



Naremburn Matters

September 2008 Vol.4, No.2

Circulation 3,000

The newsletter of the
Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)



Community Centre Open Day

Saturday 20 September

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

7-9 Central Street

Fun activities and information for the whole family!

- √ Face painting
- √ guessing competition
- √ sausage sizzle
- √ arts and crafts
- √ and lots more !!

Join us for a fantastic day and see what the centre and local user groups have to offer!

School for Naremburn - update

In May 2008 Willoughby Council facilitated a public forum to discuss the establishment of a new school in the Naremburn precinct. This followed representations made to Mayor Pat Reilly by local parents with concerns about the growing number of young children in the area and the demand levels on existing schools.

The meeting was attended by local residents who heard submissions from Deonne Smith (Department of Education & Training DET), Brother Tony Whelan (Diocese of Broken Bay), and Ms Gladys Berejiklian (State Member for Willoughby). The meeting was chaired by Mayor Reilly.

A Working Party has since been formed to help further investigate issues raised at the forum. A number of initiatives have commenced since the last working party meeting. Progress includes the completion by local schools of a Council run survey identifying current student populations; the appointment of Mr Michael Slattery as a consultant to the Catholic Schools Office to undertake a full study of the Naremburn site and the appointment of Mr Terry White by the DET to analyse local demographics.

Council's report on the findings of the survey will be completed in early September. A Working Party meeting is proposed for early October following Council elections, and another public forum will be scheduled in consultation with DET and the Catholic Schools Office

Bicentennial Reserve Baseball Lights - update

After many months of community consultation, public meetings co-ordinated by the NPA, in conjunction with Council and Ward Councillors, followed by several meetings of a sub-committee involving local residents, the NPA, a senior Council officer and the President of North's Baseball Club, a compromise was reached and new conditions drawn up. The DA was approved at the Council meeting of 11 August, incorporating the modifications agreed to by the sub-committee including:

- Tower lights operating only 3 nights (not 7) per week - Tue, Wed, Thu
- Tower lights off at 9.00 pm - security lights off at 9.20 pm.
- Lux from 500/250 down to 250/150 and 5 towers in lieu of 6
- Lower car park to be closed on baseball nights, reducing noise
- Trees to be planted along the southern side of the oval, as screening.

These and other items are included in the Operational Management Plan for the Reserve and form part of the conditions of consent. Thanks to the efforts of a large number of people, including Cllr Stuart Coppock and Cllr Kate Lamb, the impact of the lights will be somewhat lessened. Garland Road residents appreciate those efforts.

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

President

Kevin FitzPatrick : 9439 8119

Vice President

David Lendrum : 9439 3372

Secretary

Frances O'Brien : 9436 1536

Treasurer

Position Vacant : 9439 8119

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

Thursday 11 September 2008
 Thursday 9 October 2008
 Thursday 13 November 2008
 Thursday 11 December 2008

Editorial Committee

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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

Sydney's World Youth Day and the Beijing Olympic Games gathered and impressed people from around the world. Now it is time to not only celebrate locally through our Willoughby Spring Fair but also focus on the Willoughby City Council elections.

It was a great thrill to participate in the 'Turning of the Sod' for Civic Place on 19 August. While Mayor Pat Reilly was praised for his vision for our Willoughby City and the region by Guest Speakers, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Uncle Bob Waterer, Guringai Elder, and Henry Tsang MLC, representing the State Government, Mayor Reilly and WCC General Manager, Nick Tobin, paid tribute to Councillors and Council Officers who had given many hours above and beyond the call of duty to bring the project to its current stage. The Mayor and the GM acknowledged those who challenged the project, stating that such scrutiny had guaranteed that the project had responsible fiscal management.

The Turning of the Sod that followed the smoking ceremony was performed by not only the dignitaries present, but also the many guests who were given the opportunity to lift a ceremonial spade, turn a sod or two and flick them into the waiting hopper.

Civic Place with its concert hall, theatre, multipurpose hall, rehearsal and visual arts exhibition space, together with a new library, will provide a fitting cultural heart for our City and the northern Sydney region.

Our excellent Willoughby Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr Nicholas Milton performed 'Operatic Fire' in the Sydney Opera House on 13 July. On reflection, without people of vision, Sydney and the world would have been robbed of this icon on Bennelong Point. The experience of hearing our WSO perform in Naremburn Park last March is a sign of things to come. In an age of escalating oil prices, road tolls and the challenge of traffic flow, I look forward to a quick trip on the 273 to Civic Place for a performance, a visit to the new library, or, a cup of coffee, or, a bite to eat!

Since becoming active in the Naremburn Progress Association almost 4 years ago, I have come to appreciate the work of WCC and our elected Ward Councillors and Mayor. The 13 September Council Elections give us the opportunity to elect, at the grass roots level of government, Councillors who are part of our local community. Our Councillors – Kate Lamb, Stuart Coppock and Barry Thompson - are readily available by phone or email and spend many hours in community service through on-site inspections such as those in Bongalong, Donnelly and for the Baseball Diamond lighting; duties include attendance at Council and Committee Meetings and representing WCC at broader gatherings. Our Mayor Pat Reilly undertakes a heavy and wide-reaching schedule in the service of Willoughby City and its residents.

For this issue, we have invited all candidates for Naremburn Ward, as well as candidates for the election of Mayor, to submit a photo and a brief statement and these appear on pages 4 and 5. The position of Mayor is being contested by Stuart Coppock, Simon Kovacevic and Mayor Pat Reilly.

Enjoy the freedom to cast a vote for whomever you choose, and, take the opportunity to enjoy the Willoughby Spring Festival!

Kevin FitzPatrick
 President NPA

Spring
 Festival

**45 events throughout
 September including:**

Melody Market 5th Birthday

11am - 9pm, Thursday 18 September
 Chatswood Mall

Naremburn Community Centre Open Day

Saturday 20 September
 7-9 Central Street, Naremburn

Cycling Skills Workshops

10am - 1pm, Saturday 20 September
 Naremburn Park, Cnr Park Rd & Station St

**For more information phone 9777 1000 or
 visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au**



**10am - 4pm
 Saturday 6 September
 Chatswood CBD**

Kicked off by the Extravaganza! Street Parade at 10.30am, the streets of Chatswood become a vibrant marketplace of food, community, arts, craft, plants, fashion and homeware stalls.

**All day entertainment on four stages and
 throughout the city's streets.**

Diana Revington - Branch Librarian - Nareburn

In 1988, Diana Revington was employed as the Nareburn Branch Librarian. She has held a valued place in this community, and this month celebrates her twenty years of service in Nareburn

In 1947, local residents had established the Nareburn Amenities Development Association (NADA) whose aims were a Public Hall, a Children's Library, a Public Gymnasium and a Baby Health Centre in Nareburn.

NADA volunteers staffed the NADA Children's Library and also raised funds for development of the Reference Library, Study Room and the Children's collection.

In 1975, the Library became wholly operated by the Council who employed paid librarians to manage the Nareburn Community Library and develop a larger collection for both adults and children.

Diana's career with Willoughby City Library has been focussed on customer service and networking with local groups at Nareburn Community Centre. Diana has helped many of our residents, young and old, to find something good to read or information to support their latest interests or assignments. Our Library shares space with the preschool, playgroup and out of school hours care. Diana has seen many children grow up from preschoolers to young adults who now visit Chatswood library doing HSC and university assignments. Diana also works on the information desk at Chatswood – a nice surprise for those young adults seeking information.

Diana's time at Nareburn has included some notable events: the construction of the Gore Hill Freeway that divided the suburb, an overnight break-in through the ceiling, and the upgrade to a computerised library system.

We thank Diana for her smiling, professional assistance to her clients, young and old, and honour her 20 years of service as the Nareburn Branch Librarian!

Library Hours:

Monday & Thursday 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm; Saturday 9:30 am to 12:00 noon



Carnivale is coming to Nareburn Library during the school holidays!

The theme is 'Doorways into Denmark' and the entertainment is free. Children aged 5 to 11 years can make a fabulous sea mobile on Monday 29 September from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Sally Eriksen, a volunteer from the Consulate General of Denmark, Sydney, will be telling Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales to preschoolers aged 6 and under, on Friday 10 October from 10.30 am to 11.15 am. Please book into these fun sessions from Monday 15 September at Nareburn (9439 5584) or Chatswood (9777 7900).

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OPEN 7 DAYS



Naremburn Ward - Candidates for election

The Naremburn Ward ballot paper for 13 September has groups A to E; Cllr Kate Lamb, a resident of Naremburn Ward, heads up Group C; Cllr Barry Thompson, a resident of Naremburn Ward, heads up Group A; Cllr Stuart Coppock, heads up Group D; Groups B and E are also headed up by candidates from outside this ward, namely Mr Andrew Schaverien and Dr Ernest Chan.



Kate Lamb

Dear Naremburn, I am offering myself once again as a candidate on September 13th. I live in Naremburn Ward as do my running mates, Bruce de Graaf and Stuart Sexton. I am not about, and local government is not about, serving a simple majority. I am a genuine independent who values a community made up of groups of diverse age, values and backgrounds. If I am returned, I will keep advancing an inclusive approach to help meet the needs and aspirations of all groups so we continue to thrive as a community!

Visit my blog to find out more: <http://katelamb.blogspot.com>



Barry Thompson

I am proud of my contributions during my first term on Council. Most notably, I strongly supported the leasing of Council's Works Depot in Artarmon for adaptive reuse. The \$50M+ proceeds have transformed Council's finances and will fund many new community projects in addition to Civic Place. I advocated early and long for the new e-Restore program to put Willoughby in the forefront of local efforts to mitigate climate change. During a second term, I will work towards two openings: a Naremburn primary school and Civic Place. I plan also to ensure that the new environmental levy is spent wisely and for maximum impact.

Barry.Thompson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au 9412 1596 (phone and fax)



Stuart Coppock

I am seeking re-election to continue as a strong advocate for the Naremburn community on Council. My aspirations for the next term are to: provide financial certainty on Council spending; protect against over development; assist Artarmon School with a tax deductible building fund and a local area plan; assist St Leonard's Church and Diocese to reestablish a Parish School at Naremburn; ensure maintenance of the Naremburn Shops paved area by Council; extend the Heritage Plaque program to showcase the history of Naremburn; and construct wider footpaths to create a travel network across the City.

www.stuartcoppock.com.au



Andrew Schaverien

I have lived in the Willoughby Council area for all of my life. I am a soccer player for the Chatswood Rangers Sports Club and a soccer coach at the University of Technology, Sydney. I am seeking election as a councillor for Naremburn Ward to improve the sporting fields and facilities in Willoughby and increase community participation in local sporting clubs. I believe that it is important for local government to promote healthier lifestyles for residents. With the support of the residents of Naremburn Ward, I will fight for better quality sporting and community facilities for Willoughby.

andrew.schaverien@hotmail.com



Ernest Chan

As Unity party's candidate, I am a strong advocate of social cohesion. I have been working in the area for 18 years. Positive changes took place in Willoughby City but facilities (primary schooling and traffic/parking) in the Naremburn Ward have been worsening, e.g., closure of primary school. I support measures that could improve primary schooling. With regards to environment, I have been servicing drought-affected country areas (Young/Cootamundra) for the past 19 years. I consider myself as having first-hand experience of climate change.

I advocate policies that would preserve our environment. I look forward to serving the Naremburn community.

eycortho@yahoo.com.au

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Candidates for Mayor

The position of Mayor is being contested by Cllr Stuart Coppock, Mr Simon Kovacevic and Mayor Pat Reilly.

Pat Reilly has been a resident of Willoughby all his life. He was elected to Willoughby Council for Middle Harbour Ward in 1987, and re-elected in 1991 and 1995. Cllr Reilly was elected Mayor of Willoughby City in September 1997 and in 1999 he became the first popularly elected Mayor of Willoughby. Prior to winning office, Mayor Reilly served on two occasions as Deputy Mayor.

For the past nine years Stuart Coppock has been a Councillor representing the Naremburn Ward on Willoughby City Council. He is also a lawyer specialising in taxation. Over his career he has also worked in corporate governance, construction contracts and variation claims, property law and civil litigation. He is an Independent Board Director of HCF and a Committee Member for the Sydney Dogs and Cats Home.

Pat Reilly

As I offer myself once again for re-election as the Mayor of Willoughby City, it is with great pride that I highlight a major recognition that your Council has achieved under my leadership.

At the last National Awards for Local Government, Willoughby City was recognized as having set a new Standard of Excellence for all local councils in Asset Management. This award commends the way your Council has generated increased revenues to finance the establishment and improvement of community facilities through the sale or lease of its underperforming properties.

For those who need evidence of Willoughby City's financial stability, this award is significant as it was made within the context of the Civic Place project. Your Council's financial standing is completely transparent and is in the public domain. Anyone can also verify that your rates are not being used and will not be used to pay for Civic Place.

At the last elections, I put forward a vision of a progressive Willoughby City. To date, you will agree that we have made great strides in making Willoughby City an advancing and vibrant place in which to live and work. I remain committed to pursuing this vision and getting the best outcomes for our communities.



Stuart Coppock

I am offering the people of Willoughby the chance to choose a new Mayor with some real CAN DO policies. Council's attention should be focused on ensuring financial certainty for the future of this City. I have a financial plan for financial certainty and accountability. This plan will seek to ensure that each generation only pays for its fair share of infrastructure and that current needs are not neglected.

My other policies include: No rate rise above CPI for 4 years; A city wide audit and subsequent financial plan for Willoughby; Increased money for Community Grants and sports-fields; Wider footpaths; Ensure transparency with an independent audit of the Civic Place contract and the works needed to secure a functioning and operational building to ascertain a true cost of the project works; Introduce a cross City shuttle bus service; A full community consultative environmental program; and Taking on the State Government over non-residents/commuter parking to have the Government's resident's street car parking policy changed to assist residents with this issue and tackle green house emissions in the policy change.

I have lived in Willoughby for 14 years and I am passionate about our community.

Simon Kovacevic, the third candidate for Mayor, had not returned *Naremburn Matters'* messages requesting a profile and photograph by the time the issue went to the printer.



Liz Price has lots to offer as a Naremburn Agent



“My biggest Real Estate mistake is not having bought in Naremburn when I had the chance 20 years ago!”

Liz Price comments as she discusses her love for the Naremburn area. Her appreciation of the history and the character of the suburb is infectious. Having lived on the Lower North Shore most of her life, Liz has genuine community interest and knowledge. Combine all this with her past career as a solicitor, for many years in the field of commercial law and more recently as a lawyer at the Land Titles Office, Liz Price is an agent with a lot to offer those contemplating the sale of their home.

For all property advice, talk to Liz Price!



110 Hampden Road, Artarmon
0418 117 542 mob **9411 7299** office
www.hometraders.com.au

National Tree Day



This year again saw many residents out planting street trees in Naremburn on the fourth Sunday in July, National Tree Day, with bare pockets in Christie Street, Northcote Street and Dalleys Road planted up.

Usually on National Tree Day it is bushland that gets planted up. In Naremburn over the last 5 years it has been street trees that residents have taken to planting. These included plantings in Bongalong, Quiamong, Glenmore, Dalleys, Dargan, Northcote, Park, Olympia, Ella, Merrenburn, Willoughby, and Waters Road. While other surrounding suburbs were well served with street planting programs in the 1960s and 1970s, Naremburn, with its many wide streets was not.

There has been some catching up to do and each year the number of residents involved has increased. This year some 22 residents were involved.

Thanks to Willoughby City Council and their staff for their ongoing support with this. You can assist by seeing that the tree on your nature strip gets a drink during the warmer months and gets protected from whipper snippers (which is an important determinant in the future wellbeing of the tree).

Ronan Ahern
Northcote Street

Naremburn's Bushy Bits

So, to the final instalment on Naremburn's bushland and re-vegetation areas. Just a quick mention: on Bicentennial pathway just before Flat Rock Bridge is a large community planting site to celebrate the Sydney Olympics in 2000 - looking good.

Once under the bridge where the two streams (now in culverts) meet, the local girl guides have, twice, planted in front of the west facing side, opposite Fleming Park. So named after the Willoughby Mayor who opened the bridge, this park received quite a battering during the widening of the Gore Hill Freeway crossing above it, however, the RTA thoughtfully replanted using local species and it is now coming along very nicely indeed.

This leads into the newly opened Prentice Park again well planted out, heading off to Artarmon along the new shared pathway.

So following the left hand culvert to St Leonards we come to the Talus Street Reserve. This work in progress began as a planting trade off around the old railway yards and the huge apartment tower blocks, and has produced some interesting areas. Tall she-oak forests with ferny understory for one, with some real effort being put in to maintain and control the weedy, wet edges – from locals, Council contractors and gardening teams, and also (begun in 2000) the Ella Street Triangle, now called Naremburn Park Care Team, have put many hours into this difficult site and are slowly and inevitably being rewarded for their labours. There is huge potential in this reserve along with its problems of large wet areas, pollution, lighting, dumping, but we've seen all this before. With everyone involved pulling in the same direction this rather unique area will work; then everyone's a winner.

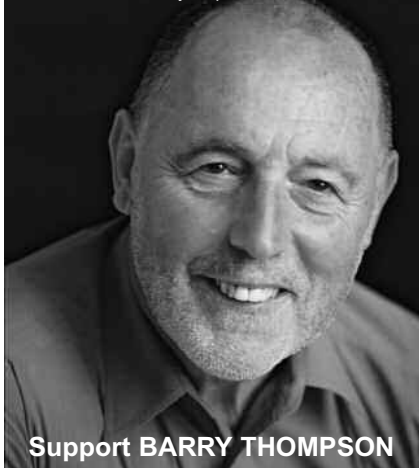
From this reserve begins the second part of Wilksch Walk; well planted on both sides, it runs over behind Naremburn Park's car park, down to Bicentennial Park to Flat Rock Gully Reserve where it links up with the first Walk down the left hand side of the gully to Tunks Park. All is connected for a lovely walk through Naremburn's Bushy Bits!

And how good is Naremburn Park? As well as providing sporting areas, this open space is being well utilised for the Community. So far, the Naremburn Progress Association along with Willoughby City Council's Events have run Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth', outdoor film night in 2007, and 'Poetry and Passion', Willoughby Symphony Orchestra in a concert in the park in March this year, with more to come. What's that I hear you singing? You will just have to wait and see.

Well folks, I hope you have enjoyed this wander through our bushland bits and pieces as much as I've enjoyed writing it. Until next, next, keep planting our special local flora.

Don Swonnell
Walter Street

Local Government Elections
Saturday September 13



Support **BARRY THOMPSON**

Working to benefit ALL of Naremburn
and for a sustainable future

WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL ELECTIONS POLLING PLACES

Saturday 13 September

Naremburn School
250 Willoughby Road
corner of Dalleys

Community Centre
7 Central Street

8:00 am to 6:00 pm

SUPPORT STUART COPPOCK as Ward Councillor and Mayor NEW LEADERSHIP FOR WILLOUGHBY

Willoughby has the chance to choose
a new Mayor with real **CAN DO** policies



Stuart Coppock



Robert Manning

*I have nominated for Ward Councillor and Mayor of Willoughby City in the September 2008 Local Government elections & ask for your support. Should I become Mayor, my running mate, Robert Manning, would take my place as a Ward Councillor. I offer the people of Willoughby the chance to choose a new Mayor with some real **CAN DO** policies. If you believe new leadership is needed for our Council then I ask for your assistance. To achieve this we need money and people power for polling day. Can you help?*

Funds & people power are needed for polling day.
To contribute your time or a donation contact:

Ph: 02 9958 0483 www.stuartcoppock.com.au
Forward cheques to PO Box 100 Chatswood 2067
All donations are greatly appreciated - no sum is too small



Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

September 2008

Community Safety Precinct Committee

There has been a major change in the way that Neighbourhood Watch and the Community Safety functions of the police force are to operate. This change has been implemented state wide.

The result is that there will no longer be small community neighbourhood watch meetings. These will be rolled into the existing quarterly community safety meetings for the wider area.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Community Safety Precinct Committee meetings. They are held quarterly on the second Tuesday of February, May, August and November at 6:30pm. The venue changes, though. The November one has not yet been advised.

We will send out notification via email to all those on the NNHW email service when the advice is received. So if you are not on this service and would like to be please email us on the address at the end of this article.

We will continue to place articles in the Naremburn Matters newsletter, so if you have items you would like covered in these articles please email us and we will try to include them.

Skimming

There have been a few incidents of skimming devices being used on ATMs in our area. These usually consist of a small

camera hidden carefully on the machine and a false card slot that is really a card reader and transmitter being fitted over the slot where you usually put your card in.

One was found, by an alert person, attached to the ANZ at St Leonards.

If the ATM looks in any way unusual please contact police and ask them to investigate it – and don't use that ATM until it is cleared.

The way these work is that the card reader takes your credit card or handybank card details from the magnetic strip and transmits this to a receiver (usually not far away). The camera records the keystrokes you enter when you type in your password. Some transmit these images electronically as well. This gives the thief your card details and PIN so that purchases can be made from your accounts.

What's been happening?

In the April to June quarter, there was a significant increase in break-and-enter offences in our area with 20 residential offences. Four were on the same day and many have been in Glenmore, Dalleys, Northcote and surrounding streets.

Police arrested a man for 3 break-and-enters in mid June. In two of these offences people were at home at the time.

There is still a bit of a spree happening on stealing things from parked cars in the area.

It has been commented upon that most of the offences have occurred in areas where

there is a lot of major renovation. It is likely that thieves target an area where they can see building and renovation occurring as they will not be so obvious when there are a lot of different trades people coming and going.

This might be overdoing it, but if people are concerned, those renovating could let neighbours know who is coming and going, what they look like, etc, so they can keep an eye out for anyone else. And if your neighbours are renovating you could ask about who is who and when they are coming.

When our neighbours renovated the builder came and introduced himself when he arrived and we knew from the neighbours roughly what work was happening when and got to know the cars and people. This wasn't difficult, helped us and the builder, and kept their place safer too.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be combined with the Community Safety Precinct Committee:

Date: Tuesday, 11 November 2008

Time: 8:00 pm

Where: TBA via NNWH email distribution list

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



JOIN THE NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION!

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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 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

'Turning of the Sod' for Chatswood Civic Place

Australians, old and new, combined to turn a sod for Civic Place. The Civic Place project will reshape the most important publicly-owned site on the North Shore to give much needed, designed open space and sustainable public facilities, and will provide a cultural, educational and recreational civic heart for our region.



From Left to right: Uncle Max Eulo, the Hon. Henry Tsang MLC, the Hon. Bob Hawke AC, Mayor Pat Reilly and Uncle Bob Waterer turn the first Sod for Civic Place.

Our Living History

On 7 May this year, the Northside Courier featured a story entitled 'School sorely missed'. In the article, Netta Mesnikoff who has lived in Naremburn for 50 years lamented the closing of the schools because "they're not learning about the community, because they are going to Willoughby and to Cammeray".

People like Netta recognise the value of passing on our story. Naremburn has a rich history. It is part of a land grant to Private Peter Dargin of the NSW Marine Corps in 1794. Anglicans built a church in Market Street in 1883 with the Catholic School opening in the same street in 1894. The first State school was built on the corner of Dalleys and Willoughby Roads in 1886. Our Progress Association saw 'light of day' in what is now Central Hall on Central Street in 1901.

Encouraged by Cllr Stuart Coppock and with tape recorder provided by WCC Library's Local Studies, I have begun interviewing and recording 'oral history' from some of our senior Naremburnians. Dulcie Barratt and Alf Fitzsimmons of Dalleys Road have shared part of their story. Dulcie, now in her 80s and her daughter, Lorraine, both went to Naremburn Primary School, while Alf, possibly one of Australia's oldest living lifesavers, made his debut as a political activist at the last Council elections in handing out how to vote for his friend the late Joe Ciantar, when Alf was in his late 80s.

There must be many older residents who have stories about, and photographs of, Naremburn through the years – the people, the social events, the changes, and, of course, the shops. If you can be part of our Living History program, please contact me on 9439 8119. By recording your rich memories of life in our suburb you will be adding to the heritage to be passed on.

Kevin FitzPatrick
Central Street

