



Naremburn Matters

December 2012 Vol.8, No.3

Circulation 3,000

The newsletter of the
Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)



Photo: Neil Freyhold

Santa comes to Naremburn Shops Friday 7 December at 6:00 pm

The visit of a very special person to the Naremburn Shops at this time of year marks, for us, the beginning of the Festive Season.

As in previous years, we have been fortunate to ensure that Santa will make his annual visit to our area. It is planned that he will arrive at 6:00 pm full of good cheer and, for those children who have been good throughout the year, there is a special treat!

For his Naremburn visit, Santa uses a Harley Davidson so that he can rest his reindeers for Christmas Eve. Look out and listen for the roar of the motor!

For some people this is an opportunity to catch up with friends in the area and as such has become a traditional event. Our thanks to the shopkeepers who put in much time and effort in arranging this occasion. Why not stay on with friends and make it a family evening?



Season's Greetings from the NPA

**Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

To all our members, volunteers, readers and advertisers

Summer @ Naremburn Library

The summer holidays are fast approaching, so it's time to collect leisure reading from the Naremburn Library for the whole family.

There are plenty of entertaining books for everyone, as well as some great movies. The Summer Reading Club for kids is on again during December/January and this year's theme is "Untangled Tales". Children can sign up at the Library for this fantastic program and receive a participation pack, which includes a reading log.

So kids, please join in the Summer Reading Club. There are lucky dip prizes for keeping up your reading, as well as a special party, at the Chatswood Library on Thursday 24 January. At the party participation certificates will be handed out, major prizes drawn and a children's entertainer will be present.

To find out more about children's holiday fun please look up www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library/ which includes information about holiday activities at Naremburn Library. Please book online at this site, or phone 9777 7900 (Chatswood) or 9439 5584 (Naremburn) for assistance.

Would you like an email alert about holds and items overdue? Please register your email address online and you will begin to receive email notification when your holds are available or if you have items overdue.

The Library is open on Mondays from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Thursdays from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm and Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12 Noon.

Wishing you a happy holiday season!

Diana Revington

Naremburn Branch Librarian

**NAREMBURN
VILLAGE SHOPS**

Photographic artwork by:
David Waters
7 June 2005





Naremburn Progress Association
Founded 1901
Incorporated 2004
ABN 93 907 169 376
PO Box 393
St Leonards 1590

www.naremburnprogress.org.au

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Lynda Ackroyd
Viviane Leveaux
Joann Morand

General Meetings

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

**Naremburn Matters
Editorial Committee**

Trisha FitzPatrick, Carmen Loecherer,
Viviane Leveaux
naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au

Typesetting & Printing by

Robin Phelan & Associates : 0407 467 376

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

It has been a very busy few months for the Naremburn Progress Association.

The Council elections in September were closely followed by major issues that impact residents of Naremburn. Firstly the Environment Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2012 and secondly the proposed redevelopment of the Channel Nine site at Willoughby. In addition there is the urgent need for a solution to the overcrowding in our local schools.

The Council elections resulted in Councillor Michelle Sloane, Councillor Stuart Coppock and Councillor Nic Wright being elected to represent Naremburn Ward for the next four years. At the first meeting of the new Council, Cr Coppock was elected Deputy Mayor of Willoughby City Council until September 2013. The NPA congratulates our three Ward Councillors. We look forward to working with them in representing needs and concerns in Naremburn. Particular thanks to Cr Sloane for her continuing support at every consultation meeting held for the Channel Nine site, advice on the issue of overcrowding in local schools and explanation of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2012.

Melanie Smith, Director of Community Services, Willoughby City Council addressed the NPA's October General Meeting. Council is undertaking a needs-based analysis of the requirements for community services in the Willoughby Local Government Area (LGA). This is a long term analysis and it is imperative that it is conducted thoroughly to ensure that planning for services meets expressed needs.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2012 – The Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations (FWPA) of which the NPA is a contributing and voting member has written to Members of the Legislative Council regarding the implied threat to conservation areas in NSW posed by the Bill which has already passed the Lower House. Naremburn has two such conservations areas.

Channel Nine Willoughby – We were advised in October that Channel Nine intend to redevelop their site in Willoughby. See page 5 for the article by Roger Promnitz and page 8 for Cr Michelle Sloane's inaugural contribution to our back page 'councillor corner'. Channel 9 must lodge its Environmental Assessment by 30 November 2012. Keep tabs on this on Nine's website (details page 5). The NPA representatives were Roger, Helene Kemp, Viviane Leveaux and Frances O'Brien. The NPA raised several issues including existing traffic problems at the Artarmon Rd/Small Street and Willoughby Road intersection.

Overcrowding in our local schools – The Northern Sydney Regional Council of P&C Associations has organised a public meeting for Monday 26 November 2012, 7:00 pm at Willoughby Girls High School Hall, 151 Mowbray Road Willoughby.

Become a member of the NPA – If you are not a member of the Naremburn Progress Association, you should join – www.naremburnprogress.org.au – click on the link on our home page, download the pdf form, complete it and mail it and your cheque for \$10 to PO Box 393 St Leonards NSW 1590. There are many major issues affecting our Community and lifestyle. We need to be united!

Frances O'Brien
President, NPA

Next Issue: March 2013

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

March issue deadlines

Ad Booking: Monday 28 January
Ad Artwork: Monday 4 February
Articles: Wednesday 6 February

naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.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**

13 December 2012

No meeting in January

14 February 2013

14 March 2013

**Naremburn
Community Centre
7 Central Street**

Who can be a member of the Naremburn PA?

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

\$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.naremburnprogress.org.au

It's that time of year again!!

Spring has Sprung! Well it actually finished a few days ago and no doubt you have given the inside of the house a good spring clean and sort out – if not, now's the time!

I have seen a lot of you cleaning and tidying your gardens and they are really starting to look good. I've also noticed some of your lawns – trying to give me a run for my money huh?

Now with all this talk about cleaning and tidying I need to have a serious chat to a few people. I always love your feedback and requests for article ideas and one particular subject is requested time and time again so I have finally decided to write about it.

The residents of Naremburn give a pat on the back to all of you out there that clean up after your dogs and put rubbish in the bins. If you are one of these residents a big thank you and please skip ahead to the double asterisks (**) in the next column – I'll catch you up in a minute.

Well now that we are alone – I didn't want to embarrass you in front of everyone – that's why I have asked them to skip ahead and wait so we could have a little chat! Most of the residents of Naremburn are a little annoyed with you as you have been very naughty and unless you amend your ways immediately and for good, you could be in for some trouble!

Firstly, Santa won't visit, so no Chrissie presents, and secondly some residents are so annoyed they are thinking of filming or photographing you to name and shame you as they are tired of picking up after your dog – (did you know there's a \$275.00 fine?) – and sick of picking up your rubbish when you have cleaned out your car or house and dumped the rubbish on the nature strip or street and expect others to pick it up.

Some helpful hints for you:

Checklist when taking your dog for a walk:

(1) Dog, (2) Leash, (3) Bag for doggy doo, (4) Place doggy doo bag in a bin.

Checklist when cleaning out the car:

(1) Car, (2) Vacuum optional, (3) Rubbish bag, (4) Dispose of in a bin.

Checklist for cleaning out the house:

(1) House, (2a) Put out on hard refuse day (only 4 times a year), or, (2b) get a skip or ute so that you can dispose of rubbish properly.

** Thanks for waiting. I just had to have a little chat to a few people about doggy doo and rubbish issues. They have promised to amend their ways – well, fingers crossed – especially if they want Santa to visit. Maybe they can ask for some dog nappies and garbage bags??

So you won't have to put signs on stakes in trees asking other dog owners to pick up after their dogs and you won't find the landmines the hard way when walking across or mowing the lawn – kids always seem to home in on those landmines – yuck!!

So thanks for improving and keeping Naremburn clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy – all your hard work is paying off.

It's that time of year too! Have a great Christmas and a brilliant New Year!

Andy

41 Central Street



Peter Chauncy and the McGrath Crows Nest team

Welcome to the last edition from the team for 2012...

In August of this year, Peter and the team opened the doors to the new McGrath Office in Holtermann Street, Crows Nest. We want to thank everyone for your continuous support. We have been overwhelmed by the local community who are constantly sending across referrals and recommendations to friends and family looking to buy & sell in the area.

Willoughby Community Preschool

Peter is the proud major sponsor for the Willoughby Community Preschool – in August of this year we attended the preschool Winter Dinner. We had a fabulous night and helped raise some well-deserved money for the special needs preschool from the children's artworks being auctioned off to the parents.

Crows Nest Fair 2012

On Sunday 21st October, the McGrath Crows Nest Team proudly supported the Crows Nest Fair as one of the major sponsors. During the day we handed out fairy floss, balloons and blue slushies' in exchange for a gold coin donation in which all proceeds have been donated to the Children's Starlight Foundation in Naremburn.

February Auctions 2013

As the end of the year is fast approaching, many home owners in the area are securing Auction dates now for February as this is traditionally one of the biggest & busiest selling months of the year. Our schedule will generally fill up pretty close to capacity before Christmas.

If the thought of a February Auction was something you have been thinking about, now would be the best time for us to sit down and discuss your plans so we can start the process and planning.



On behalf of Peter Chauncy & his Team at McGrath, we want to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas and we look forward to catching up in the New Year.

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

Our New address: 1a/29 Holtermann Street,
Crows Nest NSW 2065
Phone: 8115 0400

School for Naremburn

When I first moved into the area Naremburn had two primary schools.

The demographics of the area changed with an aging population and reduced school enrolments. In 1990 the State school was closed and in 1996 the Catholic School.

Since that time, once again, demographics have changed and we see much younger families in the area with primary school age or younger children.

We have all heard the concerns of schools such as Cammeray and Artarmon who are required to take in children from outside their immediate area and suffer from overcrowded classrooms.

There have been many articles in the *North Shore Times* with the most recent following a rising up of parents from the local Parents and Citizens' (P&C) Associations.

By the time this comes to print there will have been a public forum hosted by The Northern Sydney Regional Council of P&C Associations at Girls High Willoughby.

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian, Member for Willoughby, representatives from the Department of Education and Communities, local Councillors, and other local, state and federal Members for the lower to mid North Shore Region were invited to this forum.

The forum was to raise, at all levels of government, the high level concern among the school communities and the impact on the broader communities and to ask the question of what is being done to relieve this crisis in our schools.

Media articles and regular updates on this issue are posted on the Northern Sydney Regional Council of P&Cs Facebook page. I would encourage those who are able, to keep themselves informed and support the P&Cs.

The Naremburn Progress Association – www.naremburnprogress.org.au – will endeavour to keep you informed on any progress; email updates will be sent to NPA members.

Viviane Leveaux
Olympia Road

[NOTE: Naremburn Public School opened 16 May 1887. In 1923 as enrolments were over 1,200 an additional school was built at 10 Dalleys Road. The Catholic School established by St Mary MacKillop's Sisters of St Joseph in Market Street in 1894 was moved to the Willoughby Road site in 1932.]

Environment Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2012 – potential impacts

The NSW State Government has recently introduced the Environmental Planning and Assessment Bill 2012 into Parliament, with one of its stated objectives being “to remove impediments to the supply of housing and to make other miscellaneous changes”.

At first glance this appears to be a laudable objective, but closer inspection highlights some key changes that may have significant adverse impacts on the protection and management of natural and heritage conservation areas in New South Wales.

Naremburn currently has two Conservation areas, being the Central Township, comprising an area roughly bounded by Garland Rd, Central St, Dodds St and Brook St, and another area roughly bounded by Henry Ln, Ryan Ln, Lawson Ln and Northcote St. These areas are more fully described in the Willoughby DCP Part H, and have a specific set of development controls to ensure the character of the architecture and streetscape is preserved.

There are two sections of the proposed legislation which are of particular concern:

- ss 74C(5) – which potentially would allow developers to ignore the controls in the DCP if it has “the practical effect of preventing or unreasonably restricting development”. This would mean that current controls around setbacks, scale, form and materials (see pages H25 and H29 of Willoughby DCP) could potentially be ignored by the developer.
- ss79C(3A) – if a DA is lodged with the Consent Authority and is found not to comply with the DCP standards, the Consent Authority is to “be flexible in applying those provisions and allow alternative solutions to deal with that aspect of the development”. Hence, the rigour of the DCP in the Conservation areas has been significantly weakened, and Council’s ability to ensure that any redevelopment is in keeping with the character of the area has been significantly undermined.

Letters have already been written by the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations (FWPA) to both the NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and other MLCs appealing these sections and seeking their removal or redrafting. However the Bill has already passed through the Lower House, so their response remains to be seen.

Roger Promnitz

Vice President, NPA and Public Officer, NPA

Naremburn Community Centre Upgrade

Development Application is lodged; an upgrade was first proposed in 2006; it involves relocation of OOSH (Out of School Hours) to Bales Park. Plans for our Centre at 7-9 Central Street include changed configuration of meeting spaces, secure and relocated library space, a room allocated to the NPA, the oldest PA (1901) in this LGA.

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au > Developments > DA Online Enquiry > DA-2012/405.

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Nine Network seeks community feedback on Site Redevelopment Concept Plans

Cr Michelle Sloane has provided the background to the current situation on page 8, elsewhere in this newsletter, so this article looks at some of the associated issues.

Naremburn Progress Association (NPA) has been an active stakeholder and participant in the consultation process, providing feedback and asking questions across wide-ranging issues. Channel Nine is seeking to "leave a legacy" if it exits, by providing a development concept which meets with general approval and is supported by the community. For this they are to be commended, but the absurdly short timeline as set by the NSW Government to facilitate and conclude stakeholder consultation has been almost universally condemned as insufficient, virtually guaranteeing a suboptimal outcome. Letters have already been written to the Minister, seeking permission to extend the consultation process and thence to facilitate a more complete analysis of the various development options and associated issues. At the time of writing this article, no response had been received from the NSW Government or DOPI.

Another key feature of this redevelopment proposal is that is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to address some of the complex and pressing issues for the area, such as the lack of schools, or significant overcrowding in the current facilities. While NPA acknowledges that the residential concept plans seek to provide some of the additional housing needed to allow Willoughby Council to meet NSW State Government-set housing targets (an additional 6800 dwellings by 2031), it is yet to be convinced that such development is the best use of such a large area of land.

It is important to understand that the existing TV tower is not part of the redevelopment as both the tower and the land it sits on are owned by a separate joint venture company involving Seven, Nine and Ten Networks.

NPA encourages the Naremburn community to comment on any of the concept plans and associated issues around the proposals, such as traffic, parking, public transport, retail facilities etc. W <http://www.ninewilloughby.com.au>, E info@ninewilloughby.com.au or phone 1800-224424 with your comments.

Roger Promnitz

Vice President, NPA and Public Officer, NPA

Editor needed

I highly recommend the role of Editor of *Naremburn Matters*. The actual work, if it could be called that, takes place during a couple of weeks ahead of each issue – an hour here and hour there approach. NM is a newsletter issued four times a year – March, June, September and December.

Robin Phelan of **rocketdesign** does layout and artwork in and around her business and we exchange emailed articles and ad layouts. The function of NM Editor is not an every week or even every month role.

Layouts are systematised; regular contributors, regular advertisers. We welcome new advertisers – Robin does artwork if needed, with no cost passed on to the advertiser. Ad space sales cover production costs.

Executive Committee members contribute articles, meet with potential advertisers. Distribution to every Naremburn mail box is done by a group of volunteers.

As the former Editor, I look forward to meeting you and assisting you in whatever way I can in the changeover for the March issue.

Trisha FitzPatrick
Central Street

See advertisement 'Editor needed' – page 6



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- Carre Noir – 9411 1001**
- G'Thai Restaurant – 8971 3268**
- Ginseng Chinese Medicine – 9419 7131**
- Terrazza Restaurant and Pizzeria – 9419 5304**
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It is with a sad heart that I leave the local community of Nareburn

I commenced my practice at 276 Willoughby Road in early 1986 and over the years have witnessed many changes including construction of the Gore Hill Freeway, departure of the local chemist and then the post office, residential development and a marked change in the demographics with many young families moving into the area.

There have been some memorable moments including Mr A who turned up to the surgery one day wearing only his underpants and with his dog in tow; the police chasing a drug dealer down the side corridor; having the surgery turned into a film set for a TV program; examining a body in the back of a funeral van parked on the footpath outside the surgery in order to issue a death certificate; having a patient pull out a loaded revolver from his bag to show me how it worked; my wife helping an elderly patient apply eye-liner before attending a special function; and late last year a car losing control and reversing into the waiting room of the surgery (fortunately no major injuries).

The most satisfying part of my work (and most GPs would agree) has been watching the little ones grow, marry and then return to the surgery with their own children. I feel that many of my patients are now also my friends.

I am relocating my practice to larger premises at 160 Mowbray Road, Willoughby and will now be known as Willoughby Medical Practice. I hope to continue serving the local community in the years ahead.

Nareburn is now a vibrant community and I have been proud to be a part of it.

Dr Raffi Sahagian



Community Garden – Summer 2012

There have been lots of lovely things growing in the garden over spring and into summer.

We have been regularly partaking of the strawberries, as have many passersby, particularly the kids. We have had our first harvests, too, of pak choy, lettuce, carrots and cabbage (see photos below). As you can see the garden beds are now brimming with green.

In the next few weeks we will be harvesting the last of the cabbage and some more carrots, beetroot, celery, beans and chard. We have a few zucchini coming and are soon to have lots of lettuce, much of which can cope with having the odd leaf or several plucked, and quite a few tomatoes.



We have finished the stone path for the postman, and everyone else, to use and have been putting in a trellis along the southern side. We plan to put some garden beds next to this and have initially put beans in, but eventually want to establish some passion fruit and other vines over these. In the meantime one of our sack gardens is starting to sprout surrounded by some tiny sunflowers that have just emerged.



The garden is fast becoming a community gather and chat place and there are a number of kids that love to pop in and see what is happening in the garden, and visit the worms and the leopard slug in the worm farm. There is generally someone there from around 9:30 on Saturday mornings to around noon, so please drop by to have a chat.

A number of neighbours have donated items from left over mulch to a garden bed that was recently picked up and hauled around the corner by a number of us. Thank you so much for these additions, every little bit helps get the garden growing.

Ben has been very active recently and submitted an application for a grant to Kellogg Be Natural and Landcare and also been interviewed by Gretel Killeen about how to start a community garden.

Also, a message to whoever sent the worm farm for a tumble around the end of October – thank you so much for picking it up and putting it back together again. We and the worms greatly appreciate it.

Our work over the next few months includes:

- Weeding and tending the established plantings
- Putting in some more trellises
- Installing another two hessian sack gardens
- Endlessly tying up the tomatoes, which have just started to go really nuts.

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

DR RAFFI SAHAGIAN

M.B. B.S. (SYD)

GENERAL PRACTITIONER

SURGERY HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9am to 1pm, 3 pm to 7 pm

Thursday, Saturday
9am to 1 pm

**160 Mowbray Road
Willoughby**

Fax: 9958 8335

Surgery: 9958 8778

>>>>> Editor needed <<<<<<

The NPA is seeking a volunteer Editor for its quarterly publication *Nareburn Matters*.

Typesetting and final layout is currently undertaken by **rocketdesign** with the NM Editor coordinating all content for the publication and being responsible for each issue's final version to **rocketdesign**.

A capacity to edit and proofread, a commitment to quarterly deadlines – and a love of Nareburn – is all that is required.

Enquiries to:

nareburn.matters@nareburnprogress.org.au



Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

December 2012

Holiday time

Christmas is the time for long holidays lazing by the beach or dodging bush fires in the country. Unfortunately, criminals are all too aware of this.

Here are some tips to make it a safer holiday season:

- Ensure the house is securely locked, including windows usually left open
- Cancel newspapers and redirect your mail or have it collected by a friend
- Put pets into a boarding kennel or have friends visit them often
- Tell neighbours or friends who can check on the house that you are away and who will be at the house legitimately – e.g. gardeners, pet minders
- Secure your garage or, if unable – move items such as bikes inside the house
- Consider security devices, including light timers etc.
- Do not leave cash in the house and locate jewellery in a safe place
- Ensure your lawn is cut, the property tidy and stop all deliveries
- Avoid leaving the answering machine on and turn the phone volume down.

It is also a good idea to know your neighbours and a good way of doing this is to have a street Christmas party. Some people have these in January to avoid the

rush of the Christmas season, but they are well worth having from a community and security point of view.

Driving home for Christmas

Many people set off on long drives over the holiday period.

The RTA has a page with lots of information for people driving during the holidays. There are links on this site to live traffic conditions, road works on the Pacific Highway, NSW rest areas, self-guided tour brochures and driver fatigue. All this and much more can be found at: www.rta.nsw.gov.au/hubpages/holiday_driving.html?hlid=holiday

We have probably all heard of the warning signs of driver fatigue, but how should we prevent this in the first place? Here are some tips from this site:

- Get a good night's sleep before commencing a long trip.
- Do not drive at times when you would normally be asleep.
- Avoid long drives after work.
- Take regular breaks from driving (use Rest areas).
- Share the driving whenever possible.
- Pull over and stop when drowsiness, discomfort or loss of concentration occurs.

- Find out whether any medicine you are taking may affect your driving.

Driver Reviver sites operate during holiday periods and locations can be found on the website noted above. Here are some interesting facts about this program:

- Around 80 in NSW, more are proposed.
- Sponsored by Bushells Tea and Arnott's Biscuits who provide free tea, coffee and biscuits.
- Sites offer toilet facilities, shade, seating and water. Some offer 'extras' like entertainment (radio, kids' games), baby change tables, pet bowls.
- Operating days/times vary between sites.
- Signage tells you when you're approaching a Driver Reviver.

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



The Flat Rock Brew Café

A place for locals to experience a unique brew café atmosphere whilst enjoying tasty food, real beer and sit back in a relaxed environment.

Thank you for all the kind words of support. We are looking to open our doors from late December to serve you great food accompanied with ...

- beer brewed on premises (starting early 2013)
- home-made soft drinks
- bottled beer and cider from an extensive list from around the world

Over the festive season, drop around and have a chat – Karl always welcomes the opportunity to talk about the history of beer, the brewing process and all the different flavours of beers from around the world.

Find us on
Facebook
to keep up to date and 'Like' us!

0427 466 004
290 Willoughby Road Naremburn

Strength in Numbers

naremburnprogress.org.au

On our home page see
"Join NPA"
download application form,
complete it and mail with
a cheque for \$10 to:

NPA PO Box 393
St Leonards 1590

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 9:30 pm

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



Is this the one?

Channel 9 Willoughby is again investigating options for development of its television broadcasting studios, the 2.9-hectare site bordered by Artarmon Road, Richmond Avenue and Scott Street.

In November 2010 the proposed residential redevelopment of the Channel 9 site was declared a **Part 3A "Major Project"** – the Department of Planning would undertake assessment of the project; **Council would not determine the application.** The

Preliminary Environmental Assessment for the site proposed a gross floor area of 66,600m² of residential (approximately 663 apartments) and 600m² of retail space.

In February 2011 the Department of Planning issued the Director General's Requirements (DGRs) for the application, expressing concerns relating to density and height (up to 20 storeys) and the potential impact of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from the existing telecommunications tower (which is on a separate landholding).

Condition 20 of the DGRs outlined that an **appropriate and justified level of consultation** should be undertaken with Council, state government departments and community groups and that the Environmental Assessment (EA) should indicate how matters raised during the consultation had been addressed. Willoughby City Council received no further advice on this matter until **early October 2012.**

In October 2011 the new State Government repealed Part 3A – other than for existing projects – and declared that the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) would now determine state significant developments. Recently, the date for submission of the EA was brought forward 10 months to 30 November 2012. Given this limited timeframe for the EA, it is unlikely that an **appropriate and justified level of consultation and adequate environmental assessment** can be achieved.

Community consultation has commenced via guided walking tours; a site meeting with Councillors, Council Staff and Progress Associations; two evening meetings with the community; a webinar and newsletter. Channel 9 has previously stated there would be some significant changes to what was originally proposed. The three concepts presented to date show no substantial change to the density and number of residential apartments with the exception of a reduction in height from 20 storeys to 16 stories.

Residents have concerns about: built form and height; environmental and residential amenity – overshadowing and density; transport and accessibility; local community and social impacts – proposed additional population impact on local services and facilities – the issue of schools overcrowding, not to mention the lack of child care and OOSH places; ecological sustainability; and the extent and form of community consultation.

Channel 9 site development presents a tremendous opportunity for our community. It is Council's understanding that Channel 9's application for an extension of time beyond 30 November was denied. **One can only ask – why?**

Council is not opposed to development of the site – quite the opposite. Based on what I heard at three consultation meetings the community is also not opposed to development. **But the question is what sort of development?** The community wants to have a **real** role in the process. If this site is a **"state significant"** project then let's treat it as such and give the community and the landowner the opportunity to work together with Council to get the best possible result for all. There is no doubt – successful urban renewal requires an **integrated** approach, linking planning and housing policy and infrastructure investment at the **local level.** Successful urban renewal requires a **whole of government** approach; it cannot be relegated to one department over another. This site presents an opportunity for the NSW Government to make true their stated commitments to community consultation and engagement around planning and development.

Let's hope for an extension of time to enable considered discussion and debate that not only allows for and responds to the concerns of the present but also sets a path for the needs of the future.

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