



Naremburn Matters

June 2012 Vol.8, No.1

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The newsletter of the
Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)



The Bells of St Leonard's

In April 2013 St Leonard's Catholic Church will celebrate 100 years since the laying of the church's foundation stone. Significant in the celebrations will be the installation of bells in the purpose-built tower erected in 1955, the copper tower that is visible from much of the Lower North Shore, and is a landmark for the entire suburb.

The Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore – Naremburn, Northbridge, and Willoughby – lodged a Development Application in October 2011 (DA-2011/493) for the installation of six bells and sound control in the existing bell tower. WCC notified residents within a 100 metre radius of the church on the corner of Willoughby Road and Donnelly Road of the DA and set up a Working Group that essentially included residents within the 100 metre notification zone, to examine the DA and to inspect bells installations in other parts of Sydney and make recommendations.

The result of this process was that the Council Officer's recommendation was for the bells to be approved at 10dB(A) above background noise and not at + 17dB(A) requested in the DA; motion passed at the Council meeting of 12 March 2012. Cr Barry Thompson proposed an amendment that included approval at + 17dB(A), but this was lost, 5 for, 7 against. The Parish is extremely disappointed that Council did not approve + 17dB(A) in circumstances where the Parish did compromise on ringing times. The Council's decision will consequently increase the cost of the project.

Consultations with a sound specialist are being undertaken to find a solution to the ramifications of the Council's approval at +10dB(A). The church's fund-raising will include seeking 100% tax deductible donations to ANZAB (Australian and New Zealand Association of Bellringers).

The Bells Updates and background on the Parish and its church are on www.naremburnprogress.org.au. Naremburn was scarred by the construction of the Expressway and the Lane Cove Tunnel. As has been said by many, St Leonard's Church bells will enhance our area, that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. We can counter-balance the effect of the devastation of our 'town' centre and enhance the southern gateway to Naremburn. May the Bells of St Leonard's ring throughout the land known as Naremburn!

Nick Tobin WCC General Manager

Guest Speaker at our next General Meeting Thursday 14 June
Naremburn Community Centre 7 Central Street, from 7:30 pm

Naremburn Branch Library and the London Olympics

The Olympic Games 2012 begin in London on 27 July. Approximately 400 Australians will be competing against other athletes from all over the world. Australians will be watching our Olympians' performance with great interest. During July school holidays, children can attend free and fun holiday activities with an Olympic theme at Naremburn Library. Younger children (0 to 6 years) can enjoy stories about sport followed by a simple craft activity – on Friday 6 July at 10:30 am. Older children (5 to 12 years) will be making Olympic torches during a great craft session on Monday 2 July at 3:00 pm. Bookings are essential and can be made at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library/ from Monday 18 June 2012.

Come to Naremburn Library and check out more recent best-sellers, entertaining books and DVDs for the whole family. Find out more about eBooks at your library; opening hours are listed on the back page of this issue.

Diana Revington
Naremburn Librarian

NAREMBURN VILLAGE SHOPS

Photographic artwork by:
David Waters
7 June 2005





Nareburn Progress Association
Founded 1901
Incorporated 2004
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PO Box 393
St Leonards 1590

www.nareburnprogress.org.au

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Carmen Loecherer : 0409 766 470

Committee Members

Lynda Ackroyd
Viviane Leveaux
Joann Morand

General Meetings

Second Thursday of the month
excluding January and July
Nareburn Community Centre,
7 Central Street
Commencing at 7:30 pm with an Open Forum

Editor, Nareburn Matters

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

From the Editor's desk ...

NPA President, Frances O'Brien, is enjoying warmer weather in Darwin. In her absence here is an update since our March issue.

NPA Election of the 2012 NPA Executive Committee at the 8 March AGM was an historic one; six of the seven positions were filled by women. Several 2011 committee members had decided not stand again. Frances was nominated for President for the second year; she had previously been Vice President and prior to that, Secretary. Cr Kate Lamb was our Returning Officer. Those elected are President Frances O'Brien (joined the NPA in 2006), Vice President Roger Promnitz (2005), Secretary Helene Kemp (2002, active since 2010), Treasurer Carmen Loecherer (2011); and General Committee Members, Lynda Ackroyd (2008), Vivian Leveaux (2009), Joann Morand (2011). Women as President, Secretary and Treasurer are a first in in our 110 year history. Congratulations to all and thank you for giving time and effort to the NPA.

Earth Hour 2012 held on Saturday 31 March went well, thanks to the efforts of many including a very active NPA Events Sub-Committee. The NPA had successfully applied for a WCC Small Grant for EH 2012. Peter Chauncy, whose work increases our overall property values in Nareburn, donated \$1,500 for the event. We thank WCC and its General Manager, Nick Tobin, and Peter Chauncy – and those residents who attended.

NSW 2021 – Frances attended a NSW Government community consultation meeting for NSW 2021 held on Monday evening 2 April at The Pavilion, The Concourse, hosted by Jillian Skinner MP, Member for North Shore, Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, to discuss issues impacting the community, to seek input from the community to develop Regional Action Plans aligned to NSW 2021. Frances raised our issues of commuter traffic and parking, development, and that Nareburn needs a school.

School for Nareburn – This issue, raised by Frances, has gone to the Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, for consideration - www.nareburnprogress.org.au for updates. The school issue will be the focus of a General Meeting later in the year.

Senior Constable Matthew Jewell, North Shore Local Area Command was guest speaker at our 10 May General Meeting. He is a crime prevention officer and referred us to www.police.nsw.gov.au for links to Eyewatch and the Facebook page set up by NSW Police. See page 7 for Sue Howes' Nareburn Neighbourhood Watch article.

Identity Theft Risk – since the May meeting, theft of mail box contents similar to that depicted in TV coverage in other suburbs occurred at the units, 252 Willoughby Road.

Council Elections, held every four years, are on Saturday, 8 September. A good explanation of the process and possible outcomes in this Ward is in Cr Barry Thompson's article on page 8. Both Cr Thompson and Cr Kate Lamb are not seeking re-election as Councillors. We thank them for their work in representing Nareburn Ward which includes Nareburn as well as Artarmon and part of Willoughby and elects three Ward Councillors. We have not had a Nareburn resident as a Ward Councillor since Lesley Stephens of Dalleys Road did not seek re-election in 2004 as she had moved out of Willoughby City. Nominations close at 12 Noon on Wednesday 8 August.

Trisha FitzPatrick
NM Editor

Next Issue: September 2012

Nareburn Matters is a quarterly publication issued in March, June, September and December.

September issue deadlines

Ad Booking: Monday 30 July
Ad Artwork: Monday 6 August
Articles: Wednesday 8 August

nareburn.matters@nareburnprogress.org.au

Under Copyright Laws a copy of each issue is forwarded to the State Library of NSW

NPA Meeting Dates

**Second Thursdays
7:30 pm**

14 June 2012
No meeting in July
9 August 2012
13 September 2012
11 October 2012

**Nareburn
Community Centre
7 Central Street**

Who can be a member of the Nareburn PA?

- Nareburn residents – 18 years and over;
- Non-resident Nareburn property owners;
- People who run businesses in Nareburn.

**\$10 per person per annum
\$5 Concession per person per annum**

Fees for the calendar year are set in March and are due for payment by 15 June each year in order to retain membership rights.

www.nareburnprogress.org.au

OK! Let's Get Personal...

Now I know you all read my articles and follow them religiously right?!

Well, a big thank you to those who do, and for all the feedback, comments and some suggestions for the next article – oh, and not forgetting the updates that you give me as to what I have inspired you to do. OK, enough chit chat, it's time to get down to business – your next project! Are you ready?

Out in the garden again – now that you have designed your garden, planted it, added screens, paths, water features and lit it – have I left anything out? Oh, and you have manicured the lawn? It's now time to really personalise your outdoor space make it your own put your mark on it – no I'm not suggesting you lift your leg or leave your calling card like the dog does – not that sort of mark.

Hands up those of you who have hung a picture, painting or placed a piece of art, sculpture, an ornament, hell, even placed a candle inside your home? Well, why not do it outside? We all like to live outside – you know the saying, 'bring the outside in'. Well this is bringing the inside out.

So if you have a plain wall, fence, shed – why not paint it, place some art on it, picture or iron sculpture? Liven up a roof you can see from the house. How about a statue or sculpture next to a pond, edge of the garden? If gnomes are your thing scatter them around – be different – personalise your outdoor space – let your artist side run free. Think of some of the stately/historic homes you may have visited or seen pictures of, the Botanical Gardens, the local Park, etc. There are statues and pieces of art everywhere.

If you take a look in my garden I have many pieces scattered about. They are all different sizes. They don't have to be huge statuesque things, some on walls, edges of paving or decking, next to the ponds, edges of gardens, some of mine are usable – they are pieces I have bought or made. They can be new or old – some of my pieces are bits I found while renovating. They live on in the garden – talking points, little quirky things – it's me – it's personal!



A rusty iron kookaburra rules the shed roof whilst a silver frog reclines by the pond.



Spot the gnome! The shower is made from an old railway sleeper and left-over copper pipe.

Andy
41 Central Street



Peter Chauncy and his team at McGrath

Naremburn owners will be reassured to see first hand the positive effects of recent interest rate cuts with two street record sales. Negative press on the general market certainly did not dampen the interest in these well-presented homes in Slade and McBurney Street, which attracted high levels of inspections from buyers keen to secure quality homes in this popular area. The benefits of a creative marketing campaign were reflected in both high activity and the excellent eventual sales results which saw buyers from north, east and west regions competing for the properties.

The spike in activity and increased urgency to buy has been noticeable since the Reserve Bank's decision. We

are expecting the run of strong prices to be sustained given the supply of stock has dropped substantially – it's simple supply and demand. It's definitely an attractive time to consider a sale after what has been a softer period in the market.

For any Real Estate advice please feel free to contact Peter on 0402 036 489.

**McGrath Mid North Shore
9417 9639**

Get behind your local community

If you haven't already heard, Ben Walker and a few other Naremburn residents have entered a competition in the *North Shore Times* called **Project Local**.

The prize is a \$2,500 grant for the Community Garden at the end of Bongalong Street.

Voting is easy!

- 1) Log onto www.projectlocal.com.au – Voting closes Friday May 25.
- 2) Enter your name and *North Shore Times*
- 3) Nominate the (Naremburn), Community Garden

We have kicked off the Bongalong community garden fund with a donation of \$1000. This will help start what will be Sydney's best community garden ever we hope!



EARTH HOUR 2012

Nareburn's EH Event
held Saturday 31 March,
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm
at the Nareburn Shops

- Soul Drummer
- Fire Twirler
- African Dancer
- KICK Performance
- Wandering Minstrels
- Clown
- Face painting



From NPA Life Member Mick Nicholls President of the NPA 1990 to 1995

Mick Nicholls and his wife Helen now live in Gundaroo. In April, he came across www.nareburnprogress.org.au and made contact. Mick has been on our Register of Members but we had no contact details after he moved away in 2003 – before the NPA had a website, or Nareburn Matters, or communicated to the general membership by email.

Some of us currently involved in the NPA had heard of the great work he had done in the NPA and that he had been awarded Life Membership. We have been in touch. Here are some excerpts from his letter.

Thanks for your response, good to hear from Nareburn again after all these years. Membership of 149 would have been unheard of in my day, congratulations and well done to all involved. I would be very pleased if I was placed on your email listing for anything from the Nareburn area...

Helen and I were both born in Nareburn and at one time both lived in Northcote Street, she near Mitchell Street and me near Quiamong Street. Both of us went to Nareburn Public School and later Willoughby Girls for Helen and Crows Nest Boys for me. We started going out in the early 1950s and were married in what was then the Nareburn Congregational Church in Quiamong Street in 1956. We lived with Helen's mum and dad and when her dad passed away in the 1970s we bought the house from her mum and lived there until 2003. We sold up in 2003 as I was not in the best of health at the time and bought a home in Rouse Hill near the Mean Fiddler and stayed there until 2009 and sold up again as it became too violent in the area for our liking and bought a half acre block of land in a little village called Gundaroo which is just outside the ACT...

Gundaroo is an historic village with a population of about 1440 and at weekends very crowded with sightseers. One of the first settlements in the area, it has a pub, built in the 1860s. The pub opens at 3:00 pm each day and closes when the last person is ready to go home, usually about 8:30 pm. It also has an award-winning restaurant. There is also restaurant which opens Friday, Saturday and Sunday or as required and was in fact the original pub built in the 1840s. We have a General Store come Post Office and a knick knack shop which was also built in the 1800s. There is a pizza store which used to be old stable – great pizzas but very expensive... Gundaroo has a public school built in the 1860s and it has 83 children at the present time, a record enrolment. We don't even have a mail delivery and everyone has to pick their mail up from the Post Office so we are a bit backward in this way but get to meet everyone as well... Oh, by the way, we have very little crime here either and the knick knack shop doesn't even put half their stuff inside at night and it never gets stolen – good old times!

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St Leonard's Church Spire and Bells

[Adapted from Eric Wilksch's The Naremburn Story, 1988]

In 1894 the Catholic school opened in Market Street by the Sisters of St Joseph also served as the church.

Eventually it became obvious that a separate church would be essential. Fortunately those entrusted with the task of seeking an appropriate site were people of vision and selected a fine site at the corner of Willoughby and Donnelly Roads, part of the Alexander Dodds Estate, part of the original grant of J.S. Ryan of 1849. This portion was known as Dodds' Picnic Grounds. The cost of the land was £1,456.

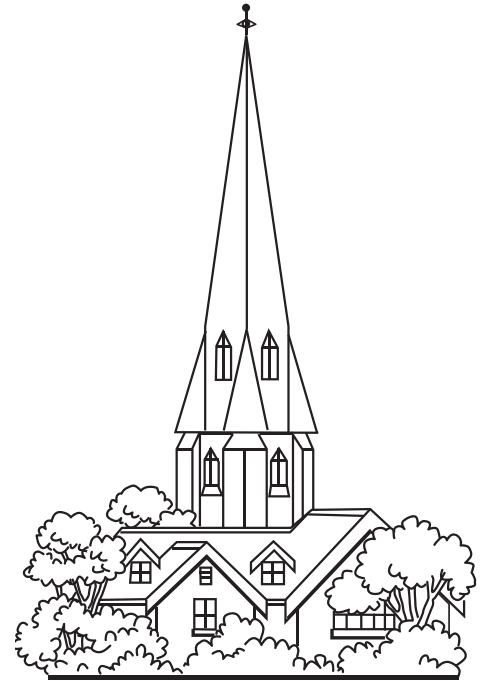
The plans for the new church were of magnificence and vision. The proposed church was given the patronage of St Leonard of Port Maurice. The foundation stone was laid in April 1913. It was solemnly blessed and dedicated on 7 December. This was the first section of the planned new church and consisted of the central portion, half of the nave and a chapel for the Sisters of St Joseph and their boarders, with seating for about 600 persons. Even at this time this portion of the church was regarded as one of the most handsome and artistically constructed churches on the northern side of the harbour. The full cost of the building was £4,102.

The 1913 plans were for twin spire towers. In 1955 the architect and others considered a single spire the more appropriate structure to complete the church, given the aesthetics of the building and the elevation of the site which made it a distinctive landmark.

Allan G Robertson of Kingsgrove, an architect of merit and a member of the Church, was commissioned to carry out extensions and add the spire. Spire building of timber with a copper sheath, as generally practised, was becoming a lost art as so few spires were being built. Consideration was given to employing more modern means of construction. Stan Hall, a North Shore civil engineer was approached to see if he would consider designing a structure utilising steel. Mr Hall accepted the challenge, foreseeing a major difficulty in safely placing a completed spire into position on the tower.

Its galvanised steel framework was prefabricated in two sections for delivery, assembled on the site and hoisted in entirety onto its permanent position, complete with the attractive and appropriate coronet surmounting it. The copper cladding was then attached and securely seamed. The spire, finished in 1955, assured its intended attraction as a landmark, promoting of course its primary role of ecclesiastic symbolism.

In 1955 the Parish did not have the funds to acquire and install bells in the newly built bell tower. As the Centenary of the church approached it was seen as fitting that finally bells be installed in the bell tower. The bells, more than 100 years old, originate from a church in North Wales. The Keltek Trust, an organisation that rescues bells removed from churches in the UK, purchased the bells. They were then gifted to the Parish by an anonymous donor. The bells are presently stored at Taylor's Foundry in England. The cost of shipping them to Naremburn from England will be approximately \$5,000.



NAREMBURN
P R O G R E S S
A S S O C I A T I O N

Our logo

The inaugural **Naremburn Matters** team – David MacGowan, Carolyn New and Ronan Ahern – organised the logo for the April 2005 issue.

The NPA logo is intended to represent Naremburn's town centre as seen from various locations within the suburb and is based on a composite photo of Naremburn School (1887), St Leonard's Church (1913), and St Cuthbert's Church (1915). Following consultation with Robin Phelan of **rocketdesign**, (**Naremburn Matters** Typesetter), the artwork was completed by local artist Roy Stokes.



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Before (above) and after (below) a morning's work in the new Community Garden.



Proposed Child Care Centre at 7 & 9 Donnelly Road

On 21 February, a Site Conciliation meeting of the Land and Environment Court was held. Roger Promnitz was delegated to represent the NPA; we oppose the development on safety and traffic grounds. The Commissioner asked for and was given a hard copy of Roger's presentation.

The developer has been given yet another two week extension of time to meet the outstanding requirements for a complying development however, it appears unlikely that these will be met. Read Roger's presentation of 21 February and check for updates at www.naremburnprogress.org.au.



Community Garden – Winter 2012

A group of residents has approached Council about putting a community garden at the bottom of Bongalong Street. Council is keen and the process is well advanced, with the agreement due to be signed early May.

Our first project in the garden has been to move some dianella from the area where we want to install a raised bed and replant this to the kerbside of Northcote Street. This occurred on the weekend of 28 April and the group would like to thank Council for their assistance.

We had some strawberry plants, so these were planted as our first crop in the garden bed cleared as part of this preliminary work. The two pictures show the before and after of our morning's work.

The community garden is being organised by a Management Committee. The aims of the garden are to:

- Operate a garden on the vacant land at the end of Bongalong Street
- The garden will be a shared communal garden. Volunteers will divide the food produced
- Gardening will take place between 10am and 12pm on Sundays
- The garden will be raised bed, organic and zero waste
- The garden (phase 1) will be operating from May 2012
- Volunteering is open to anyone including families and the elderly.

We are hoping that the whole community takes the opportunity to become involved in Naremburn's first community garden, either as volunteer gardeners or providing landscaping, gardening advice or materials.

A flyer will be delivered soon to households in the immediate area of the garden asking for volunteers to identify their interest and what they are interested in or can contribute to the garden.

Our plans are to have 3 raised garden beds in the middle of the area in the first phase. Phase 2 will involve increasing the area of the garden by shortening the street slightly and fencing the area to increasing the area under cultivation.

All interested parties are invited to visit the site and give their opinions to and ask questions of the Management Committee. A Committee member will be on site whenever the garden is open.

Once operational, members will be able to take produce from the site for a small donation. We are planning to have herbs constantly available and also a variety of seasonal crops that are harvested and then distributed amongst members. We are also planning to produce a range of seedlings, seeds and produce for members and visitors to purchase to support the garden.

If you would like to be involved, please email us on bscgnaremburn@hotmail.com and tell us how you would like to be involved.

Sue Howes
Bongalong Street

Can you help with NM?

- ✎ write articles – news or interest, or
- ✎ write a regular column, or
- ✎ proofread articles from others, or
- ✎ liaise with advertisers, or
- ✎ be a walker distributing NM

Contact The Editor
Trisha FitzPatrick
on 9439 8119

or email
naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au

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Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

June 2012

New ways to watch

Technological advances occur every day. Some make life more difficult while others make life easier.

This issue we discuss two new ways that technology is assisting the police, community and Neighbourhood Watch to keep in touch and help prevent crime.

Crime prevention

NSW Police have an excellent website that contains oodles of information to help prevent crime as well as what to do and who to call if something occurs that people are concerned about.

The address for this website is www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues and on the left hand side of the page there is a range of topics to choose from. The site is very easy to find your way around. Topics covered on this site include, but are not limited to:

- Alcohol
- Children
- Countering Terrorism
- Community Safety Precinct Committees
- Crime Prevention
- Domestic & Family Violence
- Drugs
- Eyewatch
- Fraud & Scams

- Internet Safety
- Mental Health
- Missing Persons
- Road Safety
- Transport Safety

This means that you don't have to wait for an edition of Naremburn Matters to cover topics of interest. If you need information on how to manage your home to ensure it is as unattractive as possible to burglars, there is a section just for you. There are also tips for businesses and the community as a whole. For example, if there is a small area where many instances of a similar issue keep occurring, it might be worthwhile talking to your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) to see if a safety audit could be carried out to identify ways of tackling the issue. The website will explain what a safety audit is and also how to contact your local CPO.

Eyewatch

This website also contains a link to Eyewatch. Once there, it is necessary to choose which area we belong in. We are part of the North Shore Local Area Command (LAC), so click on North Shore.

This link will take you to the Facebook page set up by the NSW Police that relates to our area. This page is regularly updated with breaking news, including you tube video links and articles as well as having

an area for the community to post information for other people to view.

There are a number of links to other organisations that might be of interest or benefit to users. These can be found under the 'likes' section of the page.

It is also possible to go directly to the Eyewatch Facebook page for North Shore. The easiest way I have found to do this is to log into Facebook and then search for NSW Police. This will bring the main page up that has an icon linking to Eyewatch on it. Again, North Shore needs to be selected to enter the correct page.

There are many interesting things on this page, but it is NOT for reporting crime, so please do not post anything about activities that you think the police may be interested in here.

Local community groups can post information here about their activities.

Contact us on: naremnhw@tpg.com.au

Email network

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

Sue Howes
Bongalong Street

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Email: service@pacificadvisory.com.au

This general advice has been prepared without taking into account your personal circumstances or objectives and you should therefore consider the appropriateness of the advice in light of your own circumstances and objectives before acting on the advice.

How to join the NPA

**Download a
Membership Application Form:**

www.naremburnprogress.com.au
click on 'Join NPA'

Pay by Cheque:

Naremburn Progress Association
PO Box 393 St Leonards NSW 1590

Pay by EFT:

BSB 032 297, ACC 20 1474,
YOUR LAST NAME

Mail your application form to:

PO Box 393 St Leonards NSW 1590

No Internet access?

Phone 9439 8119 for an Application Form

Membership Fee:

\$10 per person, paid each year
\$5 Concession, per person, paid each year

Naremburn Community Centre Activities

Naremburn Progress Association

2nd Thursday (except Jan & Jul)
7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
0416 161 536 (Frances O'Brien)

Playgroup

Wednesday
10:00 am to 12 noon
School Term only
naremburnplaygroup@gmail.com
0432 573 214 (Alex)

Northern Suburbs Philatelic Society

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

Lower North Shore Multiple Births Association

2nd Tuesday
7:30 pm to 9:30pm

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

7 Central Street



Council Elections due Saturday 8 September

My second 'career' ends in a few months when I complete two terms as a Willoughby councillor. Eight and a half years has seen my grandkids grow into teenagers – with only minimal input from 'Pop'. My daughters might say 'what's changed?'

Well, it's getting time for Eve and me to address that bucket list of travel destinations and other activities that we have been putting off.

For Naremburn Ward, it will be a particularly interesting election. Two councillors are standing down and the third's aspirations to be Mayor will probably have been confirmed by the time you read this. If successful, the number two candidate on the Mayor-elect's ticket will take a seat as councillor. The ward will then have four representatives on Council, three of whom will, most likely, be new. Quite a change! The increased representation will strengthen the voice of those living in the diverse south-western part of our city, including our newer, younger residential arrivals many of whom live in apartments. I encourage everyone to take an interest to ensure your chosen candidates understand the issues you face and have the skills to advocate for them at Council.

I have often been asked how much time it takes to be a councillor. It is a difficult question to answer. The job is totally open-ended in that, in addition to official Council meetings, there is a vast array of issues in which an eager councillor can take a special interest – from traffic matters, to foreshore amenity; from cultural activities to cooperation among our region's councils. Each activity involves a large agenda under an executive officer, a periodic meeting (often 2+ hours) and reams of reading to become informed on the issues of the day. I have found that direct interactions with constituents have not been a big time consumer for me. Nonetheless, I have taken efforts to keep abreast of local and state issues and have attended Progress Association meetings when available. The fact that I am retired makes my total of my duties more manageable and less burdensome than if I were still in full-time employment. There is another aspect of the job which I have much enjoyed – attendance at cultural and community events organised by Council. The number and range of these activities is considerable and expanding and facilitates community contact.

So as you cast your vote, look for the following attributes in your candidates:

- Ability to communicate both verbally and in writing, especially electronically
- Vision of the 'big picture' and ability to project and anticipate trends (eg. of an ageing community)
- Interpersonal skills, with constituents and more importantly among Council peers and associates
- Business/management skills and experience
- Understanding of procedures for meetings; making and reviewing policies; and handling issues around financial control, the law and privacy.

On top of all that, you might consider age, gender and background balance as you assess candidates. The present Council, in my view, gets a tick only for gender balance.

I hope and expect that both Naremburn and Artarmon Progress Associations will assist the election process by again organising a 'meet the candidates' session. I see the PA's function as introducing all the candidates and their policies equally and then standing back to let voters make their choice. It has worked that way in our ward in the past. I was dismayed at the last council election when a PA in another ward openly endorsed one candidate – distinctly unfair to the others, both during and after the election, in my view.

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