



Naremburn Matters

March 2009 Vol.4, No.4

Circulation 3,000

The newsletter of the
Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)



EARTH HOUR 2009

Saturday 28 March
Festival at Naremburn Park
5:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Celebrate Earth Hour under the stars at Willoughby City Council's Earth Hour festivities.

The festival will feature interactive workshops for young and old, a range of sustainable living and food stalls, live entertainment and a spectacular, interactive drumming finale during Earth Hour – 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

The event is supported by the Naremburn Progress Association, Artarmon Progress Association and the North Shore Climate Action Group.

In 2007, 2.2 million people took part in the world's first Earth Hour held in Sydney. Just two years later, Earth Hour 2009 aims to reach more than one billion people in 1000 cities around the world.

"I urge all residents and local businesses to turn off their lights for one hour on Saturday 28 March and join us for an evening of fun and entertainment at Naremburn Park", said Willoughby Mayor, Pat Reilly.

"Earth Hour provides a great opportunity for us to see how simple it is to save energy and to spend some time with our family and friends under the stars. This is a reminder of the actions we can take everyday to combat climate change," he said.

Residents can also sign up for Council's free Gasbusters Home Assessment Service to learn more about their household's carbon footprint and consider ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Local businesses are urged to make a commitment to Earth Hour by switching all non-essential lighting off from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm or longer.

Register your household's participation in Earth Hour on www.earthhour.org. Local businesses wishing to pledge their support can phone WCC on 9777 1000.

Earth Hour, a global WWF climate change initiative, begins at 8:30 pm.

Join in by turning off your lights for one hour to show your support for action on climate change. Visit www.earthhour.org for more ways to take action. The Earth Hour festival is a Waste Wise event with a range of recycling facilities available.

Residents are encouraged to walk, cycle or catch public transport to Naremburn Park - and bring a picnic rug.

Naremburn Progress Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 12 March 2008 at 7:30 pm
Naremburn Community Centre, 7 Central Street

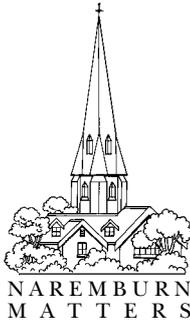
NPA Elections

- Prior to the election, all positions will be declared vacant
- Election of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to three Committee Members
- Appointment of NPA representatives and delegates to other organisations

NAREMBURN VILLAGE SHOPS

Photographic artwork by:
David Waters
7 June 2005





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

www.nareburnprogress.org.au

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Vice President

David Lendum : 9439 3372

Secretary

Frances O'Brien : 9436 1536

Treasurer

David Turner : 9901 4465

Public Officer

Trisha FitzPatrick : 9439 8119

General Meetings

Nareburn Community Centre
 Central Street, Nareburn
 Commencing at 7:30 pm
 with a 15 minute Open Forum

Thursday 12 March, 2009 (AGM)
 Thursday 16 April, 2009 (date change)
 Thursday 14 May, 2009

Editorial Committee

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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.

April Meeting date change

NPA general meetings are held 10 times a year – on the second Thursday of the month, with the exception of January and June. As the second Thursday of April falls on Maundy Thursday, Holy Thursday, the day before the Easter long weekend, we have decided to move our regular general meeting to the following week.

The April meeting is:-

Thursday, 16 April, 7:30 pm
Nareburn Community Centre

President – out and about

Former Australian Rugby Union representative and Olympic swimming coach/motivator, Laurie Lawrence, recently hit our TV screens with the clarion call to be authentically Australian and buy Aussie beef. He repeated an oft-quoted gem, “there’s no ‘I’ in team”. It set me thinking; there’s no ‘I’ in Nareburn but ‘I’ and ‘U’ do combine in commUnity.

How can we keep a healthy balance between our individual needs without being selfish; with communal needs without going overboard? The extreme environmental catastrophes of flood and fire remind us of our precarious foothold on our vulnerable planet and the need to pull together.

While we pursue a carbon reducing plan of tree planting in our suburb, there is need for balance by responsibly clearing the debris trees create. At the junction of Slade and Central Streets local flooding occurs when flow from leaf-filled gutters block the drains after heavy rain. Council’s street sweeping vehicle can’t keep these gutters clear because of the number of vehicles parked during the day.

Our desire for a leafier suburb needs to be balanced by appropriate tree planting. Inappropriate plantings are often butchered to protect power lines. Fortunately for our safety, Council is keeping a watch on aged or diseased trees such as the Eucalyptus Nicholii in Central, Rohan and Northcote Streets. They have either been removed or there are plans to remove them. This pre-emptive action seems better than having a tree collapse on a vehicle or pedestrian. The double fatality in Chandos Street a few years ago is a sober reminder that such maintenance is important.

The heavy February rainfall makes an effective flood mitigation program essential, especially in West Nareburn. In the 1980s a 12 year old girl was swept away and drowned after a flash flood in this area.

A matter of major concern is schooling for Nareburn children. Gladys Berejiklian, our hard-working Local Member, sought a meeting of the School Working Party with the NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth. It took the Minister five months to respond to Gladys with a NO DEAL. In her letter the Minister says, “I am informed that according to Census data there has been no increase in the number of dwellings in the suburb of Nareburn since 2001, and the total population has increased by less than 50 people.” This is an amazing statement considering the multiple dwellings constructed in Garland, Dalleys, Hamilton and other streets in this period. And what about the Government’s Planning Reforms that require higher density housing close to city transport? Is the DA for a proposed 6 storey, 14 apartment commercial/residential development at 72-76 Chandos Street the thin edge of the wedge for major development on Chandos?

What can ‘I’ as an individual do when confronted with the myriad challenges of proposed developments, commuter parking, and graffiti, keeping our suburb clean and safe, and a school for Nareburn? The individual ‘I’ can find strength in others, the ‘U’ in commUnity. The NPA is a local action group. We provide an Open Forum at the beginning of each of our monthly meetings for you to bring your concerns and collectively seek appropriate advice or action. Communication is the key. *Nareburn Matters* goes to every household and business in Nareburn. Email or write to us about your concerns. Our website has a ‘Latest News’ section – check it. Email your news or concerns to president@nareburnprogress.org.au

Our AGM and election takes place on Thursday 12 March. We are grateful for our members and volunteers. This past year we had 37 new members. We need more new blood, new enthusiasm. We need U so we can become a stronger Nareburn CommUnity.

Kevin FitzPatrick
 President NPA

Some of our achievements since our AGM March 2008

1. Willoughby Symphony Orchestra Concert, Nareburn Park, 16 March 2008
2. Public Meeting – School for Nareburn – 29 May 2008
3. Formation of a Young Parents sub-committee
4. Website – www.nareburnprogress.org.au – September 2008
5. Participation at the Nareburn Community Centre Open Day – September
6. Baseball Diamond Light Towers – involvement in the negotiating outcomes
7. Good working relationship with WCC, the State Member, the Federal Member
8. 37 new members and 93% of the previous year’s financial members renewed
9. *Nareburn Matters*, our quarterly newsletter is 4 years old with this issue

The 2009 AGM will be held on Thursday 12 March at 7:30 pm
Nareburn Community Centre, 7 Central Street



Naremburn and the 'Tour de Cure'

A charity was formed in 2007 whose head office resides in Naremburn and focuses on raising funds to find a cure for cancer; it is named 'Tour de Cure'.

Tour de Cure features an annual cycle by approximately 30 ordinary people from around Australia. This year's ride will leave Brisbane on Friday 29 May for Cairns covering 1,555km over 10 days, with the longest day being 256 km. Due to growing interest the rider base has increased to 47 riders from Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. The riders are men and women ranging in age from 18 to 52 years old.

Of the 47 riders preparing for this year's tour, four reside in Naremburn:

- Geoff Coombes, Co-Founder, 20 Park Street;
- Malcolm Heath, 16 Grandview Street;
- Caleb Jones, 28 Waters Road; and
- Daniel Marles, 20 Slade Street

Each rider must commit to a demanding training program (cycling up to 500km+ per week, while juggling family and work commitments) and raise a minimum of \$10,000 in donations.

We focus strongly on rider safety and responsibility and have produced a Bunch Riding Rules and Etiquette document which continues to attract favourable feedback from a wide sector of the community – cycling bodies, City of Sydney Council, and other groups and individuals.

Since May 2007 we have raised over \$1,000,000 and we fund key projects within the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, Camp Quality, Cancer Council and the Leukaemia Foundation. A feature of our rides is meeting people from the various towns along the way including the charity support groups, the public generally and school students from secondary and primary schools. We promote cancer awareness and prevention, attract strong media following, fund raise and promote the benefits of fitness as a means of defence against the disease. For more information, visit www.tourdecure.com.au or contact Malcolm Heath on 0411 044 888.

Vale Dulcie Barratt

NPA member, Dulcie Barratt, passed away on 22 December at 84, after a life well-lived in her beloved Naremburn. Dulcie was 9 when the family settled in a new home at 2 Dalleys Road. She attended Naremburn Primary and Willoughby Girls High, leaving school at 13 to supplement the family income. She was a hard-working employee at her many positions over the years. A fun-loving, spirited and feisty young woman for those times, Dulcie was a talented ballroom and modern dancer who loved attending the many local dances. At 21, she married dance partner Frank, had a daughter, Lorraine, but Frank's professional dance career lead to divorce two years later. In 1960 Dulcie married Bill Barratt whose band The Bill Barratt Big Band played well-known Sydney dance venues including St Leonard's Parish Hall with its sprung dance floor. Bill's young protégés included Warren Daly and Ed Wilson who went on to form the Daly-Wilson Big Band. Don Burrows occasionally played in Bill's band. Some of Dulcie's memories of Naremburn appear in NM March 2006. She was also interviewed and recorded in June 2008 for the NPA's Oral History Program.

May our Dulcie rest in peace.

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Bang THE Table

Willoughby Council has teamed with on-line consultation specialists 'Bang the Table' to deliver a range of web-based discussion forums.

Council will regularly hold forums on key issues of interest to our community. February's feature discussions include Council's Climate Change Action campaign and the update of its Cultural Policy. The latter continues through March when there is also a discussion regarding the Artarmon Library site. This is an opportunity for the public to make comment on future use of the facility. 'Bang the Table' will independently moderate all forums.

"Community engagement is vital to Council's forward planning. We welcome vigorous discussion on a wide range of issues." said Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly. "Council already participates in regular community consultation. We see this as simply another opportunity for us to reach out to the wider community. I'd particularly like to see our youth getting involved in the forums."

Visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au and look for the Bang the Table logo.

Merrenburn Memories

Having come by a copy of NM recently, I contacted your NPA President and offered to contribute an article on my memories of growing up in Merrenburn Avenue. Unfortunately no photos of the house and surrounds survive. The house was resumed by the then DMR in about 1975, to make way for a further extension of the Warringah Freeway.

We moved to 33 Merrenburn Ave about 1947, my parents and older sister Carolyn; Judy arrived in 1948. We think father was able to buy the house with a War Service Loan, for 1600 pounds. It was a large impressive house, Federation style I suppose, with 5 bedrooms. A walled verandah ran around the southeast corner, with spiralled pillars. All front windows and door had stained glass inserts, and there was a tall elaborate front fence.

The adjoining house on the western side survives - it has been enlarged and is now the White Rabbit child minding centre. A notable resident of this house when we arrived was Billy Jack, Federal Liberal MP for North Sydney. He moved on shortly after our arrival. I have vague memories of father telling us of his talks to Billy over the back fence, perhaps getting the low-down on what was going on. Perhaps father was offering speech training. Billy obviously had no need of a speech writer - I seem to remember that that his maiden speech in Canberra was also his final one. Perhaps he was a quiet achiever, but he did subsidise his parliamentary salary with honest toil. There was a large shed right across his back yard, in which we remember him packaging butter with the aid of wooden bats. We don't know if he actually made butter, or just packaged and distributed.

Ours, and about five houses on the eastern side, were demolished. Our eastern neighbours were an elderly German couple who had been interned during the war. The Maurer funeral people lived a few doors down.

Merrenburn was a pleasant avenue, perhaps as nice as any in the suburb; the edges were gravelled and big palm trees lined both sides of the road. Of course traffic was much lighter then, and we rode bilycarts and bikes. Our house backed on to Dodds

GASBUSTERS

HOME ASSESSMENT SERVICE



Willoughby City Council's new Gasbusters team will help your household save energy, money and the environment.

The Gasbusters Home Assessment Service will provide:

- ✓ Tips for reducing your household energy bills.
- ✓ FREE energy saving devices.
- ✓ Expert advice on practical ways to make your house more eco-friendly; and
- ✓ A tailored action plan with steps to assist in reducing your household's carbon footprint.

Book your **FREE** Gasbusters Home Assessment Service today on 9777 1000 or for more information visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au



Merrenburn Memories *Continued from page 4*

Street, then a dirt lane, and a short lane, also dirt, connected to Rhodes Avenue.

So who then would have thought that Naremburn property values would ever reach today's dizzy heights with a premium paid for living so close to the CBD? Back then, frankly, it wasn't the coolest address, especially when most of our friends lived 'up the line', or at Mosman or Cremorne. It seemed to matter more then. And nobody knew where it was, so it was ok to say we lived "near Northbridge". But '33' became our father's castle. He put his restless energy into gardening in the rich dark soil, and eventually had literally hundreds of camellias and azaleas, mostly in pots.

Lifestyle then was rather austere, and we were left to make our own entertainment with kids in the locality. I remember roaming the bush down towards the Suspension Bridge, and catching tadpoles in Brook Street. Father gained some prestige by having the first television in the street, just in time to catch the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. On a good Saturday we were allowed to venture to Crows Nest to the Hoyts Theatre in Falcon Street, where the supermarket now stands.

Perhaps the most glaring contrast between then and now was the way the city closed down after dark. Few restaurants, taverns or bars existed in my memory, certainly none in Naremburn, and I can only remember being taken to Chopsticks Chinese in Crowy. And the wine bar that became 'The Stoned Crow' was there, but with a different clientele. Walking past we would glimpse a bar tiled room with a few solitary men staring into their sherry glasses. No place to meet a lady!

The early 1970s must have been a sad time for our parents. We had all left home, and our father was terminally ill and taking on the DMR over resumption of '33'. I remember him confronting a safari-suited man at the front door, who was suggesting that he be relocated into a comparable house no further from the CBD, etc. And father was having nothing to do with the suggestion of moving to the Central Coast. The man, always patient and polite, was nevertheless there to spell out the "bottom line". Our mother eventually received, we think, \$35,000 in 1975, enough to buy a much smaller house in Willoughby – with change.

Richard Bray
Dubbo

NPA Oral History Program

The NPA with Willoughby City Library is conducting an Oral History Program interviewing Naremburn's longstanding residents.

We have recorded Naremburn memories of Dulcie Barratt, late of Dalleys Road; Cyril and Lorna Clark, Brook Street; Mary Teteris, Merrenburn Avenue; Gordon Prentice, Glenmore Street; and Jack Dean of Mitchell Street.

Jack Dean, 94, played Aussie Rules way back in 1926, but tennis is his first love. Jack first played on the tennis courts at the back of Naremburn Primary School in what is now Lawson Lane, where the Plummers, Fleggs and Hopmans had courts; Hopman was the uncle of famous Australian Davis Cup Coach, Harry Hopman. Jack's current interests include attending the Men's Shed at Lane Cove for wood-carving, Formula One racing cars being a specialty.

If you would like to contribute to our Oral History Program, or you know someone with valuable memories of life in Naremburn, please contact Kevin FitzPatrick on 9439 8119 or president@naremburnprogress.org.au



Willoughby City Council invites you to celebrate Earth Hour

5pm, Saturday 28 March

Naremburn Park, Cnr Park Rd & Station St, Naremburn

Workshops, stalls and live entertainment.

Supported by the Naremburn Progress Association, Artarmon Progress Association and the North Shore Climate Action Group.

Phone 9777 1000 for further information.



Earth Hour begins at 8.30pm, Saturday 28 March
Join us in turning off your lights for one hour and help fight global warming.
For more ways to take action visit www.earthhour.org



Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery Tour

The tour is part of the 2009 National Trust Heritage Festival that was established 29 years ago to encourage Australians to celebrate our shared built, environmental and cultural heritage.

This year's theme is 'Our Place in Space' in recognition of 2009 being the International Year of Astronomy. 'Our place' is Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery – established in 1875 as the first general cemetery on the North Shore. The cemetery was closed for burials in 1974 and added to the state heritage register in 2001. At our place we have a very large cross and many smaller crosses, many angels, lots of famous sportsmen, businessmen and politicians and the astronomers Henry Alfred Lenehan and William Scott. The tour of the cemetery will take you past the graves of these notables and finish with the astronomers where you will be given details of their lives and discoveries.

Meet at 11.00 am on Sunday 5 April at the Lychgate on The Carriage Way (where parking is available) off Westbourne Street, St Leonards just east of the Pacific Highway. The cost is \$25 (\$20 for NT members) payable on the day. Enquiries and bookings: John May 9906 5106 or jmay42@bigpond.net.au

nareburnprogress.org.au

- Latest News
- All issues of *Nareburn Matters*
- Minutes of Meetings
- Agenda of the next meeting

Northbridge Plaza

As we go to press, members of the Northbridge Progress Association are to meet in St Mark's Anglican Hall to discuss the Master Plan for Northbridge Plaza. Nearby residents fear that excessive development will increase traffic hazards. For us in Nareburn, the result could be that drivers choose to avoid Northbridge thus increasing traffic flow through Nareburn. Will keep you posted.

Young Reporter Needed

Is there a young person with an eye for a future in journalism?

We need contributions for both the website and *Nareburn Matters*. You could be our next Tim Prentice. Tim grew up in Glenmore Street and was a sports reporter for News Limited; he is currently Editor for one of the trade papers.

president@nareburnprogress.org.au

One good Google deserves another

Gwen Cooke of Runaway Bay, Qld, googled 'Nareburn' on the off chance and found our website.

A phone call to the NPA President set up a flow of valuable memories of Nareburn. Gwen's family lived at 14 Dawson Street; a neighbour, Mr Jones, died on the HMAS Sydney. Gwen also remembers a Mick Leydon who lived at 4 Dawson Street. This WW1 Digger lost a leg in the Great War. Gwen's own husband, Brendon Francis Coupe was killed in action in Vietnam and was buried from St Cuthbert's with full military honours, June 1966. Gwen emailed great photos and is searching for other records. She assisted Eric Wilksch in the production of *The Nareburn Story* (1988). Barry Alliston, President, North Sydney Leagues Club, is a relative.

Another Digger ...

This time from Dalleys Road, was the late Father Terry Duggan.

NSW Chaplain for the Australian Logistics Support Group and Headquarters, 'Padre' Duggan served two tours of duty in Vietnam. The Duggans lived at 8 Dalleys Road, next to the 1923 Nareburn Primary School building.

Where is this family?

Anne Storm, an expat living in the UK, has written asking for help.

Anne assists with the process of finding relatives of service people who perished in WW2. She is searching for any relatives of an Alfred Dubua who lived at 11 Merrenburn Avenue in the 1940s; the family came from New Caledonia originally. Alfred's daughter, Yvonne, married a Hubert Watkins. Their son, Marcel Watkins, of 100 squadron RAF, was an RAAF airman killed in WW2 when his Lancaster crashed in Denmark. His parents, Hubert & Yvonne lived in Waverton 1940s. If you can help, please contact Anne Storm on storm04@globalnet.co.uk

The Catholic Parishes Of
ST LEONARD'S & ST PHILIP NERI
Cnr Willoughby & 224 Sailors Bay Road,
Donnelly Rds, Nareburn Northbridge

EASTER 2009

9TH APRIL - HOLY THURSDAY

-Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7pm at Northbridge

10TH APRIL - GOOD FRIDAY

-Stations of the Cross:

9am at Northbridge & 10am at Nareburn

-Celebration of the Lord's Passion

3pm at Nareburn

11TH APRIL - EASTER VIGIL

7:30pm at Nareburn



12TH APRIL - EASTER SUNDAY

8am & 10:30am at Nareburn

9am at Northbridge



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Naremburn Neighbourhood Watch

March 2009

Legal Aid

Some people will ask why we are covering this topic in an affluent area. There are a number of reasons why this topic has been chosen for this quarter's newsletter. The first is that there are people in this area that are not affluent. The second is that with the advent of the global financial crisis there could be people that are now having legal issues they have not had before and now lack the means to sort out their issues. The third is that Legal Aid provides a good resource for people of any description who need some help with a legal matter.

Legal Aid can help with just about any legal issue. If you think you need to access a legal aid solicitor then the process is to make an appointment to see an officer. You also need to fill out an application form and take all your supporting documents, including your financial documents. Whether you receive help will be determined by Legal Aid and will be based on your own financial means, the merit of the case and whether you meet legal aid policy guidelines.

Having said this, though, they also have a couple of really handy help lines. I have rung to ask questions on behalf of a neighbour before and found them to be very well informed and very helpful. The main help line is 1300 888 529 and a special youth help line 1800 10 18 10. Their website can be found at

www.legalaid.gov.au. It is well laid out and provides access to many resources.

The other services provided by legal aid are:

- Chamber Magistrates at most local courts will give advice and help with paperwork.
- Community Legal Centres give legal advice and help with problems not covered by legal aid.
- Community Justice Centres provide a free mediation service for people in dispute with friends, family members or neighbours.
- Private lawyers – The Law Society can refer you to private lawyers in your area and also provide information about private lawyers who do legal aid work.

Recent successes

A 39-year-old Artarmon man was arrested and charged with drug and knife offences on 11 February. The man was stopped by North Shore Police officers after he was seen riding his bike without a helmet near the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Longueville Rd at Artarmon shortly after 10am. Police spoke with the man for a short time, and as a result of this conversation he was searched. Police subsequently located a Stanley knife, glass pipe and a small quantity of cannabis in the man's possession. He was arrested and charged with several offences.

Three youths were detained by Lane Cove Council Rangers after two graffiti attacks on public toilets on Tuesday 10 February. The Rangers first sighted the 13-year-old Lane Cove, Longueville and Chatswood boys entering the toilet block at Pottery Green at Lane Cove. They were then seen to leave a short time later. An inspection of the toilets by the Rangers revealed fresh graffiti inside. The Rangers then followed the group to a Supermarket on Burns Bay Road, at which time one of the youths was seen to walk into the toilets, while his two friends stood outside. The three were stopped by Rangers as they attempted to walk away from the toilets. An inspection of the toilets also revealed fresh graffiti, matching that found in the Pottery Green toilet. The youths were detained and Police were called. Police arrived a short time later, and a subsequent search of the boys revealed all three boys were in possession of texta pens. Police also located drug pipes and mobile phones with photos graffiti tags matching those found in the toilets. The phone also contained photos of the boys smoking drugs. The three were arrested and taken to Chatswood Police Station. The youths will be dealt with under the Youth Offenders Act.

Email network

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



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

LAST NAME: FIRST NAME: TITLE:

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Cash:

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

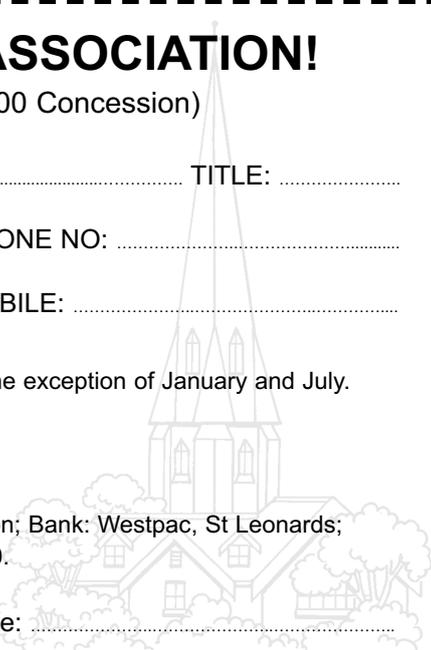
Cheques:

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

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

Signature: Date:



Noticeboard

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

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

Naremburn Progress Association

2nd Thursday (except Jan & July)
7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
9439 8119 (Kevin or Trisha)

Playgroup

Wednesday and Thursday
10:00 am to 12 noon
(School Term only)
9439 8814

Naremburn Over Fifties

Most Mondays
10:30 am to 2:00 pm
9436 3304 (Lorna)
9436 2607 (Margaret)

Northern Suburbs Philatelic Society

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

Breast Feeding Association

1st Tuesday
10:00 am to 12 noon
9966 1591

After School Care

Monday to Friday
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
(School Term only)
9439 8814

Willoughby Pre School

Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
(School Term only)
9437 4260

Naremburn Library

Mondays – 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Thursdays – 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Saturdays – 9:30 am to 12 noon
9439 5584



“....The importance of a local school to community creation is chronically underestimated in modern Sydney....”

Jane Caro, media and advertising personality, champion of Public Education and Willoughby resident (*Artarmon Gazette* February 2009), also said that Artarmon is fortunate in having maintained that

connection. Naremburn, as we know, has not been so lucky.

On Friday, 13 February Jane Simmons Regional Director DSE (Northern Sydney) and Kathryn Brennan, School Education Director were good enough to meet with the School Working Party formed after the public meeting held last May. Chaired by local MP Gladys Berejiklian, Friday's meeting was attended by Council staff including the GM Nick Tobin, the Progress Association's Kevin FitzPatrick, David Lendrum, Annaliese Appleton and Karen Pearson, all of whom I have to say are fantastic advocates for this community and specifically for our access to a publicly-funded primary school.

The good news is that apparently there has been some revision of the previous Departmental position that there were no grounds for the community assertion that the number of pre-school age children in our suburb is burgeoning. It seems that for some reason they were convinced that although the under 5s might be increasing this was no cause for concern since the numbers were, oddly enough, dissipating once the cohort hit the school attendance age. Possibly prompted by our collective insistence, it seems that new information is to hand and is being assembled – in order to build a case for capital enhancement of existing school sites. I understood that the preferred approach is to apply for funds to construct two storey buildings on existing sites to replace current single storey buildings. We expressed surprise and relief that such efforts were being undertaken on our behalf and hoped that the information might be shared with us forthwith.

The bad news is that Minister Firth refuses to meet with us, that our dream of reinstating a primary school in Naremburn is repeatedly ruled out of the question. Meanwhile Willoughby Public enrollments stand at 804, Cammeray 705, Artarmon 686 and the Willoughby electorate remains the demountable capital of the lower North Shore.

Whilst the cynic in me can't help but think that there will be a discreet contract out there for design and construct of two storey demountables, I can report that the resolution of Friday's meeting was that before the end of June we expect a meeting of the Working Party to be informed of the Department's plan for managing public primary school education demand in Willoughby – with a further public meeting shortly thereafter.

And just so we don't lose our sight of the dream, it seems that the Catholic Church may, in the process of restructuring its several operations on the lower North Shore, be undertaking a review of its property portfolio in Naremburn, with not just the St Leonard's School site opening up the tantalising prospect of 'out of the square' solutions for those willing to dream the impossible....

Visit my blog: <http://katelamb.blogspot.com>

Cr Lamb is one of three Naremburn Ward councillors who contribute regularly to Naremburn Matters.

