

## Excavation starts for nursing home



Gone ... six houses and two semis have been demolished to make way for the nursing home in Sailors Bay Rd.

As *The 202* went to the printer, massive excavations were about to commence for the 116-bed aged care facility on seven blocks of land between Sailors Bay Rd and Baringa Rd. Demolition of the houses on the blocks was completed in early November. The Project Manager for the development, Peter Wood, told *The 202* that the excavation would average five metres in depth and, weather permitting, would be completed in January. Drainage works across Sailors Bay Rd were scheduled for the January holiday period to affect as few residents as possible.

Mr Wood said that the entire project would be completed by March 2013.

"There are no special arrangements for working during school drop-off and pick-up hours," Mr Wood said. "However, there is traffic control and pedestrian management in place to ease congestion."

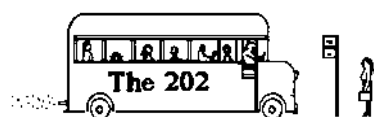
Council's Environmental Services Director, Greg Woodhams, told *The 202* that a special condition requested by NPA and residents that heavy vehicles not be operated during peak school hours was not imposed because it would have extended the construction period. He

said the developer is required to park waiting trucks legally in Eastern Valley Way or Strathallen Ave and to limit street parking by trades vehicles.

Mr Woodhams told *The 202* that Council had agreed to a compromise on the \$94 contribution from the developer after the assessed amount of \$90,280 for community facilities was appealed in the Land & Environment Court.



*Season's Greetings*  
and a happy New Year to all our members,  
volunteers, readers and advertisers.



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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 Dec 8, 2011 and Feb 23, May 10, July 19, Sept 27, Dec 6, 2012  
**Deadlines for *The 202*:** Ads and contributions: Mondays Jan 23, April 2, June 18, Aug 27, Nov 5, 2012

### Our next meeting

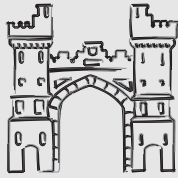
Come along to the Annual General Meeting  
of Northbridge Progress Association at  
**8pm on Thursday, December 8**  
at **St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd.**

**Guest speaker: Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP**  
Member for Willoughby and Minister for Transport

**The President and Treasurer will report on the past year.**  
**Office bearers will be nominated and elected.**

**Our Ward Councillors are invited to report on local issues.**

Visitors are welcome. Christmas refreshments will be served after the meeting.



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PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

ABN 41 733 956 702

P O Box 357  
Northbridge 2063

[www.northbridgepa.com.au](http://www.northbridgepa.com.au)

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# President's report for 2011



It was again a busy year for Northbridge Progress Association with a large number of Northbridge community issues and broader matters to address.

**Major issues**

We were disappointed that, despite Council's refusal of the proposal, a Joint Regional Planning Panel approved in February a 116-bed nursing home on seven blocks of land facing Sailors Bay Rd at Euroka St roundabout. We were not opposed to the facility in principle but it failed to comply with a number of important NSW and Council controls. We also urged Council

to limit heavy construction vehicle movements during school peak hours, with limited success.

NPA spent a good deal of effort on NSW planning law issues, particularly since Council in November 2010 approved a substantial increase in medium-density zoning for Northbridge. NPA was the only Progress Association invited to address a NSW Planning Forum in July and we organised a General Meeting on the same subject in October. Subsequently, NPA made a submission to the two-person Planning Review Panel which will be making recommendations to NSW Government in 2012.

We were disappointed that, mainly because RTA has not agreed to assist with funding, Council has not yet carried out a comprehensive traffic study of Northbridge. We requested a study in 2010.

**Other local issues**

NPA congratulated Council on its successful re-surfacing of Northbridge Oval but then watched the parking chaos which resulted as usage of the oval increased substantially. We are keen to see Council and Northbridge Football Club take action to resolve the concerns of nearby residents. Similarly, we congratulated Council on completing its splendid new facility in Chatswood, The Concourse, but were disappointed by the substantial cost and schedule over-runs for the project.

NPA and the community had some wins during the year. We persuaded Council to improve the safety of the Harden Ave entry to its Plaza car park with a new footpath. Residents and NPA argued successfully for Ausgrid to change the proposed location of a new substation away from Clive Park. And we persuaded RTA to formally change the name of "our bridge" to Suspension Bridge. NPA objected to a number of Northbridge development proposals during the year and most were amended by the developers, though not always to the extent suggested. After our numerous objections, we were pleased to see that Northbridge Hotel, which renovated extensively in 2007 without any Council approvals, finally returned to compliance this year.

**Community activities**

During 2011, NPA promoted new Northbridge entry signs and pledged \$5000 towards their cost. We won a \$1500 community grant from Council to prepare a "Walk Northbridge" brochure. We donated \$200 for citizenship awards at local primary schools. NPA organised a Clean Up Australia Day in Northbridge in March. And we continued to assist Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch to maintain its profile.

We were pleased to see that Pam Clifford received two community awards in 2011 for her valuable research and writings about Northbridge history. She assisted Council with the re-naming of Harden Park and a local laneway. NPA has commenced work on an event to mark the 100th anniversary of the naming of Northbridge in 2013 and is supporting the Northbridge history book which Pam is writing.

*Continued on page 3*

**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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## It's time to join NPA or to renew your membership!

If you are not already a member of NPA, please consider joining now for the 2012 calendar year. If you are already a member, please renew your membership now. Our membership fees are modest and have been unchanged for many years.

NPA has almost 500 members but we need more to give Northbridge's 2500 households an even stronger voice with Council and State governments.

NPA has been active continuously for 93 years. Our basic objective is to "preserve or improve the amenity and environment of Northbridge". We try to ensure that your opinions are heard and that you are informed about developments in your suburb.

NPA's committee members work on a voluntary basis. Our bi-monthly newsletter *The 202* is delivered free by volunteers to all households and businesses in Northbridge.

# NSW planning laws – are they democratic?



(From left) Chris Drummer, Kirsty Ruddock and Greg Woodhams at the NPA general meeting in October.

An audience of Northbridge residents, three Willoughby Councillors and representatives of other Progress Associations heard three experts speak about Planning Law at NPA's general meeting in October. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution (see box below) which was forwarded to the recently formed Planning Review Panel. NPA Vice-President John Lightfoot

attended the Panel's hearings in Willoughby on October 13 (see report page 6).

At the meeting, Chris Drummer, President of Kuring-gai Residents Alliance, described the government's actions which had taken planning powers away from the community. He urged Northbridge residents to be vigilant, to elect the right councillors and to fight for their rights as a group, not as individuals.

Kirsty Ruddock, Principal Solicitor from the NSW Environmental Defenders Office, noted that the EP&A Act had been whittled away over time. She spoke about the conflict between economic growth and the environment. She said that good community engagement usually achieves better development outcomes and urged residents to make their voices heard.

Greg Woodhams, Willoughby City Council, gave his personal views on where the Act had gone wrong and what needed to be implemented. He suggested a three-tiered instrument which also responded to new societal issues such as climate change and demographics. He also proposed that a new Act should include an infrastructure funding mechanism.

More details of the three talks can be found on [northbridgepa.com.au/events](http://northbridgepa.com.au/events)

## The resolution of NPA's general meeting

**RESOLVED** that this meeting wants Planning Laws which take into consideration the legitimate needs and concerns of residents; with plans to be agreed through a genuine consultation process and then stuck to; and an end to the over-ruling of agreed State or Council controls by unelected bodies. We want suburbs that the community can enjoy and not a place of high-rise buildings choked with traffic.

This meeting wants a planning system that would be simple; be subject to review at regular intervals (not 30+ years); ensure meaningful participation by community groups at every stage; ensure processes were transparent; take account of current and projected demographics; require infrastructure to be part of the plan; and be binding.

## Cartoons

Our thanks to student Jack Schmidt and a professional illustrator (DC) who are both Northbridge residents and generously draw cartoons for *The 202* on a pro bono basis.

## President's report for 2011

(continued from page 2)

### Thank you

I congratulate our local Member and our three Ward Councillors for their sincere efforts on behalf of Northbridge residents. They work long hours to respond to our community's concerns.

My thanks go to our invaluable advertisers in *The 202* newsletter, many of whom have been loyal to NPA for several years. Without them, NPA would be much less effective. Please support them all.

Our sincere thanks go to Chartered Accountant Michael Ball who acts as the Association's honorary auditor and to solicitor Peter McLachlan, who is the Public Officer. NPA is fortunate to have such well-qualified, community-minded and generous people to ensure its excellent governance.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone else who makes the Association successful: almost 500 members, voluntary 'walkers' who deliver *The 202*, excellent guest speakers, all the contributors who make *The 202* such a success, and the hard-working members of NPA's committee. The Northbridge community should be proud of this caring and committed band of volunteers.

Peter McNair

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Judge us by our performance

We understand that traffic during the construction period of Sailors Bay Gardens aged care facility is of major concern to the local community. It is to us as well.

We are aware that when the mixed-use development at 154-158 Sailors Bay Rd was constructed the majority of the trucks was parked on Sailors Bay Rd while being loaded/unloaded. We believe this caused major traffic disruptions. We advise as follows:

- No trucks that will be carrying material offsite during the demolition or excavation for the project will be waiting/parking within Northbridge local streets.
- All trucks will enter the site to be loaded. There is no need for trucks to park on Sailors Bay Rd.
- A 'Works Zone' has been established to ensure trucks have adequate space to enter Sailors Bay Rd safely.
- There will be two traffic controllers managing access to and from the site of all vehicles and guiding pedestrians walking along the footpath in front of the site to ensure their safety.

Our aim is to minimise any disruption to the local community. We would hope that Conrite can be judged on its own performance. For your information, the contact number for site communications is 8014 8052.

**Peter Wood**  
Construction Manager  
Conrite Pty Limited

## Paint needed

I would like to suggest that Council gives fresh coats of paint to several Council-provided seats at bus stops in Northbridge. One example is the seat outside the shops in Sailors Bay Rd along from the Bellambi St intersection. It is so dilapidated that bare timber shows. The initials WMC in faded black paint are on the backrest of the seats.

The present seat structures appear to be sound and they are comfortable. It would be a matter for regret if they were replaced with the awkward all-metal type of seat such as used in Strathallen Ave at the main bus stop.

Also, Australia Post should give a fresh coat of red paint to the letterbox in Council's Plaza car park. Other AP letter boxes in Northbridge have been

repainted in recent times but the Plaza box is a very faded red and corrosion can be readily seen on the exposed upper metal surface. Its dilapidated appearance is in contrast to its surroundings and to the good image maintained by our local Post Office.

**Alex Norquay**



## Dodgy bus

I have just read a copy of *The 202* newsletter (I live on the Central Coast). I found it very interesting. However, I noticed, as you may have been told before, that the bus on the front page has its door on the right hand side. A bit dodgy for the passengers boarding and alighting!

**Alan Tonge, Wamberal**

*We have made the bus safer for this issue! Editor*

### Business or Home PC Problems?



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## Councillor's viewpoint

by Cr Gail Giles-Gidney

Council's car park at Northbridge Plaza can be a shopping hazard. In mid-October, I was walking next to a lady when her grocery-laden trolley overturned after snagging a wheel. Luckily, there was no personal injury or spilt milk, but why doesn't Council just fix the car park?

In 2007, Council tried to do just that. A working committee was formed and the Plaza owners spent almost \$1 million dollars on a 'Total Concept Plan'. Ultimately, for many reasons including conflicting stakeholder prerequisites and the total estimated cost, the plan was shelved.

The car park site is no level playing field. In fact, the ground drops nearly six metres from the Antico entrance to the far end fence. Any redevelopment would be a significant and costly undertaking. Other considerations are the current economic climate, stakeholder considerations including local residents, the community health centre and Plaza management. Given these parameters and the planning process time lag, I propose that this issue is revisited by Council sooner rather than never and I'm pushing for it to be brought back onto the front burner.

### A level playing field

We do however have one level playing field at Northbridge – at the Oval – and there is little doubt that sport lovers think the new synthetic surface is terrific. Sports are now being played regardless of weather. Most members of our community have embraced the state-of-the-art facility but, for some local residents, the associated increases in traffic and parking bring nightmares. Training and games go from dawn to beyond dusk and that means more cars are in the area. Sadly, not all of the car owners follow parking rules.

On the one hand, people are anxious to train, play and support on the all weather surface. On the other hand, local residents just want a quiet life without traffic hassles and with full access to the oval. Council is mediating between sporting groups, who are educating participants to respect parking laws and residents' property, and with residents to better understand their concerns. Council has already implemented traffic changes and increased the presence of Rangers.

Love it or hate it, have your say and let me know.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(continued from page 4)

### No new signs!

I read with interest in *The 202* September issue the suggestion that the aged Northbridge entry sign in Strathallen Ave be replaced by an architect-designed, large contemporary sign. (The generosity of the architect in question who spent time on the designs is acknowledged.) I strongly disagree with this suggestion.

Could consideration be given to refurbishing the existing signs which have history, charm and suit the ambience of Northbridge? With modern products available, similarly designed signs could be recreated to last many years.

Why change for the sake of change? The new signs as illustrated are unnecessarily large constructions and do not reflect the village atmosphere of Northbridge. Progress is essential, we all understand, but not at the expense of iconic landmarks. Why use the 100th anniversary of the naming of Northbridge to introduce something different? Rather, let's celebrate the spirit of Northbridge, its history and character.

**P. Beverley**

### Contact your Ward Councillors

[Adrian.Cox@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Adrian.Cox@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

Or phone 9958 1135

[Gail.Giles-Gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Gail.Giles-Gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

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## Plaza plans

*The 202* has been told by tenants that Northbridge Plaza is planning a "facelift" in early 2012. However, as *The 202* went to the printer, Plaza Centre manager Anthony Wilson advised: "Unfortunately we are not in a position to release any information on any upgrades as yet". Anthony said that the Plaza is working on tenant refurbishments, the current standard of the car park and on community awareness and support.

In regard to the car park at the Plaza, Council's Infrastructure Services Director Steven Head has told *The 202* that Council staff are currently looking at options to improve traffic circulation and pedestrian safety. "Short term and longer term options will be developed in liaison with Plaza management," Steven said.

## Whither Eric St?



At NPA's request earlier in 2011, Council asked the developer of the new car wash to preserve the name "Eric St", which had been embedded in the concrete footpath at the corner of Eastern Valley Way and Sailors Bay Rd for at least 75 years. Eric St was the former name of Eastern Valley Way. Unfortunately, the developer removed the slab containing the name and re-concreted the footpath. The historic slab, which is now being stored by Council, is looking for a new home.

## Council responds to proposed Northbridge signs



*One of the new Northbridge entry signs which was proposed for discussion with Council.*

Council's General Manager Nick Tobin has asked Council staff to review NPA's proposal for new entry signs into Northbridge. In a letter to NPA, Nick said that, in particular, he has asked staff to look at: "The need for any signage to be appropriate for the entire City; maintenance issues, particularly graffiti management; cost and public safety, eg sight lines."

NPA proposed in September to replace present aged and rusting signs with contemporary signs which are more appropriate to a notable suburb like Northbridge.

## NPA attends Planning Law review

On October 13, NPA representatives attended the two public meetings held at the Willoughby Club by the Planning Review Panel as part of the process to develop a new state Planning Law. The meetings were well attended with up to 100 residents including Willoughby Councillors and Progress Association members at each meeting. The public was invited to comment on the current law and suggest what should be incorporated in the new Act.

The NPA's views (see box on page 3) were reiterated and reinforced by a number of participants. Several people supported the views that Joint Regional Planning Panels should be abolished and that local residents, through Councils, should have absolute power over development. There was also a view that private certifiers should be abolished and certification should be the responsibility of an independent assessor, rather than someone paid by the developer.

The Planning Review Panel members commented that in their travels a number of areas had been very pro-development as a way to generate jobs and wealth. Other areas wanted to restrict development. The new Act could not be "one size fits all" but had to take account of differing needs.

**John Lightfoot**

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# NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

This is your personal notice to attend Northbridge Progress Association Inc's Annual General Meeting at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd, Northbridge, at 8pm on Thursday, December 8, 2011.

I will give a report of the year's activities and Treasurer Sheila Prater will present audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2011. Popular Willoughby MP and Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian will be guest speaker. Our Ward Councillors have been invited to report on Council matters.

Christmas drinks and nibbles will be served after the meeting. Please join us.

**Peter McNair**  
President

## Election of officers

At the Annual General Meeting, nominations for the following officer bearers will be called and an election held. You are encouraged to nominate suitable residents as officers of the Association, namely President, two Vice-presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, three committee members and *The 202* Editor. In addition, three delegates to the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations will be elected. Please contact the President, Peter McNair, before the meeting if you wish to nominate for any position. Only previously paid-up members of the Association will be able to vote at the meeting.

## Thank you to our 'walkers'

*The 202* is delivered to all Northbridge letterboxes by a couple of dozen voluntary 'walkers' who combine a love of exercise with a valuable community service. The Committee of the Northbridge Progress Association records its sincere appreciation of their efforts on behalf of all residents.

Thank you all for a job well done!

Ineke Amer	Penny and Malcolm Lye	Jenny Roxburgh
Pam and Tony Clifford	Meg and Campbell Meldrum	Juliet and Conrad Schmidt
Rob Coote	Jenny McConnell	Sue Sheldon
Val Gomm	Peter McNair	Trish Sweeney
Peter Grinter	Peter Mordaunt	David Synnott
Dora Isaacs	Kathy Pauncz	Stewart Truswell
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	Bernadette Ramsey	

## Our invaluable advertisers

Please support the businesses which provide Northbridge Progress Association with invaluable financial support through their advertisements in *The 202* newsletter. Without them, NPA would be much less effective. Many advertisers have been loyal to NPA for several years; others are welcome newcomers. We thank them all.

## NPA's website

NPA's web page [www.northbridgepa.com.au](http://www.northbridgepa.com.au) has useful information on current Northbridge issues, minutes of meetings, past copies of *The 202*, Neighbourhood Watch and crime statistics, links to local organisations and NPA contacts.

## Financial Report

### NORTHBRIDGE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ABN 41 733 956 702

#### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2010 TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011

##### Income for the year:

Advertisements	\$ 22,110.00
Membership	\$ 2,632.00
Donations	\$ 968.00
Reimbursements printing	\$ 227.87
Interest – Term Deposit	\$ 712.64
Interest – Trading Account	\$ 0.76
	<u>\$ 26,642.27</u>
	<b>\$ 26,642.27</b>

##### Expenditure for the year:

Newsletter production	\$ 14,840.72
Candidates meeting	\$ 590.72
BBC Consultants	\$ 1,980.00
Dept of Fair Trading	\$ 48.00
FWPA – Insurance	\$ 142.00
W.E.P.A.	\$ 25.00
Petty cash	\$ 200.00
St Marks – Hall hire	\$ 110.00
Aust. Post – PO Box	\$ 86.00
Aust. Post – Reply Paid	\$ 86.50
Citizenship Awards	\$ 200.00
Meetings	\$ 242.00
Domain name	\$ 239.00
Earth Day	\$ 119.85
	<u>\$ 18,909.77</u>
	<b>\$ 18,909.77</b>

##### SURPLUS FOR YEAR

ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011 **\$ 7,732.50**

##### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011

##### Accumulated balance:

As at 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	\$ 18,673.88
PLUS Surplus for the year ended 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	\$ 7,732.50
	<u>\$ 26,406.38</u>
	<b>\$ 26,406.38</b>

##### Represented by:

Current assets – Cash at bank	\$ 10,406.38
– Term deposit	\$ 16,000.00

Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 **\$ 26,406.38**

I have audited the Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure of Northbridge Progress Association Inc. for the year ended 30th June 2011 and I am of the opinion that they present a fair view of the financial position of the Association at Balance Date and the results of its operations for the year.

**Michael Ball**  
Chartered Accountant  
October 2011

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## King Park named

In September, Council approved a change of name for Harden Park, the small green area in Harden Ave adjacent to Garrick Lane. The park will be called King Park after the three brothers Bill, Norm and Nolan King, who operated three market gardens in Harden Ave from 1933 until 1951. The name was recommended to Council by Northbridge Progress Association.

The largest of the Harden Ave market gardens, 'the big garden', was behind No 10 on the site of the present Council car park, which was developed in 1961. Other gardens were at Nos 24 and 30 to 34 Harden Ave.

The King brothers were a different family from that of Chinese-born William Ah King. He and his family operated market gardens in Willoughby from the 1880s until the mid-1950s. His first market garden occupied some of the land which is now part of Shore's playing fields in Northbridge.

### Park upgrade approved

Council has approved an upgrade of King Park which will include a modest expansion of the area, a new winding footpath, fresh landscaping and increased seating. As *The 202* went to the printer, quotes were being sought for the improvement work.

*For more about the fascinating market gardens in Willoughby and Northbridge, read The Forgotten Gardens by Ian Rannard, available from Cammeray Bookshop.*



## Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch

### EyeWatch

The NSW government is keen for more interaction between police and the community. In response, the police have launched EyeWatch. Instead of spending vast resources to set this up the police decided to use a platform already in use – Facebook. The site is to be used as an interactive page where the police can keep us up to date with current news and we can ask them questions. It is not a place to report crime nor will it replace calling the police directly.

There is a public page on Facebook and a private members-only area where you will need to join Facebook to take part. Joining is easy and free. Once joined you can go to [www.facebook.com/nswpoliceforce](http://www.facebook.com/nswpoliceforce) and then type in North Shore LAC in the search box. As an example, if there is a shoplifter in Westfield any of the shops can quickly upload a photo of him or her from their store's CCTV camera and within seconds all the shops have a picture of the offender. The police will then be able to react instantly. You could take a photo of a graffiti tag and it would be shared around all Neighbourhood Watch groups and someone may recognise the tag and the person responsible.

Further potential uses for this site could be for our own Northbridge area to have a locked area where we could all talk to each other about local issues (those joining would need a police check).

### Crime statistics

Break, enter and steal figures for Northbridge were six for July and none for August. There has been a cluster of break-ins at the Bulwark in Castlecrag. Malicious damage figures, including graffiti, for the whole LAC were 63 for July and 46 for August.

### Graffiti removal

To have graffiti removed by Council from private property, the property owner, tenant or occupier must first report the graffiti to the Police Assistance Line (13 1444) to obtain an event number. Once you have the event number, register the graffiti online or contact Council's Help and Service Centre on 9777 1000. For graffiti on public property contact Council direct.

Finally, please check your mail boxes in coming weeks for your fridge magnet brochures with all the police numbers you will ever need. Big thanks to Willoughby City Council for its sponsorship.

Keep watching!

Janet France, Coordinator

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## Rotary awards for locals



*Northbridge Post Office licensees Janet and Sam Lam receive a Pride of Workmanship award from local MP Gladys Berejikian, with Rotary Vocational Services Director Paul Sullivan.*

At a special dinner in October, Northbridge Rotary Club presented five 2011 Pride of Workmanship awards and one Community Service Award to locals "whose exemplary contributions to their vocations or community service are worthy of public acknowledgement". The annual Rotary awards are given to people whose roles may not be otherwise recognised by the community.

The recipients were Northbridge librarian Jane Cozens for her commitment to service and her achievement of substantial growth in use of the local library; Sam and Janet Lam, licensees of Northbridge Post Office, for their outstanding customer service and efficiency; local pharmacist Colin Johnston, who has provided exceptional service to Northbridge residents for more than 25 years; Nicholas Martin for his excellent performance as an apprentice motor service technician; and the Maggio family for their outstanding cafe in Cammeray. Janet France was awarded the Community Service Award for her leadership in environmental and sustainability programs in Northbridge.

The awards were again presented by the Member for Willoughby and Minister for Transport, Hon Gladys Berejikian MP, who rushed from a Budget Estimates Hearing to be present. "It's a golden opportunity for me through these Pride of Workmanship awards to recognise and congratulate those people who contribute so much," she said. "We are also indebted to the wonderful people who give selflessly in a voluntary capacity to our community."

## Playground blitz for Baptist Preschool

The 80 children who attend Northside Baptist Preschool each week are delighted to be exploring the opportunities that their new playground offers. Preschool coordinator Suzanne Balanco says: "Our ambition was to create a physically challenging learning environment that was an irresistible natural play space for the preschool children." The extensive upgrade was undertaken during October and was made possible by funds raised by the hard-working Parent Committees of the past few years. "We are tremendously grateful for the support of the community in all of our fundraising endeavours," Suzanne said.



The new outdoor environment reflects the practices outlined in the Early Years Learning Framework which invite open-ended interactions, spontaneity, risk-taking, exploration, discovery and connection with nature.

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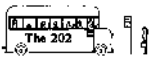
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## Northbridge Oval traffic issues

Council's Steven Head told *The 202* that Council is liaising with local residents to address their concerns about traffic and parking problems caused by increased use of Northbridge Oval. "It is expected that some changes to existing parking restrictions and possibly some additional traffic management measures may be recommended to ensure that impacts on the residents are managed," Steven said.

## Baby health centre to be upgraded

A Development Application is being prepared by Council for a new Early Childhood Centre in the same location adjacent to Council's car park at Northbridge Plaza, according to Council's Environmental Services Director Greg Woodhams. Greg said that the DA will need to be assessed by an independent planner as it will involve Council land.

## Council award

In October, Willoughby City Council won the 2010/11 Bluett Memorial Award, the peak award for Local Government in NSW. The award recognised the significant achievements of Council over the past 12 months and acknowledges the sound leadership and commitment provided by the Councillors, the General Manager and Council staff to deliver community projects.

## Every time Northbridge plays, the community wins

By Kym Griffen, Northbridge Football Club

In a world of technological communication, many kids feel increasingly isolated, losing an aspect of talking together. On the football field, though, they are in it together wearing the Northbridge Football Club stripes. You can't text a pass or tweet a tackle – you have to rely on your teammates. It's our 'community-ness' that is the key to Northbridge's success.

Approximately 40% of our current members reside here in Sailors Bay Ward. We have 200 players attending Northbridge Public, 100 players at St Philip Neri and over 300 attending Willoughby Public School. The club's membership covers all age groups with more than 1000 players under the age of 10 years.

Many Northbridge and Willoughby families have benefitted from Northbridge Football Club recently entering the elite State League Competition. Previously, there was no club on the lower North Shore providing the opportunity to play in the State League. Players and their parents had to commute all over Sydney for training and games. Now, local families have come back to play for Northbridge.

In our first season in State League, our girls had a brilliant result with our Under 12 girls and Under 14 girls winning their title and the Under 16 girls coming in third. Overall, Northbridge came second in the Club Championship – a clear reflection of the talent that we have right here in Willoughby.

On the charity front, Northbridge Football Club supports sporting development in Cambodia and the Northern Territory through members' generous donations of boots and other gear. In October we gave two nets to the Soccer is Life Program at Parramatta which helps young refugees from war-torn African and Middle Eastern countries.

## Albert Mitchell remembered

The unnamed laneway between Byora Cres and Dalmeny Rd is now named Albert Mitchell Laneway. The name, which was recommended by Northbridge Progress Association, was approved by Council in September.

Mr Mitchell lived nearby in Weetalibah Rd and was important to Northbridge in two ways. He was the first Headmaster of Northbridge Public School (from 1923 to 1928) and was recognised as an outstanding educator and administrator. Perhaps more importantly, he was also a keen photographer. The Mitchell Collection at Willoughby Library is an invaluable record of the development of the suburb.

The laneway was upgraded with stone steps and drainage by Council two years ago and has recently been weeded and re-planted by local Bushcare volunteers.

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# Fundraising for cancer



Local Peter Mordaunt with his rally car.

Northbridge resident and NPA volunteer Peter Mordaunt raised more than \$8000 in 2011 when his team The Three Amigos entered their rally car in a fundraiser for the Cancer Council. Local businesses Pizza Tutti's and LJ Hooker helped with sponsorship. The rally raised more than \$700,000 in total for the Cancer Council.

Peter's team for the 2012 rally is named Skeleton Crew and he is aiming to raise even more. "As a community I have found Northbridge residents to be very generous and I am sure most residents have been touched by cancer in some way or other," Peter told *The 202*. "Pizza Tutti's have already put up their hand for 2012."

Residents interested in helping can contact Peter on 0419 163 079 or make a donation via [everydayhero.com.au/skeleton\\_crew](http://everydayhero.com.au/skeleton_crew)

## Northbridge traffic study

Council has again written to RTA to seek its support for funding a comprehensive traffic study in Northbridge. Council was unable to fund the study, which would focus on State roads, from its 2010/2011 budget. The study was requested more than one year ago by NPA, which has made submissions to Council, RTA and the Member for Willoughby, so far without result.

## Tennis courts to be modified

Councils' Infrastructure Services Director Steven Head has told *The 202* that a draft plan is being prepared to convert the tennis courts near Bonds Corner to multi-sport, including tennis. The plan and operating guideline will be publicly exhibited for community comment.

## New footpath for Council car park

Council has constructed a new footpath along the Harden Ave entry to the Council car park at Northbridge Plaza. The footpath was in response to an NPA submission in March 2011 expressing concern about the hazards for pedestrians, particularly those with strollers or young children.



### 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](mailto: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.

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### Article from Fire and Rescue NSW:

"Over the past five years there have been a significant number of fires in NSW related to halogen down-lights"

<http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=709>

## Help for orphans

On October 13 Borruso's restaurant in Northbridge raised \$41,000 for Eniwe Children's Fund which supports AIDS orphans in South Africa. The funds will go towards building a school. Attendees at the function included Northbridge residents Karen Gee, the current Mrs Australia, and Rugby League legend Laurie Daley.

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# The gentleman boxer, a Northbridge champion

by Pam Clifford



Champion boxer Hockey Bennell was born and lived in Northbridge for 25 years.

school hidden in a large garbage can, saw the official opening, got a job as a delivery boy with a tea company and returned home. He was told that as long as he kept his job he need not return to the reform school.

In those difficult Depression years, he was fortunate to secure various jobs, including pasting picture theatre advertisements on billboards for the Northbridge and Willoughby theatres, using a little cart pulled by a goat he had caught in the bush near Innisfallen Castle. He recalled delivering ice to Henry Lawson's wife, Bertha, in Baroona Rd.

Prior to his time in reform school, Hockey took boxing lessons from an ex-boxer named Ike Grant and entered his first tournament at Chatswood Town Hall under the name of Billy Grant "because I didn't want anybody to know it was me in case I was beaten". He won easily. To facilitate his defence tactics and gyrating, he attended tap dancing classes with local teacher Miss Margaret Williams (later Greenfield, mother of June Stephens).

#### Turned professional

During his career he won the Amateur Lightweight Boxing Championship in 1934 and both state and national titles in that division in 1935. When he missed selection for the Australian Olympic Team to Berlin in 1936 he turned professional and won the Australian Welter Championship in 1938 and the Middleweight Championship in 1943.

Hockey Bennell was a popular fighter in the days when attending a fight at Leichhardt Stadium or The Stadium at Rushcutters Bay was an important social event. At one title fight in 1947 against Tommy Burns, a capacity crowd of 15,000 people packed Leichhardt Stadium and many more gathered outside to listen to the fight which was broadcast from the ringside.

*Continued on page 13*

Hockey Bennell was one of the many successful sporting personalities who have lived in Northbridge. He was born Horace Andrew Bennell on January 2, 1916 in Eric St (now Eastern Valley Way) and attended Northbridge Public School. As he recalled in an article in *MAN* magazine in July 1950: "I was the dunce of the class and teachers never let me forget it. As a result, I was not often at school." When his parents suggested he transfer to Sydney Church of England Grammar School, he left home.

It was not long before he ended up in reform school, where he stayed for two years. He recalls his first night there was one of the unhappiest of his life. The 'new kids' were made to run the length of the dormitory while the other boys flipped their bare behinds with towels. Life was easier after he challenged the best fighter in the school, three years his senior, to meet him in the recreation hall and won.

#### Absconded from reform school

With a burning desire to see the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in March, 1932, Hockey, then 16, absconded from the reform

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## Walking Northbridge brochure



Northbridge Progress Association will shortly start work on writing and publishing a new brochure suggesting walks around the historic, Aboriginal and bushland sites of Northbridge. The brochure has been made possible by a Council grant of \$1500 presented to NPA in October.

NPA will fund the balance of the cost of producing the brochure, which is planned to be widely available in Willoughby.

*Willoughby Deputy Mayor Wendy Norton presented NPA's Ron Hicks with a Community Grant of \$1500 at a ceremony in October.*

## Golf Club improvements

Northbridge Golf Club's financial result improved compared with the previous year but club president Linden Gulson says: "More work will be done on identifying ways of increasing income and containing costs". His comments are contained in the club's 2011 Annual Report. The club reported a loss of \$116,831 for the year after meeting interest on its bank loan and amortising the costs of its major dam development project.

"The year was again a most challenging one from a financial perspective," Mr Gulson said. "The club is not immune from the downturn affecting the club industry in particular and the economy generally." He said that the soil levy project had progressed well and the benefits to the course will be self evident as the warmer months arrive.

## Baths kiosk to re-open

Northbridge Baths again has an operating kiosk thanks to an arrangement between Council and Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club. Council closed the kiosk when it opened the baths to free entry at the end of last summer. Initially, the club will open the kiosk on Saturdays and Sundays but club President Steve Hamilton told *The 202*: "If this is successful we would like to open on Friday afternoons and will also look to open most days during the summer holidays".

Steve said that all will be welcome. "With free entry, patrons should put the \$3 toward a great cup of coffee!" Steve said. "Regular kiosk items have been stocked, though we hope to extend the range to include some terrific lunch options."

## The gentleman boxer *(continued from page 12)*

Bennell was known as "the Gentleman Boxer", preferring to use "brain over brawn". Over his career he won 67 fights, lost 18 and had eight drawn results. Although he retired from boxing in 1947, as recently as February 2007 he was remembered in an article in *NZ Boxing*: "... boxing fans, while loving a struggle, also appreciate the classic boxer, which is why boxers like Hockey Bennell ... were such big drawcards".

In 1941 Hockey married Castlecrag lass Joan Ellis and moved from Northbridge. They had two children, Graham and Lee. In the *MAN* article, Hockey recalls that he banked every penny he earned from boxing while living on his wages from other jobs. He stated proudly that he and Joan over the years invested wisely and owned much property including a produce store at the corner of Bellambi Rd and Sailors Bay Rd, houses, shops, trucks, a taxi and a wood and coal business, as well as a gym. Not bad for the boy once described as the dunce of the class!

Hockey Bennell died on April 24, 1998, aged 82 years. He is remembered in Northbridge by Bennell Lane, which runs between Baringa and Baroona Rds.

References: *Hockey Bennell's Rise to Fame*, *MAN*, July 1950. *The Suburb of Northbridge* by Esther Leslie. *NZ Boxing* February 2007. With thanks to Lee Surgeon, Hockey Bennell's daughter.

## New library opened

The new Chatswood Library on the lower level of The Concourse was opened at a special ceremony on October 14. The facility is one of the largest libraries of its kind, a state of the art information centre and resource hub for the entire community, featuring self-checkouts, a modern security system and an automated handling system.

The library covers more than 5000 square metres of floor space, with quiet study areas, training facilities, a children's area complete with separate story time and pram storage rooms. It offers an extensive collection of items, as well as a multilingual collection in more than 12 languages, genealogical resources, and a local history collection complete with contemporary and historic information about the Willoughby City area.

For further information contact 9777 7900, visit [theconcourse.com.au](http://theconcourse.com.au) or email [library@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

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# Community noticeboard



Come celebrate Christmas at Northbridge oval on Saturday, December 3, from 6.30pm. Join the Northbridge Carols Band to sing your favourite Christmas carols and enjoy performances from local schools and soloists. Bring the family and a picnic; entry is free. This event is organised by the combined churches of Northbridge with the support of Willoughby City Council. In case of wet weather the event will be moved to St Mark's church hall in Malacoota Rd.

Please see our website for details and updates [www.carolsatnorthbridge.com.au](http://www.carolsatnorthbridge.com.au)

## Friendship & Craft Club

Last meeting of the club for 2011 will be on Wednesday, December 7, followed by the Christmas party at Northbridge Golf Club on Thursday, December 15. Regular club meetings, held every Wednesday at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd, will resume on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. For more information, contact President Margaret Tyson 9958 8976.

## Christmas concert

Join Willoughby Symphony for an entertaining afternoon with the prom-style concert Home for Christmas on Sunday, December 11, at the Concert Hall on The Concourse.

Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith will conduct an orchestral version of 'Peter and the Wolf', as well as a selection of waltzes and polkas made famous by the Viennese New Year's Eve concerts. There will also be classical holiday songs and the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's 'Messiah'.

Tickets are adults \$35, concession \$30, child under 16 \$5.50, family pass (2 adults, 2 children) \$70. Book at The Concourse Box Office on 9550 3666.



## 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 on 9403 7321 or 0408 204 805.



## Northbridge Probus Club Inc

Our club is a meeting place for retired men who enjoy friendship. We listen to

external speakers covering a wide range of subjects and arrange optional outings which may include wives/partners.

We meet 9.45am-noon at the Northbridge Bowling Club on the second Tuesday each month.

Why not come along as a visitor by calling Barry on 9958 7761 or Richard on 9958 1004?



## 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: call David on 0404 891 051, or Sam on 0408 174 410 or email [sam@strykowski.com](mailto:sam@strykowski.com)

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](mailto:mplye@bigpond.net.au). Editorial deadlines are published on the front page of *The 202*.

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