed through the usual Heim Fund network, but can also be obtained from Tom Lawson on 9436 1984.

COMING UP

- Gore Hill Cemetery Tour on Sunday 19 April. This year it will be part of the National Trust Heritage Festival and will focus on the memorials of Gallipoli casualties. Further details next newsletter
- This year 2015 is the 100th anniversary of Greenwich Baths, and there will be some interesting events and celebrations coming up. Keep an eye on future editions of this newsletter, and also the website: www.greenwichbaths.com.au

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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