

Northbridge Progress Association Inc

President's Report Annual General Meeting, November 28 2007

This Annual general meeting will be the Association's last meeting for 2007. As usual, it has been an eventful year for NPA. During the year, we once again tried hard to 'preserve or improve the amenity and environment of Northbridge', mainly through making the views of our members known and generating dialogue with local and State governments.

Our main community issue was the proposed expansion of Northbridge Plaza. We were shocked at the outcome of the so-called community consultation process and made a number of representations to Council, which culminated in an NPA meeting in July which more than 150 attended. Through the support of the Mayor and several councillors, we succeeded in limiting the Plaza's retail expansion to 10% and deferred any negotiation over the public car park land. We ensured that Council controlled the Plaza Masterplan process and that the community will have meaningful input into it. We also sponsored a new community action group, Willoughby Residents Against Plaza Overdevelopment.

NPA supported projects which would enhance amenity for Northbridge residents. We applauded Council's work in parks and bushland, such as the new landscaping in Northbridge Park. We welcomed Council initiatives such as the Branch Library purchase and the Willoughby Men's Shed. After a review of Council's Civic Place project, we continued to give in-principle support to this ambitious project. We continued our support of Northbridge Golf Club's big project for water self-sufficiency.

We were disappointed that Council approved Shore's \$9 million grandstand project without insisting on the school providing parking for its spectators. We opposed some aspects of new development proposals at 154 Sailors Bay Rd and 76 Cliff Ave and had some success in seeing them amended. We continued to advocate construction of a roundabout at Euroka St and were pleased to see Council reverse its decision to abandon the project. We made suggestions to improve traffic and safety in Northbridge and were successful in some, notably at Bonds Corner. Currently, we are trying to prevent Northbridge Hotel turning into a gaming pub.

NPA donated a \$5000 barbecue to Council's recreation area near Northbridge Oval and made a \$300 donation to St Marks Hall renovation appeal. We made our annual \$100 donations to each of the primary schools for citizenship prizes and we gave Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch \$500 to help fund its *Crimebuster* newsletter. In 2007, we again maintained our membership at almost 350 (from only 77 members 10 years ago!), established an excellent Internet website and purchased a new sound system for our meetings.

Next year, we'll be working hard to represent your interests. We expect to address another wide range of development proposals and projects in our suburb. Our major challenge will be the proposed redevelopment of Northbridge Plaza shopping centre and car park.

I'd like to thank everyone who makes NPA successful: our members, a number of generous member donors, our voluntary 'walkers' who deliver *The 202*, our excellent guest speakers, the many loyal advertisers in *The 202* and the hard-working members of the Committee.

John Becroft