



# Naremburn Matters

June 2006 Vol.2, No.1

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The newsletter of the  
Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)

## Welcome to this edition of Naremburn Matters

*When Henry Lawson roamed these parts in the early 1900s, Naremburn and all of Willoughby Council would have looked quite different – spectacular bushland, waterfalls, native animals at every turn – he would likely be in total awe of the local environment today. Despite the mistakes and bad decisions by councils and citizens over the ensuing years, we really do have a chance to better our environment.*

*We just need to ask ourselves what we want it to be and then take the first steps. Taking initiative to rid our community of graffiti, learning how to become a Sustainability Street, or helping out with local bushcare projects which allow all of us to enjoy activities, including enjoying poetry of our 'own' Henry Lawson in a spectacular bushland setting, are just a few of the actions we can take today to make our environment more earth and people friendly. What steps are you going to take today?*

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## The Blight of Graffiti

**Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly has taken a tough stand on graffiti in the City of Willoughby. "Defacing a building with graffiti should carry the same consequence as physically damaging a building", said Mayor Reilly. "The City of Willoughby has been very successful in managing graffiti over the years and its current increase around the local region will not go unchecked".**

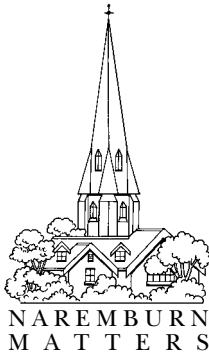
The Mayor called upon extra effort from the police, in conjunction with Council's security efforts, to clamp down on these incidents. Given the increase in graffiti in Naremburn over the last year, additional effort to help stop and prevent graffiti vandals in our area would be undeniably welcome.

After a study tour in America and Canada this year, Willoughby's Environmental Services Director Greg Woodhams said cities with a no tolerance stance were almost completely void of graffiti. "Cities such as Portland, Vancouver and Seattle were practically graffiti free. In Portland for example, neighbourhood watch and citizen report programs and graffiti hotlines helped to identify perpetrators as well as recent vandalism, which is removed within 24 hours", said Mr. Woodhams. "Very heavy fines, rewards of up to \$10,000 for identifying offenders and criminal prosecution were some of the zero tolerance sanctions for graffiti", he said. Willoughby City Council's Graffiti Management Policy and Plan and its tough stance on graffiti has resulted in some success in the first of its graffiti impact studies. Willoughby City Council, with the Graffiti Specialists, a graffiti removal company servicing a host of Sydney councils and NSW government departments, completed the first in a series of graffiti audit and removal programs recently. ...continued Page 2

### NAREMBURN VILLAGE SHOPS

Photographic artwork by:  
David Waters  
7 June 2005





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Naremburn Community Centre  
 Central Street, Naremburn  
 Second Thursday of each month

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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.

# The Blight of Graffiti

...continued from Page 1

The audit covered 37 sites within the Chatswood CBD and local hot-spot Beauchamp Park, the areas with the highest graffiti incidents recorded on the city's graffiti database. Equipped with Council's aerial maps marked with the identified areas, the Graffiti Specialists visited each site twice a week over five weeks to photograph, measure and remove all graffiti. This information was then added to Willoughby City's graffiti database, which is also available to local police. The main findings of the audit were:

- The average graffiti hit equates to 3.09sqm which is well below the industry average of 8sqm;
- 64.6% of all recorded graffiti was on only six structures, three of which were located at Chatswood Oval;
- Tags generated 94% of all graffiti. The top ten tags have been identified;
- 80% of all tagging was with a pen rather than aerosol spray paint.

Willoughby City Council and Chatswood Police are working to identify the top three graffiti offenders. "It can be a painstaking and sometimes costly exercise, but quick removal is effective in inhibiting repeat offences and I strongly recommend it as the solution to private sites being targeted by these vandals", said the Willoughby Mayor. Through the audit Willoughby has identified a brand of spray paint being used in the area and has been able to track the supply to just one retailer within the CBD. Willoughby Council continues to advise retailers of their responsibilities in relation to the sale of materials that may be used for graffiti.

Graffiti is a significant issue for a wide cross section of the community and whilst the social costs are difficult to quantify the financial impact is significant. In addition to detracting from an area's visual amenity, allowing graffiti to remain creates an impression that an area is not valued, reducing public confidence and perceptions of personal safety. Willoughby Council now has a policy on graffiti that includes the introduction and promotion of a centralised system to coordinate the removal of all graffiti within the City of Willoughby. Among the tenets of the policy are that Council:

- Is committed to the apprehension and prosecution of graffiti vandals, and where possible will use the law to prosecute the offenders.
- Will look to form partnerships with other stakeholders to assist in the elimination of graffiti throughout the city.
- Is committed to a program of systematic inspection and the rapid removal of graffiti from Council owned property.
- Accepts that while it does not have sufficient resources to remove graffiti from non-Council owned property, it will lobby, assist and encourage other parties to remove graffiti from their property; including public authorities and other government departments.
- Will use its planning powers to assess development proposals ensuring that they incorporate measures such as protective coatings, security lighting, landscaping and passive surveillance to reduce potential graffiti site.
- Will encourage responsible retailing in relation to sale and stocking of such material.
- Will continue a program of rapid removal from Council-owned property and facilities within three days.
- Will assess security arrangements including the use of security guards and or equipment in areas with high incidence of graffiti.
- Is investigating the provision of graffiti removal services for non-council owned property

using Council contractors. It is anticipated that Council will be able to provide lower costs to private property owners through 'economies of scale' and tendered pricing. Council will develop a graffiti removal kit to be available to property owners to remove minor levels of graffiti.

- Will continue to maintain a graffiti database, including photographs, to enable the analysis of graffiti within the area. Information collected will be shared with other Councils and authorities.

Council will be introducing and promoting a 1800 number, a Graffiti Hotline, which will enable members of the public to contact and report any graffiti in Naremburn. ...continued on Page 4

**Naremburn Progress Association**

**MEMBERSHIP**

\$10 per person, \$1 concession

*Membership year ends 31 December*

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Full names .....

---

Address .....

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Telephone ..... Fees \$ .....

Email ..... Donation \$ .....

**TOTAL \$** .....

*Post to PO Box 393, St Leonards 1590 or bring to next meeting.*

## Lane Cove Tunnel Project Naremburn Update

Theiss John Holland (TJH) has informed us the shared path bridge at Naremburn Shops will be completed, including landscaping, by mid-June. The reasons for delay given included "several design issues that arose after the commencement of the works on site, which needed clarification prior to works continuing. Services in the area were also not located where indicated on the services plans and alterations to the structural supports to suit the position of these services were required."

TJH will be assessing those properties, where eligible, requiring noise mitigation measures due to increased volumes of traffic once the Lane Cove Tunnel is complete. Only rooms on affected facades defined as habitable such as bedrooms, living rooms and dining rooms are eligible for treatment. TJH has undertaken noise modelling to predict noise levels and has identified properties eligible for treatment.

Landscaping is slowly being rolled out across the Naremburn suburb and a landscaping contractor has been engaged by Theiss John Holland. The landscape team from Lane Cove Tunnel project will be attending the June Meeting of the NPA on 8 June. All residents or business owners are invited to attend this meeting. Contact [community.enquiries@lct.optusincite.com](mailto:community.enquiries@lct.optusincite.com) or call 1800 009 280 for answers to any questions you may have regarding the widening of the Gore Hill Freeway.

## Announcing Willoughby CouncilCab

As part of its commitment to sustainable transport, Willoughby City Council launched a trial of a local area transport service in May. It offers pre-booked transport on a shared ride basis anywhere within Willoughby City area. The fare is \$4 per ride. The service is available between 9:30 and 4:30 five days a week. For more information contact Willoughby City Council on 9777 1000 or to book a CouncilCab, phone 8332 8338 (24 hours).

## True or False

How well do you know your suburb?

- 1 A Naremburn street takes its name from the recipient of one of the Colony of NSW's first land grants.
- 2 There are 12 shops in our Naremburn Village shopping strip.
- 3 One of the female actors to guest star in the popular US television series LOST, lived in Naremburn
- 4 One of the most controversial meetings in Naremburn's history took place 80 years ago.
- 5 FRACAS was the name of Naremburn's first jazz club.
- 6 Naremburn's only Post Office was opened in 1926.

*(Answers on page 6)*

*Kevin FitzPatrick,  
NPA Vice President*

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## National Tree Day

National Tree Day is set for Sunday 30 July 2006. National Tree Day is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event and is organised nationally each year by Planet Ark. The NPA has coordinated a site for Nareburn. Come along at 9.00am (meet at the Nareburn Shops Noticeboard) on 30 July to help plant a tree or two! For more information, ring the National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000 or visit [www.planetark.com/treeday](http://www.planetark.com/treeday).

Did you know that:

- The Wollemi Pine, which is only found in Wollemi National Park near Sydney, has a heritage of over 100 million years. There are only 40 trees in the wild and they have the lowest known genetic variability of any plant species.
- Eucalyptus trees are Australia's most common tree species and can grow up to 50 metres. California, South America and India have all cultivated eucalyptus trees for paper, insect repellents, chest rubs and cough drops.

*Courtesy, Planet Ark*



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## Roads to Insanity?

A few months ago we were treated to one of those sporadic but necessary interruptions to life, Council was re-surfacing Olympia Road. The experience was greeted by us and our neighbours as just one of those necessary tasks that must be undertaken to keep our roads in good repair, our rates put to another good use.

There was some irony that we have millions of dollars of Lane Cove Tunnel noise, dust and disruption at the same time as local road work, but hey that's just life. Little did we know that much stranger things were to play out; we were about to become customers of the Roads to Recovery (R2R).

The R2R program as it is affectionately called on the web articles has been instigated by the Federal Coalition Government to address a serious shortfall between the amount Australian councils should spend on roads and what is actually spent each year, a shortfall estimated at \$630 Million per year. Pundits suggest (and have the numbers to prove it) that the roughly \$260 Million per year the Federal Government is spending to help bridge the gap is somewhat weighted toward our country brethren could be sour grapes. This largesse does come at a price.



After the roadwork was complete and shortly after our collective sigh of relief for getting our quiet street back, a small work crew came by the front of our house and put up a whopping big sign; right in front of our house, a message from the Federal Government that our taxes had been spent for just doing their job. Well I guess they could have bought some more submarines, so let's count our blessings.

When it comes to our environment, the green spaces that are under constant threat become more precious to us. Being blessed with a corner block, we have a wealth of nature strip with four beautiful trees and some wonderful grass reserve. I know we don't own it, but we do mow it, fertilize it, clean up dog deposits, prune dead branches and generally give it the same level of care that all our garden gets. Who on our small planet can believe that thousands of these signs are not another blight on our landscape. A quick look at the AusRoads website and some shifty work with a calculator reveals in excess of 17,500 signs have been put up to tell us our taxes have repaired some streetscape. It is too late to hope that sanity will prevail in the shifting sands of political pork barreling but we can hope that when the required one year display period required by the Federal Government elapses someone at Council will come and take them all down again. Possibly there might be a Roads to Recycling program somewhere in the wings.

*Jan Esman, Grandview Street*

## The Blight of Graffiti *continued from Page 2*

Council will contact property owners and ask them to remove the graffiti in cases where the graffiti is on property not owned by Council. To assist the police in the allocation of resources and develop crime profiles, residents are encouraged to report graffiti incidents to the NSW Police. In recent weeks, several people have successfully been apprehended after carrying out alleged graffiti spraying in Nareburn.

Perhaps there are parents reading this who might have information that can assist in curbing this practice. Many people will have noticed in recent months the increase in graffiti around Nareburn. Walkways, traffic signage, fencings and our churches have all been marked by vandals. The monitoring, policing and cleaning up of graffiti wastes money that could otherwise be diverted into building skate ramps or other resources for Nareburn youth. We need to continue to lobby Willoughby Council to remain vigilant in their efforts to assist in ridding our communities of this awful blight.

For more information on Council's Graffiti Management Plan and what you can do, ring Council on 9777 1000.

*Editors, with the assistance of David Waters and Jean Waters*

## STOP PRESS: Nareburn Library Update

Council has not adopted the proposals in the July 2005 Branch Library Study by Dr David J Jones of the State Library of NSW. Of concern to the NPA was the inclusion of recommendations for upgrading the other council libraries, including Artarmon Library, at the expense of the Nareburn Library.

Mr John Owen, WCC's General Manager, has sought to reassure the NPA that it is not Council's intention to close down Nareburn Branch Library, stating that improvements to the Central Street Community Centre are needed to continue its viability. Watch out for our feature on the Nareburn Branch Library, and what we can do to keep it, in the September issue of Nareburn Matters.

Your comments are always welcome. [NareburnMatters@yahoo.com](mailto:NareburnMatters@yahoo.com).

## Take Five...with Adele Gemmell

I first met nine year old Adele Gemmell and her mother, Tricia, at a meeting of Sustainability Street (see page 6) in the Naremburn Community Centre. The March issue of *Naremburn Matters* included Take Five .... with Dulcie Barratt, who came to live in Naremburn as a nine year old, and was speaking from the vantage point of her 90-plus years.

Dulcie looked back on her time in our suburb. Now Adele gives us an opportunity to look at Naremburn through the eyes of a nine-year-old girl:

*I like living in Naremburn because it's near the shops and I have lots of friends. My favourite shops are (1) Forsyth's because they have iced chocolate and yummy cakes, (2) The Old Fashioned Fish Shop, and (3) the bakery. One of my favourite times is Christmas when we have a street party on the Saturday before Christmas in Bongalong Street. People set up barbecues and bring food to share and sometimes I set up a stall and sell things I grow in my garden. Children can make Naremburn a better place by looking after our gardens and trees and being friends to other kids. In our garden in Glenmore Street we grow chillies, beetroot, spring onions, leeks, baby spinach, parsley and other herbs, as well as lemon, lime, lilli pilli, olive and avocado trees. It's my job to water the garden from our rainwater tank (the editor notes it was a worm farm and two compost bins to add to an impressive sustainability effort!). Adele loves reading, undoubtedly encouraged by her Mum, a teacher of French and Latin. I asked Adele her thoughts on a possible closure of our local Naremburn Library. It's the stupidest idea in the whole world. I like visiting the Library because I can walk there. The librarians are friendly and helpful. The kid's library is really cozy. My favourite books are Harry Potter, Selby, and Molly M, Deltora – all three series.*

Mum Tricia is reflective and according to her, children naturally build community as they just go out and knock on doors until they find a playmate in the area. Tricia and her husband Geoff are community builders in their own right. Two of their four children attended the local St Leonards Catholic Primary School. Adele now has to travel to Cammeray Public School. The fact that they were without a car 22 years ago meant that they walked around Naremburn discovering places like the Library and Community Centre. The shops were a gathering point, especially the Post Office where postmistress Ann Schreiber was always ready for a chat and also sold homemade jam or raffle tickets for the prevailing cause. The Gemmells were active in petitioning to save Naremburn Shops in the 1980s when they were under threat due to the expansion of the Gore Hill Freeway. In helping to establish the local Nursing Mothers' group, Tricia provided a helpful asset for new mothers. My time with Adele and her mother reminds me of some of life's simple but profound messages – take time - to walk, to discover our natural assets, to meet new people, to make friends, to respect nature, and to read more.

Kevin FitzPatrick, NPA Vice President

## Comic Corner

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## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the Willoughby City community mourns the loss of Nola Driver on 3 April 2006.

Nola was very active in the local community, galvanizing efforts in the 1980s in opposing the noise impacts of the Channel 9 helicopters which caused distress and even indirectly, a death in the local community. Although ultimately unsuccessful in having operations cease, the issue was taken out of local hands by being 'called in' by the Minister of Planning. Nola's correspondence and other mementos from this period of activism are to be donated to our Library's local history collection.

Nola worked tirelessly to raise funds for the Naremburn School, for the Mother's Club, the school canteen, and for the Women's Auxiliary at Crows Nest High School, making literally thousands of jars of jams, pickles and preserves, a tradition continued into recent times when as a founding member of the Naremburn Over 50s Club, she served as Committee Member for 14 years, the last two as President.

In recognition of her contribution to the community, Nola was awarded the Progress Association's Community Service Award in 2004. She is survived by her husband Geoff and son Stephen.

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## True or False

### 1 TRUE

Dargan Street was named after Private Peter Dargin of the 14th Company of Marines. His 1794 land grant of 25 acres included 2 acres in Nareburn, an area that today encompasses the shops and land to the west of Willoughby Road.

He returned to England on completion of his military service

### 2 FALSE

There are actually 18 shops in our Village shopping strip that is the remnant of a much larger group of shops that included at least 4 butchers, a chemist, a post office with a bank agency, and a Moran & Cato general grocery store.

### 3 TRUE

Melissa Bickerton, an Australian actor based in Los Angeles, has a guest-starring role in episode 21 of the current series. Melissa lived in Central Street for 4 years.

### 4 TRUE

A public protest meeting was held on the corner of Slade Street and Willoughby Road on a Friday evening in October 1926 to protest Council's proposal to establish a Garbage Destructor and Night Soil tip at the foot of Market Street and Garland Road

### 5 FALSE

F.R.A.C.A.S., the Flat Rock Gully Area Conservation Action Group, was formed in 1976 by a group of concerned residents in response to abuse of this piece of Nareburn's natural heritage. Nareburn currently has 2 bush regeneration groups, one in the Flat Rock area, the second in the Talus Street area.

### 6 TRUE

The NPA instituted action to obtain a Post Office in 1925. The NPA Secretary, David Martin, an ex-serviceman, used the influence of the many ex-servicemen members of the NPA to prevail upon the Federal Member, Mr Billy Hughes, 'The Little Digger', to approach the Director of Posts & Telegraphs. The deputation of 29 April 1926 led to a successful outcome. Saving Bank facilities were available in the Post Office.

## Nareburn's Sustainability Street



The inaugural Sustainability Street meeting for residents of Nareburn was held in April. The group discussed the program goals of working together to learn about ecological sustainability, and informing and encouraging others in efforts to build sustainable communities.

The three areas of focus are water, waste and energy. Garland Road, Adolphus Street and Waters Road are among the first streets in Nareburn to be part of the program. Find out more about how Willoughby City Council residents are involved in this unique program which aims to help protect and enhance our environment. Ring Council on 9777 1000 or local program coordinator Joanne Anderson on 9906 1183.

## Henry Lawson's Birthday Poetry Reading

In honour of Henry Lawson's birthday (17 June) local residents are invited to listen to the poetry of our own Henry Lawson on Sunday, 18 June 2006 from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Henry Lawson's Cave, Flat Rock Gully, Nareburn. Once again, Willoughby City Council bushland staff member Don Swonnell will treat the audience to poetry and yarns about old Henry and his connection to Nareburn.

Willoughby City Council's Bushland Education and Interpretation Program runs many innovative events throughout the year. Almost 200 people gathered at Henry Lawson's Cave in February for the biannual 'Bush Poetry at Dusk' where council member Don Swonnell was joined by Sydney actor Peter Carmody and others for an evening of poetry, a pot of billy tea and some damper.

For more information on this program and on other Council Bushland programs ring 9777 7755.



Musicians entertaining the crowd at Bush Poetry at Dusk, Flat Rock Gully, 19 February 2006



# Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

June 2006 Report

## Stranger Danger

Our stranger danger is still with us (see the last newsletter). The mysterious pushbike rider has been seen in several streets in our area as well as at the local schools and shopping centres. Please keep an eye out for this chap and call the local police station (9414 8499) should you see him. Anything serious should be reported on 000.

## Statistics

The following statistics relate to the period of November and December 2005 and January 2006.

The break and enters were mainly through breaking door locks, some through the front door. There were quite a number of break-ins to garages and sheds. The main items stolen were jewellery, wine and spirits and sporting equipment. The most unusual was a section of fence panel?!

The malicious damage in our area is usually graffiti, this time there were also several offences where property had been damaged in a more violent manner.

Stealing was mainly from cars. At the last NHW meeting the police advised that the main issue they see for our area is stealing from motor vehicles and garages, particularly the large underground car parks attached to units.

It seems that thieves are quite adept at waiting outside for cars to come in then sneaking in after the car. They then break into the cages (or even slip over the top or under bottom rails of these) of cars and steal items at their leisure. They wait quietly in the dark if people come by or for another car so they can slip out.

The police have found the following successful in preventing or limiting these crimes:

- Improve lighting in the carpark area – many of these thieves rely on the dark to remain hidden from sight from residents.
- While additional lighting can be expensive and Bodies Corporate unwilling to incur the expense, a really cheap and effective method is to paint the ceilings of the car park white, resulting in more reflected light.

- Get to know the others in your block so you can tell strangers from residents – keeping neighbours informed of long-term visitors/house-sitters also helps.

## Next Meeting

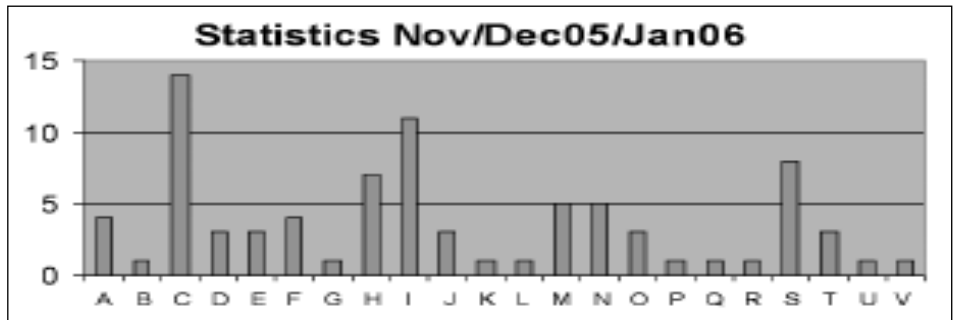
Our next meeting for 2006 is

**Date:** Wednesday 10 June 2006

**Time:** 8:00pm

**Where:** St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Merrenburn Avenue

Some members have changed email addresses and not told us – if you have not been receiving email updates in the last month please let us know your new address. If you would like to receive the service please send your details to [naremhwh@tpg.com.au](mailto:naremhwh@tpg.com.au).



Come and meet Amanda Inglis at L.J. Hooker Crows Nest.



**Amanda Inglis**  
**0414 619 004**  
**L.J. Hooker Crows Nest**  
**1 Alexander Street**  
**Crows Nest 2065**  
**Phone: 9439 1200**

Amanda's years of first-hand knowledge of the local market (she even lives in Naremburn!) and her commitment to the area has earned her the great reputation she has today, as well as clients who keep coming back. It's no surprise that she was awarded entry into the L.J. Hooker Multi Million Dollar Captains Club as recognition of her outstanding performance.

In both her role as a company director and real estate agent, Amanda's high personal standards and unique style are as accessible as ever to those wishing for an agent willing to go the extra mile.

Amanda's enthusiasm, expertise and professionalism are well known to property investors in the North Shore area. Amanda's commitment to you is that she will look after your property as if it were her own.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>A</b> Assault                        | <b>L</b> Missing Person                   |
| <b>B</b> Breach AVO                     | <b>M</b> Miscellaneous                    |
| <b>C</b> Break and enter                | <b>N</b> Occurrence only                  |
| <b>D</b> Child/young person at risk     | <b>O</b> Personal violence - non domestic |
| <b>E</b> Domestic Violence - no offence | <b>P</b> Person search                    |
| <b>F</b> Found property                 | <b>Q</b> Robbery                          |
| <b>G</b> Fraud                          | <b>R</b> Sexual Offence                   |
| <b>H</b> Lost property                  | <b>S</b> Stealing                         |
| <b>I</b> Malicious damage               | <b>T</b> Stolen vehicle                   |
| <b>J</b> Mental health act              | <b>U</b> Suicide/self harm                |
| <b>K</b> Major traffic crash            | <b>V</b> Traffic                          |

## Celebrate 90 Years with St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church

90 years is a considerable milestone by any measure – but especially when they have been 90 good ones! And this is exactly what we are celebrating this year at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church Naremburn. At a time when history can so easily be lost on some and overlooked by others, we are very glad to celebrate God's faithfulness to us over nearly a century of Christian worship, witness and service.

A special Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 10am on 30 July in place of and combining our four usual services (8am, 10am, 5pm & 7pm).

Morning tea will follow to give us all a chance to meet, mingle and catch up together. Whatever your association with our church might have been, we would love to have you at our celebration. For more information, contact Will Orpwood on 9958 7330.

# Noticeboard

We welcome contributions to the community noticeboard. It provides free advertising for not-for-profit community and charity organisations in Nareburn. Please ring Katherine on 0419 497 243

## Nareburn Branch Library

The Foyer,  
Nareburn Community Centre  
7 Central Street

Mondays & Thursdays 2:30–5:00pm  
Saturdays 9:30–12 Noon  
Ph: 9439 5584 during opening hours  
Ph: 9777 7900 at other times.

## Preparing for Nareburn Community Centre Open Day

Once again the Library is planning to take part in the Nareburn Community Centre Open Day in September. There will be a Library activity for younger readers, plus a book list for all age groups to take home. Your help in assembling the book list would be greatly appreciated so stop by the library to pick up a form, fill it out and go in a draw for a book prize. The more family members that fill in the form, the better our book list will be. Please share your favourite book(s) with everyone, whether you are one year old or 101 or somewhere in between. Was it a picture book about Spot? The latest thriller? A cookbook? A biography? A classic novel? Someone else will want to read it too!

## Nareburn Over 50s

Meets almost every Monday at 10:30am in the Community Centre. Come along and enjoy speakers, demonstrations, discussions and leisure activities. Phone Lorna (Secretary) on 9436 3304 or Nola (President) on 9958 4140 for more information.

## Nareburn Sustainability Street Meeting

Wednesday 21 June from 7:30 – 9:30pm at the Nareburn Community Centre, Central Street.  
For more information, phone Joanne Anderson on 9906 1183.

## NPA June Meeting

The next meeting of the Nareburn Progress Association will be held on Thursday 8 June 2006 from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at the Nareburn Community Centre.  
All residents and businesses are welcome to attend.

# To the Editor

We want to hear from you! Send your thoughts, ideas, stories or letters today! Contributions to PO Box 393, St Leonards 1590 or email NareburnMatters@yahoo.com (150 word limit)

## We can do more about graffiti

I am writing to you concerning all the unsightly street graffiti that is now so prevalent in our area. Like you, I am disgusted at the increase in this graffiti on both public and private property alike, and we have probably all been victims of this sort of mindless behavior in one way or another.

The problem has significantly increased in the last year, and more so in the last six months, and it disturbs me that you can now see these unreadable scrawls everywhere! Something needs to be done. I have reported a number of incidents to Council and the Police, but it's all after the event.

With your local newsletter, I think that you could really push the issue for everyone in the area to be more vigilant and observant when out and about, particularly at night, when most of the graffiti appears. If we can immediately report and catch these people, perhaps we can put an end to the problem, and as part of these criminals punishment, they should be made to clean up their mess as well as pay for the cleaning!

One unsightly "tag" that seems to be appearing everywhere in our area is "Jesik" or "Desik". Someone must know this person, and I would love to see your newsletter target and out this person, and request for information on this person month after month until they are caught. Good luck with exposing and hopefully solving this most obnoxious problem in our beautiful and peaceful area.

*Name withheld*

## Rapid removal is best defence against graffiti

The best defence against graffiti is rapid removal. This deprives the perpetrator the satisfaction of seeing his/her "handiwork" on display. If people see graffiti on Willoughby Council property, then a phone call or email to Council will usually see prompt removal action. Graffiti on other public property, such as that of the RTA or EnergyAustralia usually stays there because of the abysmal removal record of these organisations. Graffiti on private property should be removed by the owner or tenant. Willoughby Council has developed a "Graffiti Busters' Kit". Unfortunately, Council's insistence that the removal agent (a paste called "Go-Graffiti-Go") be non-toxic, means that it will remove graffiti, but only with a lot of effort. If the graffiti has been applied with a felt pen, then the chances are that it can be removed using a clean rag soaked in methylated spirits.

*Michael Haynes*

## Cleanliness is next to Willoughby-ness

I've become quite disappointed of late with the diminishing interest in maintaining the appearance of the local area, especially the area around the construction work associated with the widening of the freeway alongside Willoughby Road. My wife and I, and occasionally friends, would walk up to Nareburn shops for lunch, dinner or just a coffee and at the same time, drop in our dry cleaning, buy a paper, buy some wine etc. This was generally a nice place to sit outside even with construction happening right next door.

However, it seems the local shop-owners are now have lost the motivation to keep the place as clean and presentable as possible despite the construction. Even pulling out a few weeds and picking up some of the rubbish would be a start!

It's great to have initiatives by the Nareburn Progress Association but the organisation needs to get some of the small things in order if it wants support for the larger issues.

*AG Marsh*

## Save our library

In regards to the last edition of Nareburn Matters, I have lived in Nareburn for four years and have been visiting the library at Nareburn almost weekly for approximately three of those years. This was since my first daughter was only one year old and now she is four and can't wait to be able to read books from the 'big kids' section. Her little sister is now 18 months old and also enjoys the visits to the library. I just can't wait until they both read so I can get some books out for myself! We walk to the library from Northcote Street. I have only driven once when it was pouring with rain. The library visits are an important part of our weekly activities. We also tell people about the library when they move into the area. What can we do to ensure it stays in Nareburn?

*Frances Lapointe*

