

## Northbridge Library - Timeline



*Norman Landers Library, 296A Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge, 1960.*

**1947 -** Northbridge Library began in a large room beneath the grandstand at Northbridge Oval, established through the efforts of a group of WWII veterans from "C" Company 7th Battalion of the Volunteer Defence Corps, who went on to form the Northbridge VDC Association

**1952 -** The Library grew rapidly and had 1800 books by 1952. By the mid-1950s the room at the sports pavilion had become inadequate to house the library collection

**1957 -** A pro bono library building, at 296A Sailors Bay Road, was opened in 1957 as the Norman Landers Memorial Library, in honour of the foundation secretary of the Northbridge VDC Association

**1981 -** The library was run by volunteers until 1981, when it became a branch of Willoughby City Library

**2007 -** By the early 2000s the library had again outgrown its building and a new solution was needed.

Willoughby Council purchased the former Presbyterian Church in 2007 to replace the Norman Landers Memorial Library

**2010 -** Northbridge Library moves to 258 Sailors Bay Road



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WILLOUGHBY CITY  
**LIBRARY**



# History of NORTHBRIDGE LIBRARY



## Northbridge Presbyterian Church - Timeline

**29 August 1914** - Northbridge Number Four subdivision offered for sale

**Early 1920s** - Presbyterian services commence at Northbridge in temporary premises, including Bailey's Hall at 98 Sailors Bay Road

**1 February 1925** - A committee was formed to build a Presbyterian church at Northbridge

**February 1926** - Lot 18 of Northbridge Number Four subdivision, located at the corner of Namoi and Sailors Bay Roads, was purchased for £600

**January 1928** - Presbyterian services held at the Northbridge Masonic Hall - two services on Sundays plus a well-attended Sunday School. Donation of an organ for the future church

**2 August 1928** - Local architect, Alfred Edward Withey, appointed to design the church

**23 January 1929** - Building Application (BA) lodged with Willoughby Municipal Council - Plans approved on 6 February 1929

**4 May 1929** - Foundation stone for the church laid by prominent local Presbyterian, Sir Clifton Love, owner of Clifford Love Mills on the Lane Cove River which manufactured food products including 'Uncle Toby's Oats' and 'Wade's Cornflour'

**June 1929** - Large circular window purchased for £10 from Longueville Presbyterian Church. The window depicts the insignia of the Australian Presbyterian Church - a St Andrew's Cross and the Burning Bush



*Northbridge Presbyterian Church, 1929*

**24 August 1929** - Northbridge Presbyterian Church dedicated by Rev. D.J. Flockhart and opened by Mrs G. Gillespie of Warrawee. Total cost of the church building, land and furnishing was £2,978

**1949 - 1964** - Plans to build a Sunday School hall at the rear of the church begin but the building materials shortage following WWII delayed construction. The Knox Memorial Hall was officially opened by NSW Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott in March 1955. A kindergarten and kitchen were added in 1964

**1975** - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Jubilee commemorated

**June - July 1977** - 22 June 1977 - Uniting Church of Australia created, linking Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist faiths into one new church

The Northbridge Presbyterian congregation votes to form a joint parish with the Northbridge and Castlecrag Methodist churches. Services move to the Methodist Church in Gunyah Rd and the Presbyterian Church building is left vacant

**15 April 1981** - The building was sold to the Anglican Television Society

**7 May 2007** - The former church was purchased by Willoughby City Council

**2009** - Church refitted to become a library, including the addition of a mezzanine level

**27 February 2010** - Official opening as the new Northbridge Library



*Northbridge subdivision plans, 1904 - 1922. The church/library is located on Lot 18, at the corner of Sailors Bay and Namoi Roads.*