

# THE 202

WORKING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF NORTHBRIDGE SINCE 1919

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## Willoughby Local Centres Strategy for Northbridge

Prior to the January 31 deadline, the Northbridge Progress Association lodged a response to Willoughby Council's Local Centres Strategy, involving the development of a Master Plan for the Northbridge Local Centre. The strategy proposes three possible development scenarios to plan for a projected 18 per cent increase in Willoughby's population over the next 20 years.

The submission can be read in full here:  
[www.northbridgepa.com.au/news/](http://www.northbridgepa.com.au/news/).

### NPA Response

The NPA's submission acknowledged the importance of the Northbridge Local Centres Project. This is an opportunity to establish the planning framework and conditions that contribute to achieving good urban design for Northbridge. There have been a number of false starts in planning for the Northbridge centre. The NPA intends to make a positive contribution to the consultation and design of the final Master Plan.

In the submission, evidence was presented to justify concerns about some aspects of the report, which made it difficult to evaluate each of the three scenarios, or to consider other options.

The NPA Committee worked together to agree on a set of planning principles, which were considered necessary to underpin the master plan, as follows:

- Contextual and local
- Sustainable, efficient and durable
- Equitable, inclusive and diverse



*Current Sailors Bay Road streetscape*

- Enjoyable, safe and comfortable
- Functional, responsive and fit for purpose
- Value-creating and cost effective, and
- Distinctive, visually interesting and appealing.

Five urban design outcomes were suggested, including the key features that the final plan would need to address for each outcome so that any scenario developed could be assessed against these features. They were: community; the quality of the built form; accessibility and inclusion; respect for the different interests of neighbours living on the boundary of the Northbridge Local Centre; and economic sustainability and productivity.

Willoughby Council will now assess submissions and consider them in relation to a report prepared by external urban planning specialists before unveiling their final Strategy. For further information visit [www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au/local-centres](http://www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au/local-centres).

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### An Invitation to all Members and friends of Northbridge

You are invited to the next General Meeting of the Northbridge Progress Association.

Ian Arnott, the Planning Officer from Willoughby Council responsible for the Northbridge Local Centres Master Plan will address the meeting and discuss issues raised in the Northbridge Progress Association's submission.

7.30pm on Thursday 8 March at Northbridge Golf Club  
 Drinks, tea and coffee may be purchased at the bar.

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 care has been taken to ensure that information contained in The 202 is true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information. No responsibility will be taken by the NPA, typesetters or printers.

## DATES

**MEETINGS** : 2018 7.30pm for 7.45pm on 8 March, 6 June, 6 September, 28 November (AGM)  
**DEADLINES** : 2018 Ads and contributions - 13 April, 20 July, 19 October



**NORTHBRIDGE**  
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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Northbridge 2063

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The 202 newsletter is delivered to every household and business in Northbridge and is widely read. Our advertising rates are very reasonable. Rates are:

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## President's letter



This is my first ever President's report. I was secretary of the NPA under Margaret Greaves in the early 1980s before she and I were elected to Council. Margaret used to say you had to live in Northbridge for 40 years before you were accepted so I am almost there.

I thank our departing President Rob Coote and committee members Marillyn Stewart and Helen Gulson. They have all given great service and have kindly offered to continue to assist as needed.

I welcome our new committee members Gillian McFee and Rachel Hill. Both bring a wealth of experience in local

government and community involvement. Gillian is a past Director of Community Services at Willoughby Council and was a major instigator in the setting up and construction of the Dougherty Centre and apartments with long time Mayor Noel Reidy, who still lives in Northbridge. Rachel finished her term as Sailors Bay Ward Councillor in September and is keen to continue her involvement with the community. Her contribution is especially welcome as I believe this is the first time since incorporation of Willoughby Council that we have not had a councillor who lives in Northbridge. We need to change that in three years' time. Please start identifying likely candidates now!

The NPA has often been referred to as the Anti Progress Association. I am hoping to change that sentiment, as our mandate is to represent the views of the community at all times and those who get involved always have their voices heard. It is through positive community collaboration that we will achieve progress for our suburb.

The first step towards this goal is our positive engagement with Council on the Local Centres Project (*see article on page one*). This is potentially going to result in huge changes to Northbridge. Please come to our March General Meeting to hear more and express your views.

We are hoping to set up some working groups to do research and make recommendations on such things as Warner's Park (the old Bowling Club site) and the Plaza and surrounding areas. Please be ready to nominate and express your interest now.

I am available (as are all committee members) to discuss any relevant matters with you. We want to be representative of the whole community of which each of you is part. To get in touch please contact me at [president2063@northbridgepa.com.au](mailto:president2063@northbridgepa.com.au).

**Max Menzies**

## A new look for *The 202*

The NPA is celebrating the start of the new year with a new-look *The 202*. The committee agreed that the quality of information delivered by the newsletter warranted a colour upgrade to improve the experience of readers and deliver our advertisers an eye-catching result. You will also note a newly-designed masthead on our cover page to bring the publication into line with more modern expectations.

We will continue to deliver informative and relevant news to the Northbridge community and welcome your feedback on the changes via our Facebook site or letters to the editor. We will remain a quarterly community publication and always appreciate the contributions and suggestions of our suburb's residents.

## What is the NPA?

The Northbridge Progress Association (NPA) is a non-profit community organisation that represents local residents. It has been active for 99 years, with the goal of preserving or improving the general amenity and environment of Northbridge. All residents are warmly encouraged to join the NPA for a nominal annual fee to stay informed of important issues affecting our suburb's unique character. The NPA provides an influential and respected voice to Council and Government. Our committee members are volunteers and the NPA's newsletter, *The 202*, is delivered free to every household and business in Northbridge.



# Australia Day Awards

One current and one former long-time Northbridge resident made the Governor General's Australia Day Honours List this year.

The NPA's own committee member **Angelos Frangopoulos** was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia. He received his award at a ceremony in Sydney on January 26. Mr Frangopoulos was recognised for significant service to the broadcast media sector, to higher education and the promotion of journalistic standards, and to the community.

He said, "I'm deeply humbled to be recognised in the Australia Day honours. I began my journalism career in Central West New South Wales where I learned about the importance of community."

His long list of service includes contribution to the media sector via his current role as Australian News Channel's Chief Executive Officer and Managing Editor - a position he has held since 2004.

On sparing the time to contribute to the NPA as a committee member, Mr Frangopoulos said, "It's a privilege to be able to contribute in a very small way back to the place I live, here in Northbridge."

"The NPA is such a terrific community group with people passionate about making our neighbourhood something even more special. I encourage everyone to take part."

Former long-time Northbridge resident, **Dr David Branagan** was also awarded an AM for significant service to the geological sciences as an academic, researcher and author, to professional groups, and to the community.

Dr Branagan lived in Northbridge for 42 years, before moving to Willoughby 10 years ago. His is a familiar face at the Northbridge Baths, continuing to swim there a few times a week. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Geological Society of Australia in 1992 and was a founding editor of *The Australian Geologist*. He has also authored or co-authored over 250 publications. His book *TW Edgeworth David: A Life* - a biography of the famous Antarctic explorer who went south with Mawson - was short-listed for the Prime Minister's History Award in 2007.

Of his award Dr Branagan said: "I'm honoured and very pleased to have my work and community participation appreciated along with the other award recipients. I would like to thank my wife, family, friends and the colleagues who nominated me."



*Angelos Frangopoulos AM with his family at the Australia Day ceremony in Sydney*



*Dr David Branagan*



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## Cleaning up Northbridge



Two Northbridge sites are planned for Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 4 March.

A group will convene in Clive Park from 9am until 11am. Site Co-ordinator: Charles Alma ([calma@bigpond.net.au](mailto:calma@bigpond.net.au)).

A second clean up will be staged at Northbridge Baths from 1pm to 3.30pm, with participants to meet in the car park beforehand. Site Co-ordinator: Grant Sheldon ([sheldon5@tpg.com.au](mailto:sheldon5@tpg.com.au)).

Everyone is invited to become involved, help the environment and meet members of the community. Please note that collection bags and adult-sized gloves are supplied.

To volunteer on the day, visit [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/join/](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/join/) and type 2063 into the location finder.

## Rear of library

At its meeting on 27 November 2017, Council resolved to call for expressions of interest (EOI) for a community facility at 258 Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge, relating to development of the rear portion of the library building. The Property and Construction Services Manager and the Community Life Manager are working together to prepare the EOI documentation, which is expected to be released in February.

## Leisure Centre Upgrade

Work is underway on a major upgrade to the change rooms at Willoughby Leisure Centre. Due for completion in March, the upgrade will provide separate dry change rooms, more family change room spaces and new male and female change room facilities for members and visitors.

## Plaza car park

Council has written to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to advise of its intent to levy a special rate on the property owner of the shopping centre. Council has also written to, and met with, AMP, the managers of the Centre. A final submission was forwarded to IPART this month (February). The tribunal will consider Council's and AMP's submissions before making a final determination. It is proposed that the levy be imposed for three to four years and the works, if the levy is approved, would be undertaken to minimise disruption. It is proposed that design work will commence at the beginning of the 2018/19 financial year, with construction works commencing post Easter 2019.

## Enforcing boat trailer legislation

Willoughby Council's Rangers undertake regular patrols of the public road system, as well as responding to complaints, to ensure compliance with legislation, which dictates that boat trailers must be moved within 28 days. They are also exercising the provisions of the *Impounding Amendment (Unattended Boat Trailers) Act 2015*.

## REMINDER for Northbridge kayak/canoe/dinghy owners

Council will be disposing of unattended and unidentified watercraft in accordance with the provisions of the *Impounding Act 1993* at Northbridge Marina in coming months. Call 9777 1000 to confirm ownership and provide your contact details.



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## Councillor's Viewpoint



Firstly, a Happy New Year to our readers and may 2018 be another productive year for everyone. At the last NPA meeting I mainly covered two points and am now happy to provide an update on them.

Firstly, regarding the slow Wi-Fi internet speeds at Northbridge library. Over the holiday break I was able to follow up on this situation and I am pleased to say that the transition to the new technological infrastructure should be complete by the end of February. This means that all Willoughby City Libraries, including Northbridge Library, will have faster internet that will ensure that the community has an adequate system for their online needs.

Although most homes have internet, I do note the fact that around five per cent of the Willoughby community does not have such a service. Therefore, it is imperative that there are adept alternatives available, such as at the library. This ensures that those who do not necessarily need a constant internet service at home will still be able to pay their bills online, send emails and conduct other online administrative tasks at the library.

Additionally, the high school and university students who rely upon these services for the completion of assignments, research tasks and finals preparation, demonstrate the requirement for sufficient public facilities.

There has been some concern regarding the recent introduction of the share bicycle scheme around the Willoughby LGA. As the Council delegate on the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) alongside Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney, I had a follow-up phone call with the General Manager of NSROC during which I was informed about the regional approach that the Councils on the north shore will be collaborating on together. The General Managers of each Council, together with NSROC members, will each meet during the month of February to discuss this.

Feel free to email me at [brendon.zhu@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brendon.zhu@willoughby.nsw.gov.au) if there is anything I can follow up on. For the latest updates, I can be found on Facebook under "Councillor Brendon Zhu" or [www.facebook.com/CouncillorBrendonZhu](https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorBrendonZhu).

Clr Brendon Zhu

## Trolley folly

A reminder that abandoned Woolworths trolleys can be brought to the attention of the Woolworths trolley contractor on 0422 223 429. Please include a photo, as well as the address details.

## Seeking ideas for the Centenary

2019 marks 100 years since the establishment of the Northbridge Progress Association.

This is a significant achievement and the NPA is seeking ideas from the community about how best to mark the occasion.

Do you have historical stories or photos to share?

Is there a longstanding community member you feel should be recognised?

Were you a part of the NPA in years gone by and feel certain achievements should be recognised?

### Contact

[202@northbridgepa.com.au](mailto:202@northbridgepa.com.au)  
and let us know!

## Ray White Northbridge break records...

Whether it was a home or apartment, or even a house with no water views, the team of Rose and Denise at Ray White Northbridge achieved many of the highest selling property prices in the Northbridge area last year.

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### Beautiful Funerals

#### Why Rhonda wants to say hello – and to help you say goodbye.

Until recently, local Celebrant Rhonda Voyzey would often walk her 15 year old miniature Schnauzer, 'Salty', between Northbridge and Cammeray, crossing over Long Gully Bridge. Salty's a little old for that long walk now, but Rhonda still wants to talk about a different kind of crossing over.

"Death is one of life's events that we approach with the least amount of enthusiasm", she says. "But if we can accept it as a natural part of life, we can break down the barriers of fear and trepidation. Death is as sacred as birth – the flipside of the same coin."

Rhonda is part of a network of Celebrants and professional Funeral Directors who are revolutionising the funeral industry by working with families to create a more authentic funeral experience and to make creative choices – a better way to say goodbye.

Rhonda, who organises as well as conducts funerals, explained, "I want people to know that they don't have to have a traditional funeral – black suited attendants in top hat and tails with the high costs and cookie-cutter processes of traditional funeral companies. Picaluna prides itself on offering open and transparent pricing. A funeral can be of any shape or size and does not have to be a traditional church or chapel service.

So what makes a great goodbye? "It can and should be a joyous occasion celebrating the life that's been lived. It should be authentic, marking the years of contribution and joy, and the love that's been shared. If people leave feeling comforted, uplifted and even content, that's a good thing."

So if you see Rhonda and Salty out walking, she'd love to stop for a chat!

**Call Rhonda on 0407 180 535, email [rhonda.voyzey@picaluna.com](mailto:rhonda.voyzey@picaluna.com) or visit [www.picaluna.com](http://www.picaluna.com) to find out more.**



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## Letters to the Editor



### New Street Library

I'd like to introduce a new member of our Northbridge community – our street library, located at the corner of our home at 27 Weetalibah Road. Please walk by and help yourself or your kids to any books. You may also wish to leave a book to share, but this is not necessary.

The idea behind the Street Library movement is that they are accessible from the street and are an invitation to share the joys of reading with our neighbours. The street library website (<https://streetlibrary.org.au>) states that "Street libraries are a window into the mind of a community;

books come and go; no-one needs to check them in or out. People can simply reach in and take what interests them; when they are done, they can return them to the Street Library network, or pass them on to friends. If anyone has a book or two that they think others would enjoy, they can just pop them into any Street Library they happen to be walking past. They are a symbol of trust and hope – a tiny vestibule of literary happiness."

I would love to thank our community for embracing the library so wholeheartedly. I love seeing kids running past with a big smile on their faces and a book tucked under their arm that they have found in the library. I equally love seeing adults looking through and taking what interests them. The environmentally conscious part of me also loves that instead of us reading a book and then sticking it on our bookshelves to gather dust, we are sharing with our neighbours and friends.

If you would like to install a library of your own, just check out the website. You can build your own, or buy one and paint it yourself like we did. They even have some gorgeous ones already painted. The Street Library movement in Australia set a mission two years ago to have 500 libraries across Australia in three years and they reached that goal in December last year – a year early! Their current mission is to have 5,000 by the end of 2021. I would highly recommend having your own street library – for us it has been an entirely positive experience.

Happy reading everyone!

**Jodie Mayer**

### Dear Editor

It saddens me to see evidence of inconsiderate smoking in our lovely suburb. In the past few months I have seen a council bin on fire and witnessed two people smoking under the bridge in Flat Rock Gully. To be surrounded by beautiful nature and smoking inconsiderately is shameful. They could have easily caused a bushfire.

People should be encouraged to think about where they are smoking and take more care when disposing of their cigarette butts.

Regards,

**A concerned resident**

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# Letters to the Editor

## Up to 20 per cent increase in Northbridge population?

I wonder how many Northbridge residents realise that Council has a project underway which could see Northbridge's population increasing by up to 20 per cent in coming years? Hopefully, many residents submitted comments about the Willoughby Local Centres Project by the due date of January 31, as invited by Council.

Council's project includes three scenarios for Northbridge, the largest of which – Scenario Three – proposes building 532 new apartments up to five storeys high. The scenario proposes an extraordinary 50 per cent increase in residential density (or FSR) compared with the present controls. If adopted, this scenario would increase the suburb's population by about 20 per cent and change the character of Northbridge forever.

All three scenarios contemplate major multi-storey apartment developments in Northbridge Town Centre, in the area now occupied by Northbridge Plaza and Council's Plaza car park and along Sailors Bay Road opposite Northbridge Plaza.

My perception is that Northbridge residents value highly the low-density residential nature and family-oriented character of our lovely peninsular suburb and would be opposed to substantial further development of Northbridge Town Centre or Northbridge Plaza. Most residents simply don't want "canyons" of multi-storey developments in their suburb. Also, according to recent Council consultation, the community doesn't want Northbridge Plaza redeveloped; they want it to remain a neighbourhood shopping centre, not developed into a regional shopping mall. And we're all dismayed by the suburb's growing traffic, parking and access issues and don't want them exacerbated by over-development.

Without understanding the impact of each scenario on residents' amenity, vehicle volumes, traffic congestion, parking issues, public transport, local school capacities and so on, it's hard to reach a decision. But I reluctantly gave qualified support to Scenario One, which proposes developing 287 new apartments within the existing approved zoning, height and FSR controls. I strongly opposed the radical changes to zoning, height and FSR controls advocated in Scenarios Two and Three.

Malcolm Lye

## Council meetings now live streamed

Willoughby Council meetings are now streamed via a live broadcast online, with the recordings available for download for two years after the meeting. Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney said the change will encourage further engagement with residents and improve accessibility for people who cannot attend the meetings.

"We want to encourage the community to become more involved with council meetings and decisions and let people know they're welcome to attend in person or watch online," she said.

Council meetings are held twice a month in the Council Chamber at Victor Street, Chatswood from 7pm. Agendas are available from 5pm on the Tuesday before the meeting. Minutes will be made available from 5pm on the Thursday after the meeting. Watch live video streams at <http://webcast.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/>.

## Do I floss or Pikster?



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Secondly, some people with diminished manual dexterity will find Piksters much easier to handle than conventional floss. Some people will use both.

Either way, floss or Piksters should be used once daily to keep your teeth clean and your dentist happy! If you are unsure which to use, Dr David Vickers and Dr Tim Clark are happy to assist you and help determine which size of Piksters or floss works best for you.

If you have any questions email Drs Clark and Vickers at [reception@northbridgedentists.com](mailto:reception@northbridgedentists.com) call 9958 7530 or visit:

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## Local museum open to the public

WILLOUGHBY DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Willoughby Museum, located at 58 Johnson St, Chatswood, reopened in January and will open every Sunday from 1 to 4pm. *The City Surface Exhibition* is a current key attraction.

The next exhibition, *Celebrating Willoughby City's Heritage, Cultures and Communities* will open on 19 April 2018 as the museum's contribution to the Australian National Trust's 2018 Heritage Festival. Its theme is 'My Culture, My Story: Celebrating the diversity of cultures that have shaped our shared heritage'.

The Willoughby District Historical Society & Museum was established in 1974 to encourage the study and appreciation of the history of the Willoughby District.

Its volunteers research and conserve the rich tapestry of Willoughby's past, maintaining local history records, studying Willoughby's social, cultural and industrial history, organising exhibitions and speakers.

## No floodlights for Tunks Park

At a meeting of North Sydney Council on 20 November 2017 present councillors voted unanimously to proceed with a Plan of Management (PoM) for Tunks Park that excludes floodlighting and artificial turf.

It was agreed that oversight of the PoM process be returned to the Division of Open Space and Environmental Services.

The purpose of the PoM is to identify a long-term vision for the park that reflects the park's qualities and values to be protected. It also aims to establish how the park's competing needs and priorities will be balanced in the future. A public exhibition of a draft PoM is scheduled to be made available to the public in April or May of this year.

## Trip of a lifetime for Northbridge Rotarians



Members of the Northbridge Rotary club, Liz Grey and Ros Virtue, visited Nepal in October to further support the school in the district of Sagar-Bhajanje that had been damaged by a 2015 earthquake.

As reported in the November issue of *The 202*, two classrooms at the school had been rebuilt with a \$23,700 donation from Northbridge Rotary.

Ros said, "Kathmandu was the first part of the journey. It is a very busy city, ramshackle, polluted, filthy, chaotic, with inadequate roads and no road rules or street signs. The famous Durbar Square World heritage site which was devastated during the earthquake is still damaged and most buildings were propped up with poles.

Liz and Ros purchased 40 kits in Kathmandu for the Day for Girls program - one of the most successful programs at the school. The kits were then carried by a porter to the school, which is very isolated and difficult to reach.

"We met with Danish Rotarian Kurt Lomborg, who oversees a non-government organisation called HIPRON. HIPRON runs a number of schools in the Solu Khumbu region in Nepal. We also met the mayor of the region, Namgyal Sherpa, and the president of the Kathmandu Rotary Club," said Ros.

"It was an amazing adventure and we met some wonderful people and established long lasting acquaintances and connections."

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## Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club going strong in its 93rd season



Swim club members having lots of fun at a typical Saturday morning meet

The NASC is having a terrific season, with an average attendance of more than 70 in recent weeks. Membership is again well above 120. NASC is a family club and the majority of our members are kids from three to 14. We start at 8am every Saturday for one and a half hours, with a varied and inclusive program and all are welcome.

The current swimming season is now at the halfway point. We are yet to lose a day to rain and entries have been strong once again. We are nearing our Championship events and also hosting the Annual Tidal Pools Carnival on the afternoon of Sunday 25 February.

Northbridge is the current Tidal Pools title-holder so members will be pulling on the lycra to defend the trophy on a fun day of age-based events. We will be joined by The Spit (Balmoral), Gympsea Bay, Narrabeen and a new entrant, Balmain.

The Club is appreciative of Council's commitment to the maintenance of the Baths, which, as they say, is "live and free." This is unusual for a public facility.

During the pre-season the Baths were subject to remedial work funded by Council that keeps this wonderful facility up to scratch. This included replacing the surrounding netting, a refreshed BBQ area, pontoon work and plumbing fixes. At season end there is a plan to re-turf the grassed area. Meanwhile the water is excellent and replaced every day!

**Chris Cahill, President NASC**

### 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](mailto: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.



## A new look for local art gallery NSVA

As owners of the Northbridge School of Visual Arts (NSVA) and Gallery 307 since July 2017, the Rennie family's vision for the business is to retain a high-quality venue for teaching and exhibition of all art forms, whilst making the venue available to Northbridge residents as a place for private, corporate and community activities. The family has invested back into the gallery – modernising the workspaces and offering new and improved classes.

A recent innovation during the Christmas holidays was the trial of a Junior Masterclass aimed at students aged nine to 13+ years who have already developed basic art skills. These classes were extremely successful and NSVA intends to continue them on a monthly basis. FUN ART parties are held for kids on weekends and at other times by arrangement. After school and holiday art programs are also available.

Gallery 307 offers exhibition space for groups and individual artists and the venue is available for a wide range of private, charitable, commercial and other functions, including yoga, music, poetry readings, wine tastings etc.

The gallery is open most days until at least 5.30pm and outside of these hours by arrangement.

For further information contact NSVA on 9958 1298.

**Andrew Rennie,  
Director NSVA**



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# Sparkling summer holidays at the Baths



Visitors have been enjoying exceptional water clarity at The Baths

Summer has brought some of the most beautiful weather and tides enjoyed for years down at Northbridge Baths. Even the scattered storms and showers did not cause the seawater to lose its refreshing clarity – the clearest during summer in living memory.

The fortnightly “spring tides” of the full and new moons became a six-monthly “king tide” in early January. On 3 January it was 2.07m, half way up the decking’s green skirting boards. The highest recorded since 1865 was 2.40m in 1974, which would have covered the deck. There is generally an 18-year cycle when the sun, earth and moon are in line and at their closest, so mark your diary for 2027!

Local journalist Sarah Whitelaw (7) reports that she enjoyed her holidays feeding the fish, swimming in the shallows and building sandcastles. Lots of fish enjoy the shelter of the Baths’ pylons and decking. Most common are Yellowfin Bream. Because they are protandrous hermaphrodites, after spawning most of the male mature Yellowfins turn into females! (Wow, just like clownfish - including Nemo). They eat small fish, shellfish, and are fond of oysters. The recent de-oystering of the pylons must have provided a feast. Perhaps one will break the 58cm record size?

Sister Anne Whitelaw (13) was an eyewitness to a near-catastrophe at midday on 7 January. Huge crowds had flocked to the Baths to avoid greater Sydney’s second hottest day on record (41 degrees in Northbridge). An Angophora tree dropped a limb over the crowded grass area. Anne reports an empty stroller was crushed, but there was only one mild head blow and some minor scratches.

Our thanks to Council lifeguard Adrian Prendergast whose training and quick-thinking maintained calm. He checked for injuries, quickly cleared the area and cordoned it off. Although arborists inspect and lop trees in public parks every year, not all risks can be identified. To be on the safe side, Council quickly dispatched a treelopper in a cherry picker some 15 metres up into all the surrounding trees, along Widgiewa Road and the car park to trim dead or suspect branches.

New couch turf will be extended during Autumn, and improved seating and shade facilities are being discussed.

**Guest reporters Anne (13) and Sarah (7) Whitelaw, with Bruce Wilson for Friends of Northbridge Baths**

## An Invitation



**Book your tickets!  
May 31st, 2018**

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in aid of disadvantaged youth and  
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## Northbridge Golf Club – not just for golfers

The community role that Northbridge Golf Club performs – such as acting as an important meeting venue for many local groups – was recognised in the Club's recent rent review with Willoughby City Council, which took particular account of the ongoing community contributions and benefits that the Club provides and its long history in the area.

The golf course's reconstructed fourth hole is close to completion and will provide a tremendously challenging addition to the course. In the Pro Shop, our young new professional Nathan Stubbs can introduce you to the game, meet your equipment needs or help you hone your golfing skills.

For the younger boys and girls, the weekly Juniors' Programme continues to be a fun way to introduce kids to the fundamentals of the game. With the State Government's Active Kids Programme underway, the Club is registering itself so the annual sports rebate can be used to pay children's membership fees.

The club successfully hosted the Australian Open Series FootGolf Tournament last November, attracting international participants. Why not give FootGolf a try yourself? With so many activities available, both members and non-members are encouraged to explore the benefits of this important community facility.

**Philip Lewis, President**

## 1st Northbridge Sea Scouts

Northbridge Sea Scouts had another successful Christmas Tree Sale in 2017, selling out of all our Christmas Trees. We are very grateful for the continued support of the community and hope to see you all again later this year!

Our scout group has been selling Christmas Trees for more than 26 years, with all funds raised going towards camps, essential equipment and expenses such as life jackets, sails, tents and shed repairs – all necessary for the Sea Scouts to undertake scouting activities throughout the year.

The majority of funds from our 2017 Christmas Tree sale will help towards the restoration/rebuild of the boatshed.

For further information about joining us visit [www.northbridgescouts.org.au](http://www.northbridgescouts.org.au).

**David Herridge**



## Willoughby Community Men's Shed



*A Mary's House representative takes delivery of two cutting boards made by WCMS*

The Men's Shed had a very productive year in 2017 and we expect a busy 2018.

One of the most deserving of our projects has been Mary's House. The WCMS has provided Doll's Houses and Service Stations, along with Jengo sets and cutting boards. The Shed has also been making bat boxes and native bee enclosures for local schools.

We are looking forward to a Council decision soon on new premises. A larger workspace will allow us room to continue with our worthy community projects.

The WCMS is currently open between the hours of 10am to 3pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the shed at 296E Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge (entry through the Golf Club car park). New members welcome. Contact Tony Clifford on 9958 0529 or 0418 220 774.



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## The Dairy Garden



The garden has been producing some wonderful summer vegetables. We have had good crops of tomatoes, radish, corn, kale and cucumbers, although

the heat has been hard on others, which have bolted or not grown at all.

Over the next month we will be planning our Autumn garden and have some new vegetables to try, such as red shallots and Egyptian walking onions (a perennial), together with some late bean and corn crops to take us through to February. We all look forward to cooler weather.

We have recently been donated a new airobin for composting and gladly accept any donations.

There are many jobs in the garden, from watering and weeding to building bean teepees, so we are sure to find something to suit you. Everyone is welcome to join us, from beginner to advanced. Find us at Warners Park on Wednesdays 9.30-11am and first Saturday and third Sunday of the month from 9.30 to 11am.

Janet France

## Northbridge Sustainability Group

A group of like-minded Northbridge residents has met with the aim of setting up a Northbridge Sustainability Group to reduce waste created in the suburb (and improve overall waste management); and encourage re-use and recycling in the spirit of "thinking globally by acting locally."



The group's first sustainability goal for 2018 is to encourage cafes in Northbridge to join the "Responsible Cafés" movement, of which there are currently none. Responsible Cafes offer a small discount (20-50c) to customers who bring their reusable cup for their takeaway coffee.

There is growing awareness in the community that single-use disposable coffee cups are not recyclable due to their heat-resistant plastic linings, meaning they languish in landfill. Australians currently use one billion of these disposable cups per year! Residents are encouraged to use

their reusable cups and politely ask their local barista if they offer a discount. Weight of numbers making this simple behavioural change will help make this initiative a reality.

The group would also like to encourage residents to give away, donate or sell unwanted usable items, instead of discarding them via Council clean up. The *Northbridge and Friends Buy/Sell/Free* and *Lower North Shore (Sydney) FREE Stuff* and *Low Waste Living* Facebook groups both offer excellent alternatives to contributing to landfill.

Sign up via Facebook to the **Northbridge (2063) Sustainability Group** to get involved.

## Gunyah Community Garden

The distance that one can of Italian tomatoes travels is more than 16,220 km. This equates to more than 3.5 tonnes of carbon emissions – even more reason to grow tomatoes and other vegetables. Come and join us each Thursday from 9am in the Gunyah Garden, located in the grounds of the Northbridge Uniting Church (near the roundabout on Sailors Bay Road and Eureka Street).

### Northbridge Golf Club Play FootGolf

Weekdays  
from 3pm  
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[www.naturalvoicesnorthbridge.weebly.com](http://www.naturalvoicesnorthbridge.weebly.com)  
or look for us on Facebook



## Growing up and old in Northbridge - remembering Bob and June Stephens

Our mum, June Greenfield, was born in 1922 in Harden Avenue, just after WWI. It was a time when market gardens prevailed in the area and trams ran from the city to Northbridge. In 1923 our father Bob was born in Willoughby.

They met as teenagers at Northbridge Baths and spent many years associated with the Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club, Bob being a life member. Social activities of the time included going to the cinema at Northbridge Picture Theatre, where the Crystal Car Wash now stands.



WWII intervened, with Bob enlisting as an 18 year old in the Signals Second Division. June's service to the country was working in the Dominion Parachute factory. When Bob was demobbed they married in 1946 at St Mark's Church and settled into life in Harden Avenue, building their home on what was the rose garden of June's childhood home. Bob was an electrician and serviced many of the families of Northbridge and the surrounding suburbs. June was the homemaker, as few women worked outside the home in those days. With three sons – Neil, John and Peter – and Bob to look after, there was plenty to do. In those days milk, bread and provisions were delivered to your home and shopping was just in the strip shops along from the

Junction. It was not until 1961 that the Plaza first opened.

Life in Northbridge involved swimming, golf and the boys' schooling. Bob also swam at the Norths League Club, making many friends along the way.

North Sydney Leagues was the team to support and June's claim to fame was that she was alive when they last won a premiership in 1922. Sadly Bob was never to have this privilege.

Holidays were simple all through their married lives and they enjoyed going to Sawtell on the north coast every year until age prevented them.



After retirement Bob and June stayed on in the family home and I'm sure many of you would have seen them up at the Plaza and stopped for a chat. Sadly June passed away in 2012, aged 90, dementia having taken its toll. They had been together for 75 years and married for just under 66 years. Bob stayed on in the house managing to look after himself with the aid of his trusty motorised scooter. He was able to get to all the services he needed right at the Junction and shops.

In July last year his health deteriorated and he passed away in September aged 93. He had only ever lived in his childhood home in Salisbury Road, Willoughby and Harden Avenue.

The whole suburb of Northbridge had been their home, from social activities to work. Our memories are that of a happy life and enriched friends.

**The Stephens Boys**



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## Northbridge Community Fireworks

Saturday 12 May 2018,  
Northbridge Oval



The Rotary Club of Northbridge will again hold the annual community fireworks event in May 2018. 100 per cent of profits raised go towards aiding disadvantaged youth and families in our community, local rescue services, as well as aiding medical breakthrough research. Be sure to mark this family friendly event in the diary.

Volunteer assistance offered by members of the community - on the afternoon and/or evening, is keenly sought!

Please contact Rob on 0417 139 884 to express interest.

## Northbridge girl cycling 900km for Type 1 Diabetes awareness



Kate Mathewson is training hard for the upcoming challenge.

Kate Mathewson has lived in Northbridge for over 20 years, went to Northbridge Public School, then Wenona and is looking for sponsorship for the Type 1 Challenge from 15th-20th April – a 900km, five-day cycling challenge from Melbourne to the Barossa Valley with around 10 others. She will then be participating in the 120 km Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) One Ride on April 21st.

Kate works for JDRF in St Leonards and decided she wanted to do this ride – never having attempted anything like this distance before - to bring public attention to Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) and those who live with the disease. Sufferers have a lifelong necessity for frequent daily blood glucose monitoring and insulin injections – an enormous mental and financial burden on them and their families.

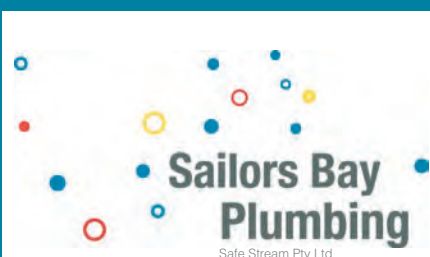
T1D, unlike the more commonly talked about Type 2 diabetes, is an auto-immune disease that currently has no cure and renders those living with it unable to produce insulin which turns sugar (glucose) into energy. Without daily blood glucose monitoring and multiple daily insulin injections T1D is life threatening.

Kate's goal is to secure \$5,000 in sponsorship for this event and she is currently training hard. Any sponsorship would be very gratefully received! To sponsor Kate go to her fundraising page: <https://jdrf-ride-2018.everydayhero.com/au/kate>

For more information, please feel free to contact Kate at [katemath55@gmail.com](mailto:katemath55@gmail.com).

Phil Mathewson

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# The Northbridge Teacher with a secret



*Northbridge Public School 2nd Class 1934  
taught by Mrs M Leonard*

Mrs Leonard, nee Margaret Fleming, was a teacher at Northbridge Public School from January 1925 until her retirement in 1940. In 1925 she taught 5th class at a salary of three pounds 15 shillings and twopence.

Some of her students still remember Mrs Leonard. They agreed she was short and plump, though some thought she was bad tempered, while others remember her as being a positive person.

But there is another side to Mrs Leonard – she was an Irish Rebel who was interned without trial in Mountjoy Gaol, Dublin, because of her involvement in the Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916.

The Irish had been revolting against British rule in Ireland since 1798 and in 1916 the Irish Volunteers, along with their women's auxiliary Cumann na mBan, joined with the trade union based Irish Citizen Army to take over a large part of Dublin for almost a week. Over 500 people were killed and 2,600 were injured, and 200 buildings were destroyed by British bombardment.

Margaret Fleming was born in County Kerry in 1874 and in 1914 she became a foundation member of the Liverpool branch of Cumann na mBan. She became President – a position she held until 1922. In April 1916 she led a group of women from Liverpool to Dublin to participate in the Easter Rising. After delivering orders to another group, she was not able to join the women who entered the rebel headquarters in the GPO in Dublin, but managed to return to Liverpool.

In 1919, at the age of 45, she married Joseph Leonard, a carpenter from Sligo who was an active member of the Liverpool Volunteers, taking part in arms running and other military operations. In March 1923 Joseph and Margaret Leonard were arrested in Liverpool under the Restoration of Order in Ireland Regulations and interned without trial in Mountjoy Gaol, Dublin. Margaret later wrote from Sydney "after our release we were compelled for obvious reasons to leave Liverpool, and like many previous exiles came out here where we found a haven."

Margaret's father was a schoolteacher and Margaret followed his profession, receiving her teaching certificate from the Irish National Board of Education in 1902. In England she gained further qualifications in drawing, physiology, hygiene and mathematics. After moving to Sydney, she was appointed to Northbridge School in 1925, which was described as "literally a bush school." It had only been in operation for two years.

Joe worked as a carpenter on various jobs including the Spit Bridge, Cockatoo Docks, Garden Island and the Union Steamship Company, and acquired a portfolio of properties, mainly in Northbridge, where the Leonards lived in Woonona Road. With such a revolutionary background Joe attracted the attention of the Australian

Security Service. His file shows that during WWII Joe was the subject of allegations of disloyalty for acts such as failing to stand for the national anthem in the Northbridge Picture Theatre (now Crystal Car Wash).

Margaret had been teaching 2nd class in 1940 when she reached retirement age. The school inspector placed on record "one's appreciation of the sound and faithful work which has characterised her service throughout with the Department," and added that he wished she could stay on as teacher. Her headmaster, Mr J J King, added "I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of your conscientious attention to duty and of the highly efficient service rendered by you."

Margaret Leonard died in 1946, aged 72. It is unclear whether her workmates knew that this well-respected teacher had been imprisoned as a rebel, and would have been called a "terrorist" these days. An article entitled *Margaret Fleming: Irish Rebel to Sydney Schoolteacher* by Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker was published in *Descent*, the Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists, in December 2016. Parts of that article are reproduced above with the permission of the author and the SAG.

**Pam Clifford**

# Community Noticeboard

## Fundraiser for The Haven Ampitheatre

Patricia O'Callaghan will perform a one-off Sydney show on Saturday 24 March 2018 at The Concourse Theatre, Chatswood to help raise money to rebuild the Haven Ampitheatre in Castlecrag. The program will showcase songs by Leonard Cohen. For more details or to make a tax deductible donation visit [www.havenpromotions.com](http://www.havenpromotions.com). To book call 8075 8111, or visit The Concourse Box Office.

## Northbridge Public School Students Reunion Lunch

Were you a student at Northbridge Public School 40, 50 or even up to 80 years ago? We would love to see you for a reunion lunch at the Northbridge Golf Club on Friday 6 April. All former students and partners are welcome. Lunch is \$35pp. Bookings essential: contact Pam Clifford at [pamc@cliffordmarine.com.au](mailto:pamc@cliffordmarine.com.au) or 9958 0529.

## Seen something strange in your neighbourhood?

Did you know that if there is anything in the local vicinity that raises concerns such as: abandoned share bikes, rubbish, overflowing bins, blocked drains, water leaks, illegal posters, filthy footpaths etc, you can report these to Penny Martin at Willoughby Council: [penny.martin@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:penny.martin@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au).



## Freemasons Notice

Lodge Frenchs Forest United No 249 of The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT holds regular meetings at the Northbridge Masonic Centre, corner Sailors Bay Rd and Harden Ave, on the second Wednesday of each month. All Freemasons, whether attached to a Lodge or not and visitors from interstate or overseas, are invited to attend. Enquiries to: David on 0404 891 051, Sam on 0408 174 410 or by email to: [sam@strykowski.com](mailto:sam@strykowski.com).

## Library News

The launch of our new catalogue and system has been a success. If you have a Shorelink library card (Stanton, Mosman, Manly or Lane Cove) remember to come in and sign up for your new Willoughby City Library card.

School is back and so the **Premier's Reading Challenge** will be in full swing. Northbridge Library has many books to get the kids back into reading this year, as well as many Junior Readers for those just starting out.

**Pre-school storytime** continues every Tuesday 10.30 to 11.15am during school terms and our **Lego Club** is held on the first Friday of every month - all ages welcome.

The **Tech Savvy Seniors** program begins again in March and includes an excellent variety of free courses held at Chatswood Library. Keep a lookout for some courses to be held at Northbridge throughout the year.

For more information see the Willoughby Library website or subscribe to our Library eNewsletter.

## Northbridge JP Service

Northbridge JPs continue to be available in the Plaza every Tuesday from 10am-12pm. The desk is located on Level 1 opposite *Seed Woman*, or near the car park entrance on the Ground Level in the hallway leading to Tokyo Mart.

The free service includes:

- Certifying copies of documents
- Taking Statutory Declarations
- Taking Affidavits.

JP services are still available at Northbridge Library every Thursday evening 6pm-8pm. For further information contact Geoff West on 9967 3262 or 0400 131 774.

We welcome contributions to the Community Noticeboard. It provides free advertising for not-for-profit community and charity organisations in Northbridge. Email Fiona Daunt and Deanna Rose at [202@northbridgepa.com.au](mailto:202@northbridgepa.com.au). Editorial deadlines are published on the front page of *The 202*.



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