

## MEET YOUR 2023 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Willoughby City Council has celebrated the significant achievements of four community members who've been honoured at the recent 2023 Citizen of the Year awards.

At a citizenship ceremony held on Australia Day, attended by 100 new Willoughby citizens from 15 different countries, Willoughby Mayor Tanya Taylor announced the four Willoughby Citizens of the Year award winners.

These were:

- Maria Chan – Citizen of the Year
- Lucy Periera – Young Citizen of the Year
- Meredith Foley – Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Mary Anne Veliscek – Cultural and Community Development Award

"I congratulate our four award winners for their tremendous contribution to the Willoughby community, which has included helping our youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, our environment and local residents from multi-cultural backgrounds," Mayor Taylor said.

**Maria Chan** came to Australia in 1977 and has resided in Willoughby ever since. Maria is the President and Chartered Member of the Rotary Club Chatswood International and has worked diligently with the local Willoughby community to raise funds for various local projects.

Maria has provided local pensioners and the elderly access to her aged care service and offers to accompany those who are lonely and in need of a friend.

Maria is also the Vice Chair of the Multicultural Community Council of NSW and President of the Chinese Community Council. She has worked tirelessly to help the Chinese



Photo courtesy: Willoughby Living Facebook group

Community – both in Willoughby and Sydney at large – by advocating their working rights and supporting their needs.

**Lucy Periera** has been part of the Chatswood Youth Centre volunteer management team for more than three years and is also part of the Willoughby Youth Action Group. Lucy has a passion for social change and LGBTQ+ rights.

"Lucy is a strong youth advocate, taking up every opportunity to learn new skills, attend youth events and represent the Council at youth advisory conferences and Willoughby student exchange programs," Mayor Taylor said.

Lucy leads student support initiatives and contributes to youth projects, like the Willoughby Youth Action Plan project, and many other volunteering initiatives through her school.

**Meredith Foley** (main image) has been awarded for her outstanding commitment to environmental conservation through her involvement with the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) as well as her active involvement with many of Council community events, including the Fauna Fair, National Tree Day and many school excursions.

"Meredith is also recognised for her amazing wildlife photography, which has been produced and distributed to the community, through social media and Council's events and

documentation," Mayor Taylor said.

**Mary Anne Veliscek** is a member of the Market Gardens Park Community Garden. She is responsible for initiating the building of raised garden beds at the garden to accommodate users with physical disabilities to get involved with gardening.

Mary Anne and her husband and engineer David Carolan (who designed the beds) have worked extremely hard to make these accessible garden beds a reality. Mary Anne successfully secured funding for the construction of the garden beds through the Community Grants Program with the garden beds constructed with help from other members of the group in late September/October 2021.

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Photo courtesy: Willoughby City Council

TRUE OR FALSE?

Naremburn Park was originally part of a 140-acre dedication for public recreation in 1969.

ANSWER ON PAGE 12

FOLLOW AND SHARE YOUR PHOTOS ON  
INSTAGRAM @ NAREMBURN



The year 2023 has opened at a great pace, with your Naremburn Progress Association involved in several issues and events. Of course, the level of involvement always depends on the availability and willingness of volunteers to assist wherever and whenever they can. So, it's been particularly challenging over the past few months as several of our volunteers have had to step back for various reasons, due to moving house or changed work obligations.

For these reasons, we've shuffled some people into interim positions within the executive committee, and we're still looking for people to get involved in some of our subcommittees – especially the *Naremburn Matters* subcommittee.

Most of the interim appointments extend only until our annual general meeting (AGM) on 27 April. At the meeting, all positions will be declared vacant, and financial members of the association will vote to elect nominated members for another 12 months. We urge members to take a more active role in the NPA – we're happy to find suitable roles for just about anybody!

As part of our reorganisation of volunteer resources, we welcome two new members to our committee: Himashi Cameron and Pete Kasby. Himashi has tertiary qualifications in statistics and corporate law and has recently returned to Naremburn after five years in Singapore. She's married, has two children at Cammeray Public School, and is already involved in several community groups.

Pete Kasby has been a resident of Naremburn for eight years and has been involved with the NPA for about a year. He has also been active as Vice President of the Willoughby Community Preschool for the past two years as well as a committee

member. He's a member of the Cammeray Public School Parents & Citizens and Environment & Sustainability committees and was recently appointed tunnels representative. We are fortunate to have secured the services of these new members and welcome them to our ranks.

We are at a crossroads in determining the future of this wonderful newsletter, *Naremburn Matters*. Kasey Clark has come onboard as the editor for this latest edition. We are looking for additional help with stories and advertising. You can learn about some of the options we are considering by reading the papers attached to the agenda for the 23 February General Meeting, all of which you can view and download from the NPA website. Till next time.

## ROGER PROMNITZ

### Interim President

Note: The President stepped aside into a committee position to avoid perceived conflicts of interest pertaining to the state election.

## NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Join us for the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Naremburn Progress Association on Thursday 27 April 2023 at 7:30pm at the Naremburn Community Centre, 7/8 Central Street, Naremburn. Please make sure your membership is up to date to ensure your eligibility to vote. Please email the secretary if you would like to nominate for a position.



Naremburn  
Progress  
Association

**NAREMBURN MATTERS**  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
THE NAREMBURN PROGRESS  
ASSOCIATION (NPA)

Naremburn Progress Association  
Founded 1901, incorporated 2004  
PO Box 393 St Leonards 2004  
[www.naremburnprogress.org.au](http://www.naremburnprogress.org.au)

The opinions expressed in *Naremburn Matters* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the NPA or its officers. The opinions of the authors are their own.

Although all possible care is taken to be accurate, no responsibility whatsoever will be taken by the NPA, typesetters or printers for articles, letters or advertising.

## OUR PURPOSE

*"The Naremburn Progress Association is a not-for-profit community organisation. The objectives of the Association are to promote the welfare and advancement of the Naremburn community, to preserve and improve the amenity and environment of the Naremburn District and nearby areas, to encourage a spirit of community and mutual help among all residents and to co-operate with other groups in pursuit of these objects. Matters of business will always be pursued on a non-political and non-sectarian basis."*

To join us, please go to: <https://www.naremburnprogress.org.au/membership>

**President** Larissa Penn  
[president@naremburnprogress.org.au](mailto:president@naremburnprogress.org.au)

**Interim Vice President** Lara Winten

**Treasurer** Carmen Loecherer

**Interim Secretary** Julie Waddington

**Committee Members** Himashi Cameron, Pete Kasby, Roger Promnitz

### **Naremburn Matters:**

To be published April, August, and December

### **Planning & Environment Subcommittee**

Julie Waddington (Chair), Andrew Assaee, Roger Promnitz, Larissa Penn (ex officio)

### **Advertising Co-ordinator & Contributor**

Vacant

**Editor** Kasey Clark

**Typesetting & Design** Kwik Kopy Chatswood

**Printing** Kwik Kopy Chatswood

Next issue deadline:

14 July 2023

We welcome ideas regarding topics of interest to the community and letters. Please email [naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au](mailto:naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au) with your ideas and letters.

We do not publish anonymous letters and we will contact you should we need to edit your contributions.

## Call for member and volunteers

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

With a new committee and the level of activity in the community, there are some great opportunities for NPA members to contribute.

Contact us at [secretary@naremburnprogress.org.au](mailto:secretary@naremburnprogress.org.au) to discuss helping with any of the roles below.

**Naremburn Matters Subcommittee:** We are seeking contributors so we can better reflect our community, including any students who have an interest in writing or design or photographers who are happy to contribute images.

**NPA Website Volunteer:** We're looking for a volunteer to maintain our website, including updating web content and registering new members.

**NPA Community Outreach Volunteer:** We are seeking a volunteer who can develop flyers and event invitations, circulate information on social media, and liaise with Willoughby City Council about upcoming events.

**NPA Executive - Secretary:** We are seeking a secretary to join the NPA Executive. Responsibilities are issuing meeting agenda, taking and issuing minutes, managing (predominantly electronic) correspondence.

**Naremburn Progress Association membership:** Become an active member of your Naremburn community and have your say. Join or renew your membership at [www.naremburnprogress.org.au/membership/join-renew/](http://www.naremburnprogress.org.au/membership/join-renew/)

**Fees:** \$15 full member (\$10 concession/associate), plus \$5 joining/lapsed member.



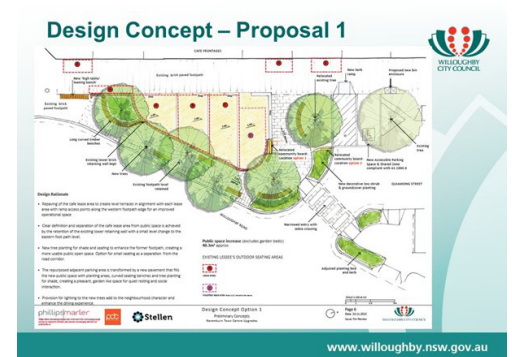
# Naremburn Local Centre Streetscape Project

The NPA recently received two design proposal options from Willoughby Council officers for upgrading the public area adjacent to the Naremburn shops. Council presented the options at consultation sessions to gauge community reaction.

The feedback to Willoughby Council and its design consultants was generally favourable, but any final layout must address the following:

- NPA seeks the continuation and improvement of our great village atmosphere; any further development proposals should be of only moderate height, density, or both, as per earlier concept plans.
- NPA is keen to see the project completed as soon as possible, as we have identified it as much-needed for years. Over many years, major road infrastructure projects have decimated Naremburn Local Centre ("the Naremburn Shops"), so the community is striving to maintain and improve the remaining shopping strip.
- NPA strongly supports Willoughby Council's endeavours to begin the construction phase of this project.

- The federal government originally provided funding on a "use it or lose it" basis, so concerns arose when progress faltered; the NPA has regularly followed up with emails since September 2021. We are seeking written commitment from Willoughby Council and the federal government that funding is not at risk because of timing delays. To date, although verbal confirmation is strong, we have nothing in writing.
- NPA wishes to preserve shop facades for their cultural significance and heritage.
- One of the principal requests as per community feedback is the need for noise barriers, which are missing from both of the latest options. Final layouts must address the noise issue; these barriers will be necessary if the proposed major roads infrastructure projects proceed, as Willoughby Road will become the major feeder for southside harbour destinations when works curtail Brook Street and Miller Street access points.
- The local community recognises and appreciates the incorporation of an enhanced public area into the design options, with levelled seating options (as



opposed to the current sloped aspect), more trees for increased shade and fewer urban heat effects, and improved pedestrian safety.

- If the project introduces angled parking on Rohan Street, the community is divided as to whether this leads to any improvements.
- Although not directly part of the streetscape project, the community still seeks a safe and proper pedestrian crossing over Willoughby Road to cater to school children and commuter and local resident foot traffic.

## Record-breaking property sales!

We are thrilled to announce that since our last newsletter, we've sold 27 properties: 10 of these in the last eight weeks. In addition, as of 1 February, The Chauncy Group has expanded to both our Crows Nest and Willoughby offices, and we're excited to extend our sales and property management services to the Lower North Shore to better serve our clients in these areas. If you need any assistance with your investment properties, please do not hesitate to reach out to our experienced and efficient property management team.

Despite the low stock levels in the market, we have met a lot of hot, qualified buyers who are eager to purchase, and despite interest rates continuing to rise, there is stability in the market.

Some of the standout Naremburn sales in the past few months include 4 Berry Avenue, which sold for \$4,440,000 – the second-highest sale for the suburb in the past six months. We also had a townhouse sale at 2/45A Garland Road for \$2,735,000, the highest price for a townhouse in the suburb in the past 12 months. We pride ourselves on our relationships with local buyers and our ability to

successfully negotiate off-market transactions. One notable sale was 12 Lawson Lane, which sold for \$2,570,000 to a buyer from our database who we'd been helping with their dream home search.

We are also honoured to have been awarded 'Rate My Agent of the Year' for Naremburn for the ninth year in a row. Thank you to our clients for your ongoing support; we truly appreciate it. Furthermore, we continue our work with Willoughby Community Preschool and recently gifted a hamper with vouchers and treats to sell for raffle tickets for their Easter Fun Day & BBQ.



As always, if you are thinking of selling and need advice on any real estate matter, please feel free to contact our team. We're always here to help.

**PETER CHAUNCY**  
**MCGRATH ESTATE AGENTS**

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# FWPA meets with TfNSW: a progress report

On 6 February, the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations (FWPA) met with the Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Warringah Freeway Upgrade and Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT) project team.

The FWPA's objective was to seek clarity on the impact of the local road network from the Warringah Freeway Upgrade and the WHT projects.

Departmental officers from TfNSW would not put the Beaches Link project on the agenda, as the NSW Government had not signed off on the environmental impact statement (EIS) that would allow that project to begin.

The meeting agenda that the department issued included the environmental issues associated with the WHT and Warringah Freeway Upgrade. This made for a very full agenda for a two-hour meeting.

## WHAT DID THE MEETING CLARIFY?

The department provided clarification on changes to on-ramp access to the Sydney Harbour Bridge (SHB) and the Sydney Harbour Tunnel (SHT). The key changes are:

### Southbound

1. The Brook Street on ramp will not provide access to the SHT. Currently, it provides access to the SHB/Cahill

Expressway and the SHT.

2. Earnest St will not provide access to the SHB or Cahill Expressway Southbound.
3. Falcon St will not provide access to Cahill Expressway southbound.
4. Access to the WHT will be added via Willoughby Rd (or Berry St, North Sydney), creating a rat run for those commuters wishing to enter the WHT.

### Northbound

5. Commuters will not be able to exit to Miller or Brook St from the SHT, which risks more traffic being pushed onto Willoughby Rd.
6. Commuters will not be able to exit the WHT to Miller or Brook St, pushing more traffic to Willoughby Rd.
7. Falcon St westbound exit from the SHB will be closed, pushing more traffic into Cammeray and impacting what is known as the "Eastern Valley Way" route through Cammeray/Northbridge.

Concern was expressed that these changes stand to have a considerable impact on local traffic and will place greater pressure on the Cahill Expressway. Vehicular access from Willoughby to the airport will be via the SHB and the Cahill Expressway, where it joins the Eastern Distributor, or a rat run via Northbridge/Cammeray to Earnest

St to access the SHT.

Please note that this is clarification to what was written in the last report in this journal.

The department asserts that it is making these changes for safety reasons rather than the changed road configuration associated with additional tunnel and freeway infrastructure. The FWPA requested traffic incident reports to test the safety issue.

The department presented estimates of road traffic numbers for the year 2037 using different scenarios. The estimates showed considerable traffic increases on High Street, Willoughby and Willoughby Road as well as increases to Eastern Valley Way, Sailors Bay Rd, and Strathallan Ave. The FWPA has requested additional details regarding what gave rise to these estimates.

Significantly, the officers have admitted in the last two meetings that the department has done no detailed traffic modelling for the Willoughby Local Government Area (LGA) in relation to the two projects. Any detailed traffic modelling that the department has done has effectively stopped in and around the on ramps and off ramps!

The length of the traffic presentation meant that we could not cover everything we wanted to cover in the meeting. The department did not

*continued on Page 9*

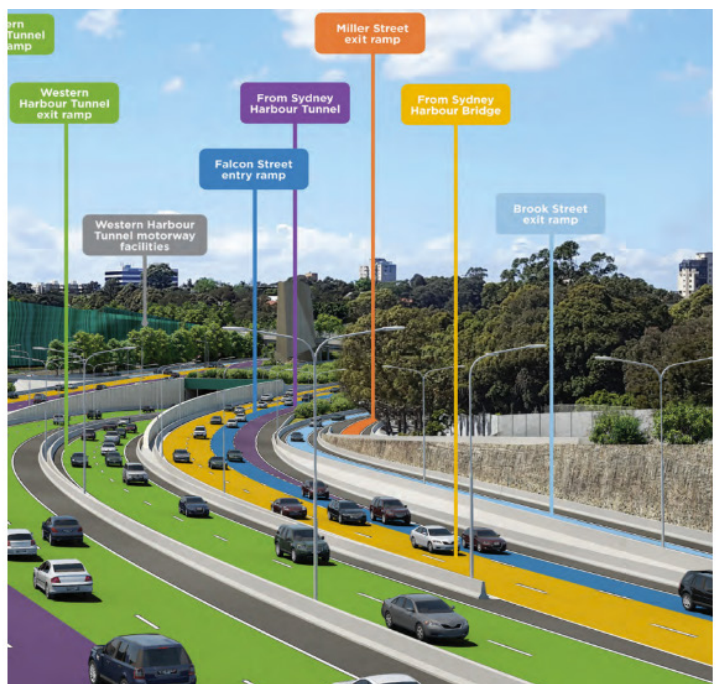
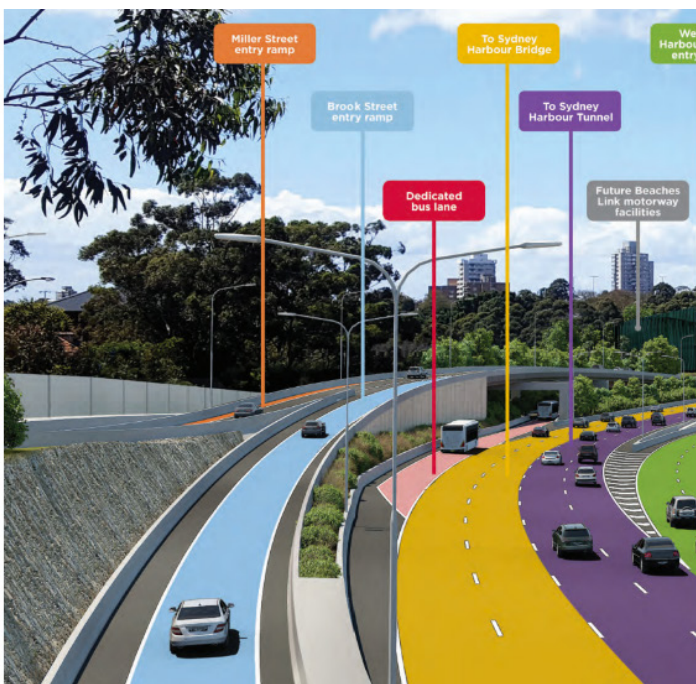


Photo courtesy: Transport for NSW



## Naremburn Library

**Naremburn Library opens on Mondays from 2pm to 4.30pm. Call us on 9439 5584.**

We are always adding new books to the library's collections, including magazines, non-fiction, and the latest fiction.

### Naremburn Book Locker

Naremburn Book Locker is a free service that allows you to collect reserved items at a time that suits you. After-hours access is available from 6am to 8pm daily. Simply apply online at <https://libraries.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Services/Naremburn-Book-Locker>.

### Book Reviews



*Other Birds*  
by Sarah Addison Allen

Set in the fictional little town of Mallow Island in South Carolina, *Other Birds* tells the story of Zoey, who moves into an apartment complex called the Dellawisp, which is named after a fictional bird. Hoping to reconnect with memories of her mother, she meets the residents and three ghosts.

When one of Zoey's neighbours passes away on the night of her arrival, the story revolves around the residents coming together and moving forward from their past. The book explores family, loss, trauma, and forgiveness in a comforting way. It's a cosy and quirky read.

*Political Lives: Australian prime ministers*



*and their biographers* by Chris Wallace

Associate Professor of the University of Canberra Chris Wallace is an expert in history, politics, and international relations.

Her latest book explores the relationships between Australian prime ministers and their biographers in a different light. It reveals some lesser-known facts and also discusses some behind-the-scenes aspects of mainstream political events.

*"It is in literature that the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression."*

— ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD, ENGLISH MATHEMATICIAN AND PHILOSOPHER

# belle

 PROPERTY

## New Lower North Shore Record Smashed & Quality Properties To Hit The Market After Easter!

Although higher interest rates may be uncomfortable for some, the upper end of the market remains largely unaffected; in fact, the Lower North Shore record has just been smashed, with a home selling in McMahons Point for more than \$40,000,000!

We have some fantastic properties about to hit the market following the Easter break, including 1/15 Station Street Naremburn – an oversized four-bedroom townhouse that's perfect for the family, as it sits directly across the road from Naremburn Park.

We also have 18 Dargan Street

Naremburn, which is being sold for the first time in more than 60 years and sits on a prized 564sqm of land.

Should either of these properties interest you or if you would like to know what else is coming to market shortly, just reach out – the team and I would be happy to assist you. Alternatively, if you



are contemplating a move and would like some advice on timing and how to maximise your final price, please get in touch for a confidential discussion.

Kind Regards,

**DAVID BENJAFIELD**  
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# Councillors' reports

Updates from our three Naremburn ward Councillors



## Councillor Georgie Roussac

In December, Council approved Willoughby's new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP). The LEP guides future planning decisions to ensure development is designed appropriately. Our new plan includes a number of changes to help us respond to some of the major challenges facing our community's future health and prosperity. Key changes include:

- introducing a design review process to improve the design quality of development
- increasing affordable housing for key workers in new residential developments
- introducing new sustainability measures to mitigate the impact of a changing climate (urban heat) and
- strengthening heritage provisions.

Councillors also supported my request that Council investigate the heritage significance of Naremburn buildings, shops, and the area between the two existing Naremburn Conservation Areas in Council's 2023–24 heritage review.

The LEP and DCP are now with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for finalisation, which is expected to take approximately six months from lodgement.

Naremburn ward Councillors regularly attend Naremburn Progress Association meetings. NPA meetings provide a great opportunity to discuss issues and meet your neighbours. I'd love to see you there sometime.

**Georgie Roussac**

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## Councillor Nic Wright

With the recent combination of rain and more sunshine than we've enjoyed in years, many of our footpaths and parks are looking a little overgrown. Council staff members are working to improve the backlog, which includes street sweeping, weeding, and mowing, but there's a lot more to do. I encourage residents who see issues that may have been overlooked to contact me so I can have them fixed. To improve accountability, an issue that has been raised with me a lot recently, I have also asked Council staff to investigate publishing the dates that street sweepers and grounds staff will be working in particular areas.

Another issue I am addressing this term of Council is improving the public heritage protections of important neighbourhood locations. I have sought and received my colleagues' support in investigating whether our heritage register should add sites such as the Henry Lawson Cave, the Catholic Presbytery, and the St Leonards School. I know there's a lot of great local knowledge, so if you know of a site that we should be considering for heritage protection, please reach out.

**Nic Wright**

E: [nic.wright@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nic.wright@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)



## Councillor Anna Greco

What do accountability and transparency mean to you? To me, they mean the ability to question and receive a reasonable explanation behind decision-making. They mean having quantitative, fact-based evidence for how Council governs on our behalf. In 2022, Willoughby Council adopted the Our Future Willoughby 2032: Community Strategic Plan; it's a document that governs how Willoughby Council makes decisions.

Willoughby citizens have identified having "a city that is effective and accountable" as a priority. To achieve this outcome, Council has made a commitment to make it easy for citizens to engage and participate in decision-making.

I would very much like to understand how I can help you be part of the decision-making process for Willoughby City Council. If you have not yet met me, I encourage you to reach out.

I believe change for the better starts with your courage to step forward and ask your Councillor for the change you wish to see in our City of Willoughby.

**Anna Greco**

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## Mayor's report

An update from Willoughby Mayor  
Tanya Taylor

### Naremburn Local Centre Streetscape Upgrade

The Naremburn Local Centre Streetscape Upgrade Project consultation with residents and stakeholders was completed in December 2022. Council is planning to upgrade Naremburn's local business centre and provide easier access for pedestrians, cyclists, and bus passengers. The project will also enhance amenities to improve and extend visitation time to create higher economic activity, aiding business retention and growth.

Thank you to the Naremburn Progress Association and the Naremburn Chamber of Commerce for assisting Council with the distribution of information over the past months. Council widely promoted the project through its communication channels, including the monthly Have Your Say newsletter, which went to 7,070 subscribers. Council also collected feedback after presenting the design concepts at a public meeting that took place at the Naremburn Library as well as at a street stall at Naremburn Town Centre.

As always, we are grateful for the valuable

feedback that our community and stakeholders have provided to us. Overall, respondents were in support of the main focus of the presented concept designs. These include new shaded seating areas, changes to traffic circulation with a proposed one-way system to improve pedestrian safety, a separated southbound bike lane to improve cycling safety, and a level leased area. Of our survey respondents, 80% were from Naremburn. We will hold a community information session later this month with construction due to begin late this year.

For more information and to keep up to date, please visit Naremburn Local Centre Streetscape Upgrade | Willoughby City Council ([nsw.gov.au](http://nsw.gov.au))

### Willoughby Leisure Centre Update

The Willoughby Leisure Centre Upgrade is well underway, as demolition has now begun. During the upgrade, the centre's school holiday programs and the group fitness classes and gym will continue to operate. Indoor courts will be open but may need to close for short periods. The pool hall will remain closed until completion.

Please visit the Willoughby Leisure Centre



website for updates on construction and closures.

### Happy 100th birthday, Veda!

Happy 100th birthday to long-time Artarmon resident Veda van Louwersen. Veda moved to Artarmon from another Sydney suburb when she was only five years old. She remembers walking home from school through Artarmon Reserve, paddling her feet at Flat Rock Creek, and picking blackberries from the bushes that lined the creek while keeping an eye out for black snakes. Congratulations on reaching this milestone, Veda. We wish you all the best.

MAYOR TANYA

## FINANCIAL ADVICE ISN'T JUST ABOUT MONEY

True story.

I was passing a couple near Naremburn Park on my morning walk recently, and I heard the woman say, "We should aim to retire in five years". Her male companion responded with: "That will never happen!"

As I passed them, the woman started to raise her voice, calling her partner a "negative Nancy" and some other unflattering names.

Apart from being in a better financial position, this couple could enjoy many other intangible, non-monetary benefits if they sought qualified advice.

For example, a 2020 study from research firm Rice Warner showed that people receiving advice are generally happier, with improved peace of mind, enriched relationships, and sometimes even better health. Studies by IOOF, MLC

Wealth, and others indicate similar benefits.

What would it mean to you to have less stress, greater freedom to enjoy life, and maybe even better relationships and health?

Or what about this? Imagine not worrying about money anymore!

How much would that be worth?

JANE RIDDER

\* This information is general advice and does not take into account any person's particular financial objectives, situation or needs. You should consider whether it is appropriate to your particular circumstances.

### PERSONAL WEALTH CREATION | BETTER MORTGAGES | RETIREMENT PLANNING



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**Naremburn residents serving  
the local community**

# There's history in causing a FRACAS at Flat Rock Gully

Willoughby Council voted in December 2022 to reinstate the Advisory Committee on Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully. It was the latest example of how important protecting this space continues to be to the community. We have to thank Naremburn Councillors; the Naremburn Progress Association; and other community organisations, such as the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA), for advocating on behalf of this space. These people and organisations recognise the ongoing need to care for this space and are keenly aware of the fragility of the natural habitat in Flat Rock Gully.

The gully covers approximately 10 hectares and is rich in both natural and cultural heritage. The Australian Museum has found evidence of 6,000 years of habitation in this area. The Cammeraygal lived here, relying on the estuarine tidal flats as a food source.

Eric Wilksch was the President of the NPA in 1988 when he compiled *The Naremburn Story*, which was published for the Bicentennial Committee of Willoughby Municipal Council. Eric, a passionate advocate for protecting Flat Rock, researched the area in detail and documented its flora and fauna.

"When Flat Rock Gully was in imminent danger of being severely ravished, a group of concerned residents close to the gully met in 1976 for the sole purpose of initiating action to save this valuable bush land for posterity," Eric wrote. "It was decided to add a rational voice and support for other similarly motivated groups. The name chosen

for the new organisation was Flat Rock Area Conservation Action Society (FRACAS). FRACAS was soon recognised as a representative voice and became actively involved in the very local issue of bush conservation. It is still in readiness for any resurgence of any activities threatening what remains of the bush in Flat Rock Gully."

In April 2011, an exhibition developed by the Willoughby District Historical Society and Museum was opened by the Mayor, Pat Reilly. This exhibition explored the impact of urban development on the natural environment of Flat Rock Creek. Notably, when drainage works enclosed the creek in a concrete tunnel in 1934, garbage and landfill reaching up to 52 metres was dumped over it. The pristine valley had become a wasteland. Tipping continued until 1985, even though in the 1960s there had been a shift in community attitudes towards the environment. Plus, resident anger grew over the smoke and smell they experienced from the tip.

Into this scenario came FRACAS, focused on conserving Flat Rock Gully. In 1985, Willoughby Council started a plan to reclaim the tip for a modern sporting complex and develop a lineal park from Artarmon Station to Middle Harbour as a Bicentennial project.

Eric Wilksch was recognised for his contribution to the conservation of Flat Rock Gully when bushland regeneration work in the open section of Flat Rock Creek to Tunks Park on Middle Harbour resulted in the opening of the Eric Wilksch Track in 1996.

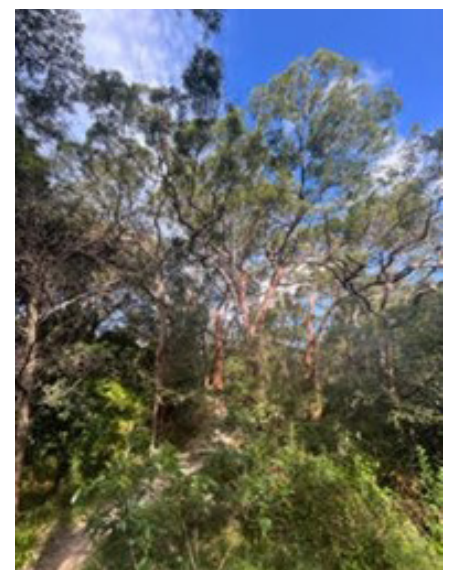
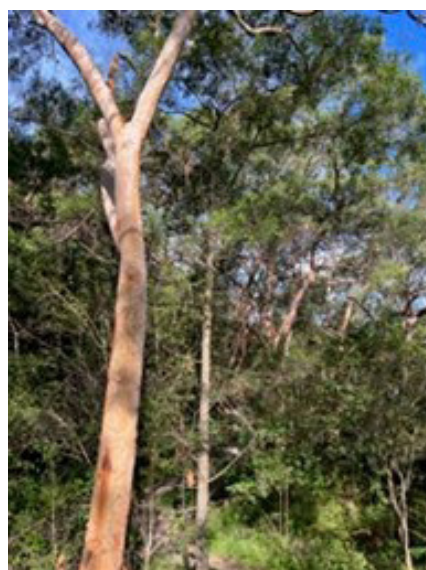


Today, walkers and joggers continue to enjoy this track and remark on this peaceful space.

Flat Rock Gully provides essential respite for our community. The quality of our surrounding environment plays a critical role in everyday lives. Large residential developments on the Channel Nine site and at Walters Road/Willoughby Road will bring many new residents who will need even more open, connected green space.

The threat to Flat Rock Gully, if the proposed Northern Beaches tunnel dive site is established in this space, cannot be exaggerated. The community knows that rehabilitation of the area will take at least 30 years. The denuding of the Cammeray landscape for the upgrade to the Warringah Freeway is a daily reminder of how we must be prepared to cause a FRACAS! – *Alan Waddington*

*Excerpt from The Naremburn Story republished with permission from Willoughby Council.*





# NAREMBURN PLANNING UPDATE

## *The lowdown on development applications (DAs)*

**DA2022/200:** Council notified the community about this application for extended trading hours to 24/7 by McDonald's at St Leonards station in June 2022. The NPA and residents sent submissions objecting to this proposal. The decision by Council is still pending.

**DA2021/189/A:** Council notification about planned modifications to the approved adaptive building development at 48 Chandos Street was on 20 May 2022. Several objections were made to this application to change garden space for the affordable housing residents to a commercial suite. The Willoughby Local Planning Panel assessed this proposal on 28 February 2023. NPA members spoke in opposition to the Council assessment. The panel approved the modifications with conditions.

**DA 2021/340:** 43 Donnelly Road.

Council rejected the development in July 2022. Conciliation by the Land and Environment Court was held on site on 6 February. The President of the NPA argued at the meeting that the court reject this proposal. The matter was adjourned until 21 March when a second conciliation was between Council and the developers. This conciliation failed, and the matter will be decided by the court. On 27 February, Council supported our Councillors' proposal to seek heritage listing of the Presbytery on the site. The conciliation conference in these proceedings was terminated by consent on 21 March. The matter will now proceed to a hearing, and we will provide further information shortly.

If you have concerns about a compliant development, you must contact the private certifier in writing and ask for

a written response. Copy Naremburn Councillors into the email. Council has said it will put applications for compliant developments onto its website as soon as they are received.

## **More on the Naremburn Shops Streetscape project**

Council has finalised a report on the public consultation at the end of 2022 about the two proposed design concepts for the Naremburn Shops Streetscape project. Based on the preferred design, a further community consultation session took place on 29 March at the Naremburn Community Centre. A street stall at Naremburn shops provided information on this design on 1 April. This design concept will be online until 20 April on the Council website. – *NPA Planning and Environment Subcommittee*

*Continued from Page 4*

really touch upon the environmental issues other than to assert that sediment overflow issues at Cammeray are being managed and that the possible use and mitigation of the Flat Rock Gully dive site was a subject still on the agenda internally.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the North Shore will experience a "degraded level of service" in terms of intersection delay overall. Outside the meeting, two comments were made to different people. The first was that because Willoughby Road is a state road, the NSW Government will not disregard it. This highlights that all other roads are Council roads and that our rat runs and increased traffic flows are not the NSW Government's primary concern. The other comment was that traffic-wise, the Lower North Shore will not be better off as a result of these projects.

## **WHAT'S NEXT?**

The FWPA has requested a further meeting and additional information. The department agreed to provide more information but has not yet done so. The departmental officers have indicated the next meeting will not be until April. The project's traffic officer is leaving the project before then. This is truly a work in progress, with bits of clarification along the way.

There is no clarity as yet as to when these configuration changes will take effect; however it is understood that the changes

are planned whether or not the Beaches Link proceeds.

Based on the agreements reached during the meeting (and with the benefit of maps), the recommended next steps are for TfNSW to:

1. provide the diagram of Warringah Freeway changes as well as a detailed cross-section map of all Willoughby connections
2. confirm whether it can provide slides to share
3. investigate school traffic flows and detailed modelling of main arterial roads into and out of Willoughby
4. provide dates for consultation on active transport
5. amend the traffic projection tables to include road ceiling capacities
6. provide updated traffic accident figures for the Warringah Freeway corridor at the Miller Street/Brook Street end
7. schedule an environmental meeting with required experts – with reference to the previous letters sent to the Minister
8. provide more information on why the Amherst and Brook Street intersection falls to the lowest level of intersection performance (going from an A to F level of service) and the implications to Brook St
9. provide information on why High Street traffic increases to such a degree.

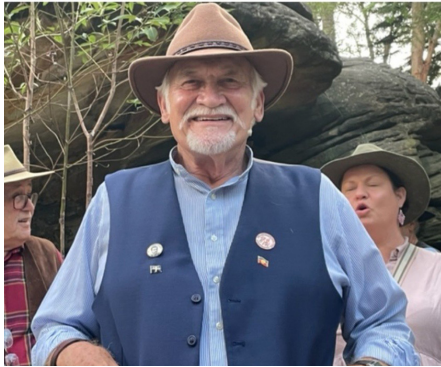
**STUART COPPOCK (PRESIDENT, FWPA)**  
**AND LARISSA PENN (DELEGATE/**  
**TECHNICAL REP, FWPA)**

## *Hot off the press*

With the NSW election installing a Labor government, we have some assurance that the Beaches Link end of the project is off the table – at least for now. Both parties, however, have supported the Western Harbour Tunnel continuing, which was designed to interlink with the Beaches project. We will seek a rejection of the Beaches Link environmental impact statement (EIS) to ensure that, should the project be reconsidered in future, it is substantively replanned. We will also continue to advocate for the issues previously identified by the NPA, including the filtration of the Cammeray pollution stack, more substantive return of land/trees, reconsideration of traffic routes, and the need to consider the public/active transport alternatives. There are well-founded concerns that elements of the Western Harbour Tunnel may need to move farther into Willoughby due to the changed gradient of the tunnelling project. This concern has been raised by engineers due to the change of harbour crossing method announced shortly before the election. Although the win of saving Sydney Harbour from dredging is considerable, the risk that Flat Rock stays in play is not one our community wants to entertain. Please watch this space closely and continue to write to decision-makers.

**LARISSA PENN**  
**PRESIDENT NPA**

# Back from the Brink: bush poetry event is back and booming



The sun was just going off the sandstone amphitheatre at Henry Lawson's Cave at 4.30pm on Sunday, 26 February, when the beloved bush poetry and music event began. The evening was a roaring success! The historical location, nestled in beautiful Flat Rock Gully, proved to be the perfect setting for a night of Aussie bush poetry, ballads, nature, refreshments, and community. The turnout was fantastic, with close to 240 locals coming to enjoy the show.

In fact, the event has become so popular that organisers needed to set up and use microphones for the first time to project the voices of the readers and performers to the large audience.

The readers didn't disappoint either. Don Swonnell – nicknamed 'the city bushman', Peter Carmody, and Diana

Bates captivated the crowd with their recitations of classic and contemporary poems. The three headliners were joined by five guest poets, each with their own unique style. And punters were welcomed to the mic as well.

Musical interludes interspersed with the poetry, with Greg Dimmock, Alex Cronin, and Jill Brown – with her beautiful high lilting quaver – keeping the energy high with their fantastic performances.

This year's theme was "Back from the Brink", a nod to the fact that it was the

first time in four years the event took place, thanks to COVID-19 and other circumstances. It was clear that locals had sorely missed the event, and the audience was thrilled to be back at Henry Lawson's Cave for a night of entertainment, cultural appreciation, and Australian heritage. Indeed, community spirit was in full force, as attendees sat on cushions and blankets in the amphitheatre and amongst the trees. Tea, coffee, and damper were also a welcome treat.



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**Monday to Sunday**  
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The success of the event highlighted the enduring popularity of bush poetry. It was a fantastic evening, and attendees left feeling uplifted and grateful to have experienced this reminder of the power of storytelling and the importance of preserving our country's cultural heritage.

Watch this space for news of the next bush poetry and music event; organisers are hoping to hold the next one in September or October.



# THE IVY LEAGUE

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
7.30am - 5.30pm

SATURDAY  
7.30am - 3pm

SHOP NUMBER  
0405 873 383

EMAIL  
[info@theivyleague.com.au](mailto:info@theivyleague.com.au)

WEBSITE  
[www.theivyleague.com.au](http://www.theivyleague.com.au)

1/284a Willoughby Rd,  
Naremburn

## Community activities

### Naremburn Community Centre

7/8 Central St, Naremburn  
Ph: 9967 2917

[willpark@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:willpark@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

Contact the Centre, for room availability  
Current Face-to-Face Activities  
at the Centre:

### Willoughby Community Pre-school

Ph: 9427 4260

[director@wcp.org.au](mailto:director@wcp.org.au)

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

### Naremburn Progress Association

The NPA meets every second month in April (27th), June, August, October and December (11th Party).

Meetings are every third Thursday unless otherwise stated at 7.30pm. - please check website for details

Next meeting: 27 April (AGM).

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

### Volunteers urgently needed -

#### Naremburn Community Playgroup

Volunteers needed to help us get the Naremburn Community Playgroup up and running again. We are looking for parents or carers willing to form the committee to run the playgroup, otherwise we may need to close this valuable community group.

Please contact Pooja at  
[naremburnplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:naremburnplaygroup@gmail.com)

### Bushcare

#### Bicentennial Reserve Bushcare:

Meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month  
9am-12pm. Sue: 9958 2122

#### The Drive (Flat Rock Gully) Bushcare:

Meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month.  
Heidi: 0405 454 300

To join a group please fill out  
Willoughby Council's Bushcare Volunteer  
Application Form found at:  
[bushcare@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bushcare@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

### Willoughby Community Men's Shed

Warners Park, The Outpost, Northbridge  
Mon-Friday, 10am-3pm  
(Women attend on Wed)  
See [willoughbymensshed.com](http://willoughbymensshed.com).

### Naremburn Community Gardens

Bongalong Street 9am-11am Sundays  
Station Street 9am-12pm Sundays  
Flat Rock, West Street - 9am Sundays  
Email: [naremburngardens@gmail.com](mailto:naremburngardens@gmail.com)

## Save the date: The Northern Sydney Expo for People with a Disability

The Northern Sydney Expo for People with a Disability takes place on Thursday, 4 May at the Concourse Chatswood from 11am to 5pm.

This annual, nonprofit event is a must-attend for students and school leavers with a disability, their families, teachers, and carers. A committee of volunteers within the disability sector organises the expo, which hosts a range of service providers who can offer valuable information and advice to students and families on transitioning from school.

This event is more than just an expo; it's a chance for families to interact and engage with support for assisting them on the journey from school to the adult world. It provides much-needed information and connections that can help them find opportunities and directions that suit their individual needs.

Whether you're a student looking for the next step in your education or a family member seeking resources to support your loved one's journey, this expo has something for everyone. Don't



miss out on the chance to connect with service providers, meet other families, and get the information you need to make informed decisions. For additional enquiries, email Kerri Sommerville at [ksommerville@jobssupport.org.au](mailto:ksommerville@jobssupport.org.au).

## Have you heard of Japanese Cosmo lifting?

With its focus on natural and holistic approaches to beauty and wellbeing, Japanese Cosmolifting is gaining popularity in many countries, including Australia. It's a facial massage technique that stimulates 21 acupuncture points on your face. By doing so, it tones your facial muscles and helps reduce fine lines. But what sets it apart is its focus on lymphatic drainage, which helps relieve facial tension and fluid build-up, as well as promote relaxation and ease tension throughout your body via its meridians.

The technique uses natural tools like jade and marble rollers and essential oils. Unlike other facial treatments, it doesn't involve electronic devices, steam, cream, needles, or knives. Japanese Cosmolifting is a noninvasive and gentle way to enhance your skin's appearance and improve your overall wellbeing.

A number of spas, salons, and clinics in Australia offer this treatment, and there are also online tutorials and courses available for those who want to learn the technique themselves.

