



Naremburn Matters

September 2006 Vol.2, No.2

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The newsletter of the
Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)

Welcome to this edition of Naremburn Matters

Few would argue that our natural environment significantly impacts our lives. We spend time and resources attempting to improve our surroundings, as is often discussed in this newsletter. Equally important and sometimes overlooked is our physical environment. Unless you are living next to a recently knocked-down single dwelling home with DA approval for 16 townhomes, you might not get too worked up about your physical surroundings. The bricks and mortar around us and at our doorstep do have a huge impact on the look and feel of our lovely neighbourhoods and communities. Let's not overlook that here in Naremburn. Make your voice be heard on the projects around you that make a difference. Do you know about the State Government plans for the entire St Leonards area, including Royal North Shore Hospital which will likely impact half of Naremburn? Do you know the latest news on our precious local library? Read on, and then stand up and say a word.

Katherine Raskob-Esman
Editor

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Naremburn Library – its Future!

A brief background

Council deliberations since our June edition

Quick guide to using the library

It is understandable if you are unaware that the Naremburn Library, a branch of the Willoughby City Library Service, is located in the Community Centre at 7 Central Street. Once upon a time, before the suburb was cut in two by the ever-expanding Freeway system, it was an easy and almost level walk to the NADA (Naremburn Development Amenities Association) Children's Library that was established in 1958 by local residents and staffed by volunteers. NADA had contributed money for the building, furniture, fittings, study tables, heating and so on. Children loved the library. It was a place that they could walk to, and where the local librarians would help with questions, have story hours, etc, and it was open daily. Willoughby Council finally established its municipal library service in the 1970s. As Eric Wilksch said in his 1988 book; *The Naremburn Story* "...complete control ... was assumed by that body [Central Library], Librarians from there also staffed the Naremburn Library, and the volunteer librarians, some of whom had undertaken special training in that field, were dismissed. With children losing their favourite and friendly confidantes, attendances waned and soon the library was available for only one short period a week."

...continued Page 6

NAREMBURN VILLAGE SHOPS

Photographic artwork by:
David Waters
7 June 2005





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Meetings

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

**Nareburn Matters
Editor**

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

Take Five... with Alf Fitzsimmons

You can take the lad out of the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the lad. One of seven brothers, Alf Fitzsimmons left country Queensland where he had learnt the qualities of hard work and service to the community as an axe man, cane cutter, amateur boxer and lifesaver at the Maroochydoore Surf Lifesaving Club.

Initially Alf tried unsuccessfully to join the Second AIF with his brother. After brief service in the Militia or Citizens Military Force (CMF), Alf finally made it to the AIF in 1941. In fact, all his brothers signed up, six to the Army, one to the Air Force. Alf served in the Second Battalion Field Ambulance Service, rising to Regimental Aid Post Sergeant. Stationed aboard the ambulance train that ran between Townsville (later Cairns) and Brisbane, as Australian Forces prevailed against the Japanese, Alf cared for the repatriated wounded of the bloody fighting in New Guinea. In 1946 Alf went to Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, and in 1953 saw active service in Korea. *"I was there when the peace agreement was signed!"* Before leaving for service in Malaysia in 1955, Alf met Phyl who became the love of his life. Her family had moved to Nareburn in the '40s. After his retirement from the Army, Alf was the Senior Medical Assistant in the Australian Army and declined a posting to Canberra as a Warrant Officer.

Alf never lost his love for the soil and on his return home, he not only got stuck into his own backyard garden, he also joined Alan Waugh in cultivating the yard behind the North Sydney Pigeon Racing Club on the corner of Dalleys Road and Ross Lane. *"We called it Alf's Farm!"* Despite his 90 plus years, Alf's front garden would be a credit to a much younger man. His backyard has a healthy array of fruit trees and veggies, many of the latter propagated from seed. As if this was not enough toil, Alf applied himself to the large nature strip on Dalleys Road near Northcote. *"I called it Alf's Reserve. Broke two forks there, you know!"* Many neighbours received Alf's advice and help in their gardens.

In the early years of Neighbourhood Watch, he again became a 'foot soldier', through the letterbox drops in the area. *"I have grateful memories of the late Joe Ciantar. As an Alderman, he did a great deal for Nareburn."* Alf showed that respect and appreciation by handing out 'how to vote' for Joe outside the polling booths at St Cuthbert's at the last Council election. Not bad for a bloke nudging 90!!

Both Alf and Phyl remember Dalleys Road when traffic was light and the air filled with children's laughter from the three nearby playgrounds. *"People all knew one another in those days. On our side of the street were the Barratts, Mastersons, Waughs and Duggans - their son Terry became a Catholic Priest and served as a Military Chaplain on two tours of duty in Vietnam. They all had children at the nearby schools. Bill Plummer in number 22 knew a lot of people in the district. His wife's two sisters lived at 24 and 26 Dalleys."*

I dips me lid to men like Alf Fitzsimmons who have quietly gone about serving their country and local communities in wartime and in peace. True salt of the earth people!

Kevin FitzPatrick,
NPA Vice President

Nareburn Progress Association MEMBERSHIP

\$10 per person, \$1 concession

Membership year ends 31 December

Full names

Address

Telephone Fees \$

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Post to PO Box 393, St Leonards 1590 or bring to next meeting. TOTAL \$

Attention Shopkeepers

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Space is limited so contact
Katherine Raskob-Esman on
0419 497 243
quickly to secure your space.

Lane Cove Tunnel Project

Naremburn Update

The large 'heritage' tree at Central Street alongside Willoughby Road has had to be removed due to it losing much of its root structure following work done on the shared pathway. A specimen tree is planned to replace it.

Plantings around the Naremburn Shops that are on a suspended concrete slab will be covered with a waterproof membrane. A drainage cell and filter fabric with a specialised soil mix prior to planting will be inserted. The area over the eastern tunnel portal is being treated in the same manner.

The landscape design around accessible noise walls will, where possible, have creepers planted in front of noise walls to deter graffiti vandals. This will include the wall that runs along the boundary of Dodds Park.

Landscaping is undertaken as soon as possible after construction is completed so the schedule depends on the completion of construction in each area. A copy of masterplan plantings will be displayed in the vicinity of the shops area in August.

The landscape consultant employed by the tunnel builders has advised that walkthrough of particular areas can be arranged. Come along to the next meeting of the Progress Association on 7 September for an update.

New Naremburn Sign

After more than four years Naremburn has now got its entrance signage! At its meeting on 13 June, Council adopted the following resolution:

'that the lettering 'Naremburn' only is installed on the sandstone wall recently constructed at the corner of Willoughby Road and the Gore Hill Freeway with space left below so the lettering 'Village' could be added at a later date if required.'

A big thank you to David Waters and James Smallhorn for their work on this project.

True or False

How well do you know your suburb?

- 1** This publication, *Naremburn Matters*, is ten years old.
- 2** Garland Road was named after the famous singer, Judy Garland.
- 3** As early as 1902, the Naremburn Progress Association (NPA) requested of Council, that a free library be established in Naremburn.
- 4** A portrait of local futurist and Banana's and Pajamas creator, David Waters has won the 2006 Archibald Prize.
- 5** There were only two men and a dog called Skeeter at the first meeting of the NPA.
- 6** In its first 100 years, St Cuthbert's Anglican Parish has had 21 rectors.

(Answers on page 6)

Kevin FitzPatrick,
NPA Vice President

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National Tree Day



Planet Ark thanks all Nareburn residents for helping to make National Tree Day 2006 such a great success! Trees were planted in Bongalong Street, Glemore Road and Dalley's Road on Sunday 29 July. Thanks to your efforts, Planet Ark achieved their goal of planting the 10 millionth tree since the event began.

In Nareburn and all over the country thousands of people gathered in their local communities to plant over 1.3 million trees, shrubs and grasses.

Preliminary results as at 1 August 2006:

Sites: 3,521

Estimate of trees planted:
over 1.3 million*

Estimate of volunteers involved:
over 330,000 (1/3 million)

Special thanks to Kennards and Willoughby City Council for their assistance with this year's planting in Nareburn.

Editors

* Tree total does not include "megsites" (>10,000 trees) of which there are now 11, a total over 200,000 trees!

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the Nareburn community mourns the loss of Phyllis Kelly on 26 June 2006.

Having spent most of her life in Garland Street, Nareburn, Phyllis was married to Richard Kelly for 48 years. She was always an active member of the community and was in the Nareburn Over 50s Club and a member of the Nareburn Progress Association for over 25 years.

One its most generous benefactors, Phyllis gave a significant sum to the NPA ever year of her membership. Phyllis Kelly is survived by her husband Richard, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Penny Wade

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

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Nareburn Park Playground

The renovation of the Playground, Nareburn Park, Park and Station Streets, was celebrated on 29 July when Willoughby Council with the Nareburn Progress Association hosted the opening of the Playground.



*Mayor Pat Reilly cuts the ribbon at the opening of the newly renovated Nareburn Park Playground.
Photo Katherine Raskob-Esman*

There was a great turnout of people thanks to kind weather and advance publicity.

The Mayor, Councillor Pat Reilly, local Member, Gladys Berijiklian and Councillor Coppock and Councilor Hickey were in attendance. There were apologies from Councillor Lamb and Councillor Thompson who were on holiday.

The children were asked to nominate their favourite things in the park. The favourite features, as voted by the children were the sand pit, the blue water pump and the green climbing ropes. On filling out a quiz the Mayor then presented each child with a small tree.

The NPA President presented small gifts to Don Wilson, Friends Of Nareburn Park for their great assistance and input with this project, and Rick McConaghy and Ken Lincon for their beautiful design and building of the playground. Ken and Rick were in absentia so we'll follow up in due course.

Alice and the parents committee from 2nd Willoughby Scouts put on wonderful food and refreshments.

This renovated playground is a welcome addition to Nareburn's assets, so enjoy.

St Leonard's Draft Strategy & North Shore Hospital Redevelopment

Concept plans for the first stage of the \$702 million redevelopment of North Shore Hospital were submitted to the State Planning Department in August for approval. Significant delays, mostly as a result of community backlash, have plagued the project, however, construction begins this month. The new campus, which includes a main building scheduled for 2012 completion has its primary entrance on Reserve Road.

The redevelopment of the North Shore Hospital campus is part of a NSW Government initiative, Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney, which seeks ways to manage the growth of the metropolitan area over the next 25 years. The Metropolitan Strategy's thrust is to concentrate new jobs in areas that are easily accessible by public transport, and that can capitalize on existing health and education facilities. It nominates 27 centres for particular employment growth and sets targets for additional jobs in each of these centres by 2031. St Leonards is one of these centres. The Strategy sets a target for St. Leonards of 33,000 jobs by 2031 – an increase of 8,000 jobs or 31%. It also targets between 2,000 and 5,000 more dwellings for the centre over this period. Various concerns have been raised by Council, including the cost of the redevelopment, which should not be borne by the local community. In addition, roads within the site providing direct access between Herbert Street and the Pacific Highway, and Reserve Road and Pacific Highway, are not supported in the plan. Council's Traffic Section is particularly concerned about the proposed extension of Westbourne Street through to Herbert Street. It is considered that this road has the potential to intensify use of the existing "ratrun" through the Nareburn residential area via Ella Street and Dalleys Road and that this route will be an attractive short cut between Herbert Street and the Pacific Highway.

...continued Page 5

Willoughby Leisure Centre Goes Green

Willoughby City Council recently undertook a program of works that have been designed to reduce the level of energy and water usage at Willoughby Leisure Centre with a view to making the centre much more environmentally friendly while putting much less strain on valuable resources such as water, electricity and gas.

Over recent months the centre has installed energy saving devices to all of the lighting within the building and flow restrictors to all of the taps, showers and toilets. More recently solar heating panels were installed to the northern side of the roof of the pool hall. These solar panels will enable the pools to be heated, at least in part if not in full, by solar power rather than using the conventional gas boiler.

The Leisure Centre has also recently taken delivery of thermal pool blankets that are used to cover the pools at night. The pool blankets help in two areas. Firstly they prevent temperature loss over night and as such there is significantly less demand for the boiler to operate and maintain the pool at the desired temperature and secondly they prevent water evaporation which in turn leads to less demand for our very valuable fresh water to "top up" the pool levels. Both of these advantages lead to less chemical usage in obtaining the correct water chemistry.

Soon to be installed are two 20,000 litre rain water tanks which will collect water for use in "topping up" the swimming pools rather than using fresh tap water. All the water for the pools gets chemically treated to ensure that it is safe for swimming and as such using rainwater rather than tap water will mean that the centre is doing its bit to help relieve the strain on our current water supply.

Also to be installed in the very near future is a "Cogeneration System". This system acts as a small stand-alone power station from which all of the by-products are put to good use. The "cogen" system will use gas to heat water to make steam. The steam will drive turbines that will create electricity to be used on site. The hot water that is generated in this process will be used in the domestic hot water supply and the resulting hot air will be used to heat the various areas of the centre. This system will mean that the centre uses one energy source to create others. As a result the centre will use less energy and therefore significantly reduce its contribution to greenhouse emissions.

Undertaking these works comes at a financial cost to the council however the impact these changes will have on the environment and the sustainability of our precious resources are considered to be worth the expense. Willoughby Council hope that residents in the local area will show their appreciation of these initiatives by supporting the centre by way of making it their first choice when it comes to finding a place to undertake their exercise programs.

*Chris Fake, General Manager
Willoughby Leisure Centre*

St Leonards redevelopment

continued from Page 4

Council seeks a redevelopment site that does not attract traffic by providing vehicle short cuts within the locality and is pedestrian / bicycle, as well as bus, focused.

Provision for a more efficient and effective stormwater system within the site would not only alleviate community concerns about pollution of Flat Rock Creek but also mitigate any potential future nuisance flooding arising from the development. Council seeks to work with the State Government on this redevelopment proposal of the Royal North Shore Hospital, which is significant for the St Leonards commercial centre and for medical facilities in the northern region.

Contact Craig O'Brien of Council's Environmental Services Section on 9777 7647 for more information or see www.planning.nsw.gov.au.

Comic Corner

There was a little old lady living in Les is a chap who is full of jokes. And he was precocious and very lively as a child. He tells us that one day, when was about seven years old, a teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now class, if I stood on my head the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.

"Yes," the class said.

"Then why is it that while I'm standing upright in an ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?"

Quick as a flash, Les shouted, "Because your feet ain't empty!"

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True or False

Naremburn Library *continued from Page 1*

1 FALSE

Naremburn Matters was first published in April 2005. However, a community newsletter, similar to that of the Northbridge Progress Association, was suggested at the Naremburn Progress Association meeting on 13 February 1996.

2 FALSE

Garland Road takes its name from WA Garland who lived at Lot 11 on Central Street. Known as Garland Cottage, it became 41 Garland Road and still exists at the corner of Central and Garland.

3 TRUE

At the NPA meeting of 7 May 1902, a motion was put and carried: "That the Association respectfully requests the Council of the Borough of Willoughby to take such steps as are deemed necessary for the establishment of a free library at Naremburn, under the powers conferred by Section 141 of the Municipalities Act".

4 FALSE

The portrait of David Waters actually won its section in the 2006 North Sydney Art Prize.

5 FALSE

At the first meeting of the NPA we understand that "the names of 31 persons were taken who promised to join the Association". By 1925 there were 241 financial members.

6 TRUE

From its initial foundation in 1883 in Market Street, there have been 21 rectors. The Rev Daniel Murphy of Willoughby Parish cared for Naremburn well. The present St Cuthbert's Church was opened on 29 July 1916. We congratulate St Cuthbert's on its 90 year partnership with the Gospel and the Naremburn Community.

The building was gradually taken over by other programmes, and in 1986 when the site was redeveloped, the library service bore no resemblance to the concept that had fired NADA members. The current library service that operates from the foyer of the Centre is open for 7 ? hours, Mondays (except public holidays) 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM, Thursdays 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM and Saturdays 9:30 PM to 12 Noon. Not much, but at least the library still exists!

Last year, Council commissioned Dr David Jones of the State Library of NSW to report on this city's branch library service (July 2005). Dr Jones stated of Naremburn Library "...there may be a long term option to close this branch, should the Northbridge and Artarmon Libraries be upgraded...". The NPA alerted residents to this alarming fact in the March issue of Naremburn Matters. Several Naremburnians wrote expressing concern. The NPA contacted Mr John Owen, WCC General Manager, who stated in early May that it is not Council's intention to close down Naremburn Library but rather to upgrade existing branch libraries and to eventually establish a new branch library at Chatswood West. We reported this in our June issue.

What has happened since? At the 19 June meeting of the Finance, Economic, Cultural and Community Development and General Purpose Committee, a 'Branch Library Study – Additional Report' was an agenda item. Although all branch libraries were covered, the report's main focus was Northbridge Library relocation options.

Concerning Naremburn, the report proposed: "*Short term – Maintain facility in current location and examine ways to secure the book stock. Long Term – Examine options to expand facility and isolate from other activities on site. This could include the addition of a second storey or relocation to another building, in particular a shopfront within the Naremburn shops could be examined...Estimated opening Hours 17.5 hours per week....*". The report and recommendations went to Council at its 26 June Meeting with one of the three resolutions being that: "*Council plan for the longer term development of Branch Libraries at Naremburn and Castlecove as outlined. Further Reports be presented to Council following negotiations and masterplanning.*". There is no indication of what form these will take or in what timeframe, and although Council will engage in community consultation, it has not been indicated how extensive and involving of residents this process would be. The NPA, through its recently established Naremburn Library and Community Centre Sub Committee, will monitor the issues.

Current users are strong supporters of an improved library for Naremburn. However, inadequate and inconvenient opening hours, coupled with the bridge separation scenario, have resulted in many residents not using the facility. There was a change in the suburb's demographic and our three schools closed as there were insufficient school age children. Yet, now there are more and more babies and young children. A library for them to use and enjoy is essential. And adults have library needs, too. For those of you who don't use the Library, some quick tips on just a few of the benefits.

- <http://webcat.shore.shorelink.nsw.gov.au> for the web catalogue for Willoughby (part of Shorelink) and this includes books, CDs, DVDs, etc, that are held at the Central Library in Chatswood, or at Naremburn, Artarmon and Northbridge
- as a registered borrower you can request any item to be held for you to collect from Naremburn Library
- Shorelink gives you access to Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman and North Sydney's Stanton Library with the option to arrange collection from Naremburn Library
- If the item you want is not held in Shorelink the librarian can request it from another library
- Naremburn Library is in easy walking distance from any part of our suburb - a good way to clock up your 10,000 steps on your pedometer!
- Westerners must use the 'bridge' or walk under the Gore Hill Freeway to cross Willoughby Road at the Garland Road lights!
- The Library although small, has a wide selection of books, etc, in excellent condition
- Check it out!

Join our mailing list for 'breaking news' on library issues and e-mail your comments/suggestions/support for our Library to NaremburnMatters@yahoo.com



Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

September 2006 Report

Stranger Danger update

Our strangers have been a lot less active over the last few months, but they are still being seen regularly in the area. Please keep an eye out for anyone behaving inappropriately around children and inform the police on 9414 8499.

Stealing from cars

One of the main crimes that police have to manage in our area is stealing from cars. In many cases, the damage done to the car in the process of being stolen costs much more than the item being stolen. We know of cars that have had their front side windows smashed so that an old street directory can be stolen. Buying a second-hand street directory will not cost much, but the window cost over \$600.00 to replace.

Police have advised that these types of petty theft are very common in our area with expensive damage being done for little reward to the thief in a great many cases. There are, though, people that leave things like mobile phones and laptops in their cars only to find them stolen.

Police have advised that the best thing to do to prevent these types of theft is to

make sure that your car is neat with nothing left in sight in the interior. It seems that even a few coins in the middle of the seat or the occasional chocolate bar are enough to tempt some thieves.

House alarms

Those that have them, love them, but those that live next to them when they go off regularly don't.

Some alarms regularly go off not long after their owners leave them alone, like the one next door to us. If this is happening in your street please let your neighbours know that their alarm is going off regularly without cause. It can mean that there is a fault in the system (such as an ant infestation in the sensors) or it could mean that the alarm is not being set correctly.

It is pointless having an alarm that regularly goes off for no good reason – the people around you will start ignoring it and not call the police or check things out.

Some alarms turn the siren off after several minutes (these are the legal ones – the ones that go on and on are now illegal). However, there are some alarms that turn off only to come back to life again a little while later. Some of these can stop and start many times.

Alarms seem to be aware of the time of day and also the travel plans of their owners. There are some alarms that work really well until 4am on Christmas morning. Upset at their owners leaving them for the Christmas holidays they can wind their siren up to full volume every ten minutes or so until the owners return – even if this is weeks later.

If you are going away on holidays we recommend that you leave the codes and instructions for your alarm with trusted neighbours, so that it can be turned off or reset if it becomes a problem.

If you don't trust your neighbours with this information, please trust a friend or relative that lives reasonably close and leave their phone numbers with your neighbours so that they can share any bad alarm experiences while you are away.

If an alarm does go off it is good to have a quick look to see if it is the owners having difficulties with a troublesome alarm, provided you can do this without putting yourself in harm's way in the process.

Please call the police at the local station (9414 849) and let them know that the alarm has gone off. They will come and check things out.



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.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting for 2006 is

Date: Wednesday 20 September 2006

Time: 8:00pm

Where: St Cuthbert's Church Hall,
Merrenburn Avenue

STOP PRESS

Despite requests to Coles Myer Ltd, at the time of going to press it seems that the new 1st Choice Liquor Store building will become blue to 'badge' it as a 1st Choice store. Willoughby Council has no power to prevent the colour change from cream brick to blue paintwork, as a DA is not required.

Is this another case of a conglomerate that purports to be strong on environmental issues, being insensitive to the wishes of the local community by visually polluting the area of the village shops?

Noticeboard

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

Willoughby Spring Festival

Willoughby City celebrates ten years of its magnificent and much-loved Spring Festival. Streetfair 2006 on Saturday 9 September will feature a Global Friendship stage that will host, among a variety of performances, a visiting delegation from our friendly city Sugunami, Japan. An enormous variety of events will be held during the month. For more information contact WCC on 9777 1000 or visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

Naremburn Branch Library

The Foyer,
Naremburn 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 Naremburn Community Centre Open Day

Naremburn Library has received fabulous suggestions for our forthcoming book list - thank you! Please let the Library know about the books you've enjoyed reading, so that the list can be published soon. Forms are available at the Library.

The Library will be taking part in the Naremburn Community Centre Spring Open Day on Saturday 23 September from 10am to 2pm by offering a Library competition and a book prize. Lots of great family entertainment will be available, such as a kindy farm, face painting, balloon tricks, a craft stall, a sausage sizzle and more! Everyone is invited to come and learn about Naremburn Community Centre. For more information phone 9439 8814

The Naremburn Library will be also providing some activities for children during the October school holidays. There will be a craft session for kids aged five to 12 years on Tuesday 3 October from 3 to 4 pm. Younger children (to six years) can enjoy the story time on Tuesday 10 October from 10.30 to 11:15 am. The theme will be "Carnivale" and the aim will be to have lots of fun. Please phone 9777 7900 to book a place or call in at Naremburn Library during opening hours.

Naremburn Over 50s

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

Northern Suburbs Philatelic Society

Meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Naremburn Library at 7:45pm. Visitors always welcome. For more information phone Paul Storm (Secretary) on 9419 7354.

To the Editor

Contributions to PO Box 393, St Leonards 1590
or email NaremburnMatters@yahoo.com (150 word limit)

I was out for a walk to St Leonards via Talus Reserve, on Wilsch's Walk recently and was horrified to see the environmental vandalism carried out by Council workers at some time during the last couple of weeks – adjacent to the tennis courts numerous trees carefully planted have been butchered at ground level and destroyed the canopy effect that has been carefully developed in recent years. It is an eyesore and one to be ashamed of. Please have a look for yourselves. I have spoken to locals who have assured me that they asked WCC for the "branches overhanging and protruding through the tennis court fences to be trimmed". What has occurred seems to be in direct contrast to the "New Willoughby Tree & Bushland Preservation Order" so proudly trumpeted by WCC in its May edition of Bushcare News.

I would go further and suggest that if a private individual did what WCC has done on this site, major court action would be pending – who in WCC takes credit for this action and who will ensure it is never repeated?

Name withheld

Councillor Corner

by Councillor Stuart Coppock Stuart.Coppock@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

The development that is proposed at Vale Street, Cammeray has kept many people busy, including myself. North Sydney Council looks determined to press ahead with a six-storey development on a cliff face that people in Marks Street and nearby areas will overlook. Apart from the locality impact, I am very concerned about North Sydney Council's apparent disregard for the bushland adjacent to the site and the impact any development will have on a wider scale. When proper and unemotional analysis is done one has to be stunned why any Council would press on. North Sydney Council has gone about the rezoning and DA application in a most illogical manner. The main concern on the part of the Council is the outlay of money; North Sydney has other things it places at a higher priority. In all likelihood, the property will get built. I suggest without being inflammatory, that because the focus is elsewhere in Council at the moment, the testing of all issues just seems to have not occurred. So what does this mean? Without spelling it out, avenues of real and serious inquiry are available to be followed up by the residents' action group. I continue to receive emails and telephone calls to attend meetings, so I feel I have been of use. From across the valley it seems that North Sydney Council are more helpful to the site owner than the surrounding residents. While I reiterate that the appeal process is hard to beat, I do believe the residents' groups are hard and thorough. However, something will happen on this site. All I can write is the corny old saying, 'watch this space'. It is going to get very interesting if the residents keep up the pressure.

by Councillor Kate Lamb Kate.Lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Council has been successful in obtaining a \$500K grant from the Federal Government for restoration works on the Walter Burley Griffin designed Incinerator in the Bicentennial Reserve. Council intends to return the building to a public use, possibly as a gallery and kiosk, as well as generating some funds through rental as professional offices, of the lower level/s. As Willoughby's premier item of built heritage, this is a very welcome development, adding to the attractions of the already very popular Hallstrom Park and Bicentennial Reserve recreational areas.

Some residents have expressed alarm about removal of trees behind the Talus Street Tennis Courts. Council's Jeff Organ, Director of Technical Services, says this was, "to prevent future damage to the tennis court surfacing as well as to overcome maintenance issues". The area was planted by Council following the Meriton development and has never been thinned. The work was carried out by Council's staff in a relatively narrow strip - about one metre - immediately adjacent to the tennis courts. Although the work was discussed with the Park Care coordinator, unfortunately it wasn't discussed with the volunteers who have done so much work in this location. Jeff promised that bushland management staff will now contact the volunteer group to discuss the need for the work as well as proposal for replacement plantings.

