

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1901; Incorporated 2004

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 14 JUNE 2012

Meeting commenced at 7.40 pm at the
Naremburn Community Centre, 7 Central Street, Naremburn

Nick Tobin WCC General Manager who had been booked as the guest speaker was an apology for the meeting. The President announced that normal business would be suspended until the conclusion of the guest speaker's Q & A session

Guest Speaker: Steven Head, Director, Infrastructure Services, WCC Willoughby Leisure Centre Master Plan

WCC is considering options to enhance the Willoughby Leisure Centre, a 20 year old facility used by more than 500,000 people annually. The Master Plan provides the community and users of the site with a detailed proposition for the future and includes:

- An eight lane, 50 metre pool;
- A warm water program pool;
- Kids' water play area;
- New gym/health club more than three times the size of the current facility;
- Purpose built group fitness and program and Spin Room;
- Additional change room facilities and facilities catering for schools and large groups;
- Larger crèche;
- Increased parking; and
- Major refurbishments and improvements throughout the centre.

WCC is seeking feedback from the community on the proposed Master Plan. The full plans are on display at the Willoughby Leisure Centre, Chatswood Library, The Willis (Willoughby Leisure Centre), and Council's Administration Building and online at www.willoughbyleisure.com.au from 1 June to 12 July 2012.

The President thanked Steven Head for attending our meeting and for providing information on the Master Plan.

1. OPEN FORUM

- Helen Mellquist (Waters Road)** –Helen advised that due to heavy rains over the last few weeks that drains which have been there for 30 years had clogged at the end of Waters Road. Ausgrid have covered the temporary bitumen with concrete however there are still parts of the asphalt that need to be re-checked.
- Kevin FitzPatrick (Central Street)** – Kevin thanked WCC for their prompt service in clearing the drain in Central Street. He did advise that the drains are blocked at the Slip Road from Willoughby Road to Quiamong Street.
- John Tatham (Donnelly Road)** – John Tatham asked if the NPA had rules as to how meetings would be conducted. This request was in relation to an email he sent to the Secretary on 13 June requesting that "...the Secretary, please bring to the meeting on 14 June 2012 a take away copy of the Naremburn Progress Association (NPA) meeting procedure. We are interested in the code of ethics, meeting rules, association objectives, committee/office bearer roles and responsibilities and whatever published procedures that the NPA follow. The NPA may call the required documentation by another name however we believe the above description of our needs is clear". The Secretary held up the Operations Manual, at which time John asked for a copy. John Tatham was advised by the President that the Operations Manual was a guide for the Executive. It outlined the Position Descriptions of the Executive Committee and gave an outline of the process of running a meeting. There was discussion between Trisha FitzPatrick (NPA Public Officer) and John Tatham whether a copy of the "Ops Manual" should be given to John Tatham. Trisha FitzPatrick stated that the Ops Manual was not to be given out to anyone (member or not) but a copy was available for perusal at any general meeting. The President asked Councillor Stuart Coppock for advice; he said although it was some time since he had read the NPA Constitution that, in general, unless a document is marked as confidential it can be requested and read by any person. Trisha FitzPatrick, as Public Officer, strongly advised against giving John Tatham a copy to take away from the meeting. A motion to respond by email to the questions in John Tatham's email was proposed by Trisha FitzPatrick and seconded by Kevin FitzPatrick. The vote of financial members of the NPA was 10 for and 1 against. Joann Morand stated that John's questions were possibly not answered. John Tatham asked to see a copy of the Ops Manual document which was made available to him at the end of the meeting.

- (d) **John Tatham (Donnelly Road)** – He also talked about the April minutes in reference to the proposed St Leonard’s Church Bells and claimed that there was nothing in the original DA about the 10dB(A). He referred to the article in Naremburn Matters on page 1 and opined that the information was inaccurate.-The sound report was a separate report and it’s two different issues. He stated that Geoffrey Gemmell introduced the 17dB(A) and this is not part of the DA. The Council on 5 December 2011 asked that a working group be formed of residents and applicant representatives with one resident each from Wheatleigh Street, Donnelly Road (West), Merrenburn Avenue and the School Apartments either side of Dalleys Road. It was up to the applicant representative to arrange who he wanted to attend. This was supported by the comment by Stuart Coppock. John Tatham commented he was pleased that his email to the Secretary of the NPA on the inaccurate information in the April minutes appeared in the May Minutes. Trisha FitzPatrick (NPA Public Officer) stated that it was read to the May meeting so that it could be legitimately incorporated in the minutes of that meeting. Geoffrey Gemmell said that he took issue with what John Tatham was saying. The report on page 1 of Naremburn Matters states that the Church’s position was always 17dB(A) and a compromise was reached on the ringing times for various services. The Council took the stand against the Parish and did not move off 10dB(A). 17dB(A) was not introduced by him. He said that Father Rex Curry Parish Priest had agreed to The Bells going ahead at 10dB(A).
- (e) **Phil Brady (Northcote Street)** - Phil advised that people who are not residents, nor visitors to residents, of 18 Northcote, are using the visitors parking illegally as free 24/7 parking. Further, these trespassers have the option to use the 2 hour pay for parking zone opposite Northcote Street but choose not to. Phil requested advice from WCC and the NPA on practical means to stop this trespassing; one that does not financially impact the residents or owners of 18 Northcote St. Additionally, Phil requested progress update from Council Representative Steven Head on advice from Nick Tobin that Willoughby residents would be allowed 2 Parking Permits, less the number of off street car parks they have. WCC operational staff had previously advised permits are not allocated to residents of 18 Northcote Street. Given that many residents of 18 Northcote Street have single garages, Phil is seeking to ensure those residents are given eligibility to their Parking Permit.
- (f) **Geoffrey Gemmell (Glenmore Street)** – Geoff confirmed that the Parish would go ahead with The Bells and advised that there would be an increase in the cost of the project anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000. A fundraiser – food, wine, music - would be held on 1 September at 7:00 pm in the Church Hall; donations would be 100% tax deductible. The aim is to sponsor The Bells. Geoff said that he would be happy to clarify any other points in relation to The Bells.
- (g) **Kirsten Smith (Glenmore Street)** – Kirsten commented on the issue of the Commercial Rubbish Bins at Naremburn Shops and trying to consolidate the rubbish. She felt it was a long term issue and that WCC will take out the access to the back of the shops which in turn will cause a bigger issue. WCC refuses to put anything at the front of the shops and will require landscaping on the street.

2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the minutes of the General Meeting of 10 May 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Proposed: Trisha FitzPatrick; Seconded: Martha Follett

3 NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Phil Brady, Kirsten Smith, Geoffrey Gemmell, Peter Johnston

Proposed; Joann Morand: Seconded; John Bell

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEW MEMBERS

None for this meeting

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) **Western area of Naremburn – Traffic and Parking Safety issues** – Refer to (e).
- (b) **Oral History Program** –.During the week Kevin FitzPatrick took three former pupils of the former St John’s Catholic Primary School - Ida Szewcyk (Brooks), Madge Roberts (Haylen) and Pauline Martin - all in their late 80s, on a visit to their former school site which now occupied by homes at 49, 49a,51, 51a Market Street. They commenced Kindergarten in 1931, but the school, founded in 1894, closed that year and pupils were transferred to the site at Willoughby Road/Merrenburn Avenue. All women have lived in Naremburn all their lives in homes where they were raised. They recalled the narrow lane access to the school that bordered the home of Mr Wachorn, the local boot maker. There was limited open space for the children to play; neighbouring land on the eastern side of the school was covered with bush, blackberry bushes and plenty of ticks. Ida’s family cow wandered on local unsealed streets. Madge’s Uncle Leo was a writer and knew Henry Lawson who boarded in the house opposite the school. One of her brothers worked at the general store at the corner of Slade and Central Streets. The corner was a place where people met for a chat on their way home from their various activities. Another unofficial activity was the occasional game of two-up conducted in a lane behind the store. Madge recalled the Rohan family who lived at the north corner of Probate Street and Carden Lane; Mr Rohan had been the first Secretary of the NPA and Rohan Street bears his name. Pauline, who lives in Mitchell Street, recalled that there was another Catholic Primary School, St Columcille’s, run by the Sisters of Mercy, on the southern corner of Mitchell and Chandos Street in North Sydney Council territory
- (c) **Naremburn Shops** –.Naremburn Shops – see 5 (d).

(d) Willoughby Local Environment Plan 2012

Trisha FitzPatrick reported that members would be aware that both the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012 (WLEP) and Willoughby Development Control Plan (WDCP) are on display at Council with comments due by Wednesday 20 June. WLEP 2009 has been re-drafted as WLEP 2012. Three of the proposed Naremburn sites for re-zoning have amendments: (A) 4-10 Quiamong and 1-5 Rohan; (B) 242-248 Willoughby Road, 2-8 Dalleys and 31-33 Martin; (C) 32-48A Northcote and 1A Waters Road. These include vehicular access, traffic and linkages as well as setbacks. Of particular interest is the Quiamong-Rohan site, behind the shops, with proposed re-zoning allowing for a medium density development. Cr Coppock mentioned that it was a possible site for an over 55s development but expressed the view that any development on the site was not financially viable.

The Naremburn shops area is also included in the WDCP with specifics related to developing a proposed two-way lane with access for all shops. The area at the back of the shops is highly contentious; some of us have called it "Aldo's Lane" as he has raised this issue several times at general meetings. Cr Coppock stated that WCC 'sold off' part of the lane some time ago. Trisha said that this should not ever have happened. She said that it was time the NPA made comment about the WLEP and the WDCP and she volunteered to email a draft letter to Executive Committee Members for their input and approval to send to WCC by COB Wednesday 20 June.

(e) Traffic Committee Report (RTA, Police, State Member, WCC) – Nil to Report

(f) School for Naremburn – Nil to report

(g) St Leonard's Catholic Church – the Bells – Conditional approval has been given.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

In

- (a) 19/04/2012 – letter, Julie Whitfield, Open Space Manager WCC, Dawson Street Draft Playground Improvements Plan
- (b) 01/05/2012 – letter, Steven Head WCC, - Central Street, Tree Replacement Program
- (c) 03/05/2012 – Minutes – WCC Special meeting of Council
- (d) 07/05/2012 – Agenda WCC – Corporate & Transport Committee
- (e) 09/05/2012 – Agenda – WCC Special Council meeting
- (f) 14/05/2012 – Agenda – WCC – Ordinary Council
- (g) 20/05/2012 – email - Trisha FitzPatrick, Public Officer to Mick Nicholls, Life Member – Request for minutes of meetings.
- (h) 21/05/2012 – Agenda – Cultural & Environmental Committee
- (i) 23/05/2012 – letter – Greg Woodhams, Environmental Services Director WCC – Re-exhibition of Draft Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Exhibition of Draft Amendments to Willoughby Development Control Plan
- (j) 24/05/2012 – letter – Lyn Smith, Community Development Manager WCC, Senior Information Day Thursday 21 June 2012
- (k) 28/05/2012 Agenda – WCC – Ordinary Council
- (l) 30/05/2012 – email – Robyn Butler to David Jolly, WCC – Thank you for organising the planting of the lavender bush on the corner of Station Street and Park Road
- (m) 01/06/12 – email – Jerome Adams to Helene Kemp, Secretary NPA – apology to Helene Kemp, Secretary NPA over the clarity of his communication from last month regarding unsolicited emails
- (n) 03/06/2012 – email – Cr Stuart Coppock to Helene Kemp, Secretary – proposed dates for ECM meetings at Centre
- (o) 04/06/2012 - Agenda – WCC – Corporate & Transport Committee
- (p) 04/06/2012 – email – Nick Tobin, WCC to Helene Kemp, Secretary NPA – requesting time for ECM meetings.
- (q) 06/06/2012 – email – Brett Fitzgerald – Requesting information relating to 33 Merrenburn Ave.
- (r) 07/06/2012 – email Knud Heldt – Leaving position as Director of the Naremburn Community Centre on Friday 15/6/12.
- (s) 08/06/2012 – email – Phil Brady – notice to speak at the next meeting, Church bells and parking on Northcote Street
- (t) 11/06/2012 – email –Mick Nicholls – Thank you for sending the minutes and agenda.
- (u) 12/06/2012 – Agenda – WCC - Ordinary Council
- (v) Undated – WCC – Sportsgrounds Allocations Winter 2012, Seasonal Hire

Out

- (a) 11/06/2012– Letter – Ray's Framing – Thank you for framing the photographs from the 110th Celebration
- (b) 11/06/2012 – letter – Sir Constable Matthew Jewell – Thank you for being our guest speaker
- (c) 14/06/2012 – Naremburn Matters June issue to State Library under Copyright Laws.

7. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer Carmen Loecherer was unavailable to present the financial report for the period 10 May- 14 June 2012

Expenditure Approvals Requested:

Joann Morand - June meeting supper	56.03
Helene Kemp – Stamps, Envelopes, folders	96.50
Naremburn Matters	2,039.89

That this expenditure be approved.

Proposed: Martha Follett: Seconded: Viviane Leveaux

8. FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS (FWPA)

The next meeting of the FWPA is 16 June 2012.

9. WARD COUNCILLORS

Cr Stuart Coppock attended the meeting and commented on various issues throughout the meeting.

10. SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

(a) Development Applications received since the June meeting – 4 tabled

DA-2012/129	20A Station Street	Alterations and additions to existing dwelling
DA-2012/135	30 Lawson Lane	Alterations and additions to existing dwelling and associated works
DA-2012/152	13 Bongalong Street	New pergola and associated works
DA-2012/167	20 Dawson Street	Demolition, construction of new dwelling, ancillary and assoc works

(b) Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Group

In the absence of NPA Delegates, Frances O'Brien and Barry Shaw, Kevin FitzPatrick was appointed to attend the Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully Advisory Group meeting of 24 May and prepare a report. The meeting was chaired by Cr Giles-Gidney in the presence of Cr John Hooper, Steven Head WCC Director Infrastructure Services, Julie Whitfield WCC Manager Open Spaces, Kate Day Manager Willoughby Leisure Centre, representatives of the Naremburn and Northbridge PAs, representatives of the Northern Suburbs Netball and the Northern Suburbs Baseball Associations; there was no representative of the Northbridge Football Club or Cycling. As this was the last meeting of this Advisory Group before the upcoming Council elections, Cr Giles-Gidney thanked all 'volunteers' who gave of their time in attendance at such meetings.

Lights on Bike Path - raised by the Bike Committee, they do not want lighting except in the underpass to Flat Rock Drive. WCC are in the process of seeking quotations.

Willoughby Leisure Centre: Kevin said that as Guest Speaker Steven Head had done an illustrated presentation to the meeting Kevin's report on this matter was not necessary.

Netball Whistle update: the matter continues to be contentious with the Netballers saying the Muga whistle recommended because it is less noisy is difficult to use, there can be a time delay because of this. It requires effort to use and so beyond the capability of younger umpires. NPA Delegate Peter Turner claimed the noise generated by whistles used by the Association was excessive and gave evidence of whistle regulation of Blue Mountains Council as well as examples of whistles used in England where sporting facilities were close to built-up housing estates. When Steven Head asked Peter if he was representing the view of the Naremburn Progress Association, then pointed out that the Plan of Management for the Reserve must be observed. Kevin FitzPatrick stated that this was not so because whilst the matter was contentious for residents adjacent to the Reserve, **no vote about the matter had been taken.** The Chair asked if WCC could look at the evidence put forward by the Netball Association and Peter. Steven and Julie replied that with their current workload this was not possible. Peter and Netball representatives continued to informally discuss the matter after the meeting.

Baseball Lights: In 2007 the North Sydney Baseball Club applied to WCC for installation of five sets of lights for their field. After consultation with the community WCC granted conditional approval of the DA. Cost was estimated at \$250,000. Travis Clinch of the NSBC said that they were successful in applying for a Department of Sport & Recreation grant - \$50,000 - with matching amounts from the NSBC and WCC, a total of \$150,000 leaving a shortfall. Travis said that soccer may be also be able to use the field. Steven Head again stated that the existing Plan of Management must be observed. After the meeting Travis told Kevin that new technology may mean installation could be cheaper than when first quoted.

Incinerator Art Space Upgrade: Open Space Manager Julie Whitfield reported on the planned upgrade of the surrounding grounds. Much of the 1988 planting needs replacing. She presented us with a proposed plan of the site. Some rehabilitation of the site will be required.

(c) Events

Trisha FitzPatrick stated that she and Frances O'Brien have been co-operating on two close-offs related to NPA Events. Firstly, the President's report to WCC on the Community Street Party to celebrate 110 years since the founding of the NPA, and secondly the WCC Small Grants award of \$3,000 for Earth Hour 2012 that requires completion of an on-line Acquittal Form detailing how the NPA spent the \$3,000. The 110th report is ready to go, only awaiting the Secretary's covering letter. The Acquittal Form is to be completed by the end of June.

(d) Membership

Trisha FitzPatrick stated that there are currently 149 members on the register, with the four new members nominated at the meeting taking the total membership to 153. She said that several members had not paid their 2012 subs and as of 15 June they will be "deemed to be unfinancial and not permitted to take part in any proceedings of the Association". Several members had paid EFT; we will contact unfinancial members to remind them to pay for 2012 as soon as possible.

(e) Naremburn Community Centre –. Barry Shaw and Kevin FitzPatrick continue to meet with WCC's Steven Farr,

(f) Naremburn Matters

Trisha FitzPatrick, Editor NM, reported that the June issue had attracted comment, most of which was positive. John Tatham raised some concerns regarding the front page article on the St Leonard's Church Bells in the June issue, which had been discussed earlier in the meeting (14 June 2012). Trisha FitzPatrick noted that there is a general editorial disclaimer in NM on page 2. John Tatham asked where Trisha had got this disclaimer from, to which she replied she had inherited the disclaimer from those who had set up Naremburn Matters in 2005.

Trisha said that the front page article's information on Council's decision the Bells for St Leonard's Church had come from researching WCC Meeting Papers on the Council website and is reported accurately; the last paragraph being a comment which many people agreed with. Cr Coppock commented with regard to the April minutes that the Councillors had not chosen those on the community Working Group, this had been done by Council Officers.

Geoff Gemmell, representing St Leonard's Church said that the comments in John Tatham's email as read in full to the May meeting and reported in the May minutes, were incorrect in that, as agreed, the Church had only two representatives speak at the 12 March Council Meeting, himself and Father Rex Curry, the Parish Priest. Geoff said that the other two speakers that John Tatham had attributed to the Parish were a representative of the NPA and a Naremburn resident, not a Parishioner and not representing any group but who supported The Bells project as lodged by the Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore.

With regard to Naremburn Matters itself, Trisha stated that even with a shortfall of approximately \$150 for the June issue, we are just under \$4,000 in total surplus for NM since June 2007. In the first two years of NM, the restriction on publication of each issue was that the full cost of production be met by sales of advertising space ahead of going to print. She said that surpluses in some issues were achievable, hence the current positive balance.

September issue will need to carry statement from candidates for the WCC elections to be held on Saturday 8 September and the issue will need to be distributed promptly. In the September 2008 issue we allowed a headshot and 100 words for the top candidate on each ticket for Naremburn Ward and 200 words for Mayoral candidates. She asked Cr Coppock if he and Mayor Pat Reilly were the only candidates for Mayor of Willoughby City; his response was that there could be some others.

Trisha commended the walkers who had done a tremendous job of distributing Naremburn Matters in such terrible weather. Not only was there a deluge but also so many inadequate mail boxes making it difficult to deliver NM. She said that perhaps we need to find a good supplier of mail boxes and run an advertisement in the September issue.

(g) Naremburn Park – Nil to report.

(h) Open Spaces

This item was originally raised within the context of continuing poor maintenance to landscaping around the "Naremburn" sign opposite the Naremburn Shops, with regular monitoring and follow up required. Documentation covering various equipment levels for solar lighting is being gathered, but WCC have indicated that funding has not been allocated in the current financial year. With estimated prices running into several thousand dollars, NPA needs to decide whether to push for funding allocation. It is suggested that provided adequate landscaping maintenance is conducted, additional lighting would be of a lower priority

(i) Website

Six news items on the St Leonard's Church Bells had been uploaded; there are also Latest News items on (a) Willoughby Leisure Centre Master Plan, (b) WLEP 2012 and WDCP, and (c) the presentation made by Roger Promnitz on behalf of the NPA to the Land and Environment Court on-site Conciliation meeting at 7 and 9 Donnelly Road, the proposed child care centre.

11 CIRCULATION OF THE ATTENDANCE BOOK – 18 Members, 4 Apologies from Members, 4 Visitors

12. MOTION OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN – none for this meeting

13. NEXT GENERAL MEETING: - The **General Meeting** of the NPA will be held on Thursday 9 August 2012 at the Naremburn Community Centre 7 Central Street.

14. CLOSURE: The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.