



Dear Members,

Enclosed with this letter are the Notice of AGM, the membership subscription form, a proxy form and form of nomination for election as a member or officer of the committee, and a Constitution for the Association - a bumper bundle!

We hope you will be able to come to the meeting. The meeting will begin promptly at 6 pm so as to allow adequate time for what promises to be a fascinating talk.

The Talk: We are delighted that Renée Ferster Levy has agreed to be our principal speaker for the evening and we are equally delighted that Barry Lancaster will be present as well. The idea for a talk about birdlife was generated by the flurry of emails and expressions of concern about the effect that synthetic turf on Middle Head Oval would have on birds. Barry has obtained a letter from Birdlife Australia to support his own objection to the synthetic turf. He will be happy to answer your questions about local birds and tell you specifically about the birds that will be affected by the synthetic turf.

Follow-up birdwatching: Renée loves to encourage people to observe birds directly in their local area, so she has offered to conduct a follow-up birdwatching session on an occasion soon after the AGM when our enthusiasm has been kindled. There would be a small charge of \$10. If you are interested please telephone me on 9968 1336 or email mosman.parks@gmail.com. If you attend the AGM you may add your names to the list at the AGM.

The Constitution: After updating the Association's brochure, the committee decided that it would be appropriate to update the Constitution as well. A draft is enclosed and its adoption will be voted on at the AGM.

Financial Year: It is the intention to continue to hold the AGM during the first half of the year rather than at year end and it is appropriate, therefore to bring our financial year in line with the calendar year. Membership subscriptions will now be for a calendar year. Your last subscriptions were for membership to the end of June 2015, so you will be delighted to realise that you have had six months of free membership! However, subscriptions are now due for the 2016 calendar year.

News: The annual report of the year's events will be presented at the AGM. So far the 2016 year has been one of good news, bad news and sad news.

The sad news of course, was the death of founding member and mentor to many of us, Audrey Lenning. Her remembrance afternoon at Middle Head was a delightful occasion, attended by more than eighty people who heard accounts of her work and affectionate anecdotes from her life.

The bad news: The resolution by Mosman Council to ask the Harbour Trust to accept a DA to install synthetic turf on the Middle Head Oval.

The REALLY bad news: If the NSW government gets its way we will not have a Mosman Council by this time next year. We will be part of a much larger council in which we will have only two representatives out of a probable twelve. We will have no say over Mosman issues - planning is a particular concern. Will our high rate of volunteering persist when administered by a large, distant council? Bushland is this Association's particular concern. Without care it is at risk of becoming degraded. If bushland loses its high ecological value it risks losing the protection of its current land zoning. Then it can be rezoned for other uses or even sold.

Submissions are due by 8th April

If you are posting, post IMMEDIATELY to Mr Ian Reynolds, Delegate, Council Boundary Review, GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001 -

or preferably, by the time you receive this letter, upload to

www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au

(You may find the Mosman Against Forced Amalgamations website helpful - www.MAFA2016.wordpress.com) Click on Submission helper and wait.

Don't click on the sub headings.

The good news: We have just heard that the Mosman LEP 2012 has been amended, rezoning a number of bushland sites (mainly unformed roads) to E2 Environmental Conservation. This gives the sites greater protection than their former RE1 Public Recreation zoning. We were advocates for this measure and we are truly delighted. This, surely, is an example of what can be achieved by a **local** council listening to and acting for its community.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Eccles

President (4th April, 2016)