



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 23rd October at the Greenwich Community Centre 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.
Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED NEW PLANNING LAWS GATHERS MOMENTUM

With increasingly more NSW residents and groups such as ICAC becoming aware of the serious shortcomings of the proposed legislation, the State Government has deferred introducing the controversial new Planning Bill and is considering amendments prior to submission, possibly this month.

The Better Planning Network (BPN) represents over 470 local organisations throughout the State (including the GCA) as well as a multitude of local councils, and has summarised concerns thus:

Developments that comply with code assessment criteria will be automatically approved. No notification necessary of a development near you and removal of the opportunity to submit an objection. Assessment by private assessors paid for by the developer – a clear conflict of interest and opportunity for corrupt activity (there has been enough controversy with private certifiers certifying that the building complies with a development consent). Opportunities for State Government or developer initiated spot rezoning. No differentiation between low, medium and high density residential areas. Insufficient protection of heritage and the built and natural environment. A bias towards developers at the expense of residents and good planning. Developers will have the opportunity to complain directly to the minister, citizens will not.

To find out more go to: betterplanningnetwork.good.do

A BIG WELCOME TO THIS NEWCOMER



This beautiful lyrebird was seen in Gore Creek reserve below Little Road and reported by a local bushcare volunteer. The bird has come back after 20 years absence and is now a local resident. It has never been recorded in Lane Cove before; this could be a result of the decreasing threat of predation from feral animals and the continuing good work of

bushcare volunteers and bush regenerators. Bushcare has been thriving in Greenwich and Lane Cove since the 1970s but they are always after new volunteers. There are 21 active bushcare groups within the Lane Cove Council area and four within Greenwich. Bushcare came about because many areas of bushland are under threat from urban pressures such as weeds, pollution and habitat destruction. It is a partnership between Council and the community to conserve, regenerate, protect and manage publicly owned bushland and involves carefully removing weeds to enable native plants to re-establish and provide the right habitat for native wildlife. Other activities include tree planting, plant propagation, mulching, wildlife monitoring and more. Council co-ordinates the program by providing the tools, supervision and training while people volunteer their time and energy.

No experience is needed. It's a great way to meet the local community, learn new skills, get outdoors and develop new friendships! To get involved contact the Bushcare Co-ordinator Helen Haigh on 9911 3579 or Bushcare@lanecove.nsw.gov.au

COMMUNITY IN THE PLAZA

Following the successful Phase I upgrade of the Lane Cove Plaza, Council recently released concept plans for Phase 2.

Contrary to community expectations these involve major changes rather than minor improvements as promised, and there is significant community outrage over the plans particularly as the Council appears to have gone back on its assurances that these sorts of changes would not take place.

The most significant change is the increase in commercial cafe seating space by 30% and the conversion of the seating areas into enclosed spaces covered by a glass roof supported by large wooden pillars with plastic curtains in pelmets that can be lowered in cold or wet weather. Opponents of this plan say that this is alienating public land for commercial purposes and will 'clutter' the open aspect of the plaza by boxing off large areas of community space. Other significant concerns are the heat that will be generated under the glass on hot days and ongoing problems of keeping the glass roof clean of leaves, general dirt and bird droppings.

The plans also involve the removal of two large plane trees at the western end of the plaza that provide shade during hot weather, to be replaced by eucalypts further west near Burns Bay Road. In addition, a number of bench seats with comfortable backs are to be replaced by scattered, single occupancy cubes that are lit up at night.

There are no cost estimates available yet for implementation of the concept or ongoing maintenance.

Concept plans are located at each end of the plaza and in the Library and Council Chambers.

Concept plans can also be viewed online at www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au under 'Home'. Residents can comment on the plan (but not on an alternative minor upgrade approach) by completing the Council Survey online or on a printed format or can make a submission to the General Manager at PO Box 20, Lane Cove 1595 or lccouncil@lanecove.nsw.gov.au

Residents wishing to make a submission must do so prior to Friday, 25 October.

BICYCLE PLAN DANGEROUS AND DESTRUCTIVE

Another issue upon which the community is being asked to comment is the proposed route for bicycles. One of these routes passes through Greenwich, and is not new. It has been proposed a few times over the years by the bicycle lobby and was rejected every time by Council staff, external consultants and the community. Criticism of the proposed route centres on the danger of having shared walking/ cycling/ dog walking pathways and the difficulty of policing bicycle activity along these paths, as well as the adverse ecological impact on narrow, regenerating reserves by concrete paths which must conform to gradient and width regulations. However, it is likely to be adopted this time unless the community objects.

Details of the Greenwich section are as follows: a concrete pathway to be built through bushland to emerge near Bob Campbell Oval, then cross to the foreshore "where an elevated platform would bypass the mangroves, leading to a boardwalk along the foreshore to below Ford St. The route from the foreshore to Ford St is steep. The lower section could be zig-zagged, with the upper section ramped. The footpath would be widened up Ford St to Evelyn St...to Shell Park... The shared pathway would pass through Shell Park and continue along the foreshore to Greenwich ferry. This section could be implemented via a board walk or by upgrading the existing path... A boardwalk could extend until approximately the final 100 metres, where it would join the park, to

the bottom of Mitchell St."

To put this into perspective: the current narrow natural track winding gently through the natural bush round the foreshore where residents and visitors alike enjoy walking themselves and in many cases their dogs would be planked and concreted over, and to conform to Australian standards of width for shared pathways would be cantilevered out over the water, a massive engineering project. New cabling would have to be installed to light the route at night and a new drainage system to prevent erosion. Boats would no longer be able to moor there, and paddlers would no longer enjoy the small sandy beach on hot days. Views from the water would also be compromised by these large obstructive structures.

And all because bicyclers reject the alternative proposed plans which have been in place for years to use Greenwich Road.

Concerned residents, angry over the bicycle lobby's determination to destroy this precious bushland (and the shoreline) needlessly and expensively, are unable to understand why Greenwich Road is not acceptable as a viable route, especially as children under 12 are permitted to ride on the footpaths.

Please review the plans and email your comments asap to lcc@lanecove.nsw.gov.au with 'Bicycle Plan' in the subject line.

FRIENDS OF GORE BAY INCORPORATED

When Shell converted the main activity at its Gore Bay Terminal from a crude oil handling facility to one that handles petrol, some residents were concerned that this was able to take place without any formal approval process. This concern continues as, over a year later, there is still no information from government authorities or Shell about potential health and safety impacts of the noise emanating from the terminal, air quality, and chemical composition of the petrol that is handled.

Friends of Gore Bay Incorporated (FOGB) was formed by concerned residents with the objective to protect the environment of Gore Bay and to ensure that activities conducted there are consistent with

the amenity, health and safety of the community. As such, it has been attempting to obtain information from government authorities about health and safety impacts of the current Shell operation but this has proven to be a challenging task. FOGB welcomes new members. If you share FOGB's concerns and want to know more, or have skills to assist regarding these health and safety issues please contact Penny Mabbutt on 0418 249 134 or John Southwood on 0412 137 080.

CEMETERY TOUR



A bi-annual tour of the heritage-listed Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery will be conducted by members of the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery on Sunday 3 November commencing at 11:00 am. This two-hour tour is a wonderful opportunity to experience some of the highlights of this amazing historic cemetery hidden behind the trees on the Pacific Highway at St Leonards.

During the tour guides will visit and talk about some of the leading historical figures from the North Shore of Sydney buried in the cemetery and will spend some time in the St Mary MacKillop precinct. Participants are advised to wear good walking shoes, bring a hat and a camera to record the memorials in a sea of flowers. Following the tour there will be an opportunity to enquire about location of graves and deposition of ashes. This is a popular tour and bookings are essential. Contact John May on 9906 5106 to reserve a place.

Coming Up...

Look for an exciting story on the Greenwich Hub in next newsletter.

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