



Council: "No intention of closing baths"

In response to a rumour in early March that it was planning to close Northbridge Baths, Council issued a formal announcement on March 14 that it has no intention of closing the baths.

The rumour had created wide concern in the community, with Northbridge Swimming Club, NPA and many residents approaching Councillors and Council officers direct with their objections. NPA's Committee met on March 7 and resolved that closure of the baths would not be acceptable.

Council's announcement said that during the Winter Season starting on April 1: "The baths will be open free of charge and will operate under a 'no key' system as per the previous Winter Season. Amenities will be available during daylight hours however there will be no lifeguard service."

Future management review

"Council is currently reviewing the future management of the baths for the Summer Season commencing October 2011," the announcement stated. "Separately, issues associated with maintenance, capital and drainage works are currently being assessed and investigated, however, these do not impact on the use of the baths at present." It is understood that some of the concrete piers are showing



signs of concrete cancer and a stormwater drain may need reconstruction. The kayak business on the site "may require development approval from Willoughby City Council and other approvals from NSW Maritime".

NPA is monitoring the matter closely through two of its Committee members who are year-round swimmers at the baths. NPA has also offered to participate

in any Baths Committee that may be re-constituted.

Shade at the baths

As a separate issue, NPA has written to Council asking for additional shading around Northbridge Baths, including the restoration of the original shadecloth. Council has responded that the request will be considered as part of its review.



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

MEETINGS & DEADLINES

General meetings: 8pm on Thursdays May 5, July 21, Oct 6, Dec 8 (AGM), 2011

Deadlines for The 202: Ads and contributions: Mondays June 20, September 5, November 7, 2011

Our next meeting

Come along to the general meeting of Northbridge Progress Association at **8pm on Thursday, May 5** at **St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd.**

➡ **Note change of date!** ⬅

Guest speakers:

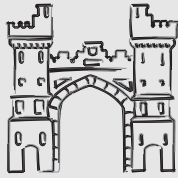
Nick Tobin, General Manager, Willoughby City Council
"The Concourse and other Willoughby developments"

Steven Head, Infrastructure Services Director, Willoughby City Council
"Council's review of Northbridge Baths"

Messrs Tobin and Head will respond to questions on Council issues.

Our Ward Councillors will report on local issues.

Visitors are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.



NORTHBRIDGE
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

ABN 733 956 702

P O Box 357
Northbridge 2063

www.northbridgepa.com.au

President

Peter McNair : 9958 7670

Vice Presidents

Ron Hicks : 9958 8765
John Lightfoot : 9958 0028

Secretary

Malcolm Lye : 9958 7566

Treasurer

Pam Clifford : 9958 0529

Committee members

John Becroft : 9958 6436
Rob Coote : 9958 4506
Grant Sheldon : 9958 5510

Federation delegate

Jenny Roxburgh : 9958 3674

Public Officer

Peter McLachlan : 9958 2213

The 202 Editor

Penny Lye : 9958 7566
(with Malcolm Lye)
Email mplye@bigpond.net.au

Typesetting & Printing by
Robin Phelan & Associates
☎ 0407 467 376

President's letter



Congratulations, Gladys!

On behalf of NPA members, I would like to congratulate our Willoughby MP, Gladys Berejiklian, who was re-elected on March 26 and subsequently appointed Minister for Transport. It's good to know that our hard-working local MP is now a key part of the Government front bench and that she is responsible for some of the areas of real concern to Northbridge residents.

We need your voice

It's time to renew your membership if you have not done so already. If you have a five-year membership, it may have expired because five year memberships were introduced five years ago. Just look at your membership card to see the date on which your membership expires.

Suspension Bridge State heritage listing

With the welcome help of a couple of members, NPA is taking on the complex job of applying for NSW State Heritage listing for the Suspension Bridge. Remarkably, the bridge is on Council's heritage register but not on NSW's. But don't hold your breath, it will be a lengthy process.

Residential developments

NPA does not normally comment on an individual residential DA in Northbridge unless it is considered to have a significant negative impact on the general community. Such a proposal was notified in January, on a steep, foreshore site in Minimbah Rd. The proposal so far exceeded Council's controls for height, gross floor area and floor space ratio that NPA considered it would set an unfortunate precedent for such sites and objected strenuously to the DA.

2013 centenary event

The name "Northbridge" was first used in March 1913, in a real estate poster for a new subdivision. NPA is planning to celebrate the centenary with a major event in 2013, provided other community groups participate and contribute to its success. We will shortly be contacting Northbridge community groups to gauge their level of interest and, hopefully, to form a community steering committee.

The 202 advertising

We have been asked why *The 202* accepts advertising from outside Northbridge, sometimes in competition with Northbridge businesses? The answer is that we need the income to keep producing a good standard, free newsletter for residents. Furthermore, some of our non-Northbridge advertisers have been loyal to us for many years. However, we always try to make sure that competitor advertisers – wherever they reside – do not appear together on a two page spread.

Venue for our general meetings

After we found that NPA was unable to use St Marks Hall on Wednesday evenings – our meeting day for many years – the Committee considered a number of locations based on availability, facilities, location and cost. For the remainder of this year, we have decided to hold general meetings on Thursday evenings in St Marks Hall.

Our next general meeting

The speaker at our next meeting will be Council's General Manager, Nick Tobin. Nick is the most senior Council officer and it will be a great opportunity to ask him all those questions about planning, traffic, parking, bushland, etc that have concerned you. Please come along on May 5.

Peter McNair

ADVERTISING

The 202 newsletter is delivered to every household and business in Northbridge and is well read. Our advertising rates are very reasonable. It costs \$65 per issue for one column x 5.5cm, \$130 for one col x 11cm or two cols x 5.5cm, \$260 for two cols x 11cm and \$350 for one-third of a page. Book your ad by contacting The 202 Editor by phone or email.



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Join or renew your membership of NPA now!

Now is the time to join the Association for the 2011 calendar year or to renew your membership of the Association, if it is due. At June 30, 2010, we had 511 individual members but we would like to have more to give Northbridge an even stronger voice. We try to ensure that opinions of Northbridge residents are heard by local, State and Federal governments and that residents are kept informed of developments in their suburb. Your membership helps us to 'preserve or improve the amenity and environment of Northbridge'. Our modest membership fees of \$5 for one year and \$20 for five years have remained unchanged for many years. NPA has been active for 91 years and aims to represent the interests of all 2500 Northbridge households. NPA's committee members work on a voluntary basis. Our bi-monthly newsletter *The 202* is delivered free to all households in Northbridge.

Aged care facility approved



A model of the approved nursing home with the Sailors Bay Rd frontage at bottom of picture.

In February, a NSW government Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) approved a 116-bed nursing home to be built on seven blocks between Baringa Rd and Sailors Bay Rd adjacent to the Euroka St roundabout. The aged care facility was approved with only minor changes to the plans despite wide community objections and a previous unanimous resolution by Council which opposed the facility in the form proposed.

At the JRPP hearing, seven residents including a NPA representative spoke against the nursing home. NPA did not oppose the facility in principle but did object to its non-compliance with State government and Council controls and standards for height, floor space ratio and landscaped area. However, the JRPP supported such non-compliance. The JRPP was not persuaded by community concerns about potential traffic congestion generated by the facility. Two Council nominees sat as independent representatives on the five-person JRPP. Mayor Pat Reilly dissented from the JRPP decision but a senior Council officer supported it.

The new conditions imposed by JRPP were the addition of seven parking spaces, the requirement for an emergency evacuation plan and a prohibition on vehicle access to the site from Baringa Rd during construction.

Gladys Berejiklian re-elected

On March 26, Gladys Berejiklian was re-elected for a third term as the Member for Willoughby. She also takes her place on the front bench of the Coalition Government as Minister for Transport.

The new government has pledged to “return local planning powers to local communities”. It has undertaken to rewrite the State’s planning laws and has already scrapped the Part 3A legislation which gave the Planning Minister power to determine “State significant” developments.



Gladys Berejiklian MP speaking at a “Meet the Candidates” meeting at Northbridge Public School in mid-March, organised by NPA.

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Market Garden decision

A public meeting attended by 60 people in February reviewed the proposed Market Garden development on Eastern Valley Way. The current owner is planning to develop 80 houses with roads, pathways and a new public park. In late March, a Development Application for the first 14 houses was being assessed by Council.

The main issue at the meeting was the number of car parking spaces allocated to each of the proposed residences. The meeting voted unanimously for (mainly) two parking spaces per residence, as proposed by the developer, and Council subsequently approved the proposal. No decisions have yet been reached about vehicle and pedestrian crossings on Eastern Valley Way for the development.

New Woolworths proposed

At the invitation of a consultant, the NPA committee reviewed plans for a new Woolworths supermarket in Smith St, east Chatswood. The proposal had been rejected by Council because the site is zoned light industrial and a supermarket use is not permitted. The proposal is of interest to Northbridge residents because it would have the potential to reduce traffic through Northbridge by about 10%. Nevertheless, the NPA committee decided not to support it at this time because of the zoning problem and concerns about traffic congestion at the intersections of Smith St and Castle Cove Drive with Eastern Valley Way.

Save money, save the environment



Council's Sally Hamilton spoke to residents about saving energy and money.

At the NPA general meeting in late February, residents were told that 37% of the average household's electricity costs were for hot water. Sally Hamilton, Council's Director Sustainability Projects, said these costs could be reduced by up to 90% by use of solar systems and heat pumps. Substantial rebates are available from the State and Council. Sally said that domestic heating/cooling and kitchen appliances and lights contributed 23% and 16% to household costs respectively. These could be reduced by using energy efficient appliances, turning off stand-by power and using compact fluorescent lights or LEDs.

She noted that the NABERS website allowed a resident to rate a home. A 5-star house consumed 4 to 6 kWh per day whereas a 1-star house consumed 30kWh per day. Council's preferred suppliers for solar hot water and power systems, heat pumps and rainwater tanks can be found on www.ClimateCleverShop.com.au

Northbridge Public School: "Amazing"

Sally presented information about ClimateClever programs for apartments, schools and businesses. She noted that Northbridge Public School is: "amazing for taking on environmental and sustainability programs."

In regard to Council's own energy saving efforts, Sally said that major projects included a co-generation project at Willoughby Leisure Centre which will produce energy cost savings of \$40,000 per year and 300 kW solar panels above the Westfield car park in Chatswood. She said that Council is developing a program to offer a free sustainability building advisory service.

A "sustainable house" at 34 Devonshire St, Chatswood, showcases simple sustainability ideas for the house and garden. 37% of Council's greenhouse emissions are from street lighting and discussions with Energy Australia to replace the current lights with LEDs are ongoing.

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Councillor's viewpoint

by Cr Gail Giles-Gidney

Contrary to reports, Northbridge Baths are not closing! Never let a silly rumour stand in the way of truth. The truth is that at the end of March, the management agreement with Lifeguard International for the operation of the Baths expired. Coinciding with the close of the Summer Season and, as with past years, our Baths will open with free access for the Winter Season albeit

without lifeguard services.

The expiry of the management agreement means that the Council can now undertake a review of the Baths' operation to enhance this unique and wonderful community facility in a cost effective way. Under consideration are things like the lifeguard operation and cafe facilities, with expected completion before our Summer Season opening in October.

Council is also reviewing the operation of the independent commercial kayak storage, training and hire business currently housed at the Baths, as these may require Council development approval and separate NSW Maritime Services approvals.

Issues specific to general maintenance, capital and drainage works are currently under investigation. These however would not affect use of the Baths during winter.

General Manager Nick Tobin and Steven Head will attend the next NPA meeting on May 5 to answer your questions regarding the Baths. There is also expected to be a meeting of users convened in June.

The Northbridge aged care proposal gets the go-ahead

The proposed Sailors Bay Rd aged care facility has been granted approval by the Joint Regional Planning Panel. The JRPP is a State-appointed panel with three State representatives and two from Council.

Your Councillors provided recommendations for change, reflecting serious concerns expressed over the bulk and scale of the development and of traffic congestion to a severely choked Sailors Bay Road. Other interested parties, including your NPA, also made submissions to the JRPP. However, ultimately the 116-bed facility, including dementia care, gained JRPP approval, with some minor concessions.

Albeit some residents remain unhappy about the size and place of the development, it will be of great comfort to many that care for our elders is available closer to home.

Cr Giles-Gidney is one of our Sailors Bay Ward Councillors, each of whom contributes regularly to The 202.

NPA objects to residential DA

Because of its far-reaching ramifications for Northbridge generally, NPA has objected to the scale and extent of a proposed residence at 5 Minimbah Rd, saying that it would set an unfortunate precedent for steeply sloping sites and foreshore developments in Northbridge.

The house would have five storeys (or six or seven storeys by other methods of calculation) and would not comply with Council's maximum height, Gross Floor Area or Floor Space Ratio controls by wide margins. The proposed house and swimming pool would visually dominate the adjacent Council bushland reserve and the natural scenic quality of the area.

In response to numerous objections by residents, local architects and NPA, Council asked the developer to withdraw the plans. The developer has lodged an appeal with the Land and Environment Court on the basis of deemed refusal. Council is likely to determine its position later in April. The Court hearing date will probably be in May.

Contact your Ward Councillors

Adrian.Cox@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or phone 9958 1135

Gail.Giles-Gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or phone 0438 633 587

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Euroka St roundabout – potential death trap?

I regret to tell you there are many drivers in our community who seem to be in so much of a hurry that they cannot help but slam their foot down on the accelerator as they move through the second half of roundabouts.

Unfortunately, given that our driveway is only metres from the corner, we have no choice but to indicate and make the left hand turn into our property split seconds after emerging from the roundabout at Euroka St. So far (and I've been counting) we have survived more than 45 near collisions by cars that suddenly speed up behind us then screech to a halt at the last nanosecond only millimetres from impact. Inevitably the driver inside performs some wildly angry hand gestures while yelling abuse at us for daring to turn into our own driveway.

While it may be safer if we continued to circle the roundabout until there are absolutely no cars in sight before attempting the dangerous left hand turn into our drive, we do have to go home sometime – the dog needs feeding!

Unfortunately, Willoughby City Council insists there is nothing they can do. So it is up to you, my dear neighbours. You have the safety of my family (a young child and dog included) in your hands. Please spare a thought and some patience when next you drive through the roundabouts of Sailors Bay Rd. You may need to slow down or even stop momentarily as the car in front turns into its driveway but, like you, we are merely trying to get home.

J. Draper

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local saboteurs

Clean Up Australia day had some unfortunate side effects. I arrived late, so went off on my own to clean up along the bush track alongside Sailors Bay Rd north from the golf course car park. My first little pile of cans and chocolate wrappings was around the bus shelter. I felt so sorry for the poor folks who dropped them. There was a Council rubbish bin about three metres away from the shelter. They must have been infirm or had a disability to not be able to walk to the bin.

As I walked along the track I marvelled at the athletic ability of some of the litterers. The distance they had been able to throw the cans into the bush would have done a champion discus thrower proud. There were signs of a party where couples or small groups had come to enjoy the bush and leave a reminder of how easy it is to ruin what they came to enjoy.

At the 16th tee, I came to the mother lode. In the adjacent bush there had been a major event. I filled a bag with the empty bottles. I then plunged into the bush and saw out of the corner of my eye a cluster of leaves. As I brushed against them a swarm of wasps attacked me. It was a reminder that no good deed ever goes unpunished. The good news was that even though I'm past my use by date, I can still run. However those little sods sabotaged my good intentions, they routed me and I went home to lick my wounds.

By the way, if you think the bush is worth ongoing care you should join us in Bushcare. Phone me for details on 9958 0007.

Don Wilson

Asking questions about Council's guidelines

Pam Clifford's call to voice concern over the threat to lost gardens is timely (*The 202* February issue). If we don't heed that call, the aesthetic degradation of grotesque boxes squarely squatting on entire blocks with their associated ecological damage in lost habitats for animals, insects and birds will not be arrested. When a seven-year old child can look at one of these newly-completed monstrosities and ask: "Is it a hospital?" we need to be asking questions about Council's planning and approval guidelines and procedures.

As the garden spaces contract to grass squares surrounded by non-flowering hedgerows; as our bees and butterflies go the way of the dinosaurs and our birds take wing for other climes; we must ask why our local council still permits the planting of Leighton pine hedges in their landscaping plan approvals.

Dr Wendy Michaels

Letters to the Editor continued on Page 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *(continued)*

Cooling the suburb

Reading the February issue of *The 202* I was impressed by Pam Clifford's letter about the need to replace large trees in Northbridge. Large trees removed from back yards during new developments are not being replaced but instead we have non-native hedge trees and other ornamental plants that provide no shade, food or groundcover for native birds and lizards.

Would Council consider these suggestions? Any large tree removed during development must be replaced with a large tree with a view to encouraging more shading of the development and the street, to help cool the suburb; any tree that is damaged during construction or deliberately poisoned must be replaced with a large shading tree; more emphasis should be given to planting native flowering shrubs; and a colour palate should be developed for houses using lighter colours to reflect the heat.

This seems like an easy way for Willoughby to start adapting to climate change.

Janet France

Medium density rejected

I wish to address some of the points raised by Mr Peter Mayoh in the February issue of *The 202*. I reject any further increase to medium density housing along Sailors Bay Rd including medium density housing extending to Bonds Corner, as this will severely impair the architectural and aesthetic beauty of the suburb and add to our already increasing traffic problems and safety risks.

We have a wonderful suburb with a peninsular aspect and one major thoroughfare as the main access and exit from the suburb. If further development pressures and proposals are allowed to proceed unabated, the suburb will slowly but surely lose its integral residential characteristics of a garden suburb, as Mr Mayoh commented.

Another issue raised by Mr Mayoh is the proposal to have the compulsory acquisition of the laneway on the northern side of Sailors Bay Rd for public parking. I assume this is the laneway between Bellambi and Euroka Sts. One wonders how this will impact on the needs of the local residents and shop owners and their long standing use of this laneway, which to my understanding is an access and exit from the properties abutting onto this laneway. I think that the other suggestion to create parking behind the shops on the southern side of Sailors Bay Rd is more feasible, practicable and achievable.

Victor Brunetti

Cartoonist

Our thanks to professional cartoonist Dave Carter who draws for The 202 on a pro bono basis. Dave can be contacted on the davecartershow@dcmail.com.

Write to us

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

Action on car wash

Preliminary work has commenced at the Crystal car wash and cafe site at the corner of Eastern Valley Way and Sailors Bay Rd. As *The 202* went to the printer, Council's Environmental Services Director, Greg Woodhams, advised that the car wash site owners had applied to Council for a Construction Certificate. Council officers have sought further information and clarification about some aspects before a certificate can be issued.

The car wash was approved in May 2010 after a Land & Environment Court conciliation conference. The application had previously been refused by Council for lack of information, access and egress problems, landscaping, streetscape issues and noise. NPA and several neighbours had objected to the original application for similar reasons. The site is zoned residential but the developers had successfully claimed existing use rights based on the previous service station. NPA strongly preferred a residential development on the busy corner site. This would have generated less traffic and noise.

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Northbridge Rotary Club donations

At a special event at Northbridge Rotary Club's annual golf day in March, the club handed over a Toyota Tarago van to the Chatswood charity Streetwork. The van will be used for the charity's work in assisting youth in North Shore and peninsular suburbs.



Northbridge Rotary's golf day raised \$21,000 for local and overseas charities. Of the amount, \$5000 will be donated to Streetwork, \$2000 to a water wells project in Uganda, \$3000 to assist the Rotary Club of Roseville Chase with a project in East Timor and \$1000 to the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Rotarian Sally O'Neill thanked Northbridge residents for their generosity during two earlier "bucket collections" at Northbridge Plaza. A total of \$7000 raised for Victorian flood relief is being donated through the Rotary Club of Gatton and

New Willoughby art centre opened



The Incinerator in the 1930s, with garbage being delivered by horse and cart (upper right).

After a \$4.2 million refurbishment, a new visual arts centre, comprising a cafe, exhibition space and artist studios, was officially opened on April 2 at Willoughby's heritage-listed, Walter Burley Griffin-designed Incinerator building in Small St.

The Incinerator, which was completed in 1934, is a remarkable piece of Australia's industrial heritage and is one of only two remaining municipal incinerator buildings in NSW. It was originally built to dispose of garbage through a process of gravity fed incineration. The building has retained its external architectural integrity, and is a fine example of Burley Griffin's use of triangular decorative design in rendered concrete and rough cut stone faced retaining walls.

The new art space and studios will present a diverse range of exhibitions each year, managed by Council. Willoughby Mayor, Pat Reilly says, "I encourage locals to visit this fantastic new arts facility and enjoy the exhibitions curated by Council, as well as other artists who showcase their works there."

Lockyer Valley. Distribution of \$2800 raised for the Christchurch earthquake has been arranged by a former Northbridge Rotarian, Gary Denhard, who is now a Rotary member in Christchurch. No overheads will be incurred.

The club also arranged a fund-raising concert at St Philip Neri School in early April for the Japanese earthquake/tsunami. The proceeds will be distributed through Northbridge Rotary's sister club in Japan, the Rotary Club of Tokyo Sugunami.

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Hazardous car park access



NPA has brought to Council's attention that pedestrian access from Harden Ave into and out of Council's car park at Northbridge Plaza is very hazardous. There are no footpaths or marked pedestrian walkways. It is particularly dangerous for pedestrians with strollers or young children.

NPA noted that the problem is more general in Council's car park where there are no defined pedestrian zones to separate pedestrians from vehicles. NPA asked Council to look into these matters to try to maximise safety for pedestrians in and around the Council car park.

New oval surface ready for use

As *The 202* went to the printer, the new 10,000 square metre synthetic surface on Northbridge Oval was almost ready for use. "The first football game is scheduled for the weekend of April 15," Council's Open Space Manager, Julie Whitfield, said. "The builder will then start the removal of site machinery, their shed and the access road."

Three new floodlights have been installed on the south side of the oval. New goal posts and the remaining two 28 metre high lights on the northern side were scheduled to be installed by April 15.

The \$1.3 million project is intended to increase the use of the oval by local sports teams well above the previous 40% level. It will be one of the first publicly available synthetic turf sports grounds of its size in Sydney.

Remembering the wading pool

NPA has asked Council to erect a commemorative plaque to mark the site of the wading pool built in Clive Park by the Northbridge VDC Association in 1946.

The Association was formed after World War II when the Northbridge Volunteer Defence Corps was disbanded. The construction of the pool took place over several weeks at low tide. Remnants of the wading pool are still visible on the foreshore. NPA has offered to help fund the proposed plaque.



The wading pool in Clive Park after it was completed in 1946.

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Northbridge hero remembered

by Pam Clifford



Terry Hayes (back row, left) and friends, pictured in the late 1930s.

The year is 1943. The telegram boy rides his pushbike slowly along Calbina Rd, Northbridge, searching for the correct house. Are there people peering through the curtains, fearful he will ring their doorbell? And when he does not, do they crane their necks to see whether one of their friends or neighbours will receive the telegram? Will it be the bad news everyone feared during the war years? With few people having a telephone at home, telegrams were delivered to next of kin to give news of loss or injury to service men and women during World War II.

The telegram boy knocked on the door of Paddy and Minnie Hayes in Calbina Road that day. The telegram dated May 26, 1943 read simply: "Regret to inform you that your son, Sergeant John Henry Terence Hayes, is missing as a result of air operations on the night of 23/24 May, 1943. Letter will follow." A telegram received on July 12, 1943 contained additional bad news: "Terence Hayes – missing but believed to have lost his life on the 24th May, 1943. Received through the International Red Cross Committee quoting German sources. Letter following."

It is hard to imagine how families felt when they received such a telegram, particularly when the information was incorrect or incomplete. It was not until October 1943 that advice was received that the death of Terry Hayes "has now been presumed for official purposes".

John Henry Terence Hayes, who trained as a pilot with the RAAF, was just 22 when he died. On May 24, 1943, he was the pilot in control of Lancaster IW.4919 which flew from Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire, on an operational sortie to Dortmund, Germany. Nothing further was heard from this aircraft. It was later reported that it was shot down by night fighters and crashed in flames.

Flight Sergeant Terry Hayes was buried in the Military Cemetery in Venlo, Holland. The Hayes family was relieved to be advised that each of the approximately 400 graves in the Allied Air Force Cemetery in Venlo had been adopted by a citizen of the city who undertook to be responsible for its upkeep. But Mr and Mrs Hayes were brokenhearted when they were advised in December 1947 that, owing to the unsuitability of the Venlo Cemetery, their son's remains had been re-interred in the Jonkersbosch British Military Cemetery near Nijmegen, Holland. They never really recovered from the death of their only child.

One of the first fatalities of WWII

Terry Hayes was one of the first fatalities from Northbridge in the Second World War. Memorials in St Marks Church and Northbridge Library (from Knox Church) show that he was one of at least 16 young men and women from Northbridge who lost their lives.

In his honour, the Northbridge Volunteer Defence Corps Association set up a scholarship in 1945. The scholarship consisted of two awards: the Terry Hayes Award for boys and the Edgar Kilpatrick Award for girls. Edgar Kilpatrick was a World War I veteran and a member of the VDC. He died shortly before the scholarship was founded.

The scholarship awards were made annually to a girl and a boy who lived in the then Northbridge Ward of Willoughby Council, who passed the Intermediate Certificate and intended to study for the Leaving Certificate.

The awards were made on academic ability as well as general knowledge, citizenship and all round ability. The original awards were for 25 pounds but increased to 50 pounds in 1952 (equivalent to more than \$1500 today). They were sponsored over the years by the Northbridge VDC Association, Northbridge Golf Club, Northbridge Bowling Club and Northbridge Sub-Branch RSL.

Continued on page 11



The shield named after Sergeant Terry Hayes.

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Celebrating Seniors' Week



Part of the large group of seniors who enjoyed lunch in Northbridge during Seniors' Week.

More than 100 seniors from Northbridge and nearby suburbs enjoyed a Seniors' Week lunch in St Marks Hall on March 27. The two course meal with refreshments and entertainment was organised and funded by the Rotary Club of Northbridge. The club has run a seniors' lunch in Northbridge for more than 20 years. About 30 local Rotarians and partners helped serve the seniors. Rotarian Roger Page acted as MC, awarded numerous raffle and door prizes and thanked all the local businesses who generously contributed to the success of the event.

New syringe disposal facility

Council has teamed up with pharmacists in the local area to provide needle collection facilities for used "sharps" – syringes, needles and lancets. The program aims to ensure that residents have access to safe disposal options, significantly reducing the number of sharps entering the general waste stream and minimising the possibility of needle stick injuries. NSW Health estimates that approximately 50% of needles and syringes used for self-injection each year end up in local council waste and recycling services. In Northbridge, a free community sharps disposal facility is available at Northbridge Pharmacy, Shop 2, 115 Sailors Bay Rd. For further information, phone 9777 1000 or visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Northbridge hero remembered

Continued from page 10

By 1968 there were no service clubs in Northbridge and the Rotary Club of Chatswood took over the administration of the scholarship until the scholarship was wound up in the early 1970s.

Northbridge resident Don Landers was secretary of the scholarship from 1957 to 1968. He recently gave to Northbridge Progress Association the shield which lists the winners of the scholarship for the years 1945 to 1963. At the suggestion of the NPA, Willoughby City Council has agreed to hang this important piece of Northbridge history in the new library at Northbridge.

With thanks to Don Landers.

Reference: Casualty file of F/S Terry Hayes #411906. National Archives of Australia: A705, 166/17/158. Printed with permission.

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Advances in veterinary medicine mean that your vet can do more for your pet, but more tests are required to allow vets to get a diagnosis of the problem. Third party liability for dogs is also important in case of legal action.

Pet insurance helps cover the cost of medical expenses. The best way to use pet insurance is for unexpected, major events. Routine or wellness procedures are not always best handled with pet insurance as you will pay more for the premiums than the cost.

First, determine if you need pet insurance. Can you cover the "worst-case scenario" costs? If not, make sure your pet insurance company has the following attributes:

- Good medical coverage (up to \$10,000 per year)
- Coverage for chronic disease
- Good reputation (go to www.petinsurancereview.com.au)
- Has a strong underwriter
- Has a maximum payout limit that will cover the "worst case scenario" costs
- Has an affordable premium
- Pays claims in a timely fashion
- Does not have unreasonable exclusions and requirements

KEY POINTS

Never buy pet insurance without doing your own research. Do not pick the pet insurance based purely on the cost of the premium. Read the terms and conditions of the pet insurance plan closely and ask the company for a list of the exclusions based on your pet's medical history. Do not wait until your pet is ill to take out insurance; most require waiting periods. Look carefully at the enrolment age range of the plan. Large dogs have a shorter age range than smaller dogs. Understand the company's bilateral conditions policy, eg. hip dysplasia and cruciate disease can happen in both legs. Restrictions may apply if cruciate disease occurs in the second leg.

Please feel free to visit VETMED for friendly, unbiased advice.



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Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch

A major police offensive is on again for the weekend of May 13 and 14 in Operation Unite. The aim is to target anti-social and offensive behaviour, with a focus on street crime and public order. This is the second time this has been run with the New Zealand police force. There will be extra officers out and about on that weekend. It's great to see our police making the streets safer for everyone to use, particularly at night.

Northbridge has had two break and enters during the last three months with one attempted entry thwarted. There have been five malicious damage events and the majority of the crime in Northbridge is stealing from cars, with 20 incidents reported.

What can we do? Well 20% of the last three months' reported crime in Northbridge (32 incidents in all) is on Sailors Bay Rd usually after 1pm, with Friday again being the stand-out day. So please keep your eyes open and report any unusual activity, no matter how small, to the police. You can either call Chatswood police on 9414 8499 or the Police Assistance Line for minor events on 131 444.

Even if you think an incident is minor it may be part of a larger jigsaw that the police are trying to put together. As Inspector Bell says "Bother us! – that's what we are here for."

Keep Watching.

**Janet France,
Area Coordinator**

Thai restaurant delayed

The \$58,000 fit-out of the new 100-seat Thai restaurant at 154 Sailors Bay Rd (the red apartment building) has been delayed at least until May 1.

The three-month delay was ordered by the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal in accordance with the provisions of the Strata Schemes Management Act.

Tales of Flat Rock Creek: "Rugged, Ruined and Reclaimed"



Relief workers during the Great Depression rebuilding Market St in Willoughby in 1935, with Flat Rock Gully and the Suspension Bridge in the distance.

A new exhibition at Willoughby Museum explores through the eyes of Willoughby residents the impact of urban development on a pristine natural environment since the European settlement. Its objective is to enhance public understanding of the historical factors behind the present context of Flat Rock Creek and its associated facilities in an entertaining manner. The primary focus is on the section of Flat Rock Creek eastward from Willoughby Rd through its rocky gully.

The story is told through three primary themes: the "Rugged" and relative pristine landscape prior to the 1930s; the "Ruined" valley resulting from the Incinerator and associated garbage tip, together with local industries, which impacted on the downstream landscape, flora and fauna; and the "Reclamation" phase, during which the Incinerator and the devastated landscape were restored as public recreational facilities and bushland.

A team of volunteers has been working with museum consultant Helen Tierney through February and March to plan and develop professional displays. This hands-on approach has helped to build capacity to mount similar displays in future. Personal stories from residents who grew up in the area enliven the presentation.

Mayor Pat Reilly opened the exhibition on April 2 and it will run until further notice. The museum at 58 Johnson St, Chatswood, is open each Sunday from 1-4pm. Admission is \$4 adults, \$3 concession and \$2 children. Phone: 9410 3203.

Bob McKillop

Paulian Villa to be refurbished

The 71-bed, 1970s era Paulian Villa nursing home on Eastern Valley Way is to be extensively refurbished by Catholic Healthcare to form a 40-bed aged care facility. In January, Council approved plans to demolish the two-storey building fronting onto Eastern Valley Way to make way for a staff and visitor car park. In addition, existing balconies will be enclosed and ensuite bathrooms renovated and enlarged. Extensive landscaping will take place on the site.



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Clean Up Australia Day in Northbridge



NPA organiser Grant Sheldon (left) with 13-year old volunteers Darcy Baron-Hay and Callum Rossi (right) at Northbridge Baths car park.

An energetic group of 15 volunteers collected a huge amount of rubbish from Northbridge Baths car park and the surrounding bushland and foreshore on March 6. "It is amazing how people simply throw their rubbish on the ground or dump it in the bush," said the organiser of the clean up, Grant Sheldon from NPA's committee. "Our most unusual discovery was a safe which had been forced and dumped in the bush. Chatswood Police were notified and they came and retrieved the safe to check for evidence." They and the 15 volunteers all received a certificate for being part of Clean Up Day.

In addition to the safe, in two hours the clean up included six large bags of garbage, three bags of recyclables, two car wheels, an old office chair, three broken surfboards, an old door, a dozen recently dumped concrete blocks and a big pile of dumped bamboo.

Best-selling US author to speak in Northbridge



US novelist Lisa Genova is speaking at a literary luncheon in Northbridge in May. Her first novel *Still Alice* was nominated for 2010 Debut Book of the year and entered the *New York Times* best-seller list at number five. Her latest novel *Left Neglected* is already on the *New York Times* best-seller list

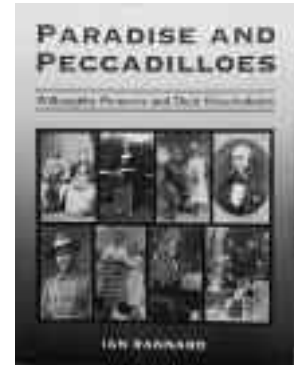
Ms Genova has a PhD in neuroscience from Harvard University and is a member of Dementia Advocacy, Support Network International and Dementia USA. She is an online columnist for the National Alzheimer's Association. She will be in Australia for the Sydney Writers' Festival.

The lunch, organised by Northbridge Rotary Club and Cammeray Bookshop, will be held on Tuesday May 3 at 12 for 12.30pm at Northbridge Golf Club. The \$45 cost includes lunch and coffee. Booking is essential. Contact 9922 2554.

BOOK REVIEW

Paradise and Peccadilloes

by Ian Rannard



"It was inevitable there was going to be trouble when Samuel Baldry began an affair with his neighbour's wife." So begins Ian Rannard's second book *Paradise and Peccadilloes*, from which it is obvious that this is not going to be a boring biography of local identities.

Ian has chosen eight families who settled in the paradise which is Willoughby between 1859 and 1890, in the very early stages of its development. He has traced the fortunes of the families for the periods they have lived in Willoughby. Some families are well known, including the Broomham, Forsyth and French families, and a number has ties to Northbridge. Some members of all eight families have lived in Willoughby for well over 100 years, with the Horsley family topping the score at 150 years.

But the stories all have a twist, which adds spice to the family history. They show that families can survive despite scandal, tragedy or peccadillo, be it an affair, family squabbles over an estate or running a business, ill health, premature death or financial disaster.

Ian's research is brilliant and painstaking. The result is a book crammed with photographs, maps, facts and figures which provide not only a history of the families involved but to a lesser extent a history of Willoughby itself.

The book is available at Northbridge Post Office and Cammeray Bookshop for \$29.95.

Pam Clifford

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Community noticeboard

Northbridge Library

- The Premier's Reading Challenge is on again. There have been many new titles added to the list this year and the books have all been relabelled, making them easy to find on the shelves.
- Look out for the Northbridge knitters at the library again this coming winter and get involved by knitting 25cm squares in 8 ply wool. Last year the library delivered four wraps from the community to Wraps with Love.
- See the library website for details on story times, book clubs and courses for children and adults continuing this year at the library www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library/

Rotary literary luncheon

Lisa Genova will speak about her books, *Still Alice* and *Left Neglected*, at a lunch at Northbridge Golf Club on May 3 at 12 for 12.30. Cost of \$45 includes lunch and coffee. Booking is essential – contact Cammeray Bookshop on 9922 2554.



Men's Shed

The Willoughby Community Men's Shed, opposite Bonds Corner, is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am until 3pm. Wednesday is a mixed day with women members attending. Contact Neville Warner 9403 7321 or 0408 204 805.



Northbridge Rotary Community Fireworks

Please put Saturday May 7 into your calendar for this family event at Northbridge Oval. Gates open at 3:30pm (\$5 entry) and the program will commence at 4pm with performances by the Cammeray and Northbridge Primary School bands. Rides, amusements, jumping castles and barbecued food will keep the family entertained until a spectacular fireworks display at 7pm.

Blood dates for your diary

The Red Cross mobile van will be at Northbridge Plaza on Fridays May 13, August 12 and November 18. To make an appointment to give blood, please phone 13 14 95.



Masonic meetings

Lodge French's 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 each month. All Freemasons, whether attached to a Lodge or not, visitors from interstate or overseas, are invited to attend. Enquiries: David on 0404 891 051, Sam on 0408 174 410 or email sam@strykowski.com

Community shield

Teams are invited to register to compete for the Northbridge Bowling Club Shield on June 10. The competition will be hosted by the Northbridge Valley Women's Bowling Club.

Friendship & Craft Club

Visitors will be made very welcome at the club, which meets each Wednesday from 10am–2.30pm at St Marks Hall in Malacoota Rd. For more information, phone President Margaret Tyson 9958 8976.



The Probus Club of Northbridge Inc

We are a friendly group of retired men who meet monthly on each second Tuesday. The club arranges talks by interesting speakers and optional outings with wives/partners. Meetings are at the Northbridge Bowling Club. Why not come along as a visitor and enjoy a cuppa with us by calling Barry on 9958 7761 or Richard on 9958 1004?

Northbridge Playgroup

Playgroup, for children from six months to four years and their parents or carers, is held at Warners Park Centre on Mondays and Fridays from 10am–12 noon.

For more information, phone Yan Lin on 0434 347 428.

We welcome contributions to the community noticeboard. It provides free advertising for not-for-profit community and charity organisations in Northbridge. Please ring 9958 7566 or email mplye@bigpond.net.au. Editorial deadlines are published on the front page of *The 202*.

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