

## **Northbridge Progress Association**

### **President's report for 2011**

It was again a busy year for Northbridge Progress Association with a large number of Northbridge community issues and broader matters to address.

#### **Major issues**

We were disappointed that, despite Council's refusal of the proposal, a Joint Regional Planning Panel approved in February a 116-bed nursing home on seven blocks of land facing Sailors Bay Rd at Euroka St roundabout. We were not opposed to the facility in principle but it failed to comply with a number of important NSW and Council controls. We also urged Council to limit heavy construction vehicle movements during school peak hours, with limited success.

NPA spent a good deal of effort on NSW planning law issues, particularly since Council in November 2010 approved a substantial increase in medium-density zoning for Northbridge. NPA was the only Progress Association invited to address a NSW Planning Forum in July and we organised a General Meeting on the same subject in October. Subsequently, NPA made a submission to the two-person Planning Review Panel which will be making recommendations to NSW Government in 2012.

We were disappointed that, mainly because RTA has not agreed to assist with funding, Council has not yet carried out a comprehensive traffic study of Northbridge.. We requested a study in 2010.

#### **Other local issues**

NPA congratulated Council on its successful re-surfacing of Northbridge Oval but then watched the parking chaos which resulted as usage of the oval increased substantially. We are keen to see Council and Northbridge Football Club take action to resolve the concerns of nearby residents.

Similarly, we congratulated Council on completing its splendid new facility in Chatswood, The Concourse, but were disappointed by the substantial cost and schedule over-runs for the project.

NPA and the community had some wins during the year. We persuaded Council to improve the safety of the Harden Ave entry to its Plaza car park with a new footpath. Residents and NPA argued successfully for Ausgrid to change the proposed location of a new substation away from Clive Park. And we persuaded RTA to formally change the name of “our bridge” to Suspension Bridge.

NPA objected to a number of Northbridge development proposals during the year and most were amended by the developers, though not always to the extent suggested.

After our numerous objections, we were pleased to see that Northbridge Hotel, which renovated extensively in 2007 without any Council approvals, finally returned to compliance this year.

### **Community activities**

During 2011, NPA promoted new Northbridge entry signs and pledged \$5000 towards their cost. We won a \$1500 community grant from Council to prepare a “Walk Northbridge” brochure. We donated \$200 for citizenship awards at local primary schools. NPA organised a Clean Up Australia Day in Northbridge in March. And we continued to assist Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch to maintain its profile.

We were pleased to see that Pam Clifford received two community awards in 2011 for her valuable research and writings about Northbridge history. She assisted Council with the re-naming of Harden Park and a local laneway. NPA has commenced work on an event to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

the naming of Northbridge in 2013 and is supporting Pam's new Northbridge history book.

**Thank you**

I congratulate our local Member and our three Ward Councillors for their sincere efforts on behalf of Northbridge residents. They work long hours to respond to our community's concerns.

My thanks go to our invaluable advertisers in *The 202* newsletter, many of whom have been loyal to NPA for several years. Without them, NPA would be much less effective. Please support them all.

Our sincere thanks go to Chartered Accountant Michael Ball who acts as the Association's honorary auditor and to solicitor Peter McLachlan, who is the Public Officer. NPA is fortunate to have such well-qualified, community-minded and generous people to ensure its excellent governance.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone else who makes the Association successful: almost 500 members, voluntary 'walkers' who deliver *The 202*, excellent guest speakers, all the contributors who make *The 202* such a success, and the hard-working members of NPA's committee.

The Northbridge community should be proud of this caring and committed band of volunteers.

**Peter McNair**