



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS and a PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**

Dear Members,

**A Reminder to begin with:**

**The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust will hold a Board Meeting in Public on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 3.30 pm in the Harbour Trust Office at 28 Best Avenue.**

RSVP by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> is requested: [info@harbourtrust.gov.au](mailto:info@harbourtrust.gov.au) or phone 8969 2100. If you would like to ask a question of the Board, please email it to [info@harbourtrust.gov.au](mailto:info@harbourtrust.gov.au)

My apologies for being late with this advice, but if you phone or email on Monday, I think your acceptance and questions will be accepted.

Our presence at these meetings indicates continuing community interest.

**Launch and unveiling of the Audrey Lenning seat:**

Audrey was a founding member of the Mosman Parks & Bushland Association who worked with Eileen and Joan Bradley and was always a passionate advocate for bushland in Mosman and further afield. The plaque is a fitting tribute to her.

It was a beautiful afternoon and there was a pleasing turnout of members and friends. At the Soldiers' Institute afterwards we watched a film, dedicated to Audrey about the first 40 years of The Mosman Parks & Bushland Association.

The plaque was unveiled by Mayor of Mosman, Carolyn Corrigan and Audrey's daughter, Angela. I attach a photo.

**Natural grass on Middle Head Oval**

After a two year battle to protect Middle Head Oval from the use of plastic turf, there has been a resolution to improve the natural turf rather than use synthetic turf.

Mosman Council at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December voted to:

Continue to support sports and fitness and to act urgently to provide a new best practice **natural turf** surface at MHO with the commitment to increase playing time capacity and to improve the playing surface. Data will be collected over a three year period on the performance of the improved natural turf.

There will be work to renovate the natural turf in time for the 2018 season and following the 2018 season, a subsequent complete turf redevelopment.

This Association and the Headland Preservation Group had advocated the retention of natural turf. Mosman Parks & Bushland put the environmental case - principally:

1. the damage to biodiversity including birdlife

2.

2. the heat produced by synthetic grass whereas natural grass is known to have a significant cooling effect (important in an era of climate change)
3. the problem of disposal: plastic turf has a life expectancy of 8 – 10 years, after which time it would have to go into landfill. Plastic is indestructible.
4. the problem of disintegrating plastic being reduced to microplastics that reach the harbour in run off.

Lastly there is the issue of public access. When the oval is plastic it becomes a very unappealing space for the general public.

A plastic playing field is not what the public fought for when they advocated saving Middle Head for all Australians.

### **NSW State government issues**

#### **The Crown Lands Community Engagement Strategy**

This is a very disappointing paper.

Just two areas of concern are:

- (a) The amount of discretion allowed to the Minister is dangerous and does not allow the public adequate opportunity for informed discussion.
- (b) Domestic waterfront licences  
The cumulative impact of these licences has the potential to significantly and adversely impact waterfront areas. This is important in Mosman.

#### **The State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPS)**

These policies which we were used to and which seemed to be working well are being "simplified", combined in some cases, and changed.

We are anxious to make sure that the new system supports the environment as well as the old SEPPS have done.

With best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and a 2018 in which our natural environment will prosper.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Eccles  
President  
16.12.2017