

Northbridge Progress Association Inc.

Minutes of General meeting held at St Marks Hall Northbridge
Wednesday 28th February 2007, commenced at 8.01pm

Meet the Candidates

- Attendance:** 73 (Members - 45, Visitors - 28)
- Committee:** John Becroft (Chairman), , Pam Clifford, John Holder, Peter McNair, Jenny Roxburgh, Ron Hicks (Minutes Secretary), Stewart Truswell
- In Attendance:** Michael Conder (Public Officer), Michael Bartok (refreshments)
- Councillors:** Mary Johnston, Trevor Morgan, Judith Rutherford
- Guest Speakers:**
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Linda Beattie | Labor |
| Gladys Berejiklian | Liberal |
| Roy Day | Australian Democrats |
| Mike Steel | The Greens |
- Apologies:** Annette Holder, Janette Parcell, Malcolm Lye, Penny Lye, Mary Nelson, Wendy Norton (Councillor), AnneMaree Stillman

Minutes of meeting 13th September 2006

Were read, moved John Holder and accepted.

Business Arising: Nil

Treasurer's Report: Nil

Correspondence in: Nil

Correspondence out: Nil

At 8.07 pm the meeting was suspended for 15 minutes to enable a Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch meeting to take place. The meeting resumed at 8.17pm.

General Business:

The principle business of this meeting was to hear from Willoughby candidates for the forthcoming State General Election being held on 24th March 2007.

John Becroft called upon Alex Norquay to Chair this part of the meeting.

Candidates spoke in order chosen by ballot. Questions were asked at the end of each presentation and at the conclusion of all presentations.

1st Speaker – Roy Day (Australian Democrats)

1. Born in Chatswood, grandfather from England
2. Parents had shop in Chatswood then moved to Blue Mountains
3. Is supporting Arthur Chesterfield-Evans as Roy does not expect to be elected
4. Does not like what is being done by MPs Tripodi and Sartor
5. Concerned over statements made by Peter Debnam MP regarding his policy on membranes in recycling of water and amount of nutrient waste water that will enter the Hawkesbury River.
6. What is not being addressed is the limited supply of liquid petroleum oil (100 years)

Q1. What is clean coal?

A1. CO₂ is to be extracted from coal fire emission and pumped underground. Nuclear energy is possible. Flannery says Nuclear is likely for base power.

Q2. Do you support recycling of water?

A2. Yes, it is being used out west. The chemistry is complex.

Q3. (Simons) What will you do about corruption?

... (no answer recorded)*

Next speaker called.

2nd Speaker – Linda Beattie (Labor)

1. I have lived in the electorate for 20 years
2. Post graduate in children's literature
3. Worked with drug and alcohol networks
4. A fair go for Willoughby – education, health services for all citizens
5. Wish to thank the police and ambulance for quick help for Eddy Britt.
6. Opposition position is a threat to 20 000 public servants
7. Opposition will hand over these services to Canberra
8. Support for public schooling
9. Traffic congestion, too many cars, incentives for public transport
10. Labor has large investment in road & rail
11. Bus Only lanes have improved service to Willoughby
12. Migration into Sydney is outside state government control
13. Labor NSW is leading in Emission Carbon Trading

Q1. (Mary Johnston) Local people are paying for Chatswood Station development and its 3 massive towns. We do not get any Section 94 money of about \$80M that the developer has to pay the council. The state government has prevented this.

A1. (not able to record a clear answer)

Q2. (John Paxton) Flannery recommends free public transport

A1. An excellent idea but not a party line

Q3. (Claire McNair) Why are Epping Road closures coming about?

A3. ...rejected GB's claim to late replies to her 40 letters to the transport minister.

3rd Speaker Gladys Berejiklian - Liberal

1. Thanked the NPA for inviting her to speak
2. Biggest issue is traffic
3. 48 road traffic changes will take place with the opening of the Lane Cove Tunnel.
4. Problems with reduction in bus services
5. Proposed 40 story development in Chatswood set a dangerous precedent
6. The 500 extra housing units will present problems
7. Recycling of water is the way to go but capped at 10% return to water ways
8. State government is to sell “surplus” land at St Leonards for housing units
9. \$360M for preschools
10. Canberra supplied the money for toilets at Chatswood High that was lacking from the NSW government.
11. Figures show State heading for recession
12. We will replace spin doctors and bureaucracy increase with police etc.

Q1. (Pam Clifford) I am concerned that water has become a political foot ball. Would you support a more robust public service?

A1. Yes

Q2. What about Peter Debnam’s comment on “... rounding up 200 people of Middle Eastern appearance and charging them with anything ...”?

... (no direct answer and very difficult to understand)

Q3. What about your 40 letters of concern?

A3. Copies of these were supplied to the North Shore Times

4th Speaker: Mike Steel – The Greens

1. I am from the UK and have been in Australia for 30 years
2. The Greens punch above their weight
3. Website www.democracy4sale.org discloses political donations, lots of developer’s donations
4. Controls over developers have been eroded, with a subsequent reduction in building standards.
5. Self certifying, community interests being overruled, public land being sold
6. Referred to the annual “Bad Developers Night”
7. Initiated enquiry into Sydney Water
8. Desalination not the answer, the same money could have paid for a water tank in every dwelling
9. Important to have a 3rd Force in the House
10. The Greens are often opposed by both major party acting together
11. The *New Scientist* criticised the World report on climate change as being too conservative.

Q1. (Ian Bendram) Where are we in regard to the rebate policy on solar panels?

A1. Much greater incentives are required.

Q2. (Michael Haynes) Why are so many Greens antagonistic towards non government schools?

A2. I don’t agree, but the Australian Government spends more on NG Schools than G Schools and this inequality needs to be addressed.

Q3. (Questioner at the back)... very difficult to understand what this person was saying.

The chairman gave each speaker time to ask questions of the other 3 speakers.

1. Roy Day – no questions asked
2. Linda Beattie (to GB) “Where do you stand on child care and possibly as a woman’s issue?”
Response by GB – Pre-schooling is a responsibility of the State Government.
3. Gladys Berejiklian – declined the opportunity to ask questions
4. Ian Steel (to LB) – “Why, despite overseas experience in cost effectiveness, does the State government oppose exhaust air filtration of the Lane Cove Tunnel?” “What about the Roads Minister’s recent report on ‘far more dangerous are the emissions from the 80 thousand cars that would otherwise be using the existing road’
Response by LB – (...this reply was very difficult to understand as it made reference to the “unknown” location of an exhaust stack that belonged to the Harbour tunnel)
5. Roy Day (to LB) – “Has any testing been taken place?”
... (no answer recorded)*

The chairman now called for general questions from the audience

- Q1. (To GB) Would a Liberal government put in filtration?
A1. Yes but it would be costly. One cannot put a price on health. Joe Hockey MP has offered the State \$10M for filtration.
- Q2. (Trevor Morgan) Can the Greens work more closely with the government to get things going?
A2. (Ian Steel) We would love to but the exigencies of power prevent this.
- Q3. (Michael Haynes to GB) – None of the 240 conditions of approval (for the Lane Cove Tunnel) have been observed by developers or the RTA. What will the Libs do to this?
... (no answer recorded)*

John Becroft now took over the meeting, thanked the speakers, and invited all to have refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.57 pm.

* Secretary’s Note: “no answer recorded” refers to statements, the sense of which could not be clearly or accurately recorded, due to difficulty in following the speaker’s line of conversation.

Next General Meeting Wednesday 17th May 2007

Signed as a true & correct record

Chairman / /