



NORTHBRIDGE
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Working for the advancement of Northbridge since 1919

ABN 733 956 702

PO Box 357 Northbridge 2063

February 7 2008

Mr Nick Tobin
General manager
Willoughby City Council
PO Box 57
CHATSWOOD NSW 2057

Dear Mr Tobin

Re: Unnamed laneways in Northbridge

Your letter of January 18 about unnamed laneways advised that comments by Northbridge Progress Association and our committee member Pam Clifford about the names proposed by Council for unnamed laneways in Northbridge “will be considered and reported to Council”.

We have taken your letter seriously and now attach Mrs Clifford’s comments and suggestions about Council’s proposed names. Mrs Clifford’s knowledge of Northbridge history is detailed; much of it is drawn from her interviews with senior members of the Northbridge community.

The comments and suggestions have been endorsed by the committee of the Association. You will note that we agree with many of Council’s proposals. We believe that some names proposed by Council may be better suited to alternative laneways. There are some new names suggested that have special significance in Northbridge. Several of them have been specifically requested by members of the Northbridge community.

We believe our laneway name suggestions reflect a more comprehensive approach than Council has adopted and also incorporate views from the community. We urge Council to consider them seriously.

Yours sincerely,

John Becroft
President

Copy: Sailors Bay Ward councillors

NAMING OF UNNAMED LANEWAYS IN NORTHBRIDGE

No	Position	Council suggestion	NPA suggestion
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W23	Coolawin to foreshore.	TIMMS	TREMLOW LANE
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Lane W69/70 is off Harden Ave, where the TIMMS family lived. W23 would be more relevant to TREMLOW LANE since Mr Tremlow lived closer by at what is now Hallstrom Place.

W46	Woonona westward	GARRICK	POOLE PLACE
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Mr Wilfred C. Poole leased the first shop in Northbridge in 1920, on the corner of Sailors Bay and Woonona Rds. His shop was a general store, refreshment room and the first estate agency in Northbridge. Many meetings were held in his shop in the early 1920s before any halls were available, for example meetings to form the golf club and swimming club. It is only a tiny lane, probably a night lane originally; presumably bits of it were sold off.

We suggest moving THE GARRICK to W70 which is in Harden Ave.

W47	Weemala to Wollombi	MASON	MASON
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Nothing is known about Mr Mason.

W48	Courallie to Kameruka	RENSHAW	RENSHAW
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We were unable to ascertain whether Mr Renshaw was active in the Northbridge community, rather than this just being suggested because he lived here.

Since W48 and W59 are quite large lanes (and lanes are at a premium) we would suggest two separate names.

W49	Kameruka to Narooma	RENSHAW	PARKES
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Although local residents assert this was Joyce Roche's lane (she phoned Council consistently asking them to attend to it), the Roche name has already been preserved in Roche Park.

NPA has been asked to call it PARKES LANE. Sir Henry's son, Cobden Parkes, lived at the top of the lane in Narooma Rd at least in the 1950s. He designed the Norman Landers Library in the 1950s and later became Government Architect.

W50	Courallie to Coorabin	McKENZIE	McKENZIE
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Jack McKenzie built The Boatshed (near Clive Park) in 1940 and although he was there only a few years, it became known as "Mac's". His son took over in 1945. A McKenzie family lived in Coolawin Rd near Clive Park in the 1940s.

W51	Namoi to Woonona	WAGSCHALL	WAGSCHALL
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NPA has little knowledge of Jessie Wagschall. The Wagschall children were at Northbridge Public School in the 1940s.

W52	Off Woonona eastwards	WAGSCHALL	MITCHELL
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We assume this is the small lane leading down to Roche Park behind the public school, and would suggest separate names for W51 and W52 since lanes are at a premium. NPA would like to name W52 after Mr A G MITCHELL, who was the first Headmaster of Northbridge Public School (from 1923 to 1928) and being a keen photographer, took many of the early photographs which survive in the Willoughby Library.

No	Position	Council suggestion	NPA suggestion
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W55	Cliff Av to Ulrich Lane	BONDS	BLONDIN or HENRI L'ESTRANGE
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Since we have Bonds Corner, NPA feels there is no need for Bonds Lane. Mr William D F Bond was a house, land and estate agent in Northbridge.

Mr HENRI L'ESTRANGE, known as the Australian BLONDIN, put Long Bay on the social map long before the Suspension Bridge was built when, in 1877, he crossed Long Bay by tighrope.

W56	Baringa to Baroona	BENNELL	BENNELL
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Horace Andrew (Hockey) Bennell lived in Northbridge and became the Amateur Lightweight Boxing Champion of Australia in 1934. He owned a produce store on the corner of Sailors Bay and Bellambi Rds, and it is thought his father was also active in the community.

W57	Baroona to Marana	BENNELL	PHILLIPS
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Mrs Phillips was a primary school teacher at Northbridge Public School for many years and was a tireless worker for the Red Cross and other charities during the war, organising large Red Cross contingents within the school. When she became too deaf to teach, she worked at the Correspondence School for many years. Her son lives on the Central Coast.

W58	Bligh to Tunks	DENNET	DENNET
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It is thought the people in Sailors Bay Rd in front of this lane suggested Mr Dennet, because he lived in the house for ages until he died recently aged in his 90s.

W60	Off Bellambi westwards	WEIR	WEIR
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The Weir children were at NPS in the 1940s and Mrs Weir organised the Scouts' Dances, THE social event in Northbridge in the 1950s. It is thought they lived in in Kameruka Road near the end of Bligh. It is a pretty small lane.

W68	Calbina to Cliff	TREMLOW	MULHOLLAND
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We suggest moving TREMLOW to W23 which is closer to Hallstrom Close where TREMLOW had his house.
Mr Mulholland was the first President of Northbridge Progress Association; some Mulholland children were at NPS in the 1940s. MULHOLLAND has been moved from W70 (see below).

W69	Off Harden Ave eastwards	MULHOLLAND	TIMMS
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TIMMS has been moved from W23 in Coolawin Rd, since he lived in Harden Ave and deserves a reasonable lane, although this one is pretty small. Frederick John TIMMS purchased a number of blocks in Harden Ave, moved into a house he built in 1904 and was very active in the growing community. The Garrick Theatre was on his land (named after English actor David Garrick). His grounds and playhouse were used for many community events, including sporting events, fetes to raise funds for the Northbridge Progress Association and a visiting circus. Meetings were held in his home and he was very active in various sporting clubs, including the Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club, Water Polo Club and Northern Suburbs Tennis Association, after tennis courts were built in his grounds.

W70	Off Harden westwards	MULHOLLAND	THE GARRICK
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This tiny lane has a park attached (behind the Masonic Hall near the Plaza). It would be a more suitable place to commemorate THE GARRICK theatre, which was on the TIMMS property in Harden Ave.
MULHOLLAND could move to W68, previously TREMLOW which we moved to W23.

LANES NOT MENTIONED:

Between Harden and Bellambi

GREENFIELD.

NPA has been asked to name this GREENFIELD LANE because the Greenfields lived in both Harden Ave and Bellambi Rd. They moved to Northbridge with the Timms family and the family lived (and still do) in Harden Ave and Bellambi Rd. They had the first private swimming pool in Northbridge and one of their properties in Harden Ave was rented to the King family and used for market gardens. Mr Greenfield was a civil servant, and he built the second lot of (two) shops in Northbridge, in Sailors Bay Rd somewhere opposite where the school is now. Mrs F H Greenfield ran Refreshment Rooms from one of the shops. Other members of the extended family were quite active in the early years, including Mrs Lily Briscoe who had the first Church of England Sunday School on her front porch in Harden Ave and was involved in the building of St Marks Church, and Miss Mitchell who ran a dancing school.

OTHER NAMES SUGGESTED

HOLLAND

The family has lived in Northbridge since 1923 and Mrs Lorraine Holland still owns property in Euroka St. Her father was the first Manager of the Bank of NSW in Northbridge and left only briefly when transferred. While living in Northbridge he was President of the Northbridge Progress Association and talked about THE GARRICK.

Submitted by Mrs Lorraine Holland, aged 92 years, 25 Fourth Ave, Willoughby.

HAYHOW after HAYHOW'S CORNER which name unfortunately disappeared when the shop on the corner of Sailors Bay Rd and Strathallen Ave was closed (present apartment building). Hayhow's grocer shop was a significant landmark..

TRAMWAY TRACK to remind us we once had a tram service in Northbridge.

LUCKNOW. Such a nice sounding word. LUCKNOW ESTATE was a subdivision in Sailors Bay Rd and Eric St which was auctioned in 1905.

MARKET GARDENS or **KING** in recognition of the Market Gardens which were so important in Northbridge in the early days.

Mr BURKINSHAW was the Deputy Headmaster of the public school for many years and was really loved and respected. His son still lives in Northbridge.

BROCKSLEY COLLEGE operated at 98 Sailors Bay Rd (opposite the now Plaza) from about 1922 to the late 1940s.

It was run by Mrs BAILEY. BAILEY'S HALL, which was also at 98 Sailors Bay Rd, and operated as a local meeting place from 1922 to the late 1940s. The remains can still be seen in the backyard.

MISS RIACH ran a private pre-school/primary school in CLAVERING from the mid 1930s until the late 1940s.

PARKS

Sailors Bay Rd top of Nulgarra

**PICTURE SHOW PLACE
or OSCAR SHAFT PARK**

This is opposite where the picture theatre entertained the community until 1963-ish. The Manager was Mr Oscar Shaft who was very active within Northbridge and the Progress Association.

Grassy reserve at the end of Tunks St overlooking Kameruka Rd

Stairs at end of Tunks St to Kameruka Rd

Stairs at end of Bligh to Lower Bligh

In Minimbah Rd, two bush reserves from the roadway to the waterfront.

One is between Nos 5 and 7, the other next to No 65.

We would like to call one of the foreshore reserves after the CAMARAIGALS, the aboriginal family group which lived in the area.

The small reserve between Nos 55 and 57 Coolawin Road to the foreshore.

Noonbinna Close – unmade section of roadway from Noonbinna Cres to Kameruka Rd

Parker St – bush reserve at the rear of houses in Parker St (next to No 12) and Noonbinna Cres (Nos 45 and 59)

Harden Ave reserve – behind the Masonic Hall.

NPA has suggested this for THE GARRICK, together with the tiny laneway leading down to the Plaza (present smoker's paradise).

Bush area between Upper and Lower Cliff Aves

Pathway between Byora Cres and Dalmeny Rd

NPA has been asked to nominate McNair Survey Walkway (or similar) after the McNair family which lived in Byora Cres for many years, and the survey company it founded.

We assume there are some other unmade laneways or bush tracks, and that Council has not commenced naming them yet. NPA requests to be kept informed.