SUBJECT: Greenway Housing Estate - 60th Anniversary Celebration and Crows Nest Centre project

AUTHOR: Chris Taylor, Community Worker (Aged and Disability)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In March 2014 residents of Greenway will be celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the official opening of the ‘Greenway Housing Estate. The Greenway Tenants Group in conjunction with Council and Crows Nest Centre (CNC) has suggested a number of activities to mark this important event. To coordinate the Anniversary celebrations a working party has been formed to plan and implement the events. This report provides a brief summary of planned events and approximate costs involved.

In 2012/13 CNC received funding from Housing NSW to undertake a small community development project with social housing tenants, living in the North Sydney Local Government Area. In partnership with the Tenants Group at Greenway, CNC developed a publication that profiles the lives of a select number of residents.

Greenway: Celebrating our home was launched on Friday 12 July at Greenway. Speakers were CNC’s Denise Ward, Bryce, a resident of Greenway and president of Greenway’s community centre, and a representative Housing NSW. Jo Perrett, the Crows Nest Centre’s Community Engagement coordinated the project with professional service (photography, “copy” and graphic design) provided Christopher Ireland, Kate Dorrell and Robert Thwaites respectively.

RECOMMENDATION:
1. THAT the information be received
LINK TO DELIVERY PROGRAM

The relationship with the Delivery Program is as follows:

Direction 4  Our Social Vitality

Goal 4.10.4  Support people in public housing and provide assistance to people at risk of homelessness.

BACKGROUND

Greenway housing estate was opened in 1954. Providing affordable accommodation for over 400 people for over half a century it is now recognized as major landmark of the North Sydney local government area. This unique building is now heritage listed and boasts a diverse community of mainly older people from diverse backgrounds. The 60th anniversary celebration provides an opportunity to promote and engage with the wider Greenway community and promote the positive contribution to the cultural and social make up of North Sydney LGA.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The following table provides a summary of the key sustainability implications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QBL Pillar</th>
<th>Implications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Activities will promote best practice for recycling and sustainability. The proposed community garden upgrade wills a legacy project for future residents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Opportunity for engagement with a marginalized community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Some cost to council but opportunities for small business to promote and provide services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>WHS risk management Food hygiene regulations to be observed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DETAIL

Planned activates for the 60th Anniversary include upgrading the existing community garden, pottery workshops, DVD/CD making and entertainment/food on the day. It is estimated that the total cost of the Greenway anniversary will be about $12,500 this will include grants donations in-kind and contributions from other Government Agencies and community organisations.

Estimated budget details for the proposed Greenway Anniversary Celebrations 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed open space upgrade.</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Received and proposed funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food/activities on the day</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>Housing Council OZ-Harvest Donations (prop.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography Expo</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>NSW Housing grant (rec.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film DVD or Music CD</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>Unfunded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community space upgrade</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>Unfunded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anniversary Cake</td>
<td>$200-300</td>
<td>NSW Housing (prop.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitations/Marquee</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>NSW Housing (prop.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pottery workshop</td>
<td>$1200</td>
<td>NSC Seniors Program (rec)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,500</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Celebrating our home

Greenway
The place we call home should be very special and appreciated. Beautiful and convenient location. The Crow's Nest, our own village in a greenway, and we are all different, but Greenway is our home. We are all here for various reasons.
Albert

RESIDENT PROFILE

At 105, Albert is Greenway’s oldest resident.

Albert was born in Wales and lived in London for 24 years. In 1952, he took a sea voyage across the Pacific Ocean and found his way to Gunnedah, a country town in northeast New South Wales.

He has lived in Greenway for 53 years, more than half his life. He says Kirribilli and Milsons Point haven’t changed at all in over half a century. Albert has fared well too.

“The hospital said I can’t come here anymore. I’m too healthy,” he laughs.

So, what’s the secret to living a long life?

In his younger years, Albert played badminton, tennis and football. “I’ve been pretty active,” he says.

Albert also credits the women in his life for his health. “I had a good wife for 70 years and one week. And I have a good daughter who is 76.”

Albert met his wife at a dance, during a holiday in Wales.

“I asked her for a dance and that was it,” he says. “We had a comfortable life. We enjoyed life.”

The way to maintain a happy marriage, according to Albert, is to understand each other and to bury the hatchet before bed.

“Never let the wrath go down on the sun. We had our tiffs, we disagreed, but we never carried it overnight.”

Albert misses his wife. “At the moment, it’s a lonely life. When you’ve had a partner for 70 years, you feel lost.”

However, Albert is kept busy by his friends. “I go out every day for lunch. I’ve got good friends,” he says. “I’m very fortunate here.”
Xia came to Australia about 25 years ago, at the age of 65. Xia left China after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 to join her son, She. He had arrived to ‘the lucky country’ several years earlier.

Xia is learning English through the free lessons provided by Bryce and Terry at Greenway. For She translates for her.

“My mother is very happy; never angry. She likes walking every day — maybe three times each day,” She says. Perhaps this is the secret to Xia’s long life. At 91, she is in good health.

“If you want a long life, you have to do sport,” She explains. “A long life belongs to exercise. And she always eats vegetables.”

In addition to regular walking, Xia spends her days reading the Chinese newspaper. She watches the garden and what is happening below from her apartment window. She also enjoys Greenway’s BBQs.

“I like Australia very much,” says she. “This country is beautiful — maybe the best country in the world. The people are very friendly.”

She explains, for example, that when his mother gets lost, Australians not only help her with directions, but they will argue among themselves over the best way to go.

“The people are so nice. The feeling is very good here. And the weather is beautiful,” she says.

She is grateful to the Australian Government for providing a good life for his mother.

“Greenway is a very nice community. A lot of people volunteer for my mother. They always look after her with travel and eating. Bryce helps look after her. She is so lucky to live in Greenway. It’s a very good life here.”

“This community is like a family. The volunteers are like my brothers and sisters. I am very thankful to this government for public housing.”
Four years ago, Terry retired from his job as an English and History teacher. His love of literature has now translated into a number of creative roles at Greenway.

Terry leads Greenway’s arts group and coordinates two performances each year, showcasing Greenway’s local talent. He also produces Voices, Greenway’s biannual magazine. “I try to encourage the talented – musicians, writers and artists,” he says.

Terry contributes his own writing to Voices and Dying with Dignity, an organisation that advocates for individuals with terminal illnesses to choose a peaceful death. It’s a cause he strongly believes in. He also organises a stall at Kirribilli markets, selling paintings.

Terry’s favourite writer is American Sidney Sheldon, who wrote novels, plays, films and TV shows. His most famous works include I Dream of Jeannie, The Merry Widow, and Master of the Game. “I love romantic comedies,” says Terry.

“I like human interest stories.”

Terry was born in Willoughby and grew up in Cammeray. He spent five years in London, but was desperate to return to the sunshine. He has been living in Greenway for three years.

What does he like about Greenway? “Location, location, location. It’s magnificent in terms of public transport and the beautiful walks. I walk everyday – it’s very soothing,” he says. “I’m happy here and I’m grateful to be here.”
This is a story about Sylvia and her two cats, Kitty and Mia.

When Sylvia was out with friends one day, she started feeling severe pain in her abdomen. She was taken by ambulance to Royal North Shore Hospital, where she was examined.

"The next thing I knew, I was in the operating theatre," she says. "When you're under anaesthetic, you don't know what you're saying."

Sylvia soon came to regret what she said. She told her friend she would have to let the cats go. Sylvia has had cats for 18 years.

"When I came home, I missed them so much. I kept looking out the front door, thinking they were coming down the hallway."

A week later, my friend wanted to show me something in the Manly Daily. I turned the page and there were my cats." Kitty and Mia were listed for adoption. "I called the number and said: 'I would like my cats back. I've never felt so happy in my life. I could have cried at the table.'"

Sylvia returned to Greenway with Kitty and Mia. "When I opened the cage door, the little one ran straight to the bedroom," Sylvia says.

With her cats back home, Sylvia is happy once again. "I love being here," she says. "I was 26 when I came to Australia [from England] and I've loved Australia ever since. I'm meeting so many nice friends here [at Greenway] and at church. They're all lovely people."
Jamshid, better known as Jim, loves Australia. "Everything is fantastic here," he says of the country he immigrated to in 1986. "The weather, the environment, the pool, the water, the multiculturalism." He was granted his Australian citizenship in 1992.

Jim was born in Iran. In 1972 he moved to Washington DC in the United States, where he studied Electrical Engineering and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1978. He obtained his NSW Electrician's License in 1990. Jim has an impressive collection of certificates from University and TAFE.

Jim's older brother and his family live in Sydney. He has a sister in Frankfurt, Germany and another brother in the United States.

Jim worked in various jobs, including as an engineer for the Water Board to investigate the load of the power distribution network and major drives at St. Mary's Sewage Treatment Plant.

Every day, Jim spends forty-five minutes swimming up and down the nearby North Sydney Pool. This saltwater fifty-metre heated pool is nestled between the harbour and Luna Park. Jim believes it's one of the most beautiful swimming pools in the world.

With it's gorgeous views across the harbour, taking in Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, he may be right.

"Swimming makes me refreshed and happy. It's the best exercise and medicine," he says. Jim remembers the day he learnt to swim at the age of five. His older brother and a neighbour took him down to the rocky spring-water pool in Tehran, the capital of Iran. They threw him in and he made it across the water.

Jim says, "I have to keep myself busy. I go to TAFE and use the computers at the library. I'm currently taking an advanced writing course at TAFE. There's an Individual Learning Centre (ILC). I write articles and short stories and the teachers help me correct my English".

Besides the proximity to the pool, Jim enjoys the location of Greenway, Milsons Point where he lives. "The location is fantastic because it's close to public transport, including ferry, train and bus."

Jim has many reasons to love Australia and Greenway's location is definitely one of them.
Carol and Dennis

RESIDENT PROFILE

Carol and Dennis are known around Greenway as ‘Romeo and Juliet’.

Carol was only 12 when she first met Dennis. Later as a young woman, she watched him perform in his rock band. Dennis was guitarist and lead singer. “I loved the late Johnny O’Keefe, Col Joy and Lucky Star. I was inspired by Elvis Presley,” Dennis says.

“I used to watch Dennis play,” says Carol, smiling.

Dennis says he used to play on stage with Johnny O’Keefe. He explains: “Johnny O’Keefe said to me, ‘Who’s that beautiful girl? She’s your girlfriend!’” He grins at Carol.

Carol has lived at Greenway since the early 60s, and Dennis since the early 70s. The couple has been happily married since 1987, and have been inseparable since.

“I like my husband,” Carol says. “We stick together.”

They have worked together too, helping people with disabilities. Carol and Dennis also attend the local church, where Carol teaches scripture to children aged two and three from the Chinese community. “The children are so beautiful,” she says.

Since the Community Centre committee started organising day trips, Carol and Dennis have been to an apple orchard and Windsor. They are grateful to the committee and are excited about the next trip to the Hunter Valley. Carol and Dennis are also regular visitors to the Crows Nest Centre.

Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet would envy this Greenway couple’s life together, in a friendly complex that is close to the city.
Deborah moved to Greenway last year to be with her partner, Paul. The couple met at the Shakespeare Hotel in Surry Hills.

At the time, Deborah was living with her father, helping him manage with lung cancer. They had something in common: a sick parent who lived in Surry Hills.

“We used to go down to the Shakespeare to drown our sorrows,” Deborah says. “We told each other our life stories. We were both anti-relationships.”

Deborah started her career working in a legal practice. She studied evenings and weekends to achieve her Diploma of Law from the University of Sydney. She then started her own practice, which she ran for more than 10 years. She lived in England for two years, and became qualified over there.

But looking after her dad, coping with his alcoholism, and managing the practice became a struggle.

“I started drinking with Dad,” she says. Deborah became worn out. She says she was in need of some rest and had to close her law practice.

“Paul is the first time in a long while, I’ve let a male get close to me, in the right way. We have a similar past,” Deborah says. Alcohol has been a problem for Deborah, but she’s not letting it rule her life. She has turned her life around with the help of a counsellor. “Counselling has been wonderful. It’s made me a lot stronger.” She would like to see Paul follow her lead.

She is also now part of the Greenway committee. “It’s getting me back in an office,” she said. Deborah has renewed her ABN and business name; she is going to start another legal practice.

Deborah enjoys her new home. “I love the area. I love walking down to the harbour, the shops and North Sydney. It’s social. Here, people seem to take pride. The community has changed in the past four months. People are a lot happier.”

Deborah is happier too at Greenway with Paul. “He’s a really great friend to me. I love our chats.”
Crows Nest Centre
Connecting Our Community

OPENING HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30AM-4:30PM

+ Hot lunch served daily (Monday – Friday)
+ Meals on Wheels
+ Linen service
+ Free internet access
+ Free computer tutor
  Tuesdays 10:30-1:30pm
+ Computer Club
+ Individual transport

+ 健康颐年活动, 包括室内滚球、新时尚舞蹈、太极拳、瑜伽、Feldenkrais身体运动、Canasta纸牌及中式麻将
+ 购物协助
+ 和解服务
+ 每月郊游, 包括巴士旅行和电影
+ 社区支持
+ 中式缓缓日间护理

Other community centres operate in your local area offering additional services to those offered at Crows Nest. For information on the services available at Neutral Bay Community Centre, Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre and the North Sydney Men’s Shed, ASK AT THE GREENWAY COMMUNITY CENTRE for details.
### Resident Profile: Troy

Troy has lived at Greenway for one-and-a-half years. He grew up in Chatswood and Artarmon. Troy made the move to Greenway with his mum and two cats, Jerry and Ebony. Being at Greenway has worked out well for Troy, as he loves swimming. He is now closer to the beautiful North Sydney Swimming Pool with its stunning view of the harbour. When Troy isn't swimming, he enjoys playing computer games, especially *Battle Field* and *Grand Theft Auto*. "I'm alright at them," he says modestly. Troy also loves using his new iPhone 5 and watching his favourite TV shows *Home and Away* and *Pawn Brokers*.

Troy is currently looking for work. He is happy with his life at Greenway. "I like the area — it's a good area. The people are friendly," he says.

---

### DOs / 该做

- Be considerate and care for others. 为他人着想，关心他人
- Be a responsible pet owner. 做一个负责任的宠物主人
- Use the services of the Community Centre. 使用社区中心的服务
- Read Part 2 of your Tenancy Agreement. 阅读租赁协议的第2部分
- Keep your flat clean and tidy. 保持你的公寓干净整洁

### DON’Ts / 不该做

- Be unreasonably noisy, too early or late at night. 于清早或深夜发出不合理的噪音
- Put glass down the garbage chute. 切勿把玻璃放进垃圾滑槽
- Do anything illegal e.g. sell drugs, light fires, damage property. 做任何违法的事情，比如卖药，生火，破坏公物
- Gossip about or fight with your neighbours. 喧传或殴打你的邻居
- Feed the feral cats. 喂养的野生猫只

---

GTG

GREENWAY TENANTS GROUP
INCORPORATED
Peter grew up in Beecroft, spending his weekends at his father’s hobby farm in the Southern Highlands, surrounded by grazier beef cattle.

“Monday to Friday, I went to a private school. The weekends were on the farm,” explains Peter. “We were on the farm from dawn to dusk.”

At age 50, Peter’s father lost his life to melanoma. With the family assets frozen, an 11-year-old Peter, his brother and mother were suddenly struggling financially. As a result of this tragic time, Peter is diligent about sun protection, taking all precautions to ensure he doesn’t develop skin cancer.

Peter made a career in the hospitality industry, as a bar tender, cellar man, cook and waiter. He has worked in pubs, clubs and restaurants around Sydney. These days Peter is planning to start a business, removing rust from cars, but his passion for hospitality remains.

“I’m a bit of a cook,” he says. “I’m always cooking for women. The way to a woman’s heart is through her stomach.”

A meal with Peter may also come with homemade beverage. “I also make my own beer,” he says. “So does President Obama, leader of the Free World.”

Peter dabbles with writing. In 1990, he wrote a book called Biblical Prophecies. It draws upon his interest in history. He’s also written stories about some of the colourful characters of Greenway, including his book The Greenway Follies. He already has the name for his next autobiographical book: All The Bastards I Have Met.

Peter has decided to take action on something that has been bothering him for years. He and two friends have started picking up rubbish from the parks in an effort to keep them clean.

Like many of the Greenway residents Peter has a skill to share with its residents. He provides free Palmistry readings to his neighbours.

He also enjoys Greenway’s surrounding area. “I ride my bike and go for walks,” he says. “Walking is a form of meditation.”
“Greenway wasn’t going anywhere,” says Bryce, who has lived at Greenway for five years. He is passionate about creating a positive space for Greenway’s residents and last year was appointed president of the Community Centre committee.

“There was an opportunity as a committee to make changes. Since August last year, we’ve made some important changes that we hope will create a more harmonious community. The committee has initiated a range of activities to help Greenway achieve their vision of community integration.”

He has initiated a range of activities to help Greenway achieve his vision of community integration.

Bryce and his fellow committee member, Terry, run English classes twice weekly for Chinese migrants. There are BBQs held every six weeks, attracting almost half of Greenway’s residents. Oz Harvest delivers healthy free food on Thursdays and Fridays, which is becoming increasingly popular. Bus trips take residents on regular excursions outside Sydney.

The centre also hosts one-off social events and celebrations, such as the Melbourne Cup and Chinese New Year.

But there is still work to do. “We would like to see better participation,” says Bryce, who credits his early career as a policeman for giving him a good insight into life and people. “My nature is to help. It’s the same here. My remuneration is to make people happy.”

Bryce’s career moved from the police force into sales and marketing. His job took him around the world, including Asia, the United States and New Zealand. He retired at 55, became bored quickly, and returned to China where he trained and motivated employees of multi-national companies on Western policies and procedures.

Since returning to Australia to receive treatment for a medical condition, he devoted his energy to Greenway.

“We can achieve anything if we make a plan, stick to it and believe it will work,” he says. Considering the change he and his committee have created in under a year, Bryce’s community vision is well on the way to becoming reality.
This project would not be possible without the generous grant from NSW Housing. Thank you.

We would also like to extend our thanks for the tireless work of Bryce Gunn and Terry Kemp from the Greenway Tenants Group.