

# Naremburn Matters



December 2015 Vol. 12.

Circ. 3,000

## Forced Council Amalgamations: worrying signs for a democracy?

With surplus political capital in the bank, it is clear that NSW Premier Mike Baird is determined to move ahead with forced Council amalgamations this year.

*"Change has to happen,"* Mr Baird was quoted as saying to recent protesters of Council amalgamations in Rosehill. And whilst many, including this author, have long advocated for the removal of unnecessary bureaucracies and inefficiencies in government - we must ask the question as to *what benefit these amalgamations actually offer us*. Whilst the so-called 'Fit for the Future' process has been taking place for some time now under the auspices of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory tribunal to determine which councils are independently viable and which are not, some local councilors have openly claimed that decisions have already been determined and will be announced shortly after the tribunal's findings are due to be handed down in October 2015.

Certainly this issue appears to have been kept 'below the radar' as the Fit for the Future process has been undertaken - and, this together with the generally apathetic attitude of many towards local government has meant the process itself has received less scrutiny than it has perhaps deserved.

The key question seems to be whether the community has been adequately consulted. A process which will conceivably lead to the liquidation of the current council leadership including elected councilors must surely require community consent or at least a vote in the state parliament - apparently this is not the case.

As for the rationale stated by the state government and the 'Fit for the Future' program, efficiency gains and profitability are key criteria explored by the 'Fit for the Future' modeling. However the other question which needs to be asked is whether (and on what basis) the amalgamations will be forced on councils where no such efficiency or profitability gains can be demonstrated by the modeling. If these amalgamations are enforced - then what is the justification for them? And who benefits from them?

It may be worthwhile to review the impacts of council amalgamations with our counterparts in Victoria who kicked off such reforms under Kennett and more recently in Queensland under Mr. Newman. Whilst the world didn't end because of them, it certainly put a dent in both the respective leaders' careers; and it remains hard to find overwhelming evidence of the benefits for the community.

After becoming interested in this topic only recently, I wonder if this may be an issue which may impact many when it is already too late. Has our apathy in regards to council (unless they get something wrong) been used as a tool to enable this process to run through with little opposition? Or is it worth asking whether NSW still has a state opposition?

Given the steely determination of the NSW Government to complete this plan which has been in the works for years, we owe it to ourselves to do a better job scrutinising Government decisions which can have such impacts on our ability to access local government and to prosecute local causes. What do you think? I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Parry Aliferis, Editor

## Santa at Naremburn Shops - Tradition Lives On!

Our wonderful Naremburn shopkeepers have this year again invited the jolly man in the red suit to say hello to the children of Naremburn before Christmas. Children ask your parents to put it on the calendar but remember you need to be good to ensure he comes! Parents you may wish to make an evening of the occasion to dine al fresco at one of our many eateries. We hope to see many of you there.

**He will arrive at 6pm on Friday 4th December 2015.**



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION (NPA)

NAREMBURN  
VILLAGE  
SHOPS  
Photographic  
artwork by:  
David Waters  
7 June 2005





## NAREMBURN MATTERS

Naremburn Progress Association.

Founded 1901  
Incorporated 2004.  
ABN 93 907 169 376

PO Box 393  
St Leonards 1590.

[www.naremburnprogress.org.au](http://www.naremburnprogress.org.au)

### President

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### Vice President

Viviane Leveaux: 0431 777 547

### Secretary

Roger Promnitz: 0419 227 986

### Treasurer

Carmen Loecherer: 0409 766 470

### Committee Members

Helene Kemp Joann Morand

### General Meetings

Second Thursday of February, April,  
June, August, October and December  
Naremburn Community Centre  
7 Central Street. Commencing at 7:30  
pm with an Open Forum.

### Naremburn Matters

#### Editorial Staff

Parry Aliferis

[naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au](mailto:naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au)

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# President – out and about

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Naremburn Matters! I trust that most of you will be able to enjoy the festive season visiting relatives, holidaying, or taking the opportunity to catch up on those little jobs that need to be done around the home that you have put aside over the year until you have more time!

By the time you receive this Newsletter, we will know the outcome of whether Willoughby City Council is Fit for the Future as a standalone council or be required to amalgamate and with whom. We will also be preparing for the by-election of our new Federal Member of Parliament. I must acknowledge the contribution and hard work that Joe Hockey has made to our community. Joe has represented our area since 1996. We wish Joe all the best for his future in Washington.

There has been nothing to report further on the Channel 9 development. Be assured that the Naremburn Progress Association will keep a watching brief on this development. The other area of concern is the St Leonards Central proposed development. We are fortunate to have a band of residents who have formed the Naremburn Action Group. This group meets regularly and is very instrumental in ensuring that the community has a voice. If you are interested in finding out more about this group, then please contact [naremburnactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:naremburnactiongroup@gmail.com) or come to an information session to be held at the Naremburn Community Centre on Thursday 17th December at 7:30 pm. It is essential that we are vigilant over the Christmas-New Year period, as this is often the time that contentious developments slip through the cracks.

There have been a few changes at the Naremburn Shops. The most significant change is that Anderson's Hardware is closing after many years. Anderson's has been an institution in our Community for a very long time and will be sorely missed. We welcome Maslow's to the strip and wish them success. Also please remember Christmas at the Naremburn Shops! It's always a good evening.

On a sad note, a long time member of the Naremburn Progress Association, David Waters passed away in early November. David lived in Martin Street with his sister, Jean. David was a very active and supportive member of the NPA. We pass on our condolences to Jean and family.

So on behalf of the Naremburn Progress Association, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Regards

Fran

Frances O'Brien  
President

## Join the NPA and have your say. Who can join?

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

\$15 per person per annum/ \$10 Concession per person per annum

New members, please fill out the membership form at:

[www.naremburnprogress.org.au](http://www.naremburnprogress.org.au)

Membership renewals can pay online using your name as reference:

Acc Name: Naremburn Progress Association BSB: 032 297 Acc no: 20 1474

## Next Issue: March 2016

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

### March issue deadlines

Ad Booking: Tuesday 2nd February

Ad Artwork: Tuesday 2nd February

Articles: Wednesday 3rd February

[naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au](mailto:naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au)

## NPA Meeting Dates

Second Thursdays every second  
month 7:30 pm

10 December

11 February

Naremburn Community Centre

7 Central Street

## Letters to the Editor & Articles

Articles, comments or suggestions should be  
addressed to:

### The Editor,

[naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au](mailto:naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au)

or mail to:

PO Box 393

St Leonards NSW 1590

We do not publish anonymous letters.

Please include your email address or phone number as we  
may need to edit items to fit the space available.



# Naremburn Library News

Greetings from Naremburn Library. Summer is here and the school holidays are coming up soon. Children can explore the theme “Lost Worlds” and much more by joining the Summer Reading Club from Tuesday 1st December at any Willoughby City Library branch. There are rewards and prizes to be won and all participants are invited to the Summer Reading Celebration at Chatswood Library on Thursday 21st January 2016 from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. More details are available online ([www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library)).

Would you like to learn simple coding and make an animated Christmas card? Chatswood Library is giving a free workshop suitable for kids and families on Sunday 13th December from either 2.00pm to 3.00pm or 3.00pm to 4.00pm. Book online soon at: [www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library), as spaces are limited. Please bring along your own laptop.

It is now 150 years since Willoughby became a municipality, and then a City! To celebrate this important milestone, a stunning new history of our local government area from 1865 to 2015 has been written by local historian Bob McKillop and published by Kingsclear Books. “Pictorial history - Willoughby” is available for loan, but can also be purchased at Chatswood Library and at all the branch libraries for \$24.95 a copy. It contains 140 pages of text and over 300 images (some in colour), dating as far back as the 1890's. Perhaps you know someone who would love to receive this beautiful book as a gift.

Learn even more about your area's rich history as you stroll around, using the free down-loadable app “Willoughby Walks”. The first instalment is the Chatswood CBD Heritage Plaque Walk. Look up History @ Willoughby on our website for more information: [www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/library/history-at-willoughby](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/library/history-at-willoughby).

There are entertaining holiday reads and DVD's available at Naremburn Library for the whole family, so I hope you will visit soon. The last opening day of 2015 at Naremburn is Monday 21st December from 2.30pm to 5.00pm. Naremburn Library reopens on Monday 4th January 2016 from 2.30pm to 5.00pm. The Christmas/ New Year period opening hours for all Willoughby City Library branches are available on the website.

Best wishes for the festive season and a very Happy New Year.

**Diana Revington**

**Naremburn Branch Librarian**



**Peter Chauncy and his team at McGrath Crows Nest**

There has been a lot happening in the Naremburn community recently and a few exciting changes ahead. The new Anzac Avenue Public School will open in 2016 which will see our school catchments change. The majority of Naremburn will be zoned for Cammeray Public School with a small section still attending Artarmon.

In October we attended the annual Willoughby Community Preschool fundraising dinner as Peter is a major sponsor of the school. Every year we donate a big ticket item that the school is in need of, this year they received a new outdoor bench seat and a shed to store their play equipment. We also run a live auction where the parents have the opportunity to give back to the school by putting their hand up to bid on artworks completed by their children and fellow classmates. It is always a good night and this year the live auction raised an amazing \$13,100 for the school!

In local property news there have been significant positive transactions and momentum in our Naremburn market over recent weeks, in contrast to negative media coverage. In fact, this spring season has to date been one of the most successful ever.

Notably, we set a new suburb record for Naremburn when we sold 5 Dargan Street at auction for \$3,104,000. This is the first property to break into the \$3,000,000 price bracket and has definitely set a new benchmark for the suburb.

We negotiated significant sales across multiple price ranges including a two-bedroom apartment at 3/207 Willoughby Road Naremburn that sold for \$925,000 after the very first open home. 254 Willoughby Road and 32 Garland Road proved to us that there is still high demand for renovators with both selling at auction well over their reserve prices.

Christmas is just around the corner and now is the time to sit down and talk about a January - February 2016 campaign which will ensure exposure and a great result prior to peak supply levels becoming a possible mitigating factor. If you have been thinking about making the move and would like to discuss your property plans or just get an updated appraisal, do not hesitate to contact me.

**Peter Chauncy on 0402 036 489.**

**McGrath Crows Nest**

1A/29 Holtermann Street CROWS NEST

**Ph: 8115 0400**

## Thanks Zoë !

The Progress Association would like to extend their thanks to Zoë Harpham for her work in editing Naremburn Matters over the past 2 years. Her enthusiasm and contribution have helped keep the publication alive. A special thanks for her smooth transition to our new editor.

## Shop local, support small business!

In what has become an all too familiar phenomenon, Anderson's Hardware at Naremburn has closed its' doors for the last time after 110 years of serving the local community. Now more than ever, local businesses need your support to survive - so this Christmas why not shop local and support small business in Naremburn.

## Promote your business in Naremburn Matters

As a free community based publication, Naremburn Matters needs support from local businesses to cover its' production. If you are a local business looking for affordable local advertising, please get in touch with us for rates.

## Local Contributors wanted

Naremburn Matters is permanently seeking regular written contributions from interested community members. If you have a flair for writing or even just an interest in a local issue, we welcome all members of the community from students to grandparents to submit your story. What do you have to lose? Get in touch at:  
naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au

# Annual wrap up from our local preschool

2015 has been a very busy year for Willoughby Community Preschool. Our Preschool has made a successful and seamless transition to an extended hours Preschool. We are now able to offer our parents the core program 9:00am-3:00pm or the extended hours program 8:00am-4:00pm either 42 or 48 weeks per year. This has helped parents manage their work commitments and after school activities. We are very grateful to our teaching staff who have supported and managed the change positively.

Recently we held our annual fundraising evening which was extremely successful raising in excess of 27K, which will benefit all the children at our Preschool. It was a Spring Carnivale organised by a volunteer parent committee and supported our sponsors McGrath Crows Nest. We were privileged to have Willoughby City Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney with her husband John Gidney attend, chatting to parents and drawing the fabulous raffles.

This term began with observing and investigating the life cycle of silkworms and ducks. Children, parents and siblings were excited each day to see the progress of the ducklings from hatching to swimming in the pond and the silkworms, growing on mulberry leaves, cocooning, hatching into moths and laying their eggs.

In early November, parents and teachers organised a Sports Day at Bicentennial Park for the older children who are off to school next year. We walked the children to the park where the children participated in a range of organised sporting activities. We were very fortunate to have many of our parents accompany us on the walk while more parents, siblings and grandparents joined us for a BBQ lunch.

Later this month, we shall be hosting a luncheon for senior members of our local community who were tireless charity workers from the former Over 50's Club. Children will be entertaining the ladies prior to the lunch with a selection of songs they have learnt during the year and a few favourite Christmas tunes for a sing-along. This is a bi-annual event which is enjoyed by the ladies and children alike.

December also sees the retirement of our long serving member of staff, Jan Hosick. Jan started working with the Preschool when it was located in the Willoughby Presbyterian Church hall and helped with the move to our current premises in 1987. Jan is going to be missed greatly by the parents, children and staff.

Wishing our Naremburn Community a very Happy Christmas with family and friends.

Dianne Minnett

Director Willoughby Community Preschool



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# Sydney Metro Update.



**Due to the long term nature of this project and direct impact on local resident commuters, we will summarise, local updates from this project in each edition.**

Not much has been heard from the Sydney Metro office in recent times, so our intrepid reporter made contact with the Project Office to ascertain current status of the massive project to create a rail system capable of carrying 45,000 passengers per hour, nearly twice the current capacity of 24,000 per hour.

We were informed that current work was being focused on development and completion of the concept plan which would indicate whether new stations such as Crows Nest and Artarmon Industrial area were to be included, the alternative being a significant upgrade to capacity at St Leonards station. No timing has been given for the completion and publication of this plan, but it appears to be early 2016.

There has been a rumour circulating that one of the rail alignment options involved the creation of a new railway station in the Naremburn area, but when questioned as to the likelihood of such a development the spokesperson denied having even heard of such an option previously. Given it does not appear in any of the media generated so far by Sydney Metro, this option appears extremely unlikely.

An article in the November 11 edition of the "*North Shore Times*" concerning Sydney Metro foreshadows the advent of driverless trains on the new network. These trains will not run to a timetable, with the wider metro network expecting a train every 5 minutes whilst the North Shore line will have trains arriving every 3 minutes. Small wonder that a second harbour tunnel crossing will be required.

With a project completion date of 2019, Sydney Metro Northwest (the former North West Rail Link) will have 16 separate construction sites, and whilst tunnelling will mean the excavation of 2.8 million tonnes of crushed rock it is claimed that all the rock will be reused, with none going to landfill. The Sydney Metro City and Southwest component of the overall project is not expected to be complete until 2024.

## Progress Update

Sydney Metro released an update last week which provided additional information, including the confirmation of seven (7) new stations at Crows Nest, Victoria Cross (North Sydney), Barangaroo, Martin Place, Pitt St, Central (new underground platforms), and either The University of Sydney or Waterloo (although the former looks more likely). Disappointingly, the Artarmon Industrial Area station was not mentioned so may have slipped out of contention. The other good news was that the announcement of tunnelling southwards from Chatswood would appear to have avoided any potential adverse impacts at ground level to Artarmon Reserve and surrounding residential properties.

Technical and environmental studies for the Chatswood to Sydenham section of the Project are currently underway and will form part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is expected to be placed on public exhibition in the middle of 2016. Another aspect that is causing some unease amongst residents of the Naremburn Conservation Area is the lack of any track alignment diagrams, but until such time as these proposals are drawn up and released it is difficult to estimate what effect such alignments may have, although all tunnels and stations appear to be at least 25 metres below ground.

**Roger Promnitz**  
Secretary



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**(on the corner of Cleg & Lambs Road)**  
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# Naremburn Community Centre Activities

There are two spaces available for hire in the community centre. There is a meeting room with its own kitchenette and toilet facilities and a larger area with its own projector. These spaces can be hired through the Willoughby Park Centre (Ph. 9967 2917 or email [willpark@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:willpark@willoughby.nsw.gov.au))

## Naremburn Progress Association

2nd Thursday – February, April, June, August, October and December  
7:30 pm  
0416 161 536 (Frances O'Brien)

## Playgroup

Wednesday – for children 5 and under  
9:30 am to 11.30 am  
[naremburnplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:naremburnplaygroup@gmail.com)

## 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  
[abamns.contact@gmail.com](mailto:abamns.contact@gmail.com)

## Willoughby Community Pre-School

Monday to Friday  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
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



## Update from Cr Sloane

### Fit for the Future - What's the Big Picture?

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.  
*George Bernard Shaw*

For more than three years now, local government (and some interested stakeholders) has been obsessing about its future. After endless reviews, discussions, public meetings, surveys, parliamentary enquiries and much campaigning – finally, it would seem, we are moving ahead. We are not exactly sure where we are moving but we are moving.

### Some Background....

On 30 June 2015 Willoughby City Council (WCC) made its submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) as required by the State Government's Fit for the Future local government reform process. We lodged a Stand Alone submission.

In October 2015, despite meeting the financial, sustainability and efficiency criteria – we did not satisfy the threshold criteria of scale and capacity. Along with the majority of Sydney Metropolitan Councils, Willoughby was deemed unfit. [http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Local\\_Govt/Fit\\_for\\_the\\_Future](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Local_Govt/Fit_for_the_Future)

WCC was given till 18 November, to make a decision about whether we would continue to stand alone, or whether we would nominate our possible merger preferences, if amalgamations were to proceed.

On Monday 9 November, Council agreed to respond to IPART concerning our original submission and to indicate to the State Government that our preference for a merger partner would be North Sydney Council. Council is not in favour of the mega – Council proposal of Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney and part of Ryde. At this stage, we have no details of what will happen following 18th November, though it has been made clear the situation will be resolved by the end of the year.

This process and decision has not been easy. There is much one could say about the flaws in the Fit for the Future Process and the uncertainty that remains. However, my firm view is that the only responsible position your Council could take was to indicate a merger preference. To not do so, is simply saying to the State Government – you sort out our future for us. In my view, that is an unacceptable outcome for our community.

If you have read anything I have written about amalgamations over the last 12 months, you would know that I have a completely open mind. In fact, I see this situation as full of opportunity and potential rather than full of loss and threat.

Local government in Australia is and has always been weak. The local government share of the Australian tax base has fallen from about 6 per cent in the 1970s to about 4 per cent today, making it the fourth-lowest among the 30 industrialised nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is essentially dependent upon grants from state governments. Unless something changes, with the ongoing practice of cost shifting, whereby local government is required by a higher tier of government to take on new functions, this fiscal dependence is likely to increase over time.

This is a hugely inequitable situation, as we know that in terms of sound economic and fiscal management, revenue-raising or taxation powers should match expenditure responsibilities, allowing for redistribution to needy regions and individuals by the national government.

Clearly for local government this is not the case.

I believe the strongest arguments for council amalgamations are strategic. Scale and capacity are threshold criteria for a reason – and it is not just the simplistic notion that big is better – but big can, and does, mean more clout. Willoughby is part of a global city; we have to step up and we can.

For how long have we argued for better transport infrastructure; better local schools; and more say in critical planning decisions that impact our city. We have some big challenges

[continued next page]



## Fit for the Future - What's the Big Picture? [Cont...]

ahead, including the cost of local housing – people leave if they can't afford to buy – the need for local employment and local businesses. Just think about what we could argue for if we had the scale to be heard!

Our community has not been created by our Council – the people of Willoughby have created our community. Those things that are important to many, such as heritage, conservation and bushland - will remain important and if you believe in them you will work as you have always done to protect them. This will not change.

Change is here and in my view, the best place for our community to be is “at the table” ready to discuss options. Willoughby Council has been a leader in arguing for and establishing shared service arrangements and seeking to identify cost savings and new revenue sources. We have shown that we can embrace change.

It is clear that the State Government has not been successful in constructing a compelling narrative of why we need to change – acknowledging the risks but also outlining the benefits and opportunities – so that communities are really able to see exactly where we heading.

But Willoughby can do this for ourselves – if we are up to the challenge – and I think we are.

I want to strengthen local government rather than weaken it.

Let's be part of the solution; let's make sure by enhancing our impact, we can continue to argue for the things that matter to our local communities now and into the future.

Cr Michelle Sloane  
Michelle.Sloane@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Some 80 years ago two lads commenced studies at Naremburn Primary School.

On August 18 2015 they met and reminisced at their Alma Mater. Cyril Clark and Morrie Wainwright had never met since but had something in common - the electrical trade. Morrie recalled his early days living in Park Road opposite the park and billy cart rides down Francis Street.

Cyril, from the Crows Nest area, recalled bullying in the class room but this did not stop him achieving dux in his final year before attending North Sydney Technical School.

After a long career in the electrical trade Cyril and his wife Lorna still live in Naremburn. Morrie and his late wife Betty operated a commercial electrical business before a change of direction when they became proprietors of the Crows Nest Cellars in Willoughby Road followed by holding the license for the Aurora Hotel near Central Railway and later a partnership in the Pier One Tavern by Sydney Harbour.

Cyril may have laid down the tools but remains active in the Rotary Club of Crows Nest. He was able to contribute to his old school through a recent initiative with fellow Rotarian and Naremburn resident Bruce de Graaf. Their club regularly stages a Saturday BBQ at Bunnings and source their supplies from the Crows Nest IGA. They approached its management with the thought of supplying food vouchers to needy current pupils of the Naremburn School.

IGA donated \$1000 for fifty vouchers. Hence a warm welcome was extended by the Principal and staff to two great old boys of the school, Cyril Clark and Morrie Wainwright.

Kevin Fitzpatrick  
Naremburn Resident



(l to r) Morrie, Cyril and Kevin go back to school





# 'Tis the season

## Here's to your local brew!

### Why is Flat Rock Brew Cafe different?

It's not every café / restaurant that has their own working craft brewery on-site. We are a unique 'brewpub' and we are proud to say that the suburb of Naremburn is the owner of the only brewery on the Lower North Shore – you should be happy about that!

Beer is quite wonderful, and if you think about how it has evolved over time to end up in the form we all recognise, it is nothing short of amazing.

You see, in order to get a beer into your glass, the process is quite remarkable and complex. How it ever came about is incredible.

There are four ingredients in beer: malt (usually a malted cereal grain such as barley, wheat, rye); hops; water; and yeast. What's so remarkable about that you ask? Well, a cereal grain firstly has to be malted – now that process must have happened by mistake at some point – it is believed it first occurred in ancient Egypt, but I would expect wherever it happened, it can only be described as a fluke. In order to malt a grain, it has to soak in water, germinate and then dry out – this process basically converts the starches contained within the grain, into sugars.

Well, OK, that's easy, but the next stage is then to extract the sugars from the malt - that's where the brewer starts to get involved and things start to get a little tricky. The malt has to steep in hot water in order to extract the sugars that are later fermented, but it has to be at a certain temperature. Why, because too hot or too cold and you end up with the wrong sugars being extracted that are either very fermentable or not fermentable at all! It's the brewer who has to control this and make sure the required outcome is achieved. And did I mention the water? That has to be prepared by filtering and adding certain minerals that the beer style dictates. Still with me?



**'Beer makes you feel the way you ought to feel without beer' - Henry Lawson**



Once the sugars have been extracted, the spent malt is rinsed and removed and the liquid boiled. Hop flowers are added which come from the female flower from the hop bine (not vine!) and looks like a small pine cone. In between their leaves is a resin substance that provides the bitterness to balance the beer so it is not too sweet. There are bittering hops and aroma hops, American, European, English, New World, again, the type used is dependant on the beer style – generally different varieties are added to the boil at different times whether to bitter the beer or give the beer a particular aroma.

**Once the boil has finished**, then the resultant wort (pronounced 'wert') is cooled to a point where the yeast can work effectively in the fermenting vessel. You see the yeast are the little critters that create the magic – they eat up the sugars and produce alcohol and CO<sub>2</sub>. This process lasts a few days, depending on the yeast strain, but the liquid comes alive with activity during this period. If the temperature goes too high though, the beer can start to display faults usually in the form of off flavours. Too cold and the ferment is sluggish. On top of that, if any bad bacteria gets into the wort, then you are in trouble. It's safe to say that,

without careful temperature control or a strict sanitising regime, you end up with an undrinkable, strange flavoured liquid. Now do you see what I mean when I say that it is a remarkable process? There are a number of steps in the process and you would expect trial and error would have played a big part in the evolution of beer.

Well it probably did!

Anyway, that's what happens on a daily basis downstairs at Flat Rock. Amazing when you think about it really. So next time you take a sip of your local brew, hopefully you can fully appreciate all that goes on to get a beer from only four ingredients, into your glass. But that is what Flat Rock is all about, educating our customers about one of Australia's favourite alcoholic beverages. Just ask our staff to explain or show you around the brewery.

**- Karl Riseborough is proprietor and head beer quality tester at Flat Rock Brew Cafe.**