

TASTES OF NAREMBURN BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER AGAIN

Naremburn residents celebrate and support local businesses



Back for a second year, Tastes of Naremburn brought the community together for an afternoon of live music, great local food and drinks, and socialising in the spring sunshine.

The Naremburn shopping village car park became a car-free zone for a few hours, and hundreds of people filled the space. The car park was transformed with market stalls, outdoor dining, a stage filled with local talents, a jumping castle, kids activities and much more.

Supporting local businesses

The Tastes of Naremburn was first thought up in mid-2022 by the Naremburn Progress Association.

The free community event is a chance to reconnect with our neighbours, friends and community whilst supporting our local shops. This was important in 2022 as we emerged from the pandemic lock down and is just as relevant now. We live in a diverse, vibrant village and it's important to celebrate this!

At its heart, the event supports our fantastic local businesses. The Naremburn shopping village has been at the centre of our community for almost 100 years.

Now, more than ever, local business needs our support - a thriving local strip of shops is more than just a place to buy a coffee or pastry, it gives a neighbourhood its heart, it's a place to connect, to meet, to share news and more.

The NPA provided free-of-charge stalls to over a dozen local businesses to trade during the event, as well as stall space to another 10 local organisations and not-for-profit groups.

An estimated 1000 people attended Tastes of Naremburn this year, and a quick stroll around the site revealed the local cafes, restaurants and bars were heaving. A number of local businesses which would normally be closed on Sunday afternoon stayed open too.



Images courtesy of Ben Walton

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

JOIN OR REJOIN THE NPA FOR 2024

Our website is now open for new and renewed memberships for 2024. You can join and volunteer or simply join in support.

For only \$20 you can:

- Help the NPA continue to promote the interests of the Naremburn Community
- Ensure Naremburn Matters keeps going out to letterboxes
- Help support great community events like Tastes of Naremburn
- Show decision makers that Naremburnians really do care about the future of Naremburn

Please go to <https://naremburnprogress.org.au/register/> to register and make a deposit via your bank account

JOIN THE NPA



Volunteer for the NPA:

- Help Coordinate Naremburn Matters or Advertising
- Help Distribute Naremburn Matters
- Join the NPA Committee
- Join a Working Group - Planning, Heritage, Events
- Help with our IT Systems
- Contribute other ideas that will improve our area

Please email secretary@naremburnprogress.org.au to let us know how you can help



YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE

Save the Date **NPA NEW YEAR COMMUNITY GATHERING, WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024**
Please join us early in the New Year to Celebrate all things Naremburn, 6.30pm Flat Rock Brew Café



As we prepare to say farewell to 2023, it's important to reflect on what we have achieved for Naremburn. You will see in this issue that Naremburn Progress Association (NPA) continues to be at the forefront of the big issues. Whether it's protecting our bushland, ensuring road plans make sense or providing input around unsustainable development, the NPA is right there for our community.

As you know the NPA has been operating as a not-for-profit community group since 1901 - it's been a pleasure and joy to work with a small working group this year looking into the history of the Donnelly Rd site. The final decision on the historic site is still pending council's heritage review. We have also challenged the scale of other developer-led projects and had an input into an array of council plans including the plan to upgrade the streetscape. Our work should ensure that our local shops are retained in the face of future development plans (depending on State Government outcomes) the impacts of synthetic grass are fully considered and the tip contamination appropriately managed.



Naremburn
Progress
Association

Naremburn Progress Association
Founded 1901, incorporated 2004
PO Box 393 St Leonards 2004
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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.

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."

Support the work of the NPA by becoming a member of the association. Please visit www.naremburnprogress.org.au/membership.

Perhaps the biggest win this year was seeing the Beaches Link cancelled and Flat Rock saved! This is a project that the NPA have lobbied against for years due to its very poor cost/ benefits and we continue to lobby for far better outcomes from the Western Harbour and Warringah Freeway project, lest we become the next Rozelle.

As we go to print it has been announced that the new State Government will take a wider approach to rezoning around Metro Stations - Naremburn is firmly within their sights. What this means for us isn't yet clear except that the intention is to allow for a higher scale of density - there are reports that council heritage and conservation controls will be overridden. There is no doubt that housing supply and affordability is an issue that needs to be tackled but done poorly these plans are potentially devastating for our little historic suburb. We will be effective in advocating around this issue if we have strong membership support. It's membership and renewal time of year and we would ask that you renew via our website as soon as possible - please share the need to join (or re-join) with your friends and neighbours.

I would like to thank our Ward Councillors for their attendance at our meetings and their feedback on issues raised. All councillors have provided feedback and motions on a wide array of issues. In particular, thank

you to Councillor Greco regarding Advisory Committees and Flat Rock, Councillor Roussac regarding the Streetscape and Donnelly Rd and Councillor Wright regarding Henry Lawsons Cave and Development - we congratulate Clr Wright on his appointment as Deputy Mayor 2024 and we look forward to his advice and advocacy regarding Labor's re-zoning plans.

Finally, I would like to thank the NPA committee and our volunteers - somehow in and around the busyness of work/ life and some serious health issues we managed to pull off another successful Tastes of Naremburn event together and work through many significant local issues. We continue to seek additional members for our committee and subcommittees. We would love to hear from you if you think you can help us help Naremburn next year - even the smallest contribution of your time is much appreciated. We particularly need some coordinators to volunteer their time to keep this publication going out to our community. A community informed is a community empowered and this publication couldn't be more important as we face a new year and new plans for Naremburn.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

LARISSA PENN, President

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

By advertising in *Naremburn Matters*, you not only promote your business, but also contribute to the important work of Naremburn's recognised association. We've been sharing our community's expertise on a volunteer basis for the betterment of Naremburn since 1901! NPA's volunteers support businesses in the area by:

- keeping council accountable and advocating for upgrades
- advising government on major projects with local businesses in mind
- keeping Naremburn attractational by preserving our character, including the shops
- challenging overdevelopment
- voluntarily running community events and fostering community spirit
- improving traffic, safety, and access to businesses.

Without the NPA, Naremburn would be a different place, likely without a local village centre or many of the facilities we enjoy, such as Bicentennial Reserve. Our advertisers are our main source of revenue; please consider partnering with us by taking out a regular advertising space.

NAREMBURN MATTERS NEWSLETTER OF THE NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION (NPA)

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Next issue deadline: 23 February 2024

We welcome ideas regarding topics of interest to the community and letters. Please email naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au. We do not publish anonymous letters, and we will contact you should we need to edit your contributions.

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.

What we did to Achieve our Vision for Naremburn in 2023

Vision 1. A Dynamic, Safe Suburb

Streets that are safe, connected and usable for locals supported by great active and public transport

- We ran another fantastic Tastes of Naremburn Event to encourage community connection and to promote our wonderful local businesses
- We made submissions asking that the broken active transport link in Naremburn be fixed
- We (with FWPA) met with TfNSW to advocate for better planning around the Warringah Freeway Reconfiguration
- We escalated our bus concerns to the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations who wrote to decision makers
- We gave feedback to council about their operational and financial plans to upgrade the area
- We advocated for new lights and crossings
- We distributed 3 wonderful issues of Naremburn Matters across 3000 households

Vision 2. A Thriving Local Shopping Village

A local centre that is thriving, to scale and attractive

- We gave input into several levels of

consultation around the new Streetscape design now out to tender

- We ran Tastes of Naremburn at the local shops to support local business and bring our community together
- We advocated for planning regulations to be changed to ensure shop fronts are not replaced by residential apartments to ground level

Vision 3. A Green, Open and Liveable Oasis

A suburb that is sustainable, clean and green – an oasis from over development

- We gave detailed feedback to Council about their Bushland Plan of Management, Bicentennial Reserve Plan of Management and Flat Rock Gully (FRG) Reserve Action Plan
- We advocated against synthetic grass and the expansion of synthetic grass ovals
- We played a big part in the Beaches Link being cancelled and Flat Rock saved from becoming a dive site and Brook St a thoroughfare for spoil trucks
- We advocated against overdevelopment of the area i.e. Walter St and St Leonards over scale developments
- We raised concerns about Willoughby Leisure Centre and Contamination

Management resulting in further investigations - FRG has now been declared as contaminated land by the EPA

- We reported the Fish Kill event and followed up on action (ongoing)
- We advocated for faster DA assessment turn around times for locals

Vision 4. A Celebration of Heritage

A suburb that is known to uniquely represent and celebrate the heritage of the North Shore

- We contributed to the LEP/DCP plans for the area requesting council apply greater levels of protection whilst allowing reasonable development
- We successfully advocated for Henry Lawsons Cave to be included into the heritage review
- We successfully lobbied for Donnelly Rd to be placed under an interim heritage order and ran a research project to support permanent heritage registration over the whole site
- We asked Council and our State Representative to provide greater transparency and better outcomes pertaining to developer led complying development
- We requested that the historic name of Naremburn Village and the name of the original inhabitants be recognised in signage

ADVERTORIAL

Unmatched Real Estate Success with Team Chauncy and McGrath

As 2023 draws to a close, we'd like to thank you for your continued support and trust in Team Chauncy. It's been an outstanding year and we're thrilled to share some key highlights with you.

We finished the year on a high note holding the majority of Naremburn's market share. We successfully listed, marketed, and sold 27 out of the 35 house & semi sales in Naremburn, and 32 out of 63 apartment & townhouse sales.

Multiple new price records were set this year, and some of the standout sales include the impressive \$5,160,000 sale of 5 McBurney Street - the highest sale of the year, and \$3,150,000 for 8A Adolphus Street - the highest price for a semi in Naremburn. Additionally, we secured new suburb records, attaining \$2,900,000 for the sale of 15/55 Garland Road a townhouse and \$2,250,000 for a two-bedroom apartment at 15/32 Northcote Street. As well as 2/36A Park Road selling for \$1,170,000 making it a suburb record for a one-bedroom apartment.

Our connection to the local community remains strong, and our recent participation in the Trivia Night Fundraiser for Willoughby Community Preschool raised over \$13,000 for the preschool's resources.

A huge thank you to everyone in our community who generously donated to the recent School for Life 24 Hour Giving Day! It was a great success and with your help we raised over \$40,000 to go towards transforming children's lives in Uganda through education. The School for Life foundation raised a total of \$580,000 on the day.

We're now busy helping our clients prepare their homes for sale for the start of the new year, as it's not uncommon for inspections and auctions to start before Australia Day. The team is dedicated to



helping you get the most for your property and we're experts at making sure they are market-ready and presenting at their very best. If you want to know more about Team Chauncy's strategies, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxing festive season and a wonderful new year. All the very best.

PETER CHAUNCY

PRINCIPAL

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Naremburn Local Area - Streetscape Upgrade

In February 2023, Willoughby Council published the results of its community consultation on two design options for the Naremburn Local Area ('The Naremburn Shops') streetscape upgrade.



The consultation results reveal support for an improved streetscape, and varying opinions on what and how this should be done. Among the most supported elements are: new, shaded seating, improved traffic flow (via a one way system), additional outdoor space for pedestrian access, and levelling of dining areas. Opinions were more divided on the issues of parking, including the repurposing of two car parking spaces in the main car park for additional pedestrian space.

A 50% detailed design was released shortly thereafter in March 2023. Key elements of the design are:

- One way traffic flow through the main Quiamong Street car park,
- Willoughby Road entrance to Quiamong Street narrowed to 5.2m allowing for entry only, with increased pedestrian area from the removal of 2 parking spaces,
- Additional parking on Rohan St with five 45° rear to curb parking spots replacing the current three parallel parking spots),
- New bicycle racks and maintenance station on Rohan Street, and
- Renewal of the cafe-leased seating area adjacent to Willoughby Road

With the tender released mid-November and works to begin in the new year, the NPA

contacted Willoughby Council with some outstanding questions from the Naremburn community.

NPA: The cafe-leased area to be upgraded is already a levelled area with pedestrian access. Was any consideration given to increasing pedestrian access and levelling the sloped dining areas further down the hill?

WCC: The leased area will be levelled further to enhance outdoor seating and dining. The proposed design will also address safety and pinch points through the space making it more user friendly for the community.

Levelling lease zones further down Quiamong St would require use of retaining walls and possibly steps that would impinge on the current space affecting pedestrian movement and the existing outdoor dining areas.

NPA: The Rohan Street pedestrian crossing is a safety concern, due in part to its close proximity to Willoughby Road. The narrowing of Rohan Street (due to additional 45 degree parking) and increased traffic (due to the one way system) will likely increase the risk further. Is there an opportunity to move the crossing away from Willoughby Road to allow cars turning onto Rohan Street sufficient time and space to stop before the crossing?

WCC: This existing crossing at its current location allows for 1 car to rest upon entry and exit within Rohan Street while pedestrians are crossing. Our Infrastructure experts and design consultants have advised that moving the crossing further into Rohan Street would result in a reduction to the current parking numbers within Rohan St. Traffic calming devices including a raised crossing and narrowed speed hump midway down Rohan Street, will slow traffic and increase safety. The use of angled parking on Rohan Street, through narrowing of the road carriageway, will assist in maintaining a low speed environment while maintaining the current level of parking for the Centre.



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The designs aim to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in and around the local business centre.

NPA: North Sydney Council has been creating gardens featuring native flowering plant species such as Kangaroo Paw,

Eremophila, Acacia and Calistamen. What species of flora will be planted as part of the upgrade?

WCC: Council have included Kangaroo paws, Kangaroo grass, Silver Cushion Bush,

Midgenberry, Coastal Banksia in our designs. The use of Pandoreas to climb the shade structure Dianella grasses, Native River Mint, Gynea Lily and more that will provide for a native flowering landscape within the precinct.

NPA: A bike maintenance station and racks are planned to be installed on Rohan street away from the main cycle path (adjacent to the freeway)? In this design, how should cyclists (including children and families) access these facilities from the main cycle path e.g. cycling around the whole block of shops (Quiamong Street, Glenmore Street and Rohan Street), or via the pedestrian areas which is the most direct route?

WCC: Cyclists will be able to use the existing bicycle racks located on Quiamong St as these will still be available. Cyclists are encouraged to dismount and walk their bike along the pedestrian areas or continue

riding along the separated bike lane around the car park adjacent to Willoughby Road that delivers you to the crossing near the Quiamong Street carpark entrance at Willoughby Road.

NPA: Although not directly part of the streetscape project, the community seeks a safe pedestrian crossing over Willoughby Road (near Rohan Street) to cater for school children, commuter and local resident foot traffic, and increasing access to Naremburn Shops.

WCC: We acknowledge that the pedestrian crossing is not part of the streetscape project. In response, Council officers will develop a design in consultation with key stakeholders. Should this proposal receive support, we will proceed with engaging the broader Naremburn Community in a consultation process.

The findings of this consultation will inform the recommendations presented to Local Traffic Committee for review and recommendation to Council for formal approval. The anticipated timeframe for delivery is set for the middle of next year.

DON'T LET YOUR WEALTH RETIRE BEFORE YOU DO

When it comes to investing, time is your most valuable asset. Many people often delay the decision to invest, thinking they have all the time in the world. However, waiting too long can have detrimental consequences. It's crucial not to procrastinate.

First and foremost, the power of compound interest is your best friend. By investing early, even small contributions can grow significantly over time. This means that the sooner you start, the more your money can work for you.

Delaying investments can be fuelled by fear, uncertainty, or a lack of knowledge. But remember, learning about investing doesn't have to be daunting,

especially if you seek advice from qualified financial experts.

Furthermore, waiting until later in life can lead to missed opportunities and increased financial stress. Start investing now to build a secure future and experience the peace of mind that comes with financial stability.

So don't wait until it's too late. Start today, get the right advice and watch your money grow. Your future self will thank you for it!

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**

What's Good for the Goose...

The recent opening of the WestConnex Rozelle Interchange provides another timely reminder of what residents in Rozelle will receive after WestConnex, versus what is being offered to the Lower North Shore once the Warringah Freeway and Western Harbour Tunnel projects have concluded.

In response to continued community pressure, the NSW Government announced \$50 million to be spent on redeveloping the former Rozelle Rail Yards into one of the largest green spaces in inner Sydney – the Rozelle Parklands.

In stark contrast, residents of the Lower North Shore will permanently lose 1.5 hectares of public space in Cammeray Park via compulsory acquisition for ongoing motorway operations. A further 2.7 hectares (of Cammeray Park) is yet to be confirmed whether it will be returned to the community, and if so, in what form. In total

project documents state that over 7 hectares of vegetated space will be removed for the project - including vegetation in Naremburn.

The Rozelle Parklands site spans 10 hectares and features a new urban forest at its heart and over 3,000 newly planted trees. Pedestrian and cyclist shared user paths will connect into existing active transport links. Other features include a wetland environment, boardwalks, picnic and barbeque areas, large grassed areas for future sporting fields, courts and pitches, bush trails, playgrounds and an amenities building.

Central to the local communities' campaign was the former state member for Balmain, Jamie Parker who announced "For many of us who have endured years of noise, dust, and disruption from WestConnex it is a huge relief to know this 10-hectare site will become a parkland, not more residential

development once WestConnex construction is complete."

The Naremburn Progress Association has long been opposed to the Warringah Freeway Upgrade due to the significant detrimental impact the design will have on Naremburn and surrounding communities. The permanent loss of parkland in Cammeray Park, the unfiltered emission stacks and increased congestion on local roads are some of the impacts we face - similar to those being experienced with the opening of the Rozelle Interchange. The Naremburn Progress Association calls for all public parkland to be returned to the community, and if this can not be achieved, the creation of new public green space over the freeway via lidding. Lidding has become an increasingly common method of returning green space and amenity to communities.



The new Rozelle Parklands will provide 10 hectares of new green space to residents of the inner west post WestConnex in stark contrast to the lower north shore where 7 hectares of green space is being removed for the Warringah Freeway and Western Harbour Tunnel projects.

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Are you a Nimby, Yimbyor Simby?

There has been a sizable shift in the approach to planning with the new Planning Minister reportedly writing to all Mayors demanding more “low and mid-rise homes immediately” (SMH 9/11/23). The intent to change laws to override Council Local Environment Plans (LEPs) has been announced, allowing duplexes, terraces and 1-2 story townhouses in R2 (low density) zones and residential flat buildings in R3 zones (medium density). As we go to print, news agencies are reporting that the zoning changes will impact areas within 1.2km of selected Metro Stations, including Crows Nest - putting Naremburn squarely in view. This approach seems to be driven by the Productivity Commission’s August Report which found that infill development “can have lower infrastructure costs than greenfield developments because much of the supporting infrastructure is already present..”. Whilst capacity and cost to connect services is considered, the need to upgrade Sydney Water infrastructure across Sydney’s oldest suburbs does not seem to factor. Service failures are something Naremburnians have had unfortunate experience with. On the 5th July Sydney Water was ordered to pay a penalty of \$365,625 by the L&E Court for a major 2020 sewerage failure who reported “the incident (was) part of a system initially constructed between 1916 and 1930, comprising some 6,300 kilometres of pipes and still growing” and noted “constraints on the defendant

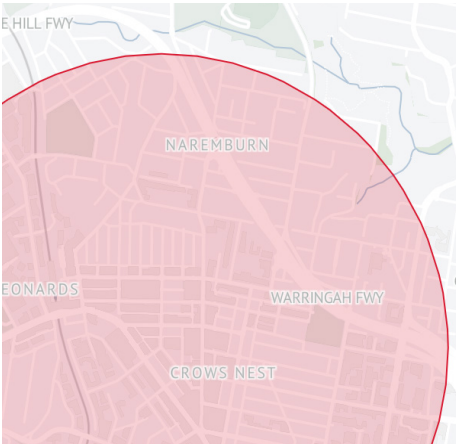


Image courtesy of The Sydney Morning Herald

in relation to its ageing infrastructure and funding of capital expenditure works.” Naremburn sits at a major junction in the wider area’s sewerage network and it seems reasonable that the community should be asking whether our sewers in their current form can handle more flushing toilets?

Whether the State Government has prioritised and funded these works sufficiently is something NPA will be discussing at an upcoming meeting with Sydney Water.

Increasingly we are seeing the Not in My Back Yard (Nimby) term levelled at anyone who expresses concern. But is this label fair or foul?

A new group, often quoted by governments as the “Yimbies”, are advocating in support of saying “Yes in My Backyard”. Interestingly the organiser of the group has stated that planning should be built on “the idea of community involvement. People in the local community know what they want”. At a November 3rd Budget Estimates Hearing the Chair challenged the Planning Minister about “the politics of division”. She asked the Minister if he agreed that at the heart of “Nimbyism” was a community “trying very hard to have genuine input into the planning system?” Perhaps it’s time to change the label – after all aren’t we really all Simbies? We want Sustainability in our Backyard (Simby) – built on sensible planning decisions and services that support future growth.

The “Your Council NSW” website provides some helpful insight into our capacity for further growth – if you compare Willoughby’s density to other council areas we are doing our bit, but services and open space are clearly becoming a major issue. With the “Channel 9”, Walter St, Chatswood, and St Leonards Developments coming online the NPA have been requesting that Willoughby Council and the State Government take a stronger approach to Master Planning and provide the community with real time dwelling data so we can continue to advocate. This is a request that will continue to be a top priority into the new year.

Density (per km) vs Green Space (ha) and other Services in Ten Council Areas

	NORTH SYDNEY	INNER WEST	SYDNEY	WILLOUGHBY	PARRAMATTA	CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN	FAIRFIELD	KU-RING-GAI	PENRITH	CAMPBELLTOWN
DENSITY (per km squared)	6602	5194	8163	3363	3100	3372	2036	1453	546	579
OPEN SPACE (ha)	131	251	427	362	869	1329	841	1610	1002	1100
RATIO DENSITY vs OPEN SPACE	2.0	4.8	5.2	10.8	28.0	39.4	41.3	110.8	183.5	190.0
POOLS	2	5	6	2	3	5	3	1	3	3
PUBLIC LIBRARIES	1	8	9	4	7	9	5	4	3	4
PUBLIC HALLS	12	21	39	22	19	46	22	20	42	18

Note: Sorted by worst to best by ratio of Density to Open Space, Green indicates three best off council areas in each category, when considering all factors Canterbury-Bankstown would be the best serviced LGA with moderate population density according to the Your Council NSW Website.

Ways to Get the Best from Your GP

BY DR LALANA KAPUWATTE

1. Love your receptionist

Try to think of the receptionist as your ally. By telling the receptionist what your appointment is for, they can ensure there are fewer wasted appointments. Don't hate them for asking 'is it urgent?'. The receptionist does not expect you to be the judge of how serious your illness is – that's a job for the GP. They are asking if you are okay to wait for a non-urgent appointment.

2. See the right person for the treatment

Receptionists know each GP's area of specialisation and can help to avoid wasting GP appointments. For instance, by directing you to the travel clinic and travel vaccine to the relevant health care assistant (Nurse). It is useful to see the same GP on subsequent visits.

3. Think like a GP

When a GP asks 'how are you today?', they really want to know your main problem. When they ask 'what are you hoping I do?', this is not the GP's way of telling you that they don't have a clue, but they are trying to understand what expectations you have so they can best meet them. Be realistic – asking about several unrelated ailments may mean you need more than one appointment.



4. Prioritise your symptoms

What is the most important thing affecting your health right now?. Share this at the beginning of the consultation. Remember to wear loose clothing that makes examination easier.

5. Get to the point

Include a summary of why you are there for consultation. They need to know your symptoms – 'I've got a cough and fever, rather than 'I think I have a chest infection'. Avoid vagueness and try to describe what you are feeling. Tell the GP what you are expecting from the consultation – (reassurance, medical certificate, medicine, referral), or if you are worried it is something serious. Don't leave without an answer to your main question.

6. Give a recap

If you are in the doctor's surgery for follow-up test results, give 10 seconds of why you are there – for instance, 'I've been feeling tired and came to get my results. I'm worried I have anaemia'.

7. What happened, when?

It helps if you establish a chronology – what order things occurred in, and over what period of time. The GP might ask when you last felt well. Avoid too much extraneous detail, but do mention if big life events may be impacting your health.

8. It is okay to suggest treatment ideas

If you have read about a new drug, share with your GP. Remember many drug trials are reported by the media at an early stage.

9. Check your understanding

By the end of your appointment you should have agreed on a way forward and it is the GP's job to make sure you are satisfied. It can be helpful to discuss the next steps. The GP will also do a 'safety netting', to make sure that you know what to do if things get worse.

10. Raise small concerns early

If you are not convinced by what you're being told, you can see another GP. You can also complain, but think about sharing your concerns first with the GP before escalating to a high authority.

Library News



Visit Naremburn Library at 7 Central Street in Naremburn; it's open on Mondays from 2pm to 4.30pm. Call us on (02) 9439 5584.

With the tail end of winter upon us, it's a great time to curl up with a good book. Whether you're looking for the latest bestsellers, riveting non-fiction, or new children's books, Naremburn Library has something for everyone.

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 6am to 8pm daily. Simply apply online at <https://libraries.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Services/Naremburn-Book-Locker>.

Local Author Program

Have you checked out our local author program? We're keen to connect writers, artists, and illustrators with new audiences and develop community spirit. Learn more on our Talks@Willoughby page: <https://libraries.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Events-and-programs/TalksWilloughby>

Book Review



Creatures of Camouflage and Mimicry by Sami Bayly

Creatures of Camouflage and Mimicry by Sami Bayly

Bayly is a visually stunning exploration of nature's masters of disguise. Bayly's

intricate illustrations bring to life a diverse array of animals, showcasing their remarkable abilities to blend into their surroundings or imitate other species.

From the deceptive leaf-tailed gecko to the ingenious owl butterfly, each page unveils nature's ingenious strategies for survival. Bayly's meticulous attention to detail and the accompanying informative text create a captivating journey into the world of camouflage.

This book not only celebrates the beauty of biodiversity but also educates readers about the incredible ways in which animals adapt to thrive in their environments. Sure to be a winner under the Christmas Tree for younger readers.

Get your child Kindergarten-ready: 3 Tips for a confident start

BY BIANCA YEE

Is your little one gearing up for the exciting journey into kindergarten in 2024? As a parent, you undoubtedly want to ensure they stride confidently through that classroom door, ready for the adventures that lie ahead. To assist you on this important parenting quest, we've compiled three invaluable tips that will not only prepare your child for the academic challenges but also nurture the confidence needed for a successful kindergarten experience.

Foster fine motor skills:

Drawing from my 15 years of experience as a teacher, I frequently encounter kindergarten children distressed by seemingly simple tasks that we, as adults, often take for granted. Activities like cutting, glueing, or mastering the art of holding a pencil can be surprisingly challenging for these beginner learners, often resulting in tears. Investing time in honing these crucial fine motor skills, particularly the pincer grip essential for writing, before the school commences can significantly benefit your child. Equipping them with these foundational skills ensures a smoother transition into the classroom, where these activities become part of their daily routine.

A proactive approach:

Prepare your child for the upcoming school journey by taking proactive steps. Start with visits to the school, allowing them to familiarise themselves with the surroundings. Facilitate playdates with future classmates to build early connections. Engage in heart-to-heart chats about kindergarten, drawing from your positive experiences. Incorporate literature like "Starting School" by Jane Godwin into bedtime routines, fostering conversations about school excitement. By intertwining these activities, you not only instil an optimistic mindset but also lay a robust foundation for a seamless transition into the world of kindergarten. Playdates and familiarity with the school setting further bolster their confidence, making that first step through the classroom door an exciting and positive experience.

Name and letter mastery:

In kindergarten classrooms, daily name writing is a routine that holds more significance than meets the eye. Encouraging children to transition from capital to lowercase letters unlocks a world of benefits. Proficiency in this skill not only hones fine motor abilities but also reduces cognitive strain. Armed with the ability to write their name effortlessly in lowercase and practice

with all letters, children can direct their focus entirely on tasks, gaining a valuable head start in their educational journey.

If you feel that your child may benefit from further support or a program to get them ready for Kindergarten, School Readiness programs are becoming increasingly popular. These programs can help bridge the gap between the informal settings of preschool and day-care and the structured environment of kindergarten.

Unlike traditional day-care setups, these programs offer specialised classes with small group sizes, typically ranging from six to eight children. This environment ensures a personalised approach, tailoring activities to the unique needs of each child. The emphasis extends beyond play to incorporate pre-reading and writing skills, numeracy, fine motor development, communication and language skills, as well as critical social and emotional skills that promote independence and build confidence.

ADVERTORIAL

I'm listening...

To the people of North Sydney
& would love to hear from you

☎ (02) 9929 9822 @ kylea.tink.MP@aph.gov.au



KYLEA TINK MP
Independent Federal Member for North Sydney

kyleatink.com.au

Authorised by Kylea Tink.
Level 10, 2 Elizabeth Plaza,
North Sydney NSW 2060.



What can my Federal Electorate Office help you with?

Many North Sydney residents are surprised by the number of things that the Electorate Office can help with.

My team can help you navigate federal government services such as the NDIS, Centrelink, My Aged Care and the ATO.

We can help with visa and passport issues.

We provide nationhood materials such as flags, constitutions and portraits of King Charles III.

We have an onsite JP on Fridays.

We can help community organisations in applying for grants to support community projects.

In addition, my team has developed an online resource outlining financial incentives to help electrify your home or business: **Powering to net zero** (kyleatink.com.au).

A full list of resources is available on my website: kyleatink.com.au but please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS



**Councillor
Georgie
Roussac**

In October, Council approved a \$7,500 grant for Naremburn's 'Love Your Locals' program to encourage local

spending at Naremburn Village during the upcoming streetscape works. Karl, owner of Flat Rock Brew, submitted the grant application on behalf of the Naremburn Chamber of Commerce. Great work Karl! By spending locally you'll go in the draw for a weekly prize. Love Your Locals will kick off when the Naremburn Village construction works commence, likely in early 2024.

I'm interested to hear feedback about the state of roads in the Willoughby Local Government Area. In recent years wild weather has impacted infrastructure, such as roads, requiring more frequent repair. It's so important that we keep our roads in good condition so they are safe for motorists and cyclists. Our road network is made up of local and regional roads, which are council's responsibility to manage and maintain, and state roads which are the responsibility of Transport for NSW.

Regardless of who is responsible, the different tiers of government must work together to deliver an efficient, safe, and reliable road network. If there's a road surface that you are concerned about, please let me know.

GEORGIE ROUSSAC

P | M 0459 879 379

E: Georgie.Roussac@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



**Councillor
Nic Wright**

As the year end approaches, it's nice to reflect on the progress we've made this year. It's certainly been a long year but as a community we've achieved a lot.

It's been terrific to receive the news that Flat Rock Gully has been saved by the new State government, and I thank everyone who's been involved in that enormous fight. The Naremburn Progress Association (and particularly Larissa) have been tremendous advocates in that important outcome.

We've also made significant progress towards the Naremburn Village upgrade, and while it might not be the total flashy

overhaul that some would like to see. I think we're on target to deliver a terrific result with our limited budget. Elsewhere around the City we'll deliver the upgraded Willoughby Leisure Centre next year on-time and on-budget. We have also made significant progress towards improving the Council's customer service and community engagement.

These are the issues that you've told me are important to you and it's an honour to champion them at Council. If you can take one, I hope you enjoy a festive holiday break. If there's anything Local Government related that I can help you with please don't hesitate to reach out.

NIC WRIGHT

P | M 0481 033 442

E: nic.wright@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



**Councillor
Anna Greco**

Over the past 6 months, I've been focused on understanding Willoughby Council's financial reports, especially in light

of the upcoming decision on whether to proceed with a Special Rate Variation (SRV). My background as a Chartered Accountant has been helpful in grasping the complexities of Council's operations and how it impacts residents financially.

In recent years, Council has faced financial challenges, with inflation costs outpacing revenue growth. In this 2023 Financial Year, Willoughby City Council reported an operating deficit of \$2.8 million. Although the current net asset base can meet immediate obligations, maintaining current service levels in the future is not financially sustainable.

Preliminary analysis of community feedback shows support for an SRV over a significant reduction in community services. For your reference, a 15% SRV would result in an estimated increase of \$3.13 per week for the average ratepayer and restore Council's capacity not only to maintain its community services but also to provide much-requested streetscape maintenance.

As a Willoughby Council ratepayer, I feel fortunate, and I believe that an SRV is necessary for Council to continue providing valued community services. If you have any questions regarding the proposed SRV, I will be pleased to hear from you.

ANNA GRECO

P | M 0459 866 064

E: Anna.Greco@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tanya Taylor provides an update on Naremburn goings-on.



It was lovely to see Naremburn shopping village transformed into a community space full of food, music, fun and great times by our Naremburn neighbours and local businesses at the most recent Tastes of Naremburn Festival in September. I look

forward to the next fun filled event harnessing the Naremburn community spirit.

Council is forging ahead with the **Naremburn Village Upgrade** which will provide easier access for pedestrians, cyclists, and bus passengers and enhance amenities to improve and extend visitation time to support local businesses. \$750,000 has been received from the Commonwealth Government to assist in funding the streetscape upgrade works. Stakeholder and business engagement conducted earlier this year has been vital in driving the design development. Thank you to everyone who participated in our engagement activities and participated in this process. Onsite surveys to establish underground service locations and for seeking external approvals for construction work are now complete and final design documents for the tender are scheduled for issue late 2023.

At its meeting on 27 November 2023, Council selected a 15% increase as its preferred rate rise option for 2024/25, which includes the NSW Government rate peg of 5%. The proposed rate rise will allow Council to allocate an additional \$2 million a year in additional cleaning, care and beautification projects in parks, cycling and walking routes and town centres, and for tree planting and maintenance programs. Council will now commence preparing a Special Rate Variation application to the NSW Government in line with the preferred rate rise. The application will need to be approved at a Council meeting scheduled for 30 January 2024, before being lodged with the NSW Government.

Council also voted to exhibit a revised Long Term Financial Plan 2023-2033 (LTFP) and Delivery Program 2022-26 which reflects this rate increase. I would like to thank members of our community that participated in the consultation process and provided valuable feedback to Council.

The **large-scale tree vandalism and investigation at Castle Cove** has sparked concerns over tree protection both within our LGA and across the State. Council agreed to put forward a motion at the Local Government

NSW conference for the NSW Government to urgently undertake a review of the legislative regime for tree protection and to seek increased penalties and deterrents, including increased fines and custodial sentences for destruction of trees in NSW. The review should identify opportunities to better coordinate tree protection across NSW, along with improved education and awareness around the importance of tree protection to build stronger community support. I really do believe more needs to be done in this area to protect our trees and natural bushland areas.

The piling for the construction of the **Willoughby Leisure Centre Upgrade** is now complete. Due to the Centre's location on a former landfill site, it was always envisaged that this stage of the project would be complex. The removal of contaminated soil commenced in July 2023 and will continue until the end of the year. This process is being

managed by a licensed asbestos removal contractor in accordance with the Asbestos Management Plan (AMP). The disposal of this soil strictly adheres to environmental regulations at a licensed asbestos waste facility. You can find more details in the Asbestos Management Plan (AMP), available in the Supporting Documents section the project page on our website where you can also watch the latest time lapse video showing the site works undertaken since June 2023. The next phase of the works involve constructing the substructure and pouring the concrete slabs.

As the year comes to a close, I wish you all a safe and joyful festive season and many happy returns for the New Year.

MAYOR TANYA TAYLOR
WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

Residents Unite to Fight Discredited Toll Road Tunnel

The looming impacts of the Western Harbour Tunnel Toll Road project (WHT) are still a major concern to the community if a meeting held at North Sydney Town Hall is any indication.

The very short notice meeting held by Bay Precinct in conjunction with Naremburn Progress Association on 21 November attracted a crowd of about 110 residents from the Willoughby and North Sydney area. Its purpose was to call on the state government to urgently reassess the Western Harbour Tunnel Toll Road and Warringah Freeway Upgrade.

A letter and petition campaign to halt and reassess the toll road were launched at the meeting and has had a strong start with residents sending several hundred email letters to NSW and Federal ministers.

Stephanie, a Cammeray resident, tearfully spoke about the horrific impact that the early works construction was having on her life, including frequent noise throughout the night, sleep deprivation, dust impact on her asthmatic child and workers parking residents out of their own streets.

Residents heard from two main speakers, Paul Walter; Convenor of Bay Precinct, and Larissa Penn; President of Naremburn Progress Association, that preliminary works for the project have caused extensive damage including loss of heritage listed parkland and thousands of trees.

However, main work on the harbour toll road tunnel has not yet begun and now is the time for the state government to reassess the project's viability and to remediate the damage.

The speakers convincingly outlined the rationale for the reassessment by what was called the "Four S's" -

SPACE - Beaches Link has been cancelled yet its infrastructure continues to be built.

The government should address the space deficit by deleting planned Beaches Link Infrastructure and returning land to the community. The return of lost open space and trees is a condition of consent for the project, but the government shows no sign of meeting these conditions.

SENSE - The WHT had a marginal Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.2 to 1.3 prior to covid and that has likely deteriorated since then. Refer the project to the NSW Auditor General and Infrastructure NSW to re-establish its cost/benefits.

STREETS - The WHT forces commuters to enter the toll road system at locations determined by their destination. The result is increased traffic delays at local intersections. The widespread local traffic issues must be addressed by reassessing the freeway configuration.

SMOG - immediately re-assess the pollution levels modelled including to high rise homes. The area already experiences pollution in excess of WHO guidelines and the WHT would add further to this putting the health of residents at risk.

The recent opening of the WestConnex interchange at Rozelle has caused traffic chaos in the inner west creating gridlock and turning local streets into parking lots. The WHT would be an extension of WestConnex and the chaos clearly demonstrates that the WHT needs reassessing

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO FIX THE TUNNEL CHAOS

But we need to send a strong message to the State Government urgently. Act for your community today!

1. Sign the community letter to demand

Space for trees & the return of land reserved for Beaches Link*

A plan to stop the permanent rat runs and LNS traffic chaos

A stop to the planned pollution of our neighbourhoods

A review of the growing costs and the budget to fix the mess

* Beaches Link has been cancelled however space is being reserved and millions of dollars in infrastructure is part of current plans. Read the petition detail and consider also signing



2. Join the petition to cancel the Toll Road Tunnel

and spend the \$7.4 Billion on corridor improvements and projects that work!



Authorised by Bay Precinct Cammeray - bayprecinct@gmail.com & Naremburn Progress Association - secretary@naremburnprogress.org.au

DID YOU KNOW?

The exact origin of the name Naremburn is unknown. One possibility is that Naremburn is an anglicised version of the Aboriginal terms 'narra', referring to forks, forking or forked, and 'burren', which means creek or a similar feature.

Prior to development, Flat Rock Creek in Naremburn was joined by another creek creating a 'fork', so the Aboriginal terminology would have aptly described a significant geographical feature. This theory is strengthened considering that Naremburn referred to the entire district from the late 1800s, as opposed to just the town.

Source: Evans, Clare, Naremburn, Dictionary of Sydney, 2008, <http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/naremburn>, viewed 30 Oct 2023

CONTINUED FROM COVER STORY

Tastes of Naremburn brings the community together again



Image courtesy of Ben Walton

Willoughby Council steps up its support

The Tastes of Naremburn couldn't happen without the support and assistance of Willoughby City Council. The event is part of the WCCs Emerge Festival and this year WCC contributed a grant of \$7500 to help fund Tastes of Naremburn.

Great prizes from local business

19 local businesses chipped in to give the community a chance to win great prizes on the day, with two raffles valued at over \$850 up for grabs, plus a silent auction.

A huge thanks to: The Ivy League, Woods and Warner, Forsyths Coffee and tea, Lifeline Naremburn, Cornucopia Bakery, Thaitanium, Food on the Wall, Flat Rock Brew Cafe, The Urban Teahouse, Eat n Chill Wholefood Cafe, Barber Paw Dog Grooming, Big Music School and Studios, Honest Tooth Dental Care, SXL Gym, Select Health Effects, Mui Lee's Tupperware, North Shore Theatre Company and Linen House Crows Nest.

The generosity of these businesses, along with several kind donors, allowed the NPA to break even on the Tastes of Naremburn this year!

Local talents keeps the crowd entertained

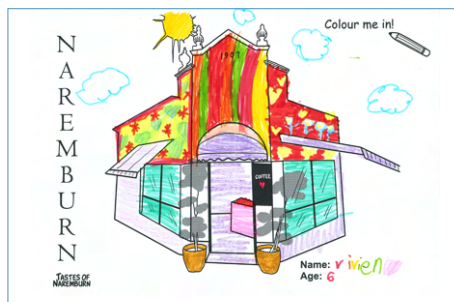
A big thanks also goes out to the wonderful entertainers and musicians who performed on the day, including the Cammeray Public School band, the North Shore Theatre Company, Don Swonnell and local musos Max (@featheredshot) and Mitch (@moosie_music).

The NPA is looking at ways to evolve the Tastes of Naremburn. Do you have any ideas? We'd love to hear from you. Get in touch, secretary@naremburnprogress.org.au

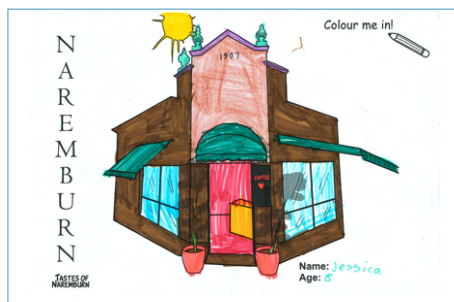
Congratulations to the winners of the Tastes of Naremburn colouring competition:



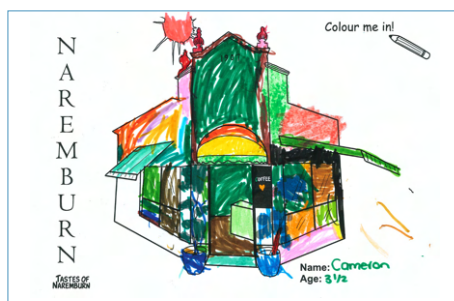
Paige, 5



Vivien, 6



Jessica, 8



Cameron, 3



Remember to follow us and tag [facebook.com/naremburnmatters](https://www.facebook.com/naremburnmatters) or [@naremburnmatters](https://www.instagram.com/naremburnmatters) to share glimpses of your life in Naremburn :)

Community activities

Naremburn Community Centre

7/8 Central St, Naremburn
Ph: 9967 2917

willpark@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Contact the centre for room availability.

Willoughby Community Pre-school

Ph: (02) 9427 4260

director@wcp.org.au

Monday to Friday 8am-4pm

Naremburn Progress Association

Our meeting dates for 2024 are 15 February, 11 April (AGM), 20 June, 15 August and 17 October.

All community members are welcome.

To stay up to date and support our work, please join as a member.

Please check our website for details at www.naremburnprogress.org.au or contact secretary@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 Pam at

pamour@playgroupnsw.org.au

Bushcare

Bicentennial Reserve Bushcare:

Meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month
9am-12pm. Sue: (02) 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 at:

bushcare@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Willoughby Community Men's Shed

Warners Park, The Outpost, Northbridge

Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm

(Women attend on Wednesday)

If you just want a chat, you can ring Neville, the shed coordinator, on 0408 204 805.

For other inquiries, email the shed at information@willoughbymensshed.com.

Naremburn Community Gardens

Bongalong Street 9am-11am Sundays

Station Street 9am-12pm Sundays

Marks Street - coming soon

If you have a not-for-profit organisation, i.e. bridge club, walking group etc, that could be mentioned in this column, please email naremburn.matters@naremburnprogress.org.au