



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 18 October 2017, in the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, at 7.30 pm. There will be lots to talk about, spearheaded by the fact that we have a new council, which will inevitably bring a different approach to issues we have long discussed, such as high density development of our precinct and surrounding suburbs and the need for correspondingly more green space and public amenity, more transparency around the Viva Energy Petroleum Terminal, and better transport and parking.

We extend a warm invitation to all members of the Greenwich community and to our East Ward councillors David Brooks-Horn, Pam Palmer and Frances Vissel, to attend and participate in the proceedings, and see what exciting times are ahead.

Refreshments will be served throughout the evening; and we hope to see you there.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREENWICH RESIDENT AS NEW MAYOR

We were delighted to hear that an East Ward representative, Independent Councillor Pam Palmer, was elected Mayor of the newly formed Lane Cove Council. We wish her all the best for a productive and positive term of office.



RELEASE OF DRAFT GORE BAY TERMINAL HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

Readers who visit our website will have noticed this item prominently displayed.

Why have we posted it?

In 2012 Shell Refining Australia Pty Ltd notified the NSW Department of

Planning that it intended to apply for approval to carry out major work at the Gore Bay terminal. Crude oil imports were to cease, replaced by finished products petrol, diesel, jet fuel and marine fuel.

Shell was advised of the detail needed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which included

"Air Quality and Odour ...impacts of the development on surrounding receivers, including impacts from road and sea transportation".

This was a welcome development. The community had been seeking more information around terminal emissions since at least 2008, following a recommendation in

a report by Dr Tim Driscoll, that Shell ensure that an appropriate and ongoing exposure monitoring system be in place at the terminal.

From 2011 to the end of 2014 Shell convened community meetings as part of its consultation around the planned DA. Shell representatives were often asked to disclose the data prepared in respect of air quality and odour in a report known as the Human Health Risk Assessment

(HHRA), but Shell said that it would

be made available only when the EIS was placed on exhibition.

Given this response, a community association called Friends of Gore Bay applied to NSW Health in June 2013 for release of the data under the GIPA (FOI) process.

The request was referred to Shell and the access request was subsequently refused.

In May 2015 Viva Energy (as Shell was known after a 100% shareholder change) cancelled its development plans, and the community's right to access data in the EIS was lost.

Friends of Gore Bay appealed the decision of NSW Health to withhold the HHRA. After almost three years of appeals, the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal released the draft HHRA to Friends of Gore Bay. This document was subsequently made available to the GCA Gore Bay Terminal Sub-committee, noting that it is in draft form, as it was never required to be formalised once Viva Energy cancelled its development application.

So, almost ten years after the Driscoll report we still have no ongoing boundary monitoring of emissions. Our newsletters have described in detail the EPA's refusal to require this of Viva Energy, despite clear advice by NSW Health and the GCA's many please.

Both the GCA and Friends of Gore Bay have sought assistance from NSW Health to better understand the data in the HHRA but this was refused. The GCA continues in its efforts to secure specialist advice and can offer no comment on the data without this advice.

In the meantime, the GCA feels that, in the absence of any other data around emissions, the community should have access to the draft HHRA. The document can be seen on our website.

A GREAT INITIATIVE

The GCA thanks Michele Stromquist, of SafeWork NSW, for her initiative in organising, regular SafeWork forums between community representatives, Viva Energy and regulators.

One of the major concerns of the GCA is that the emergency management plans for the terminal comply with current best practice.

At the last meeting Michele assembled an impressive gathering of key management personnel from local emergency services who outlined the updated plans. Information about these plans will be included in Council's next rate notice.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL TO BE UPGRADED

There are big plans afoot to upgrade aged care facilities and services at Greenwich Hospital, services spanning aged care, frailty and dementia care, older person mental health and palliative care. Key features of the master plan include: replacement of the current hospital with a state of the art hospital with 72 inpatient beds, an aged care facility, a 15-bed hospice, construction of up to 70 seniors housing units, improved parking and access, and preservation of Pallister House.

An Environmental Impact Statement will need to be produced and the GCA has been assured that at every stage there will be opportunity for community input and engagement.

CROWN LANDS - THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AND WHY WE MUST BE CONCERNED

Recent legislative changes have broadened local councils' management responsibilities over Crown Lands, due to take effect early 2018.

The legislation was fairly general in nature, and now they are thrashing out the nuts and bolts of the regulations and how the legislation is to be implemented.

The Act and the regulations are of direct concern to the community because they will regulate the future

management, use and potential transfer of public community land that has a long history and significant value to the community.

Why is the GCA taking an interest?

We are concerned that precious Crown Lands in Lane Cove, such as Greenwich Baths, which have been enjoyed by the public for many years, remain as a public amenity and not be compromised by the Council for commercial objectives. Ratepayers' money has been spent on major upgrades to the Baths. Ratepayers would surely then have the right to feel ripped off if Council's only objective was to increase revenue at the expense of a valued facility.

With Councils having the responsibility for the management of Crown Lands, there is little redress for the community if Councils alter or remove the purpose for which the Crown Land was dedicated.

Councils would also have the power to sell, transfer or vest the land, and grant leases which may be against community interests. The GCA thinks it very important that the community stay vigilant in protecting Crown Land as a community asset and ensuring full transparency around its management.

AND SPEAKING OF THE BATHS

The Baths are open!

These works seemed to go on for ages but they are now looking good.

There is still minor work to be done to the amenities block, but that will be completed after the end of these school holidays.

GREENWICH VILLAGE ARTS TRAIL

4 - 5 November, 10am-4pm.

A number of new Greenwich artists have joined the open studio weekend this year, including Jeanette Lamb who moved specifically to Greenwich after she discovered the Arts Trail the year before. Jeanette creates abstract, dimensional images merging traditional and digital media in paintings, photography and textiles.

Come and discover her intriguing designs along with 25 other artists, including the recent Gosford Art Prize winner, Dana Dion. There will be an impressive array of paintings in all media, plus jewellery, pottery, photography, and prints for sale.

There will plenty of food and drink available along the way, including at the Greenwich School in Greenwich Road, which is getting involved with the GVAT this year. As well as showcasing portraits by younger students and class collaborative sculptures around the Greenwich Road campus the school will also be offering a cake stall, drinks stand, amenities, shade and rest stop. Don't miss it!!

**Further information from
Amanda Harrison
Mob: 0409 398 128
www.harrisonsculpture.net**

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.

**Merri Southwood, President
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