

## **Northbridge Progress Association Inc**

Minutes of General Meeting held at St Marks Hall, Northbridge  
on Wednesday, September 29 2010 commencing at 8.05pm

**Attendance:** 21 members and guests

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

**Apologies:** Cr John Hooper, Cr Gail Giles-Gidney, Cr Adrian Cox, Cr Wendy Norton, Michael Conder, Alex Norquay.

**Welcome:** The President welcomed guest speaker Marc Simpson and other members and visitors. He noted that guest speaker Theodora Kletsas had been delayed by an emergency treatment.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the General Meeting held on July 21 2010 were tabled by the President who noted that they had also been available on the Association's website for more than two months. **RESOLVED** that the minutes are confirmed.

### **Guest speaker**

Marc Simpson from VetMed Northbridge spoke on the subject "Dogs, people and the community". He said that dogs had survived by befriending humans and had evolved to avoid conflict. A dog had three basic needs – food, attention and play – and an owner should make the dog feel safe and comfortable about obtaining these needs. The worst thing is for a dog to be anxious; it can result in aggression and excessive barking when left alone. One in five dogs suffer anxiety. An owner should control the dog and find ways to make it earn its food, attention and play.

In answer to questions, Marc said that the behaviour of a dog depended on its genetics, early experiences and ongoing treatment. Excessive barking was the result of separation, anxiety and boredom. He advocated talking to a neighbour with a barking dog and taking it for walks. A dog can also be trained not to bark by reducing its anxiety levels.

In regard to pit bulls, he said that they were bred to fight and were unsuitable as pets. It was important for a pet dog to be matched properly with an owner and his/her lifestyle. Vets can help choose the right dog for a new owner. Dogs and owners who undertake training have much better relationships.

Marc said the best way Councils could help would be to provide more fenced, off-leash parks and more education on pet ownership in schools. A member noted that in Willoughby if a dog is in a public area it must be on a leash and controlled effectively by a competent person.

### **Report on local issues**

The President and Secretary read a report that had been adapted from a report provided to NPA by Cr John Hooper. The report covered Northbridge issues (such as the Suspension Bridge, proposed nursing home and the draft LEP) and Willoughby-wide issues (such as

Chatswood Mall, a new Chatswood medical facility and The Concourse). The full report is attached to these minutes.

A member said there was a need to raise the community’s objections about the draft LEP with top levels of government and that Northbridge residents were too complacent and needed to be “wound up” about the issues. The President noted there would be a Council meeting in early November to address the draft LEP and residents should attend it to demonstrate their objections.

**General business**

- The President noted that Council’s free bus “The Loop” appeared to be little used by Northbridge residents. It was on a six month trial and unless we used it, we could lose the service.
- A member said that the narrowing of Gunyah St and Namoi Rd at their junctions with Sailors Bay Rd appeared to no longer serve a purpose and was unsafe for motorists. Another member commented that the increased congestion at the Junction cause motorists to “rat-run” down Baringa and Barooka Rds.

**Next general meeting**

The President advised that the Annual General Meeting would be held on Wednesday December 8 at 8.00pm. The guest speaker would be local architect Peter Mayoh talking on responsible development in Northbridge. The President urged members to nominate office bearers at the AGM.

The President closed the meeting at 9.35pm and members joined in refreshments.

Chairman: ..... Date: .....

## **Report to NPA General meeting, September 29 2010**

*This report has been adapted from a report provided by Cr John Hooper to update NPA on current activities.*

### **Suspension Bridge**

The fencing on the Suspension Bridge to deter suicides has been completed. The work was undertaken by the RTA in response to a Coroner's report. Strong community representations were made by Councils, NPA and residents on the fencing proposal however the RTA proceeded with the fencing.

### **Nursing home**

A new DA has been submitted for the proposed 116-bed aged care facility at 170 Sailors Bay Road, adjacent to Euroka St roundabout. A similar DA for this site was withdrawn after Council, NPA and residents objected to many problems including the height and scale, and parking and traffic issues. The new DA is for a building on seven blocks (previously six) after the developer acquired the block on the west side of the development, on which two semis currently stand. The building is three storeys on Sailors Bay Rd and two storeys on Baringa Rd, neither of which is in compliance with relevant standards. Comments on the new DA close on October 19. NPA expects to be making a substantial objection to the facility. The subject application will be determined by the State Joint Regional Planning Panel, not by Council.

### **Synthetic surface at Northbridge Oval**

The tender for the installation of the synthetic surface on Northbridge Oval has closed and Council staff are currently assessing the bids. Construction work is expected to commence in October subject to adoption of a preferred tenderer. NPA did not object to the synthetic surface but did question whether the \$1.5 million cost could be better spent on other sporting and recreational areas in Willoughby.

Council also has a DA on notification for new lighting at the oval. NPA is currently reviewing the impact and location of the proposed new light poles.

### **Northbridge Park bike track**

Following the adoption of the Northbridge Park Masterplan, work is progressing on the design of the off road cycling skills track. The Men's Shed has agreed to work with Council and local youth for the construction of some of the infrastructure needed to implement the new track. NPA did not object to the new bike track.

### **Northbridge Men's Shed**

Staff are meeting with Men's Shed members to progress plans for the extension of the Mens Shed, which is also a recommendation contained in the Northbridge Park Masterplan.

### **Draft WLEP**

Council Officers are progressing with the review of 1000 submissions from Willoughby residents on the draft Willoughby Local Environment Plan. It is anticipated that the report on the submissions will go to Council in early November. Some briefings for Councillors are planned for October and after the November meeting the direction to be taken with the draft LEP will be clear. Two Sailors Bay Ward councillors have told NPA that they will be resisting re-zoning in Northbridge, particularly on the peninsula.

### **Libraries**

The popularity of the 38 book club kits at Castle Cove, Naremburn and Northbridge Libraries is growing and more kits have been created to help with the demand. Northbridge Library has formed three new book clubs since the new library opened.

### **The Incinerator**

Following a comprehensive planning review with Council's consultants of the final stages of design and work required to complete the fit out of the facility, works are about to recommence in earnest to meet our deadline for the first exhibition in January.

### **Bushland works and activities**

A number of walking track upgrades have been completed at Harold Reid Reserve, Middle Cove and The Casement, Castlecrag. Installation of bush furniture, using blackbutt and turpentine, was carried out at Barambah Reserve, Roseville; Bampi Place, Castle Cove and Cheyne Walk, Castlecrag.

### **Chatswood Mall**

Work is continuing in the top half of the Mall above Victor St. Council has decided on artworks and power and plinths for the artwork have been installed. Paving work can now be completed in this section. Work has also begun from the bottom of the Mall adjacent to Anderson Street and will progressively work back up the Mall to join up with the already completed areas above Victor Street.

### **Shopping trolleys**

Council is one step closer to better control of shopping trolleys in and around Chatswood with Westfields and Coles agreeing on a program for installation of the trolley stopping devices that have been successful with Chatswood Chase.

### **New medical facility in Chatswood**

The DA for the integrated Traditional Chinese and Western medical facility on the site at the corner of Albert Ave and Archer Street has been lodged. The project includes some retail uses and a residential component with the hospital. The project is supported by the NSW Government and the Peoples Republic of China. It will be a significant contribution to the medical services available in Chatswood and Willoughby for residents and visitors. The application will be determined by the Joint Regional Planning Panel in October.

### **Childcare**

Council is conducting a Children's Services Needs Analysis to plan for the future childcare needs of the community. Council has commissioned a study to estimate future requirements for childcare and to understand the current supply of childcare and any areas of unmet demand. Results should be available by the end of October.

### **The Concourse (previously called Civic Place)**

The last tower crane has been removed from the site and the main external staircase has now been poured - the last major concrete pour on the project. Structural steel and roofing is now complete and with the exception of minor detailing the building is water-tight. Scaffolding from around the site continues to be removed as the brushed aluminium cladding is being completed. Large glazing components have been recently installed. Landscape works have commenced with granite paving of the upper podium and tiling of the water court in preparation for the installation of one of the main public art pieces which is due for installation in October. The majority of services internally have been run-in and internal finishes are beginning to be installed throughout.