



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

February 2007

www.greenwich.org.au

PO Box 5057 Greenwich 2065

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, **21st February 2007** commencing at 8pm
Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road

AGENDA

The formal agenda of the meeting will be on public display on the noticeboards by the chemist, at bus stops and in Greenwich library
Agenda items will include receipt of the Annual Report, Financial Statements and, most importantly, election of Office Bearers for 2007

Note: Meetings start at 8.00pm and conclude at 10.00pm for supper.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the AGM on Wednesday 21st February, we will review the progress made in 2006 and the main issues we faced. Then we will set forward our aims for the year ahead. Please let us know if there are important matters you feel should be on our agenda.

We welcome nominations for the new committee to be appointed at the AGM.

We are also seeking professionals - **lawyers, town planners, architects, engineers** - to give advice to our special projects teams. Please add your name to the list (tel 9437 6417).

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all and the subscription amount is unchanged at just \$10 per year. It helps us to produce this newsletter, maintain our website and gives support to the projects we address during the year. Subscription renewals are now due.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

We now have a wireless PA system for indoor or outdoor use (no power point is required) and two new gas BBQs. Contact us if you would like to use them at a community-based event.

LAND & ENVIRONMENT COURT

The Association is giving evidence in two current cases: **73 Carlotta St** for a Dual Occupancy; and **33 Greenwich Rd** (the "Billy Blue" subdivision) where the current owner, Tesrol, has just submitted revised plans to the court.

A GUIDE TO FASTER DAs

Council is often blamed for the amount of time that it takes for Development Applications to be approved. But there are ways to help speed up the process.

Each council develops its own Development Control Plan (DCP) to reflect a preferred design approach and to provide detailed planning controls and guidelines. The DCP contains samples of appropriate designs. It also has a checklist to make sure you understand what is required (see Council's website).

So why does it take so long for DAs to be approved? Obviously a complying and well-documented DA will be processed in the shortest time possible. Many simply need to go back to the applicant for more information. This can send your DA back to the bottom of the chronological pile.

Second, there is not enough staff at Council to process all the applications in the optimal time. The requirements are very involved and so must be analysed carefully. The solution would be to increase the number of staff but this of course, is a funding issue. Plus there is a shortage of qualified planners in NSW.

You can ring Council before starting on your project and ask about your site. They can tell you valuable information about the area of which you might be unaware eg. that the site is in a Heritage Conservation Area.

Reasons why a plan may not be approved:

- It is too large for the site and/or the amount of green space is too small.
- It has too many storeys.
- Overshadowing and privacy issues.
- Trees being removed with no accompanying arborist's report.
- Heritage or protection zones not being considered.

One point to remember is that Council has no right to not pass a DA purely for aesthetic reasons. They can only not pass the plan if you do not follow their guidelines or if you do not include necessary information as listed in the DCP.

SANTA AT THE WHARF

Once again the children were all delighted that Santa, after a very busy night, found time to stop at Greenwich on Christmas morning. Donations from the refreshments served during Santa's visit went to Mission Australia (\$200).

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Jubilant singers were joined by the Lane Cove Concert Band, as well as the Willoughby Singers and the Greenwich Carollers. The children were, as ever, the real stars of the night with their recorder group and carol singing. Special thanks to Greenwich IGA for donating food and drinks and to Shell Australia for the sound system. A total of \$1,760 was raised for an Aboriginal children's education initiative in Redfern.

THE ISABELLE HEIM FUND

The annual New Years Day Fundraiser at La Renaissance in The Rocks raised more than \$4,500 for the Isabelle Heim Fund. Delicious pastries and savouries were served, accompanied by champagne and excellent coffee, provided by barista extraordinaire Christophe Charkos with Nola Rihani. The next fundraiser will be a Crazy Whist night in July.

GENERAL MEETINGS FOR 2007: 18/4/07, 20/6/07, 15/8/07, 17/10/07, 12/12/07

Pam Palmer, President
9437 6417

Merri Southwood, Secretary
9436 1331

2007 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions may be deposited in our box at Greenwich Pharmacy or posted to "Treasurer, Greenwich Community Association Inc. PO Box 5057 Greenwich 2065"
Enclosed please find \$10 per family \$5 per pensioner family \$...... donation

Name

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Phoneemail.....