

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1901; Incorporated 2004

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Secretary
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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 12 March 2009 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 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

That the President's Report from the 2008 AGM not be read as all members have received copies of the Minutes, and, that the remainder of the Minutes be read by the Secretary.

Proposed: David Lendrum; Seconded: David Waters.

The Secretary, Frances O'Brien, read the Minutes of the 2008 AGM to the meeting.

That the Minutes of the 2008 AGM be accepted as a true record and account of that meeting.

Proposed: Don Swonnell; Seconded: Hilary Wright.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS:

Rod Gilmour, Anne Rein, John Hinson, Viviane Leveaux

Proposed: Trisha FitzPatrick; Seconded: David Lendrum.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

It was the worst of years and the best of years. Despite contraction of World Financial Markets in 2008 and into 2009 it was a growth year for the NPA.

We welcomed thirty seven new members and 93% of the financial members of 2007 renewed. We have a total of 109 financial members. Life Membership was bestowed and a plaque presented by Deputy Mayor Barry Thompson to Beryl Batterham, David Lendrum and Margaret Willington for dedicated service to the Association and the wider community.

The Association improved its financial position. Management of funds has been simplified by switching from Resources Credit Union to a Westpac Community Solutions Cheque Account. All reimbursements as well as other payments are made by cheque. Most of our Naremburn Matters advertisers pay their invoices via Internet Banking. An increasing number of Members pay their membership subscriptions via Internet Banking.

Despite earlier doubts about the financial viability of Naremburn Matters it has just celebrated completion of its fourth year. Our March issue featured articles from 10 different contributors. Feedback for the issue has been excellent. This year NM was supported by 13 new advertisers. I wish to single out Grafton Avenue resident, Penny Wade who advertised in our first issue of April 2005 and every subsequent issue. I also thank Geanne Merrick of Merrick Estate Agents who has taken a half page advertisement in every issue since March 2006. Willoughby City Council has also chosen to advertise with us in various quarterly issues. To Sue Howes, distribution co-ordinator and the band of faithful 'walkers' from the NPA, Neighbourhood Watch and young parents - *thank you*. We are grateful to Robin Phelan and Associates for their flexibility and good humour as we meet publishing deadlines. Trisha FitzPatrick made this a smooth and effective process through her draft layouts, editing and proof-reading.

In December 2008 our website, naremburnprogress.org.au, was launched. Special thanks to NPA member Nigel Smith for setting up the website and continuing as Webmaster. Our website contains latest news, Minutes of General Meetings, the current General Meeting agenda as well as all issues of Naremburn Matters commencing with the first issue of April 2005. We encourage you to visit the site regularly for 'breaking news' and to experience the development of other wonderful features. A major bonus for the Executive Committee is web mail addresses that enable correspondence without the use of one's personal email. A Community Grant from Zurich Financial Services to the NPA in the amount of \$500 to maintain and develop the site is much appreciated. We have made dramatic advances in this past year!

A School for Naremburn continues to be a focal point for NPA attention and action. We worked with Willoughby City Council in organising a public meeting in Naremburn on 29 May 2008. From approximately 150 attendees a School Working Party consisting of Councillors, Council Officers, the NPA, the State Member and parents of young children, was established and has met twice. Our State Member, Gladys Berejiklian, raised the need for a School for Naremburn in Parliament and unsuccessfully sought a meeting of the Working Party with the Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth. Although the Minister declined the option of meeting with the Working Party, a second public meeting is planned for late June. An NPA Young Parents Sub-committee has been established and we welcome members of this emerging Naremburn demographic group to participate in and through the Association.

At the request of the NPA, Council agreed to stage the highly successful Open Air Concert by the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra in Naremburn Park on Sunday 16 March 2008. Over 800 people enjoyed Mozart, Mendelssohn and Beethoven under the stars and witnessed the skill of Chief Conductor, Nicholas Milton and the brilliance of guest violinist, Cameron Hill.

We were active participants in the Naremburn Community Centre's Open Day as part of the Willoughby City Spring Festival. On behalf of the NPA, Mayor Pat Reilly presented a special plaque to Diana Revington recognising her 20 years of outstanding service as our Naremburn Branch Librarian. The plaque now hangs in the Library annexe. A proposed plan for the upgrading of this Council owned Community Centre has not yet eventuated. Late in 2008 the NPA made written requests for the extension of library hours, an external after hours book return chute, an increase in the number of Internet access computers, email access with a service charge. I believe that it is essential that the NPA be well-represented on the Community Centre User Group so that we can closely monitor the development of this important community asset.

The NPA has been involved in the planning of the Earth Hour Festival that will be celebrated in Naremburn Park on Saturday 28 March. We will join Artarmon Progress Association and the North Shore Climate Action Group in supporting Council's staging of this important event.

Given our increased activities, a decision was made to take advantage the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations' (FWPA) Public Liability Insurance cover that includes in its policy holders, several of the other Progress Associations in the Federation of 9. Our basic cover under the auspices of Council had included 10 meetings in this Community Centre. Now we are covered for additional meetings in this hall, such as Executive Committee Meetings, public meetings, as well as open air functions such as street fairs.

We thank Council for assistance and encouragement in our efforts to enhance our vibrant, attractive suburb. The Council and in particular Steven Head, Infrastructure Services Director assisted us to achieve a positive outcome for the Baseball Diamond Light Towers DA in Bicentennial Reserve. Through Steven's leadership, the Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Creek Advisory Group has been reactivated. The NPA is well represented at its quarterly meetings as we strive to maintain a balance between natural and developed local assets, between passive and active usage.

In collaboration with Council in the process of the naming of Naremburn's un-named lanes we were able to honour NPA members from the early 20th Century as well as our late esteemed colleague and Executive Committee Member John Allen who was an NPA Delegate to the FWPA as well as its President for 10 years until his death in September 2007.

We thank Mayor Pat Reilly for his support in the staging of the WSO in Naremburn Park. We thank our Naremburn Ward Councillors, Deputy Mayor Barry Thompson, Kate Lamb and Stuart Coppock for their encouragement and support. We thank Gladys Berejiklian MP, Member for Willoughby for representing Naremburn's concerns at State level.

I wish to acknowledge Frances O'Brien, Secretary, and David Lendrum, Vice President, for fulfilling Office-Bearer duties generously and professionally; Julienne Blunck for Treasurer duties in the first half of the year, and David Turner for stepping in to take over the role of Treasurer; the assistance of our two General Committee Members, Margaret Stewart and Don Swonnell. We thank all those Members who participate in the work of the Sub-Committees. After the 2008 AGM, the Executive began the process of devising guidelines for the performance of the various roles within the Association. Most of these documents are in place and operational being revised and improved as we develop expertise and experience.

We acknowledge the contribution of Trisha FitzPatrick, the NPA's Public Officer. This is not an elected position, the Executive appoints the Public Officer who is responsible for ensuring that our operations and records comply with the Associations Incorporation Act. I can personally attest to Trisha's tireless efforts on behalf of the NPA and for this we as a community should be grateful.

The year 2009 will be a most challenging one for us all. We can draw strength from the knowledge that past residents of Naremburn have risen to the crises of War and Depression Years. The late Eric Wilksch, former President of the NPA and compiler of *The Naremburn Story* (1988) wrote of Mrs Agnes Norton, 'The Soup Kitchen Queen'. In the depths of the 1920s Depression she and her willing band of workers ran a soup kitchen out of the St Cuthbert's Parish Hall to provide a meal before school and at lunchtime for the children of the local State and Catholic Schools. This was an age when local shopkeepers like Billy Jack and the parents of NPA member Mary Teteris gave and often waived credit for much needed food for needy families.

My sincere hope is that we strengthen and grow the NPA as a Community support. The worst of times have the potential for it to become the best of times as we learn from the lives of those who went before us. The Oral History program I conduct on behalf of the NPA and in which I interview senior members of our Naremburn community, reminds me how much we need to know and support each other, to use our local resources.

May the Naremburn Progress Association gather, celebrate, advocate and promote a better Naremburn for us all. Thank you!

That the President's Report for 2008 be received.

Proposed: David Lendrum; Seconded: David Waters

5. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2008:

In the absence of the Treasurer, David Turner who was in Brisbane on business, Kevin FitzPatrick read the financial report for year ending 31 December 2008.

Cash at Bank as at 31/12/2008 - \$4,087.13
Accumulated Surplus as at 31/12/2008 - \$3,186.33
Total Revenue for the year - \$12,273.51
Total Expenses for the year - \$11,859.62
Net surplus for the year - \$412.89
Total Advertising Revenue Naremburn Matters - \$10.985
Total Cost of Production - \$10,297.10
Net surplus for NM for the year - \$687.90

That the Treasurer's Report for 2008 be received.

Proposed: David Lendrum; Seconded: Frances O'Brien

Treasurer's motion on Membership fees: Para 8 (a) Constitution of the Naremburn Progress Association:-

- (a) **That** the annual Membership Fee of \$10.00, due and payable from the date of this AGM, 12 March 2009, remain at \$10.00 per annum per person, and,
- (b) **That** the annual Concession Membership Fee, due and payable from the date of this AGM, 12 March 2009, be increased to \$5.00 per annum, and,
- (c) **That** the annual Membership Fee for those who live outside the Naremburn Matters hand delivery zone, and wish to receive a copy of Naremburn Matters each quarter, pay an additional \$5.00 per annum in addition to their Membership Fee to cover the cost of mailing.

Proposed: David Turner; Seconded: Howard Townsend.

6. ELECTION OF RETURNING OFFICER:

That Councillor Kate Lamb is elected Returning Officer.

Proposed: Barry Shaw; Seconded: Howard Townsend

Councillor Kate Lamb thanked the NPA for giving her the opportunity to be the Returning Officer for this election. She stated that she had been involved over many years and commented that the NPA has shown great growth over the past year and is certainly prospering.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS:

All positions were declared vacant. Nominations were called for each position.

Nominations:-

- Kevin FitzPatrick for President - Proposed: David Lendrum; Seconded: Barry Shaw
- David Lendrum for Secretary - Proposed: Trisha FitzPatrick; Seconded: Howard Townsend
- Frances O'Brien for Secretary - Proposed: Martha Follent; Seconded: Barry Shaw
- David Turner for Treasurer – Proposed: Kevin FitzPatrick; Seconded: Martha Follent

There being no further nominations, the following were declared elected:-

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

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

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

- Anneliese Appleton
- Howard Townsend
- Don Swonnell

9. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS

Kevin FitzPatrick, Don Swonnell, Brian Norton.

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

Beryl Batterham, Kevin FitzPatrick, David Lendrum

11. ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO THE BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP

That Carolyn New, having agreed to stand, be elected in her absence.

Proposed: David Lendrum; Seconded: Kevin FitzPatrick

12. CLOSURE: - The Meeting closed at 8:10 pm. The AGM was followed by the March General Meeting.