

2006 Annual General Meeting President's Report

During the year, we once again tried hard to 'preserve or improve the amenity and environment of Northbridge', mainly through making the views of our members known and generating dialogue with local and State governments.

The Association is sometimes seen as negative about new projects in Northbridge. It's true that we tend to oppose any projects which reduce Northbridge's 'village' atmosphere or increase traffic congestion or reduce parking for residents or clearly overdevelop a site or threaten our priceless open spaces and bushland.

We try to preserve the traditional small shops in the suburb and to encourage additional facilities for the youngest and the most senior members of our community.

Submissions in 2006

We made a submission opposing aspects of Council's 628-page Property Plan which impact negatively on the Plaza car park public land, the branch library, the baby health centre and Northbridge Oval.

We objected to the proposed car wash on the ex-Mobil site because the land is now zoned residential. The Association advocated some changes to Shore's playing field redevelopment, mainly to improve Saturday traffic congestion and parking problems in the vicinity.

We opposed (unsuccessfully) the removal by Telstra of the telephone box at the Public School. The Association objected to some aspects of the large building proposed for 154-156 Sailors Bay Rd, and we objected to the development of residential units in Cliff Ave next to the Suspension Bridge.

On the other hand, the Association continued to give in-principle support to Council's ambitious Civic Place project. We strongly supported the Golf Club's water storage project.

We supported Council's proposed Men's Shed in the ex-RSL hall and offered the Association's help. We agreed with Council's plans for Northbridge Park and will donate a \$5000 barbecue to the new recreational area there. We continue to donate annual prizes to both primary schools.

The Association made a number of submissions to Council and RTA to improve traffic and parking – probably the issues of greatest concern to Northbridge residents - but not all were accepted by Council or RTA.

Our biggest disappointments were the lack of action at the dangerous Tenilba Rd/Eastern Valley Way junction and the continuing delays in establishing a roundabout at Euroka St to facilitate traffic movements in the Junction.

The prospects for 2007

Next year, we'll be working hard to represent your interests. We expect to address another wide range of development proposals and Council projects in our suburb.

Our major challenge is likely to be the proposed redevelopment of the Plaza shopping centre and car park. Plaza management has initiated a welcome community consultation process in which the Association will participate. Our perception is that Northbridge people don't need or want the Plaza to expand into a huge regional shopping centre in our residential suburb, with all the traffic problems and negative impact on small shops.

Thanks

I'd like to thank everyone who makes the Association successful:

- our 360 members (the highest number which anyone can recall), our voluntary 'walkers' who deliver *The 202*,
- our excellent guest speakers,
- the many loyal advertisers in *The 202* (who have helped make our finances the healthiest ever) and
- the hard-working members of the executive committee.

AGM 15 November 2006