

Punt boatshed out of Reach

ANDREW PRIESTLEY

RESIDENTS and conservationists have vowed to sink a proposal to build a boatshed at Lane Cove's Cunninghams Reach Park.

Sydney University Boat Club vice-president Chris Noel said the club had needed a boatshed on the Lane Cove River since its Linley Point shed was burnt down in 2006.

But resident groups are against the proposal.

Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society president Ron Gornall said the proposed \$3.3 million development would take public land for a private group.

"It's a reserve that's used by a lot of people for passive recreation ... a beautiful, quiet park beside the Lane Cove River," he said.

"We're extremely concerned about alienation of the public land for a private use."

Lane Cove West Residents' Association secretary Greg

Adam said the development would reduce public space.

"All you're going to do is increase the pressure on open space - we need more open space, not less," he said.

Mr Noel said the development was vital for training at the club which, its website reports, had represented Australia in national and Olympic competition.

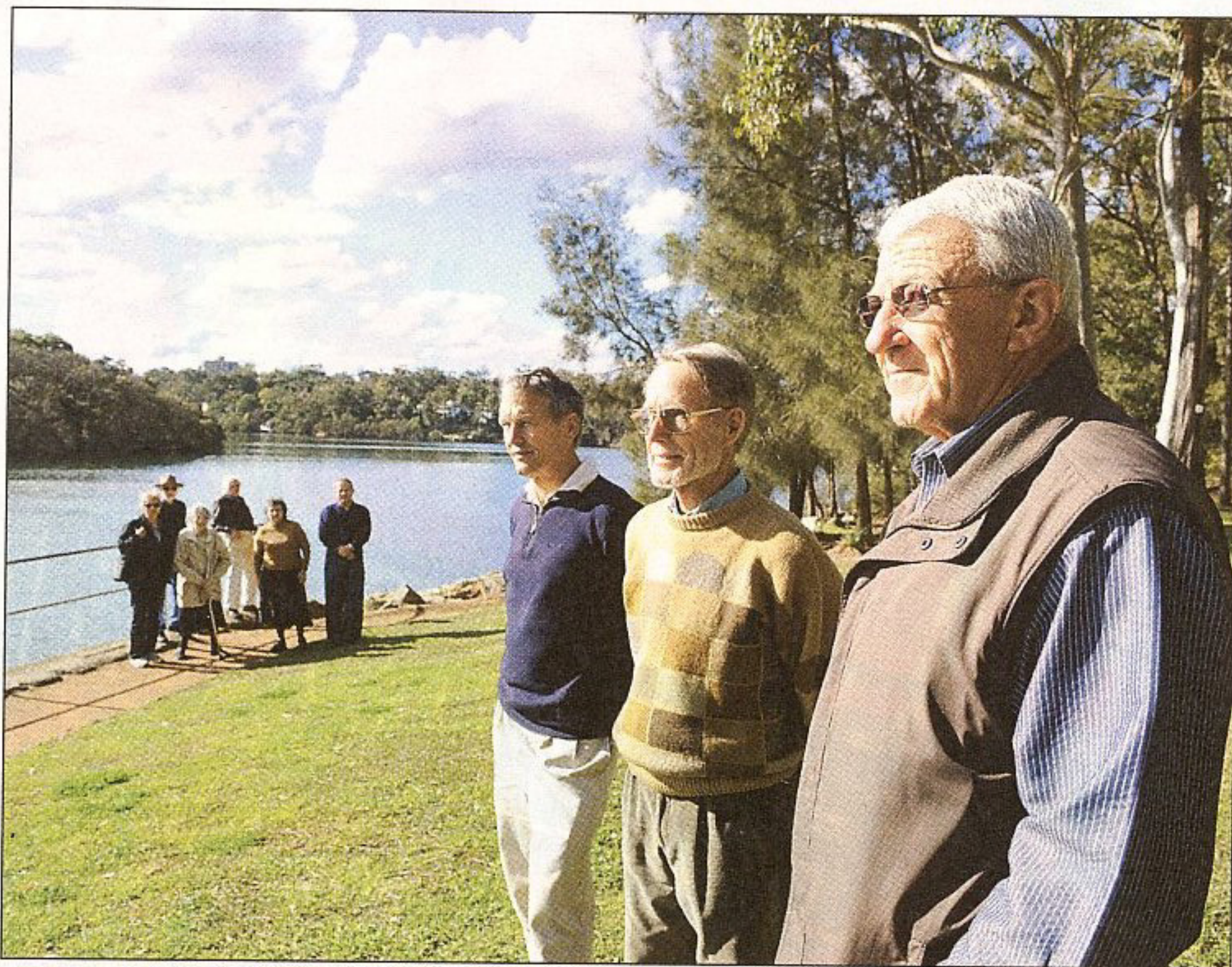
"It's important for us to have a boatshed on the Lane Cove River," he said. "It's the best training location for rowers close to Sydney."

Mr Noel rejected the idea the development would take away public land, as it would also be used for a Lane Cove resident community rowing program.

Lane Cove Council will hold a site inspection starting at Linley Point at 8.30am tomorrow before it comes before the council on Monday.



Should the boatshed be allowed? See story online
northshoretimes.com.au



WE SAY NO: Kevin Phillips, Ron Gornall, Greg Adam and other residents at Cunninghams Reach Park.



BEAUTY SPOT: Residents fear a \$3 million boat shed will ruin Cunninghams Reach.

Be quick and put your oar in

IT was a worry to hear that foreshore land at Cunninghams Reach, Lane Cove, is again being eyed by Sydney University Rowing Club.

After little public awareness, it surfaced on the last Lane Cove Council agenda.

Fortunately, West ward's Cr Gaffney moved for an inspection, thus giving councillors and the public time to view and think.

My worry was almost allayed, as the development was described as a "boat shed". A term that brings to mind a modest building to store equipment.

While not exactly welcomed in the scenic area, with superb views for passive enjoyment and a bushland setting for the houses above the bend, it could perhaps have been accepted.

But alarm bells rang loudly at the figure of \$3.3 million DA.

Further suspicion is aroused at

being told other organisations can hire the place – unlikely to be wanted for a storage shed.

It turns out to be an imposing, several-storey building, that would necessitate the loss of a number of trees, not to mention blocking the upriver view.

Councillors who hopefully value Lane Cove's proud bushland reputation and the residents' amenity will not allow such desecration.

Alice Beauchamp
Lane Cove

I WRITE in urgent support of a letter from M A Clinch (*Times*, July 24) concerning Cunningham's Reach – a matter coming before Lane Cove Council next Monday.

This is where the Lane Cove River flows peacefully along with access to picnickers and fishermen alike.

I earnestly hope all Lane Cove

councillors will resist the application by the Sydney University Boat Club to build a very large boat shed in this public park.

Apparently the shed would be in addition to the club's present facility near the university at Blackwattle Bay.

The destruction of riverside trees, increased weekend bulky traffic access and the unhappy invasion of Lane Cove's passive recreational land must be of great concern.

Strictly speaking it seems Sydney Uni, for legal historical reasons, may claim such public land as crown land but its boat club is a private club whose members have no necessary territorial connection with Lane Cove.

I am proud to be a Sydney Uni graduate, but I am sorry its status is being used in this way.

Audrey Horn
Lane Cove