



Another five storey building in Northbridge?

Willoughby City Council has received a Development Application for a five storey shop / top building on the north-west corner of Baringa Road and Strathallen Avenue, on the current FSM building site.

The DA consists of a five storey block, incorporating 22 residential units, two commercial areas and 49 car spaces. The proposed building will be **17.3m high, which is 3.3m above the 14m height control** as defined under WLEP 2012.

The 2003 Northbridge Town Centre Master Plan sought to address what was appearing to be a lack of fundamental guidelines and vision for the future of our commercial precinct. The Masterplan's purpose is to provide Council with a clear planning vision for the precinct to guide future change and to avoid ad hoc development.

Willoughby Local Environmental Plan (WLEP 2012) provides the legislated planning controls by which the vision is implemented. WLEP 2012 zones building in this vicinity to a maximum height of 14 metres.

The developer of the FSM site proposes an exemption from the Master Plan, as it submits that other buildings in Northbridge have already been allowed to exceed the permissible building height. The NPA has said "We reiterate our concern in regard to the disturbing precedent that this proposal is seeking



FSM building on the corner of Baringa Rd & Strathallen Ave)

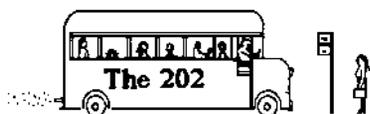
to establish."

The NPA, and many residents, have expressed concerns to Council, particularly with reference to the fifth storey and the increase in height. Residents have expressed further concerns which include; the proposed DA's encroachment on a residential street; traffic and pedestrian congestion – already a danger at this intersection; instead of sloping down the hill with the gradient, this building will be higher than the neighbouring buildings on the higher side to the north; shading of neighbouring properties and limited

parking already existing in Baringa Road.

The Northbridge Town Centre Masterplan was commissioned for a purpose. As the NPA has stated in recent correspondence "there is no point in developing a long-term vision for a city or town Centre – if Council recommends contravening it ...".

Recent development approvals have been granted for buildings that contravene the Masterplan's vision. The aesthetic appeal and future amenity of the suburb may now be under threat. Residents are asking – where is it going to stop?



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The opinions expressed in articles, letters and contributions published in The 202 do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Northbridge Progress Association or its officers. While all possible care is taken to be accurate, no responsibility whatsoever will be taken by the Northbridge Progress Association, typesetters or printers.

MEETINGS & DEADLINES

General meetings – 2016 : 7.30pm for 7.45pm on Thursday September 1, Wednesday November 23 (AGM)
Deadlines for The 202 – 2016/17 : Ads and contributions: Fridays – July 22, October 14, 2016; January 20, 2017

Support your community

The General Meeting scheduled for June 1 has been cancelled.

Any issue that the community wishes the NPA to address, can be brought to our attention by emailing the Secretary at secretary2063@northbridgepa.com.au

The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1



NORTHBRIDGE
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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Northbridge 2063

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ADVERTISING

The 202 newsletter is delivered to every household and business in Northbridge and is widely read. Our advertising rates are very reasonable. Rates are \$70 per issue for one column x 5.5cm, \$140 for one col x 11cm or two cols x 5.5cm, \$280 for two cols x 11cm and \$390 for one-third of a page. To book your ad or for enquiries, contact Penny Lye on 9958 7566 or email pelye@bigpond.net.au.

JOIN THE NPA!

NPA has been active continuously for 97 years. Our basic objective is to “preserve or improve the amenity and environment of Northbridge”. We are dedicated to raising the local community’s awareness of important issues affecting our suburb’s unique character and to providing an influential and respected voice to Council and Government. Our committee members are volunteers and NPA’s newsletter *The 202* is delivered free to every household and business in Northbridge.

President’s letter



Bring it on! Northbridge Progress Association took a positive stance in regard the Local Government Amalgamation proposal. Our approach was reinforced by the March guest speaker, North Sydney Mayor Jilly Gibson, who provided a candid perspective on the subject, indicating that she believed “the mergers will happen”, and “we must look beyond the scare and worry to find the positives”. The proposed three-way Local Government merger option was rejected by Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby Councils. With all submissions now lodged, we await the final verdict.

As a sign of the times, the past couple of months have seen a plethora of planning “excesses” in and around our suburbs. Developers have the right to test the resolve of our legislation and planning instruments, but it is the duty of our elected officials to uphold the best interests of their electorate and so be held accountable for the decisions they impose. Our representatives need to hear and be guided by the community voice. Make sure your views on all issues are heard.

The State Government has proposed that specific forms of medium density housing be assessed as Complying Development. Their proposal seeks to allow – two dwellings on blocks of 400 square metres; four dwellings on blocks of 500 square metres; and ten dwellings on blocks of 600 square metres. Willoughby Council has voted to reject most of these suggestions. Partial acceptance, though, was given to allowing three to five dwellings on lots of 600 square metres.

Meet the candidates

Local and State Government issues aside – a Federal Election will be upon us in July. A “Meet the Candidates” session has been organised for June 21 at the Dougherty Centre in Chatswood, commencing at 7:15pm. Everyone enrolled in the North Sydney electorate is encouraged to come along and grill the contenders.

New Public Officer for NPA

Finally, our NPA team is once again changing. We wish to welcome Lyndon Burke as our new Public Officer. Our sincere thanks to Simon Craddock, who has recently stepped down from this role. Simon has provided invaluable support to the NPA since the start of 2014, and we extend our gratitude to him and wish him all the best for the future.

Rob Coote

NPA is looking for a new treasurer

If you have accounting skills, a little spare time and a desire to make a contribution to your community, the NPA is looking for a treasurer to keep their accounts.

If you are interested, please contact Rob Coote on 9958 4506 or Ranald Stewart on 9958 4148 who will fill you in on what is required.

Succession planning for *The 202*

The 202 editors are looking for interested people who are willing to work with us in publishing the newsletter with a view to taking it over in the future.

It’s a great job if you are interested in writing and publishing, and is one that can be shared. Please contact Helen Gulson on 9958 6573 or Marillyn Stewart on 9958 4148 to find out more of what is involved.



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Councillor's viewpoint

by Cr John Hooper

Willoughby City Council's Haven Amphitheatre in Castlecrag is an outstanding, internationally renowned outdoor performance stage, but this local community treasure faces permanent closure after forty years of continuous performance.

In my role as Chairman of the Haven Amphitheatre Committee and on behalf of our community, I have been urging Council to commit money in the coming 2016-2017 budget, to fund or partially fund, the rebuilding of the Amphitheatre stage. This budget, due to the amalgamation, will probably be the final one for Willoughby City Council.

However, Council has refused to make a financial commitment for a new stage to replace the stage condemned as unsafe by Council engineers.

Why has this particular council asset been singled out by Council for special discrimination? Following the closure of the existing decayed stage and after two lots of community consultation resulting in an agreed design, Council has spent considerable public funds on architects, theatre consultants, engineers, hydrologists, heritage and bushland experts, not to mention countless hours of council officers' time, to get to the DA phase.

No funding commitment from Council

At a Council meeting in March, a majority of Councillors voted to complete the Development Application process for a new stage and to remove the existing structure. However, they refused to pre-commit \$420K (which is possible under the amalgamation guidelines) – or indeed any funds at all.

Without a rebuilt stage this is a considerable waste of the ratepayers' investment over the 73 years since it was transferred to Council by Marion Mahony Griffin in 1943. The Haven has been in almost continuous use as an open-air theatre since it was resurrected in 1976 by the local community.

A lack of commitment of funds may prevent Council from applying for any State or Federal grants which could assist funding a new stage, as these grants usually require a recommitment from Council that is matched by the grant dollar for dollar. Community groups are committed to fundraise to help the stage rebuild, but they need leadership and commitment from Council. Council's assistance with funding is critical but its preoccupation with amalgamation is disturbing.

If you are as concerned as I am and wish to know more, please visit <http://www.thehaven.biz>.

If you value living heritage and community theatre as I do, please contact my fellow Councillors and the General Manager and tell them so.

Cr Hooper is one of our three Sailors Bay Ward Councillors, each of whom contributes regularly to The 202.

Contact your Ward Councillors

Hugh.Eriksson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or Phone 0481 033 443

Rachel.Hill@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or Phone 0477 768 949

John.Hooper@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or Phone 0418 239 195

Cartoons

Our thanks to student Jack Schmidt, our resident cartoonist who draws his cartoons for *The 202* on a pro bono basis.

Would you like to sell quietly?

Agents often speak of 'effortless off-market sales'. However, in the past year, only 3%* of local houses sold without advertising. Notably, Belle Property sold most of them! One owner commented:

"After 62 years, I was nervous about selling... so Belle Property offered to pursue a quiet sale. What transpired, bowled me over - my house sold in a week! Belle Property has such good contacts they called in a veritable army of viewers, negotiating multiple offers and one that met all my needs. I have no qualms recommending Belle Property Northbridge to anyone who wants to sell."

Should you wish to discuss this opportunity, I'd welcome your call.

David Forrester 0425 334 330 | Belle Property Northbridge

* Data sourced from Australian Property Monitor: Northbridge & Castlecrag House sales Apr 21, 2015 - Apr 21, 2016

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Northbridge Swimming Club

Looking back over the 2015/2016 season Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club has continued to support a fun and friendly atmosphere for all our local families and friends alike.

This season we had a number of new families join the club. Quite often this is by word of mouth from our junior swimmers telling their school buddies. When the kids become involved it doesn't take too long before the mums and dads are in the water racing against other parents. All races are based on handicaps so all swimmers are simply trying to improve on their own times.

Wrapping up the season, we had a strong contingent of club members competing against the Spit (Mosman) and GyMEA Clubs at the annual Tidal Pools competition. The Spit Club hosted the event and our club won the Junior and overall point score. It was a terrific effort by all of our members.

We are a local club that supports each and every swimmer and we strive to do our best, but most of all, we have fun and laughter every Saturday morning.

New swimmers are always welcome to come and give it a go for a few weeks and if you like it, then join us for the rest of the season.

You can check our website for the official start date in late October:
www.northbridgeswimming.com

Simon Thwaites

Orana height increase rejected

Northbridge Progress Association has maintained its opposition to the increase in height of the Orana development, being built on the former CBA site, which is in excess of the Council's published guidelines on height restriction.

Under the heading "Is an extra 5.38 metres too high?" NPA's website – www.northbridgepa.com.au – summarises the recent history of Council approvals of non-complying developments in Northbridge junction.

The summary notes that both the 2003 Northbridge Town Centre Master Plan and the 2012 Willoughby Local Environment Plan (WLEP) as mentioned in our front page article, established a maximum building height of 14 metres (equivalent to four storeys) in Northbridge junction. The four storey height limit was intended "to preserve the character, scale and amenity of the precinct".

Nevertheless, an application by AW Edwards in 2015, the first such large building application since the 2012 WLEP, sought to increase the height of its building to 18 metres or five storeys. Council approved it.

Whilst Council assured NPA that this approval would not create a precedent, later in 2015 the developer of Orana, applied for a height increase to 18.5 metres, or five storeys. Council approved it.

A further height increase sought

In early 2016, the Orana developer applied for a further increase in the building height to 19.38 metres, which would then have exceeded Council published guidelines on height by 5.38 metres. The building's floor space ratio would also have increased to 2.259:1 when the maximum guidelines stipulated is 2:1. Council officers recommended approval of the application, but on April 18, Ward Councillors voted to reject the extra height proposed.

The NPA questions the purpose of developing a long-term vision for a city or town centre if significant variations are repeatedly permitted. We are in favour of appropriate development. We are, though, firmly opposed to 'opening the door' to further unrestricted building height in Northbridge Town Centre in the years to come.

Write to us

We welcome letters from residents about local issues. Letters should be sent to *The 202* editors by email to 202@northbridgepa.com.au or to PO Box 357, Northbridge 2063. Letters should be concise (preferably less than 250 words). Please include your contact details.

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From our State MP

Member for Willoughby
NSW Treasurer

I am pleased to confirm that I am one of your newest neighbours! I recently moved from the suburb of Willoughby to Northbridge. Thank you to so many of you for making me feel so welcome – whether on the bus, or at a local coffee shop, it’s been so nice receiving your advice about local ‘goings-on’.

In relation to local issues, as you may be aware, the NSW Government provides funding for local community infrastructure projects. Among the successful local organisations in the latest round, Northbridge Golf Club received \$60,000 for the erection of a safety net on the western side of the third hole to protect children and the general public from stray golf balls on Northbridge Oval. I have been working with Council and the local community to resolve these serious safety concerns.

I look forward to seeing you in the local area and also catching up with you more formally at local community events.

Please feel free to contact my office anytime to advise me of upcoming events or to ask for my assistance in relation to Statement Government matters.

Gladys Berejiklian MP

Phone: 9439 4199

willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Council rejects merger with Mosman

The NSW Local Government Minister announced on May 12 that he supported in-principle the merger of Willoughby, North Sydney and Mosman Councils. The merger would be subject to the decisions of Courts, as both North Sydney and Mosman Councils are taking legal action to prevent any merger.

The government’s May 12 announcement stated that 19 new councils had been approved across NSW and a further nine merged councils including Willoughby, North Sydney and Mosman were subject to the outcome of legal action. Administrators and interim general managers have been appointed to each of the 19 new councils, which will not hold their elections until September 2017.

Willoughby City Council voted at its March 29 meeting to oppose any merger with Mosman because of concerns about its “high rates, its asset base and the limited community connectivity between Willoughby and Mosman”.

Willoughby City Council had already approved a voluntary two-way merger between Willoughby and North Sydney Councils, which would have achieved NSW Government’s required scale and capacity for councils.

The government subsequently proposed the alternative of the three-way merger. Council received feedback from residents at a public meeting held on March 21. Public Inquiries were held by government on March 22 and 23. The outcome of this community consultation was incorporated in Willoughby’s submission opposing the Mosman merger.

In its March 23 submission to the NSW Government, Northbridge Progress Association noted that the three-way merger proposal would achieve economic benefits, such as consolidation of services, improved efficiencies, greater bargaining power with suppliers, ability to improve returns on underperforming assets, and fewer councillors and staff per population.

NPA’s submission proposed consolidation of the area near St Leonards Station which is currently split between three councils. NPA supported the system of a popularly elected Mayor, part-time councillors and three councillors per ward.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Trees dying

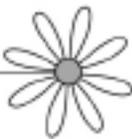
Sadly, four big, beautiful, old trees at the junction of Lower & Upper Minimbah Roads, are dying. Council officers have been monitoring these trees for some months now and whilst one seems to be trying to cling to life, it would appear the others cannot be saved.

In due course, Council will make these trees safe by removing a few branches, however, most of each tree will be retained as a habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife. I am sure many residents nearby will miss the lovely vista that has been framed by these trees for so many years. It will now be replaced with bare trunks and branches. At least they will still have life about them as a natural habitat.

Investigation by Council officers of another tree a few metres away on the opposite side in Lower Minimbah, on land which is part of a reserve, shows evidence the tree, and the undergrowth surrounding it, has been deliberately poisoned. Such wanton destruction is shameful and heartbreaking. This tree too will be left as a wildlife habitat.

We are very fortunate in our community to have so much natural bush close to the city and we must treasure and look after our environment. Our local bushcare volunteers work hard to maintain the bush for everyone’s benefit and it is saddening to see lovely trees dying.

C.M. Stoner

Betty Annette 

498 Miller St
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Animal anxiety awareness

Anxiety, depression and other psychological disorders are becoming more recognised and understood in people. They are also conditions that our pets face. Anxiety related conditions are being seen more commonly in veterinary practice due to a higher awareness from vets, closer relationships with dogs living inside more allowing their owners to be aware of these changes and changing lifestyles of owners over the last few years.

Anxiety is often a cause of many behavioural issues from separation anxiety which can be seen as crying or howling when a pet is left alone or even destruction of furniture or doors. Aggression is frequently due to an underlying anxiety such as aggression to other dogs when they are on leash because the dog cannot leave a situation they are uncomfortable with so will try and get rid of the other dog by aggressive behaviour.

Dogs can show their anxiety in a number of ways looking away, licking their lips and yawning can all be signs of being uncomfortable with the situation. These signs are very important to watch around young children as the dog may not be comfortable with them and if the actions of the children continue may lead to an aggressive response from your dog.

Cats can often have anxious behaviour such as urinating inappropriately, redirected aggression and overgrooming. This may not be apparent immediately without a closer assessment of the history of the abnormal behaviour.

When a pet is suffering from an anxiety disorder early management is important to prevent the problem worsening. Recognising the anxiety and what is the underlying cause is important to avoid building up the anxiousness. Discussion with a vet or trained animal behaviourist is an important first step to managing the issue. This can lead to a management program to help the pet cope with their anxiety. In some situations as with people this does include medication to help the pet learn to cope with their anxiety.

If you feel your pet has any of the above behaviour you can contact Dr John via northbridge@vetmed.com.



For more information
please call VetMed
9958 0177

Café proposed for Warners Park



The ground floor and bowling green is to be used for a café.

Willoughby Council is moving forward with long term plans to determine the best future use for the former Northbridge Bowling Club facilities and Warners Park Centre and bring the site into vibrant community use.

Extensive community consultation by Council helped identify community needs in late 2015. Research into site constraints such as traffic, noise, community benefits, and economic and environmental impacts have also been conducted.

The site is made up of several components including the former Northbridge Men's Bowling Club facilities (clubhouse, adjoining caretaker's cottage, two bowling greens and a greenkeeper's shed), which was returned to Council's care and control after its closure in June 2015. It also incorporates the Warners Park Centre, operating as a local community centre under Council's direct management since 2001.

Council has endorsed:

- A call for registrations of interest by August 2016, for a commercial café operator to be installed in the bottom floor of the bowling club building and bowling green.
- In the short term, the top floor of the bowling club building will function as a multi-purpose community space for hire, with minimal upgrades. This will allow the site to be utilised by the community while plans for long term refurbishments are made and implemented.
- The preparation of a draft budget for master planning of the entire site in 2016/17, depending on established commercial use.

Expressions of interest will be publicly sought from community groups and other interested parties for further use of the site, after the commercial tenants are considered and most likely will take place in late 2016.

"The Bowling Club facilities and Warners Park Centre site is a fantastic asset for Willoughby, and Council wants to ensure the way it is used in the future is to the best advantage of our local community. It's a large and complex site with many components, and we want to get it right," said Willoughby Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney.



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Nepalese village nicknames itself 'Northbridge'



Some of the houses built with funds from Northbridge Rotary bucket appeal

The people of the tiny village of Naulo Gau in Nepal were so grateful for a donation from the Rotary Club of Northbridge, that they have now adopted the nickname Northbridge Nepal for their village.

The donation of more than \$18,000 was made possible by generous local residents who contributed to the Rotary Club's bucket appeal at Northbridge Plaza in May 2015.

Northbridge Rotary's International Director, Derek Matz, said that life changed forever for residents, when the fishing village of Naulo Gau, 30 kilometres from Kathmandu, was totally destroyed by a 7.8 earthquake.

"Residents of the village were left completely homeless and had to build temporary shanty homes during the severe conditions of Nepal's freezing winter," Derek said. "Conditions were so bad that many families, including children, were sleeping in the mud and the possibility of disease was of great concern." Using Rotary funds, 12 houses were built in the past year, the largest of which accommodates 10 people. They have provided emergency shelter for these desperately poor villagers.

Northbridge Rotary also donated two brand new ECG machines to the local Banepa Sheer Memorial Hospital in Nepal, and many lives are now being saved with this equipment.



Rotary thanks community for Fiji appeal

Another bucket appeal was held to assist victims of the devastating cyclone in January, which left many remote villagers homeless. The appeal was run over two days in February by the Rotary Club of Northbridge at Northbridge Plaza and raised over \$8,800. The organizer of the Rotary appeal, Castlecrag resident David Robertson, said that the Club was amazed at the generosity of locals. "Almost everybody dug into their pockets to contribute," he said. "I think many people feel a strong sympathy for our friendly Fijian neighbours who suffered so much in this recent cyclone."

David said that the funds would be distributed to needy villages by the Rotary Club of Suva. As always with Rotary projects, 100 cents of every dollar collected will go to the recipients.



Located in Northbridge, Evolve Health and Fitness specialises in working with older adults to improve mobility, strength, cardio-vascular fitness and weight management.

A couple of years ago I became very unsteady on my feet. A friend recommended Jason at Evolve. Being an old bloke I thought I was on my way to the scrap heap. Jason didn't agree & tailored an easy program for me. After a few easy sessions my balance improved out of sight. Now at 85 the fringe benefit is that my energy & fitness levels are better than when I was a young fellow of 70. Have a yarn with Jason yourself, he'd love to hear from you, the initial consultation is free. You've got nothing to lose but your stiff joints.

— Don Wilson, Northbridge

Contact Jason today on 0420 217 106 or visit

www.evolvehealthandfitness.com

My gums bleed when I clean my teeth!



*Why is this?
What can I do?*



Thank you to Jenny of Cammeray for this great question! Having been established in Northbridge **since the 1920s**, this question would certainly have been asked at Northbridge Dentists thousands of times! Literally! Fortunately **Dr David Vickers** and **Dr Tim Clark** have the answer.

Put simply, gums bleed because they are irritated. This is usually from plaque (a sticky combination of food and bacteria) or calculus (tartar). Unfortunately at the first sight of blood, many people will stop cleaning, fearful they have damaged their gums. Don't stop! As long as you are not "furiously scrubbing," in most cases it means that you need to *keep going!* With good brushing and flossing, the gums should improve over the coming days/weeks.

Plaque can be removed with good brushing and flossing, BUT calculus is stubborn and needs to be removed by your dentist. If your gums are still bleeding despite good brushing at home, it may be a sign that you are due for a professional clean to remove all that nasty calculus! If left unchecked, this can cause deterioration in the bone and ligaments that support the tooth. The gums will then recede rapidly and nobody wants to get "long-in-the-tooth" before they have to! Persistent bleeding should be reported to your dentist.

If you have any questions email **Northbridge Dentists** at reception@northbridgedentists.com or call **9958 7530**

www.northbridgedentists.com

Bike track modifications a hit with young riders

Enthusiastic young BMX Bandits try out the new pump track



Willoughby Council has recently completed upgrading the bike track in Northbridge Park. Approximately \$20,000 has been spent to provide a more challenging course. Designed as a 'pump track', with input from professional BMX designers, the track enables cyclists to use a pumping motion to maintain speed around the track so the rider does not have to pedal. Several jumps are also a feature.

The track was heavily used in the school holidays with many children queuing for a turn. Their verdict was that the track was much smoother as the weeds and rough edges had been removed and there was more challenge involved in the circuit. Willoughby Mayor, Gail Giles-Gidney says, "It's great to see the BMX track updated and open again for community use. The upgrades mean the site is a safe, family-friendly recreation facility, designed for both fun and for the skill development of junior and experienced riders. It's a great addition to the Bonds Corner site."

On the day the new track opened, one wheelchair-confined parent, told *The 202* that he was disappointed there was no access for disabled members of the community – to the bike track, barbeque, or the tennis court. He had great difficulty getting to an area where he could supervise the group of boys he had brought to the Park. A Willoughby Council spokesperson says Council doesn't have plans to make improvements for access to this site as part of the current round of upgrades and works. However, if there is significant feedback requesting improvements for access, Council may look into including this as part of future works.

NPA's website

Why not read *The 202* on your computer, tablet or smart phone?

The current and past issues can be downloaded from NPA's web page www.northbridgepa.com.au.

The website also has useful information on current Northbridge issues, minutes of meetings, and links to local organisations.



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Two new Commemorative Plaques for Northbridge

Over the next few weeks Willoughby City Council will be installing Willoughby Civil Heritage Commemorative Plaques which will include a brief inscription of the history of the sites (as listed below) and highlight Willoughby's industrial, cultural, recreational and domestic heritage.

Northbridge Bowling Club at Warners Park will receive a plaque, to show the significance of the site for the community, saying;

The land on which the Club was built, formed part of Reg Warner's Waratah dairy farm from 1914 until the 1940s, when it was gifted to Willoughby Council for the purpose of establishing a park. The Northbridge Bowling Club was formed in May 1949 by local residents, although the bowling greens would not be opened until 1953. The clubhouse opened on April 24, 1954. As women were not permitted to bowl with the men, the Northbridge Women's Bowling Club was formed in 1957. A separate green was built, and in 1961 the ladies gained a clubhouse of their own. The two clubs continued side by side until they were eventually combined in 2001 with the Club closing in 2015.

The second plaque will be on the site where Canning's Quarry was situated in Pyalla Street, which reads;

W.J. Canning's purchase of a three acre site at the end of Pyalla Street in 1914 led to the establishment of perhaps the largest of several sandstone quarries in the Northbridge area. Canning's quarry, which was bounded by Pyalla and Nulgarra streets, was said to have supplied stone to almost every home in Northbridge during the early development of the suburb. The site was sold to Edward Gillham and Joseph Green in 1919, with Gillham retaining sole ownership from 1929. The quarry remained in operation until around the time of his death on June 30, 1940. Long since returned to its native state, the disused quarry now forms part of Flat Rock Gully.

Playground upgrades begin

After community consultation, final plans have been approved for two Northbridge playgrounds. A 'King and Castle' theme will transform John Roche Playground into a landscape of moats and bridges, with a new climbing fort and slide net.

Other new playground equipment will include a triple swing set with a baby seat, spinning net, horse rocker and sand table in the sand pit. A new circuit trike track and new accessible bubbler will also be added. Upgrades and replacements will be made to existing fencing and seating. Construction is anticipated to commence in May 2016 and be complete by mid 2016 (weather permitting).

Work has already begun on the new playground at Northbridge Park, at Bonds Corner. The playground is expected to be finished by mid-May. The bike track nearby has had a few modifications and is being well used by the youngsters in the community.

6th Annual Northbridge Castlecrag Uniting Church PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

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Councillors express interest in new roles

The NSW Government has asked all current Mayors and Councillors to express their interest in roles within the new Councils to be created after merger decisions are announced in mid-2016. The government is attempting to "ensure effective local representation is in place to meet the unique needs of any new local government area".

Between its decision and the election of new councils in September 2017, the government plans to appoint either a single person, or group of people, to act as administrators of the new merged councils. A continuation of the tenure of some, or all, existing Councillors from the former council areas will also be considered.

Current Willoughby Councillors were asked to express their interest, by April 2016, in several areas – administrator, Councillor, or member of a local representation committee or implementation advisory group.

In their applications for an interim GM role, existing general managers were asked to address their approach to leading significant organisational change and the key to service continuity and on-going improvement in a time of change. The interim GM will be in place for about 12 months.

In Willoughby's case, the new local government area is expected to be either a two-way merger between Willoughby and North Sydney Councils, or a three-way merger including Mosman Council.

The Bate family foremost in building the Masonic Lodge

The Masonic Hall must have been a very imposing building among the small, single-storied houses in Northbridge, when it was completed.

Two photos of the era show workmen proudly lined up in front of the just completed hall and it's possible the event shown in the second photo was the official opening in 1925. Both photographs have been supplied by Norm Bate, whose family was

prominent in the early development of the Masonic movement in Northbridge and in the growth of the new community.

Frank Bate settled in Northbridge in about 1920. He was a builder and he and his sons built over 50 houses in the fast developing suburb during the 1920s.



Northbridge's first hall

Frank's son Henry met up with Wilfred Poole and Jack Taylor, all Masons, and they recognised the need for a new lodge in the district.

Frank Bate was elected Chairman of the committee to plan the building of a Masonic Temple at Northbridge, and later Henry Bate joined the committee. Frank and Henry owned land at the corner of Sailors Bay Road and Harden Avenue which they sold to the newly formed Northbridge-Cammeray Masonic Hall Co. Ltd. for £352.16s.

Many of the members worked in the building trade and donated their labour, material and expertise to help build the lodge. Minutes of a meeting at the time recorded that, "Henry Charles Bate devoted practically all his time at no cost" to supervise the work.

Over 200 Masons and almost 200 guests witnessed the laying of the foundation stone in May 1925. Because of the many willing workers, Lodge Northbridge was able to hold its first meeting in its own hall just six months later, on 9th November 1925, when

pizza Tutti's

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Inside the hall
circa 1925

328 members attended. The hall was completed at a cost of about £5,000. Sometime later, Frank and Henry sold the two shops they had built next door to the Northbridge-Cammeray Masonic Hall Co. Ltd. for £3,300.

Frank, together with his three sons Henry Charles, Walter and Leonard were among the nearly 40 foundation members of the lodge, and were well represented in the list of office bearers.

A meeting place bringing the community together

The need for a hall in the developing suburb was obvious and even before it was completed reservations were being made by groups such as the Northbridge Orchestra, Brocksley College – for prize giving, the National Party, various churches for services, the NPA, boy scouts, cricket and other sporting groups. It was also a popular venue for wedding receptions.

Frank Bate was elected second Master of Lodge Northbridge and was able to install his son, Henry Charles, as third Master of Lodge Northbridge in June 1925. Frank's grandson Norm Bate married local lass, Jan McKaughan, daughter of Inspector McKaughan stationed at Phillip Street. They held their wedding reception in the Northbridge Masonic Hall, as had their aunts and uncle before them.

Pam Clifford

With Thanks to Norm Bate, Ted Bate and the Northbridge Masons.

Applications open for Community Grants

Community organisations and groups are encouraged to apply for Willoughby City Council's 2016 round of Community Grants. Small grants are available for projects that will directly benefit the Willoughby community.

Groups are encouraged to apply for these grants that can make a real difference to the lives of local residents and that create opportunities in the performing or visual arts as well as funds for individual sportspeople.

Categories include:

- Community Development
- Arts and Cultural
- The Concourse Performing Arts Subsidy

Grant funding

Grants of up to \$4000 are available, depending on the Grant category.

Applications open at the end of March and close on Friday May 30, 2016.

Visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au for guidelines and to apply.

the LOOP

The Loop bus service

The free bus shuttle service, The Loop, is operated by Willoughby Council and runs through Northbridge three times a week.

For further information visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

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*Special ends 31/6/2016



Being neighbourly at the Library

Northbridge Library hosted a successful morning tea for Neighbour Day, an initiative in conjunction with Relationships Australia, to celebrate and encourage the idea of community.

Groups who hold classes at the library were represented – Code Rangers, Jolly Readers and Sydney Voices, whose young choir delighted us with songs from the Sound of Music, as well as the JPs who continue their wonderful service here every Thursday evening from 6-8pm. Artists in the Northbridge Artist Studios were also happy to show neighbours around.

Amongst the happy chatter, there was much interest in Willoughby City Council's garden share project – Time to Grow – more about this can be found on council's website:

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Don't forget that Northbridge Library has many Premier's Reading Challenge books to borrow – all labelled to make them easy to find.

Be quick to join our new Bookclub – starting soon on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6.30pm.

Northbridge Library Opening hours are:

Tue: 10am-1pm;

Wed: 2.30-5pm;

Thu: 2.30-8pm;

Fri: 2.30-5pm;

Sat: 9.30am-12noon.

Jane Cozens
Librarian

Seniors' Week celebration



Bob Stevens, Trish Sweeney, Rotarian helper Christine Sullivan, Mat Sweeney and Mac Robertson catching-up at the lunch.

About 120 enthusiastic seniors celebrated Seniors' Week by attending the Rotary Club of Northbridge's annual Seniors' Lunch on April 15.

"Everyone seemed to have a great time and Rotarians were warmly thanked for their service to the community," the lunch organiser Rotarian Karin Eurell, said. "I was particularly pleased to see our local senior citizens enjoying themselves."

The lunch, in St Marks Hall, included a three course meal and entertainment. The hall was decorated with colourful tablecloths and flowers. The meal and drinks were served by around 40 Northbridge Rotarians, their partners and friends of Rotary. A young violinist, Karen Kong, played music to entertain the guests before the meal.

Addressing the attendees, Willoughby Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney thanked the Rotary Club for its community and charity work. She summarised the background to the Council amalgamation proposals for Willoughby and answered several questions from the floor. The Mayor then stayed and chatted to the guests and later commented that she was impressed by their interest and knowledge in community affairs.

Among the attendees acknowledged by Rotary President John Turner, were three locals who were more than 100 years old and who were warmly applauded. John thanked Lansdowne Gardens and local wine merchant BackVintage Wines for their contributions to the event.

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Rotary fireworks on Northbridge Oval

Rotary fireworks near record attendance

Nearly 3500 people attended Northbridge Rotary Club's community Fireworks Spectacular on Northbridge Oval on May 7. After 29 years, this is close to a record.

The weather was perfect, the fireworks spectacular, there was entertainment aplenty for the children and seven Rotary barbecues were flat out all night catering to the crowd. According to Rotarian Peter McNair "We had about 100 Rotary Club members, spouses and friends helping on the night. By the end of the evening we were all exhausted but our efforts were well worthwhile".

The event raised approximately \$30,000, and Peter said that, because Rotary is a volunteer organisation, every dollar of the proceeds will be used to support disadvantaged youth locally, third world health and education needs, and for emergency relief for victims of natural disasters.

Spectators included Willoughby MP Gladys Berejiklian, North Sydney MP Trent Zimmerman, and Willoughby Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney who welcomed the huge crowd and thanked Rotarians, volunteers and sponsors for making this huge community event so successful.

Rotary President, John Turner, thanked all the sponsors, Willoughby Council, The Rural Fire Service and Northbridge Golf Club, all of whose contributions made this event possible.

A brazen breach of the building code

In a building development for a private property in Northbridge, the owner/builder using a private certifier, was considered by Council to have disregarded many regulations designed to protect the amenity of neighbours. Some of these breaches include: unapproved stairway from basement store plan to ground floor; balcony sizes that have increased over that shown in the plans; areas designated 'landscaping' have been concreted over and excavations under the house for a 'plant room' that includes plumbing for a bathroom. The owner then moved into the house without a certificate of occupancy.

Concerned neighbours contacted Council and objected to the amended plans which were submitted after some of the illegal works were completed. The owner/builder responded by emailing neighbours the landscaping plans which label the 'proposed plantroom' with master bedroom, living room, etc. Some neighbours who received the plans stated that they were bewildered by the brazen proof of intent to occupy what had been approved as a plant/store room.

Council gives conditional approval for illegal works

Modifications to the DA have now been passed by Council, with a number of conditions imposed on the developer. These include removal of windows and a stairway to the basement area, removal of a toilet, a paved deck and a concrete slab and provision of a landscaping plan. It has also been stipulated that "the 'basement storeroom' is not to be used for the purpose of trade, industry, manufacture or habitable purposes".

Council's Compliance Unit is also to investigate the conduct of the Certifier to see if he should be referred to the Building Professionals Board for investigation.



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Community Gardens

Dairy Garden



Produce from the Dairy Garden

At the Dairy Garden in Warners Park, we continue to meet every Wednesday, at 9am and on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month from 9am. Bring a mug and something to share for morning tea and join us for some fresh air and garden conversation!

Janet France

Gunyah Garden



The Gunyah Garden is on the corner of 186 Sailors Bay Rd and Gunyah St.

If you would like to share or learn new ideas about how to grow fruit and vegetables, we will be at the garden every Thursday morning 9-11am, so just pop in and see us.

Contact Jan on 9415 2294 or email sarniehay@gmail.com for more details.

David Scobie Architects



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Introducing Climate Watch

Thursday, September 8, 6:30pm–7:30pm

This is an introduction to the science project Climate Watch. To find out how you can monitor for climate change in your local area and how this will contribute to the big picture of climate science in Australia.

Contact: Liz Powell on 02 9777 7871
or email liz.powell@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Bushcare Training Workshops

To be held over two weekends on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Session 1: Saturday, June 18, 9:00am-1:00pm and Sunday, June 19, 9:00am-1:00pm.

Learn why our bushland has become degraded and how council is reversing this. Find out how to effectively remove woody and non-woody weeds, not only from the bush but your garden as well, and how to work safely while doing so. This workshop includes a practical, hands-on session in nearby bushland.

Session 2: Saturday, July 2, 9:00am–1:00pm and Sunday, July 3, 9:00am-2:00 pm.

Discover how natural area management has evolved; the specific techniques being used to restore degraded bushland; the needs of native fauna on our Bushcare sites. This workshop builds on information covered in Session 1 and includes a group exercise which ties together all the information learned.

Contact: Mandy Wilson on 9777 7875
or email mandy.wilson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Introduction to Organic Produce Gardening

Saturday, August 13, 9:00am-1:00pm.

Learn how to enrich your soil, about simple garden design principles, alternative gardening methods, 'no dig' and 'wicking beds', and how to deter pests naturally in order to grow your own organic herbs and vegies.

Contact: Mandy Wilson on 9777 7875
or email mandy.wilson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

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Vivid lights up Chatswood again



During *Vivid Sydney*, the bustling Chatswood CBD will be transformed into 'WildLight – The Bio-Kinetic City', an amazing collection of engaging installations and activities inspired by the fascinating creatures of Gondwana. The lights will be turned on May 27 and then continue every night until June 13, from 5.30pm-10.30pm.

Visitors to Chatswood can take a technology-led journey into the past, beginning at the Interchange and stepping into a world of projection, lighting effects and fantastic avian creatures. Continuing down Victoria Ave, visitors will be dazzled by the vibrant digital animations of *Neon Dino Nights*. Prehistoric creatures in futuristic 3D animations will play across the façade of The Concourse and members of the public can become part of the experience by taking control of interactive mechanical dinosaur frames. Discover the *Primordial Pond* and see what's lurking beneath.

Vivid Sydney's youngest patrons can create their own unique deep-sea adventure, playing with luminescent sea creatures in the *Luminarium* at Chatswood Chase during the day. The *Luminarium* will operate in two hour blocks from 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm, and from 5pm-7pm on Thursdays.

Meet the Candidates

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Community noticeboard

BowelCare

Kits are still available in local Pharmacies until May 31 for \$15.00 each. This price covers pathology testing and notification of results to both the participant and their nominated doctor. BowelCare is a not-for-profit Rotary community service.

Blood donations

The Red Cross mobile donor van will be at Northbridge Plaza car park this year on the following Fridays, May 23 and August 19. Donations of blood can be made between 9:00am and 1:00pm. It is advisable to make an appointment beforehand. For more information phone: 13 14 95.

JP Service

Local JP's provide a free community service every Thursday from 6-8pm in the Northbridge Library, 258 Sailors Bay Rd, for certifying document copies, witnessing signatures, taking Statutory Declarations and Affidavits and all other services requiring a NSW Justice of the Peace. No appointment is necessary. For further information contact the Library: 9967 5386 or Geoff West: 9967 3262.

Northbridge Quilt Group meets on the first and third Tuesday every month in the Men's Bowling Club at Warners Park. New members are very welcome, including beginners and experienced quilters. We do not teach quilting but would be more than happy to advise. Please contact Lesley Dougan 0412322969 or rldougan@bigpond.com if you would like more information.

Senior's Computer Club

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Frustrated? Tired of asking your grandchildren to teach you how to use a computer? If so, then the Crows Nest Centre Computer Club is here to help. We teach seniors in a stress free environment. Learn how to send and receive emails and attachments, surf the web, use social media, make use of your digital photos and much more. Our services cater for members and non-members. Courses consist of four 90 minutes lessons, over 4 weeks. Yearly Membership is \$45, plus \$30 per 4 week course. Non-members, 1 on 1 lessons are \$40 per hour. Our next starting dates are: June 6 and July 11. For more information phone 9460 8866 or email: www.cnccc.org.au

Northbridge Library opening hours;
Tue: 10am-1pm; Wed: 2.30-5pm;
Thu: 2.30-8pm; Fri: 2.30-5pm;
Sat: 9.30am-12noon. Storytime for Preschoolers (3-6 years) on Tuesdays during school term: 10.30am-11.15am.



Northbridge Rotary is one of the largest in Sydney and they are actively seeking new members, both men and women. Meetings are held every Tuesday evening for dinner at Northbridge Golf Club. Most meetings include guest speakers on a variety of interesting topics. For further information visit; www.northbridgerotary.org or contact; secretary@northbridgerotary.org.



Men's shed Anyone interested in participating in activities at the Willoughby Men's Shed at Bond's Corner is invited to drop in for a cuppa and a look around on Tuesdays, Wednesdays (ladies are also invited) and Thursdays, from 10am until 3pm. Bring your own lunch. Contact: Tony Clifford 9958 0529 or 0418 220 774.

We welcome contributions to the community noticeboard. It provides free advertising for not-for-profit community and charity organisations in Northbridge. Please ring Marillyn Stewart on 9958-4148 or email 202editor@gmail.com. Editorial deadlines are published on the front page of *The 202*.



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