



Naremburn Matters

March 2008 Vol.3, No.4

Circulation 3,000

The newsletter of the
Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)



**WILLOUGHBY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

FREE Concert in Naremburn Park !
Sunday 16 March 2008 at 6:00 pm

See pages 6 and 7 for information on food stalls and entertainment from 1:00 pm, etc.

Round the Bend

Bumpity-Bump, Bumpity-Bump, Bumpity-Bump and on, and on... Imagine what it's like every day and every night. Could you handle that? Talk about being driven round the bend! These are the traffic sounds emanating from the Gore Hill Freeway's curved viaduct section over Naremburn, perhaps 15 metres above ground. The noise over Olympia, Walter, Chelmsford creates significant disturbance for residents especially at night.

The Cause... Expansion joints between the Freeway's concrete slabs were installed higher than the required level, resulting in repetitious traffic noise. Information received by Naremburn Matters is that the contractors are working on the East Bound Lane that has deteriorated since the repairs of late last year. Council has requested the contractors to rectify this work ASAP, and discussions have been on the similar noise in two Western Bound Lanes. This latter is a defect requiring a more significant fix and will be a longer term project, with no guarantee regarding exact timing. Questions have been raised as to whether the expansion joints should be making **any noise at all**, and as yet, no straight answer has been provided.

Noise Monitoring... 'Conditions of Approval' for the project were amended following changes to the timing of implementation of the Epping Road works. The amended Condition requires noise testing to be undertaken 6 months after the full completion of Stage 2 estimated to be April 2008 and so testing will be undertaken during the next 8 months

Naremburn Matters salutes the efforts of all those involved in seeking an expeditious resolution to this problem – the Residents, WCC, Naremburn Ward Councillors and our State Member.

Editor, NM

Proposal for 6 light towers at Bicentennial Reserve Baseball Ground

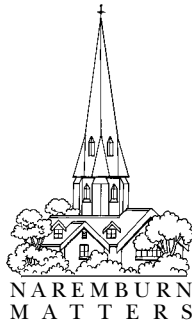
North Leagues Baseball Club lodged a DA for 25 metre light towers. Twenty objections have gone to WCC. The towers would be equivalent in height to an 8-storey building, almost twice the height of the existing 14 metre black 'cyclone' safety fence at the eastern end. DA documents state that the lights are to be used three nights per week, year round up to 9:15 pm, Saturdays to 10:40 pm, March to September. Some towers would be close to homes. Existing baseball hours are Saturday afternoons, Sundays all day, weekdays afternoon training. The Light Consultant's Report states that high and low levels (training) of illuminance exceed the relevant Australian Standard. Most nearby residents have no idea of the impact of these enormous towers, each having 3, 4 or 5 floodlights. Further night usage could be sought. WCC's Matthew Benson (9777 7656) is handling this DA.

Barry Shaw
Garland Road

**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

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Vice President

David Lendrum : 9439 3372

Secretary

Frances O'Brien : 9436 1536

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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 March 2008

Thursday 10 April 2008

Thursday 8 May 2008

Thursday 12 June 2008

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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 – out and about

Welcome to the first issue of Naremburn Matters for 2008.

Since our December issue we have celebrated Christmas at Naremburn Village Shops with our Santa, the eminent jolly gentleman elected by popular acclaim for another term at Christmas 2008 if he accepts the Santa seat.

The Bush Poetry Reading at Dusk at Lawson Cave was an excellent evening thanks to Don Swonnell, Peter Carmody, supporting musos, WCC and its Bushcare Officers, and audience participation by Annette Kossieris-Haynes and Sharon Dirken-Noll and others. On Sunday, 16 March, Naremburn welcomes the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, Australia's finest community orchestra at a Free Concert in Naremburn Park. This is a unique and historic initiative for which we thank the Council, and Tim Long, the Performing Arts Manager, for collaborating with us on such an event. This event follows on from the successful screening of 'An Inconvenient Truth' in Naremburn Park in February 2007, where the number of people attending was beyond expectation. Be assured that Tim and his excellent team are arranging a finely-tuned event (pardon the pun!) and there will be 18 food stalls. Let's show what a vital community we are by our wholehearted support of this free symphony concert.

It is good to hear newcomers to Naremburn express appreciation for being welcomed to our neighbourhood. In such a spirit we welcome new advertisers to Naremburn Matters; Montien Thai, More than just curry, Raymond's Framing, Missy's Place, and Scorpex Pest Control.

With 23 years of service, Montien Thai is a Naremburn landmark. More than just curry will be located in the shop between Hair by Maree and Olde Fashioned Fish 'n' Chips; owners Sonny and Janet Mehta, bring extensive experience in Indian cuisine to what will be Naremburn's first Indian café and takeaway. Ray and Ivan of Raymond's Framing will certainly put you in the picture. Naremburn resident Michelle Saper achieved a lifelong goal when she set up Missy's Place in Penshurst Street where you can "nurture your spirit, treat your body, laugh and enjoy". Some parts of Naremburn have been experiencing termite infestations and Bez of Scorpex Pest Control has enthusiastically and professionally come to the rescue.

I invite you to become a member of our association (application form on page 11) of concerned and interested residents. We work together for a better Naremburn through our sub-committees that include Development Applications, Library and Community Centre, Landscaping and Open Spaces, Events (WSO in Naremburn Park) and this newsletter.

Volunteers for these membership activities are warmly welcomed, although it is not necessary to be actively involved. Show your support, become a member, be included in our number and increase our negotiating power when it counts – as it often does. Enjoy reading Naremburn Matters, support our advertisers and have a Happy Easter!

Kevin FitzPatrick

President NPA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The NPA's AGM will be held on Thursday, 13 March at 7:30 pm in the Naremburn Community Centre, 7 Central Street, Naremburn.
Election of 2008 Office-Bearers and Committee.

Next Author talk at Naremburn Library



Jonathan Drane will be speaking about his book 'The Way of a Thousand Arrows', an Australian family's journey through the Camino de Santiago.

Walking 450 kilometres in only 22 days, with no plan and just a path to follow and thousands of arrows to show them the way, they learn about life and the strange and mystical lessons of the Camino.

Jonathan is at Naremburn Library, **Wednesday 2 April at 12.30 pm.**

Copies of the book will be available for sale and for signing.



Naremburn's History in Pictures

Do you recognise this location?

It is looking north up Willoughby Road toward Castle Vale. We think that this photo was taken from the old footbridge over the Warringah Freeway that ended at Willoughby Road, and perhaps this shot was some time in the early 1980s, since it shows Slade and Central closed to Willoughby Road. If you can help with any information or anecdotes and photos for this or any other area of Naremburn, please contact us.

Thank you to those residents who have already given us photos of old Naremburn. Our project to photographically preserve the identity of our suburb is an important one. Because of the incursion of the roadworks that have cut our suburb into parts, streetscapes have changed. The popularity of Naremburn among those seeking a lifestyle close to the Sydney CBD as well as North Sydney, Chatswood, also means there have been renovations to the older houses in our streets. Units and townhouse have been built where once there were houses.



The Streets are Alive

Naremburn streets have a rich tapestry of gardening treasures on display. Presumably this specimen is the result of the time, care and love of a Naremburn resident gardener who enjoys the art of trimming and shaping a tree or bush into a decorative shape - 'topiary' Do you know in which nature strip this topiary is growing? Tell us!

NaremburnMatters@yahoo.com

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Location Flat Rock Creek



e.restore 3

On Wednesday
20 February, WCC
presented its plan

for **e.restore 3** to a public meeting's enthusiastic audience. From a modest start in 2000 through to 2002 that had a budget of \$2.2m, the **e.restore 3** budget is now \$4.25m.

Where the money will go:

- ▶ Restore eco systems – bushcare, creek to creek and waterways, Willoughby City has 6 major creeks, a pollutant trap
- ▶ Climate change – audit of house and business storm water retention
- ▶ Sustainable businesses and suburbs
- ▶ Community engagement and action

Levy costs:

- ▶ Unit owners – \$0.50 per week
- ▶ Small to medium houses – \$0.94 per week
- ▶ Large houses – \$2.87 per week

WCC is to set up an Environment Hotline as well as offering effective information on Council's website. Naremburn businesses – WCC can offer an energy audit – effective ways to save money in your business!

Kevin FitzPatrick
President, NPA

Naremburn's Bushy Bits

In this Issue, we travel the north-facing slope of Flat Rock Gully along Dawson Street (1892 *) and Market Street East (1969 *) to the Flat Rock Gully Reserve entry, and the Dawson Track that winds down to Flat Rock Creek. Here the Naremburn tip ceased in 1985, and extensive bush regeneration began along the slope in 1995. This dry sclerophyll (has plants with hard stiff leaves) woodland contains red bloodwoods, peppermint gums and the Sydney red gum with the beginnings of the black butts that dominate further toward West Street.

The mid story (shrub layer) contains many varieties of grevilleas, wattles, banksias, bottlebrush and harsh bracken with much more, typical of bushland exposed to full sun all day. This is particularly so in an area bounded by the Dawson track and the side track leading up to "Fatty" Dawson's ruins (1860s *), where a controlled burn was conducted by Willoughby City Council's fire hazard reduction team in 2003. Definitely worth a look!

However from approximately the 1860s, market gardens and orchards were planted, coming along from Market Street (1873 *), to below Dawson Street until about the 1960s. The orchards included plums, peaches and pears along this slope with the extensive stone wall terracing still very much in evidence.

Where Dawson Street meets Market Street East, a natural rock and stone walled drain was constructed during the Depression years, to control and direct water during heavy rain from a wide seepage line above it. This drain emptied into the creek, passing through an immense handmade 40 metre long sandstone wall used to terrace the orchard.

A recent landscaping project around the drain site, revealed names and dates of the remarkable men who built these structures, etched into the sandstone ledges alongside it. Unfortunately after the closure of the market gardens and orchards, a narrow privet bloom quickly established itself below the site down to the creek. Teams of bush regenerators are slowly removing it, and in some areas have encouraged the good bush up to the road's edge at Market Street East.

Further along at the Dawson Street end there are a few of the original workers' cottages, now extended and modernised to take full advantage of Flat Rock Gully behind them. Next to them are the 'Mothers Day' plantings over the years, plus a children's playground with picnic table and seating. Perfect!

This wonderful bushland area is easily accessible down the Dawson track and out to Tunks Parks, or, up the other side of the gully for a different and cooler bushland experience on Wilksch's Walk.

In the June 2008 Naremburn Matters issue, we will duck under Flat Rock Drive and go along the Bicentennial path to Flat Rock Bridge and Fleming Park.

Until then, keep planting our special local fauna.

* Denotes when first recorded

Don Swonnell
Walter Street

*St
Leonard's
Catholic
Church*

Willoughby Road
Naremburn

Come join us for Easter in March!

16th **Palm Sunday** 8.00 am & 10.30 am Mass

20th **Holy Thursday** Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00 pm

21st **Good Friday** Stations of the Cross 10.00 am
The Lord's Passion 3.00 pm

22nd **Easter Vigil Mass** 7.30 pm

23rd **Easter Sunday** 8.00 am and 10.30 am Mass
RNSH Chapel 4.00 pm

Parish Office 9438 1011
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Neighbourhood of Love

From information given at the last NPA General Meeting on 14 February 2008, (Valentine's Day!) it would seem that Nareburn is booming with more Development Applications lodged with WCC than any other area in Willoughby City. In the last two months DAs at Council show Artarmon with 3 DAs, Chatswood, 4 DAs, and Nareburn, a huge 27 DAs.

Does this show that home improvements to our 'love nests' are increasing?

Does this show that there is a baby boom happening all around us?

Have you noticed how many glorious mothers' groups there are in the neighbourhood, sipping latte, chatting, sharing stories in the coffee shops?

This population growth was evidenced by the Nareburn Village Shops Kids' Christmas Party, where the children swarmed like 'bees-to-honey' over and around Santa!

What a wonderful sight!

Nareburn has lost its primary schools; there are limited places at Pre-schools in the area. A solution is needed!

What does all this say to me?

There must be a whole 'lot-a-lovin' going on in Nareburn!

And that brings a soft, gentle smile to my face!

Editor
NM

Santa at Nareburn Village Shops

A sudden, violent storm prior to the arrival of Santa's Sleigh (aka Aret's Harley-Davidson) may have curtailed the planned live music but did not dampen spirits as a great crowd of children, parents and other grown-ups greeted the genial gent.

We thank all the Nareburn Village shopkeepers for suiting Santa; Maree Delic and Diane Kero from Hair by Maree, who were Santa's helpers and, together with Perry and Linda Vardis of Olde Fashioned Fish 'n' Chips, provided bags of sweets for the children; Michael Hockey and Rob Forsyth for their enthusiastic promotion of the event, and, Anthony Boustani of Nareburn Natural and Aret Odabasyan of Nareburn Pizzeria for providing finger food for the adults. It was fun!



Nareburn Branch Library and the April school holidays

Our Nareburn Branch Library provides plenty of great reading for children and adults, as well as some videos and DVDs. All Nareburn parents and their children are invited to stock up on leisure reading before the April school holidays.

Nareburn Library will also offer some free entertainment for your children during the break. There will be a fun craft session for children aged 5 to 12 years. Younger children (6 years and under) can enjoy a story time, followed by an easy craft activity. Dates and times will be available soon. Please ring 9439 5584 (Nareburn Library) or 9777 7900 (Chatswood Library) for more information.

Foyer of Nareburn Community Centre,
7 Central Street, Nareburn, 9439 5584

Mondays & Thursdays – 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm
Saturdays – 9.30 am to 12.00 noon



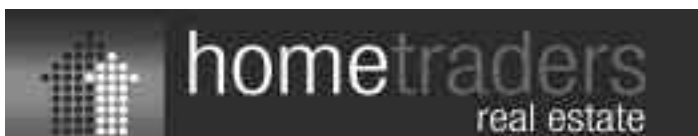
Martin Wright Getting Results

Martin has been selling real estate in and around Nareburn since 1999 and is a steady presence in the local Real Estate scene having stayed with the same office since then.

Amongst the hundreds of properties he has sold he has a string of record prices to his credit including the highest residential price achieved in 2007 in Nareburn (7 Remah Close - \$1,835,000) and in Artarmon (21 Eric Road - \$4,200,000).

Combining his real estate skills with his past careers in hospitality and construction gives Martin a unique base to understand his client's needs. Having worked overseas for 14 years in over ten different countries around the world, Martin speaks both fluent Japanese and French and is comfortable dealing with just about anyone and any situation.

With Home Traders great new look this year, rest assured that Martin is still supported by the fantastic team approach that has always made Home Traders one of the area's most successful Real Estate Agents.



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Timetable of Activities

Get your position early!
Enjoy the delights on offer!

- 1:00PM** Food and drink stalls open
Jumping Castle and fun rides
- 3:30PM** A short pre-concert talk on pieces to be performed by the WSO
- 4:30PM** Willoughby City Band will perform traditional brass band music, classics and beyond
- 6:00PM** WSO presents
'Poetry and Passion'
- 8:00PM** WSO Concert concludes



Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

"Bringing the community together with great music"



WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY



WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL
City of Diversity

How to Get There

WALK!

As there will be limited parking the best way to attend this event is to roll up the blanket, grab the picnic basket and walk to the Park.

CYCLE

Jump on the bike and take a leisurely ride – a free bike parking area will be provided.

SHUTTLE BUS

A free Symphony Shuttle, 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm will operate between St Leonards Station-Naremburn Park-Artarmon Station.

CAR!

Parking will be limited and confined to street parking. If you have to drive, aim to get there early. Fun activities start at 1:00 pm.

The Willoughby Symphony proudly presents its exciting gala introduction to the 2008 season in a **FREE CONCERT** at Naremburn Park, 6:00 pm on Sunday 16 March 2008 – **Poetry and Passion**.

At 3:30 pm there will be a short pre-concert talk on the pieces to be performed. At this entertaining session you will hear interesting and anecdotal information regarding the works and the performers.

At 4:30 pm, you can enjoy the amazing tones of the Willoughby City Band who will perform a selection of popular pieces from their repertoire.

At 6:00 pm, **Chief conductor Nicholas Milton** will guide Australia's most exciting orchestra as they perform:

Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro: Overture

Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E Minor Op. 46

Beethoven: Symphony No.7

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto will feature ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year, **Cameron Hill**, who will delight with a display of virtuosity and brilliance.

Let your imagination dance with the breeze in a magnificent outdoor program while watching the sun bid farewell to the afternoon.

Bring the whole family and enjoy the fair-like atmosphere with Food and Drink Stalls operating from 1:00 pm as well as rides and games for kids to enjoy.

Music will be fine – rain, hail or shine !! Contact Number: 9777 7547



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Nicholas Milton

Chief Conductor ~ Willoughby Symphony Orchestra



Nicholas Milton has established a reputation as one of the leading Australian conductors of his generation. He is currently General Music Director of the Jena Philharmonic Orchestra (Germany) and Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

He has conducted in Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Croatia and Finland; he has been a regular guest conductor with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra; made his debut with the China National Symphony Orchestra in 2006, and appears frequently with all of the major Australian orchestras.

Nicholas Milton served as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra from 2000-2004, and made his US debut in 2005 with the Phoenix Symphony. European highlights include engagements with the London Philharmonic, the North German Radio Orchestra (Hanover) and the Dortmund Philharmonic in Germany, the Innsbruck Symphony in Austria, and France's Orchestre de Picardie.

Originally a violinist, he graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He continued his studies in the United States at Michigan State University, the Mannes College of Music, and the Juilliard School, and holds Master's degrees in Conducting, Violin, Music Theory, and Philosophy, and a Doctoral degree in Music from the City University of New York. He was Concertmaster of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra from 1996-2002, Violinist with Macquarie Trio Australia from 1998-2005, and won Symphony Australia's 1999 Young Conductor of the Year competition.

In 2003, Dr Nicholas Milton was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal, for Service to Australian Society and the Advancement of Music.



Cameron Hill, Violinist

Cameron Hill

Violinist

Cameron is the current holder of the title of ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year and is the leader of the Hamer Quartet which he founded in 2005. In 2007, he was a soloist with APA Chamber Orchestra. Engagements also included touring with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Australian Youth Orchestra and the Stonnington Symphony.

Cameron recently appeared as Guest Concertmaster of the MSO. In 2005 he won the national Dorcas McClean Violin Competition. His win in the Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year in 2006, was with a performance of the Stravinsky Violin concerto in concert with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. He was subsequently the inaugural recipient of the ABC Sir Charles Moses Young Performers' Trophy. He reached the Grand Final having previously won the Stage III national string final, performing with The Queensland Orchestra.

Since 2006 Cameron Hill has been an ANAM Academy Musician studying with Alice Waten. In 2005 he graduated from the University of Melbourne where he studied with William Hennessy (1999-2005), completing the Bachelor of Music with Honours and topping the year. Whilst at university, he was concertmaster of the Faculty of Music Orchestra and was a founding member of the Melbourne University Chamber Orchestra. In other orchestral pursuits, he appeared as concertmaster of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra and toured to Europe with the Australian Youth Orchestra in 2001.

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A Walk in another World

Have you ever wondered what is behind the long sweeping tree-lined verge on the curve of the Pacific Highway in front of the Royal North Shore Hospital?

Well in here is an oasis, another world where you can wander along the central wide brick avenue branching off down narrow ordered pathways. As you go, you walk through a Victorian-Edwardian garden landscape and enjoy the mature plantation of Washingtonia palms and evergreen hedges. On closer inspection there are many botanical plantings of heritage roses and bulbs. All this gives great tranquillity to this 5.7 acre space where you can come to daydream, wonder, meditate and just catch some sun sitting on a perfectly placed bench. All this is right on our doorstep.

It is also home to many elements of early North Shore history and if you have not guessed, it is the Gore Hill Cemetery. "Who was Gore?" I hear you ask. He came to Australia with William Bligh. In 1806 Bligh appointed him, Provost-Marshal of the Colony, which meant he was the officer-in-charge of the Military Police of the time. He had a colourful career: he was often referred to as the "odious Gore" or other unflattering terms due to his diligence. From his time during the Rum Rebellion when he arrested John Macarthur, to when he was then arrested himself by the Rum Corp for perjury for which he was then transported to the Newcastle Coalmines for 7 years, he had many brushes with the law.

In 1810, Lachlan Macquarie, the new Governor, reinstated him and gave him a grant of 150 acres of land, which became his original farm that he named Artarmon after his home in Ireland. By 1817 Gore was appointed a director of the Bank of New South Wales but this was short-lived as he was plagued by financial difficulties, his income was only £91 5s, and he was imprisoned for debt in 1818 but he escaped, eventually being brought back to Sydney. Gore was suspended from his duties and lived in retirement upon his land. In 1824 he was tried for shooting and wounding a military grass-cutter on his property, he was subsequently pardoned. His land was heavily mortgaged and he was declared insolvent in 1843. He died at 80 in 1845. For some years his body and that of his wife and daughter remained unburied as their coffins lay under fence palings on his land. His name today is also remembered in Gore Hill, the Gore Hill Expressway and Gore Cove. I said he was colourful!

Back to the cemetery from that little diversion, it is a memorial to family history, a community's development, dedicated in an era when the public celebrated death in ways which reflected their standing in the community. Mary MacKillop was laid to rest here later being moved to her current location in North Sydney. The graves reflect the life, times and occupations of the early years of growth of the North Shore. It includes a large range of monuments of many styles from the simple to the grand family vaults, some are embellished with fine examples the stonemason's art of the time while others are simply adorned with a cross or plaque.

The Site was originally dedicated in 1868 with the first burial in 1877.

It contains 14,456 burials and was closed for burials in 1974.

Next Edition – More Famous Locals.

Hilary Wright
Artarmon Road

Photo 'The Memorial Garden' courtesy of Catherine Williams - Gore Hill Memorial Commission Trust



Gore Hill Cemetery

Come and enjoy a stroll and tour through this magnificent place when we join with The National Trust.

**Sunday 13 April 2008,
11:00 am**

Meet at the Lych Gate
Westbourne Avenue end
of the cemetery.

\$25 per adult

Parking available in the grounds.

Bookings essential
Catherine Williams
9477 5581

The NPA since the AGM of 8 March 2007

1. Opening of Prentice Park honouring former residents, the late Sir William (first Chief Justice PNG) and Lady Mary Prentice
2. 20th Anniversary of the opening of the Nareburn Community Centre on the site established by residents in the 1950s.
3. The passing of Michael Haynes, active member, encourager, good family man, example.
4. The passing of John Allen, resident, mentor, President of the 'Federation' of Willoughby Progress Associations (nine)
5. Participation in the Federation's Trivia Night at the Chatswood Town Hall to farewell the hall and the Wurlitzer organ
6. DA Sub-Committee's monitoring of all Nareburn DAs, specifically developments in Garland, St Cuthbert's redevelopment.
7. Attendance by Office Bearers at events - WCC, Federal Member, State Member.
8. Registration of a domain name for the Nareburn Progress Association (website construction a 2008 project)
9. Events Sub-Committee negotiation for Willoughby Symphony Orchestra to perform in Nareburn Park
10. Library and Community Centre Sub-Committee's submission to WCC to expand Nareburn Library and increase hours.
11. Author Talk in Nareburn Library
12. Landscaping and Open Space Sub-Committee monitoring freeway related work by Connector/TJH as well as other areas.
13. Open Forums at the opening of each general meeting for residents to raise issues of concern; follow through with WCC.
14. Nareburn Matters, 3 years old with this issue. and its continuing growth as the flagship of the NPA

The 2008 AGM will be held on Thursday 13 March at 7:30 pm at the Community Centre 7 Central Street

My Baby has a Lot to Say

When my gorgeous son, Charlie, was newborn, a friend of mine and her toddler visited us. Her son was standing on our back verandah, and he had an 'internal' look that I mistakenly thought meant that he was dirtying his nappy. Suddenly, he signed 'bird' and we realised he had been listening to our beautiful Naremburn birds!

My beloved husband and I immediately rushed out and bought some DVDs by Joseph Garcia. Unfortunately, we didn't realise that these DVDs are based on the American (one-handed) system of signing. Australian signing (two-handed) is called Auslan and videos of each sign are available at no cost from the www.auslan.com.au website.

Dr Garcia found that deaf children did not go through the 'terrible twos' the way that hearing children do. He attributed this to gross motor skills being available from around 12 months, while vocal skills aren't mature until much later. He suggests teaching all children to sign to assist them in communicating from an early age, which has been shown to increase language development. He suggests to always say the word as you sign it and to make sure your child is concentrating on the appropriate item that you are signing about.

When Charlie was 7 months old, he signed his first sign – 'milk'. When I think of all the times he didn't cry because he could sign milk to us to let us know he was hungry or thirsty, this sign alone was worth persevering for.

Charlie's second sign was 'helicopter' (living under the Channel 9 flight path as we do). I started to realise how much Charlie was taking in of what was going on around him when a friend of mine whom Charlie had never met before (and so wasn't used to her voice) said the word 'helicopter' in the middle of a sentence without stress or signing and he immediately signed helicopter. Similarly, he signed 'fish' when I said it officially over dinner one night!

I found it lovely to have an insight into what he was thinking about. Just after Charlie learnt the sign for 'baby' we were sitting in a shopping mall. Charlie was looking at prams that were over 50m away and signing 'baby'. I would never have realised he was so aware of what was going on so far away if he hadn't been able to sign to me. My parents were astonished when they watched Charlie reading a book, and signing away to himself as he looked at the pictures. I love learning how much he notices in his environment.

As Charlie neared 1 year, he was learning a sign or more a day and we would only have to show him 2 or 3 times before he learnt it. By the time Charlie was 12 months old he was signing about 20 signs. A month later he was signing around 40 signs and it was evident that it was us slowing his rate of learning as we had to learn the signs first! Charlie and I started doing some signing classes in North Sydney to assist me in learning (www.tinysign.org).

As Charlie has started talking recently, he's been teaching us his language by signing as he 'talks'. I'm amazed by how he has his own sounds for so many things, that I might not have realized if he couldn't sign to teach me. Incidentally, now he knows I understand his 'talking', he doesn't sign to me anymore! Signing together has been a wonderful experience for us both.

Kali Lawrie
Olympia Road



Listening

National Tree Day Sunday 27 July 2008

National Tree Day, held on the last Sunday of July, each year, is a day for all Australians to help out by planting native trees and shrubs at a Tree Day site in their local area.

The planting of these local native trees, shrubs and groundcovers helps to provide food and shelter for Australia's wildlife, increasing native biodiversity and combating the habitat loss that threatens much of our wildlife.

Planet Ark's National Tree Day is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event and since Tree Day started in 1996 over 11.5 million native trees and shrubs have been planted by more than 1.5 million volunteers!

Further information in our June issue.


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Naremburn Shop1/286 Willoughby Rd p: **9460 6854**

(between olde fashioned fish 'n' chips and hair by maree)

St Ives 231 Mona Vale Rd p: **9440 4588** | **Lindfield** 317 Pacific Hwy p: **9416 4588**

great coffee • cakes pastries • breakfast • salads • burgers • milk shakes • smoothies • fresh juices • curries

Naremburn Ward Councillor Corner



Cllr Stuart Coppock

Sunday 10 February saw in play once again what is now a Naremburn institution. The Bush Poetry Reading at Henry Lawson Cave was a wonderful occasion. Walking to the event and picking up the smell of the campfire was highly evocative. In turning my mind from that event to writing for this newsletter the sense and meaning of community kept returning.

As a local Councillor I am keenly aware of the importance and function of community in our City. The support of Poetry Reading is such an example; Council assisted; community operated. The maintenance and growth of our community must be our highest priority.

It is surprising to me that Minister Sartor's proposed State policy changes, and much in the news at present, frankly does not meet this measure. It will impact on a DA process that mediates community harmony when properly implemented and could threaten financial support for things like the Bush Poetry Readings. If readers are not aware of Minister Sartor's proposals please take time to form your own opinion. It is important for our community's continued well-being.

Cllr Stuart Coppock

stuart.coppock@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
9958 0483



Cllr Kate Lamb

A baby Wollemi Pine has been donated by Donna, a generous Naremburn resident and it is thriving in the south east corner of Naremburn Park. You might like to visit and give it your blessing when there for the Symphony Concert on 16 March 2008

Will you give your support to the campaign to re-instate an Infants School in Naremburn? It's just not right that the growing number of young families are having to drive to and from already overcrowded schools at Cammeray, Artarmon and Willoughby when there are two perfectly good sites available locally (the special needs school variously known as North Harbour Unit and most recently, Naremburn School, and the former St Leonard's Primary School).

There's a poll on my Blogsite (www.katelamb.blogspot.com) and soon, if not there already, a petition in Forsyth's Coffee Shop.

Cllr Kate Lamb

Kate.Lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
9958 0415



Cllr Barry Thompson

With the rapidly changing demographics evident in Naremburn, the short-sightedness of the '90s decisions to close the suburb's primary schools becomes ever more apparent. Not only do children have to travel further to school but their parents are deprived of one of the community-building benefits of a local school - whereby new parents get to meet other parents in a similar stage in life and often make lifelong friendships. As a first step to countering this deficiency, my colleagues on Council recently agreed to support a Notice of Motion to the effect: "THAT Council, in conjunction with the Naremburn Progress Association and other local community groups, encourages and financially assists the establishment of a voluntary group or association whose purpose is to promote the interests of young families in the Naremburn area by provision of recreation and event activities (as is often provided by the P&Cs of local primary schools)." I hope the NPA, other groups and residents will call for early action from Council and actively support this initiative. One of its early aims might be the reopening or establishment of some form of **Naremburn Primary School**.

Cllr Barry Thompson

barry.thompson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
9412 1596 (ph/fax)

sam the butcher.com.au

296 WILLOUGHBY ROAD, NAREMBURN 9437 1090

Australian Certified Organic



Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

March 2008 Report

Break and Enter

There has been a recent spate of break and enters in our area. There is no specific time or day that they seem to be occurring, but it is clear that someone is active in the area. It would also seem that from a couple of incidents there is an increasing trend developing, so let's nip it in the bud early on!

Getting to know your neighbours' habits

Many people think they are being nosy when they try to find out what their neighbours are up to. While prying into family gossip would be upsetting to most people, building rapport with the neighbours around you so that you know some basic neighbourly info is generally considered to be fine.

The important things to know about neighbours from a NHW and safety point of view are:

- How many people live next door and who they are
- What they look like so that they can be recognised
- Which car belongs to which neighbour
- Whether the neighbours work and the times they are generally in or out
- Whether any guests or house sitters are staying
- Whether there will be unusual movements – say holidays
- Whether mail is being collected and bins brought in over holidays
- Whether tradesmen are expected, how many and roughly what hours
- Introduce yourself to any builders and tradesmen on neighbouring properties where extensive renovations are underway
- Whether an alarm is fitted and used
- Who neighbours would like you to contact if their alarm goes off
- Who neighbours would like you to contact in an emergency

Knowing this information allows a good neighbour to:

- Easily identify that someone hanging around doesn't belong
- Having identified this, be able to take more notice of appearance and clothing of people, just in case
- Identify 'foreign' cars and keep an eye on or report to police anyone sitting and watching in a car
- Be confident in contacting police that the situation is unusual
- Keep a concerned, but unobtrusive, eye on elderly, ill or frail neighbours
- Assist in deterring thieves by making it known that people are being watched
- Removing targets for thieves by ensuring neighbouring houses are neat and tidy during holidays

What to do now

There are no descriptions available of any of the thieves that have recently struck our area. This makes it hard to be on the lookout for anyone in particular. What we can do, though, is to be more observant and suspicious than we usually are and keep an eye on any strangers in the area. If you have an alarm, please turn it on. Some of the recent thefts have occurred in houses with alarms fitted but turned off. It only takes a few minutes for a thief to break in, gather a few precious things and be off. An alarm can make them leave before they even get inside.

Don't be afraid to call the police if there is someone doing something that concerns you. If you give the police the information that you have they will be able to prioritise their resources and send someone down to have a chat if they have the time or if there is a car in the area.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is:

Date: Wednesday 19 March, 2008

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 naremhwh@tpg.com.au.



JOIN THE NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION!

\$10.00 per person per annum (\$1.00 Concession)

LAST NAME: FIRST NAME: TITLE:

ADDRESS: PHONE NO:

E-MAIL: MOBILE:

Cash:

Bring completed form to the next meeting – held on second Thursday of the month, with the exception of January and July.

Cheques:

To Naremburn Progress Association and send to PO Box 393 St Leonards NSW 1590.

Electronic Funds Transfer:

BSB: 032 297; Account Number: 20 1474; Account Name: Naremburn Progress Association; Bank: Westpac, St Leonards; Description: Your last name. Please post this form to PO Box 393 St Leonards NSW 1590.

Signature: Date:

Noticeboard

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

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

Nareburn 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

Nareburn 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

Nareburn 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 Vehicle Trailer with Eyes

The odd thing keeps appearing on our streets.

Have you seen this Mobile Speed Traffic Trailer (MSTT - that's what I have called it) with three big eyes, on our streets lately?

What and why is this strange MSTT machine doing on our streets



By observation only, the MSTT collects the speed of an oncoming vehicle that is directly in its 'Line of Sight'.

On approach, the right hand eye sensor records your speed, transfers it to a dot matrix screen (quasi mobile white-board on wheels) and displays it to the upcoming vehicle. If you are over the speed limit, that data comes up and the orange centre eye begins flashing with your speed displayed and a nice little comment.

Not sure what the left hand eye does.

As the vehicle passes the display screen returns to neutral after about 2 seconds then displays information to the following vehicle.

It stays in its street location for only 3 or 4 days then 'poof' - gone!

Well, I wondered:

- (a) What sort of data is collected?
- (b) 'Poof', it's there, then 'poof' - it's gone, where? To another street in the neighbourhood, or, back to the MSTT garage, or, to Houston Headquarters for decoding and reprogramming?
- (c) What does the left hand eye do?
- (d) If you ran past really fast, does it record your foot speed or maybe, you need to be made of metal.
- (e) Does it record data and store it or does it record and display only?
- (f) If the data is collected, where does it go and to whom?
- (g) Have you received any information about this MSTT machine?
- (h) Does MSTT record only the speed for display purposes or does it record things with the left hand eye - or is that implying a Conspiracy Theory?
- (i) Maybe it's as a Community Service by WCC and the RTA to maintain the 50 kph speed limit in the Nareburn area.

Well, I'd find that a beautiful gesture!

Editor, NM

