

## **Northbridge Progress Association Inc**

### **Minutes of the General Meeting held at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd, Northbridge on Wednesday May 16 2007 at 8.00pm**

**Present:** 30 members and visitors, including Cr Adrian Cox and Cr Barry Thompson, and guest speakers Haydn Washington (WCC), Sue Stanford (WCC), Bob Crooks (resident), Howard Lardner (NHW) and Inspector Jeff Bell (North Shore LAC).

**Apologies:** Peter McNair, Greg Sheldon, Mark Monk, John Holder, Michael Bartok.

President John Becroft opened the meeting and welcomed visitors.

**Previous minutes:**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Meeting held on February 28 2007 be confirmed and signed by the chair.

**Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch (NHW):**

Area Coordinator Howard Lardner summarized the situation of NHW in Northbridge and noted the need for more street coordinators. He announced that the Safety House program had been cancelled by the police. Treasurer Ron Hicks said that Northbridge NHW had \$338, which was insufficient to print the next Crimebuster.

Inspector Jeff Bell, Duty Officer, Chatswood, noted that NHW activity is declining overall in NSW. He said that crime statistics are down in Northbridge. There were only six break-enter-steals in the past three months, of which four were houses. Malicious damage (graffiti) continues and all occurrences should be reported. There was one armed robbery at Northbridge Hotel. The Safety House scheme will be replaced by a schools education program on protective behaviour.

**Sustainable Living: ways to reduce energy, water and waste in households.**

John Becroft introduced the speakers for the subject of the meeting.

Cr Adrian Cox gave an overview of the need to save energy, water and waste. He outlined Council's sustainability policies and its initiatives in increasing awareness, managing habitat, and saving water and energy in its own facilities.

Haydn Washington, Council's newly appointed Director of Sustainability, talked about Council's six areas of priority in sustainability.

Council officer Sue Stanford spoke about the Sustainability Street program and summarized how Council can help residents make a household more sustainable.

Northbridge resident Bob Crooks described the investments he has made to his home to reduce energy and water use. He has installed solar cells with a 4MW capacity and sells electricity back to the grid, with substantial savings.

After some discussion, John Becroft thanked the speakers.

### **Northbridge Plaza expansion plans**

Malcolm Lye summarised the background to the recent development by AMP Capital of conceptual plans for a major expansion of Northbridge Plaza. He noted that NPA's overall position had been: "There are problems to be solved at the Plaza but we don't want or need a massive expansion."

He outlined key aspects of AMP's conceptual plan and NPA's objections to the proposed use of public land, the doubling of traffic generation, reduction in amenity for neighbours and adverse impact on nearby shopping strips.

He summarized the outcome of the May 14 Council meeting where Council had invited AMP to proceed with a Masterplan for the site but on the basis of "roughly the same retail space". It is not known whether AMP will return to Council with a new proposal. In the meantime, the meeting generally agreed with a suggestion that a community action group spanning several suburbs should be formed to pool resources and funds and to retain professional advice.

Cr Cox said that he believed the Council-owned car park should be used for other purposes and developed to higher intensity, such as for senior citizen's housing and open air spaces. He was asked why Ward Councillors do not support strong, almost universal, community objections to projects like the Plaza. He responded that he believed that AMP should be allowed to develop a Masterplan at its cost.

John Becroft closed the meeting at 10.00pm.