

## **Northbridge Progress Association Inc**

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at St Marks Hall, Northbridge  
on Wednesday, December 9 2009 commencing at 8.10pm

**Attendance:** 24 members and guests

**Welcome:** the President welcomed members and guests including guest speaker Michele Burton, Northbridge Librarian Jane Cozens and Ward Councillors Gail Giles-Gidney and John Hooper.

**Apologies:** Pam Clifford, Stewart Truswell, Ron Hicks, Grant Sheldon

**Quorum:** The President noted that a quorum was present.

**Proxies:** Three proxies from the Batliwalla family had been received in favour of the President.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on December 10 2008 and for the General Meeting held on September 30 2009 were tabled by the President who noted that they had also been available on the Association's website for several months.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes are confirmed.

### **Treasurer's Report for the year ended June 30 2009**

The President read the Treasurer's Report in her absence overseas. It was noted that nearly \$20,000 was paid to consultants who advised on the proposed redevelopment of Northbridge Plaza. The balance of the term deposit had been reduced to \$13,300. The Association was in a sound financial position thanks to the quality of *The 202* newsletter and its advertisers. **RESOLVED** that the Treasurer's Report is accepted.

### **President's Report for 2009**

The President reported on the two major issues for the year - the proposed redevelopment of Northbridge Plaza and the Suspension Bridge safety barrier – and several other local issues. He noted that the Association had supported Council in many of its activities. He thanked local historian Pam Clifford, the advertisers in *The 202*, the Honorary Auditor, the Public Officer, the three Ward Councillors and everyone else who makes the Association successful. **RESOLVED** that the President's Report is accepted.

### **Election of the Committee for 2010**

The President reminded attendees that only members paid up prior to the meeting may nominate office bearers or vote.

The President handed the chair to Peter McLachlan to act as Returning Officer.

The following nominations for committee members in 2010 were moved, seconded and accepted in turn:

President: Peter McNair  
Vice-presidents: Ron Hicks, John Lightfoot  
Secretary: Malcolm Lye  
Treasurer: Pam Clifford  
Editor of *The 202*: Penny Lye  
Committee members: John Becroft, Grant Sheldon, Stewart Truswell

The Returning Officer declared that the above Committee members were elected for 2010 and returned the chair to President Peter McNair.

John Becroft congratulated Peter McNair on an excellent year as President, and especially for the Northbridge Plaza campaign and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. A resident congratulated Penny Lye on seven successful years as Editor of *The 202*. A resident expressed appreciation for the Association's role in the community, especially for its efforts in opposing a major expansion of Northbridge Plaza.

### **Membership**

**RESOLVED** that Margaret Tyson, a resident of Castlecrag, is accepted as a member pursuant to Rule 9(c). The President declared the resolution carried with more than 75% of members present in favour.

**RESOLVED** that, under Rule 10(d), the names in the current membership list produced to the meeting occur as confirmation of membership in so far as a General Meeting has not previously dealt with such names.

The Public Officer said that notice of a Special Resolution to streamline the membership process had been forwarded to members with the December issue of *The 202*. The resolution would be addressed by members at the February 24 2010 General Meeting.

### **Guest Speaker**

The President introduced Michele Burton, from Willoughby Library, to talk on "The new Northbridge Branch Library". Michele said that the library was due to be completed at the beginning of 2010, when a Community Open Day will be held to celebrate the new facility.

The present library was only 64 sq metres and operated for 7.5 hours per week.

The new library building was purchased by Council in May 2007. It will provide 210 sq metres of space which will include the new, bigger library plus meeting areas for community groups up to 35 people. It will be open for 15 hours per week, with hours designed to meet a broad range of user groups. There will be disabled access by a ramp and stair lift, and two disabled parking spaces outside the library.

The library will include a multifunctional area on a mezzanine level with space for study, exhibitions and meetings. There will be an open lounge and outside reading area on the ground floor. There will be new Sustainable Living collection for children and adults and

an increase in audio/visual material including music CDs, DVDs and audio books. The library will provide a wide range of online resources, with new technology and an OPAC (on-line public access catalogue) area. Free WIFI via Uconnect will be available to connect up to 25 people at a time. The new library will encourage Book Clubs and also plans author talks.

A new Local History Section will promote visual representation of the suburb's heritage to all visitors and provide a link to the more extensive historical resources held at the Willoughby Library's collection in Chatswood. Michele thanked the Association for its pledged \$2000 donation to the Local History Section.

### **Ward Councillors' reports**

- Cr John Hooper noted that a community meeting about the Suspension Bridge had been organized with the RTA for December 17. He said that it would be the last chance for the community to express its view but that RTA had probably already decided on a design. Cr Hooper said that he and Cr Giles-Gidney have tried to persuade RTA to install a RH turn signal for northbound traffic exiting Castlecrag, so far without success. He noted that a DA was expected shortly for a nursing home between Sailors Bay Rd and Baringa Rd near the Euroka St roundabout. He reported that the Northbridge Hotel DA had been refused and there were moves to return the hotel to a "family pub" style. Cr Hooper noted that there had been complaints that the new safety nets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway of the golf course obstructed the views of some residents. He reported that the Northbridge Park Masterplan proposed a number of changes in the park.
- Cr Gail Giles-Gidney said that she had held discussions with James Fitzpatrick, Dr Richard Barnes and the RTA CEO and officers during the past week. The RTA is looking at implementing its preferred design and is currently testing panels with various curved sections. At her request, RTA did agree to make a presentation to the community on December 17. Cr Giles-Gidney said that it would be valuable for the community to express its views at the meeting.
- A resident commented that suicides represented only a minute fraction of the people who use the bridge and that anyone who wants to suicide will do so whatever precautions RTA takes at the bridge. Cr Giles-Gidney noted that there had been three further suicide attempts at the bridge in the past nine months. Another resident commented that the Coroner has made a recommendation and that the onus is now on RTA executives to act.
- In response to a question, Cr Hooper said that Council has decided not to re-surface the Plaza car park because Northbridge Plaza will not contribute to the cost.
- The President thanked Ward Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the community in the past year.

### **General business**

- A resident asked NPA to pursue with Council and RTA the installation of signs on Eastern Valley Way showing the location of Sailors Bay Creek, as that creek was important to the early history of the suburb.

- A resident thanked the Committee for its work in organizing the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which was much enjoyed by residents who attended.

**Next General Meeting**

The next General Meeting will be held on February 24 2010. There will be an important presentation by Julie Whitfield on the draft Northbridge Park Masterplan. The President noted that the Masterplan has a number of radical recommendations for changes to Northbridge Park and NPA is looking for a large participation by members, who will be asked to provide comments to guide NPA Committee in its submission to Council.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Members joined in Christmas refreshments.

Chairman

Date