

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE

HOUSING REFORMS: NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL LAND IN DEVELOPER’S SIGHTS FOR 62 STOREY TOWER



BY PETE KASBY

With a shortage of homes across Sydney and parts of the state, the NSW State Government is implementing widespread changes aimed at rapidly increasing housing supply. In July 2024, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) released its first round of proposed land rezoning for the Crows Nest precinct area, as part of its Transport Oriented Development (TOD) Program. The proposed land rezoning was finalised and came into effect on November 27, 2024.

Crows Nest Accelerated Transport Oriented Development (TOD) Program

Crows Nest has been identified as one of eight ‘accelerated precinct areas’, deemed to have the capacity to support a significant increase in population and additional housing growth, close to a transport hub and other essential amenities.

The Crows Nest TOD precinct boundary covers parts of North Sydney, Lane Cove and Willoughby Local Government Areas.

*“Artist’s impression of Crows Nest TOD”
Source: DPHI*

It includes a sizable portion of Naremburn that lies north of Chandos Street, south of Dalleys and Donnelly Roads, east of the North Shore Rail Line and west of Brook Street. Rezoning plans are yet to be provided for Naremburn, with the area south of Chandos Street and along the Pacific Highway identified as the initial focus for accelerated rezoning. In its final report, the DHPI has recommended further investigation for additional site rezoning, including 110-120 Christie Street Naremburn.

Under the Crows Nest TOD, additional housing will be delivered through increased housing density, and to achieve this, the State Government needed to rezone land to allow increased building heights. The aim is to bring 3,255 new homes within walking distance of the St Leonards train and Crows Nest metro stations.

(CONTINUED ON PG 4)

JOIN OR REJOIN THE NPA FOR 2025

Our website is now open for new and renewed memberships for 2025. You can join and volunteer or simply join in support.

For only \$25 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



Existing members can renew membership in the members area on the NPA website.

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 CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY GATHERING, THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2024**
Please join us just before Christmas to Celebrate all things Naremburn, 6.30pm Flat Rock Brew Café

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It's been quite the year for our little association and its team of volunteers - together we have made a difference. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time, from our walkers to our committee. This year we

have welcomed 20 new members and held a stable base of over 100 members. Thank you to everyone who joined and re-joined - your encouragement and contribution makes a vast difference to our work.

Congratulations to our returning Councillors and Mayor and all of those who put up their hand in September. Welcome to the 4 new councillors and thank you to those outgoing. We are currently reviewing our "Wishlist" for the new council and are seeking our communities' input - we would appreciate it if you could complete the quick survey here: <https://bit.ly/NPA2025> or scan QR code on opposite page

This year we partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to launch the Council funded Love Your Locals program to support our precious local shops during the upgrade (April-August). The program was hugely successful, with over 1000 participants and 29 lucky winners who won \$50 spent locally. For many years, the NPA has advocated for an upgrade to this area, and it's been lovely to see the space being well

used since the opening. We have completed a walk around with Council's General Manager to point out a few further improvements, including making it safer for the little ones, and we are looking forward to the plants maturing!

On the planning front we have asked Willoughby Council to re-exhibit their "Draft Parks Plan of Management" to make the proposed reclassification of local parks clear, we opposed further density at Walter St and have been heavily involved in understanding and communicating the government's proposed density reforms. We made submissions to the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) inquiry, Mid and Low Housing and TOD proposed changes. NPA has regularly been in touch with various levels of government, and I have presented formally to council meetings advocating for the preservation of Naremburn's character, along with the need to advocate strongly for infrastructure support. The final "Accelerated Precincts" TOD was released as we went to print. It is welcome news that our area's conservation zones have not been re-zoned under this tranche of changes. It is also positive that active transport links and tree canopy improvements have a firm commitment. Disappointingly we will see a higher density than draft documents stated in Crows Nest & St Leonards, there is no tangible commitment yet to new schools or parks and we will lose the site and trees at Herbert St to Mixed Use zoning, with only 15% affordable housing mandated. Further details inside this issue.

The documents do acknowledge our long expressed water related concerns and Sydney Water has committed to major works upgrades

in the area through to 2028. We will also see further work on the Warringah Freeway into Willoughby and detailed maps and a briefing has been discussed with the project team. It was exciting to attend the opening of the Metro this year and to see the growing use of public transport in the area. We have recently submitted a parking, traffic and active transport risk analysis to WCC's Traffic Committee and whilst we have not yet received a formal response, the November meeting indicated that studies will be prioritised in Naremburn.

Perhaps the clearest example of the effect of community advocacy in Naremburn has been the heritage listing of the Donnelly Rd site and the recent DA refusal which would have demolished the school buildings - congratulations to our working group, council, and our community - we hope to see adaptive reuse plans for the site in the future. We are also awaiting the release of Council's Heritage review, as there are other valid items that we have been putting forward to our councillors for review for quite some time - i.e. Henry Lawson's Cave and the Naremburn Shops.

Planning well takes time and commitment and I'm a firm believer that through thoughtful planning we can achieve excellent quality, affordable housing balanced with character. However, it is only with a clear and knowledgeable collective voice that we will achieve the right balance. To that effect, I'd like to invite each resident in Naremburn to join or re-join as a member of the NPA. Every member counts toward Naremburn's future. Registrations are open - please see our website for details.

Wishing all our neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a restful New Year.

LARISSA PENN, President



**Naremburn
Progress
Association**

NAREMBURN MATTERS
NEWSLETTER OF THE NAREMBURN
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION (NPA)

Naremburn Progress Association
Founded 1901, incorporated 2004
PO Box 393, St Leonards 1590
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.

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.

Naremburn Progress Association (NPA)

President Larissa Penn
president@naremburnprogress.org.au

Vice President Roger Promnitz

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Pete Kasby

Committee Members Karl Riseborough and Maria Mattera

Federation of Willoughby Progress Association (FWPA)

Delegates Larissa Penn, Roger Promnitz, Kevin Fitzpatrick

Naremburn Matters

Editor Pete Kasby

Advertising Contributor Pete Kasby

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We welcome ideas regarding topics of interest to the community and letters. Please email secretary@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'S HAPPENING - ALERTS

Western Harbour Tunnel - PDL

The draft Place, Design and Landscape Plan PDL (Part 1) was on public display for 4 weeks from 31 July 2024. This included the design of the Cammeray exhaust stack. A summary of the feedback and responses will be provided to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for approval and then the community will be informed of the outcome once the final PDL has been published on the project website. No date supplied.

Draft Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2036

Consultation is now closed regarding the strategy however you can still write to your councillors in support or otherwise as the plan is yet to be considered by council.

Currently Open via Willoughby Council's 'Have your Say'

Community Strategic Plan (CSP) - the community's long-term vision, identifying priorities for the future of the City. Draft plan will be on exhibition from 27 November until 12 January.

State Government Cultural SEPP

The State Government is currently seeking feedback on a Cultural SEPP which proposes to change the rules around night time noise and entertainment zones.

NPA's Wishlist to Councillors

At the commencement of the last council term, the NPA compiled and issued a wishlist to our Naremburn Ward Councillors, who then provided updates on a rotating basis at NPA General Meetings. This process proved highly effective and the NPA would like to thank our Council Representatives for their sustained level of engagement. Some items on our wishlist have been achieved by council, several items remain a work in progress.

Below is the NPA wishlist for 2021-2024, along with our assessment of outcomes to date - **Green indicates the item is completed**, **Orange indicates partial outcome achieved**, **Red indicates minimal outcome achieved**. It should be noted that items are assessed based on observable outcomes during the last term and may not reflect progress yet to be communicated or agreed plans. As always we will continue to work with the council to achieve the best outcomes for our community and there is still much work to do.

Risks associated with Freeway Tunnel Projects

Confirm ongoing concerns regarding previously identified but unmitigated risks within Beaches Link Tunnel proposal as well as Warringah Freeway Upgrade and Western Harbour Tunnel projects

DA Notification System

Implement DA notification system such that all Naremburn DAs are automatically emailed to NPA at time of posting onto WCC website

Establish Advisory Committees

Raise and then proactively support a motion for the rescission of WCC's earlier decision to disband Advisory Committees, with concurrent actions to improve information flows to/from these Committees

Community Participation Plan

Provide active support to achieve earliest commissioning of Council's Community Participation Plan

NPA Meeting Engagement

Commit to ensuring at least one Naremburn Ward councillor attends each Naremburn PA General Meeting on a rotational basis

Performance against Operational Plan

Proactively engage with Council Officers to ensure Naremburn-centric projects identified and funded within (the current) Operational Plan are completed on time and within scope

Graffiti

Provide a mutually-agreed solution to address ongoing graffiti issues at certain locations e.g. Ella St railway bridge

Conservation Areas

Continue to resist overdevelopment that is adjacent to or not in keeping with preservation of liveability within the Naremburn Conservation Areas

Traffic Management Plan

Provide active support to proposals arising from Area Pedestrian and Traffic Management Action Plan including issues arising along Brook St & Willoughby Rd

Flat Rock Gully

Ensure early engagement of Council with Sydney Water re proper scoping of sewerage upgrade works in Flat Rock Gully area - required due to a combination of age of existing service and the cumulative effect of large-scale residential developments across the area

Talus Decision

Work with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to ensure orderly transition of management control and title following the recent Talus decision, with maximised benefits to the Land Council and the community.

For the new council term, the following priorities have been proposed: Housing Density, Willoughby Leisure Centre, Sewerage & Stormwater, Complying Development, Heritage Protection, Parks and Reserves including Flat Rock Gully, Working with the Aboriginal Heritage Office, Conservation Areas, Traffic Management.

What would you like to see prioritised by the NPA for the next council term? Complete the online survey by scanning the QR code below.

We care about what you think.

Answer this quick survey to let us know what matters to you and how Naremburn Progress Association can best serve Naremburn in 2025.



or go to bit.ly/NPA2025

ADVERTORIAL

Unmatched Real Estate Success with Team Chauncy and McGrath

As 2024 draws to a close, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and trust in Team Chauncy. It's been an outstanding year, and we are thrilled to share some of the key milestones and achievements that made it so special.

We finished the year holding the majority of Naremburn's market share and successfully listed, marketed, and sold 52 properties in the suburb.

Multiple new price records were set and some standout results include the sale of 13 Central Street, the second highest price of the year for \$5,451,000. Additionally, we secured new suburb records, consecutively breaking the suburb record for a townhouse three times all within the 55 Garland Road complex, the most recent being number 18 which sold for \$3,080,000. As well as selling 14/32 Northcote Street for \$2,300,000 making it a suburb record for a two-bedroom apartment.

With the opening of the Metro, many experts are calling it the most important piece of Sydney infrastructure since the

Harbour Bridge. As a result, there is growing optimism that the Metro could spark a mini property boom. Enthusiasm for homes coming to market near Metro stations is driving increased demand, which could lead to rising property prices in those areas.

Our connection to the local community remains strong with 20 years supporting Willoughby Community Pre School. We always look forward to the annual Trivia Night Fundraiser and this year we helped raise over \$11,500 for the school's resources.

We're now busy helping our clients prepare their homes for sale to start in the new year. We will be bringing a range of properties to market on the 2nd of January with first openings commencing on the 11th of January - it's not uncommon for inspections and auctions to happen 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 would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxing festive season, and a wonderful New Year. All the very best for 2025!

PETER CHAUNCY

**PRINCIPAL
MCGRATH ESTATE AGENTS
CROWS NEST AND WILLOUGHBY**

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CONTINUED FROM COVER STORY

The first round of land rezoning (that came into effect in November) will deliver 5,900 additional homes, 81% more than the proposed target for the entire Crows Nest TOD.

\$520 million has been committed across all TOD precincts, for new parks, transport infrastructure and community facilities. It is difficult to see how sufficient parkland can be provided for the increased level of housing density. One site, 79-81 Sinclair Street, Wollstonecraft (currently a small at-grade car park) was identified for consideration for new open space in the draft proposal. The final report notifies this site has now been identified for a 9 storey building.

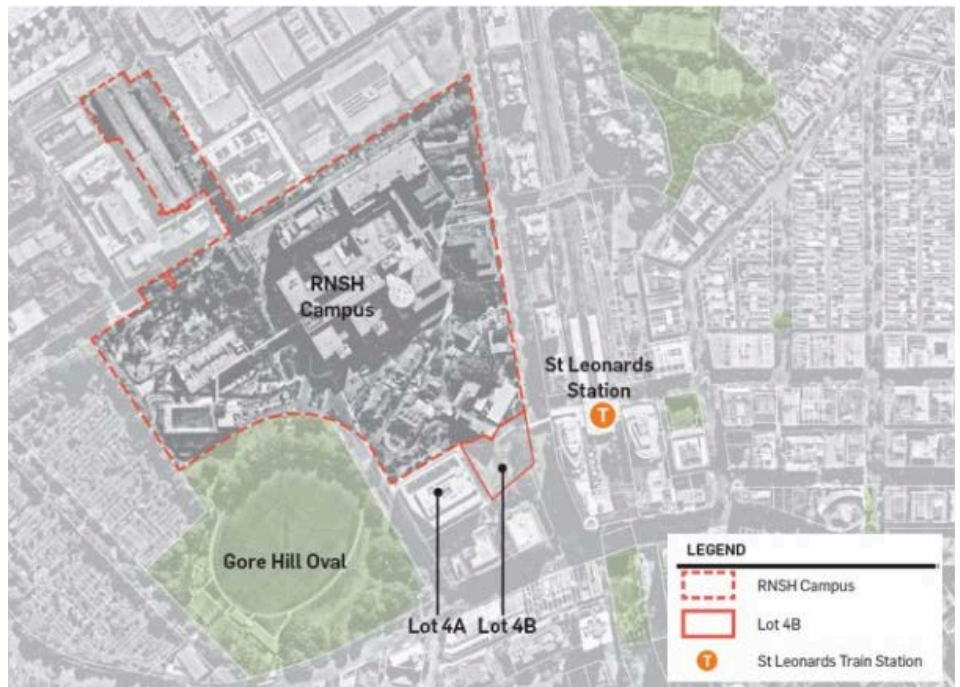
Rezoning of Royal North Shore(RNSH) Land

Of the rezoned areas, only one falls within the Willoughby Council Local Government Area, and it's easily the most significant and contentious of all changes.

The NSW State Government has rezoned hospital land at Lot 4B Herbert Street - the area on the southeastern corner of the Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) precinct directly opposite St Leonards station - to pave the way for the construction of a 62 story mega tower for mixed use (private residential, commercial and community facilities e.g. child care), which previous zoning did not permit. At approx 200m this tower will easily be the highest building on the North Shore.

Lot 4B Herbert Street is the most accessible part of the entire RNSH precinct - located just 75m from St Leonards station, 100m from the St Leonards bus interchange and 600m from the new Crows Nest metro station. The revised 2023 RNSH Master Plan extends future hospital facilities further away from the existing train and bus services and up the hill to Westbourne Street, making it difficult for people commuting by public transport. This planning begs the question - why would Lot 4B not be considered for future expansion of hospital related services, rather than being made available for privatised development?

In its Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) for the Crows Nest TOD Precinct, The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (repeatedly) states Lot 4B Herbert Street is owned by Property NSW. This is similarly evidenced in the revised RNSH Campus Master Plan released in October 2023, a plan endorsed by the Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSW Health) but never released to public consultation. What neither document mentions, is that in 2020 (just 4 years ago), the RNSH Campus was subdivided to create lots 4A and 4B. Lot 4A now contains a 10-storey building occupied by Ministry of Health staff, whilst Lot 4B was discreetly transferred from the Health Administration Corporation to Property and Development NSW. NSW Health then excluded Lot 4B from the 2023 revision of its Campus plan stating "The land to the south of the campus,



adjacent to the 1 Reserve Road Building, is owned by Property and Development NSW and is outside of the scope of the Master Plan".

Shortly after the land was transferred, the Berejiklian Government released a concept plan for the site proposing a 60 storey building, which would later be reduced to 45 storeys. At the time, Willoughby Councilors remained opposed to the plan voting overwhelmingly in support of writing to the Premier and key ministers requesting that "the state government cease its proposal to develop the Herbert St Precinct at Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) and that its lands be preserved for future hospital growth". Council's concerns included the bulk and scale of the tower, overshadowing of and loss of view from the nearby residential development and public open space, and the impact on the five original hospital buildings marked as local significant heritage items on the site.

In its submission to the TOD earlier this year, Willoughby Council reaffirmed its position that the "Royal North Shore Hospital land that is most accessible to St Leonards Station and the new Crows Nest Metro should be reserved for clinical health care, research and education to allow for the hospital's future expansion, and not be used for residential, commercial, or retail purposes". In July 2024, however, a majority of Willoughby Councillors voted against a motion to write directly to the Premier and key ministers to express council's position against the proposed rezoning of Lot 4B and community concerns. Councillors against the motion cited confidential meetings between the DPHI and Willoughby City Council, previously announced positions and the need to trust in the TOD process. It is unclear whether the current Labor Minister has been informed of the council's long held position.

A condition of the current proposed 62 storey tower is a minimum of 15% affordable housing, to be held in perpetuity and managed by a registered Community Housing Provider (CHP). Housing, and especially affordable housing, is desperately needed across Sydney, but should it be provided at the expense of public amenity and health?

The EIE for the Crows Nest TOD program was on exhibition for public feedback between 9 July and 23 August 2024. In response, the Naremburn Progress Association (NPA) members voted unanimously (in the August General Meeting) for:

1. The NPA committee prepare a submission to the Rezoning Proposal objecting to the rezoning of public land for private use at 4B Herbert St or on land zoned for hospital use in the vicinity of RNSH Campus,
2. That the NPA committee prepare a submission to the Rezoning Proposal advocating for greater infrastructure investment and the exclusion of Naremburn's conservation area from the TOD Precinct Boundary, and
3. The NPA committee prepare a submission to the State Significant Development (SSD) Pathway consultation, objecting to the proposal to allow developers to waive concurrence requirements (given significant infrastructure deficits) - A concurrence is a provision that refers a Development Application (DA) to authorities (e.g. Sydney Water) for review and formal agreement before it can be determined.

These submissions were subsequently made by the NPA, which, along with submissions from Willoughby Council and community members appear to have been largely, if not completely ignored in the finalised land rezoning.

Turbid water at our local pools?

The latest forecast for the redevelopment of North Sydney Pool has ballooned to \$122m, almost double the original \$63.8m approved by the North Sydney Council back in 2020. As a result, the current Council (that has inherited the flawed project) is now considering four options that would result in rate hikes of at least 65 per cent and possibly up to 111 per cent over three years to fund the project. Current Mayor Zoe Baker stated "I'm hoping the lessons of North Sydney Olympic Pool, and particularly the decisions made about it from the get-go, will help other councils so they don't walk the path North Sydney has."

With the redevelopment of North Sydney Pool taking all the headlines, delays and cost increases in the redevelopment of Willoughby Leisure Centre have gone somewhat under the radar.

The Willoughby Leisure Centre upgrade project commenced in late 2022 (yep, just before Summer) with an original completion of mid-2024. In their update on March 1 2024 (9 months ago), Willoughby Council stated that the "original mid-2024 completion date would not be achieved, with the project now envisaged to be completed at some stage in 2025". Furthermore, "Council



Image courtesy of Willoughby City Council

has not announced a new project budget, although the project's originally forecast cost of \$38.86 million will increase. Council continues to work with its builder (Belmadar) on cost and timeline issues". No further information has been provided on the project budget or when the community can expect to swim again.

The NPA is calling for an immediate public update on the Willoughby Leisure Centre

upgrade project including:

- An updated timeline on the project's key milestones and completion date
- An updated project budget and guidance on how the increased cost will be managed within council budgets, and
- What contamination has been found on site, in addition to the discovery of large quantities of asbestos contaminated soil, and how that has been managed

CELEBRATE YOUR WINS: THE POWER OF SMALL REWARDS

Life is full of milestones - big and small. Reaching a fitness goal, completing a work project, or even organising a junk drawer deserves recognition. Small rewards aren't just fun - they're powerful motivators that reinforce positive habits and keep you moving forward.

During a recent financial review, our clients Tim and Jenny shared their secret to staying motivated while paying down their home loan. Each time they reduced their loan by \$10,000, they celebrated with a nice bottle of champagne. It's a simple yet effective way to stay inspired and focused on their financial goals.

Whatever your goals may be, don't forget to celebrate along the way. Those small rewards can make all the difference in staying motivated and happy.

Ready to hit your next financial milestone? Whether it's planning your finances or paying off your mortgage faster, we're here to help. Contact us today for expert advice to make 2025 your most successful year yet!

From all of us at Infocus St Leonards, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

* 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**

Old paint tins? Stockpile of old iPhones? How to recycle problem waste

BY ALANA PRICHARD

If you're storing leftover paint in the shed or have a drawer full of old phones, you're not alone. Many of us struggle with "problem waste" that cannot be disposed of in kerbside bins.

Why can't these items be collected? Because problem waste is dangerous or potentially harmful to human health and the environment. Items like batteries, old gas bottles and oil pose a fire risk during waste collection, transportation, handling and processing. When liquid waste like paint and household chemicals end up in landfill, they can infiltrate groundwater or soil and end up in our waterways. Likewise, e-waste can be toxic, is not biodegradable and accumulates in soil, air, water and living things.

While it may be tempting to leave your leftover paint tins and old TV out for the Council's scheduled clean-ups, most problem waste is not permitted here either, as most of the items collected end up in landfill.

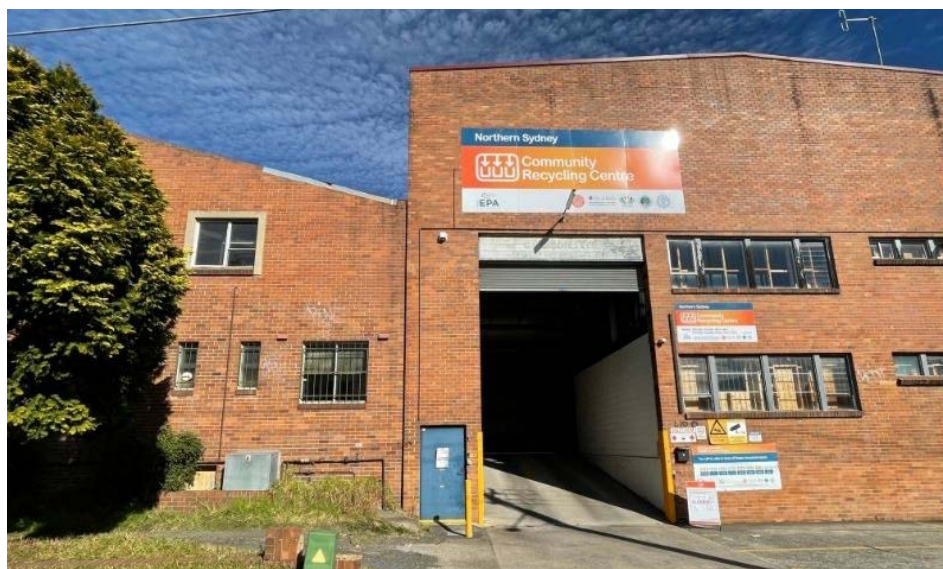
The good news is that at the Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre at **8 Waltham Street, Artarmon**, you can drive through and drop off problem waste that cannot go into kerbside bins or council clean-ups. It's simple, quick and free!

Most of the items accepted at the Community Recycling Centre can be reused or recycled, which keeps potentially hazardous waste out of landfill, helps improve recycling rates, and saves water, energy and other valuable natural resources.

What items does the Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre accept?

Drop off the following items for FREE: (note per-person limits may apply)

- Water- and oil-based paints
- Motor oils and others (including cooking oil)
- Gas bottles, aerosols and fire extinguishers
- Fluorescent, halogen and LED globes and tubes
- E-waste (e.g. computers, TVs, mobile phones)
- CDs and DVDs
- Household and lead acid batteries
- Smoke detectors and alarms



Dive through entrance to the Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre at 8 Waltham Street, Artarmon

- Printer cartridges
- X-ray films
- Wearable textiles, including good quality clothing, shoes, Manchester and accessories like handbags, belts, scarves, hats

When can I drop my waste off for recycling?

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 8am to 2pm

Weekends – 8am to 4pm

Monday and Tuesday – closed

- **What happens to waste items after they have been dropped off?** Paints are mixed with other waste solvents and used as an alternative to fuel in cement kilns. The metal containers are recycled.
- **Lead acid batteries** are sent to recyclers where the lead, acid and plastic are recovered and recycled.
- **Fluorescent tubes** and globes contain mercury. Recyclers crush the tubes to separate the phosphor powder from the glass. They feed the powder through receiving containers, where it is filtered to capture fugitive mercury emissions. The mercury is then separated by distillation and sold for a range of industrial uses. The metals are also recycled.
- **Gas bottles** have residual gas captured for reuse. Undamaged bottles are retested, restamped and entered into

the hire industry. Damaged bottles are punctured and recycled as scrap metal.

- **Used oils** are processed to become a lubricant or used for waste to energy.



Images courtesy of NSROC Website, available at nsroc.com.au/recycling-centre/

For more information about the Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre, visit the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) website at www.nsroc.com.au/recycling-centre or the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) website at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/recyclingcentres

Other recycling initiatives

There are other services to help recycle problem waste, including:

RecycleSmart allows residents to book a 'Power Pickup', whereby they can leave a bag of recyclables at their door to be picked up, sorted and properly recycled.

With **Return and Earn**, earn a 10c refund for each bottle, can or carton that is taken to a Return and Earn location for recycling.

Naremburn's Action group keeping our streets and waterways clean

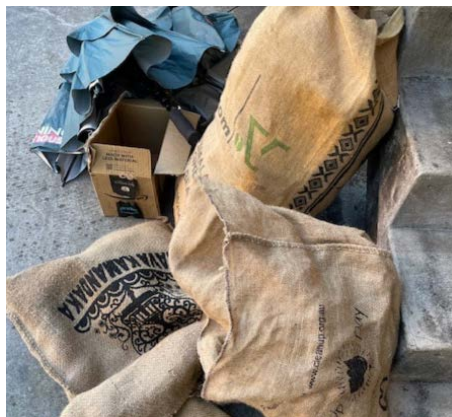
BY GEOFFREY GEMMELL
On Cammeraygal Country
Glenmore St, Naremburn

In May 2015 Pope Francis, gravely concerned by the state of the environment, issued an encyclical (a letter) to the entire world called Laudato Si'. Springing from that document has been a notable environmental movement in the Catholic Church, principally led by the laity, to put into action what Laudato Si' is calling us to do. We at St Leonard's Naremburn have formed a Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) group. We are small but enthusiastic and we decided that one of the activities we would undertake is the simple but important task of collecting rubbish from around the area.

It's not a big commitment, just one hour most months of the year on the first Saturday, starting at 9.30AM. The amount of material we collect in that one hour is astonishing (see photos). Much of it, if not most of it, would have eventually found its way into the stormwater drains emptying into Middle Harbour via Flat Rock Creek and, potentially, our food chain. After scouring the streets and kerbsides, we meet and dispose of the rubbish as thoughtfully and practically as possible.



Collection from 5 February 2023



Collection from 3 August 2024

Here are a few tips to consider with a view to cutting down waste in the first place: instead of getting coffee in take away cups with plastic lids, why not take a keep cup which can be reused multiple times? If you do get a takeaway container, dispose of it thoughtfully. If you smoke or vape, please dispose of butts and vaping material in a bin. Best of all, reflect before making a purchase to see if you really do need that "fix". As Pope Francis says in Laudato Si, "Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act". He goes on to say: "Today, in a word, the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle" (at [206]).

Our next Clean Up will be at 9.30AM, at Naremburn on Saturday, 1 February 2025. We meet outside the St Leonard's Catholic Church on Willoughby Rd near the school. If it is raining heavily, we are unlikely to go ahead, but thankfully that is a rare occurrence! If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome. Gloves and a bag would be a good idea, as well as a hat and sunscreen. If you have one hour to spare to help make a difference and to put care of the environment into action, feel free to join us.

Enquiries to: LNSLSAP@gmail.com



Happy Holidays North Sydney!

Wishing everyone a joyful festive season filled with love, laughter, and connection. Thank you for all your support this year - it has been my absolute privilege to represent you.

Here's to a safe and happy New Year!

Kylea x

KYLEA TINK MP
Independent Federal Member for North Sydney
Authorised by Kylea Tink, Level 10, 2 Elizabeth Plaza, North Sydney NSW 2060

ELECTORAL OFFICE CLOSURE: 22 Dec - 5 Jan

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Update from our Naremburn Town Centre

BY KARL RISEBOROUGH

The highly anticipated opening of the new outdoor space at the end of August was exciting and has been well utilised by the community since. When looking back on some old photos, this really is a huge improvement. Business for our local shop owners seems to have picked up a little, but the inconsistent weather and unseasonal chilliness means it is not yet being used to capacity. Hopefully, the warmer weather brings everyone out. Every Sunday, there is live music from 4pm to 7pm and through summer, we'll be able to hear some live tunes on a Friday night too! It's great to see a vibe happening when the music is on and the area is enjoyed by the community.

Whilst there are still a couple of shops vacant, Naremburn Podiatry is moving into the premises next door to Olde Fish and Chips. Homme Grooming has added some great new signage, and the Barber Paw dog entrance has had a makeover too! It looks like the self serve library is being frequented and is a really convenient way to grab a book, a warm coffee, or cold beer, depending on the weather conditions, at



the same time. If you are going for a ride, why not pitstop at the bike maintenance station outside Forsyths offering a good opportunity to keep your bike in condition as you pass through the village.

The businesses really appreciated the support of the locals throughout the outdoor

streetscape works, as well as Willoughby City Council's grant to fund the Love Your Locals campaign. It maybe something we take for granted, but we really are very lucky to have the Naremburn Town Centre on our doorstep where we can enjoy everything our local businesses have to offer.

The NPA's position on the streetscape upgrade

BY ROGER PROMNITZ

It's great to be able to report on the successes of the Naremburn Streetscape project, and to read of the positive results generated for the local businesses. The Love Your Locals initiative was a great idea and certainly resonated with the public, as the number of completed entry cards indicates.

The project should really be considered as the first step in a longer and ongoing plan to improve customer safety, access, parking, greenspace, active transport and resident engagement. We also need to review the project's history to identify areas for improvement. A couple spring immediately to mind: child safety and the design excellence process. From a child safety perspective, the current layout has no protection at all at the southern end so children, quoits and other toys could easily end up on Willoughby Road, whilst the way the brickwork has been constructed allows children to climb onto the structure and end



up virtually on the traffic side of the main structure. Hopefully we can get some early action to reduce the risks around those areas.

The preferred Concept Plan for the streetscape project was tabled for community feedback with two issues emerging of ongoing concern - lack of noise barrier and impact protection - so it was disappointing to see no improvement after completion of the Design Excellence process. NPA had no prior experience with this process, so gaining a greater understanding as to how it works and how to maximise benefits flowing is one of our top priorities.

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 attractive 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.

New Vaccine Updates

DR LEI CAO
FRACGP, PhD, MMed, MBBS

Airway and lung diseases are very common in our community. Many of them are highly contagious and sometimes cause serious illness. Good cleaning, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene practices are important in preventing the spread of infectious diseases. People are strongly advised to see their GP and stay up-to-date with recommended vaccination against influenza, COVID-19 infection, whooping cough (Pertussis) and Pneumococcal disease.

The following three vaccines which are newly funded on the National Immunisation Program for high risk people.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine
RSV infection is a common virus that infects the airways and lungs. It is highly contagious. RSV spreads between people if an infected person produces small water droplets while talking, coughing and sneezing. If you have RSV you may experience coughing, a fever, and a runny or stuffy nose, wheezing or difficulty breathing. Some people recover easily within one week, while others get very sick.

RSV infection can affect anyone, but is especially serious for infants aged <12 months, young children or older adults with chronic health conditions (pre-existing heart or lung problems or a weakened immune system).

The RSV vaccine is recommended for women at 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy, and it protects their newborn from RSV. In 2025, eligible pregnant women will be able to receive the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo®) for free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

An alternate RSV vaccine (Arexvy®) is recommended for all adults aged 75 years and older, as well as adults aged 60-74 years who may be at higher risk of severe disease, to protect against illness and complications from RSV infection. This RSV vaccine is not funded by the NIP. Speak to your doctor to learn more about the vaccine, eligibility and cost.

Meningococcal disease vaccines

Meningococcal disease occurs when meningococcal bacteria, commonly found in the nose or throat, invades the body and causes serious disease. Although most people will recover if the infection



is diagnosed early, the disease can cause complications that may result in permanent disabilities through loss of limbs, deafness, blindness, scarring, kidney or liver failure and sometimes, it can even cause death. Meningococcal disease is a medical emergency. It can kill within hours, so early diagnosis and treatment is vital. Do not wait for the purple rash to appear as that is a late stage of the disease.

Meningococcal disease is serious, but you can be protected. Older teenagers and young adults are most likely to carry the bacteria and spread it to others. Meningococcal disease is most commonly caused by bacteria types A, B, C, W and Y.

The Meningococcal ACWY vaccine is routinely given under an immunisation


program during infancy. Young people aged 14-16 years can get the free meningococcal ACWY vaccine at school in year 10 and other health services including pharmacies.

The meningococcal B vaccine is given at the same time as other routine baby vaccinations at 2, 4 and 12 months. It is safe to give the meningococcal B vaccine with other childhood vaccines. Meningococcal B vaccination is currently not covered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Since 2023, it has been for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants, as indigenous children under 2 years are at greater risk of the disease—about 4 times higher than in non-Indigenous children.

Shingles (Herpes Zoster) vaccine


Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. You can only get shingles if you have had chickenpox in the past (reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus). The shingles rash develops into painful blisters that may also be itchy, usually on one side of the body, either on the face, chest, back, abdomen or pelvis. They can take several weeks to settle. In 1 in 10 people, the pain and tingling of shingles can last for months or even years. This is called post-herpetic neuralgia. Early diagnosis is very important.

If you are aged >50 years old immunocompetent, aged >18 years immunocompromised, or aged >50 years and are household contacts of an immunocompromised person, see your GP for Shingles vaccine. For Shingles vaccine (Shingrix), a 2-dose schedule is recommended, 2 months apart. Shingrix is now funded under the NIP for all adults aged ≥65 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged ≥50 years, and selected groups aged ≥18 years with moderate to severe immunocompromise.



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COUNCILLORS' REPORTS



**Councillor
Anna Greco**

It is my profound honour to have been re-elected to represent Naremburn Ward on the Willoughby Council.

I want to use this moment to reaffirm my commitments for those I haven't had the pleasure of meeting personally.

Future Focus:

Protecting our environment is my highest priority. I am committed to preserving our bushlands, reserves, and parklands for future generations while safeguarding our cultural and built heritage.

Present Initiatives:

I will advocate for Council-operated child services, sustain essential community services for older adults, expand youth services, and explore affordable housing options in Willoughby.

Improving public access to sports fields and parklands, along with necessary upgrades, is also my focus.

Partnering with local groups like progress associations is vital. I am committed to ensuring Naremburn Ward residents' voices are actively represented in decision-making.

Transparency and Accountability:

Good governance thrives on transparency. Council processes can be complex; I aim to offer clear, accessible explanations to keep residents informed and engaged.

Commitment to Engagement:

I am here to listen and learn from all residents, especially those who may feel unheard. Your trust is essential, and I am committed to following through on promises with genuine action.

To my Naremburn ward residents, I invite you to contact me and let's build a future that benefits us all – together.

If you have any questions or would like to have a chat about living in Naremburn, I would love to hear from you.

ANNA GRECO

P | M 0459 866 064

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



**Councillor
Georgie
Roussac**

It was wonderful to speak to so many of you during the election campaign and

hear your ideas and views. Thank you for your support over the past three years and I look forward to working with you over the next four.

One of my priorities is improving the way the Council manages projects. On time and on cost delivery must be a key focus of all Council projects, large and small.

Over the past year I have pushed for changes to the way major projects are managed at Council. Major projects are those that exceed \$5 million, involve high risk and impact, and are complex and transformative in nature. All major projects will now be sponsored by the General Manager to ensure greater visibility and accountability. Council will use external specialist advice to address resourcing and capability gaps. An 'ideate' phase will be introduced to generate and challenge project ideas and engage early on with the community. Improved project reporting will soon commence and include detailed communication and engagement plans from the outset as well as baseline reporting. My hope is that these changes will establish community confidence in Council's approach and improve Council's ability to efficiently deliver outstanding facilities for us all to enjoy.

Hope to speak to you soon.

GEORGIE ROUSSAC

P | M 0459 879 379

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



**Councillor
Nic Wright**

I'm deeply grateful for the support and kindness of this community in the recent election. It's an honour to be re-elected

for a fourth term, and I'm humbled by your trust. Your feedback and engagement over the past 12 years have shaped my priorities as a councillor, and I look forward to continuing our work to improve our area.

As we begin this new term, council will soon determine its key priorities for the next four years. I've received many great suggestions during the campaign and encourage everyone to share their thoughts. Your insights ensure our work reflects what matters most to the community.

One key focus for me this term is modernising our approach to community engagement. Traditional methods, such as formal committees held during work hours, aren't meeting the needs of our diverse and busy population. By adopting more inclusive and flexible outreach methods, we can ensure more voices are heard and community-driven ideas are central to our plans.

Thank you again for your continued support. I'm excited for what we can achieve together and look forward to making our community even better.

NIC WRIGHT

P | M 0481 033 442

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

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



I'm thrilled to have been re-elected as your Mayor for the next four years. I'm so grateful that the community has chosen to return me to this role again and I feel an even greater sense

of responsibility, as we look toward many substantial initiatives ahead.

After September's Local Government Elections, the Naremburn Ward retained all Councillors with returning Councillors being Anna Greco, Georgie Roussac and Nic Wright, who I'm certain will all work extremely hard for you.

The Naremburn Village is looking great after the completion of the recent upgrade project. Improvements to the public amenity of the area has been further enhanced by the installation of the Cammeraygal story of Naremburn. This artistic installation includes two panels on the shade structure that depict the traditional season (wet becoming cool). There are also eight animal inlays installed at various places around the outdoor seating area, which reflect the animals referenced in the story of the season. A little treasure hunt that awaits younger visitors.

Looking toward the end of the year and the beginning of 2025, over the summer months, Council is exhibiting an important document; the Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The CSP is the community's long-term vision, identifying priorities for the future of the City. The draft plan will be on exhibition from 27 November until 12 January. I encourage you to have your say.

On a different note; during the warmer months and the festive season we also have plenty of local events to look forward to, culminating in our renowned Lunar New Year festival, when Chatswood will light up to bring in the Year of the Snake.

Thank you again, as always, for your continued support and enthusiasm for Council-led initiatives. Please get in touch if you have any feedback or comments.

MAYOR TANYA TAYLOR

E: Tanya.Taylor@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Local Government Election Results: Willoughby Council

BY ROGER PROMNITZ

Voting day for the latest Local Government election was held on Saturday, 14th September. Councillors were elected for a four year term through to late 2028, with candidates nominating from a wide range of backgrounds. Voters were electing the Mayor and twelve Councillors, being 3 Councillors from each of the 4 Wards within the Willoughby Local Government Area (LGA).

Following completion of the vote count, Councillor Tanya Taylor was returned as the popularly elected Mayor, with Ward Councillors elected as below:

- **West Ward:** Craig Campbell, Michelle Chuang, Andrew Nelson
- **Middle Harbour:** Kristina Dodds, Angelo Rozos, Robert Samuel
- **Sailors Bay:** Roy McCullagh, John Moratelli, Sarah Royds
- **Naremburn:** Anna Greco, Georgie Roussac, Nic Wright

Within the new Council we have 4 new Councillors, being: Michelle Chuang, Andrew Nelson, Kristina Dodds and Sarah Royds, with only the Naremburn Ward Councillors remain unchanged. Former Councillors who were re-nominated but were unsuccessful in being returned were Hugh Eriksson, Sarkis Mouradian and Jam Xia, and we recognise and thank them for their contributions as Councillors, as well as former Councillor Brendon Zhu who has retired from office and did not seek re-election.



At the first meeting of the new Council, Cr Angelo Rozos was elected by his fellow Councillors as Deputy Mayor for a period of 12 months through to 25th October 2025.

We also note the sad passing of former Councillor Barry Thompson on 16th September 2024.

Barry had served as a Naremburn Ward Councillor from 2004 to early 2012 and also as Deputy Mayor 2008 to 2009. His contributions were regular and insightful and his sense of humour will be sorely missed.

The NPA would like to thank and congratulate Councillors Greco, Roussac and Wright on their reelection as Councillors of Naremburn Ward and Mayor Taylor on her reelection as Mayor of Willoughby Council.

The NPA looks forward to continuing to work closely with our elected representatives to fulfill our purpose of promoting the welfare and advancement of the Naremburn community, to preserve and improve the amenity and environment of the Naremburn District and nearby areas, and to encourage a spirit of community and mutual help among all residents and to co-operate with other groups in pursuit of these objects.

Community Activities

Naremburn Progress Association

Our meeting dates for 2025 are:
20th February, 10th April (AGM),
19th June, 21st August, 23rd October,
11th December (Christmas get together)

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

Naremburn Community Centre

7 Central St, Naremburn Ph: 9967 2917
willpark@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
Contact the centre for room availability.

Laudo Si' Action Platform (LSAP) group

Helping keep our streets and waterways clean.
First Saturday of each month at 9:30am, meet outside the St Leonard's Catholic Church on Willoughby Rd near the school. If it is raining heavily, we are unlikely to go ahead, but thankfully that is a rare occurrence!
LNSLSAP@gmail.com

Food for Wildlife

Drop in every fourth Saturday of the month from 10am to 1pm and help grow food for sick, injured and orphaned native animals in the care of local wildlife rescue groups. The monthly working bees are highly rewarding, Food for Wildlife comes to Flat Rock Gully and a terrific opportunity to learn about native plant species, local wildlife and to have a laugh and connect with neighbours and local wildlife rehabilitators. No experience is required!
www.growingfoodforwildlifeproject.org

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

Library News

Naremburn Library

7 Central Street, Naremburn
Ph 9439 5584

Opening hours: Monday 2pm - 4.30pm

The holiday season will soon be upon us and so will the school holidays. Your local library provides much more than just books. Whether you're looking to dive into a great read, connect with others, or explore community history, there's something for everyone at the library this season. Keep an eye out on the library website to see upcoming school holiday programs.

Naremburn Book Locker

The library's book locker is now at the Naremburn Shops. You can reserve, collect and return your library items any time, free of charge, at the Naremburn shops on Quiamong Street. Enjoy the

convenience of flexible, around-the-clock access to your books whenever it suits you! For information about how the book locker works, ask library staff or visit the Willoughby City Library website <https://libraries.willoughby.nsw.gov.au>.

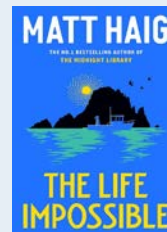
Curated recommendations to surprise and delight

Library staff at Naremburn are helping you choose your next great read with these helpful tags in the books. The tags include short reviews with concise insights, and you may discover hidden gems in the library collection.

Digital Library

You can borrow eBooks, eAudiobooks, eComics as well as stream music, movies, TV shows on our new digital platform, hoopla. We also continue to provide access to BorrowBox, indyreads and Kanopy,

which offer a vast selection of eBooks, eAudiobooks and much more. Make the most of this diverse digital content right at your fingertips. As always, ask library staff.



Book Review

The Life Impossible by Matt Haig is a magical blend of science fiction and realism, following Grace, a retired teacher who inherits a house in Ibiza and embarks on a journey

of self-discovery. With themes such as environmentalism, history and personal growth, the story mixes quirky adventures with profound life lessons. Fans of The Midnight Library will enjoy this thought-provoking read.

Is Cycling in Your Future?

BY LARISSA PENN

Do you know where the cycling routes are through Willoughby? Did you know you can cycle all the way from Naremburn to Macquarie Park mostly off road? Are you aware that there are dozens of new connections planned for the coming months and years as part of Council and State Government plans and projects.

Perhaps it's time to reconsider cycling?

If you prefer safety in numbers you might like to join a cycle to work group, talk to your school about starting a "cycling bus" or why not join one of the regular Bike North social rides? If you are happy to go it alone, Willoughby Council's Draft Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2034 has a handy map of the current and future routes.

Through their advocacy Bike North have called on Willoughby Council to be more ambitious when it comes to their plans. Carolyn New explains "Council plans to measure progress with targets based on the Sustainability Action Plan for 2028 with a target of 3 percent increase in bicycle riders from 2017. Is that ambitious enough?" The links between Willoughby and North Sydney/Crows Nest (via Naremburn) are particularly important. Safe and logical cycleways which move people to work, school and public transport are key to uptake which in turn reduces traffic, pollution and enhances our neighbourhoods.

The more people cycle the more infrastructure will be prioritized so next time you are in a car why not give cyclists a smile of encouragement, along with a wide berth? After all, every cyclist we see is one less car on the road.



Image courtesy of Willoughby Council's Draft Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2034

And if you are going out on a ride this Summer Bike North's Brian Lyne advises us to:

"Slip on sun protective clothing,
Slop on sunscreen, and reapply at the café stop.
Slap on your helmet, and consider the sun that gets through the vents.
Slide on good quality sunglasses.
Pre-hydrate.
Drink often during the ride.
Re-hydrate immediately after the ride."

Naremburn shops have a brand new maintenance station, excellent bike parking facilities and even better coffee - why not plan a stop on your next ride?



Remember to follow us and tag
facebook.com/naremburnmatters or
@naremburnmatters to share glimpses
of your life in Naremburn :)

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