

Naremburn Matters

April 2005

Circulation 2,700

The newsletter of the
Naremburn Progress Association

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Welcome to the first edition of Naremburn Matters

This quarterly publication of the Naremburn Progress Association (NPA) is delivered to 2,700 households in the suburb of Naremburn. We hope you enjoy this newsletter. A special thanks to our founding advertisers for their generous assistance in getting this publication off the ground.

This is not the first Naremburn newspaper. 1932 saw the launch of the 'Search Light', a weekly publication under the by line 'Patronise Our Advertisers – Balance the District Budget'.

Lane Cove Tunnel Update

Road construction activity has become a major part of Naremburn life over the past months as Theiss John Holland works its way toward our end of the Gore Hill Freeway. With the heavy construction really only recently starting at the Chelmsford and Park St compounds, we have just begun to feel the impact of this major infrastructure project.

The NPA has continued its endeavour to seek the best possible outcome for the residents of Naremburn and has actively used the key issues unanimously agreed by the Association's members to lobby the powers that be. These platforms are centred on the impacts of the proposed shared path on the Naremburn Shops, noise and disruption from construction activities, sound barriers and acoustic treatment of the widened Freeway, impacts from the cycleway along Flat Rock Gully and getting the best value from parkland, landscaping and remediation of our leafy bushland.

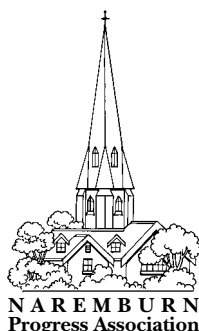
We have had some good wins to reward our efforts so far with new truck access via slip lanes onto Willoughby road to reduce the number of large trucks and construction vehicles on the back streets of Naremburn, particularly on Park Street. Another win came through our close working relationship with WCC and their subsequent representations to the builder to minimize on-

street parking by construction workers through the use of parking around Artarmon Oval and Bicentennial Reserve. Walter St residents have also been delighted to hear that their acoustic barriers will not be clear, as originally planned, saving them from exposure to the glare of freeway traffic.

Thanks to Mayor Pat Reilly, Naremburn Ward Councillors Kate Lamb, Stuart Coppock and Barry Thompson, and Council officers for their strong support in achieving these outcomes. A special vote of thanks for our local member, Gladys Berejiklian, who has taken our issues repeatedly to the Government and successfully had the work at the Naremburn Shops put on hold for additional design review. Gladys also tabled our petition containing over a thousand supporters.

There is still much to do with State Government considering a recommendation for an alternate shared pathway route, ensuring that remedial landscaping is progressive, not just left till the end of the project and a strong push to get the best design possible for the cycleway along Flat Rock Creek and pocket parks identified along the Freeway reserve.

Thanks to all who have contributed so much time and energy into achieving these results and a deep breath for the march ahead as we keep working toward good outcomes for our suburb.





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Founded 1901
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NaremburnMatters@yahoo.com

President

Ronan Ahern : 9438 2983

Vice President

Kevin FitzPatrick : 9439 8119

Secretary

David MacGowan : 9437 0556

Treasurer

Carolyn New : 9438 1903

Meetings

Naremburn Community Centre
Central Street, Naremburn
Thursday 14 April 7:30pm
Thursday 13 May 7:30pm
Thursday 9 June 7:30pm

Naremburn Matters – Editor

Launch Committee:

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Kevin and Trisha FitzPatrick
David MacGowan
Carolyn New

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The opinions expressed in articles, letters and
contributions published in Naremburn Matters do
not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Naremburn
Progress Association or its officers. While all possible
care is taken to be accurate, no responsibility
whatsoever will be taken by the Naremburn
Progress Association, typesetters or printers.

A note from the President

Change can occur by one of the three ‘Ds’,
drift, design or disaster.

In Naremburn’s case most of the changes
that have occurred in the last ten years or
so have come about mainly by the
redesigning of the suburbs building
zones. The last decade has seen more
change occur in Naremburn’s built
environment than had occurred in the
preceding 60 years. The completion of
the Gore Hill Freeway, the start of high
density development around Herbert
Street and St Leonard’s railway station
and its subsequent spread across the
suburb from Pacific Highway to Brook St.

This rapid change in Naremburn’s
village profile has meant there is an
emerging ‘old’ sector whilst Council
encourages high density buildings in
defined peripheral zones.

Concerns about locational choices of
new developments continue to be raised
at community meetings. The question
seems to be not whether to prevent
redevelopment but where it should occur.

Community based publications can give
a suburb a greater sense of itself. One
success can easily trigger off other
initiatives. Projects such as the replanting
of the former dump at Flat Rock Creek
led to bush care groups being set up.
This in turn led to park care groups and
today we have emerging street tree
planting groups.

Naremburn was one of the first villages
on the North Shore. Many of its streets
have a sense of continuity with its past.
There is a feeling amongst its residents
and businesses that the suburb has a
certain quality, something special.

This publication will provide articles on
what is happening in your local area and

will include information on future
proposed changes. We hope it may
inspire residents to become involved in its
publication and to contribute articles.

Naremburn has a long history of local
residents who have participated in the
betterment of their suburb. This first
edition is dedicated to those who have
gone before us. It may be a tired cliché
but each person can make a difference to
their local community.

Ronan Ahern

Near the city does it stand
Older buildings on the land
Some restored in modern way
Others rebuilt
Each in its way
Testimony to a changing pace
None indeed is out of place
For in this suburb
As streets unfold
Is told the story
Of development bold
Development cold
Resisted,
shops which still do stand
Centrepiece of times past – grand,
Coffee, tea and pizza too
Would have been gone
Bypassed, trammelled through
Today in print we celebrate
An era new
A starting gate
We the press will surely bring
All that matters
And to you sing
Similarly we will invite
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Naremburn Matters
Editor required

This inaugural issue of
Naremburn Matters was edited
by the launch committee.

We are seeking an Editor to take
over the selection and editing of
articles ready for pre-publication.
Is this the job for YOU?

Please contact the committee.

In the beginning

In 1794 only 6 years after Sydney was settled Peter Dargan was given a grant of 25 acres in a location bounded by Dalleys Rd, Waters Rd just north of Quiamong St & Willoughby Rd.

In 1887 two acres at the south west corner were resumed for a public school, gazetted as such on 11 January. The growth of residences and small businesses led to the name of "Central Township" later shortened to "The Township". It was eventually named Naremburn, possibly of Aboriginal origin with the spelling probably recorded by a government clerk, just as it sounded to him. Its spiritual needs were met with the building of Naremburn's first church in 1883 in Market St. Men were employed timber getting and sandstone quarrying, brickmaking at the local brickworks, clerical work and commerce. For the latter some had to make the time consuming Sydney journey by road to the ferry and essential harbour crossing.

Growing fruit, vegetables and other produce was a spare time activity to augment meagre incomes.

As land developed to the north there was a need to improve transport facilities for the transport of people and goods. This required the building of a substantial bridge across Flat Rock Creek in Willoughby to replace the old wooden bridge.

The replacement stone bridge, opened by the Mayor, Alderman Fleming in 1886, was more than adequate for present needs. Its broad four lanes would cater for the traffic needs well into the twentieth century. This was also the year the government recognised the need to build

a school in response to 3 delegations from local townspeople.

New roads opened, bypassing Central St, now the site of the Naremburn Library and Community Centre, resulting in storekeepers relocating to the site of our present shops to take advantage of passing traffic and the tram line extension from Crows Nest. When the rail link was extended to St Leonards (originally known as Gore Hill Railway Station) and later to Milsons Point, Naremburn became the village it is now rather than the major centre originally planned.

Kevin FitzPatrick

True or False

- 1 Naremburn produced a Grand Slam Tennis Champion.
- 2 The spire on St Leonards Catholic Church in Naremburn was added after the nearby Channel 9 tower was built.
- 3 The **Golden Triangle** is the name of Naremburn's oldest music school.
- 4 The historic stone bridge that carries Willoughby Rd traffic over Flat Rock Creek celebrates its centenary this year.
- 5 Naremburn Progress Association is over 100 years old.
- 6 Naremburn has a nightclub.

Answers on page 5



Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch is a small group of dedicated people working toward a safer community and low crime rate.

We do this by:

- ▶ Placing signs (street signs, letterboxes and gates) around the suburb - these act as a deterrent to thieves.
- ▶ Having engravers available to residents so that goods can be identified - this assists police in convicting criminals and allows stolen goods to be returned.
- ▶ Providing information to the community in our newsletters that assist in crime prevention.
- ▶ Having a network that allows information about recent criminal activity and things to be aware of both to and from the police and council.

Food for thought

I don't exercise at all - if God had meant us to touch our toes, He would have put them further up our body.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

Comic Corner

Bob's lovely wife, Jill, saw Bob standing on the bathroom scales desperately trying to hold his stomach in.

Jill, thinking he was trying to reduce his weight remarked, "I don't think that helps". "It does", Bob said. "It's the only way I can read the numbers".



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School Creed

This is our school,
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contentment.
Let love abide here:
Love of one another.
Love of mankind,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.
Let us remember that –
As many hands build a house,
SO,
Many hearts make a school.

Learning for life

Naremburn public school was re-established in 2002 to assist students with identified behavioural difficulties. It has a re-integration or transition focus.

The school works closely with government and non-government agencies that support families having difficulties, working together as a team to assist the student to become a responsible adult. Strong families, caring schools, good friends and an adult community make a difference to the resilience of young people.

The school is committed to delivering a diverse and effective outcomes-based program catering to the identified individual needs of the student. The curriculum is based on academic, social and behavioural domains. The staff use a calm and consistent approach with students.

The length of placement will vary according to the individual needs of each student. Usually students are with us between 6 and 8 months. The initial stages of placement consist of 4 weeks of gradual attendance when intensive

behaviour management and academic assessment begins.

Following a successful intervention at Naremburn School, students finalise their "next step". This can be employment, TAFE education, traineeships, apprenticeships or re-integration to "mainstream".

Students are supported by the school staff during their transition stage. If they choose to re-integrate into a mainstream setting this occurs gradually, increasing to full attendance on a timeline suitable and appropriate to both the student and the returning schools. Some students may maintain limited integration for several weeks or months.

Learning for Life

Principal: Mrs Cassandra Mitchell

Phone: 9906 8498

Email:

Naremburn-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Naremburn Branch Library

Are you looking for contemporary reading.

You need look no further than your own suburb!

Where:

Naremburn Community Centre
7 Central Street, Naremburn

When:

Mondays 2:30 – 5:00 pm
Thursdays 2:30 – 5:00 pm
Saturdays 9:30 – 12 noon

Phone:

9438 5584 during opening hours
9777 7900 other times

Free story time:

Friday 15 April 10:30 – 11:15 am

Naremburn Branch Library has plenty of recent popular novels and magazines for you to borrow as well as books about gardening, cooking, parenting, health, self development etc.

Have you a young family? You can use the wonderful picture book and junior fiction collection at Naremburn to foster a love of books and reading in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. If your preschooler needs entertainment during the school holidays, you can book them into the free storytime. The kids always enjoy listening to stories and craft activities.

The Library also has a large print collection, some audio-visual material, a small reference library and a photocopier. If you need books located elsewhere, they can be reserved and delivered to Naremburn. No need to travel farther afield.

How can you save money, time, petrol and energy AND have fun at the same time? Just visit Naremburn Branch Library where the librarian is looking forward to meeting you.

sam the butcher.com.au

296 WILLOUGHBY ROAD, NAREMBURN 9437 1090

Councillor Corner with Councillor Kate Lamb

I am pleased to be writing the first of the Councillors contributions to **Naremburn Matters** and I congratulate the Progress Association on its initiative!

At this point, we three Councillors have agreed to take turns in providing a column, aiming to provide each other with the opportunity to contribute to each other's column, before going to press.

Today I went to visit a resident in Naremburn who was distressed to find that a large and very beautiful eucalypt in the centre of her backyard has died, very suddenly. The garden is modest sized, well kept and attractive. The tree provided a canopy over this and part of the neighbouring yards; it has provided habitat for birds and countless smaller forms of life for probably well over a hundred years. Two arborists have come to have a look and their common pronouncement was that it had experienced a massive toxic shock. Although I'm no arborist, my opinion is that whilst something has been the last straw for this tree, its more likely a combination of things that have been gradually eroding its viability. These things would include old age, constant interference with its root system by building and development, insect damage, exotic company (stuff from the nurseries) and loss of its mates (it's the only one of its generation left).

It is becoming apparent to me that vegetation (especially the indigenous kind) thrives or declines as we do, based on the quality of the surroundings – it's the ecological approach. A single tree is

important as is each individual – but in the long run it is our ability to survive and grow collectively which is the measure of our health as a community. I know that street tree planting is an important project for the Progress Association and it is up to the Council to respond to the desire to "green" the streets.

Our response has been slow and for good reason. Starting with the drought – it does not make sense to plant when conditions for establishing new growth are poor. And then there are the competing projects. We are, for example, spending an unprecedented amount of our resources on preserving and regenerating remnant bushland and we have far more of it than our neighbours in North Sydney, Mosman and Lane Cove. And then there is the knowledge of what species will survive in particular locations. The issues are becoming better known but are by no means well understood.

And then perhaps most difficult – there is no consensus on the objectives of street tree plantings – is it to compensate for loss of backyard vegetation or is it to provide shade, habitat or colour? Some people want bottlebrushes because they bring birds and some people just think they're untidy.

Over to you.....Kate

kate.lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Caring for our Bushland

BushCare is a community based program in which volunteers, supported and assisted by Council, help in regenerating and preserving bushland areas on Council owned or managed reserves.

BushCare groups work to a specific Action Plan for each site which has been developed in accordance with the overall management objectives of Council's Bushland Management Program. Volunteers are provided with direction, training, technical advice, tools, plants, newsletters and other support from Council.

BushCare / ParkCare groups in or close to Naremburn include:

- ▶ Naremburn ParkCare (pocket parks) – Fourth Saturday (9:30am-12:30pm) – contact Mark 9906 5793
- ▶ Bicentennial Reserve – Third Sunday (9:00am-12noon) – contact Kate 9437 4881
- ▶ Artarmon Reserve – First Wednesday and Second Sunday (9.00am-12noon) – contact Phillip 9419 6536
- ▶ The Drive (Flat Rock Gully), Northbridge – Second Friday and Fourth Sunday (9.00am-12noon) – contact Joan 9958 8797

Willoughby bushland staff conduct free training workshops for BushCare volunteers, those thinking about volunteering and anyone else who wants to know more about looking after our local bushland. The next series commences in June. An Advanced BushCare Workshop is also scheduled for May. Contact Council on 9777 7718 for more information about BushCare groups.

Noticeboard

We welcome contributions to the community noticeboard. It provides free advertising for not-for-profit community and charity organisations in Naremburn. Please ring David MacGowan on 9437 0566

Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

Meets quarterly on Wednesday evening in the St Cuthbert's Hall, Merrenburn Ave at 8pm. Next meeting 1 June – All residents welcome. For more information see article page 3. Contact via email: naremnhw@tpg.com.au

Naremburn "Over Fifties"

Meets almost every Monday at 10.30am in the Naremburn Community Centre. Come along and enjoy speakers, demonstrations, member participation discussions or leisure activities. Contact Lorna (Secretary) 9436 3304 or Nola (President) 9958 4140 for more information.

Naremburn Play Group

Meets at the Naremburn Community Centre. Contact Amanda 9415-2762 for more information.

Breastfeeding Association

The Australian Breastfeeding Association is a voluntary organization established in 1964 to encourage and support mothers who wish to breastfeed their babies and to promote skilled and loving parenting. We meet in the Naremburn Community Centre on the first Tuesday of every month from 10.00am-12.00noon. Your local Breastfeeding Counsellor is Michelle 9906 3353.

Environmental Workshops:

- 12 April:** Water Conscious Living Workshop, 6.00-8:30pm Warners Park Community Centre, Northbridge. Phone 9777 7873.
- 16 April:** Wildlife Habitat Restoration Workshop.
- 14 May:** Native Grasses Workshop (beginners).
- 21 May:** Advanced Workshop for Bush Care volunteers.
- 5 June:** World Environment Day.
- 18 June:** Water Conscious Living Workshop Phone 9777 7873.

Bushcare Training Workshops:

(3 sessions) Saturdays 18, 25 June and 2 July Phone 9777 1000

Have you been shopping lately?

Have you been shopping in Naremburn Village lately? Do you realise how much it has, and continues to, evolve and change?

Of course our consistent, long term, landmark shops still remain. Andersons continues to bookmark the shopping strip as it has done for decades, servicing the local community hardware needs in its very special way.

Our shopping village has had to endure many challenges. It was carved in half by the Warringah Freeway several decades ago. Then threatened with total extinction by the Gore Hill Freeway just ten years ago. But commonsense prevailed and eventually enabled a revitalisation of the shopping strip with its own off street car park on what had once been Willoughby Road. With a new overhead bridge to help bring back together the community that had been carved up by road building, the strip shopping centre could then become Naremburn Village!

Did you know that with just a short walk from many Naremburn homes you can not only pick up all your hardware supplies, but stock up the liquor cabinet, get your hair done, arrange for your dry cleaning and check out your health and the real estate market? You can select from a range of organic meats, check out the deli and then pick up your milk, bread, groceries and maybe even a video or two at the local milk bar. If a problem is pressing, you could always arrange for an interview with your local member of parliament.

Walk! Walk did we say? Yes, there is plenty of parking, lots just around the corner, but it is so much more civilized to stroll up to the shops, meet your friends, have a leisurely coffee or a delicious pastry. Or maybe today you feel more like one of Aret's delicious pizzas. Then tomorrow, perhaps try some Thai Noodles or a restaurant meal. Maybe Fish & Chips will soon be on the menu again. The choice grows day by day.

Next time you start to instinctively jump in the car and drive to a major centre, think again. Maybe what you want is just up the road, around the corner in your local Naremburn Village Shopping centre.


Carolyn New

To the Editor

Over to you...

Contributions to:

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True or False

- 1 **True.** Fred Stolle was a pupil of Naremburn Public School in Willoughby Rd where he gained his Intermediate Certificate. He won many majors including Wimbledon.
- 2 **False.** The tower was added in 1955 when Father Hollands, a well known local identity was Parish Priest of Naremburn. Channel 9 began transmitting in late 1956.
- 3 **False.** This is a geographic area at the eastern side of the Freeway bounded by Garland Rd, Brook St & Slade St. It was so called because of what some would call its highly sought after real estate.
- 4 **False.** The bridge was opened in 1886 by Mayor Alderman Fleming. Planners could be praised for their *foursight*, pardon the pun, because it allowed for four lanes of traffic.
- 5 **True.** NPA was established in 1901 making it one of the first such associations in Australia. Come along & hear what NPA is doing in its response to the impact of the Lane Cove Tunnel project on our local community.
- 6 **True,** if you consider the all hours service rendered by the Naremburn Pizzeria located in our local N'burn shopping centre. Great pizzas served there into the small hours of the morning. Aret is always there to welcome you.

Penny Wade

B.Sc., D.R.M., D.M.H.

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