

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1901; Incorporated 2004

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 9 JUNE 2011

Meeting commenced at 7:30 pm

Naremburn Community Centre, 7 Central Street, Naremburn

GUEST SPEAKER: The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, Minister for Transport, Member for Willoughby

Frances O'Brien welcomed Gladys and gave the format of the evening, Gladys's address followed by an opportunity to ask questions. After a short break our general meeting would commence; afterwards wine and cheese with a chance to mingle.

Gladys expressed a love of our community and its future; and appreciation of the NPA Executive for keeping her in touch with local events. After 67 days since taking Government she explained the broad issues facing the State Government.

Fare Reduction: The option of buying monthly/quarterly/yearly tickets would save a traveller \$240 p.a. and ease congestion at ticket outlets such as Chatswood on a Monday when demand results in queues and delays. By introducing a flat rate, money is saved on system administration; she was surprised how quickly it had been adopted and had already exceeded expectation.

New Rail Projects: The Northwest and Southwest rail lines are required. There is a need to put infrastructure where the people are; one has to observe the number of yellow buses from the northwest to know this is the case. Northwest rail project: an information centre to be set up in Castle Hill. A number of tenderers for the rail project have been announced. There would be no pricing without doing the pre scoping. Consultation with local area is important, for example, green-field sites need good parking facilities. A second project is the Southwest rail link to Leppington. Again an information centre for the project has been set up.

Light Rail feasibility: This is a great way to move people quickly and sustainably. Such a service to the eastern suburbs would move sporting crowds in this area and the large number of students travelling to the University of NSW. It should operate not just in peak hours but at other times. It is a case of getting people onto a network, get a taste of it and become a regular user.

Electronic Ticketing: The London and Hong Kong Octopus cards are a good example of a working electronic ticketing system. There is a huge challenge for this Government to make a system costing \$1.2 billion introduced by the previous Government work.

Project Communication: The recent Sydenham rail breakdown fiasco is an example of poor communication. Railcorp's computer system had not been upgraded the day following the breakdown. Railcorp is to install a new system of communication on trains. Once commuters have the relevant information, good or bad, they can then make their own decisions. The Gen Y people could be a valuable source in this process to enable use of the latest and best means of communication to update travellers.

Behind the Scenes: The entire Transport Department is being reorganized. The many agencies working independently need one Transport Department. Planning and Policy need to be done at a central point.

Active Transport: Need to consider how people access networks e.g. by bike or walking. In Sydney a minimum distance to be covered is considered 400 metres, in London 1 kilometre. Some walking is encouraged.

Gladys sometimes found language she used could be seen as direct not the language of a particular department. Overall she has been impressed with staff she has had dealings. Part of the process is getting separate transport bodies integrating, e.g. at Circular Quay there is now one central information-booth dealing with all transport needs, something replicated at Central Station.

St Leonards Station escalators: She was amazed these had been out of order for 4 months; the reason, parts had to come from Germany. Our system is custom made rather than standard issue. Gladys expressed her philosophy of focusing on one issue, taking small steps rather than focusing on a million things with no results. "I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge".

Q&A:

Paul Garratt: Why the constant track works that inconveniences commuters? **Gladys:** This is necessary for a well maintained and therefore safe network. Track work is planned 2 years in advance and often ahead of known major events, e.g. who will be playing in football finals/grand finals. Sydney has two major events every weekend.

Barry Shaw: Why did you enter politics? **Gladys:** It was while attending North Ryde High as president of the student council, I organised a protest against the closure of the school, recommended by the then Minister for Education, Rodney Cavalier. The school remained open. I then felt a passion for working for my community. My parents were actively involved in the Armenian Community and were very community minded.

Roger Promnitz: What objective process do you use to prioritise the long list of outstanding transport infrastructure projects?" The plan is to set up a single authority, headed up by Nick Greiner, which coordinated the activities and projects of all transport modes, RTA, Railcorp, Sydney Ferries etc. **Roger:** What is your position on Public Private Partnerships, especially with regard to transport infrastructure projects? **Gladys:** I see a role for them, but each case must be treated on its merits. I will try to be very careful in not overselling any project in the quest for private equity funding; I don't want a repeat of situations like the CCT or LCT, both of which saw huge private equity write-offs. With regard to Sydney Ferries we are not ruling such an arrangement out as long as we have control over fares and routes to be set.

Roger Promnitz: Government Objectives – How do you prioritise these. **Gladys:** This is why we have established Infrastructure NSW. This will be headed up by Nick Greiner. We need to plan how cities live, work, how they grow before we plan. A good example of the need for an overseeing cohesive body is the RNS Hospital where major development has taken place but transport planning to service the facility is very poor.

Question re tendering Commercial in Confidence process? **Gladys:** Was critical of the past Government's performance in this area and referred to the tendering for Sydney Ferries. She hoped this would be as transparent as possible under her management.

The Government would continue to own the Ferry fleet but is calling for tenders to manage the service. She gave an example of the Ticketing Contract from the former Government. She could not see it in Opposition and still has not seen it

Other questions: What are your views on high rise along the Pacific Highway? **Gladys:** Such development is appropriate where there is a good transport system. I commend Willoughby City Council for planning its high density dwellings near a major transport hub and so enabling WCCs suburbs to remain relatively untouched.

Q. Light Rail, its future in Sydney? **Gladys:** Sydney lost its tram network 50 year ago. Light rail does not work well in a badly planned city. Sydney's narrow city streets are not suitable for such a service. In the eastern suburbs Anzac Parade by its nature is suitable for such a service and could handle the high volume traffic in Moore Park and University students UNSW Kensington.

Q. Will the Dulwich Hill line go ahead? **Gladys:** Yes, we are committed to it, though previous Government had unrealistic guidelines.

Wrap up: This is a new Government with many long standing bureaucrats; Different to the old Government we will set up six divisions in each department where there fresh ideas are required. We will be advertising extensively, particularly to ex pats, some have worked in transport departments overseas. Power of our dollar will attract them and already there has been great interest.

Six Divisions will be set up - Customer Experience, Planning and Programmes, Policy and Regulation, Services, Projects, Freight and Regional Development.

Easy Access: Providing lifts and ramps for Artarmon Station is something Gladys pursued. However she realises needs vary. Redfern Station, an extremely busy station lacks these facilities and so is a higher priority than Artarmon. The previous Government completed Easy Access for one station a year. This Government has allocated \$60 million to this project, sufficient to complete projects at three stations. Another example was the lack of lifts at Martin Place for which she campaigned. They were in operation for Anzac Day this year, assisting many of the elderly to access Martin Place. Sadly, they broke down a day later.

Donna Kessler: Raised the issue of traffic flow through the narrow streets of Naremburn and commuter parking in our area.

Gladys: It is important to have good commuter parking. A Master-plan must take Regional planning into account with consistent policies across the city. When parking meters were introduced in North Sydney, it moved commuter parking in our direction.

Artarmon School and lack of bus transport was raised. **Gladys** would like to be emailed about this this issue.

Frances Tan: Possibility of sound walls on Brook Street to assist Market Street residents. **Gladys** was aware of the issue. Empty buses returning to depots could take a number of routes, not just one. Perhaps sharing costs of sound walls with the RTA is a solution. **Cr Coppock** said there was a difficulty of installing efficient sound walls given the shape of the hill on Brook Street.

At the conclusion of this excellent session, the Secretary, on behalf of the NPA, thanked Gladys for speaking to our meeting and taking questions within the first 100 days of the new Government.

1. OPEN FORUM

- (a) **Paul Garratt (Dodds Street)** – Need for curbing and guttering Dodds. Kevin to look at WCC correspondence on this.
- (b) **Paul Garratt (Dodds Street)** - Traffic turning Marks Street into Brook Street did so showing a left indicator; once they were in Brook Street in the left lane, they turned right into Merrenburn Avenue cutting across southbound traffic on Brook. This is a potential accident site. Secretary to write to WCC.
- (c) **Alan Gray (Donnelly Road)** – Bike riders in the bike lane on the northern side of Merrenburn Avenue are in danger as the bike lane is so narrow; cyclists being hit by the sudden opening of a door of a parked car.
- (d) **Lorenza Hinde (Dalleys Road)** –The mature Chinese tallow wood trees in Dalleys Road are a curse; they are subject to scale and black soot; this adversely affects other plantings in their gardens and those of their neighbours. Cr Coppock commented that present Council policy seems averse to removing mature trees. Secretary will review WCC corro.
- (e) **Alan Gray (Donnelly Road)** Bikes on shared pathways: speed of cyclists. Cr Stuart Coppock commented on the need for everyone to share the path safely; design issues - Council and bike groups had given advice prior; poor design had resulted in accidents particularly under the viaduct near Park Road: administrative difficulties in bike registration.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the minutes of the General Meeting of 12 May 2011, as circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Proposed: Roger Promnitz; Seconded: Beryl Batterham

3. NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS

None for this meeting

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Christopher Miley, Wal Musgrove

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) **Ella Street Bridge Closure – Traffic and Parking Safety issues** - Kevin read out a response from James Brocklebank, WCC's Group Leader, Traffic & Transport detailing the status of the six issues raised in the NPA's bridge closure survey report that were raised at Council's Traffic Committee Meeting of 16 June 2010; traffic counts in Station Street showed that the 85th percentile speed was 46km/h; Mobile Speed Trailer needs replacing, Naremburn will be included in the speed monitoring program; WCC has written to the Police requesting (1) surveillance on speed limits particularly 7-8am, 6:30-7:30pm, (2) RBT in Park Road evening peak hours on varying days, (3) monitoring Dalleys and Northcote intersection to ensure adherence to the 'Stop' restrictions. WCC rangers will fine any motorists found to have parked their vehicles too close to an intersection or across a driveway.
- (b) **Oral History Program** – A phone conversation between Kevin and former long- time Naremburn resident, Vic Wulf of the Central Coast, Vic sent some excellent photos taken at the 1955 blessing of the new St Leonard's Catholic Church tower by Cardinal Gilroy. Vic will send more photos and accounts of his family and their association with Naremburn.
- (c) **Naremburn Shops** – Cream is now operational. The new proprietor Adrian Turley has family associations with Naremburn. Naremburn Natural shop is still untenanted.
- (d) **OPS Manual for Office-Bearers and Committee Members** – is being upgraded.

- (e) **Willoughby Local Environment Plan 2009** – pending legislation.
- (f) **Traffic Committee Report (RTA, Police, State Member, WCC)** – No Naremburn items to report.
- (g) **School for Naremburn** – on the agenda until the new Government indicates any change in policy.
- (h) **Long Gully Bridge/Suspension Bridge** – Trisha stated that subsequent to the May meeting decision, the NPA had written to WHAC (Willoughby Heritage Advisory Committee) deferring the bridge naming issue to WCC and NSC. On 1 June, Martin Gormley, RTA Project Engineer, Bridge Maintenance Unit, had emailed WCC, NSC and Trisha (in September 2010 she had emailed asking the reason for the name Long Gully Bridge), stating “Following your recent feedback it is clear that there is both strong historical and popular support for naming the bridge **Suspension Bridge**. The changes have been updated in the RTA Heritage Register....Again we apologise for the original naming error and any confusion that this has caused.” This news was greeted with a cheer!

6. CORRESPONDENCE

In

- (a) 16/05/2011– letter – WCC- Nick Tobin – Naremburn Shops, power source and smoking
- (b) 17/05/2011 – letter – WCC- James Brocklebank – Traffic and parking issues, Naremburn
- (c) 20/05/2011 – letter – WCC – Knud Heldt – Community Centre Manager – information on Hall hire
- (d) 23/05/2011 – letter – WCC – Parissa Ghanem, Design Engineer – Naremburn drain Dargan Street
- (e) 26/05/2011 – letter – WCC – James Brocklebank – Pedestrian safety fencing, Willoughby Road
- (f) 02/06/2011 – letter – RTA – Manjur Rahman – Pedestrian safety fencing – Willoughby Road bus stop
- (g) 06/06/2011 – letter – Vic Wulf – former resident, pictures and names for Naremburn Oral History programme

Out

- (a) 26/05/2011 – package – WCC – Jeff Knight, Public Officer – Naremburn Matters to Councilors and Officer S
- (b) 09/06/2011 – letter – Ingrid Morley, Central Street – Availability of hall at 31 Central Street for 110th
- (c) 09/06/2011 – letter - John Willington – Copies of NM featuring his late mother
- (d) 09/06/2011 – letter - Vic Wulf – Thanks for pictures and story provided to NPA
- (e) 09/06/2011 – State Library – Copy of June issue of NM
- (f) 09/06/2011 – Joe Hockey MP – Copy of June issue of NM

7. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer Barry Shaw presented this report.

Opening Balance as at 12 May 2011	\$6,406.32
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Add: Income:

Membership subs - renewals	\$ 135.00	
new	\$ 20.00	
	\$ 155.00	
Naremburn Matters advertising	\$1,450.00	\$1,605.00
		\$8,011.32

Less: Expenditure

K. Fitzpatrick – stamps, stationery, etc.	\$ 25.85	
H. Kemp – May meeting -supper	\$ 11.39	\$ 37.24

Closing Bank Balance as at 8 June 2011	\$7,974.08
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Expenditure Approvals Requested:

Robin Phelan - NM June production	\$2,730.60
Helene Kemp – June meeting wine and cheese	\$ 105.94

That these expenditures be approved

Proposed: Cr Stuart Coppock; Seconded: Margaret Stewart

8. FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS (FWPA)

Kevin represented the NPA; the two other NPA delegates, Frances O'Brien and Trisha FitzPatrick, were apologies due to having the 'flu. There were reports on The Mall, The Concourse, coming events in Willoughby City; Kevin reported on EH at Naremburn Shops. There was a brief report from Artarmon and Northbridge on their EH events. A draft of the workshop on 'growing your PA' is to be forwarded to delegates. The next meeting is on 25 June at 9:30 am at the Dougherty Centre.

9. WARD COUNCILLORS

Cr Kate Lamb had canvassed views of residents in her June NM article for alternatives to the NPA's proposal to remove mature camphor laurel trees (thought to be diseased) from Central Street and replace them with appropriate plantings. WCC's Open Spaces Manager, Julie Whitfield when consulted said they were elderly, not diseased. WCC was not keen to see these removed. Cr Lamb had been contacted by a resident with the alternative proposal that the garden areas around 1st Choice be landscaped. Because the area is poorly maintained it is a dumping spot for cans, bottles etc. and is unsightly.

Cr Stuart Coppock commented that the murrayas around the shops required regular care: he had asked on a number of occasions for Council to hedge them; since Aret has ceased operating Naremburn Pizzeria there have been issues with poor late night behaviour. Aret used to move these elements on. The Pizzeria now closes earlier than former times.

Traffic: This has been a constant problem. He hoped to see a Traffic Plan out before the end of the present Council. Traffic and parking is a Sydney wide problem and was last really reviewed on the occasion of the Sydney Olympics. It troubles all Councils. For Willoughby commuter parking is the challenge. **The Concourse:** This is a massive building. It has been a faultless, textbook job by Council Officers and the builder. It has taken much of Council's focus, hence delays in addressing traffic issues. Opening date is 17 September. **The Library** has a small staff that is spread thinly and overall they do a fantastic job to complete the project. The Naremburn Community Centre is scheduled for upgrade next year. Artarmon has also been delayed because of The Concourse project.

10. SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

(a) Development Applications received since the May meeting –7 tabled

DA-2009/641/D	20 Wheatleigh Street	S96: Rear Awning
DA-2010/726	39 Waters Road	Demolition, new split level 2 storey
DA-2010/781/A	36 Garland Road	S96: Brick wall to east side of carport
DA-20210/809	47 Northcote Street	First floor addition, amended plans
DA-2011/200	41 Waters Road	S96: U1 and U2 alts, adds to dual occupancy
DA-2011/221	61A Station Street	Alts and adds to rear
DA-2011/225	46 Slade Street	Alts and ads

(b) Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Group – NPA was represented by Frances O'Brien, Peter Turner and Kevin FitzPatrick (standing in for delegate, Barry Shaw who could not attend). Frances O'Brien reported **Traffic** an ongoing issue, currently being monitored particularly on weekends; problems occurring around Pendey Street due to street closures; could the streets be reopened and the response was no; the main problem appears to occur when Shore is playing Rugby at their Grounds; netballers have moved some games to Club Willoughby to try and alleviate problem; rangers have been informed and advised to add Garland Road to the list as car parking across driveways occurs - raised by the NPA; Council has advised that if Naremburn residents find that this is a problem, they should contact the after-hours hotline. Brian Norton suggested that Shore be asked to look at the parking problems and try and find a solution. Council advised that they have tried this before but have been unsuccessful. Relocation of Netball courts to Club Willoughby has been working well; although the 4 courts are not of a good standard; NSNA has introduced Friday night games to try and take some of the pressure off. They have stated they do not have enough volunteers to run their BBQ. They have approached Rotary etc. Is this something the NPA might be interested in? NSROC (7 Councils) are currently looking at sporting groups and facilities available.

Canteen – Northbridge Football Club would like share this facility. **Change rooms** – Northbridge FC is to investigate this proposal. Plans will be available at the Advisory Group's November meeting. First Aid will be available. Refill Tanks – more taps have been installed. A drain will be installed to prevent drainage onto netball courts. The tap is on a timer. The drain will be attended to this month.

Other issues raised by NPA's representative Peter Turner - the early morning mechanical cleaning of the netball courts disturbing local residents. There is also early morning use of a leaf blower. This will be investigated by Council. The other issue he raised was noisy whistles. The noise is accentuated by the number of games and reverberates across to the residents of Naremburn, particularly Garland Road and as far as Market Street. A new style of whistle (the Muga), was shown to the NSNA. It is used on the London underground and is not as noisy. The sound is localised and does not travel further afield. The three types of whistles commonly used for sport were designed to carry over the noise generated in large arenas. NSNA are going to look into this.

(c) Events – The 2011 Earth Hour at Naremburn Shops draft report to WCC as required by Council was tabled by EH Convener, Martha Follent. Trisha FitzPatrick moved a vote of thanks to Martha for the considerable work that had gone into organizing the event and putting together the report. There was a brief report on the 110th celebration of the NPA's founding; Trisha FitzPatrick had completed paperwork for two grants; the first was to WCC Small Grants for \$4000 to cover the cost of the NPA's component for 2012 Earth Hour at Naremburn Shops; the second a CDSE grant funded by the Clubs of the LGA (3) for \$7,500 to cover the cost of a formal event in the Community Centre on Saturday 26 November and a street party on Sunday 27 in the vicinity of the hall where the first meeting of the NPA took place in 1901. The motion on the agenda to seek WCC's permission to close Central Street between Claire Street and Apex Street was passed unanimously. Cr Coppock recalled a Mayoral minute on the occasion of the NPA's Centenary Celebrations in 2001 and that Council had made a donation for the event. Trisha FitzPatrick commented that it was not enough as the NPA was in the red for the next two years before celebration expenses paid for by the then NPA Executive Committee Members, were cleared.

- d) **Membership** – Helene Kemp, Membership Convener, reported: 122 people on the 2011 NPA membership register. Thank you to those members who have paid their 2011 subs due and payable from the AGM on 10 March; the cut-off is 10 June; 31 members are yet to pay for 2011. Reminder emails to be sent from 10 June.
- e) **Naremburn Community Centre** – Kevin said that congratulations were in order for new Centre Manager, Knud Held for the excellent job he has done in cleaning up the Centre, particularly the room off the hall where chairs and other equipment is stored; setting up for tonight's meeting was so much easier. The Centre Users Group meets on 22 June. The Centre Open Day, part of the WCC Spring Festival Program, is Saturday 3 September, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- f) **Naremburn Matters** – Trisha stated that the size of the September issue – 8 or 12 pages – will be dependent on what we will be able to promote regarding the 110th anniversary of the NPA; production costs are met by advertising sales
- g) **Naremburn Park** – nothing to report
- h) **Open Space** There is excellent work going on landscaping, mulching and pruning trees on the western side of Willoughby Road between Slade Street and Garland Road. This week the RTA cleaned graffiti off the sound walls in this area.
- i) **Website** – An email to a further group of members was sent under the Secretary's signature ahead of the meeting; it is hoped that a member will volunteer to be our webmaster; training will be provided by Nigel Smith our retiring webmaster.

11 CIRCULATION OF THE ATTENDANCE BOOK – 31 Members, 6 Apologies from Members, 17 Visitors

12. MOTION OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN – none for this meeting

13. NEXT GENERAL MEETING: - Thursday, 11 August 2011 at 7:30 pm, in the Community Centre: Supper – Wine & Cheese

14. CLOSURE: - The meeting concluded at 9:45 pm