



Naremburn Matters

December 2007 Vol.3, No.3

Circulation 3,000

The newsletter of the
Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)

FREE CONCERT in NAREMBURN PARK

WCC, in association with your Progress Association, presents

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, 16 March 2008, 6:00 pm

Bring your children, your mate, your friends, a picnic, a rug and hear the WSO perform 'just down the road' ! Relax! Enjoy the concert! Dine in our park. Food and drink stalls. March issue of NM for full details. Put this event in your Diary! Spread the word!



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Bush Poetry Reading at Dusk, Lawson Cave, Bicentennial Reserve

Sunday 10 February 2008 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

WCC's bushland staff member Don Swonnell and well-known Sydney actor, Peter Carmody, will deliver wonderful poetry readings and tell humorous historical yarns about Henry Lawson and his time spent writing poetry in the cave and the surrounding local area. Bring a rug, a cushion or a camp chair, your own refreshments and a mug for billy tea and damper. Walk to Lawson Cave on the bike/walking path, accessed from Grandview Street, Park Road, Ruth Street, Gaza Road, and Market Street East. Bookings, enquiries and Wet Weather message on 9777 7755. If Wet Weather on 10 February, alternate date is Sunday 24 February 2008, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Christmas at Naremburn Village Shops!!

Friday 7 December 2007 at 6:00 pm

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO MEET NAREMBURN CHILDREN TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS. GET MUM AND DAD TO BRING YOU DOWN TO THE SHOPS TO TALK TO SANTA !!



Photos: Rob Frey III

NAREMBURN VILLAGE SHOPS

Photographic artwork by:
David Waters
7 June 2005





Naremburn Progress Association
Founded 1901
ABN 93 907 169 376
PO Box 393
St Leonards 1590

President

Kevin FitzPatrick : 9439 8119

Vice President

David Lendrum : 9439 3372

Secretary

Frances O'Brien : 9436 1536

Treasurer

Carolyn New : 9438 1903

Public Officer

Trisha FitzPatrick : 9439 8119

General Meetings

Naremburn Community Centre
Central Street, Naremburn
Commencing at 7:30 pm with a
15 minute Open Forum ahead of the
Main business of the meeting.

Thursday 13 December 2007

No meeting in January 2008

Thursday 14 February 2008

Thursday 14 March 2008 (AGM)

Editorial Committee

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Kevin FitzPatrick

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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.

President's Point of View

Naremburn has long since shed its limiting images of 'Struggle Town', 'Pension Town', even its epithet as Willoughby's 'Cinderella Suburb'. Recent events in Willoughby City show that we are valued team players striving to achieve the objectives of our Association's Constitution, "to promote the welfare and advancement of the community in the Naremburn area."

Naremburn took out 3rd and 4th places out of a field of 12, in the Trivia Night staged by the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations, part of the WCC Spring Festival. The NPA participated in the highly successful Open Day at our Community Centre in Central Street; a vote of sincere thanks to Council's Events Department and the Local History Section of the Chatswood Library for their generous support and assistance with our display.

The NPA is actively supporting the 7th annual Christmas Party at the Naremburn Shops – Santa will be there!

The NPA's domain name has been registered and work is progressing on the development of our website that will provide speedier information transfer about local issues than this quarterly newsletter can provide.

The NPA's Events Sub-Committee is liaising with WCC to stage a free Willoughby Symphony Orchestra Concert in Naremburn Park on Sunday 16 March 2008.

I gratefully acknowledge the Association's generous and hard-working members of its Executive Committee, Naremburn Matters editorial team, DAs Sub-Committee, as well as Membership, and the Open Spaces & Landscaping Sub-Committees.

As a Progress Association, we acknowledge and thank our advertisers. Without their support and backing Naremburn Matters would not be possible. Please support our 'sponsors'.

Finally, to each and every one of you, a happy, safe and joyous Christmas and a great 2008!

Kevin FitzPatrick
President NPA

A 'Superhero Summer' with Naremburn Branch Library

The Library is offering free holiday activities for young Superheroes this summer.

- Children aged from 5 years to 12 years can do Action Hero craft on Thursday, 10 January 2008, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- There will also be a Superhero Story Time for children 6 years and under on Friday, 18 January 2008, 10:30 am to 11:15 am.
- The Summer Reading Club is on again and the slogan this year is "Superheroes Read".

Bookings and more information are available at the Library, located in the foyer of the Naremburn Community Centre.



WILLOUGHBY LEISURE CENTRE



Kickstart your New Year's resolution at the Willoughby Leisure Centre.

Join before 31 December 2007 and pay nothing until next year.

The Willoughby Leisure Centre offers everyone, no matter what age or fitness level, a safe, fun and welcoming community fitness facility.

Promotion valid until 31/12/07, conditions apply, based on a 12 month direct debit membership.

**Join NOW and
pay NOTHING
until 2008**

Visit www.willoughbyleisure.com.au or phone 9958 5799 for further information.

The Willoughby Leisure Centre – your community centre – is proudly owned and managed by Willoughby City Council.



**Recognize this photo from September 1978?
Willoughby Road, looking South. Things have changed !!
We need your help !**

The NPA is looking to photographically preserve the identity of our suburb 'Naremburn 2065'. Do you have any historical pictures? Of your street, your home, you or your family, or even your dog, pictures within our neighbourhood? No matter if you feel it is not important - it is to us, and future generations !

There have been lots of changes in our neck of the woods !! The tram has gone ! The major stores have gone. The primary schools have gone. The Warringah Expressway, Gore Hill Freeway, and Lane Cove Tunnel Project – all have changed our landscape, our streets and the traffic in them !!

Help us if you can. You can give us your photos, or we can copy your photos to disc for NPA records. We will provide copies to the Local History Collection at the Chatswood Library.

Make your impact on the photographic history of Naremburn.
Please phone 9439 8119 or e-mail to naremburnmatters@yahoo.com

Tips, Taps & Clicks

(Computer hints for Windows)

To read the small print on a website 'Ctrl' and ' + ' make the font larger; 'Ctrl' and ' - ' makes the font smaller.

To switch between programs you are running in Windows, use 'Alt Tab'

The Scroll bar on the far right hand side of your program can be used in many ways:-

- Click on the arrows at the top and bottom of the scroll bar to move 1 line at a time;
- Drag the grey bar up and down and move as far as you drag;
- Click once in the scroll bar below the grey bar to move down 1 screen, click once in the scroll bar above to move up 1 screen.

To switch between documents in Microsoft Word, use 'Ctrl Tab'.

To switch between spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel, use 'Ctrl Tab'.

Kali Lawrie
Olympia Road

Some estate agents expect you to pay hundreds of dollars before your property is sold.

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OPEN 7 DAYS

NPA Year End Meeting

The final meeting for 2007
will be held on

**Thursday 13 December
at 7:30 pm**

**Naremburn Community Centre,
7 Central Street, Naremburn.**

All residents and businesses within
Naremburn are welcome to attend.

Formalities will conclude earlier
to enable some festive
cheer and chatter.

Tea, coffee, wine will be provided.

Please feel free to
bring a plate of food to share.

Bouquets to:

Oscar Miao, of Naremburn, is the current Australian Chess Under 10 Champion. Oscar competed in the World Youth Championship in Anka, Turkey, in November. Congratulations, Oscar!

St Cuthbert's and St Leonard's, our local Naremburn churches, with their outreach programs, put into action the spirit of the Season. St Cuthbert's, at their recent Fair Day, collected non perishable goods that will make up hampers to be distributed to needy families this Christmas. St Leonards recently served 240 meals to the lonely and needy at St Canice's Kitchen, Kings Cross – a role this parish performs four times a year.

Lorna Clark of Naremburn, for her many contributions to the community recently received a Community Award from the Hon. Joe Hockey.

Delicia at Naremburn Shops was recognised in the 2007 Fresh Food Section of the North Shore Times Business Awards. Well done! Delicia also donates pastries for supper at our NPA meetings.

Margaret Willington, loyal and long-serving NPA Executive Committee Member, recently had a stent stint at RNSH. It gave us all quite a fright! Now she is back at home and on the mend. Thank you, Margaret, for all that you do for this community.

Naremburn's Bushy Bits

In this column, I am going to take you on a little trip around Naremburn's surviving bushland, its reserves and special sites, while relating some history and the modern use of these areas. Let us start right on our border with Cammeray – West St Reserve.

The reserve lies to the east of West St (so named for the western edge of Cammeray) gradually sloping down 3 levels until it drops away into the bush above Quarry Creek (our border with North Sydney).

It was bisected by Wharf Rd, (now Grafton Ave that terminates at West St) crossing West St and the reserve, winding down to where Quarry Creek meets Flat Rock Creek in Long Bay (now Tunks Park). Here wharves were located for barges and boats to pick up the sandstone from near by quarries, for the building of Sydney.

This now open grassed reserve has seen many changes from running cattle, horses and sheep to pigs from one 'Fatty' Dawson, who ran a piggery here from around the northern corner below Dawson St in the 1860s. The ruins of his house and gardens are still there and can be reached by a difficult track at the bottom of the reserve or from the Dawson Track running down the south side of Flat Rock Gully.

The reserve also had houses and huts on it, particularly at the northern end, spilling over from Dawson Street (then called Albert St).

One amusing feature was known as the 'the dunny with the best view on the North Shore'. Perched on the edge (no door), it afforded the occupant the glorious views of Flat Rock Creek meeting Long Bay, running out into Middle Harbour. Aaah ...the simple pleasures! All that remains is the concrete base, steps and a pipe!

However, the reserve has survived amidst the glory of surrounding bush with its beautiful black butts and Sydney red gums growing up from the gully below it.

Willoughby City Council has added seats and tables for contemplation of this beautiful site, and it is also an unleashed dog area. Whacko, it's all here!

In March 2008 issue, we will go around the corner to Dawson Street and Market St east, with its history of Market gardens and early settlement and illustrating its location with a map.

Don Swonnell – Walter Street



Gil Davis & Associates

Martin Wright has been selling real estate in **Naremburn** for the past 7 years. Below is a list of his sales for 2007 including the **TOP PRICE ACHIEVED FOR A HOUSE IN NAREMBURN** so far this year.

7 Remah Close, Naremburn **SOLD** for **\$1,835,000**

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Remah Close | 11A Station Street |
| 1/76 Dalleys Road | 53 Mitchell Street |
| 3 Remah Close | 11 Moonbria Street |
| 10/76 Dalleys Road | 4 Remah Close |
| 3 Waters Road | 72A Dalleys Road |
| 15/20 Dalleys Road | 4/19 Station Street |
| 4/5 Chelmsford Road | 2/19 Francis Street |
| 4/44 Waters Road | 3/19 Francis Street |
| 54 Waters Road | 2 Remah Close |
| 7 Remah Close | 6 Remah Close |
| | 21 Olympia Road |

That's over \$18,000,000 in SALES this year in Naremburn alone. Call MARTIN WRIGHT your local Naremburn area specialist, nobody knows the area like he does. PH 9411 7299 MOB 0412 370 453 www.hometraders.com.au

"Making it happen"





Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

December 2007 Report

DRUGS Part 2

Introduction

Following our previous newsletter, this time we are looking at what we can do to deal with the drug issue.

Children/Young adults

One of the most effective ways to discourage young people from developing a drug habit is for parents to talk to their children about drugs. The government recently issued a document to all households about how to do this.

While this is known to be effective, there is no guarantee. Some young people try drugs and develop a habit despite the best efforts of the people they come into contact with.

The most important thing that someone who cares for a young person can do is to recognise the signs of drug use/abuse and try to discuss this with a young person, or encourage them to seek professional help. The signs were covered in our last newsletter, but in brief involve mood swings, disturbed sleep and red eyes and noses without a cold being experienced.

Dealing with addicts

While many addicts are non-violent, some, particularly those on Ice, methamphetamine, can suddenly become both aggressive and violent with little provocation. If someone is clearly affected

by drugs and behaving erratically the recommended method of dealing with them is to remove oneself to a safe distance and call the police.

If you are dealing with someone who is not necessarily erratic but you feel frightened or uncomfortable it is best to call the police and let them handle the situation.

Rehabilitation

Many addicts say they would like to be rehabilitated, and they probably do, but it is not that simple. Beating an addiction takes a great deal of willpower for many people and requires professional assistance for some.

One of the issues that addicts face is that it is difficult for them to organise themselves to obtain rehabilitation. Those of us dealing with addicts in our personal life can assist by helping the addict to get into rehab. The main thing required for rehabilitation to be successful, however, is the deep desire to beat the addiction, so this needs to be present or all efforts will be fruitless.

Another big issue is that there are a limited number of places available in recognised rehabilitation programs, and this can make obtaining help even more difficult.

The main rehabilitation providers in our area can be found on the following website:

www.bcl.com.au/sydney/help/drugs.htm

Many of the major charities operate drug counselling and associated services and are worth contacting.

Lifeline and other similar phone counselling services also have information available to refer people in need to.

Holidays

To prevent thieves targeting your home:-

- Ask someone to collect mail (and junk mail)
- Have lawns mown
- Put some lights on timers
- Have a friend or neighbour pop in occasionally
- Don't put boxes out on the pavement – it advertises what can be stolen
- Rip boxes up/turn inside out
- Register on the police vacant house list.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is:

Date: Wednesday 19 December, 2007

Time: 8:00pm

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

If you would like to join our email report service please email us at naremnhw@tpg.com.au.

Penny Wade

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

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15 Normac Street, Roseville

Phone: 9417 4422

Wed-Sun 8am-4pm BYO

St Leonard's Catholic Church



Willoughby Road
Naremburn

**Come join us for our Christmas
Celebrations!**

Christmas Eve

6.30pm Carols for 7:00pm Vigil Mass
11.30pm Carols for Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8:00am Mass 10:00am Carols for 10:30am Mass

Reconciliation

9:45am – 10.45am Saturday 22/12

*Everyone is welcome to share in our Christmas Liturgies
For all enquiries, please call Parish Office 9438 1011 or
parishoffice@naremburn-northbridge.com*

*For information on Weddings, Baptisms etc. visit
www.naremburn-northbridge.com*



John Geoffrey Allen

8 April 1929 ~ 28 September 2007

John's invaluable contribution to our community:

- President of the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations, 1995 until his death
- Past President of the NPA
- Secretary of the NPA for its Centenary Year 2001 and active in its celebrations
- NPA Constitution for Incorporation
- NPA Vice President 2008
- His style was to work in the background
- 'Solomon' role as a mediator
- Nareburn Shops - upgrade of area
- Encouraged Shops Christmas party
- Channel 9 helicopter flight path as impacting Nareburn residents
- 'Forum' Development consultation process
- Impact of the storm water channel on Flat Rock Creek
- Link Road, potential closure of Ella Street bridge and the Lambs Road bridge
- LCTP community consultation process
- Electromagnetic radiation from TV transmission towers in our area
- Safety House program
- Mental Health Service in Willoughby City
- And, many other issues.

Vale John Allen – we will remember you.

John Allen ~ Some Recollections

I first met John in about 1990 at a Progress Association meeting which John attended not long after he and Maxine had moved into Nareburn where they had been renovating and extending their home in Olympia Road.

John would have been about 61 in that year so perhaps a recent retirement from his job may have given him more time to get involved in local issues. I seem to recall that road closures in West Nareburn and the Channel 9 helicopter may have had an impact on life in Olympia Road. John certainly fought a long term battle with Channel 9 over what he saw as the illegal use of their helicopter.

My wife Wendy and I were invited to John and Maxine's home for an afternoon tea gathering not long after we met and in the following years we shared many very pleasant social occasions, usually afternoon teas with John's favourite white wine and Maxine's red ensuring that conversation flowed easily.

John was a very good listener. He had an ability to draw people out and a conversation with John, whether it was on a serious or light hearted topic was always a pleasantly constructive experience. He would listen carefully then make points which would expand the topic and ensure much ground was covered. John and Wendy, an English teacher, often enjoyed complex language discussions which often included plays on words and much joking.

Whether socializing or in meetings I always believed that John aimed for fairness and that everyone deserved the opportunity to have their say.

I feel that it was this belief that led John to become involved with the fledgling Federation of Progress Associations and he was active as an office bearer and President for many years. I was also a foundation Nareburn delegate to the Federation and as in all things the discussions held at meetings chaired by John were always carefully run to ensure fairness.

John never jumped to conclusions; if the business at hand required a process to be followed then followed it was until a pragmatic conclusion was reached.

In many situations John would put himself in the 'back seat' and observe. If nothing needed to be said John would keep quiet. He obviously did not need to hear the sound of his own voice, and if points had been adequately covered by others John had no need to say more.

"Who was John Allen?" is not an easy question to answer. He was certainly a private person and he and Maxine led a self contained life in their home with their daughter Amanda.

John was a gentleman in the true sense of the word and he will be greatly missed.

David Lendrum
Market Street

Nareburn Cammeray Anglican Church – CHRISTMAS events

Sunday 16th – KIDDIES CAROLS

A Carols service especially for 1-5 year olds
4-5pm Cammeray Church

Sunday 16th – CAROLS IN GREEN PARK

Our 2nd Annual Community Carols Service.
From 6pm with a sausage sizzle beforehand.

Saturday 22nd – Monday 24th CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

For kids Kindy '08 to Year 6 '07

Sunday 23rd – TRADITIONAL CAROLS

Monday 24th – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Nareburn Church 5pm

Tuesday 25th – CHRISTMAS SERVICES

See our website for service times.



www.ncachurch.com

for all our details

For all enquiries and registrations contact

office@ncachurch.com

church office t 9906 7110 f 9906 1373
205 willoughby rd, nareburn nsw 2065

OUR SUNDAY MEETINGS

all saints' cammeray
5 carter st, cammeray
9:00am 10:30am 5:30pm
2:00pm sydney japanese evangelical church
(service in Japanese)

crows nest centre
2 ernest pl, crows nest
5:30pm nareburn asian australian church

nareburn school
cnr willoughby rd & dalleys rd, nareburn
10:00am nareburn asian australian church
5:00pm fix – youth group

st cuthbert's
cnr willoughby rd & merrenburn ave, nareburn
8:00am 10:00am 5:00pm 7:00pm

Naremburn Village Shops

Naremburn lays claim to being one of the first commercial centres on Sydney's North Shore. The first Naremburn businesses existed in Central Township in our area, east from Central Street to Brook Street.

In the early 1880s, a workshop referred to as The Cabinet Factory existed at Lot 34 Garland Road. Around the corner at 39 Central Street Mrs Kennedy ran a small variety store. The first Catholic School opened in Market Street in a disused store, once a post office that was registered in 1882. A newspaper shop existed on the south side. At 51 Slade Street a bricked up shopfront is evidence of James Butcher Shop. You could purchase your sly grog up in Adolphus Street, while home industries such as dress-making, millinery, music teaching and even an art studio in Slade Street run by the Dorph sisters met other needs.

In 1898, Central Township with its own Market Street was challenged. Progress came with the extension of the tram service from Crows Nest to Willoughby along what is now called Willoughby Road. Trade in Market Street declined; businesses relocated close to the tramline. The first record of a shop at this site was in 1904 on the east side of Willoughby Road between Slade Street and Rhodes Avenue, both of which at that time, met this main road. Shops began to spring up on the western side. It is suggested that Anderson Hardware commenced in 1905, while the building on the north east corner of Rohan Street, now Forsyth Coffee, displays 1907 on its façade.

The 'battle of the banger' raged along Willoughby Road. To the quip 'we make sausages for the gentry', butcher Crittle blasted back "we make sausages for Royalty'. A counter came "we make sausages for the King" to which Crittle royally responded by placing a Union Jack in the window with the caption "God save the King!". Not to be outflanked by the banger barrage, butcher Bruce signed "sausages make the breakfast, if we make the sausages".

By the 1950s the Naremburn Shopping Centre prospered; competitive pricing encouraged residents to shop locally. Chain stores Goodlands, Moran & Cato and Derrins hit 'the 'Burn'. Fruiterer, Aldo Di Santo opened his first store on the corner of Slade Street in the late 1960s transferring to what is now Naremburn Natural when his and neighbouring stores fell to the Freeway extension. The 1980s Freeway works caused further havoc to local businesses, and this was repeated yet again with the Gore Hill Freeway and the Lane Cove Tunnel Project.

We pay tribute to those business people who have provided goods and services to the Naremburn Community during a challenging period of several decades.

If you look at David Waters' photos at the bottom of pages 1 and 8, I will point out our 'survivors'.

Page 8

Left to right: Andersons True Value Hardware – The Anderson family traded from 1905-1969 and a number of others followed. Wes Waldock took over the business in 1986 and continues to give informed personal service to us. Naremburn Medical Practice – Dr Raffi Sahagian established his practice under the third portico of that building in 1986. At one time this was Stanley New's Dental Practice. Hockeys First National Real Estate – Richard Hockey opened his doors in 1969 making it Naremburn's longest running 'original owner' business, although it is not in its original location.

Page 1

The century old building that houses Forsyth Coffee, has had many tenants, including a General Store and a Clockmaker. Rob Forsyth opened his Coffee House in 1981. Hair by Maree – She worked in the former salon prior to opening her own business in 1986, and Di grew up in Rhodes Avenue and attended St Leonard's Catholic School. Naremburn Pizzeria – Aret has been spinning those pizzas since 1989 – always a welcoming host. The pizza business commenced there in 1979. Naremburn Shops, and their preservation, have been foremost in the minds and actions of members of the Progress Association over the past 30 years and more. We thank those who have gone before us, and vow to be ever vigilant against any future threat to the Naremburn Shops!

Kevin FitzPatrick
Central Street

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Noticeboard

We welcome contributions to the community noticeboard. It provides free advertising for not-for-profit community and charity organisations in Naremburn. Please phone Trisha on 9439 8119

The following are held at the Naremburn Community Centre 7 Central Street, Naremburn

Naremburn Progress Association

2nd Thursday (except Jan & July)
7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
9439 8119 (Kevin or Trisha)

Playgroup

Wednesday and Thursday
10:00 am to 12 noon
(School Term only)
9439 8814

Naremburn Over Fifties

Most Mondays
10:30 am to 2:00 pm
9436 3304 (Lorna)
9436 2607 (Margaret)

Northern Suburbs Philatelic Society

3rd Thursday, 7:45 pm
Visitors always welcome
9419 7354 (Paul Storm)

Breast Feeding Association

1st Tuesday
10:00 am to 12 noon
9966 1591

After School Care

Monday to Friday
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
(School Term only)
9439 8814

Willoughby Pre School

Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
(School Term only)
9437 4260

Naremburn Library

Mondays - 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Thursdays - 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Saturdays - 9:30 am to 12 noon
9439 5584

A Bit of a Shake-Up in Naremburn

There's a bit of a shake-up happening at Naremburn Community Centre. Council Officers have developed plans which involve providing increased space for the preschool and library and improved meeting spaces for community groups. Importantly, a recommendation to "relocate & rename" the Council-run After School Care Service has recently been adopted by Council. The relocation is to Bales Park, Willoughby.

The population age structure of Naremburn/St Leonards is interesting and unlike the rest of Willoughby Council area in several ways. On the basis of Census data, we know that the suburb has a significantly higher number of residents aged 25 – 34 years. As you would expect, these people are starting families as evidenced by the steady growth of under 4 year old children. In 1996 there were 382, in 2001, 463, and last year there were 596 – a clear upward trend.

The closure of Naremburn Public School was such a mistake wasn't it? Council's unsuccessful attempt to resist the sale of this public asset in the 1990s was the first unpleasant lesson for me as a new Councillor, in understanding the nature of the relationship between state and local government. Council's decision to 'relocate' the After School Service 10 years later is a consequence, since children must attend school in Cammeray, Artarmon and Willoughby, those are the preferred locations for out of school hours care services. I think it sad that as the number of children in our suburb grows, the services to support them are withdrawn.

On the other hand, we are very fortunate in having two faith-based communities in Naremburn, St Cuthbert's and St Leonard's, both of which are doing a fine job of community building, something that school communities especially primary schools provide a focus for. I was especially pleased and excited to hear that Irma Di Santo's ambition to bring an icon from her family's home town in Italy to its new home in St Leonard's Church had been realised. Our Mayor Pat Reilly told me that he had attended recent celebrations associated with this friendship across the seas and that the festivities extended to a procession along Merrenburn Avenue as well the as much feasting in the best of Italian tradition!

Another development that you will have noticed and that we hope will bring great opportunities for the local community to come together, is the refurbishment of the Walter Burley Griffin designed Incinerator in the Bicentennial Reserve. Council was successful in obtaining a Federal grant to treat and restore this iconic heritage item which has suffered neglect and extensive 'concrete cancer' as a result of poor management by the previous leaseholder/s. The building is now happily back in our hands and our plan is to establish an exhibition space, a café and hopefully some 'artist in residence' facilities at the lower level. Importantly we will install a lift – sensitively designed so as to add to and not detract from the original fabric of the place – to allow access for people with disabilities.

Finally, Willoughby Leisure Centre is now being managed directly by Council. This should allow us to provide services better related to your needs. Kate, the Centre's Manager would like to hear from you about that. There may be some scope for physical extensions and personally, I have been advocating establishing a bike hire service, such as those servicing Centennial Park.

Clr. Kate Lamb

kate.lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

9958 0415

