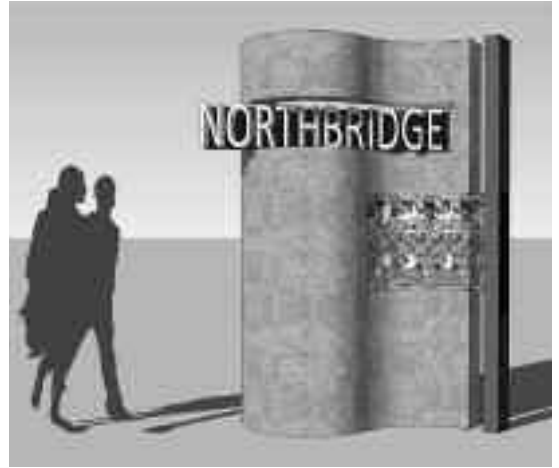




New entry signs proposed for Northbridge



The aged and rusting Northbridge entry sign in Strathallen Ave (left) and the two new designs (right) proposed by NPA for discussions with Council.

Northbridge Progress Association is seeking Council's support for a proposal to replace the current entry signs for Northbridge with contemporary signs which are more appropriate to a notable Sydney suburb like Northbridge.

The present signs are aged and rusting, not in good condition and have outlived their usefulness, in NPA's view.

Northbridge architect and resident David Scobie was asked by NPA to generate several ideas for a new entry sign for Northbridge. From these ideas, two options were developed and forwarded to Council. Such signs could

also be adapted for other suburbs in this important Local Government Area.

David generously carried out the design work for NPA on a pro-bono basis.

The NPA letter to Council said, "When a suitable design has been selected and agreed we propose that the first of these signs would be erected on Council land on the north-west corner of the intersection of Strathallen Ave and Cliff Ave, facing the Suspension Bridge".

\$5000 pledge by NPA

NPA is willing to contribute \$5000 towards the cost of constructing this first

sign. It is visualised that the project would be one way that the 100th anniversary of the naming of Northbridge could be celebrated in 2013.

NPA suggested that a meeting be held between appropriate Council officers, NPA representatives and David Scobie. The aim would be to review Council (and potential RTA) issues and to gain Council support to move forward with a preferred design.

Northbridge Oval parking problems

See page 4.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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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 Oct 6, Dec 8 (AGM), 2011

Deadline for The 202: Ads and contributions: Monday October 24, 2011

Our next meeting

Come along to the general meeting of Northbridge Progress Association at **8pm on Thursday, October 6** at **St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd.**

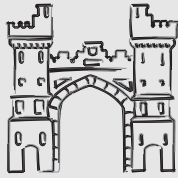
"Planning law in NSW – but is it democracy?"

Guest speakers:

Chris Drummer, President, Kuring-gai Residents' Alliance
Kirsty Ruddock, Principal Solicitor, Environmental Defender's Office (NSW)
Greg Woodhams, Director Environmental Services, Willoughby City Council

Our Ward Councillors will report on local issues.

Members of eight other Willoughby Progress Associations are invited. Visitors are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.



NORTHBRIDGE
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

ABN 41 733 956 702

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Northbridge 2063

www.northbridgepa.com.au

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President's letter



A special general meeting

We hope to attract a large audience to our next general meeting on October 6: "Planning law in NSW – but is it democracy?", when three speakers will be discussing NSW planning policy. The speakers are Chris Drummer, President of Kuring-gai Residents' Alliance (a federation of more than 20 community groups); Kirsty Ruddock, Principal Solicitor with the Environmental Defender's Office; and Greg Woodhams, who has a wealth of planning experience with Willoughby City Council and Planning Institute of Australia. We are inviting the other eight progress associations in Willoughby and all Willoughby councillors. We hope the

outcome will be the basis of a submission to NSW government about the future direction of planning law. Please come along.

Parking concerns near Oval

At the last NPA general meeting, residents expressed their concerns about the big increase in usage of Northbridge Oval and the subsequent parking problems and noise in nearby streets. A representative of Northbridge Football Club at the meeting responded constructively to the complaints and a consultative group will be established to try to resolve the issues (see page 4).

Community spirit

New designs for entry signs into Northbridge have been drafted for NPA by local architect David Scobie (see front page). It's typical of the community spirit of so many Northbridge residents that David carried out the work at no cost to NPA. Many thanks, David.

Welcome to our new Treasurer

We welcome Sheila Prater as the new Honorary Treasurer of the Association. She is a recently retired chartered accountant and a long term resident of Northbridge. Another big thank you to Pam Clifford who stood down after 15 years as Treasurer (not 13 years as we stated in the last issue of *The 202*). Pam is concentrating on writing a new history book of Northbridge in time for the 2013 centenary of the suburb's naming.

Community grant for NPA

We are very pleased that Council approved a Community Grant of \$1500 for NPA to produce a new brochure, *Walking Northbridge*, which will describe walks to sites of historic interest in Northbridge.

Excellent speech

We all congratulate NPA's vice-president John Lightfoot who made an excellent speech on behalf of NPA at the NSW Planning Forum held in late July (see page 3). NPA was flattered by being the only community organisation in NSW invited to speak at the Forum.

The Concourse opens

Our best wishes go to all involved with the Council's \$171 million theatre and library complex in Chatswood, which opened during September (see page 8). NPA originally supported the project in principle provided adequate controls were put in place to prevent cost and schedule overruns. Unfortunately these controls were not completely effective. Nevertheless, we wish The Concourse every success in the future and trust that it will not prove a drain on ratepayers.

Gladys to speak

Our popular Member for Willoughby, Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian MP, has agreed to speak at NPA's AGM on December 8. Please put the date in your diary.

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 2012 calendar year or to renew your membership of the Association, if it is due. At June 30, 2011, we had 465 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 92 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.

NPA addresses NSW Planning Forum



NPA vice-president John Lightfoot spoke to a high level NSW government planning meeting in July.

Northbridge Progress Association was the only community organisation in NSW to be invited to speak to the NSW Planning Forum held at Homebush on July 22. NPA vice-president John Lightfoot joined the Minister for Planning, the Director-General of the department, and other speakers from government departments and industry associations at a discussion: "What a good planning system would look like".

John said that since NPA was founded in 1919 "there have been enormous changes to Northbridge but the issues we are dealing with remain much the same: infrastructure, especially traffic and parking".

He said: "Since the present Planning Act was introduced our suburb has doubled in size. Not only are there more houses, there are bigger houses as pre-war bungalows are demolished and replaced with larger family homes. Large blocks have been subdivided or given over to dual occupancy. To compound this, car ownership has gone from less than one per residence to almost three."

"This growth has occurred with no additional infrastructure," John said. "There are no more roads or public transport, less parking and no plans to do anything about it."

New plan will increase density in Northbridge

John noted that there is a new LEP currently going through the approval process which aims to increase density in the Willoughby LGA. It will allow four-storey residential apartments in large areas of Northbridge and was strongly resisted by a large proportion

of residents. The LEP does not include any changes to roads, public transport, public parking or other infrastructure.

"I recently attended a JRPP meeting that considered a 116-bed nursing home development planned for Northbridge," he said. "It had been rejected by Council as it did not comply with State Government and Council controls for height, floor space ratio and landscaped area. We were not impressed when the Chairman of the Panel said that they were not bound by such matters."

"What is the point of having a SEPP or LEP if it is not binding?" John said. "A process that allows changes by precedent, without consultation or consideration of wider issues, is not a transparent or appropriate process."

Not a 'no-progress' association

John concluded by saying: "We are not a 'no-progress' association. What we want is progress with planning which takes into consideration the legitimate needs of residents; we want it to be agreed through a genuine consultation process and then stuck to; we want to see an end to the over-ruling of agreed controls by unelected bodies. We want a suburb that the community can enjoy and not a place of high-rise buildings choked with traffic".

The full text of John Lightfoot's speech to the Forum can be found on the NPA's website: northbridgepa.com.au and click onto NPA Documents followed by Recent Submissions.

What NPA believes a good planning system would look like:

- It would be simple
- It would be subject to review at regular intervals, not 30+ years
- It would ensure meaningful consultation with community groups
- It would ensure processes were transparent
- It would take account of current and projected demographics
- It would require infrastructure to be part of the plan
- It would be binding

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NPA wins \$1500 grant

Northbridge Progress Association will receive \$1500 from Council's 2011/2012 Small Grants Program for the production of a brochure to guide visitors around the historic sites and buildings of Northbridge. The brochure will include a map and a summary of Northbridge history, Aboriginal heritage and each site. NPA will fund the balance of about \$600 cost of the brochure and provide volunteer research and writing.

Traffic study

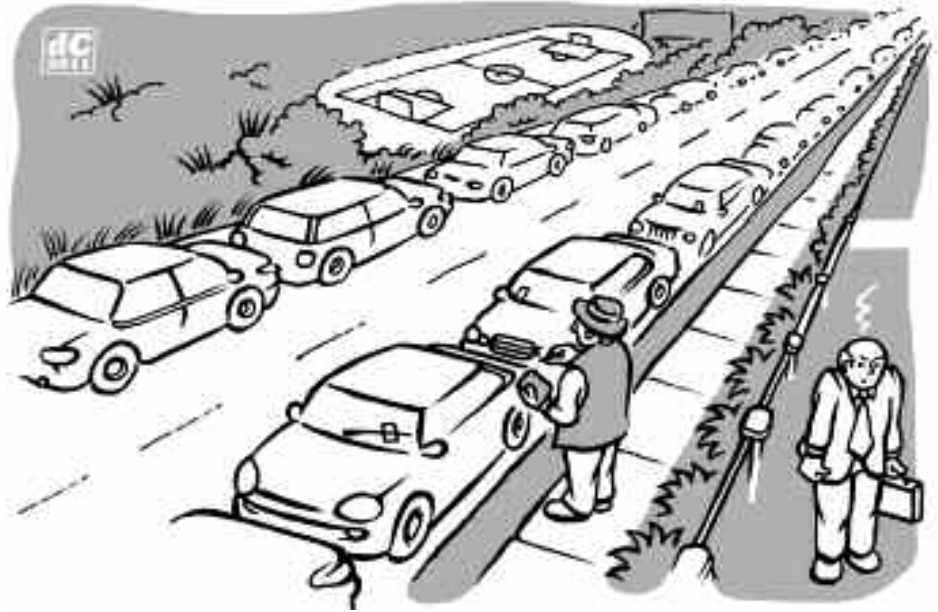
In early September Council's Infrastructure Director Steven Head told *The 202* that Council is still following up NPA's request for a traffic study in Northbridge. Council is again requesting funding from RTA in 2012/2013 for the study.



At the Annual General Meeting of the Northbridge & Castlecrag Chamber of Commerce on August 24, officers elected for 2011/2012 were President John Lightfoot, Vice President Rosemary Macey, committee members Howard Lardner, Patricia Shergis and Bronja Hruska. Two new members were welcomed.

The meeting agreed to join the North Shore Chamber Alliance, which will give members free access to a number of services including a business hotline, workplace advice line, networking events, *Business Connect* magazine & e-news.

Parking problems around Northbridge Oval



Attendees at the NPA general meeting in July resolved to form a group comprising Northbridge Football Club representatives, local residents and Sailors Bay Ward councillors to address parking issues resulting from the resurfacing of Northbridge Oval.

Nearby residents reiterated their concerns about escalating parking problems and obstruction of access to houses which have occurred since the resurfacing. The impact on residents from training sessions and weekend games is now seven days a week, 8am to 9pm. Affected residents said: "We have now had enough and want some action from the club and from Council".

Brian Norton from Northbridge Football Club told attendees that in 1973 there were only six teams and 82 players and in 1991 29 teams and 306 players. However; the club has now grown to 168 teams comprising 2100 players, even though it does little promotion to attract members. Brian said that over the past few years there had been a growing need for more training and playing time due to the growth in juniors, women's and over-35 men's teams. To accommodate this, the club is regularly using several home fields (Northbridge Oval, Bicentennial Oval, Naremburn Oval, Bales Park and Willoughby Park) in order to spread the impact.

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25th birthday for Constant Companion

by Cr John Hooper

Next year, Constant Companion will mark the 25th anniversary of its 24 hour, seven days per week emergency response service. Established by Willoughby City Council in 1987, the service now provides services to 11 Local Government Areas in northern Sydney.

For almost one-quarter of a century, Constant Companion has helped 2500 people to remain safe and independent in their own homes. Currently, the service's youngest client is aged 27 years whilst the oldest client is 103 years, with the average age being 82 years of age.

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Constant Companion staff installs the alarm unit in the home by connecting to the telephone line. Staff is professionally trained to work with people from culturally linguistic backgrounds with the assistance of an interpreter service.

A small lightweight pendant is worn during the day and night. The pendants are water resistant and can be worn in the shower. The unit can be activated from both inside and outside the home.

If you require assistance, press the button on the pendant. This will send a signal to the unit to phone one of the operators who will be able to talk to you via the speaker on the unit and will remain on the line until assistance arrives. The operator will speedily organise assistance, from either Emergency Services or a family member, neighbour or friend who was nominated by you and has given their approval.

A security key lock is provided to hold a spare set of keys to your home to ensure quick and easy access by emergency responders.

Constant Companion is the only personal emergency response service to receive funding from the Department of Ageing Disability & Home Care. For information on this service just call 9777 7836 or email: constantcompanion@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

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

Contact your Ward Councillors

Adrian.Cox@willoughby.nsw.gov.au Or phone 9958 1135

Gail.Giles-Gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au Or phone 9967 0395

John.Hooper@willoughby.nsw.gov.au Or phone 0418 239 195

Footpath for Plaza car park

To improve the safety of pedestrians, Council will build a 1.5 metre wide footpath on the southern side of the Harden Ave entry to the Council's car park at Northbride Plaza. One tree will be removed for the footpath.

A new ramp and marked footway will extend to the entry to the Plaza shopping centre. The footpath, which is being constructed at the suggestion of NPA, will be completed during the second half of 2011.

No gifts under Council's new gift policy

Councillors and staff members may not accept gifts of any value under a modified and more rigorous Gifts and Benefits Policy approved in August by Willoughby City Council. They may accept invitations to social functions organised by Council committees and community groups (such as Christmas parties). They can also accept two tickets per Councillor or staff member to performances by Willoughby performing arts groups which are subsidised by Council.

New bike/pedestrian path

Council has been successful in winning an RTA grant (with 50:50 funding) for a shared bike/pedestrian path from Small St through Bicentennial Reserve to join the existing shared path below the car park. The proposed path will be 2.5 metres wide and sealed. It will require the removal of one palm tree.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Northbridge Park is public land

I am concerned that someone has erected a sign on the Weemala Rd entrance to Northbridge Park: "Warning: Entry onto the golf course is at your own risk due to golf balls being hit at any time".

As a longstanding resident I recall a number of occasions when this kind of sign has been erected with the purpose of discouraging non-golfers from using the park. We've had: "Keep to marked paths only" and even "Trespassers will be prosecuted". On each occasion, the signs have been removed after representations from the NPA.

While the current sign might seem sensible, it does convey a misleading message about who should/should not use Northbridge Park. We should not be dissuading the public from using our beautiful park, for example, for walking. If it becomes widely understood in Northbridge that the public is not welcome and that golf is the preferred (if not exclusive) use of the land, it will be only a matter of time before developers move in.

They have tried before to get hold of sections of Northbridge Park and have been rebuffed on the basis of wide community use of the space. Therefore, we should be encouraging a variety of uses of the park, not acting to limit its use to a relatively small number of golfers.

I ask that NPA make recommendations to Council that this sign and others like it be removed immediately.

Robert Brown

My own opinion

In the July issue of *The 202*, Mike Simmons' letter suggested that my previous letter in *The 202* about new houses and renovations in Northbridge represented the views of Northbridge Progress Association. My letter was my own opinion and was not endorsed by Northbridge Progress Association.

Pam Clifford

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.

Silence is golden – but not here!

It is six months since consent was given for the aged care facility planned for Sailors Bay Rd. But in all that time the community has not been told what is going to happen, and when.

Unfortunately, in granting consent the Joint Regional Planning Panel didn't require the developer to consult with the community but it's not too late. At the time of writing this letter, Willoughby City Council had not received from the developer the Traffic Management Plan or the Site and Construction Management Plan, both of which are required before any work can start on the site.

The developer could learn from the very effective consultations held with affected parties in Chatswood by Council as developer of The Concourse. I'm sure Council officers would provide expert advice based on their experience.

The aged care facility will be of value to our community but the site work involved has potential to create discomfort and inconvenience to the community together with real costs for anyone living or doing business in Northbridge east of the Junction. 'Anyone' includes all operators who are involved in the site work. All will suffer from the traffic congestion and delays caused by vehicles entering and leaving the site, specially during school drop-off and pick-up times of 8.00 – 9.30am and 2.30 – 4.00pm on school days.

There will also be congestion caused by concrete delivery vehicles queued up wherever they can while waiting their turn to unload. Surely there are cost savings in scheduling vehicle movements into and away from the site to avoid such waiting times and the ongoing congestion?

There is also the serious question of the safety of children walking, scooting or cycling past the site entry in Sailors Bay Rd.

As a community we deserve to know the developer's thoughts on these issues.

David Synnott



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)

The car park is not safe



Elizabeth Pang's letter (*The 202*, July) described the hazards the Council's Plaza car park presents to customers with shopping trolleys. I suggest that it gets even more serious when you add young children to the mix.

I recently suffered a fall in the car park while attempting to navigate the car park's hazards with two young children and a shopping trolley. The state of the pavement did not help! The shopping trolley tipped over whilst my two-year old child was sitting in it. I just count my lucky stars that the children were not injured. My weekly groceries were spewed across the car park. However, three of the lovely residents of Northbridge came to my assistance.

I really want to ensure that a tragedy does not occur in the car park. The car park is not safe and we need to do something about it, now.

I note that NPA has written to Council on numerous occasions regarding the state of the car park, but nothing seems to happen. Maybe we should collate all of our letters and ask the users of the car park and readers of *The 202* to detail the near misses that they have had, with a view to approaching Council and demanding action before the inevitable occurs.

I am willing to give my time and help in achieving a safer car park.

Debbie Cavric

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.

David Scobie Architects

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NSW 2063 Australia
Tel 61 (02) 9967 2426
Mobile 0412 415 010
scobiearchitect@optusnet.com.au

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Neglected spots in Northbridge

I am a recent resident of Northbridge, having moved in just over 12 months ago from the Canada Bay Council area. So far, my experience of Northbridge and Willoughby City Council has been extremely positive and I can understand why your residents are very proud of the area in which they live.

However, a couple of neglected spots let the area down. They are the state of some of the identifying Northbridge signs, such as the two signs: "Northbridge" on the left side of Strathallen Ave on the Northbridge side of the Suspension Bridge and the "Northbridge Baths" sign on the corner of Eastern Valley Way and Tenilba Rd.

The quality of a sign identifying entry to the area is so important to the initial reaction and perception someone has to the area.

Old and neglected signs do not elicit a positive first impression, nor do they instil a sense that the people who live there are caring and proud of the area in which they live. I know this is not the case, but this is the impression such signs give to anyone passing through, as well as to residents. It is particularly difficult for residents to maintain standards when issues such as these are beyond their immediate control.

I would like to propose new signs to replace the current signs.

Dr Annette Counsel

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Wildlife sightings in Northbridge

Council's *Bushcare News* reports that a long-nosed bandicoot and a pheasant coucal were sighted in Northbridge in July. Even more remarkably, it reports that, after 20 years without sightings, lyrebirds have been seen recently in Castlecrag and Bicentennial Reserve.

As a result of its wildlife protection and fox and feral cat control programs, Council says that there has been an increase in wildlife in Willoughby bushland. Notably, a swamp wallaby and joey were sighted in Harold Reid Reserve in August and a yellow faced whip snake in Willoughby in May.

Green award for Council

Willoughby City Council received a NSW Green Globe Award at a ceremony in Parliament House in July. Of the 14 awards presented by the Minister for the Environment to businesses, individuals, government and community groups, Council received the Local Government Sustainability Award.

Council's Environmental Services Director Greg Woodhams said, "This is another great achievement for the City of Willoughby and fantastic recognition of the partnership we have with the community."

The Concourse opening



The Performing Arts Centre at The Concourse in Chatswood

As *The 202* went to the printer, Council's \$171 million performing arts, entertainment and library facility, The Concourse, was due to be opened on September 17 by NSW Governor Marie Bashir. Locals were invited to preview the new facility at a Community Day on September 10.

The Concourse is located in Victoria Ave, in the centre of Chatswood. The venue includes a 1000-seat concert hall, 500-seat theatre, studio and rehearsal space, 5000 square metre public library, outdoor urban screen and cafe, restaurant and boutique retail space.

The library is expected to be one of the busiest in NSW, with separate study areas, meeting rooms, training facilities, and multilingual collections in more than 10 languages. The library will be equipped with the latest technology including self-checkouts, a modern security system and an automated handling system.

Tickets are already on sale to a number of shows including the Willoughby Theatre Company's production of *The Boy From Oz*. Ticket information and news about other events and performances are available at www.theconcourse.com.au.

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A win for the community on substation

After objections by residents and NPA and meetings on site in June, Ausgrid (formerly Energy Australia) has advised Council that it will not be building a new substation on the strip of Clive Park on Sailors Bay Rd opposite the bus terminal. Instead, it will build the new substation adjacent to the existing substation at the corner of Tycannah and Dalmeny Rds. The old substation will be removed.

Residents and NPA had registered concern that the Clive Park site is zoned E2 Environmental Conservation and is not appropriate for a substation. In addition, the unsightly substation would not have been shielded from view like the substation it will replace.

The work by Ausgrid is expected to be completed by late 2011.

Nursing home developer objects to contribution

In August, the developer of the approved 116-bed aged care facility in Sailors Bay Rd lodged an appeal in the Land and Environment Court against a Section 94 contribution of \$90,280. Council imposed the contribution as part of its approval of the nursing home DA. The amount is intended to go towards maintaining open space and recreational facilities, and local roads and footpaths. According to the *North Shore Times*, the developer is not willing to pay because he doesn't believe S94 applies to nursing homes.

As *The 202* went to the printer, Council's Environmental Services Director, Greg Woodhams said that a Construction Certificate had not yet been issued by Council.

Fall from Suspension Bridge

On the morning of July 25, a woman suffered serious injuries after falling from the Suspension Bridge. A witness saw her fall and notified emergency services before climbing down to render first aid. A major police operation, which included a helicopter, took place on the bridge and below in Tunks Park. The bridge was closed for a period and cars were diverted down Lower Cliff Ave and The Boulevard, through Tunks Park. A safety fence was installed by RTA in 2010 at a cost of \$1.5 million to prevent suicides from the Suspension Bridge.

Police search in Northbridge

Police and State Emergency Service teams carried out an intensive search of Northbridge on August 23 and 24 for a missing 78-year old man. The man, from south west Sydney, was found without injuries. The search included helicopters, SES Rescue vehicles and several police cars. Helicopters flew over the peninsula at low level during daylight and evening hours. The War Memorial area near Bonds Corner was used as a helipad during the operation.

Court approves six storey house

In August, the Land & Environment Court upheld an appeal by the developer of a large waterfront house at 5 Minimbah Rd against Council's previous refusal. The Commissioner approved amended plans in which the rear of the building will be set back significantly from the water side to more closely align with the rear of neighbours.

Further amendments submitted by the developer to the Court reduced the overall height of the building by about 0.5 metres. The Commissioner did not support Council's submission that the top level of the building should be deleted.

NPA had objected to the house in its original and amended design. As approved, the house is six storeys high and is about double the gross floor area and floor space ratio permitted by Council's DCP controls.

Disposal of "sharps"

Northbridge Pharmacy in Sailors Bay Rd is one of several free disposal points in Willoughby for used "sharps" – needles, syringes and lancets. The management program is an initiative of NSW Health to reduce significantly the number of sharps entering the general waste stream and minimise the possibility of needle stick injuries. About 50% of sharps used for self-injection end up in Council waste and recycling services. Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly said the disposal service should result in a cleaner and safer environment for everyone.



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Rotary helps Christchurch

In July, the Rotary Club of Northbridge donated \$3330 to the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal. The donation was given through the Rotary Club of Bishopdale, in Christchurch.

The funds will go to the new Psychiatric Unit at the Canterbury Charity Hospital to help with counselling for victims of the devastating Christchurch earthquake.

Northbridge Rotary raised the amount partly through a "bucket appeal" at Northbridge Plaza.

Pub in compliance

Council's Greg Woodhams has told *The 202* that Northbridge Hotel is now "in conformity with its approval." Under a previous ownership, improvements costing about \$2 million were carried out at the hotel without Council approval. The main non-complying changes were an upstairs commercial kitchen and the conversion of a residential room.

Tunks St "No Stopping" signs

In response to safety concerns from residents, Council in August sent a questionnaire to all residents of Tunks St proposing a "No Stopping" restriction during school drop-off and pick-up times on the western side of Tunks St between Sailors Bay Rd and Coates Lane. The restriction is intended to alleviate congestion at the intersection and allow for safer access into and out of the street at Sailors Bay Rd.

Award for Northbridge Rotary



Rotary Club of Northbridge president Rob Shore accepts a community award from Joe Hockey and Lisa Wilkinson (photograph by Justin F Kern).

The local Rotary club won a North Sydney Community Award for "outstanding service to the community by a local community group that is helping to make our area a better place". The award was presented to the club by the Member for North Sydney, the Hon Joe Hockey MP, and by the guest speaker at the event, Lisa Wilkinson.

Other Northbridge individual awardees were local historian Pam Clifford and NPA secretary Malcolm Lye.

Inappropriate signs

NPA wrote to Council asking it to remove or modify signs erected at the entries to Northbridge Park warning that "entry to the golf course is at your own risk".

"The signs are not appropriate for a public park," the NPA letter said. "They imply that the public should not be in the park which, of course, is open to anyone."

Council general manager Nick Tobin responded that the signs were erected by Northbridge Golf Club on the advice of its insurer. He considers that "the club is carrying out a proper duty of care to the community with these warning signs".

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Carrot & Walnut Cake
Pastry Twists with Currants & Walnuts
Ricotta & Poppy Seed Cheese Cake with Lemon Curd

George Anderson's College – a Northbridge mystery

by Pam Clifford

Despite lacking appropriate qualifications, George Anderson and his wife opened the grandly named Artisan's Working College and Agricultural Training School first in Balmain, later at Hunters Hill and finally at "Middle Harbour". His aim was to care for homeless boys and to teach them carpentry.

Before moving the College from Hunters Hill in 1880, Anderson made repeated requests for a grant or lease of land out of the 200 acres of Crown Land overlooking one of the arms of Middle Harbour. The requests were refused but Anderson, expecting a positive response, cleared about six acres of undeveloped bushland which were accessible only by water at the time. Buildings were constructed, an access road was cleared, fruit trees and flowers were planted, and Anderson called it "a very pretty place".

It has not been possible to pinpoint the exact location of the College, but there is good evidence that Anderson's College was located on what is now the golf course in Northbridge Park. In the 1880s "Middle Harbour" meant anywhere from Long Bay to Roseville Chase, but the only large portion of Crown Land with 200 acres was at Northbridge Park.

Moreover, the boys are known to have walked to a local school, which was probably North Willoughby or North Sydney School, and the bus which passed within "about a mile and a half from the place" may have been the horse-drawn bus service in Willoughby Rd. Bread for the College was obtained from a shop in Mount St, North Sydney "six miles away" and the butcher, Mr Hammond, whose shop was near the Great Northern Hotel, delivered meat every second day. As well, there were many market gardens around Alpha Rd where the boys may have been sent for vegetables. All this strengthens the premise that the College was in Northbridge Park.

Some success ...

The College had some success, because in 1881 *The Illustrated Sydney News* reported that the College sent to the Bathurst Juvenile Industrial Exhibition "a box-ottoman and a sofa which would have done credit to any cabinetmaker in the colony."

Hoping to raise additional funds, in October 1882 Mrs Anderson invited a reporter from *The Sydney Morning Herald* to visit the College, but the article in the *Herald* was far from favourable. The reporter stated that most of the seven boys had an itchy skin condition; that the school books looked as if they had rarely, if ever, been used; and

that some names in the College's Visitors Book were not genuine. The boys told him they received little trade training, were not well fed, and were frequently flogged.

Following the *Herald* story, the College was visited by a doctor who recommended that the boys be removed. They were transferred to the Benevolent Society where their skin complaints were treated.

... but the College failed

The College did not survive. In March 1883 the hapless Mr Anderson was convicted of unlawfully occupying Crown Land, and was evicted from the site. In September 1883 the buildings and effects were sold at auction, and the buildings removed.

George Anderson sued *The Sydney Morning Herald* for defamation. In 1883 a jury found he had been defamed and Judge Innes awarded him 450 pounds in damages. This victory was little consolation for George whose dreams of running a College for destitute boys were ruined. Afterwards, there were numerous reports of Mrs Anderson being intoxicated after drinking at the Great Northern Hotel.

Whether or not the College was located at Northbridge, it is an interesting episode in the history of this area in the 1880s.

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Crime in Northbridge



Snr Const Matt Jewell spoke to residents at the July NPA general meeting.

At the July general meeting of NPA, residents were told that Thursday nights are the biggest night for crime in our area due to late night shopping. People travel direct from work to the shops leaving their laptops, coins, and other valuables visible in the car. They tend to hide their valuables in the boot after they have arrived at the destination car park, often in front of the opportunistic criminal.

Snr Const Matt Jewell from Chatswood Police told the audience that most crime committed in Northbridge was "opportunistic". Two-thirds of the criminals originate from the Western Sydney region. Most property crime is to obtain money for drugs. Most criminals weigh up the risk:reward of the crime opportunity knowing it will take around three seconds to smash a car window, remove the contents then leave.

Snr Const Jewell commented that two years ago Northbridge had a spike in crime which resulted in increased interest in home security checks and in Neighbourhood Watch. He commented that this "proactive" approach to crime awareness and prevention only lasted as long as the crimes were being perpetrated. He emphasised that people need to remain vigilant about home and property security.

Snr Const Jewell asked residents to be vigilant in regard to internet crime prevention; PINs and passwords; credit card fraud; and crime prevention when travelling overseas.



Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch

The colder months have seemed to dampen the enthusiasm of would-be criminals, as the crime figures for Northbridge and surrounding suburbs are again low.

Watch out at ATMs!

The exception to this is robberies from bank ATMs. These are an easy and obvious target. The best precaution is to look around before you start your transaction and don't proceed if you feel uncomfortable with anyone around you. Keep your PIN secret and well-covered and put your money away immediately.

New fridge magnets

The good news is that Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch applied for a community grant from Willoughby City Council and has been granted \$2,000. This money will be used for magnetic backed information cards that residents will be able to keep on their fridges. It will encourage residents to report any incidents that they see and will have all the appropriate police contact numbers. The cards should be ready during October.

Report incidents

Did you know that there is a PAL number to call for reporting minor incidents? Police Assistance Line (131 444). Use it for:

- Break and enter
- Fail to pay for fuel (service stations only)
- Motor vehicle/vessel theft
- Stealing
- Malicious damage, including graffiti
- Minor motor vehicle crashes
- Lost property
- Taxi fare evasion

When a police response is required, PAL will arrange for police officers to attend. By phoning PAL, rather than your local police station, you are freeing up Police officers who could otherwise be on the street actively preventing and investigating crime in your community.

Keep watching.

Janet France
Coordinator

The Knoll to be burned

In October, weather permitting, Council will conduct an ecological burn on The Knoll bushland reserve in Byora Cres. "Native vegetation in Australia relies on fire for regeneration," Council's Julie Whitfield told *The 202*. "Similar burns on The Knoll were held in 2001 and 2006 with a marked increase in species diversity."

Julie said she expects plant species which have not been seen in the reserve for many years will start to emerge after the burn. "The follow-on effects of this will also be an improvement in habitat and food sources for native fauna as well as an improved flight corridor and roosting site for birds," she said.

A burn plan will be prepared for the hazard reduction. Control lines will be identified or cut to contain the fire and the burn will be conducted by trained staff. Burning will commence at the top of the site and the fire will slowly move its way down the slope. This will allow native fauna to move out of the fire zone or take refuge.



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Bushcare's Major Day Out



Part of the group of more than 50 keen Bushcare volunteers who worked in Tunks Park on their Major Day Out.

A large area of Tunks Park that was heavily infested with asparagus fern, fishbone fern and wandering jew was cleared of these noxious weeds by more than 50 Bushcare volunteers who joined in Willoughby City Council's Major Day Out on Sunday September 11. About 80 bags of weeds were collected by the group and in their place, 400 native plants and shrubs were planted.

Over a barbecue lunch, Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly complimented the volunteers on their involvement. The Lady Mayoress, Deputy Mayor Wendy Norton, Ward Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney and Council Director Steven Head also attended. The first-time volunteers remarked that it was a most enjoyable day and several committed to joining a Bushcare group close to their homes.

The event was also supported by North Sydney Council and Landcare, which publicised the event widely. Landcare secured a generous sponsorship from Be Natural. Northbridge Rotary Club provided the barbecue lunch.

Convenor Don Wilson said the event, which started with one site in Willoughby 2½ years ago, had now spread across Australia with 35 Bushcare groups in five states and ACT, working on 37 sites "There are already enough interstate commitments to ensure that there will be a big increase in Major Days Out next year. Our goal is to make it a national event like Clean Up Australia within the next two years", Don said. "We need a lot more volunteers to help us with IT, email, research, fund raising and generally helping to make our dream become reality."

Anyone who would like to become involved in this exciting project phone Don 9958 0007 or email don.wilson@bushcaresmajordayout.org.

Spring photographic competition

Photographers young and old, professionals and happy-snappers are invited to enter the Uniting Church Northbridge's spring photographic competition. Photographs capturing the essence of spring – up to three per person – must be in by September 30 at 5pm. Prizewinners will be announced at the Uniting Church on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 2pm (gold coin donation). For further information phone John Becroft 9958 6436 or visit www.NorthbridgeCastleCragUCA.org.au

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Is it time to flip the lip?

Periodontal disease generally exhibits little or no clinical sign and may only show as bad breath when the disease advances – it may be time to have a closer look at your pet's teeth. Eighty per cent of all dogs and cats will have periodontal disease (PD) by four years of age.

Periodontal disease leads to liver, kidney and heart disease and could easily be prevented. Smaller breed dogs and cats are more susceptible to PD due in part to tooth crowding, unfriendly diets and less bone in the jaws so bacteria can destroy this bone faster than in larger dogs.

In addition to dental disease, dental 'misadventure' such as dental attrition or wear, oral trauma (fractured teeth or jaw) and oral cancer in older dogs may be present on oral examinations.

Good oral hygiene involves a two-fold program: home care and regular veterinary oral examinations. Home care involves removal of plaque. Daily brushing of teeth with a children's soft toothbrush and animal toothpaste (animals dislike peppermint flavour and also swallow the toothpaste) is the most efficient way to remove plaque. Dental diets such as Hill's t/d diet or Royal Canine Dental diet which mechanically cleanse the plaque off the teeth are now available. Finally, mouthwash is available to place in the animal's water to remove bacterial build-up.

Regular veterinary oral examinations will provide the opportunity to stop problems before they develop. Gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) is reversible. Bone loss, once it starts, is not reversible. A plaque-exposing solution can show you where the plaque is forming and pockets can be checked for recession of gums. Brushing techniques can also be explained.

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Northbridge and Artarmon knitters made 200 woollen squares to create rugs.

Libraries knit and stitch with love

Knitters and friends from Northbridge and Artarmon branch libraries came together on August 5 at Artarmon Library. Inspired by ABC 702 Radio's annual knit-in for *Wrap with Love*, our communities have been knitting squares. Between the two libraries we ended up with more than 200 squares from which about 30 keen craftspeople created 10 beautiful rugs. These women were straight into it – sorting wool from acrylic, pinks from blues, squares from not-so-squares – then stitching them together, aided by morning tea with scones, jam and cream and a lot of chatting and laughing.

These wraps are sent to the central warehouse of *Wrap with Love* from where they are distributed throughout the world to those in need. Alexandra, from Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund, dropped into the knit-in and described how much appreciated the rugs are by the Ethiopian women whose lives are transformed by a simple operation after childbirth in the Hamlin hospitals. These previously ostracised women are sent back to their villages with a new nightie, headscarf and a beautiful handmade rug.

Thank you to all in our communities who helped out, whether knitting a row or two while at story time or completing a whole rug, as a number of clever knitters did. More information can be found at <http://www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/Wrap.htm> and <http://www.hamlinfistula.org.au>.

Jane Cozens, Northbridge Librarian

Parking space change

The single parking space in front of 4 Harden Ave is to be indented by Council to prevent a car parking at an angle to the street, thereby narrowing the roadway. The space was introduced by Council to partly compensate for the loss of three parking spaces now prohibited in Garrick Lane.

NPA's website

If you want information on current Northbridge issues, NPA's web page www.northbridgepa.com.au has minutes of meetings, past copies of *The 202* newsletter, Neighbourhood Watch and crime statistics, links to local organisations and NPA contacts.

Men's Shed celebrates 4th birthday



A group of members helped to mark the fourth year of operation of the Men's Shed.

About 40 people were present at the Willoughby Community Men's Shed on August 21 to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Shed's operations in the former RSL Hall in Northbridge Park near Bonds Corner. Guests included Ward Councillors Gail Giles-Gidney and John Hooper.

In early September, six Men's Shed members spent a day at St Thomas' School in Willoughby working with children on a "Billy Cart Building Day". The Men's Shed had been invited by the school to help children realise their ideas and designs from class work. Members took tools, timber and materials from the Shed. Working in groups, six rolling billy carts, some with brakes and seat belts, were completed.

Tony Clifford

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Northbridge streets – how were they named?

Aubrey Rd (1926-28) The road was named after Aubrey Whitehouse, only grandchild of W.T. Twemlow who owned all the land at Fig Tree Point from 1874/75 and was sole resident in the area for many years. Originally the road went from Sailors Bay Rd to Fig Tree Point.

Baringa Rd (1914) Aboriginal for 'summit', 'above', 'Western silver wattle' or 'light'.

Baroona Rd (1914) Aboriginal for 'place far away'.

Bega Rd (1915) Aboriginal for 'beautiful' or 'big camping ground'.

Bellambi St (1914) Aboriginal for 'no'.

Bligh St (1888) It was the third street in Northbridge to be named and assessed. Named after James William Bligh, the original grantee of the land who became the first chairman of Willoughby Council.

Bourmac Ave (1926-28) Was originally a longer street, the north end having been incorporated in Coolawin Rd from 3 July 1939. Named after the Estate (1926); origin of name could not be established.

Byora Cres (1924) Origin of name not known although one of the Masonic Lodges which functioned in Northbridge from 1926-59 chose this name.

Calbina Rd (1914) Listed in the Rate books 1914-18 as Galbina Rd. Origin of name could not found.

Clifton Ave (1926-28) Named after Oliver Clifton, a builder and alderman (Middle Harbour Ward) on Willoughby Council, 1926-34.

Cliff Ave (1914) Was named Marrang Rd 1914-18. It is believed the present name was suggested by local topography (there is also a Lower and an Upper Cliff Ave) rather than to commemorate the services of J. Cliff, alderman (Middle Harbour Ward) on Willoughby Council, 1917-19.

Coolawin Rd (1931) Passes through the original Fig Tree Point (Twemlow's) Estate, the later Northbridge Harbour Estate No.2, the Bourmac and Clive Park Estate. Since 1931 it has been considerably lengthened and now included parts of Aubrey Rd, South St and Bourmac Ave. Aboriginal for 'a big koala bear'.

Coorabin Rd (1922) Aboriginal for 'curllew', 'barking lizard' or possibly 'constantly running spring'.

Courallie Rd (1922) Courallie is a place in northern NSW and an article in *Town and Country Journal*, 28 February 1874, suggests that Courallie, Gouralie or Gourly is the Aboriginal name of a tree, resembling a willow, which grows abundantly on the banks of a creek at Gurley, northern NSW.

Other street names will be published in future issues of The 202


Our thanks to staff at the Local Studies section of Willoughby City Library, who provided the information for this article.

Men's Shed "desperate" to expand

There is a desperate need to expand the Men's Shed in Northbridge, according to the Coordinator, Neville Warner. He told residents at the NPA general meeting in July that after four years' operation there are 150 members and friends on the correspondence list and 50 regular attendees. However, there is room for only 15 to work in the small space of the present Shed in Northbridge Park near Bonds Corner. He said that the Shed is close to the point of turning away future interested members.



Neville showed residents proposed plans for an expansion of the Men's Shed which would cost about \$120,000. The Shed, which operates from Council facilities, would need to appeal to the public to help raise the funding. It is open Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 3pm.



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Community noticeboard

Fashion parades

- Northbridge Uniting Church Women's Fellowship will hold its annual fashion parade and luncheon on Friday, September 30 at 11am. Clothes will be provided by Robyn Hunter, North Ryde. Entry of \$10 should be paid at the door. Enquiries to 9958 8588.
- Fashions from Betty Annette will be modelled at the Northbridge Valley Womens' Bowling Club fashion parade to be held at the Bowling Club on Friday, October 14, with a 10% discount for clothes purchased on the day. Cost is \$25. Please RSVP by October 1 to Jennie Hoffmann on 9957 5453 or Gwen Powter on 9958 6605.

Fund-raising evening

Borruso's Northbridge will host its annual Eniwe Children's Fund party on Thursday, October 13 with food, entertainment, raffles, lucky door prizes and a live auction with great prizes.

All funds raised go to support an orphanage in Kwa-Zulu Natal, an HIV/AIDS ravaged area that has left thousands of children orphaned.

Cost for the evening is \$75; RSVP to www.eniwechildrensfund.org/event or robyn@eniwechildrensfund.org or phone Robyn on 0409 943 091 before September 30.



Northbridge Probud 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: David 0404 891 051, Sam 0408 174 410 or email sam@strykowski.com



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.

Friendship & Craft Club

Look out for the club's craft stall at Chatswood Mall on a Friday early in November. Proceeds from the stall will go to the local SES and the volunteer bush fire brigade. The club meets every Wednesday from 10am-2.30pm at St Marks Hall in Malacoota Rd and new members are very welcome. For more information, phone President Margaret Tyson on 9958 8976.

Blood dates to remember

The Red Cross mobile van will be at Northbridge Plaza on Friday, November 18. To make an appointment to give blood, please phone 131 495.

Seniors Computer Club

The Crows Nest Centre Computer Club teaches seniors (55+) how to use Windows based computers in a stress free environment, starting from the very beginning. Modules cover Basics, Email, Web, Digital Photography, Word, Excel, Computer Security, Typing, Computer Maintenance and Widows 7. Each module consists of four 90 minute lessons, once a week.

Annual membership is \$35, with \$25 per module. Starting date for next term is October 10. For more information visit us at: <http://home.people.net.au/~cnccc/> or phone 9460 8866.

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*.

LJ Hooker



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