

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1901

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 13 March 2008 at 7.30pm
Naremburn Community Centre, 7 Central Street Naremburn.

1. WELCOME:

The President, Kevin FitzPatrick, welcomed those present and opened the Annual General Meeting.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Secretary, Frances O'Brien, read the AGM 2007 Minutes to the meeting.

That the Minutes of the 2007 AGM be accepted as a true record and account of that meeting.

Proposed: Patricia FitzPatrick; Seconded: Robyn Butler

3. ACCEPTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS:

Jeanette Savage, John Savage, Bruce McLeod, Julienne Blunck, Claus Blunck, Lyndal Jenney.

Proposed: Patricia FitzPatrick; Seconded: David Lendrum.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

It has been a privilege to serve the NPA, to represent its members in various forums, and, above all, to further the objectives of the Association in promoting "the welfare and advancement of the community in the Naremburn area".

For over 100 years, the President of this Association has reported on its aspirations and achievements, its hope for schools and a library for its children, for churches and a hall in which to gather, and in 1980s they began the battle to save the Naremburn Shops – and saved them. And, aren't we all glad of that? Today, despite disruption to our suburb by road-building and tunnel-building, we welcome a resurgence of youthful energy in the young families and others smart enough to make their home in the 'Burn'.

It was my hope as 2007 President, with the support of the elected committee to:-

1. maintain good records of the Association and its activities
2. encourage stronger more representative membership
3. provide transparent and full communication with our members and the community at large, and
4. promote and encourage the Association's work through its Sub-Committees established in the second half of 2006

Events of the past year include:

The opening of the Lane Cove Tunnel in March; we have maintained continued vigilance on contractor maintenance of the associated landscaping, and intend to continue to do so, as well as work for appropriate filtration to minimise the unnecessary pollution of our area.

In August, the opening of Prentice Park, honouring former Olympia Road residents, Sir William and Lady Mary Prentice – Sir William was the first Chief Justice of PNG – in the presence of Mayor Pat Reilly, our local Councillors, the High Commissioner for PNG, the extended Prentice Family, and Naremburn residents.

The Council's Spring Festival in September saw the NPA involved in the organisation and active support of the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations Trivia Night at the old Town Hall to mark its closing prior to demolition. The NPA also helped organise the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the upgrade of the Naremburn Community Centre – the 60th anniversary of its establishment - and presented a pictorial display with the help of the Chatswood Library's Local Studies Department.

In December, we worked collaboratively with local shopkeepers for Santa's visit to Naremburn. Our thanks go to our Federal Member, Joe Hockey, for fitting the bill to perfection.

Our Sub-Committees have performed well during the year. Our hard-working DA Sub-Committee kept a vigilant eye on DAs in the suburb to achieve balance in relation to contentious developments. This committee did extensive research at Council on the St Cuthbert's development and also attended the Ward Councillors on site meeting for the 45-47 Garland Road development. In light of the State Government's proposed changes to State Planning laws, we need to be informed and prepared to be active in resisting excessive development in our area as well as the potential loss of Section 94 levies to State Treasury to spend elsewhere in the Sydney basin.

Despite our proximity to the Sydney and other CBDs, Naremburn can be proud of its open spaces that residents campaigned to save in the not too distant past. These assets continue to bring the challenge of balancing the needs of sporting bodies and local residents. With David Lendrum and Carolyn New, I attended a meeting of the Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Group in late October. Council's Plan of Management had not been made available to those who attended this meeting and it had been several years since the previous meeting. It was resolved that this group meet every 6 months, however, at this time, there has been no indication of when the April meeting will be held. We will write to Council to request a meeting date and for a report on the Reserve given the impending decision on the DA for the Baseball Diamond Light Towers.

The Events Sub-Committee successfully negotiated with Council for the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra (WSO) to perform in Naremburn Park this Sunday, 16 March. This event could well have gone to another park in Willoughby City but with persistence and perseverance, the Sub-Committee was able to get the WSO to agree that Naremburn Park was the place to be. We also suggested that the event should be timed to suit families, hence the concert commencement time of 6:00 pm. This will be an historic event for the NPA and surely a far cry from the Cinderella Naremburn singing in the wilderness,

Naremburn Matters, our flagship is three years old in April. It has grown from a 6 page issue in April 2005 to an 8 page issue, with March being 12 pages to provide the opportunity to promote the WSO. Support from advertisers has assisted the remarkable growth of this quarterly newsletter. The Editorial team works long and hard to produce a high quality offering that we can all be proud of.

Membership of the NPA has grown over the past 12 months and we currently have 81 financial members. This is due in part to improved communication particularly with the use of naremburnmatters@yahoo.com as our primary 'corporate' email that was possible mid 2007. Our domain name has been registered and we are investigating website options. NM itself has encouraged a number of residents to join. As well, an improvement to our meetings has been the introduction of the Open Forum, suggested by our Secretary, Fran O'Brien. This forum enables residents to raise their concerns and share local information. It is with sadness that we mark the passing of two of our active and respected members, John Geoffrey Allen and Michael Bernard Haynes. John not only contributed to Naremburn by his wise counsel and knowledge of practical and procedural matters, he was chairman of the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations for 12 years. Michael shared his time and talents with Artarmon, South Willoughby and Naremburn Progress Associations. We admired him for his balanced and reasoned approach to problems.

Naremburn Library usage has increased. The Naremburn Branch Library street signs throughout the suburb, initiated by the Library sub-committee in 2006 have borne fruit as has our promotion of the library and its events in Naremburn Matters. The NPA made a submission to Council regarding the draft plans for the redevelopment of the Centre that is to take place following the Out of Schools Hours (OOSH) operation move to Bales Park. A revised plan has not yet been made available for public comment. In October we had our first author talk which was well patronised.

From the 1996 Census to the last Census the number of children, 4 years and under, has grown from 382 to 596, a 56% increase. Community assets such as St Leonard's Catholic School and the Naremburn Public School were closed to the local community without adequate consultation. I believe that we owe it to those who built and supported such assets, to fight for their restoration to the local community.

My thanks to our Mayor Pat Reilly and our three Naremburn Ward Councillors, Kate Lamb, Barry Thompson and Stuart Coppock, and our Council staff, our State Member, Gladys Berejiklian, and our Federal Member, Joe Hockey, for their encouragement and support.

My sincere thanks to the members of the Executive Committee; to David Lendrum for firstly accepting my invitation to become involved once more in the NPA and take on the DA role as well as standing for

election at the 2007 AGM. David is a past President of the NPA and with the sad loss of my Vice President, John Allen, David offered to fill the role of Vice President from October onwards. I appreciate his wealth of knowledge and experience and his capacity to chair meetings. To Fran O'Brien who courageously agreed to be Secretary after only one year's membership. Fran has been a true team-player and has worked diligently at the heavy load that is the role of Secretary in the NPA. Carolyn New, who remained in the role of Treasurer, despite heavier family and work commitments that prevented her regular attendance at meetings; to Don Swonnell for his willingness to be a member of several Sub-Committees; to Margaret Willington for her role in keeping records and her sense of tradition for the NPA. A special word of thanks to my wife, Trisha FitzPatrick, not for that role, but for accepting the Executive Committee's appointment of her as our Public Officer, a role she has performed with distinction, ensuring accountability at every level of the Association. The team work achieved in 2007 has enabled the NPA to move forward with new vigour for 2008.

Thank you to all of you for attending our Naremburn Progress Association meetings; your constant support of the NPA is much valued.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2007:

In the absence of the Treasurer, Carolyn New, who was overseas, the Public Officer, Patricia FitzPatrick read the financial report for year ending 31 December 2007. Cash at Bank, \$2,339.87; Total Income, \$7,519.86; Total Expenditure, \$9,449.87; Operating Surplus, - \$1,930.01

6. ELECTION OF RETURNING OFFICER:

Councillor Stuart Coppock was elected Returning Officer.
Proposed: Hilary Wright; Seconded: Beryl Batterham

Ahead of conducting the election, Cllr Coppock acknowledged the President's honourable mention of the recently deceased NPA members, Michael Haynes and John Allen. Stuart pointed out that Michael was always the balanced voice of reason; his opinions were valued. John Allen sought to represent the Naremburn community with justice and fairness and was something of a mentor for Stuart who has endeavoured to follow similar processes; he misses John Allen greatly. Both of these men helped him in his role of Councillor.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS:

All positions were declared vacant.
Nominations were called for each position.
The following were elected:

PRESIDENT	Kevin FitzPatrick
VICE PRESIDENT	David Lendrum
SECRETARY	Frances O'Brien
TREASURER	Julienne Blunck

8. ELECTION OF UP TO THREE (3) COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

All positions were declared vacant.
Nominations were called for.
The following were elected:

Margaret Stewart
Don Swonnell

9. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS (FWPA)

Kevin FitzPatrick, Don Swonnell, Claus Blunck.

10. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NAREMBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE USER GROUP

Beryl Batterham, Kevin FitzPatrick.

11. ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO THE BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP

Proposed: David Lendrum; Seconded: Kevin FitzPatrick, That Carolyn New be elected in her absence

12. CLOSURE: - The Meeting closed at 8:05 pm. The AGM was followed by the March General Meeting