NORTHBRIDGE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THE 202

WORKING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF NORTHBRIDGE SINCE 1919

AUGUST 2024 CIRCULATION 2700

PLANS EMERGE FOR NORTHBRIDGE HOTEL SITE

From this...

To this...Developer's Concept for the Northbridge Village/Hotel site

In June, a Development Application (DA) was lodged with Willoughby Council for a complete redevelopment of the site at 57-69 Strathallen Avenue, also known as Northbridge Village together with the adjacent Northbridge Hotel.

The proposal, if approved by Council, will mean a totally new look and feel for the entryway to our suburb.

Most will agree that the site is long overdue for renovation. The underutilised and dated strip of shops is an eyesore and the car park difficult and dangerous. The heavily used bus stop outside the dry cleaner could be more comfortable and accessible for commuters and school children.

The proposed new building will comprise ground-level retail, two levels of parking and 24 apartments. It will have a landscaped

(continued p. 14)

Northbridge's Global Climate Diviner

Northbridge resident Liz Courtney settles onto a couch then comes out with the phrase that seems to explain her story: "I really like to work at speed," she declares.

She's just back from picking up two major awards at the 2024 Women Changing the World Awards in London, presented by Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York.

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Liz Courtney with Sarah Ferguson

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Your membership enables the NPA to...

- facilitate community consultations on key issues affecting our suburb
- engage professional independent advice
- hold special meetings on issues of community concern, such as the Beaches Link Tunnel
- host community engagement events, such as Biggest Morning Tea and Meet the Candidates

NPA Membership

We need you! Get involved in your local community. Northbridge Progress Association membership is available online and is valid for 12 months from joining date. Visit **www.northbridgepa.com.au** and click on membership, or scan the QR code left to be taken directly to our website. Email **info@northbridge.com.au** for more information.

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DATES

2024 NPA meetings: 18 September, 2 December (AGM)
The 202 publication deadlines for Ads and contributions: 18 October

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$420 for one-third of a page.

President's Letter

When the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus announced 'the only constant is change' he must have been thinking about Northbridge.

In this edition of our newsletter, we look at the changing face of our suburb, beginning with a DA being lodged for complete development of the old Northbridge Village site at the southern entry point into our suburb. It's early days yet, but concerns are already being raised about the loss of our beloved Northbridge Hotel from this precinct, so will the benefits from a development such as this outweigh the drawbacks? Keep watching this 'constantly changing' space.

A few pages into this edition, you will also read about proposed changes to another Northbridge iconic site, the Northbridge Golf Club, where substantial renovations are being planned down the track. At face value, the development looks exciting and worthy of support from golfers and non-golfers alike. An exciting work in progress!

Meanwhile, on 14th September (weather permitting) Northbridge Rotary will light up our skies with their annual fireworks display so join our community on Northbridge Oval.

On a more global stage, it has been a pleasure to feature one of the truly great climate 'change agents' of Northbridge, Liz Courtney who can not only see what is happening to our planet but is doing her utmost to address it. Congratulations Liz on winning two major Women Changing the World awards earlier this year and for making a difference in all our lives.

From change, we move in this edition to celebration with the centenary of yet another suburban icon, the Northbridge Baths. Please join us on 12 October as part of WCC Emerge Festival to celebrate 100 years of our local water hole!

Next year will mark Northbridge Swimming Club's own centenary so that will be something to look forward to also.

In the meantime please…please don't fish illegally inside Northbridge Baths! There are so many other fishing options to explore in and around Middle Harbour. Fishing hooks and swimmers feet simply don't mix!

Back on the theme of change, we've attempted to keep the Northbridge community informed about broader changes which are indirectly affecting us. Public transport-wise, the new Chatswood to Sydenham Metro, with stations in North Sydney and Crows Nest, may now change the way a number of us from Northbridge will use public transport locally. Has the era of 'Active Transport' for Northbridge now arrived?

I would like to finish by acknowledging the contribution made by two of our beloved Northbridge residents – former Willoughby Mayor, Noel Reidy and our outgoing Northbridge librarian, Jane Cozens.

The passing of Noel Reidy midway through this year saddened all, including those who worked with him on Willoughby Council. NPA Secretary Gillian McFee worked closely with Noel during that period. She spoke not only for herself, but no doubt for others in noting how Noel shaped her career at Council.

And finally, a close friend to many of us (and family to me) Jane Cozens has recently retired as Customer Experience Librarian at Northbridge Library. Jane has been a teacher, tutor and mentor to many since her arrival in our suburb in 2009. Her 'Northbridge Library News' which featured on The 202's back pages has fostered and promoted the joy of reading to a broad local demographic, not the least being our children. We wish you well, Jane, and thank you for making a difference to so many.

Warm regards,
Rachel

Rachel with Federal Member for North Sydney, Kylea Tink and Willoughby Mayor, Tanya Taylor celebrate Biggest Morning Tea

The opinions expressed in articles, letters, contributions and paid advertisements 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 as 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, designers or printers.

Northbridge's Global Climate Diviner

cont. from page 1

The Women Changing the World Awards celebrate and recognize women achieving outstanding success in areas such as sustainability, humanitarian work, leadership, advocacy, technology, product development, education, health and innovation.

"These awards aim to inspire women worldwide to unite for a brighter future," said Liz who has long been recognised globally as an award-winning Australian documentary writer and director renowned for her impactful films on climate change.

She's won gold Media Communications awards for her cinema work including The Tipping Points of Climate change series and many others. She's also picked up a silver award for her work in sustainability and technology focused on education, and was recently a key speaker at Climate Week in Sydney.

Born and educated in Melbourne, Liz gained a BA in music and English at Monash University then came to Sydney to take up a job in public relations. She and her husband bought their "dream home" in Northbridge in 1999 and became involved in the Northbridge community, primarily with the Northbridge soccer club, with all three of their children progressing to state level.

A change of career saw Liz start up a film production company - redirecting her focus onto the profound impacts of climate change on our planet's ecosystems and future generations. With a proven flair for compelling narratives and global perspective, she spent the next 20 years directing over 55 documentaries - winning numerous awards across a range of projects and has been the Artist in Residence at the Earth Observatory of Singapore for several years.

"I am an environmental filmmaker and climate change activist first and foremost," she admits. "I'm dedicated to conveying the urgency of climate change through compelling narratives."

Her transformative journey began with the 2010 documentary *Cool School Antarctica*, guiding 40 teenagers to the first Global Youth Climate Summit. From there she graduated to impactful storytelling - exploring Earth's interconnected systems from the Amazon Rainforest to the Greenland Icesheet and more.

Liz's latest project, *Antarctica - The Giant Awakens*, sheds light on the rapidly changing landscape of West Antarctica, where rising temperatures pose significant threats to global sea levels. Through her storytelling and collaboration with organisations such as Starlink, she has managed to achieve the first live-television cross to news networks in Asia. This has enabled scientists from the Earth Observatory of Singapore to bring the critical threat of sea-level rise to millions across Asia, and Oceania, urging coastal communities, businesses, and governments to drive mitigation strategies in these regions.

Looking ahead, Liz remains committed to making social impact through her film documentaries - using an innovative App to empower individuals to commit to a 5% reduction in their personal carbon footprint. "Through a comprehensive social media strategy and engagement with influencers, I'm aiming to mobilise global support for this pledge." she said.

BIGGEST MORNING TEA GOT EVEN BIGGER

The NPA's Biggest (ever!) Morning Tea had something for everyone

The NPA raised around $2,000 for the NSW Cancer Council at our Biggest Morning Tea on 25 May this year. The event had massive support from all of our local political representatives.

Federal Member for North Sydney, Kylea Tink, Tim James (and son Xavier) MP, Mayor Tanya Taylor and Councillors Hugh Eriksson and John Moratelli were all in attendance, with a steady stream of local residents calling in to savour the food and refreshments on offer at Bellambi Square.

A huge thanks to those who contributed to our Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser and to our delegates and community that turned up. Special thanks go to Woolworths Northbridge, The Local Café, Northbridge Studio Pilates and St. Marks Church and Pre-school. Not to mention Terese of Classic Cuts of Northbridge for her beautiful cannoli!

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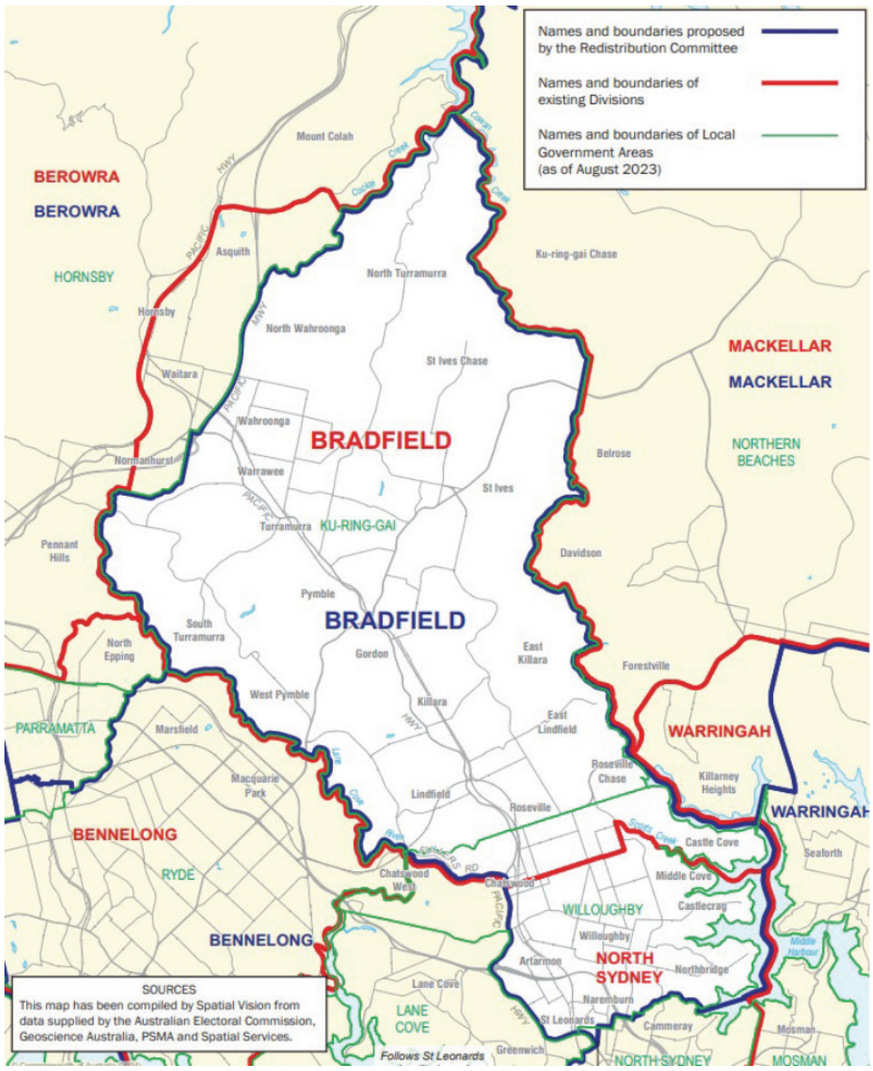
Welcome – potentially - to the federal seat of Bradfield

In mid-June this year, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), an independent agency, revealed plans to abolish the federal seat of North Sydney, currently held by Independent MP Kylea Tink. For Northbridge residents this means – potentially - at the next federal election, you could be voting for candidates in the federal seat of Bradfield, currently held by Liberal Party member, Paul Fletcher.



Proposed district of Bradfield (source: Australian Electoral Commission)

The AEC Redistribution Committee's report, including maps, was made available electronically on the AEC website (**www.aec.gov.au/NSW-redistribution**).

The proposed redistribution of federal electoral divisions is being shaken up before the next election because of slower population growth across the state. In July last year, the Electoral Commissioner determined that New South Wales' entitlement would decrease from 47 to 46 members of the House of Representatives.

Currently, the North Sydney electorate covers 53 square kilometres including suburbs from Kirribilli and Woolwich on the Harbour foreshore up to Lane Cove and Chatswood on the western and northern outskirts and as far east as Northbridge and Cremorne. The North Sydney electorate dates back to the 1901 federal election, making it among the oldest seats in the state. The current boundaries were last changed in 2016.

The change would see the suburbs of Willoughby, Northbridge, Castlecrag, Middle Cove and Artarmon move into the seat of Bradfield. North Sydney, Kirribilli, Waverton, Cammeray, Crows Nest, Wollstonecraft and Cremorne would move into the seat of Warringah held by independent Zali Steggall.

The seat of Bennelong, held by the ALP's Jerome Laxale, would expand to take in suburbs further west like Lane Cove, Woolwich, Greenwich, Longueville, Hunters Hill and parts of Chatswood.

In a statement made at the time of the federal electoral boundary announcement, Kylea Tink MP, Federal Member for North Sydney said "As the proud independent representative for the people of North Sydney, I am obviously disappointed by today's draft boundary announcement from the Australian Electoral Commission.

"May 2022 was a turning point in Australian federal politics, and North Sydney was one of the first communities to stand up that year for independent representation. My focus remains on the community of North Sydney, the incredible team working with me and the thousands of volunteers and donors who helped bring North Sydney's voice back in 2022."

Members of the public and organisations were invited to lodge written objections against the proposed redistribution by 12 July.

The finalised boundaries of electoral divisions will be announced in **October 2024**. However, electoral events will not be contested in these new electoral divisions until a writ is issued for a general election following the expiry or dissolution of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM KYLEA TINK MP: THE HOUSING CRISIS

The housing crisis in Australia is real as costs associated with finding and maintaining a home grow faster than wages. Rental vacancies are at all-time lows with 169,000 households on public housing waiting lists while another 122,000 people are experiencing homelessness.

Meanwhile, projected housing supply remains low and growing numbers of individuals and families are sleeping on the street, in their cars or living in tents.

No community is immune, as people frequently share that housing challenges are literally keeping them awake at night. It's not just the ability to afford a home but the security of tenure, proximity to jobs, and concerns about whether children and elderly parents will have long-term housing.

Ultimately, the concept of a home is so much more than shelter - it's security, self-expression, relationships, and family, and the very idea of home ownership is embedded in our culture. Yet we are now seeing people who, despite their best efforts, can only dream of homeownership.

The crisis has been a long time in the making and consecutive governments are equally responsible for it.

According to Professor Cathy Sherry, "For ...three decades, residential property has been treated primarily as an asset class for wealth building…. we need to recognise residential property as essential for stability and societal contribution, ensure its fair distribution, and reform property rights to prevent harm and promote basic human dignity."

For these reasons, Senator David Pocock and I recently collaborated to introduce a Private Members Bill simultaneously in both houses of parliament, which would establish a strong, overarching framework to give coherence to housing initiatives and set a roadmap for long-term housing reform.

The Bill, which draws inspiration from Canada's National Housing Strategy Act 2019, sets out processes to develop, implement and maintain a National Housing and Homelessness Plan, aimed at facilitating a human rights-based approach to housing.

While it sets objectives and goals for the Plan and establishes both the **National Housing Consumer Council** and the **National Housing and Homelessness Advocate**, it does ***not*** prescribe policies and programs. Rather, the government of the day would be responsible for its own Plan.

Backed by over 100 individuals and organisations including leading academics, industry experts, economists, peak bodies and advocates, this Bill could be the way forward as it provides a collective understanding of the rules of the game and puts human rights at the center of our ambitions.

To learn more about this work please visit my website: kyleatink.com.au

Kylea Tink MP

A STORY OF COURAGE...

Sometimes we are reminded of why we do the job we choose to do. I had one of these reminders last week at Flex Body and I wanted to share it with you.

Michelle* is in her early 40s and several years ago was diagnosed with MS. Understandably, she was devastated. The pain associated with her condition was debilitating and her confidence and motivation plummeted. With negative thoughts came weight gain and Michelle sank into depression.

She was inspired to try some gentle exercise and after daily walks past the studio (for about 12 months), Michelle popped in.

We started her on a few private classes to help her gain a benchmark and knowledge of the way her body moves. She quickly moved to group classes and now does a healthy mix of Yoga Slow, Reformer and Pilates Mat classes. Even after a few classes Michelle's daily pain was considerably reduced and with it her determination and motivation grew.

When I spoke to Michelle she told me how good she's feeling, and how a close friend commented on how freely she appeared to move. She told me how well she's now sleeping and most importantly, that she now has hope. Michelle has changed how MS impacts her daily life. She has taken control and is now living better every day.

I would like to celebrate Michelle, and everyone else who has taken difficult steps to just keep moving forward. **By moving your body, strengthening, building flexibility and confidence - you are winning. Congratulations!**

Website www.flexbody.com.au **Anita Gilbert, Owner, Flex Body Northbridge**

FLEX BODY

ADVERTORIAL

Remembering Mayor Noel Reidy OAM 24 July 1932 - 15 May 2024

Photo courtesy of Willoughby City Library

Longtime Northbridge resident Noel Reidy had a long and fascinating career and contributed so much to our community.

Noel was elected as Mayor of Willoughby for a record 15 times between 1975 and 1991. In 1987, he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to local government and the community.

Originally a telecommunications engineer with the Post Master General's Department, his transfer to the Lower North Shore in 1964 resulted in the Reidy family settling in Castle Cove where he lived for all his Council time before moving to Northbridge. After serving as alderman, he was elected as mayor in 1975.

He presided over a period of rapid change in Willoughby as the Chatswood commercial centre developed into the largest retail centre outside the Sydney CBD, the Chatswood Mall and Transport Interchange were developed, the Bicentennial Reserve project was opened in 1988 and the City of Willoughby was proclaimed by the Governor of NSW in 1989.

Northbridge resident Max Menzies who knew Noel well said of him: "He was absolutely the best mayor in my time since 1973. He was responsible for the Dougherty Centre and many other infrastructure achievements. Things actually happened during his time."

Another person who knew Noel well is NPA Secretary Gillian McFee, who served as Community Services Co-ordinator for Willoughby Council from 1977-1983. She recalled:

"The Council that Noel led during this time was inspired. As well as attending to the usual roles expected of local government, Noel had a broader vision around providing community services.

During my time at Council Noel led important initiatives that resulted in the construction of the Dougherty Community Centre, Willoughby Leisure Centre and Council-operated child care centres in Artarmon and Chatswood. A Youth Centre, also in Albert Avenue Chatswood was developed under Noel's leadership.

In the days before publicly funded disability services, Noel also presided over the establishment of the DART scheme – Disabled Alternative Road Transport and continued support for the Chatswood Neighborhood Centre.

A community arts officer was appointed to the Community Services Department and this position lay future foundations for the vibrant community arts program that has evolved overs subsequent years.

Through these groundbreaking achievements in community services, history will show that Noel Reidy laid the foundations for a strong community legacy that continues today across the Willoughby Local Government area. He achieved this by being bold and visionary and in bringing out the best in Council staff and people around him. To this day, I often reflect on how this role at Willoughby Council shaped my own career in the years that followed."

Noel is survived by his wife Mary, sons, Michael, John, Paul and Geoff and thirteen grandchildren.

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THE OWLS CAFÉ – NOT JUST A COFFEE SHOP

Joey Yang with two of his dedicated staff – Maria (left) and Noi

The Owls Cafe sits alongside the roundabout in Sailor's Bay Road, a stone's throw from Northbridge Public School. The backstory of its owner and manager, Joey Yang, has wings of its own.

Joey arrived in Australia twenty years ago as a South Korean student to study English in Sydney. Following his studies, he moved to Townsville working at one of the big resort hotels there.

After four years, he and his wife, Stellar, and young son moved to Sydney where Joey's immediate family members reside. Joey spent a few years opening and managing cafes in Chatswood, then, with that experience behind him, he found a café in Northbridge (then called "Cafe 202") up for sale.

Joey bought the business in 2015 and renamed it "The Owls" after brainstorming with his wife about potential business names. The Owls eventually became his sole focus and is now a local social hub.

"The Owls is my first café and business headquarters," he said. "I like the area – next to the public school and I like the people here."

"Stellar and I were thinking about decorating all the walls and benches with owls, as a joke. We saw in Australia that people like owls and now about fifty percent of the owls decorating the café come from our customers who bring them in to us, as well as other things."

The Owls offers a cafe breakfast and lunch menu, which includes homecooked biscuits and bakery goodies and even snow cones, as well as a full range of non-alcoholic beverages. Joey has recently added some Korean barbecue dishes to the menu. Sometimes he and his staff manage to drop orders into nearby customers' homes, such is their relationship with their 'locals'.

"I want to say thank you to the Northbridge community,' said Joey. "I know the names of all our customers, their children and even their dogs who are attracted to our café by the smell of the bacon that we cook."

And the good news?

"We're here for the long haul," he affirmed.

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NORTHBRIDGE BATHS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Northbridge Baths is set to mark a milestone with its 100th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, 12 October 2024. This historic event promises an afternoon of nostalgia and community spirit, as locals gather to honour a century of memories at the beloved landmark.

The festivities will kick off early afternoon with a Welcome to Country by Auntie Jean Moran, followed by the upbeat sounds of a 1920s swing band, transporting attendees back to the era when the Baths first opened. In keeping with the birthday theme, a special cake-cutting ceremony will feature a grand custom Northbridge Baths birthday cake and a delightful selection of cupcakes for a lucky 100 people to enjoy.

For those looking to make a splash, the event will also feature water activities and swimming competitions, perfect for all ages and skill levels. Children and the young at heart can try their luck in the Catch a Duck game, with an array of prizes up for grabs. The event will also showcase stalls from various local community groups, providing a unique opportunity to engage with the diverse and vibrant Northbridge community.

Fitness enthusiasts can participate in stretching classes led by Studio Pilates Northbridge or be amazed by the Northbridge Knockouts skipping performance, while those interested in environmental issues can learn from guest speakers and explore Willoughby Bushland's informative stall and display. The 1st Sailors Bay Sea Scouts will be on hand to satisfy appetites with a traditional sausage sizzle.

Adding to the day's festivities, a special display will chronicle the 100-year history of the Northbridge Baths, offering a fascinating look at its evolution and role in the community.

There will be a free shuttle bus that will loop between the Baths and Northbridge Plaza. The top of Widgiewa Rd will be closed for local traffic only, accessibility drop off and the shuttle bus to avoid congestion of vehicles. Attendees are encouraged to take public transport or to walk down.

A full schedule of activities will be provided closer to the date.

The "Sailor's Bay Baths" in its early construction stage.

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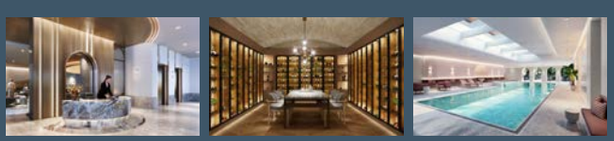

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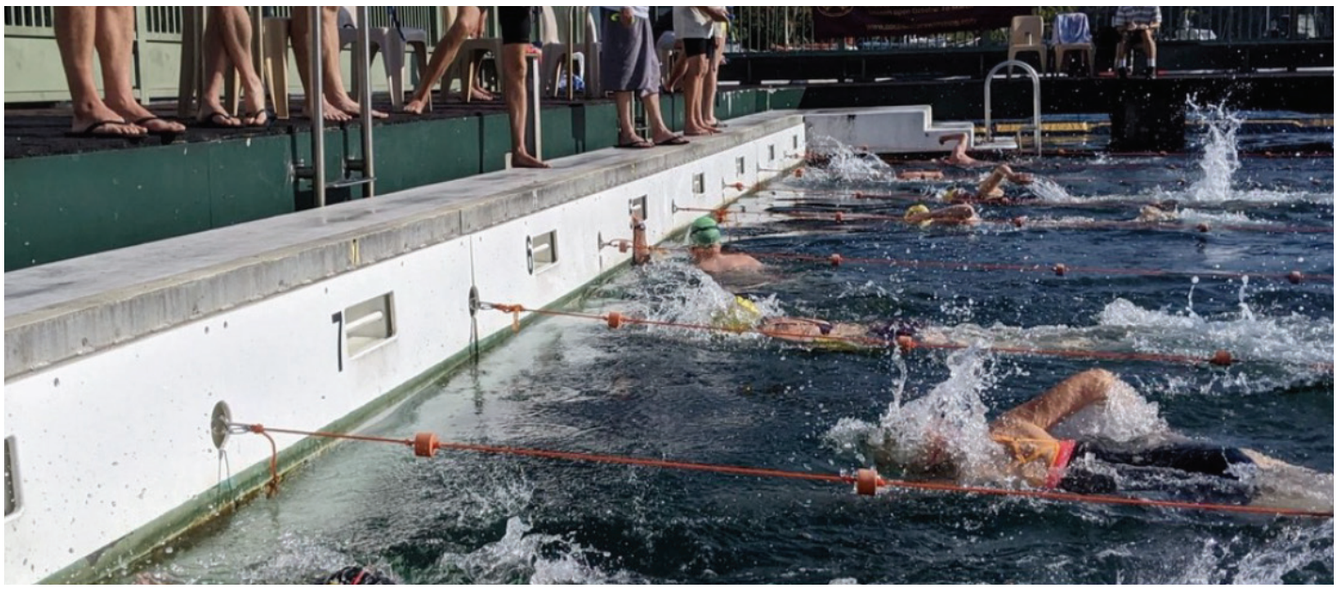
Northbridge Swimming Club Centenary - 2025



The Northbridge Swimming Club was inaugurated in February 1925. As the Club approaches its 100th season, those associated with it will be celebrating in style and in a variety of ways.

Commencing with the celebration at Northbridge Baths on 12 October 2024, the swimming club season will commence a couple of weeks later. Then on the Saturday closest to the actual day the Baths was opened on 8 November 1924, we will celebrate further.

The Club is hoping to compile photos and stories from members past and present. These can be forwarded to Kym at the below email address. We would love as many stories and photos as possible so future generations will know the importance of this Club and its history.

Of these plans are still being finalised by Club committee members but we will keep everyone updated. If you would like to be added to the Club's email database, please email Kym at **president@northbridgeswimming.com.**

Meanwhile, keep an eye on our Facebook page and our club website **www.northbridgeswimming.com.**

A bit of Baths history
Here are some questions our readers have been asking about 'The Baths':

Q1. Why was it named, in 1924, the "Sailors Bay Baths"?

A: In the 1880s when the Municipal Council first proposed public bathing places, the whole area had been mapped and explored from rowing boats, as so much of the bushland was difficult to access overland. Eleven years earlier, the name "Northbridge" had been adopted for land development purposes. In 1920 "The Castlecrag Estate' had been the name given by Walter Burley Griffin to the southern slopes of a then unnamed peninsula bought for development. A 1924 photograph taken from Castlecrag shows how the waters dominated the land with no houses visible on the slopes of the two peninsulas. Only in the 1940s did the name "Northbridge Baths" become official.

Q2. When did the original 8 metres wide Baths become 70 metres wide?

A: During the Depression from 1929, Willoughby Council supported its impoverished residents by employing family men two days per week. The Baths, Northbridge Oval stone wall and many stone road bridges and walls are their enduring legacy nearly 100 years on. The large stormwater pipe - and roadway collection system was constructed during the 1930s, and a new northern pier joined up to the first Baths.

See you at the Centenary on 12 October!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters from residents about local issues. Letters should be sent to **editor@northbridgepa.com.au or to PO Box 357 Northbridge 2063**. Letters must include the author's name and contact details. We reserve the right to edit letters for space constraints.

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FAREWELL AND THANK YOU JANE COZENS

Northbridge librarian Jane Cozens

For longer than she can remember, Northbridge Librarian Jane Cozens has been delivering updates of "Northbridge Library News" for each issue of *The 202*.

Her official position at Northbridge Library – until her retirement in July this year - was "Customer Experience Librarian". And 'customer experience' is what her job there has really been all about, given her joy of reading – and helping others in the process.

Jane grew up in St. Ives and graduated from Canberra University. After a stint in WA as well as travelling around Europe, she returned to Sydney and worked for several years in desktop publishing and university research, moving into a house in Artarmon where she and her husband still reside.

While her two daughters were at school, Jane completed a Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Library and Information Management). "While I was studying for this degree, I used to go to the Artarmon Library with my kids and I became friendly with the librarian there who suggested I become a librarian."

While doing her degree, Jane did some volunteer library work at some of the local schools which included casual work at Northbridge Library (then located alongside Northbridge oval). She became librarian there in 2009. Willoughby Council then purchased the property where the Library now stands at the corner of Sailor's Bay Road and Namoi Road and Jane moved along with it.

Jane received a Pride of Workmanship award from the Northbridge Rotary Club and here's a few reasons why. She has:

- Started three then four book clubs - all of which are still going strong.
- Put about 20 Duke of Edinburgh students through their community service.
- Organised author talks and presented adult learning workshops on subjects such as writing family memoirs, cryptic crosswords and various children's activities.
- Won a peoples' choice award at the local Uniting Church's annual photographic competition, with her winning entry being exhibited at last year's Northbridge Public School Centenary celebrations.

"I've seen families come and go during my 15 years at Northbridge Library,' said Jane. "From pre-schoolers coming to story-time with parents, grandparents or carers, to the children going through the local primary schools and then onto their HSC after they've been able to study in the Northbridge library upstairs."

"I will miss the community and my daily contact with everyone here," she admitted.

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- Vendors 45 Baroona Road, Northbridge

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Rose Farina | 0404 492 616
Denise Woo | 0413 098 073
Jeff Woo | 0403 280 189

McGrath Northbridge

Active Transport - What's the business case?

A schematic overview of the European cities with 30 km/h speed limits, along with their target goals

Earlier this year, the Australian Government committed $100 million to a new national Active Transport Fund that will upgrade and deliver new bicycle and walking paths to support zero emissions travel and provide a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians.

Active Transport (or Travel) is a description of physical activity undertaken as a means of transport. This includes walking, cycling and the use of non-motorised vehicles such as skateboards, kick scooters, roller skates and roller blades. It involves undertaking a journey or part journey for a specific purpose that might otherwise involve motorised transport, rather than primarily for exercise or recreation purposes. For example, walking to the shops to buy milk, rather than walking around the block purely for exercise.

The health and economic benefits of increasing our levels of physical activity are widely known. Research has shown that more than two million car trips in Sydney are for less than two kilometres. **How many short trips are we doing to the shops along Sailors Bay Road when we could walk or cycle to the same destination?**

Congestion of our roads, whether at a local level in Northbridge or, as we travel around Sydney, appears to be increasing. Infrastructure Australia measured road congestion as a $16 billion cost in 2016, with a projection to double by 2031. Each hour a large sedan spends idling in traffic has been measured as pumping another 1.8 kilograms of CO-2 into the atmosphere. E-cargo bikes are increasingly being seen around schools in Sydney as second car alternatives.

Willoughby Public School in conjunction with Willoughby City Council has been leading the way with a pilot program aimed at tackling school traffic congestion. **They found that 87% of students were identified as living within 1.5km of that school, yet 55% were being driven there.**

The highly successful Active Travel pilot program was classroom-led by students. Its target was to increase active travel by 10-15%. It was estimated this would take 100-150 cars off the road in peak hour.

The school addressed the barriers around walking and cycling around Willoughby Public School and Willoughby Council made enhancements to the designated active travel routes - to footpaths, driveways and pedestrian crossings - to ensure safety. Could a similar pilot be extended to the school traffic congestion around Northbridge Public School, St Philip Neri School and the Shore Preparatory School - Early Learning Centre?

To increase active travel, everyone must feel safe. Surveys have continually highlighted that more people would cycle more if they felt safer. The two areas that impact this assessment are road speed limits and cycling infrastructure.

A recent study (Yannis & Michelakis - National Technical University of Athens, published in May 2024) conducted in over 40 cities in Europe – see chart above - measured the benefits of introducing in those cities a 30km/h default speed limit in urban areas. Benefits listed included, on average, a 23% reduction in road crashes, a 37% reduction in fatalities, a 37% reduction in injuries, an 18% reduction in emissions, a reduction of 2.5db in noise pollution and a 7% reduction in fuel consumption.

Active transport initiatives in Australia are still few and far between when compared to England (14% walk/ride to work) or Netherlands (32% of all trips done by bike and 10% walking). Which means communities and government need to work together to promote Active Transport as an increasingly viable mode of transport with multiple benefits, in conjunction with an appropriate public transport infrastructure. So, are car shares, use of e-bikes and a local loop-bus viable alternatives for our community to at least consider?

Four Northbridge cub scouts win Grey Wolf award

In July this year Ethan Talbot and Alfie Cain of 1st Northbridge Scouts received the pre-eminent Grey Wolf Award and in August Oliver Rose and Wylie Cain received theirs.

They were presented with this award by District Commissioner Steve Tufts at a special Wednesday meeting of the 1st Northbridge Cub Pack, providing inspiration for existing cub pack members who were in attendance.

The Grey Wolf Award is the ultimate accolade for a cub scout. It can be attained by participating in a number of outdoor activities, attending pack councils, gaining a number of Level 2 Achievements and Special Interest Badges and developing a Jungle Book group resource. The Award must be approved by the Scouts NSW State Office and the Cub Scout Branch Commissioner.

These cubs each earned their award over a three-year period. They were required to lead a four-hour Adventurous Journey which involved guiding fellow cubs on a hike they planned and executed themselves, with minimal Leader support. In addition, both awardees undertook a leadership course, designed to provide them with skills to guide their fellow younger cubs each week.

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What you need to know about the new Metro

Crows Nest Station, Photo Courtesy of North shore Living

The new Chatswood to Sydenham Metro link, incorporating stations at Crows Nest and North Sydney, was scheduled to commence operation as this issue of The 202 was going to print. The Metro will be a great new option for commuters, students and day trippers to get in and out of the city quickly or to Chatswood.

The new Metro will not operate on a fixed schedule but trains will arrive every 2-10 minutes, depending on the time of day. Approximate travel time from Crows Nest to Chatswood will be 4 minutes. Or to Martin Place Station in the city – 7 minutes.

The new Crows Nest Metro Station has two entrances - one located on Pacific Highway between Oxley Street and Hume Street and the other on Clarke Street near the corner of Hume Street.

Two minutes south of the Crows Nest Metro is the Victoria Cross Metro station located beneath Miller Street (to the north of the Pacific Highway) between McLaren Street and south of Berry Street. A 5 minute train ride south will get you from here to Martin Place Station.

PROBUS ON A TRACK WINDING BACK

A group of happy Northbridge Probus members gather in front of the iconic Gundagai statues of Dad and Dave, and Mum and Mabel

A group of hardy Northbridge Probus members recently invaded the Wagga Wagga Gold Cup. One of them even claimed to have won some money on the races!

In addition to Wagga Wagga, the four-day trip they were on included visits to Batlow, Tumbarumba and Gundagai, with accommodation in Tumut.

For the less hardy, the club organises monthly day-trips to places of interest in Sydney and surroundings. These have recently included trips to the Nien Temple near Wollongong, a Pittwater cruise and a tour of Parliament House with high tea afterwards.

Then there are the group theatre parties, with all transport arranged. A recent Probus outing was to "Chicago" at the Capitol Theatre.

The Northbridge Probus Club has around 125 men and women members. It meets at Northbridge Golf Club from 10am to noon on the third Monday of each month (except December). Meetings include a morning tea when members get together for a chat, plus an hour-long guest speaker session. Potential members and visitors are welcomed - contact Peter McNair (0415 242 628) or email **northbridgecombined56890@probusclubs.com.au**

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Plans emerge for Northbridge Hotel site

cont. from page 1

courtyard and pedestrian access to Sailors Bay Road as well as Strathallen. The primary vehicle access will be from Baringa Road.

Sadly, this proposed redevelopment would mean the end of the nearly 100-year old Northbridge Hotel - a longstanding gathering spot for young and old, from live music to trivia nights.

Some residents have lodged objections to the DA (which can be viewed in the Council DA portal), pointing out the Hotel's historic value and status as one of the only local family-friendly pubs in the area. There are also concerns about traffic impacts and parking on Baringa, as well as the overall scale of the proposed 5-story, 17m high building.

Chemical contamination was revealed by the developer's soil testing, which most likely resulted from its historic use as a service station. This means that remediation work will be required during excavation. It is critical that the community is kept informed and we are raising this and other issues in the NPA's submission to Council. The NPA does, however, in principle support initiatives that help address the housing shortage in Sydney and increase the diversity of housing options available.

The proposal for Northbridge Village, while having some downsides, is an important opportunity to finally upgrade this major local commercial site to the benefit of the whole suburb.

We would like to hear from you - what do you think about the proposed redevelopment of Northbridge Village and Hotel?

GOLF CLUB PLANS RENOVATION

Northbridge Golf Club has published plans for an exciting renovation, which are on display down at the Club. Stage one of what's planned includes a new terrace where you can have a coffee or meal while enjoying the view, as well as refurbishment of the much-used function room.

Go-ahead for the project is subject to member donations and grants.

"The purpose of the works is to continue to provide a modern and attractive venue for the range of community groups, schools and local residents who use our club for functions throughout the year" said General Manager Brett Parker.

Plans for the renovated Northbridge Golf Club terrace

Welcome to Northbridge Dentists, Dr Michelle Sawyer

We are elated that Dr Michelle Sawyer has joined us at Northbridge Dentists. Like all of our current dentists, she is a University of Sydney graduate with over 10 years of experience. Because in dentistry, it matters *who* you see.

Michelle has worked around NSW, including a placement out of Broken Hill with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and recently owned her own private practice on Sydney's Lower North Shore

Michelle loves treating patients of all ages and has two children. In addition to performing a broad range of dentistry, she enjoys activities, including gardening, sewing and even stand-up comedy. Welcome aboard Michelle!

To make an appointment, phone 9958 7530 or book online northbridgedentists.com

Suite 1, 173 Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge NSW 2063

Northbridge Dentists

Fireworks Blast Off September 14th

Northbridge Rotary will be staging the rescheduled Northbridge Community Fireworks on 14 September.

Some might say 'back with a bang'!

Gates will open to plenty of food vans, rides, entertainment and a new Community Corner from 2.30pm, before the fireworks display kicks off at 7.00pm. Throughout, there will be ample opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours in a relaxed atmosphere on Northbridge Oval while raising some money for those who need it most.

Tickets will be available online through the Northbridge Rotary website, via Humanitix, or on social media. If you had tickets for the postponed May 4th event and didn't request a refund, then these are still valid and Rotary Northbridge will be in touch with you by email.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer, perhaps getting some community hours up before the end of the school year, please send the organisers an email at **fireworks@northbridgerotary.com.au.**

Importantly, while "May the Fourth" has passed, we will still be celebrating a Countdown and Blast Off, so children are encouraged to come dressed on the day as your favourite space character, with best-dressed to be rewarded at 4.00pm on the Oval.

Should be a blast!

Opening hours

Tuesday 10am – 2pm
Wednesday 2pm – 5pm
Thursday 2pm – 8pm
Friday 2pm – 5pm
Saturday 10am – 1pm

Regular events at Northbridge Library in 2024

Story Play Play on Tuesdays, 10am - 10.30am for 0-4 year olds. Held through the year and is run with the help of library students from TAFE.

Kids Create -L ego Club (1st Friday of the month) & Craft (3rd Friday of the month) 3.30pm - 4.30pm for 5 - 11 year olds.

No more reservation fees

As of 1 July, in response to community feedback, all reservations are free for adults as well as children. This is especially advantageous for the branch users who can request books on the shelf at any of our libraries to be transferred free of charge. Just remember to collect them within seven days.

Naremburn Book Locker is moving

…to the newly renovated Naremburn shops, just over the freeway bridge. In the meantime reservations to the book locker have been suspended. Please check the library website for updated information.

Book Week 2024 - Reading is Magic!

You may have noticed a few Harry Potters wandering the street of Northbridge, maybe a mermaid or even a unicorn – August is book week time and many of the local schools encourage their students to dress up. This year's theme is "Reading is Magic".

Reading really is magic, for both children and adults. It can take you to the world around you and explore new ideas with non-fiction and introduce you to fantastical and made-up places through fiction.

Northbridge Library has many of the award winning and shortlisted books available to borrow or reserve. Come in and make a wish.

Books we love

Look for the display at Northbridge which includes this historical fiction recommendation:

An epic family saga rich in characters, themes and history; from the author of *Cutting for stone*. Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, this novel follows a family in southern India that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning - and in Kerala, water is everywhere.

I'd like to thank the Northbridge Progress Association and the Northbridge community for your support of the library during my time as librarian here. Keep on reading! Jane

Stop fishing at the Baths

Northbridge residents and the many all-seasons swimmers at Northbridge Baths want residents and parents to help to stop illegal fishing at Northbridge Baths.

According to local resident John Whitelaw, "the instances of illegal fishing inside The Baths is increasing. While Council rangers talk some out of fishing there, others (often teenagers) continue regardless. Many of them fish at night as evidenced by stray hooks and lines and discarded fishing rubbish cleared by early swimmers."

There have been a number of incidents in recent times including swimmers getting hooked and tangled in fishing lines. This poses a very serious threat, as swimmers could lose an eye or be unable to extricate themselves without injury.

John's view is that "Council needs to take action over this to keep swimmers safe. A partial solution may be to provide a dedicated public wharf for fishing. Higher boundary fencing may also help." In the meantime, please watch out for hooks dangling from lane ropes and floats at the Baths.

Editors' Note: *The NPA will seek a Council response for publication in our November 2024 edition.*

Markets

Upcoming Markets

North Sydney Produce Market:
Saturdays 8 am-12 pm, 7 and 21 September, 5 and 19 October

Crows Nest Markets:
Saturdays 9 am - 4 pm, 21 September, 19 October

Mosman markets:
Saturdays 8 am - 3 pm, 7 September, 5 October and 24 October 4:30 - 9 pm

Mosman farmer's market (George's Heights):
Wednesdays 8 am - 2 pm

Coal Loader Artisans Market, Waverton:
Sunday 1 September, 1 December

Le Marché Willoughby (Laurelbank Cottage):
each month 4th Sunday 9 am - 1:30