

Northbridge Progress Association Inc

Minutes of the General Meeting held at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd
on Thursday July 21 2011 commencing at 8.00pm

Attendance: 29 members and visitors.

Quorum: The President noted that a quorum was present.

Apologies: Charles and Elva Alma, Bruce Wilson, Margaret Broadfoot, Janet France, Michael Conder, Grant Sheldon, Penny and Malcolm Lye

Welcome: The President welcomed Cr Gail Giles-Gidney, Cr John Hooper and Cr Adrian Cox; guest speakers Snr Const Matt Jewell from Chatswood Police, Mr Neville Warner, Coordinator of the Willoughby Men's Shed, Mr Brian Norton from Northbridge Football Club, and other members and visitors.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the General Meeting held on May 5, 2011 were tabled by the President who noted that they had also been available on the NPA's website for more than two months.

RESOLVED that the minutes are confirmed.

Crime and Policing in Northbridge

Guest speaker Senior Constable Matt Jewell, Crime Prevention Officer, Chatswood Police, advised the audience that most crime committed in our area was "opportunistic". Two-thirds of the criminals in our area originate from the Western Sydney region. Most property crime is to get money for drugs. Thursday nights are the biggest night for crime due to late night shoppers. People travel direct from work to the shops, leaving their laptops, coins, and other valuables visible in the car. People also tend to hide their valuables in the boot after they have arrived at the destination car park, in front of the opportunistic criminal.

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 and then leave. Snr Const Jewell commented that two years ago Northbridge had a spike in crime which resulted in a spike in interest for home security checks and interest 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. People also tend to advertise what they have inside their home at Council clean-up time when they place the packaging for their expensive home theatre out on the kerb. Snr Const Jewell also asked people to be vigilant in regard internet crime prevention; PINs and passwords; credit card fraud; and crime prevention when travelling overseas. Copies of the *NSW Police Force Home Safe* brochure were made available to attendees.

The Men's Shed in Northbridge

Guest Speaker Mr Neville Warner, Coordinator, Willoughby Men's Shed informed attendees that the Men's Shed had been running for four years now. The Men's Shed related to - men getting together to do men's things. At the moment there are 150 people on the correspondence list, being members and friends - of whom about 50 were regular attendees - although 15 attendees at one time caused congestion in workspace. The Men's Shed is open Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 3pm. Mr Warner advised that due to the small space available there was a desperate need to expand the facilities. He showed the audience

proposed plans - indicative cost around \$120,000. Mr Warner advised that as a volunteer organisation the Men's Shed needed to appeal to the public to assist in raising the finance. He advised that they are now close to the point of turning future interested members away. Currently the members are involved in Christmas projects – including making little trucks, wooden boxes and little wooden wheel-barrows – which can be shipped to children in Cambodia; . They are also involved in providing work for other community groups and commercial entities. The Men's Shed does not and can not charge a membership fee as they reside upon Council facilities – which contribute to their lack of funds to finance the desired expansion. The owner of Café Politico offered to display and sell pro-bono surplus toys on the Men's Shed behalf.

Ward Councillors' reports

Cr Adrian Cox:

- The Concourse will be opened in September.
- On June 3, Willoughby City Council was named the winner of the Excellence in Overall Environmental Management award at the 2011 United Nations Association of Australia's World Environment Day Awards.

Cr John Hooper:

- Cr Hooper informed the audience that a motion had been put to Councillors by Cr Fogarty that Council investigate reducing the number of Councillors and Wards, and that this motion was proposed to be tabled and decided upon on Monday July 25. Under the recent changes to the Local Government Act, Council can now vote on this at their meetings instead of it having to be decided by the electorate. Cr Hooper advised the meeting that he was against the motion and had the support of the Mayor on this matter, but he still sought the opinion of those present by a show of hands. **RESOLVED** that the issue of the number of Councillors and Wards in Willoughby should be determined by a plebiscite of residents.

Cr Gail Giles-Gidney:

- Northbridge Oval new surface has been a success but Council is now assessing the traffic impact.
- Harden Park goes before Council next Monday, looking at \$30,000 upgrade for 2011/2012 year.
- Northbridge Baths - a good outcome.
- The first musical production held in the new theatre on The Concourse – *The Boy From Oz* – will open on September 23. Tickets are now on sale.
- Chatswood Library will be closed from Monday August 1 and reopening in The Concourse on Monday September 19.
- The Willoughby Incinerator Art space is running many exhibitions. It is open Wednesdays to Sundays, so encouraged everyone to go and have look.
- Bushcare Major Day Out scheduled for September 11 between 9am to 12 noon, at Tunks Park. Bring your gloves.

Parking Problems around Northbridge Oval

Guest Speaker Mr Brian Norton, Northbridge Football Club, addressed attendees on the growth, vision and community commitment of the club since its foundation. In 1973, there were only six teams and 82 players; in 1991, 29 teams and 306 players; whilst in 2011 there

are 168 teams comprising 2100 players, a seven-fold growth in 20 years. The Club does little or no promotion to attract members but continues to grow strongly each year.

Over the past few years there has been a growing need for more training and playing time due to the escalating growth in Junior; Women's and Over-35 Men's teams. To accommodate this, the club is regularly utilising several home fields (being: Northbridge Oval, Bicentennial Oval, Naremburn Oval, Bales Park and Willoughby Park) in order to spread the impact.

Attendees at the meeting reiterated the concerns expressed at the May 2011 NPA General Meeting in regard the escalating parking problems and obstruction of access to local properties that have occurred since the resurfacing of the oval and since the football season commenced. The impact on residents from training sessions and weekend games is now seven days a week, 8am to 9pm and local residents have now had enough and want some action from the club and from Council.

A resident proposed that Northbridge infrastructure is maybe at its limit and that further growth and demand on our roads and further Club growth would only exacerbate the problem that we are now experiencing.

RESOLVED that a group which comprises representatives of the Northbridge Football Club, local residents and Ward Councillors be formed to address and resolve the issues experienced as a result of the resurfacing and improvement in Northbridge Oval.

General Business

RESOLVED that Mr Michael Gortle, a resident of Willoughby, is approved as a member of the NPA.

Next meeting

The next NPA general meeting will be held on Thursday October 6, 2011 at 8pm in St Marks Hall. The speaker will be advised in *The 202* newsletter.

The President closed the meeting at 10:05pm and members joined in refreshments.

Chairman.....

Date.....