

☞ MUNICIPALITY OF WILLOUGHBY ☞

THE NAREMBURN STORY

BY
ERIC WILKSCH

*One of a set of eight locality booklets compiled by voluntary effort
to commemorate Australia's Bicentenary,
comprising
Artarmon, Castle Cove / Middle Cove, Castlecrag,
Chatswood East, Chatswood West Ward, Naremburn,
Northbridge and Willoughby.*



Australia
1788-1988

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Compiled by
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Published for
THE BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
of
WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
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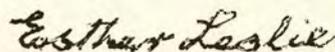
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THE PROJECT

In 1983, under Section 530A of the Local Government Act of 1919, as amended, the Willoughby Municipal Council established a Willoughby Bicentennial Community Committee to manage, on a voluntary basis, Council's involvement in Australia's Bicentenary celebrations in 1988. It comprised members of the community and representatives of Council. The Committee set up several subcommittees within its infrastructure, including a 'Community History Projects Subcommittee' which unanimously decided to compile historical booklets on each of the nine suburbs in the present-day Municipality of Willoughby; locality boundaries to be local government boundaries irrespective of postcodes. An exception was made for the booklet on Chatswood West in favour of the boundaries of the West Ward.

Work on the project commenced in 1984 and was undertaken by five members working independently on separate booklets — Nancy Booker, Vince Egan, Esther Leslie, Grace Warner and Eric Wilksch. Each member had power to coopt assistance. Regular meetings of the Subcommittee were held at which administrative and financial matters, in the main, were dealt with. It is hoped that each booklet will be seen as a contribution to any comprehensive and authoritative history of the Municipality that may be written in the future and not in itself as a complete history of the suburb/ward; the latter scope was never the intention of the Subcommittee and neither time nor resources would have allowed such detailed and in-depth research.

The project was endorsed by Willoughby Council and by the New South Wales Bicentennial Council; publication costs have been shared by the Australian Bicentennial Authority and Willoughby Council under the Authority's 'Local Government Initiative Grants Program'. Eight booklets have been published. They are: Artarmon, Castle Cove/Middle Cove, Castlecrag, Chatswood East, Chatswood West Ward, Naremburn, Northbridge and Willoughby. Each compiler takes responsibility for the accuracy of facts, within the limits of the available research resources and for any viewpoints which may have been expressed. Any additional or variant information would be welcomed and should be forwarded to the compiler c/o Willoughby Municipal Council.



Esther Leslie
Convener, Community History Projects Subcommittee

Dedicated to Naremburn's pioneers and
community workers many of whom left their
mark but whose identities are lost.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

When the author took up permanent residence in Naremburn in 1950, he and his wife took an intense interest in the suburb with active membership of community organisations. With direct observations of happenings, often in the role of an active participant, past history recounted by associates, together with a passion for hoarding relevant newspaper cuttings, and a collection of notes, the foundation was set on which to build an historical record.

Brevity is often an unfortunate requirement of a book of this kind, but acknowledgements are necessary of the ready assistance rendered by so many people with information. Some sources are identified in items, but further specific and general recognition is required, though in many instances records were very brief indeed.

- Willoughby Municipal Library Local History Section, access to files, records, publications and general facilities.
- Naremburn Progress Association records, correspondence and newspaper cuttings.
- Naremburn Amenities Development Association records.
- The Churches: records and assistance from members.
- Willoughby District Historical Society's Journal.
- Department of Main Roads.
- Mitchell Library: newspapers and publications.
- *William and Elizabeth Swann* by Ellen Errey and Elizabeth Plimer, Snap Instant Printing 1984.
- Miss E. Leslie, 'Willoughby: the origin of the name'.
- *Naremburn Public School 1887-1987. History of,* Management Development Publishers Pty Ltd Sydney 1987.

PREFACE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the eight Community Histories of Willoughby and to commend all those responsible for the necessary research, comprehensive preparation and their publication.

Many people are interested and fascinated by our social history and I am certain the local history contained within these booklets will add to this interest. It will certainly extend our knowledge of our immediate surroundings and bring better understanding to the origins and meanings of the streets and their names, so that they will become significant, as will the names of our parks and other landmarks.

The booklets also contain information about our local residents and provide a fund of information for those wishing to learn more about those who have had an influence on our Municipality.

The Bicentennial Project therefore is a fine way of celebrating this important event, particularly in Willoughby, which was first established as a Municipality in 1865, and which has a wealth of history to celebrate.

The Project itself is a heavy and intensive undertaking for a local group and I publicly acknowledge the major role played by Esther Leslie as Convener of the Project and thank both her and her co-authors Nancy Booker, Vince Egan, Grace Warner and Eric Wilksch for their efforts.

I hope you enjoy, as I have, the histories and the opportunities they present to learn more about our past.



Noel Reidy.

Noel A. Reidy
MAYOR

Willoughby Municipal Council,
Civic Centre, Chatswood.
July 1988

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INTRODUCTION

What we say and do today becomes history tomorrow, to be viewed and assessed in retrospect. Recorded history must of necessity accurately reflect activities through the course of time as a chronicle of events for posterity.

An historian need not apologise for the inclusion of material that may not be pleasing to all members of a community, provided such information is accurately recorded and not distorted in any way, and is necessary for continuity. We cannot be held responsible for the debts of our forefathers although this idea is not always accepted. There are instances of rivalry between organisations which lead to unfortunate scenarios; although regrettable, recording such actual events furnishes explanations for subsequent developments and is required as an integral component of our history.

During research into the history of Naremburn for this publication and for other projects, amazing material has come to light from a variety of sources. Naturally much of this has been scanty in its content. However a great amount of in-depth information has been located. Material included in this history is in many instances necessarily brief and condensed. The original source material or copies where possible are deposited in the Willoughby Municipal Library's Local History Section where it is accessible for further research on various aspects.

It is hoped that as time progresses, more material will come to light from readers who may not have been aware of the value of information they hold. Early photographs are particularly scarce. The above Library is always pleased to receive such material to copy and return.

It is beyond the ambit of this publication that it be considered as a complete record of the district's history. Omissions and possible errors are regretted and not intended; every effort has been made to check sources. Inaccuracies or omissions should be notified so that a master copy may be appropriately amended.

The recording of history must be a continuing involvement, while information is still available. Too much has already been lost. The baton, it is sincerely hoped, will be taken up by a local historical enthusiast. It is a rewarding challenge.

The obviously incomplete picture that has finally evolved is the result of a pile of jigsaw-like pieces of treasured information, some collected over many years from a variety of very interesting sources. Some have not been found to fit — yet; others have fitted perfectly — finally. There are many spaces still. Despite the spaces, the exercise has been exciting, especially when quite small key pieces unexpectedly appear. The search will go on, for posterity.

Regrettably there were a few instances in which material including photographs could not be included in full because of cost limits. Such items are held for posterity in the Library archives because of their historical value.

IN THE BEGINNING

WILLOUGHBY: Origin of the name of the Parish, Suburb and Municipality of Willoughby

By the 1820s, much attention was focused on the problem of how to improve the overall administration of the vast colony of New South Wales, with particular reference to land. To facilitate identification and development of areas, the Secretary of State in England instructed the Governor of New South Wales to divide the Colony into Counties, Hundreds and Parishes. The Surveyor-General of New South Wales completed his survey and map of nineteen counties in 1834.

In 1835 the Governor, Sir Richard Bourke, issued a Proclamation in Government Gazette No. 169 'erecting the County of Cumberland and dividing same into Hundreds and Parishes'. It covered an area of over 1,600 square miles and each Hundred was approximately 100 square miles. One of these Hundreds was the Hundred of Packenham which was later divided into five Parishes, each roughly 25 square miles — Broken Bay, Narrabeen, Manly Cove, Gordon and Willoughby.

It is generally accepted that the Parish of Willoughby, in the Hundred of Packenham, in the County of Cumberland, was named by the then Surveyor-General, Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell (1792-1855), after his friend and superior Army officer in the Peninsular War, Sir James Willoughby Gordon (1773-1851). Many of the places named by Mitchell relate to the Peninsular War.

Later, the suburb of Willoughby and the Municipality of Willoughby (both of which were originally called North Willoughby) were named after the Parish of Willoughby. Likewise, the Parish and suburb of Gordon were so named.

No map compiled before Mitchell's period as Surveyor-General (1828-1855) shows the names Willoughby and Gordon but the 1848 *Geographical Dictionary and Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies* by W. H. Wells mentions and describes both Willoughby and Gordon as Parishes in the Hundred of Packenham in the County of Cumberland.

(Acknowledgment is made to the late Mr W. C. Foster, M.A., F.R.A.H.S., whose research findings were made available by courtesy of the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales.)

SIR JAMES WILLOUGHBY GORDON, (1773-1851)

Sir James Willoughby Gordon was born in England in 1773, the son of Captain Francis Grant, R.N., who had taken the surname Gordon in 1768 (pursuant to the will of his maternal uncle, James Gordon, of Moor Place, Hertfordshire) and become Captain Francis Grant Gordon. Captain Grant Gordon married Mary, daughter of Sir Willoughby Aston, Bart, of Aston, Shropshire, after whom their son James was named.

James joined the army as a ten year old ensign and progressed through commissioned ranks to General (1841). He was created a Baronet in 1818 and Knight Grand Cross of the Bath (G.C.B.) in 1831. In 1805 he married Julia Lavinia Bennet, an heiress of Beckenham, Kent.

During his career he held many important positions, mainly staff, and served in the West Indies, Gibraltar, Jamaica, North America and the Peninsular War under Wellington. He was Quartermaster-General of the Forces, at the Horse Guards, from August 1811 until his death in his villa in the grounds of Chelsea Hospital on 4 January 1851.

According to one historian, Sir James Willoughby Gordon was 'an office-soldier, a capable and indefatigable organiser', although somewhat lacking in field-services. He has also been described as humourless, interfering, overbearing, pretentious and indiscreet.

At a stage in the Peninsular War he was the superior officer of Captain Thomas (later Sir Thomas) Livingston Mitchell, military surveyor, and wrote one of the letters of introduction which Mitchell presented to Governor Darling on his arrival in Sydney. Evidence also exists that Sir James and Sir Thomas became friends and corresponded regularly.

NAREMBURN – a mystery name

Many opinions have been offered regarding the origin and meaning of the name. One was that it was a corruption of 'Merrenburn', the name of the home on the estate of Alexander Dodd, another that it may have been a variation of the Scottish 'near a burn' alluding to its proximity to Flat Rock Creek.

District or locality names were often taken from local Aboriginal references to those areas. The spelling in records often did not fit the Aboriginal pronunciations, but would be recorded by someone attempting to Anglicise it and often reflected by that person's national origin and accent. This practice was not uncommon.

In some Aboriginal dialects a term referring to forks, forking or forked was 'narra'; 'burren' referred to a creek or similar feature. Recognising that Flat Rock Creek is formed by two streams, one from

Artarmon and the other from St Leonards, forking just west of the big waterfall and near Willoughby Road, the district name could have been Narra-burren, recorded as Naremburn. How else would a Scottish individual record 'burren' from the spoken word but as 'burn'?

It is also recognised that these two words, or variations of them, are found as part of many Australian place names of Aboriginal origin. Of further interest is the observation that the early spelling of the district name was Narremburn which adds to the probability of an Aboriginal origin.

Also for consideration is an Aboriginal word 'burra' meaning 'large stone', which could refer to the local identification feature 'The Flat Rock'. It is also interesting to observe that between the two streams that form the fork of the creek, was located an Aboriginal camping place referred to in the history of St Stephen's Church, Willoughby and also identified by descendants of early pupils at Naremburn Public School (c.1887).

There are of course many similar sounding place names of Aboriginal origins. Prior to postcodes, confusion regularly existed with Naremburn in Western Australia. Early records show a Narraburra in the County of Bland, 288 miles south of Sydney near Narraburra Creek.

Extensive searches in early Scottish gazetteers have failed to yield any similar sounding place name. One singular local early reference to Naramburn, said to be 'somewhere in Scotland', has so far not yet been substantiated.

And so the mystery remains, to continue as a recurring subject for discussion. I rest my case and await your verdict.

The Author

THE ABORIGINES

Little is known of the Aborigines in the immediate vicinity. Flat Rock Gully abounded with caves but none showed any evidence of Aboriginal habitation, although there are still some shellfish middens to be found.

The history of St Stephen's, North Willoughby, records the girls of the church regularly collecting suitable items of clothing for the Aborigines at Flat Rock. This site was known as Struggle Town. There is no doubt that the girls of the church at Central Township (the first settlement in this area) assisted in this mission.

Stories passed down from early pupils of Naremburn Public School (opened 1887) refer to the Aborigines who were camped in the bush down behind the school near the creek. This would have been on the Humphrey Evans and Robert Adams grants, just upstream from the Flat Rock crossing. One story tells of how the pupils had to leave their hats and lunches in a special vestibule. It was not rare for lunches to be

stolen by Aborigines. They had the remarkable ability to carry out the thefts without detection.

CENTRAL TOWNSHIP LAND GRANT

The name of the first settlement in the area was Central Township, as it was expected to become the commercial centre of the North Side. Early references to its location were 'in the district of Naremburn'. This district would also have encompassed parts of what were later known as Willoughby and Artarmon.

Most of the land which contained Central Township (later Naremburn's first main business area) comprised two Crown Grants of about six acres each. This land was contained within an area bounded between Central Street at the west and Brook Street (previously Wilson Street) at the east; the northern boundary was Garland Road (south side), and the southern boundary was Adolphus Street (eastern section, north side), with a line continuing west from this alignment to Central Street. Part of the northern side of Slade Street was also included in the early development. None of the streets mentioned was then in existence.

The western section was a grant of 22 July 1853 and the eastern section of 15 March 1854, each 'for a consideration of fifty seven pounds in the name of Dugald MacPherson to be held by him, his heirs and assigns for ever, yielding and paying therefore yearly unto them their heirs and successors the quit rent of one peppercorn for ever, if demanded'. There were reservations for making public ways, sand deposits, etc., and for rights of ingress and egress. The Grant was executed by Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy, Governor-in-Chief of New South Wales.

In November 1852 Dugald MacPherson had made a will nominating his wife Christy Anne as beneficiary. Dugald died on 14 April 1854 and Probate was duly granted. On 14 April 1877 Christy Anne MacPherson died, intestate. Letters of administration were granted by the Supreme Court of New South Wales to Alexander MacPherson, lawful son of Christy Anne, a Mercantile Clerk in Sydney.

In February 1878 George Penkivil Slade, described as a solicitor of Sydney, 'reciting seizure in fee of Christy Anne MacPherson of lands as described, and her death, by indenture between him and Alexander MacPherson,' obtained title in consideration of £264 for each section of about six acres. In October 1879 G. P. Slade sold them to George Bishop, Surveyor of Sydney, for £450 each. Bishop then completed the subdivision of the land for future development.

Alternate local names: In the early years of development, Central Township was also known as Dog Town for obvious reasons (at times also applicable in later years). Another name was Pension Town. In the 1870s there was a reference to Struggle Town but this related to an

encampment of Aborigines near Flat Rock, which name itself was often used to designate 'The Township'.

Of course it also had its Shanty Town where those of meagre financial station built their mean but honest shanties from whatever abandoned materials were available. Home is where you make it.

Abstract of the Title

of
George Bishop Esq to Land
at North Shore

15 March

1854

By Brown Grant from the Crown under the hand of
Sir Charles Augustus FitzRoy then Governor in Chief of the
Colony of New South Wales

Reciting that in conformity with the laws then in force
for the sale of Crown lands in the said Colony
Walter MacPherson became the purchaser of the land
thereinafter described for the sum of Fifty seven pounds

It was made known that in consideration of that sum
paid and in reservation of the quit rent thereafter reserved

All that piece of land containing by ad-
measurement six acres to the same more or less
situate in the County of Cumberland
parish of Willoughby and Colony
of New South Wales near St Leonards
commencing at the North east corner of
a measured allotment of five acres two
roods and ten perches north of Ryan's
fourteen acres and bounded on the
East by a road fifty links wide bearing
north six chains eighty six links on the north
by a road fifty links wide bearing west eight
chains seventy four links, on the west
by a line bearing south six chains
eighty six links to the north west corner of
the five acres two roods and ten
perches aforesaid and on the south by

(1)

Portion of Title describing the original MacPherson Grant, for 'the quit (yearly)
rent of one pepper-corn for Ever if demanded'.

ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES

ROAD BUILDING

Originally Naremburn's roads, or streets as they were known later, were dirt tracks which often appeared no more than two ruts cut by the narrow, metal-tyred horse drawn vehicles of the period. As time progressed, these roads became really hazardous: with stumps of trees still embedded in the ground, horse drawn vehicles occasionally came to grief.

The Council became very concerned with the situation in general and gradually built streets with surfaces of a more permanent nature. Of the established suburbs, Naremburn, as usual, had to wait at the end of the queue to be considered for such works.

Photographs taken in the 1920s show how the roadway in Market Street was built. Many of the roads were really built, in the true sense of the word. Squared sandstone blocks were carefully packed on the levelled road surface, with kerbstones of more carefully dressed specimens. This road surface of squared stones was then exposed to the regular traffic of the time and the stones soon adopted the familiar domed cobblestone character. When ultimately bitumen surfacing was introduced, this was applied directly over the stone surface.

The rounded cobblestone surface was readily recognised when a portion of the surface near the eastern end of Market Street disintegrated sixty years later in a washaway, necessitating resurfacing. Most of the original kerbstones in Market Street, as in other similarly constructed streets, are still retained and add character to the grass strips.

Other methods of road surfacing: Many styles of roadmaking were tried, but a popular type of road building was that known as macadam. It was developed in Scotland about the time of the founding of our colony, by J. Loudon McAdam, a Scottish engineer. It consisted of a bed of small broken stones, compacted to form a solid layer, with several further layers to finish with a rounded surface. The final layer was then dressed with a thin layer of blinding (also called binding) of a specially selected fine gravelly soil, resulting in a very substantial hard wearing surface. The pounding of metal-shod horses and the metal tyres

of horse drawn vehicles wore down the surface stones to assure a final, effective and lasting roadway.

Another method of road construction was that known as Corduroy, and at one time was popular in the U.S.A. in swampy areas. It consisted of a bed of saplings laid across the roadway side by side, and bound with an appropriate earth packing. It was usually a temporary expedient and not very popular as horses tended to slip sideways on exposed saplings, especially if wet.

STREET NAMES AND DATE OF ORIGIN

The date appearing after each street name indicates in most instances the year of first assessment for rating purposes. Unfortunately in the earliest Rate Books, from 1873, only the barest details were recorded against properties being rated.

In the case of Naremburn, although streets certainly existed and were known by names, few were recorded. Under such general terms as Central Town, Central Township, Flat Rock and Flat Rock Creek, landowners and occupiers were listed, sometimes with grant or subdivision name. Sometimes a Lot number was shown and sometimes the name only of the owner or occupier. Because of the sketchy details, some properties cannot be positively located. In a few rare instances a street name was noted but more by accident than by design. And so, the early dates shown are not always true indications of when streets were first known by their name.

Streets marked * were first recorded in 1873, in the earliest Rates Book available. Probably these streets were known by name prior to this date. Others similarly marked were known locally by the name previous to the first Rates Book entry.

ADOLPHUS Street – 1882: * Bisected, and later comprised part of the northern boundary of the original James Danes grant of 1853 when ownership passed to Frederick Alfred Adolphus Wilson on 6 June 1875 for development. The street, which is unusual because it contains a right angle, derived its name from Wilson's third given name.

ALBERT Street: See Dawson Street.

APEX Street – 1906: This street formed a triangular block with the junction of Central Street and Garland Road and Claire Street, hence the name.

BERRY Avenue – 1982: Named after the estate of Alexander Berry.

BONGALONG Street – 1906: Named by the Thomas Broughton Estate, land developers, possibly after an associate's station property (see Quiamong and Moonbria Streets nearby). 'Bong' is an Aboriginal term referring to a creek, dry (dead) in summer.

- BROOK Street** – 1888: Originally extended only from Chandos Street to Donnelly Road. Named after the brook or creek which crossed it near Donnelly Road. This creek started from Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway), passed near Oxley Street and Chandos Street past where the tennis courts are now, across Brook Street and into the South Arm of Flat Rock Creek above the cascades. Later, most of the stream was covered and a concrete pipe now carries the water to the creek. Brook Street later also included Wilson Street (q.v.).
- CENTRAL Street** – 1892: Its origin is uncertain. Central Street was originally regarded as part of Garland Road when the western end of Garland Road from Central Street to Flat Rock Road (Willoughby Road) was undeveloped: hence Garland Road turned a right angle south to meet Flat Rock Road at Slade Street. This southern section was sometimes referred to as Garland Road South. In this street, between Market Street and Garland Road proper, was a privately owned hall originally known as The Temperance Hall. Later it was known as Central Hall, perhaps alluding to its central location. The name Central Street was assumed on records about 1892.
- CHANDOS Street** – 1893 (*eastern section* 1889): Probably named after a street in England by that name as it was common practice to name localities, etc. after place names in England. In a register of London streets the name ‘Chandos’ appears fourteen times.
- CHELMSFORD Avenue** – 1913: After Lord Chelmsford, Governor of New South Wales 1909-13. Before the railway was built it was part of Punch Street.
- CHRISTIE Street** – 1884: Origin of name not known.
- CLAIRE Street**: Earlier known as Claire Lane. Origin of name not known. As no ratable properties face it (rear of properties only), it does not appear in Rate Books, hence year of name origin is not recorded.
- DALLEYS Road** – 1899: Probably after William Bede Dalley, politician and Solicitor-General 1858. Attorney-General for N.S.W. 1875-77.
- DARGAN Street** – 1915: After the name of one of the earliest grants in this area, that to Peter Dargan in 1794.
- DARVALL Street** – 1904: After John Bayley Darvall, M.A., Educationist and Member of the first Senate of Sydney University. He was Solicitor-General 1857 and Attorney-General 1863. A close friend of Thomas Broughton (q.v.).
- DAWSON Street** – 1892: After Henry Dawson who lived in the street (Lot 28) near West Street. Prior to 1892 it was known as Albert Street from Albert Park Estate which then comprised this area.
- DODDS Street** – 1889: After Alexander Dodds. The street was the northern boundary of his estate. Early references regarded it as an extension of Marks Street.

DONNELLY Road – 1889: Originally known as Donnelly's Road as this road led to land on the south side owned by E. and P. Donnelly.

FLAT ROCK Drive – 1969: Named by Willoughby Council when this roadway, the continuation of Brook Street and joining Alpha Road, was built by the Department of Main Roads as a temporary traffic carrier across Flat Rock Gully until the Warringah Freeway was completed. (Council Notice 21.7.1969.)

FLAT ROCK Road – 1873: * See Willoughby Road and North Sydney Road.

FRANCIS Street – 1922: Named after Francis Punch an early landholder in the vicinity and whose surname gave Punch Street its name.

GARLAND Road – 1883: W. A. Garland owned Lot 11. Originally Garland Road was accessible only from the present Central Street and extended to Wilson Street (later Brook Street and now Flat Rock Drive). Garland Road was regarded as extending at a right angle along Central Street to Flat Rock Road (now Willoughby Road) at Slade Street. This section was also referred to as Garland Road South; the name Central Street was assumed in 1892. The Progress Association petitioned Council in 1902 to develop the western end of Garland Road. At one time it had been known as Government Road.

Opening up of Garland Road: Flat Rock Road (now Willoughby Road), the original road from Crows Nest, initially went straight ahead at Naremburn along what later became Central Street, to feed the streets that led off it. Later, by the 1870s, Flat Rock Road veered off to the left at Slade Street to the creek crossing at The Flat Rock. There was no direct vehicular access to this crossing from Garland Road. This prompted the Naremburn Progress Association, at the meeting of 9 April 1902, to seek development of Garland Road in the following motion:

That the Association begs to bring to the notice of the Borough Council of Willoughby the necessity for forming and taking charge of Garland Road from Central Street to Willoughby Road, as the opening of that end of the road will be a great convenience to ratepayers and the public.

There is no record to indicate when this work was done.

GAZA Road – 1921: After a Way in the Middle East well known to soldiers in World War I as the Gaza Road. When the street name required repainting the name that appeared was 'Gazard Street'. It was soon corrected.

GLENMORE Street – 1906: Named after Glenmore Road, Paddington where Thomas Broughton (of Broughton Estate) lived for 53 years.

GRAFTON Avenue – 1926: The origin of this name is not known but it replaced the earlier name of WHARF ROAD which continued across West Street to a wharf on Flat Rock Creek, just upstream

from the junction with the south-arm stream. Wharf Road (or Street) was previously named LONG BAY ROAD.

GRANDVIEW Street – 1899: Named for its elevated position.

HAMILTON Avenue: Probably after Edward William Terrick Hamilton (1809-1891), first Agent-General to London 1863, M.L.C. 1843-49. First Provost, University of Sydney 1851-54.

KAPA Street: Origin of name not known. Later renamed NOLAN CRESCENT.

KING Street – 1884: Origin of name not known.

LAMBS Road: After Henry Lamb who owned 25 acres; this road was the eastern boundary of the holding. The railway later bisected this road at its junction with Park Road. Henry Lamb was a volunteer in the N.S.W. Corps in 1789 and arrived in 1791. He was granted 25 acres in the district of Hunters Hill in 1794, just north of where The Royal North Shore Hospital is now located. He had it cancelled in exchange for 25 acres on the Hawkesbury River in 1798. For some time the original grant was known as Lamb's Farm. A portion was proposed as a site for a cemetery, but was rejected as unsuitable by Licensed Surveyor John Armstrong.

LONG BAY Road – 1873: * See also GRAFTON AVENUE. It was the first name of this thoroughfare and was so named as it led to the upper reaches of Long Bay where Flat Rock Creek, then known as Long Bay Creek, entered the Bay.

McBURNEY Street – 1907: After Harold McBurney, active in local affairs. Foundation President of Naremburn Progress Association, 27 November 1901. Later elected to Willoughby Council. Previous to 1907 it was known as RYAN ROAD as it traversed the grant held by T. Ryan for the Misses Ryan (Wilson Street to Parkes Street).

MARKET Street – 1882: * This street had several shops and also a market site, hence the name. The shops were the first in Central Township.

MARKET Street East – 1969: Since Flat Rock Drive divided Market Street, the eastern portion was appropriately renamed by Council (Council Notice 21.10.1969).

MARKS Street – 1888: After Jacob Marks who owned seven acres on the south side. Originally it was regarded as extending to Willoughby Road.

MARTIN Street – 1904: After Mr (later Sir) James Martin, Premier in the 1860s. A close friend of Thomas Broughton.

MERRENBURN Avenue – 1911: Alexander Dodds, a land-holder of that area, named his home 'Merrenburn' which was later adopted as the name of the adjacent street. The origin of the name is not known. The composition of the first part indicates a possible local Aboriginal influence. Dodds was a devoted and generous member

of the Anglican Church in Market Street from its inception. He was also Sunday School Superintendent.

MITCHELL Street – 1904: After Major (later Sir) Thomas Mitchell, the explorer and Surveyor-General (following John Oxley). He served in the Peninsular War under the Duke of Wellington and arrived in Australia in 1827.

MOONBRIA Street – 1906: Named after Moonbria Station near Jerilderie in the Riverina District. Thomas Broughton of Broughton Estate had grazing interests in that area.

NOLAN Crescent – 1938: After Denis Nolan and Margaret Nolan who each owned land adjacent. A street directory of the 1920s shows the street as being called KAPA STREET.

NORTH SYDNEY Road: So named when Chatswood was called North Sydney. Later named FLAT ROCK ROAD and ultimately WILLOUGHBY ROAD in 1890.

NORTHCOTE Street – 1904: Probably after Henry Stafford Northcote, Baron, Governor-General 1904-08.

OLYMPIA Road – 1913: After Olympia Estate (subdivided 1911) of which it was a part.

OXLEY Street – 1894: Named after John Oxley, the explorer and Surveyor-General. He was mainly concerned with the Western Rivers system.

PARK Road – 1892: Leading to Naremburn Park, the name is appropriate. Originally named GORE'S ROAD, leading to William Gore's Estate from Flat Rock Road.

PARKES Street – 1895: At one time it extended from Wharf Street (now Grafton Avenue) to Marks Street. Much of the land in the vicinity comprised Albert Park Estate. Originally the street was envisaged to continue through to Market Street (Lots 14-15). Early references indicate that the street was to be known as Albert Park Street with possibly the present spelling a variation of the shortened form to refer to Sir Henry Parkes.

PLUNKETT Street – 1904: After John Hubert Plunkett, Q.C., early Solicitor-General and later Attorney-General (1865). He made great contributions to ensure responsible government in N.S.W. and later was a leading figure in an effective education system. A member of the first Senate of Sydney University. He was also Vice-President of the Executive Council.

PROBATE Street – 1904: It was originally referred to as THE PROBATE STREET, referring to certain probate difficulties connected with several properties along this street.

PUNCH Street – 1904: After Francis Punch a land-holder in the area. It led to one of the Punch properties. The section east of the railway became CHELMSFORD AVENUE after the railway was built. Francis Punch was Mayor of North Sydney 1890-92.

- QUARRY Street – 1932:** The appropriately named street that led to the sandstone quarry off West Street.
- QUIAMONG Street – 1906:** After a station property in the Riverina near Conargo. Thomas Broughton, of the Broughton Estate had grazing interests in that area. This street was part of the Estate.
- RHODES Avenue – 1899:** Commemorating Cecil Rhodes (d. 1902), Premier of South Africa who left the bulk of his fortune to found the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford.
- ROHAN Street – 1908:** After Joseph Rohan, active in local Affairs. Foundation Secretary of Naremburn Progress Association (27 November 1901).
- ROSS Street – 1904:** After John Ross, explorer, whose main exploration purpose was to find suitable trees for poles for the Overland Telegraph Line.
- RUTH Street – 1915:** Named after Ruth Bucknall (1895-1976, q.v.) a Naremburn girl who became a very talented singer.
- RYAN Road – 1901:** See **McBURNEY STREET**.
- SLADE Street – 1889:** After George Penkivil Slade, a Sydney solicitor who obtained title to land of various grants in the area and elsewhere.
- STATION Street – 1899:** So named as it was originally intended to lead to St Leonards Station.
- TALUS Street – 1917:** Talus: a term describing the sloping part of earthworks.
- WARRINGAH Expressway:** (See following article.)
- WATERS Road – 1908:** (unnamed road 1900). Origin of name unknown.
- WEST Street – 1888:** It extended from Pacific Highway (then Lane Cove Road) in the south to Flat Rock Creek in the north. It was regarded as the basic boundary on the west of Cammeray, hence the name.
- WHARF Road – 1891:** See **LONG BAY ROAD** and **GRAFTON AVENUE**.
- WHEATLEIGH Street – 1923:** After 'Wheatleigh' Estate owned by Thomas Dalton, M.P.
- WILLOUGHBY Road – 1890:** It originally terminated at Flat Rock Creek when it was known as **FLAT ROCK ROAD**, also as **NORTH SYDNEY ROAD**. It received its present name by resolution of Council in June 1890. Named, as were the Municipality and Suburb, after Sir James Willoughby Gordon (q.v.).
- Willoughby Road in 1866:** The Government Gazette of 20 November 1866 (Folio 2824) refers to the Government Notice of 21 August regarding the opening and making of a Parish Road from the north-west corner of T. Ryan's 14 acres, via Flat Rock Creek and

North Sydney,* to the Road from St Leonards† to Lane Cove and Pennant Hills (road confirmed).

In the Government Gazette of 30 September 1879 (Folio 4310) it indicates a deviation, through H. Evans' 25 acres, in the said road from St Leonards† to North Sydney* (locally known as the Flat Rock Road).

Now will follow an interpretation of the above in a simpler description: It refers to the continuation of the present Willoughby Road in 1866 from the Slade Street corner along Central Street across Flat Rock Creek to Chatswood and then to Pacific Highway. Then in 1879 a variation was gazetted which meant that Willoughby Road would deviate at Slade Street instead of going straight ahead. This was part of the road from North Sydney to Chatswood.

It would appear that unofficially it had already been found expedient for traffic to proceed to the Chatswood area by way of the most direct track which crossed the creek at the Flat Rock — hence the deviation to follow an already defined and convenient track. The earliest reference to this road showed it as 'New Line of Road'.

** now known as Chatswood. † now known as North Sydney.*

WILSON Street — 1884: It originally extended from Donnelly Road to Flat Rock Creek. Named after Frederick Alfred Adolphus Wilson who, from 6 June 1875, owned land on the west side (originally Danes Grant). It was later named BROOK STREET as it became an extension of the original Brook Street (1913).

THE WARRINGAH FREEWAY/EXPRESSWAY

The first planning references cited it as a Freeway, later reports quoted it as an Expressway. Later still it became a Freeway again. As far back as 1929, during building of the Harbour Bridge, a conference was convened by the (then) Main Roads Board to introduce a plan for North Shore traffic routes. A plan just prior to the opening of the Harbour Bridge in 1932 suggested an expressway for buses.

In 1938 the Department of Main Roads determined a route for a roadway crossing Middle Harbour at Sugarloaf Point. This planned road, now known as the Warringah Freeway, was incorporated as a County Road into the Cumberland Planning Scheme in 1951 and was to extend for a distance of 15 km. As part of the scheme, any developments on land involving the planned Freeway were prevented.

Preliminary work commenced in July 1964 and in May 1965 main construction work started. The 2.4 km to Cammeray was completed on 18 June 1968. The next section to Willoughby Road, Naremburn was commenced in 1973 and completed on 19 September 1978.

A late proposed addition to the overall plan was the construction of Flat Rock Drive as a four lane extension of Brook Street to carry traffic

during the construction of the Freeway to Willoughby Road. It was thought that when the Freeway saw ultimate completion, this road would become redundant and revert to open space. It was completed and opened for traffic on 18 June 1968. That it was a late proposal was indicated by the late approach regarding purchase by the D.M.R. to house owners in its proposed path, compared with resumption proposals and purchase of houses in the pathway of the Freeway proper. Willoughby Council was advised by D.M.R. about 1964. Hastily planned, a number of minor alterations were necessary to lessen the impact on residents in its vicinity who had not been considered initially.

Planned to extend over Flat Rock Gully, connecting Brook Street with Alpha Road, work commenced across land zoned Reserve for Public Recreation without the appropriate usual consultation with Willoughby Council. A short hold-up preceded the continuation of the project. However, it could not be disputed that houses along this road and, to a lesser degree, all houses in the vicinity suffered depressed values, especially because of noise and reduced accessibility.

The Cammeray-Naremburn section saw a catastrophic disruption of lifestyles in Naremburn. Destruction of large numbers of houses, many of them fine examples of Federation architecture, caused sad and distressing family upheavals. The disembowelling of Naremburn had begun, as the ravine-like Freeway relentlessly divided the community into an east and west section. This was in the years 1973-78.

All the east-side shops on Willoughby Road, dating back to 1904, were demolished. Four camphor laurel trees were left as sole reminders of what had been. In the early years of the century, Nurse Page's Cottage Hospital, 'Ballintoy' was located at the immediate rear of these trees. A pedestrian bridge above the Freeway to the remaining shops was of a design which scared many residents who refused to cross it. The remaining shops made amazing recoveries and the 'village centre' style was soon again evident but on a much reduced scale.

During the entire time that plans of the Freeway were in preparation, no definite information was available on the ultimate fate of Naremburn. One proposal was to divert Willoughby Road along Glenmore Street. This would have retained the shops, which was a major concern of residents, but would have effectively 'choked' them by denying adequate vehicular access. It would have also taken many houses. So certain did that programme appear, houses having been bought by the D.M.R., that no alternative seemed probable. Several meetings of citizens were held. One convened by the Naremburn branch of the Labor Party in 1972 was very well attended. It was also quite vociferous.

At one stage the Progress Association was planning a new site for the shopping centre. The application for rezoning was prepared and lodged

with Council, but was not implemented. There followed a period of apparently increasing citizen apathy probably because there appeared to be no way out.

There was a period of concern regarding the effect of the Freeway extension on several areas elsewhere. In 1974 active measures were taken by Castlecrag residents on the effect of the planned freeway on their environment. Formal abandonment of that extension came in 1977. The following year the Minister announced that David S. Kirby, B.A., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, had been commissioned to undertake an enquiry. This commenced in 1981 and the final report was submitted in 1983. Recommendations affecting Naremburn were that the Castlecrag escarpment should be saved. A link road between Willoughby Road and Eastern Valley Way was a proposal and the corridor for it should be retained. These would take a load off the Freeway and the massive proposed interchange at Naremburn would not be required.

All was calm for some time until a renewed interest was shown in the Gore Hill link from Naremburn to Longueville Road. This increased as a Harbour Tunnel was being studied. During 1986 the D.M.R. conducted an Environmental Impact Study involving local bodies along the proposed route. Meetings of representatives of organisations and the D.M.R. were convened by Willoughby Council. Naremburn had only one representative, Eric Wilksch, the President of the Progress Association, besides the Ward Aldermen. Naremburn's major concern was the saving of the shops, as well as dissatisfaction with planned pedestrian and vehicular access and other environmental features. It was at one of these meetings that an Alderman from a Ward not affected by the Link, got up and in his customary display of grandiloquence, stated (in part):

We must get the best, anything less is unacceptable, and if the Naremburn shops have got to go . . . [then with a shrug of the shoulders and an appropriate gesture] . . . well, so be it.

A public meeting was convened by the Council in the Chatswood Town Hall on 20 November 1986 in the presence of D.M.R. officers to discuss various proposals. The Environmental Impact Statement was published in January 1987 with submissions to be accepted by 20 February 1987. A public meeting was called at short notice by the Naremburn Progress Association for 12 February in the Catholic Parish Hall and over 350 residents attended. A number of pertinent proposals were formulated for submission. They referred to retention of shops, pedestrian and vehicular access and several environmental issues. Prior to the demonstration of the community concern at this meeting, a number of Council Aldermen of other Wards exhibited little concern for the projected loss of the shops. Their resultant concern when the situation was debated in Council at their next meeting was favourably observed.

The die for the future is cast. In November 1987 the Department of Main Roads published the Environmental Impact and Assessment Determination following the Environmental Impact Statement and receipt of public submissions. The decision was reached to proceed with the construction of a four lane highway link to Gore Hill connecting with Longueville Road.

The effect on the Naremburn community of course will be disastrous. All shops north of Rohan Street will lose a portion of Willoughby Road frontage, in varying degrees, leaving the balance of the affected properties unsuitable for rebuilding except for a completely different style which may not be a practical exercise. The pedestrian bridge over the highway from the eastern side leading to shops and public transport will be retained.

Properties on the eastern side of Willoughby Road between Slade Street and Garland Road will not be physically affected. Those on the western side will all be resumed as will portions of properties in Glenmore Street. Many more properties will be affected as the Link follows a curved path to Artarmon. Re-establishment of the Naremburn Business Centre may be possible but doubts exist regarding the feasibility of a future financially viable development.

THE FLAT ROCK BRIDGE, 1886

'The Flat Rock' was the place to cross the creek at Central Township in the district of Naremburn. The creek was variously known as Long Bay Creek or Flat Rock Creek. Flat Rock was also the name for the area in the immediate vicinity of the crossing. The road to the crossing was known as Flat Rock Road or North Sydney Road. For quite some time, this crossing was the end of the recognised road, as from this point bush tracks led to several communities that developed to the north and north-east.

Immediately west of the crossing, two streams (one from St Leonards, the other from Artarmon) merged. Flash floodings occurred very often as a result of sudden local rain storms, making the crossing impassable at such times and a source of danger as the water rose, for there was a sheer vertical drop at the mighty waterfall just downstream. As roads developed to the north in keeping with the increasing numbers of land grants and subdivisions, an effective crossing at all times became desirable. A substantial bridge was regarded as an urgent need.

It was during the Mayorship of Ald. Broadfoot in 1868 that money was raised by public subscription to build a bridge. This was assisted by a Government subsidy. Although the bridge was built in a fairly substantial manner, a mighty flash flood carried away much of it before it was completed. There was a further canvass for funds and the bridge was ultimately rebuilt, although it was regarded in some

quarters as really only of a temporary nature.

The district was well endowed with sandstone quarries which yielded high grade building stone. One such quarry, Sharpe's, was close at hand, where 'Castle Vale' residential units now stand on the corner of Artarmon Road. Sharpe's quarry was the obvious source of stone for the bridge that the Council of the Borough of North Willoughby saw fit to build. This was at a time when development of the district was really escalating. The 1880s saw the building of the first Church of England in Market Street, Central Township (1883) and, to accommodate the children of the rapidly rising population, a new public school was built (1887). Everything augured well for the community and small businesses increased.

The bridge was built in 1886 and at the Borough Council's meeting of 15 November 1886, a minute was recorded: 'The Council decided that the inscription to be put on the New Bridge at the Flat Rock should be "Erected 1886, H. Fleming, Mayor"'. And there that stone still is. Ald. Fleming was recognised as a keen and accomplished gardener.

The bridge was re-buttressed in Mayor Muston's term in 1890. Then, when the tramway was planned, it was deemed the bridge was not of the prescribed strength, so in 1896 it was partly taken down and rebuilt to comply with tramway specifications. The Government paid half of this cost. Unfortunately the contractor went bankrupt soon after commencement of work, so the strengthening was completed by Council with their day labour and at a substantial saving.

The bridge had a fine pillar at each end of the eastern side which added a majestic charm to the sandstone structure. It saw a rapid increase in traffic as the roads to the north were developed; at the Council meeting of 14 June 1890 it was resolved that the Flat Rock Road be renamed Willoughby Road. (At the same meeting the Lane Cove Road became Gordon Road, now the Pacific Highway.)

Leaping ahead in time, we see transportation changed from horses to mechanical motive power, with electric trams and then benzine (petrol) driven vehicles. By the middle of the new century, motor vehicles became so numerous that extreme difficulties were experienced at intersections to join the stream of fast moving vehicles. Fleming's bridge now became a traffic hazard. Traffic endeavouring to join Willoughby Road from Garland Road was delayed as drivers could not observe traffic approaching from Willoughby because the beautiful pillars of the bridge obstructed their vision.

Efforts to have traffic lights installed then proved fruitless. Finally, in the 1960s, the bridge lost the two offending pillars to ensure safety for motorists: changing lifestyle demanded the sacrifice of those adornments. Ironically, since then, traffic lights have been installed. Nearby residents insist that these two pillars were used effectively by

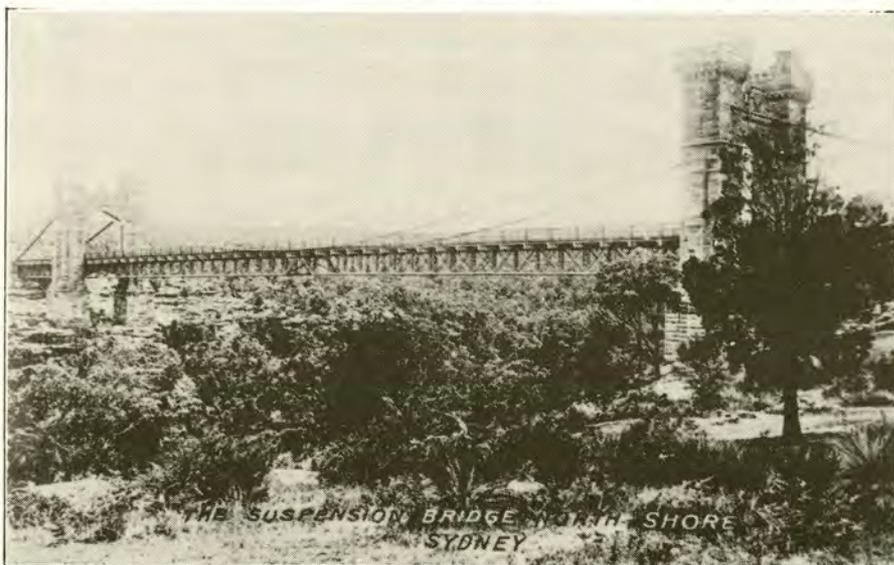
traffic police to observe traffic travelling from Willoughby, without their being visible. It was possible to stand in the middle of Garland Road, near the intersection with Willoughby Road, and gain a line of sight between the two pillars to obtain this traffic supervision without being observed by motorists, and without appearing to be hiding.

THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE

A northside landmark always recognised as one of the Naremburn views was the Suspension Bridge across Flat Rock Gully over the head-water of Long Bay. Although it was physically not part of Naremburn, local folk had a considerable attachment to it: since its original construction everyone with a camera would have photographed it.

A Sydney jeweller, William Twemlow, purchased a tract of land from Fig Tree Point to the head of Long Bay, considered virtually useless, and sold a portion for the bridge across the gorge; this was in the 1880s land boom. The North Sydney Investment and Tramway Company Ltd acquired this land under the Willoughby and Gordon Tramway Act.

The bridge took two years and nine months to build, without scaffolding, and opened in 1892, having cost around £42,000. It was operated as a toll bridge but hardly any traffic used it. Although intended for tramway use, the rails lay in place unconnected. It had been planned to run trams to (now) Roseville East. The land boom



*The Suspension Bridge. Earliest known photograph, c.1892.
Bridge appears complete but roadway not constructed.
(Photo from Paul Storm)*

founded and the Company went into liquidation. The tramway was extended to the bridge in 1909, which induced the escalation of the development of Northbridge, but the connection across the bridge was not effected until 1913. The bridge was described as 'the second largest, but handsomest cable suspension bridge in the world — connecting Gordon's Estate with North Sydney'.

Designed by Mr D. Ross, a New Zealand architect, the works contract was awarded to Alexander Campbell Johnston who was sent from Scotland by the Scottish bank which financed the project. (It was said the bank crashed in the 1890s and that he was never paid.) Otto Pfafflin was the construction foreman.

The stone was locally quarried and transported by water to the site. The aesthetic magnificence of the design will always be admired. The masonry turrets, castellated battlements and towers represent in early historical terms, 'guns to the number of 112'. Ironbark planking, each running the full width of the bridge, five inches by three and a half inches, formed the decking. Also 2,400 tons of Scottish steel and iron were used together with 1,010 casks of cement. Unique engineering practices were employed, three two-ton anchor cylinders in each of four tunnels, and the massive expansion rollers in the turrets, maintained the contraction and expansion chamber in the centre of the bridge.

In 1912 the bridge was offered to the Government by the then owners provided it carried out necessary repairs, extended the tramway across the bridge and removed the toll. In 1935 control of the bridge went to the Department of Main Roads. Soon it was found that serious deterioration of metal components had developed and it became obvious that a bridge replacement was necessary.

Local organisations requested retention of the attractive stonework. Acceptance of this proposal was incorporated in the new plan and, in 1937, Hornibrook Bros and Clark Pty Ltd were awarded the contract to build the reinforced concrete arch. Work commenced in the same year and was completed in 1939. Trams never recrossed the bridge but trams exhibiting the destination 'Suspension Bridge' continued till the beginning of 1948.

Based on a report compiled by North Shore Historical Society and published by *North Shore Times* as 'Shore of History'.

For more in-depth research into the history of The Suspension Bridge see 'NORTHBRIDGE' booklet by Esther Leslie.

FLAT ROCK

The Name: Flat Rock is generally spoken as one word. This can be confusing when considering its origin which is often misinterpreted. Early references specified the locality as The Flat Rock, indicating the presence of a particular feature which was part of the district's identifying or focal point.

That area abounds with flat rocks, consequently quite a number have been, at different times, referred to as the original identifying flat rock. Initially, the name identified the point at which it was convenient to cross or ford the creek which became known as Flat Rock Creek. The Flat Rock crossing was just upstream from the fabulous waterfalls. The road to and past this point was appropriately named Flat Rock Road (now Willoughby Road). It had also been known as North Sydney Road at a time when the present Chatswood was actually called North Sydney. (The present North Sydney was then St Leonards.)

Flat Rock Creek has at times been regarded quite incorrectly as being named for the flat rocky bed of the creek at different points. The creek was also known as Long Bay Creek.

Flat Rock Gully – a checkered history: In the beginning, before white settlement, there was a grand gully, probably well-known to the local Aborigines as the source of fresh water, being fed by small streams from the Artarmon and St Leonards areas, merging into one main creek at the point where the present Willoughby Road (Flat Rock Bridge) crosses it.

The creek was Long Bay Creek. However, it became more generally known as Flat Rock Creek because it commenced at 'The Flat Rock' where the creek could be crossed at normal times.

The area nearby, particularly to the immediate west of the Flat Rock crossing, also generally known as Flat Rock, was the site of the last recorded encampment of Aborigines. Because of the poor conditions under which they existed, this camp area became known in the 1870s as Struggle Town.

Just downstream a few hundred yards from this point, the clear water cascaded down a sheer rock face known as The Naremburn Waterfall, then on, down the gully to the sea at Long Bay. Before joining the bay, it was further fed by a stream draining from the south-west near the Pacific Highway not very far east from where the original

St Leonards tributary had its source (see 'The Other Creek'). The lower reaches were tidal and navigable almost to West Street.

The Wharf Road wharf was near the point where the southern tributary entered. The remaining part of Wharf Road is now Grafton Avenue. Here commercial barges loaded building stone from the West Street quarry.

Land-holders along the edge of the gully cleared some of the slopes and developed orchards and gardens. These were at the western end of Northbridge, and at the eastern end of Market Street and along below Dawson Street, Naremburn. A huge pear tree still exists on the North-bridge side, occasionally bearing fine fruit with a particularly attractive red blush. The blackened and rapidly breaking up remains of big plum trees, probably seedlings of the original plantings, can still be seen among the privet. This was in the bush below the junction of Market Street and Dawson Street. In the 1950s these plum trees were still growing until the broad leafed and the small leafed privet invaded the bush about here and rapidly choked out of existence the remaining specimens of the orchards.

The packed stone edges of a small stream here bear mute testimony



Part of one of the few remaining retaining walls of Flat Rock Creek built during an early Depression.

(Photo: Eric Wilksch)

of the early activities. Roaming through the bush it is not unusual to come across the retaining walls of carefully squared stones, indicating the sites of terraced gardens and fine examples of 'dry walling'. Rusted lengths of fencing wire indicate the boundaries of the early developed properties. Previously cultivated areas, which have not yet been invaded by disastrous privet, have reverted to bush in apparent near virgin condition.

Hidden in the bush below the eastern end of Dawson Street are the ruins of a pioneer's stone house, probably built when Dawson Street was named Albert Street after Albert Park Estate which encompassed the area. The home was of squared stone and clay pug construction of an unusual layout, with a forecourt and terrace, and a wide flight of stone steps to the bush below. A vertical cliff face formed the rear walls. A mighty date palm is growing above the stone steps on the western side. Along the edge of the creek can still be found the carefully cut and squared holes in rocks which probably held the end-posts of the dividing fences.

As an early Depression exercise when part-time work had to be undertaken to qualify for sustenance payments, the creek was given a beauty treatment: sections of the bank were retained with stone walls of fine squared sandstone quarried close to the creek. Most of these walls were lost through the ravages of floods. Flash floods are common occurrences. A short, perfect section remains as a memorial to 'the grim Depression' and is just down from the middle of Dawson Street.

Foxes had their lairs in the gully. Regular depletions of the many local fowl yards were reminders of their nocturnal activities. The distinctive yelping of the foxes could be heard almost nightly. Fowl yards a mile away in the built-up areas were often raided. Foxes still exist in the gully but they are reaching an untimely end on Flat Rock Drive. Rabbits would be regularly seen at play around dusk, in their selected little open spaces among the kunzias. Echidnas also lumbered around in search of their chosen foods, and of course there were also opossums. Tortoises were often seen in the creek before industrial pollution reached unacceptable levels. Water rats were also a feature of the creek and, if walking along the creek towards dark, you could hear the 'plop' as the rats dived into the water and swam under water to a safer place before surfacing.

Several rock caves with their unusual ceiling features were well known to the young people and accessible by their pathways. Interestingly, signs of Aboriginal activities were rarely noted, although some evidence remains of middens, with deposits of oyster and similar shells.

It was found that the sandstone on the northern heights was of excellent building quality and in an almost inexhaustible supply. The massive quarry face that is still to be seen, although obscured by undergrowth and the invasion of exotic herbage, bears witness to the

extent of past activities. This was known as Lightfoot's Quarry. A part was also referred to as The Council Quarry. To all intents and purposes it was a manual activity. The stone was won the hard way — jumper drills, hammers and gads. When quarrying was relinquished in the late 1930s much of the equipment was left behind, as though the cessation of activities was only temporary.

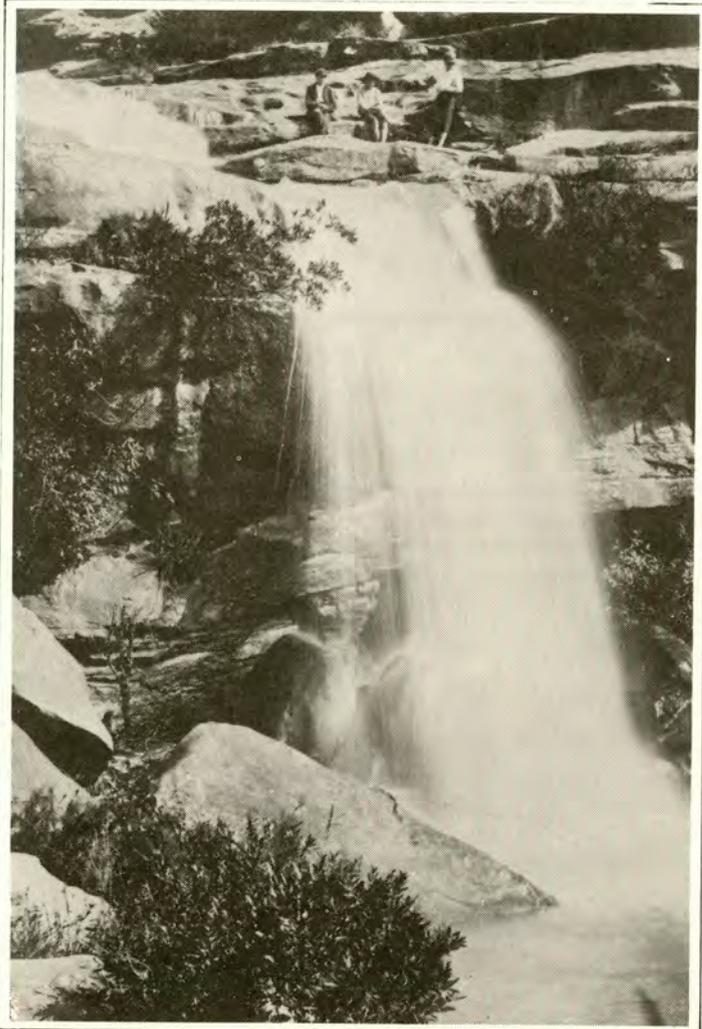
In 1981 a number of small fires were lit in bush in the general vicinity. Fortunately there were no serious consequences. However, one was lit on a section of the quarry floor. By sheer chance it exposed a big timber tripod lying prone, with hand-operated cable winches and a great length of steel cable stretched out. This was the manner in which the stone blocks were lifted on to the horse-drawn drays for transport to building sites. Ferns and weeds soon covered the relics again, and hid them from the rude gaze of new generations that had no sympathetic understanding of the manual and physically exhausting involvements of a past era. Perhaps that green shroud should be turned back for the present to ponder on the efforts of the past.

To the west, on a lower level, was another quarry face and this was the source of the fine quality stone utilised in the construction of the incinerator designed by Walter Burley Griffin in 1934. The overburden from this quarry site was moved, and deposited further west, away from the quarrying activities. The resulting disturbed and uneven land was rapidly covered by some of the finest wild flowers ever seen in the gully. The soil disturbance and exposure established conditions conducive to the germination of a new generation of wild flowers, many of varieties not previously recognised.

Nature works in this strange and mysterious way. It stores supplies of seed in the soil securely held in the protective custody of the undergrowth until the appropriate circumstances arise for the seed to be aroused by the disappearance of that undergrowth and its shielding environment, by perhaps a natural disturbance or, as in this situation, by exposure and transportation to a new site where the changed conditions activate the micro circuit Nature has implanted in every seed and a new generation casts its beauty over Mother Earth.

Regrettably, this new wonderland was lost again, permanently this time, in the relentless development of the rubbish tip down the gully and the construction of Flat Rock Drive.

The Legend of Flat Rock: 'Old Timer' who described himself as 'over 70' wrote, in *The Suburban Herald* of 20 September 1938, that his father had told him of a legend about an immense python which lived in the vicinity of Flat Rock. It was supposed to have been seen by lots of people. It was so awe-inspiring in its immensity, and so hideous in its appearance, that no one was game to attack it. A modern Hercules, said to be called Doyle, ultimately killed the monster which measured twenty-five feet in length.



Naremburn Waterfalls on Flat Rock Creek just east from Willoughby Road filled in with municipal refuse. (Photo by Mr Phil Ward c.1906.)

The Naremburn Waterfalls: Often confused with the Willoughby Falls, these falls were a natural feature of exceptional beauty, a focal point for many Sunday afternoon strolls. The atmosphere of the falls and surrounds was truly romantic for the young people and enchanting for others. The falls were downstream from Flat Rock Bridge on Willoughby Road. During wet weather, with a considerable volume of water coursing over the edge, it was a truly glorious sight. The pool formed at the base was of considerable depth. It was known by all as The Devil's Hole and was regarded as bottomless. In those days the water was not polluted, as the water in that creek is today, and children swam in it.

It is incomprehensible that Willoughby Municipal Council, which should be the custodian and guardian of the community's environmental wealth, could have even considered, let alone having actually destroyed such a feature, a potential tourist treasure and landmark. This reprehensible action was perpetrated at a time when Councils were regarded as almighty, and citizens' pleadings went unheeded. Filling-in commenced about 1930. There were also attractive cascades into the creek from the stream alongside Willoughby Road that drained part of Willoughby.

In this, our bicentennial year, no Council would even consider such civic vandalism, but for the Naremburn Waterfalls it is too late. They are gone forever. Thank you Phil Ward for the fine photographic remembrance.

The Other Creek: Another creek still exists in the general area today with a completely independent entity. It is the southern tributary which now enters its own wooded gully with attractive cascades at a point near the eastern end of Marks Street. From the base of the cascades it continues through silvan glades in a series of captivating mossy rock pools to join Flat Rock (or Long Bay) Creek at a point near where the wharf for Wharf Road was situated. This creek is regarded as the physical boundary between Naremburn and Cammeray.

The original creek is now an underground drain from its initial source to just upstream from the cascades. This water is generally clear. An early account of the creek describes it as 'originally a well-defined creek from a spring close to where Oxley Street intersects Lane Cove Road [now Pacific Highway]. The country was dense forest from there to Long Bay and through this wilderness the purling brook wended its way'. Reference to this 'brook' indicates its connection with the naming of nearby Brook Street which now passes above it. Another drain of permanent water enters the creek slightly east towards Cammeray but unfortunately this water is often a little discoloured as if from household sources and is the cause of some unattractive deposits on the rocks.

When the creeks were clean: There was a time when the water in the creeks was clean and clear. All along Flat Rock Creek and the southern, or Crows Nest, tributary were those delightful pools where children regularly splashed and swam. Joyous shrieks and lilting laughter, accompanied by the trilling of crystal clear water over the rocky cascades, filled the gully together with the voices of the great variety of birds who also harmoniously shared the wooded glades.

There are some amazing stories recalled by those children who are now parents and grandparents. Boredom was a word not in their vocabulary. Below West Street almost straight ahead from Grafton Avenue were enticing crystal clear pools and close by were some interesting caves. There was one which could be reached only by

swimming underwater. It is recalled as The Ochre Cave and may very likely have been one of the secrets of the Aborigines. Like so many interesting local features of yesteryear, this and several other nearby caves are lost to posterity because of developers who found that area a quiet unobserved location in which to tip spoil excavated from development sites.

Leeches: Flat Rock Creek abounded with these black slippery blood suckers. Usually they are found among damp undergrowth. In early times leeches were in demand for certain medical treatments. Leechcraft, or the practice of attaching leeches to parts of the body, was considered an effective procedure to remove 'bad' blood in the treatment of certain complaints or conditions. Boys of the Twenties recall how they entered the water in the creek to attract the leeches to themselves. The leeches would be picked off and placed in containers of water. There was a ready sale for them to a chemist 'up in Penshurst Street near Victoria Avenue'. He of course resold them to suffering customers. It is said that this chemist also purchased cicada wings but there is no record of their medicinal application. The practice of leechcraft later fell into disrepute until 1987 when a medical report indicated that leeches were now introduced to gently remove undesirable blood accumulations in certain microsurgery and skin grafting procedures.

Victims of the creek: Because Flat Rock Creek is of very local origin, flooding takes place quickly after a sudden heavy local downpour. About eighty years ago, when the creek west of the bridge was an unwallled stream, it nearly claimed a lady who lived in the vicinity. Anxious to get home before the creek rose any higher after a heavy shower, she tried to negotiate the stepping stones across the rising creek. However the strong current swept her off her footing. Only for the reeds that grew close by was she able to pull herself to safety. The local men built a footbridge near that point during the following weekend.

Older residents recall an account that two small boys were drowned by venturing too close to the deep pool at the bottom of the waterfall. They slipped into the Devil's Hole, with tragic results. Occasionally domestic animals and pets were lost during flood times, but nothing more serious. A lad was said to have been swept downstream but saved himself by the shrubbery in the lower reaches.

The beginning of August 1986 saw one of the heaviest and most persistent downpours ever recorded in the Sydney metropolitan area. The creek flooded to a height rarely seen before. Two local girls, wet to the skin, decided to wade across a pool in Artarmon Reserve. It appeared an innocent pond, but what was not apparent to casual observation was that the pool's outlet was a concrete drain well below the surface of the water with not even a telltale vortex visible. Coming

close to the outlet, one girl was drawn forcibly into the drain and swept along to the turbulent, fast flowing, flooded creek to Flat Rock Creek and along the underground channel to the lower reaches. This vivacious young lady with ambitions for service to the community, died in that creek. Her body was located next day when the flood had subsided.

There were outcries that a grid should have been installed across the creek at the bridge. A mesh small enough to be effective for people would rapidly clog up with the large quantities of all types of rubbish and debris dumped in the creek upstream. The result would be flooding of houses alongside the creek with little warning. Such an additional hazard could not be entertained. Considering the easy access to the creek and the streams and drains feeding it, loss of life and property has thankfully been low indeed.

Hallstrom Park: Soon after the construction in 1934 of the municipal incinerator, so much maligned by residents because of obnoxious effluvia from it and its environs, work commenced in reclaiming ground nearby, with rubbish and filling that was considered appropriate. Much of this work involved the employment of relief workers of that depression time.

During the immediate postwar years, Hallstrom's Silent Knight refrigerator factory, on the corner of Willoughby and Artarmon Roads, saw rapid expansion with a related increase in workers. The proprietor, E. J. (later Sir Edward) Hallstrom, saw in the reclaimed reserve opposite the factory an ideal area in which employees could spend lunch hours in recreation. He arranged an interview with Willoughby Council officers and offered a contribution up to £3,000 (\$6,000) to complete this particular site for sporting use.

SILENT KNIGHT REFRIGERATORS

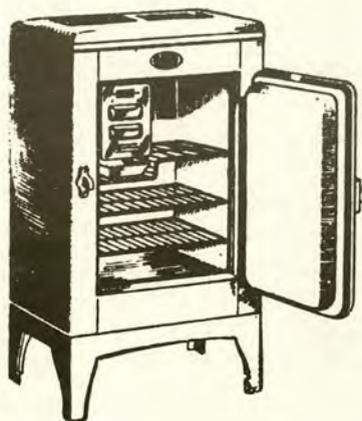
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Council was delighted to accept the generous offer motivated by such a civic spirit. Mr Hallstrom was also advised in the letter of acceptance of 23 July 1946, over the Common Seal of Council and the signature of Mayor Bales, that Council was pleased to recognise the financial interest by naming the reserve 'Hallstrom Park'. Street directories of the era correctly showed that particular reserve as Hallstrom Park. Later, the whole reclaimed area extending to Flat Rock Drive became erroneously known by that name.

The Tip – a different scene: Tips and creeks are at times interesting botanical areas but often are the means of introducing exotic weeds into a locality. However, adequately covered tip batters of soil from a great variety of sources can take on a market garden character when one sees prime crops of tomatoes developing and pumpkin vines trailing everywhere with attractive pumpkins reaching maturity. This was the scene at Flat Rock tip at various times, especially on the eastern side batter. Mulberry trees also sprang up and yielded fine crops of berries. Even the generally despised blackberries, growing in the enriched environment of unpolluted areas, produced bunches of attractive berries. A big area of sweet potatoes also yielded well. Yes, they were all regularly harvested by residents nearby.

The lower reaches of the creek are well-endowed in silted up areas with Jerusalem Artichokes, also correctly known as Tuberous Sunflowers, brought down in floods which had scoured gardens along the upper reaches. A handful of tubers planted in one clump in a garden for varietal evaluation yielded eight kilograms of top quality tubers. So we view another facet, one of a very different nature, of this generally despised locality.

A wealth of wildflowers: An aspect of our heritage not to be overlooked is our bushland. Naremburn's northern border is Flat Rock Creek. The northern side of the creek is really part of Willoughby and Northbridge, but being on the side of Flat Rock Gully and readily accessible from Naremburn, both this and the Naremburn side of the bushland are generally claimed as Naremburn 'property'.

Immediately east of the lost waterfall, a hundred yards or so downstream from Willoughby Road, the sides of the gully sloped steeply to the creek. The indigenous flora was that common to the Hawkesbury Sandstone area. However several species, by local natural selection and hybridisation, have evolved individually as new strains. One example is a pink form of *Grevillea linearifolia*; another is *Hakea dactyloides* (pink form) but this one was lost owing to the construction of Flat Rock Drive. This *Hakea* is also found in an unusual weeping or pendulous form. Many popular wildflowers have disappeared, mainly due to overpicking, e.g. Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia*), Waratah (*Telopea*), *Eriostemon* and *Boronia*.

One property which conserved the last of the Waratahs changed

ownership on the demise of the original owner. The new owner had no concern for Australian wildflowers, so out went the Waratahs. The reclamation of part of the gully for playing field construction, by filling with garbage, rubbish, general refuse and soil etc., was directly responsible for the loss of many varieties. A similar loss was sustained by the building of Flat Rock Drive, especially the leafless climbing orchid *Galeola cassythoides*. Council activities with earth moving machinery, operated at edges of bushland, destroyed a number of varieties including *Lobelia alata* and *Microtis parviflora* (a terrestrial orchid).

A bushfire about 1972, started on a hot windy day from a fire at the tip, set alight the bush below Northbridge. The slow burning fire was particularly destructive, completely destroying most mature eucalypts and angophoras, as well as the understorey. The subsequent regrowth style resulted in many varieties not regenerating and they appear to have been lost. One example was the massive numbers of *Dodonia triquetra* that germinated and grew rapidly, thus not permitting many other lower plants that previously existed from gaining a chance to re-establish. This is an ever present situation resulting from fires, controlled or not. Other plants which showed similar trends of heavy regrowth were *Kunzia* and *casuarina*. Previous fires had raced through the bush, hence the effect on regeneration was not as serious. Furthermore, lifestyles of bygone days ensured removal of most of the fuel load of the bush. When every household had fuel stoves, wood-fired laundry coppers and open fires, it was the regular chore of children to gather firewood from the gully. In those times the gully was criss-crossed with tracks along which branches were dragged.

During this period there was a wealth of wildflowers throughout the gully but many of the popular ones did suffer from overpicking because of the easy access. Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) almost disappeared. Now, with difficult access, regeneration is quite spectacular. However, with the current demand for native plants, plant thieves on a commercial level have been active with disastrous effects. Tree ferns have been regular targets. Birdnest ferns (*Asplenium nidus*) and Stag horns and Elkhorns (*Platynerium* sp.), once plentiful, are now virtually non-existent. Spores from these ferns have germinated on damp rock faces but as soon as these 'pups' are big enough to be recognisable, they 'disappear'.

There are many wildflowers recorded in the gully of which very few specimens have been sighted, in some instances one specimen only. This indicates the fine balance that exists for survival. Some plants produce very little viable seed and this small amount depends on finely defined circumstances to induce germination. There are others which are found only in certain defined areas with specific conditions. Such an example is the intriguing little *Schelhamera undulata*, a tiny

pink lily which seeks rain-forest conditions. Only one such location exists in the gully where a fine stand of coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) flourishes. Certain terrestrial (ground) orchids are similarly selective for their habitats, hence are very restricted in their population. Three in this category are *Caladenia alba*, *Dipodium punctata* (hyacinth orchid) and *Microtis parviflora* (onion orchid). The latter had its selective habitat in the only yellow fragmented sandstone area gouged out unwittingly by a Council front-end loader, and was permanently destroyed. Sundews (*Droceras* — *spatulata* and *auriculata*) are also selective in their habitats, requiring wet but drained conditions. Being insectivorous, the lack of nitrogen in such soil conditions is compensated by their insect diet. Another example in a similar category is *Cortula coronopifolia*, better known as Yellow Water Buttons. It requires swamp conditions and flourished in the mud flats along the lower reaches. Ill-considered tipping by a neighbouring Council destroyed most of these flats. The small remainder could not cope with the industrial pollutants of the creek, and the Yellow Water Buttons perished. Leachate exuding from Willoughby Council's tip, which was heavily charged with various chemicals from dumped industrial wastes, also had disastrous effects on the native flora. The only known specimens of *Baekia linifolia* succumbed to these pollutants which ultimately discharged into the creek.

Fortunately an extensive photographic record has been made of the wildflowers of the Gully. This record includes many specimens photographed prior to their loss by the various agents already mentioned. This valuable collection, which is continually receiving additions as new specimens are located, is now the property of the Willoughby District Historical Society. Photography is by the Society's Publicity Officer. The collection of the flowers that were there and those that still are, is a record, probably unequalled anywhere, for a similarly restricted and endangered area.

Despite the sorry saga of this now greatly reduced and partly ravished area, in season it is a wealth of wildflowers. Masses of Wattle perfume the air in August. Later, *Pultenias* and *Dillwynias* furnish yellow splashes. Then, if the season is right, the *Angophoras* produce masses of billowing creamy-white eucalypt-like blossoms which attract the attention of bees; almost simultaneously the *Kunzias* produce their abundance of nectar-laden blooms which can't fail to please with their distinctly honey-like scent and which create an eerie white cast over the bush when the moon is full.

Our civic fathers of yesteryear showed little concern for conserving our wildflower heritage — a great pity and a sad reflection. This neglect has led to the formation of organisations fired with enthusiasm to protect what remains of this aspect of our environment, an aspect which contributes so much to our lifestyle.

A heliport close by: Television Channel TCN9 was anxious to have helicopter facilities close to their studios and sought use of part of the park at Flat Rock Creek. Council reception at first was cool but support soon gained momentum for a site immediately east of Flat Rock Drive, erroneously described as among bush on the east side of the creek. It was near bush north of the original creek.

A newspaper report of the day stated that near the end of October 1976 an application for the establishment of a heliport was passed by Council for a three month trial period. The Mayor was reported as saying that the helipad would be only lightly used, for emergency transport of urgent news film. He was sure that if the trial period proved successful it would be extended as the site passed all Council's requirements. He considered that as such things are becoming part of everyday life, Council acted properly in granting permission for the construction.

Naremburn Progress Association considered that its area was directly affected by proposed flight paths and very firmly opposed the proposal. Unauthorised landings elsewhere in the park had been reported, but ultimately Council decided it might be wise to observe trial landings and take-offs. The result was catastrophic. Noise down the gully was objectionable and the dust created almost obliterated the helicopters from view. Traffic on the adjacent Flat Rock Drive slowed to a crawl as motorists sought to view the helicopter's activities. The Council wisely saw the error of the proposed location and withdrew permission for the development. Subsequent helicopter activities at TCN9 have certainly justified Council's change of mind.

F.R.A.C.A.S: When Flat Rock Gully was in imminent danger of being severely ravished, a group of concerned residents close to the gully met in 1976 for the sole purpose of initiating action to save this valuable bushland for posterity. It was decided to constitute a movement to add a rational voice and support for other similarly motivated groups. The name chosen for the new organisation was Flat Rock Area Conservation Action Society. F.R.A.C.A.S. was soon recognised as a representative voice and became actively involved in the very local issue of bush conservation. It is still in readiness for any resurgence of any activities threatening what remains of the bushland in Flat Rock Gully. Peter Murray is the Secretary.

For further activities in Flat Rock Creek and Gully
see 'Disposal of the Municipality's Waste'.

BUSINESSES, SHOPS AND OCCUPATIONS

EARLY BUSINESSES IN NAREMBURN

Slaughterhouse: There are early reports from around 1876 that a slaughterhouse operated on the Naremburn side of the south-arm of Flat Rock Creek just below West Street. Cammeray is on the other side of this subsidiary stream. Being alongside a stream was always regarded as advantageous to such an industry for the disposal of (mainly) liquid waste. Close by was a related industry, a boiling-down works to process otherwise unsalable items. The proprietor of these works was a Mr J. Thompson. Evidence of the above industries is occasionally exposed in silt along the banks of the creek after a flood, when bones and horns are revealed.

A Piggery: A piggery was conducted below where Dawson and West Streets intersect. It was because of this industry that a swimming pool in the creek nearby had been named 'Piggies'. Mr 'Fatty' Dawson conducted this piggery and lived close by, below a cliff line that extended along the rear of properties on the northern side of Dawson Street. The ruins of the old Dawson home are still evident in the bush. It was quite an extensive home, built of dressed stone and lime mortar. From the circular forecourt and its curved stone retaining wall a wide flight of stone steps led further down into the gully. A big date palm now graces the forecourt near the head of the stone steps. The piggery was conducted about the 1880s.

Milk suppliers: Two of the earliest dairies were Gibb's and Anderson's. Charles Anderson conducted his dairy from 1885 (or before) on two acres of land on the Berry Estate (part of the 60 acres James Henry grant of 1838). The site of the dairy was on the western side of Willoughby Road between Dalleys Road and Chandos Street. Gibb's dairy is recalled as having been on land to the west of Adolphus Street. This recollection by the late Phil Ward refers to the 1890s, but it probably existed earlier.

Later, milk supplies came from R. H. Foster's St Leonards Dairy in Ryan Street, Willoughby which ultimately was renamed Artarmon Road. Robert Henry Foster, a dairyman, lived in Richmond Avenue, Willoughby. In 1928 Foster's Dairy advertised in the *Suburban Herald* of 18 May that they were milking 180 hand-fed cows daily.

Quarries: High quality building rock was obtained from several sites in Naremburn. It was extensively used for foundations and piers of houses. Sometimes suitable rock was available from outcrops on the building sites.

The big quarry was on the western side of West Street, north of Marks Street. Jack Brooks operated one section, and Edwin E. Carden a well-known local builder owned another section. A rocky outcrop here, resembling the round-topped loaf of bread common to that time, was generally known as The Baker's Rock. A house close by with no numbered address, known only by its name 'Glenside' and in West Street (now known as No. 2 Quarry Street), was operated as a small shop for the convenience of the quarry workers. It is not generally recognised that much of the rock used in the building of Innisfallen Castle, Castle Cove came from this quarry. The stone was carted down Wharf Road (now Grafton Avenue) to a wharf on Flat Rock Creek where it entered the tip of Long Bay and transported by barges to near the building site.

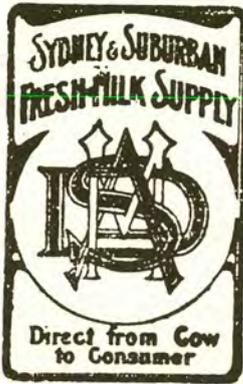
A small quarry, not previously recorded, existed below the western end of Dawson Street and was the northern extremity of the extensive West Street rock deposit, exposed by the side of the gully. Evidence of quarrying exists with the drill hole remains on rock faces. Some good



*Part of the West Street quarry. Marks Street is in the middle foreground.
A high-rise development now occupies the site.*

(Photo by Eric Wilksch)

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SATURDAY ...	<i>Pay'd to the</i>					
TOTAL ...						

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stone appears to have been won but the lifting of the stone from the quarry face was the big problem and the probable reason for relinquishing activities at this site which was later developed as an orchard.

Sharpe's Quarry was on the site later occupied by the White Transit Buses. Then Hallstrom's Silent Knight refrigerator factory was built there, and now the high-rise housing development 'Castle Vale' occupies the site on the corner of Artarmon Road, Willoughby. Reference is made to this quarry because much of the stone from it was quarried by men from Naremburn for use in their own area.

John Williams' cabinet factory: Around 1880 John Williams was a Naremburn resident (in Market Street) who led the community as a concerned citizen. He was a leader in the planning and building of the first Anglican Church in Market Street, completed in 1883, and initiated several applications for a public school, finally with success in 1887. Williams was described in directories as a Patent Glass Case Manufacturer of 447 Kent Street, Sydney. Records indicate he had a workshop on Lot 34, Garland Road. It was also referred to as a Cabinet Factory. It was the second Lot from Central Street on the south side.

Shepherd's Hall: About the turn of the century William Joseph Shepherd commenced a wood and coal yard in Chandos Street on the north side between the lane at the rear of the properties fronting Willoughby Road and Martin Street. He also had a house on the premises.

A few years later he built a brick hall on his land at the western corner of the lane. He also built a shop on each side of his fuel yard, the one on the east side was occupied by a Miss Elliott, the other by John Cocking. The nature of the businesses is not known. Later Shepherd included general produce; his telephone number was 268NS.

He named his hall Calliope Hall after the ship on which he migrated from England, but it was generally known as Shepherd's Hall and served the district well as a venue for many different functions. Churches, the many community organisations and private citizens found the hall an appropriate venue for their activities. It was regarded as a fine asset to the community. Later Billy and Doris Shepherd took over the business from 'Dad'.

The store has long disappeared as that area was developed as industrial premises, many of which have been redeveloped in recent years as commercial and office buildings. For many years the Hall was still recognisable as such, although its application had changed, but it gradually lost its original character during continuing alterations and adaptation as commercial premises.

Horse breaking: The Waterhouses were generally interested in horses and they operated a horse breaking yard on a flat area just west of the Flat Rock Bridge. The activities generally associated with such a yard are recalled by a number of school boys of the 1920s.

In retrospect, although it was variously described as horrible, cruel and revolting, it was regarded as a form of entertainment and excitement. But it is obvious that their observations are indelibly remembered with some abhorrence. They can describe in detail how the horses were tied securely to a pole, and then were set upon and would mercilessly have 'the devil belted out of them'. The purpose was to break their spirits into submission, hence the term horse breaking. Spectators were not only children; especially at weekends, the men also congregated at the breaking-in yards to share the excitement. Of course the horse breakers also enjoyed an appreciative gallery, with the hapless victims being exposed to further indignities as crowd pleasers. One animal, a large black stallion, is recalled as refusing to be beaten 'into the ground'. His defiance and escape led to a fatal accident further along Willoughby Road just beyond Frenchs Road.

Ben Taylor, who had the grocery at the corner of Quiamong Street, also had a breaking-in yard close by, just down the hill from Quiamong Street.

Naremburn Plaster Works: In the great building boom after the turn of the century, one of the main builders of the district was Bert Saul who lived at 33 Slade Street. He also had a fine orchard to the rear of his property. By natural progression one of his sons, William Frederick Saul, one of a family of nine, set up a factory producing fibrous plaster and manufacturing items such as ceiling and wall sheets, cornices, centrepieces and the range of artistic adornments that constituted the gracious ceilings of that era.

The factory, which commenced operations in 1921, followed the usual practice of the time of being completely self-sufficient in that all the casting beds, moulds and all allied equipment were made on the premises. When the finished items were thoroughly cured, factory employees, known as 'fixers' would deliver them to building sites and fix them into place.

Located behind houses, the plaster works were between Adolphus Street and Probate Street with a lane entrance off Probate Street. The nature of the work assured too low a level of noise or other forms of pollution to constitute any great nuisance to neighbouring properties at that time.

The factory closed its operations about 1960; the last three years of operations were carried out by employees. Its viability was lost when extensive rebuilding would have necessitated relocation at a time when new forms of ceiling and wall sheets were being introduced; the demand for the older, and perhaps more attractive, product was greatly reduced. A fine modern residence now graces the site of the old factory.

Private Bus Services: A privately owned bus service which operated from Naremburn, was commenced by Stanley Francis Barnes in the 1920s and run by his son Harold F. J. Barnes. The route originally



Motor bus operated by Mr Harold Barnes, Garland Road, later absorbed into the White Transit Co.

(Photo from Mrs Lorna Robinson (nee Barnes))

encompassed Mowbray Road, Lane Cove and Fig Tree. The registration number of his motor omnibus was N.S.W. MO569. Later the White Transit Company acquired the Barnes bus service, together with some other smaller operators.

Harold Barnes, who lived at 30 Garland Road, was well known as a grower of high quality orchids. His other hobby was philately. Stanley F. Barnes also began the Cronulla Carrying Company which is still trading under the original name.

The White Transit Co. Ltd was located at the site of Sharpe's Quarry when the good quality stone became exhausted. This was on Willoughby Road just north of Walter Street, Willoughby. The first White Transit buses commenced service on 18 October 1924. The Government later realised that this private service was affecting the public transport system and curtailments were placed on its services. The company ultimately ceased operations.

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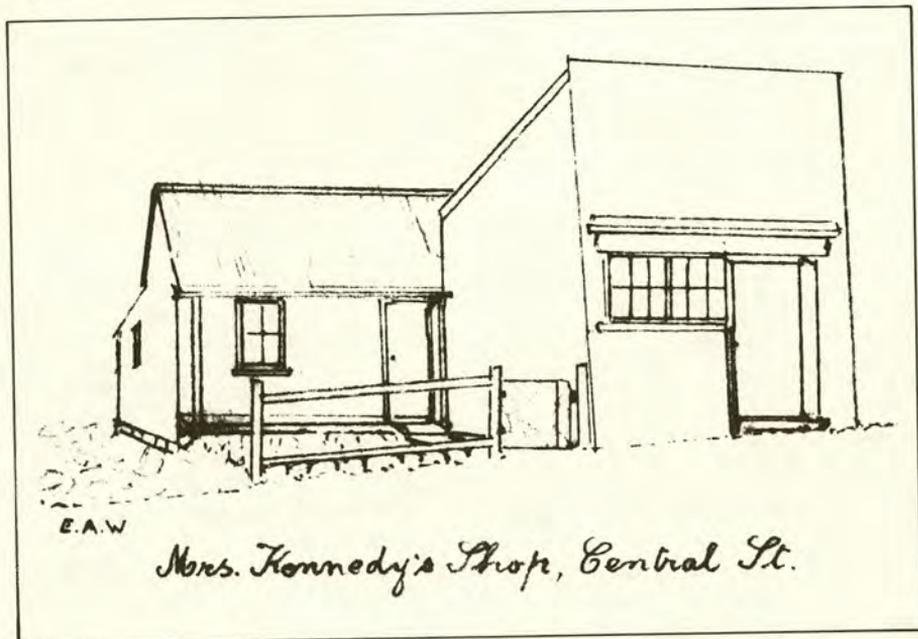
Naremburn's newspaper: For many years we have experienced free newspapers over the front fence, usually weekly. Various they are acclaimed or cursed depending on the style of distribution. Whether carefully placed or left to the mercy of the weather as a littering agent, they are part of our lifestyle. It must be accepted that their worth is reflected by the value placed on their receipt by advertisers who enable the papers' delivery gratis. Generally these papers experience no difficulties in obtaining copy. Local organisations appreciate the opportunity to give their activities publicity and participants adore seeing their names in print, a hope often fulfilled. A community service is also rendered in publicising gratis certain coming events including church schedules, in the many paid advertisements for theatre programmes, etc. and in the host of general and classified advertisements.

The Searchlight was the brainchild of Ald. Herbert Parkinson Piper who also at one time wore the Mayoral regalia and for a number of years diligently represented Naremburn Ward. He lived at 66 Northcote Street from where the paper was published. His weekly paper, which had its genesis in 1932, was also a vehicle to disseminate activities within the Ward, the municipality in general and of the Council, even though he often used subtle means of pushing his own aldermanic barrow. With this report are some examples of the paper's Naremburn content taken from a few rare surviving copies.

NAREMBURN'S EARLY SHOPS AND HOME INDUSTRIES

The first shops in Central Township were in the area east from Central Street (then Garland Road South) to Wilson Street (later Brook Street and now part of Flat Rock Drive). Garland Road (proper) was to the north of this area and Slade Street to the south. No records exist of many of the first retail businesses in Naremburn. However, it is known that by 1880 there were a number of shops in Market Street (hence the name).

In the early 1880s John Williams, described as a Patent Glass Case Manufacturer, had a workshop on Lot 34 Garland Road (two doors east



from Central Street). It was also referred to as The Cabinet Factory (q.v.).

The Catholic School, opened in 1894 on the north side of Market Street alongside the Church of England, was said to have started in a disused shop set among the trees. This shop was also the first Post Office. A newspaper shop was said to have been in this part of Market Street but on the south side.

On the corner of Market Street and Adolphus Street on the east side was a weatherboard house so modified that the side of the house on Adolphus Street became a shop front. It was owned by Mrs N. A. Graham. It was given the name 'Wattle Cottage'. This end of Adolphus Street was originally intended as a building block but by common usage it became the northern access to the 'dog leg' Adolphus Street. A number of other houses were modified to operate as shops or small businesses.

A building, still readily recognisable as a shop, is in Central Street, the premises second from Garland Road. It was conducted as a small variety shop by Mrs Kennedy, also referred to at one time as Mrs Millar.

Further along Central Street was a privately owned hall known as The Temperance Hall. Its early owners were Messrs Asher and Wear when that street was known as Garland Road South. Later the ownership of the Hall changed to George Leask. The Congregational Church occupied it until their Glenmore Street church was built. The Naremburn Progress Association met in the hall when it was

formed in 1901. It became known as Central Hall and was a popular venue for social functions. It was refurbished, and became the Church of Christ in 1925 until the church closed down in 1985. It is now occupied as a private residence, having been rezoned for that purpose in 1986.

In Slade Street, at No. 51, there still remains a residence with the street frontage obviously a bricked-up shop front. It was James' butcher shop.

Old residents will indicate premises in Adolphus Street conducted as a Sly Grog Shop in the early part of the century. For obvious reasons the location shall not be identified.

As time went on and the settlement extended, so did the small businesses and home industries. Some fine gardens existed and Page's orchard at the corner of Slade Street and Central Street was a fine example. One of Naremburn's sons, Arthur Ward, was known for the prize winning carnations he grew at the family home at 54 Market Street. A well supplied the water for the garden. Home industries included such businesses as teachers of various arts, dressmakers, milliners and the like. Mrs Burgoyne, the music teacher in Slade Street, is recalled by many of the older folk for her contribution to the community.

In Willoughby Road, just down the hill from Slade Street, was 'Whitemead' where the Dorph sisters had their studios. Ruperta taught piano and theory, and Linda (artiste), taught painting, drawing, leather embossing and wood carving. A fine specimen of her work is a beautifully carved oak noticeboard she presented to St Cuthbert's church when it was built in 1916. Miss Francis Young had her Costumiere business in her home 'Koree' in Willoughby Road just a few houses down from the school.

Mrs E. Brown had a home-made sweets business at 23 Central Street. Mr Selby New, F.I.G.C.M., church organist, taught piano, organ, singing and harmony at the home of Mr A. J. Rix in Martin Street. Charles H. Bucknall, L.L.C.M. sought pupils for pianoforte tuition; a concert pianist, he resided at 116 Northcote Street. N. Huxley, floral artiste, prepared all kinds of floral work at her home at 5 Merrenburn Avenue.

Phillip H. Ward, photographer, also did portraits in oils and water-colours at his home in Market Street, later in Rhodes Avenue. As a freelance photographer he did a lot of work for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He took most of the photographs used by St Cuthbert's Church of England in the *Parish Messenger* and in Rev. Barder's church record, *An Historical Sketch (1912-1924)*.

Let us return in time to when Naremburn experienced its first realisation of progress. It was the year 1898 and trams lumbered through the suburb; the extension from Crows Nest to Willoughby along Willoughby Road was at last a reality. The existing shopkeepers

around the Market Street area began to lose trade and considered this could be overcome by relocating close to the tramline.

The Thomas Broughton Estate was developing the land west of Willoughby Road comprising the Evans and Dargan grants (of 1794). This land was in effect immediately west of the MacPherson, Buchanan and Thomas Ryan grants, and was in general divided by Willoughby Road. The first record of shops at the Willoughby Road site was in 1904 and indicated that on the east side (Thomas Ryan grant) north from Rhodes Avenue to Slade Street, the first three lots (6, 5, 4) were vacant land. Then Lot 3 was divided into three parts, each with a weatherboard shop. Lot 2 was vacant. Lot 1 was divided into three parts with a dwelling and shop on each (about 1907).

By 1912 the whole block was shown as:

Lot 6. Vacant land owned by Mrs S. A. Conen.

Lot 5. Weatherboard cottage, owner George Haddon, printer.

Lot 4. Brick cottage, owner James W. Lawton. Previously H. W. Jackson.

Lot 3. (part) Weatherboard shop, owner S. Wardell.
Occ. Bridgeman, barber.

Lot 3. (part) Weatherboard shop, owner S. Wardell.
Occ. Miss Armour, dressmaker.

Lot 3. (part) Weatherboard shop, owner, S. Wardell.
Occ. A. Y. E. Whitehouse.

Lot 2. Brick cottage, owner, Edward Page, agent.

Lot 1. (part) Dwelling/shop, owner Mrs Page.
Occ. Catherine Stephenson.

Lot 1. (part) Dwelling/shop, owner Mrs Page.
Occ. W. Roberts, fruiterer.

Lot 1. (part) Dwelling/shop, owner Mrs Page.
Occ. W. J. Beaumont, grocer.

Two years later Jeffrey Marlin had taken over W. Roberts' fruit shop and continued in that business. McNamee's Pharmacy was on the corner of Rhodes Avenue and Nurse Page's Cottage Hospital, on Lot 2 just up from Slade Street, was soon serving the community from the brick cottage named 'Ballintoy', the birthplace of many residents born at that time.

On the western side of Willoughby Road, the first shops indicated their erection date as 1907. They were located at the Qiamong and Rohan Street ends of the block. About the first shop occupied was by Thomas James, butcher, on Lot 20. Later Cuneens also opened a butcher shop. James Huggett had begun a bootmaker's business, John W. Jones had opened up a butchery and E. Easter's grocery was in business on the corner of Rohan Street. Later this shop was conducted by Joseph Woodcock as a family business; the whole family was a driving force in the Congregational Church (q.v.).

Naremburn shopping centre continued to prosper and goods were keenly priced, so there was every incentive to shop locally. Eventually, chain stores opened: Goodlands ('There's a Goodlands store right near your door') was on the corner of Quiamong Street, with Moran and Cato's opposite and Derrins a few doors up from Slade Street. Regrettably, it is not possible to record effectively the continuing story of the development of the shops over the ensuing years. The excellence of the proprietors' services has continued.

An interesting record of shops and businesses into the 1930s is gained from those who advertised in the St Cuthbert's *Parish Messenger* and the local newspaper *The Searchlight* (q.v.).

A few anecdotal references to the butchers will be appreciated. Butcher shops were well represented and there existed a state of friendly rivalry among them — James, Jones, Cuneen, Crittle, Putnam, Bailey, Baker, Thompson, Middlemiss, Lazenby, Kewin, Bruce's, and probably a few others. It appears butchers were very proud of their sausages. One butcher had a sign in his window 'We make sausages for the gentry'. Butcher Crittle countered with a sign 'We make sausages for the nobility'. The reply was 'We make sausages for the King'. Crittle, always the humorist, put a Union Jack in his window with the caption 'God save the King'. Les Kewin displayed the sign 'Sausages make the breakfast if we make the sausages'.

Finally Bruce's is the only butcher shop left, always with a bright and topical greeting in the window. Bruce originally started in the trade with Bailey's.

Up the hill from Flat Rock Bridge, just beyond Northcote Street and on the west side of Willoughby Road, a small shopping site was developed. It commenced about 1923 when Charles James Fagan, described as a carrier, occupied a brick shop and dwelling at No. 378. Next door, No. 376, Henry Cook opened a butcher shop which he kept for many years. No. 374 was described as the brick office of C. J. Fagan, carrier.

There were other smaller businesses developed away from the main shopping area. About 1920 a small shop was begun, at 76 Northcote Street by William Ogilvie Fleming and his wife Sarah Jane, and was described as a brick shop and dwelling. The brick cottage had previously been owned by Benjamin James Pooley. Vacant lots extended on both sides but general rapid development assured the viability of a shop in this area.

Also in Northcote Street, at No. 98, was the home of Lazarus Pura; it was named 'Spinoza'. He was a tailor with a business in the city and was regarded as Sydney's leading tailor. Sewing was done by hand with very many fittings. Clients were leading members of society and politics, which included Prime Ministers. Buttons were specially made bearing his name.

OCCUPATIONS

The occupations followed by residents of Naremburn over the years would be difficult to assess. However, an interesting insight is gained from the public school register of the 1920s which also recorded the occupations of parents and guardians of children registered during that period. The Naremburn Public School held an enviable record for excellence and children travelled considerable distances, even by rail to St Leonards station and then the walk to school. The following covers only the parents and guardians resident in Naremburn in the 1920s:

Accountant	Contractor	Labourer
Agent	Coolman	Lather
Artist	Coppersmith	Laundryman
Auctioneer	Crane Driver	Letter Carrier
	Customs Officer	Letter Cutter
Baths Proprietor		Letter Sorter
Barber	Demolisher	Lift Controller
Billiards Proprietor	Dental Mechanic	Linesman
Blacksmith	Dentist	
Blind Maker	Draughtsman	Meter Reader
Boilermaker	Duller	Milk Vendor
Bookbinder		Missionary
Bookkeeper	Electric Welder	Musician
Bookmaker	Engineer	Music Teacher
Bootmaker		
Bread Carter	Farrier	Nurse
Brick Burner	Fencer	
Bricklayer	Ferry Hand	Oil Worker
Brickmaker	Ferry Master	Optician
Bridge Rigger	Fettler	
Builder	Fish Shop	Painter
Builder's Labourer	Florist	Pastry Cook
Butcher	Furniture Polisher	Pathologist
Butterman	Furniture Remover	Photographer
		Pipe Layer
Cabinet Maker	Garage Owner	Plasterer
Cable Joiner	Gardener	Plumber
Canvasser	Gas Fitter	Police Constable
Car Salesman	Grazier	Policeman
Carrier	Grocer	Polisher
Carpenter		Postal Sorter
Carter	Hairdresser	Printer
Cement Maker	Ham & Beef Shop	
Chainman	Health Inspector	Quarryman
Chauffeur	Hod Carrier	
Chemist		
Cinema Operator	Instrument Maker	Saddler
Civil Servant	Insurance Agent	Sailor
Clergyman		Salesman
Cobbler	Jeweller	Sewerage Worker
		Shipping Clerk

ROY. HARRY

"Kismet" DALLEYS ROAD,
NAREMBURN.
ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER INSTALLED
Workmanship Guaranteed at Moderate Cost

Mr. TAYLOR

FAMILY GROCER,
WILLOUGHBY RD., NAREMBURN.
Teas and Provisions a Speciality.
Only Best Quality Goods Kept.

Phone N.S. 1572.

T. JAMES

BUTCHER
Willoughby Road, Naremburn.
Phone North 925.

GEORGE LOWE

NAREMBURN BOOT STORE.
Reasonable and Reliable Repairs.
Rubber Heels, Laces, Polish, Insoles.

S. NEW, Dentist

Willoughby Road, Naremburn.
Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday—9 a.m. to 12 noon.

BEULAH REFRESHMENT ROOMS.

Entirely New Management.

Mrs. A. LEWIS

Willoughby Road, Naremburn.

R. N. PARKER

PRODUCE, WOOD AND COAL
Cr. Chandos St. and Willoughby Rd.
Phone: N. 268. Furniture Removed.

W. T. CAREY

HAIRDRESSER — TOBACCONIST
Ladies', Gent's, and Children's Done
by Expert
296 WILLOUGHBY ROAD, NAREMBURN

SINCLAIR'S

UP-TO-DATE PHARMACY
Phone North 3108 NAREMBURN
For Prescriptions, Toilet Requisites
and Photographic Goods, etc

MISS

FRANCES YOUNG

COSTUMIERE

"Koree," Willoughby Rd., Naremburn

G. A. CRAWLEY

Licensed
PLUMBER, GASFITTER AND
DRAINER.
Willoughby Road, Naremburn.
(Near Slade Street).
Electric Light and Electric Bells
Installed and Repaired.
Tel. North 2368.

F. J. KIRBY

For Good Fruit and Vegetables.
Cr. Willoughby Rd. and Chandos St.
GIVE HIM A TRIAL.

SELBY NEW, F.I.G.C.M.

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER.
Teacher of Piano, Organ, Singing,
and Harmony.
C/o Mr. A. J. Rix, Martin-street.

G. B. MERLIN

FRUITERER AND GREENGROCER
Willoughby Road, Naremburn.
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Daily.

E. ROBERTS

PRODUCE, WOOD, COAL & COKE.
Willoughby Road, Naremburn.
Phone N. 1539. Furniture Removals

CHAS. H. BUCKNALL, L.L.C.M.
(Gold Medallist)
CONCERT PIANIST

Receives Pupils for Pianoforte
at 116 Northcote St., Naremburn



*Terrace of three shops in Willoughby Road, c.1919.
Part of a panoramic study commissioned by Mr Stanley New, Dentist (see ad. opposite)
now held by Richard Hockey Real Estate.*

Ship's Captain
Shipwright
Shop Assistant
Steward
Stonemason
Surveyor

Tailor's Presser
Tanner
Teacher
Tentmaker

Ticket Examiner
Tile Layer
Time Keeper
Tobacconist
Tram Conductor
Tram Driver
Tramway Ganger
Tuck Pointer
Typewriter Mechanic
Typist

Undertaker
Usher

Warder
Wardsman
Wharf Labourer
Wharfinger
Window Dresser
Wire Worker
Wood & Coal Store
Wool Classer

NAREMBURN'S HOUSES

EARLY DOMESTIC BUILDING MATERIALS

There is little record of the building materials employed in the earliest houses, so little evidence remains of them. It is only from observations at building alterations or demolitions that indications of the early materials become evident.

Reports by Department of Education inspectors at the times of applications for a school at Naremburn in the 1880s referred to some of the local housing as being of primitive bark construction, but did note that despite the earth floors, most were kept particularly clean. Many houses it appears, were replaced around the turn of the century.

Preparations in 1982 for a new house in Market Street, to be built in front of the old existing cottage, revealed the early foundations of a small brick house constructed of hand-made sandstock bricks. It is reported that someone then recalled having been told that a house which at one time stood at this site, was destroyed by fire.

Alterations in 1955 to a house near the West Street quarries, in what became Quarry Street and which had been a small shop to cater for quarry workers, necessitated removal of an internal wall. To everyone's amazement, it had been constructed of wattle and daub, indicating the present house had been built incorporating portions of the original dwelling. Demolition in 1986 of a residence in Market Street near Adolphus Street (Lot 26) revealed that the building had been built around a small, rather primitive weatherboard house.

Stone houses were not uncommon, sometimes built by owners themselves with little building experience. Such a house exists in Grafton Avenue, the stone having been obtained from a rocky outcrop on the building lot.

Most of the early small settlers' cottages of primitive Georgian design, or variations thereof, were clad with local hardwood weatherboards. Probably as an economy measure, common to the era, the boards were not painted for many years and in that time became well weathered but remained sound.

Ingeniously designed ventilators constructed of galvanised iron were incorporated in the walls. These ventilators are the telltale 'signatures'

of the age of the remaining old weatherboard cottages, dating them from the 1880s to the early 1900s. One of these small cottages in Adolphus Street (east), built in 1894, has been tastefully restored, the original hardwood weatherboards having been replaced with western red cedar ones.

During the building boom at the turn of the century, a great number of homes were clad with weatherboards of imported timber. Most were the wide nine inch (23 cm) American western red cedar weatherboards of a typical design. Some were clad with boards of the same design but of a white imported pine. The cedar boards were usually left unpainted for many years without obvious deterioration apart from darkening in colour. The ultimate rusting away of nails was an unfortunate problem. Some houses clad with these boards over eighty years ago had only ever had two coats of paint on original priming — white, and later cream. The large number still standing, often on stone foundations, are in excellent condition and now are painted more regularly. Most still have their distinctive ventilators.

Wattle and daub: This term, describing a style of building, especially of walls, does not necessarily refer to use of wattles or acacias. Wattling, an old English term, describes using rods interwoven with twigs. It is readily recognised that such inter-weaving could be used to construct walls. Such walls were then daubed over with a clay and sand mixture often referred to as 'pug', and smoothed off in a manner similar to plastering conventionally built walls of the present. When dry it was usually painted over with a lime mixture commonly referred to as whitewash. This was prepared from quicklime.

There were of course variations to the wall building described. Another method was to insert vertical rods or thinly split timber between horizontal beams. These rods or timber uprights were wrapped with a mixture of clay pug and straw, then plastered with a clay and sand mixture, and later whitewashed. Ceilings were constructed in a similar manner.

The outside walls were often built of stones, using a clay pug mixture as a mortar between the stones. Whitewashed with a properly prepared lime mixture, the walls were remarkably weatherproof. Such buildings, using clay as the main building material, were also referred to as pug houses. With the white walls and often thatched roofs, such houses were remarkably cool in summer and comfortably warm in the winter because of the insulating properties of the materials employed.

No doubt certain varieties of acacia were found to be readily adaptable to this form of construction originally known as wattling, hence the application of the name wattle to our well-known national wildflower. The name certainly stuck, perhaps as firmly as the pug mixture did to the rods, and today is much better known than the building practice which gave wattles their common name here.

TWO FINE HOUSES

Magnificent home becomes high rise: A gracious home at No. 163 Willoughby Road, south from Donnelly Road, was well-known as 'Wheatleigh'. In 1878 it was the residence of George Penkivil Slade, a city solicitor, wealthy landowner and land entrepreneur in the district. It was described as 'impressive'. He was a principal of Slade & Smith, Solicitors, and his name is perpetuated by the streets Slade and Penkivil. The house, although later carrying a Willoughby Road number, was originally designed to have the main access from a private lane, Wheatleigh Lane. Wheatleigh Street was named after the estate and forms a municipal boundary. It was the only house on the eight acre estate.

Ownership changed about 1881 when it came to the notice of Thomas Dalton, who for years was a Member of the Legislative Council and, with his brother James, had extensive commercial interests. Mrs Dalton, a home, art and garden lover, was widely recognised for her charity pursuits. The gardens and surrounds of the Dalton home reflected her artistic interests in the elegant statuary that graced the precincts. Many of the furnishings, ornamentation and pictures reflected Italian influence. The original front, with its sweeping carriageway, also had a large fernery and bush-house which enclosed a magnificent fountain surmounted by a finely formed seal with a fish in its mouth, sitting on a sphere. An attractive lawn tennis court was also close by.

After the Daltons relinquished occupancy and the years rolled by, much of the magnificence gradually fell into decay. The bush-house disappeared and the fountain ceased to play, and stood in an oval pond with asphalt surrounding it. The cherubs surrounding the base were painted green and lost their charm. The fountain was ultimately purchased by Lady Lloyd Jones for her home 'Rosemont' at Edgecliff. In latter years an entrance was developed from Willoughby Road, through a stone courtyard flanked by original stone buildings reminiscent of servant and staff quarters opening on to a barracks-like square. The original entrance lost its charm as the panelling fell into disrepair and the stained glass doors lost their sparkle.

Some Dalton family members remained in occupancy till about 1926. Early the following year the fine old home became a forty-bed private hospital and continued in this role for six years. In 1933 it is understood to have become flats; in 1938 it re-opened as a private hospital which closed in 1939, re-opened later in the year and continued as such until early 1941. Late in that year, the old home opened as a Medical, Surgical and Lying-in Hospital but finally closed as a medical establishment in 1950. One opinion expressed was that it was to become a rest home but that did not eventuate. In 1950 it was

NAREMBURN HOUSES



*Above: 'Wheatleigh', Willoughby Road,
main entrance at eastern (Wheatleigh Street) side, 1940.
(Photo from Mr L. Contini)
Below: 'Wheatleigh' just prior to demolition 1979.
(Photo by Eric Wilksch)*



bought by the Contini family and for the next twenty-nine years was conducted as a boarding house of twenty-five bedrooms. In early 1979 the property was sold for demolition, to be replaced by a nine storey development comprising thirty-five two-bedroom units.

Throughout its checkered history it proudly retained the name 'Wheatleigh'. The developer of the present building saw merit in perpetuating the original historic name and so the name lives on, but recollections of the original grandeur of 'Wheatleigh' are rapidly fading memories reserved only for the very senior citizens.

'Banba': This landmark home was on the south-eastern corner of Donnelly Road and Willoughby Road and is best remembered as the home and surgery of Dr John Clyde Binns and his wife Millicent. It was said to have been named by the original owner after a mythical Irish Princess. It was built about 1899 by the Thomas Joseph Dalton family who owned 'Wheatleigh' a few doors away and was then occupied by members of that family. Later on, the house was occupied by various people. One was Henri de Possel, another was Miss Winnie Molloy but the property was still shown to be in the name of Annie Dalton. Although it was not as massive a residence as it appeared, it was a charming and interestingly laid out home with fine panelling and attractive stained and leaded glass doors and windows.

Following its purchase by Dr Binns, Mrs Binns was always very proud of her old world style of rambling garden with its attractive climbers. At the rear was a sunken rose garden and a gardener's cottage. A mystery to many was the gravestone near the back door with the simple inscription, 'SYLVIA'. Sylvia was for many years the close and constant companion of Mrs Binns; she was a cat. The good doctor (telephone XF1313) was known to keep his surgery open till midnight if the needs of his patients so demanded.

"BANBA," CR. DONNELLY & WILLOUGHBY ROADS, NAREMBURN. PHONE: XF 1313
AND AT
93 MOWBRAY ROAD, CR. HIGH ST., WILLOUGHBY. PHONE: JA 4970

DR. JOHN CLYDE BINNS

M.B., CH.M., B.S.D.

Hours of Consultation:

DAY: { 11 A.M.-12.30 P.M. (NAREMBURN)
3.30 P.M. (WILLOUGHBY) }
NIGHT: 6.30-7.30 P.M. { TUES. & WED. (NAREMBURN)
MON. & THU. (WILLOUGHBY) }

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS
AND HOLIDAYS EXCEPTED

APPOINTMENTS MADE

Upon his death, Dr Binns left the home to his brother N. A. R. ('Binna') Binns and two associates. 'Binna' Binns and a partner later developed it for use as a reception home. At the time, Binns' daughter

NAREMBURN HOUSES

Beverly married Ken Bisset, so it was decided to use this occasion to test the home's suitability for the reception. So Beverly's and Ken's wedding reception had the distinction of being the first of very many such functions held in 'Banba' over the years.

In the end, failing health and the boom of petrol stations, 'one on every corner', persuaded Mr Binns to part with the gracious old home which was unceremoniously demolished to serve the voracious needs of the demanding automobile.



*Garland Cottage, 41 Garland Road. The photograph was taken in 1920 when it was owned and occupied by William Andrews Clapham with his wife Emma. The earliest available records referring to a house on the site indicate that it was built prior to 1883. It was then owned by Robert F. Fincher until 1898 when it passed to William Gawthrop. In 1901 W. R. Garland became the owner and probably gave his name to the weatherboard cottage. Ownership went to W. Burton in 1906 until 1911 when William Clapham purchased the cottage. It still looks very much as it did in 1920. Pictured also are William and Emma Clapham and their daughter Amy, Sousa the cat and Polly the cockatoo.
(Photo from Miss Stella Clapham)*

SOME NAREMBURN PERSONALITIES

THOMAS STAFFORD BROUGHTON

Thomas Broughton owned land estates in Artarmon and Naremburn. When these estates were developed by the Broughton Estate the developers named the streets. In many instances the names were influenced by Thomas Broughton's connections, associates and family.

He was born at Windsor, N.S.W. on 10 August 1810. As a young man he trained as a tailor and developed a flourishing business in George Street, Sydney. He was elected to the first Sydney City Council in 1842 and gained election as Mayor in 1846. He entered politics in 1859 for a short period, as M.L.A. for West Sydney. He later invested in grazing properties in the Riverina called 'Muttama' and 'Gundagai'; he also had an interest in other properties.

Broughton's wife, Jane, nee Tindale was twelve years his junior. He resided in 'Bradley Hall', Glenmore Road, Paddington from 1845 to 1898 when the estate there was split up. He then went to live at 'Hazelmere' at The Glebe until his death on 12 December 1901, aged 91 years. Cause of death was stated as senile decay.

Broughton Street off Glenmore Road, Paddington was named after him. Of frugal disposition, Broughton did not enjoy wide popularity. One close friend was Thomas Waterhouse of North Sydney. He had four daughters and six sons, Alfred, Fred, Edwin, Charles, James and Frank.

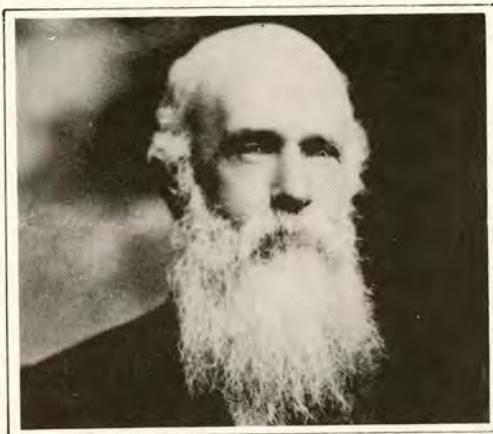
WILLIAM SWANN: Foundation Headmaster, man of vision

When William Swann was appointed the foundation Headmaster of Naremburn Public School in May 1887, he had the advantage of past service in charge of several challenging country schools; there he had displayed his ability to cope with the many difficulties that beset such appointments.

Building up a new suburban school, never an easy undertaking, exhibited the competence of the man. Staff and pupils alike admired him as their senior. School records bear testimony to his flair in penmanship and his concern for his scholars, particularly to assure their

interest in their school involvements. After two years, during which he set the course of the school in a firm direction, he was appointed to a series of schools in the Parramatta area.

In his concern to house his family of eleven children he purchased the then derelict Macarthur's Elizabeth Farm House on nearly six acres for £600, the value of the land. Because of the condition of the house, it was deemed valueless. This was in 1903. Mr Swann was convinced



*Mr William Swann, first Head Teacher of Naremburn Public School.
(Photo from granddaughters Mrs Ellen Errey & Mrs Elizabeth Plimer)*

he could restore the house to make it habitable. This he did, meeting the mammoth task as another challenge.

He died in 1909, but his restoration activities had assured the future of Elizabeth Farm House. His wife and helpmeet Elizabeth, survived him by thirty-one years. The women of the family maintained the house, keenly aware of its historical significance. It was finally sold to Parramatta Museum Trust in 1968 and was acquired by The Historical Houses Trust of N.S.W. in 1984.

Naremburn is proud indeed of its connection with its illustrious first Headmaster whose contribution to our heritage is beyond valuation.

EDWIN EDWARD de BASKERVILLE CARDEN

When consideration was given to calling a public meeting to show concern for the future welfare of Naremburn, it was Mr Carden who was in the forefront of this move. He presided over the meeting held in the Temperance Hall in Central Street on Wednesday evening, 27 November 1901. He explained the concerns of those who had called the meeting and the need for concerted action with one voice.

Although a leading figure in the community, when the meeting decided to form itself into a Progress Association (later designated The Naremburn Progress Association), he declined the position of President

in favour of another public spirited citizen (Harold McBurney, a future Alderman). However, he finally accepted the position of one of the vice-presidents when a special motion extended the number of that office from two to three, expressly to include Mr Carden.

He was a leading builder in the district and a fine example of his work is the house of two storeys and attic at Nos 38-40 Market Street. He owned the greater portion of the West Street sandstone quarry and



*Example of the work of Edwin Edward de Baskerville Carden as a builder.
His home, 38-40 Market Street. (Photo by Eric Wilksch)*

much of the high quality stone from this quarry was utilised in the foundations of many local houses of his time. When Chatswood School purchased a bigger site in 1895 (for £1,350) Edwin Carden was chosen to build the school's additions, opened in 1898.

As a play on his third Christian name, he was often known by the nickname of 'Sebastopol'. It is said that a house in Central Street was given this name because of this unusual application.

HENRY LAWSON AND NAREMBURN

Henry Lawson is rightly regarded as one of Australia's leading writers of poetry and prose. Many collections of his work have been published, as have biographies by leading writers. However, few indeed of his biographers have included mention of his brief stays in Naremburn.

Several residents have recalled his presence, have indicated where he lived and even recalled a little of his lifestyle. He was forty years old when he first lived in Naremburn and was apparently not received into the community with any great enthusiasm owing to his sorry reputation for alcoholic addiction and related inability to maintain his financial obligations. Hence detailed recollections are sparse but invaluable.

His first stay was from June 1906 to January 1907 when he was able to maintain the sympathetic concern of Mrs Isabel Byers who

occupied an iron-roofed cottage with a tall poplar tree at one end, at 58 Market Street. His stays were never long in any one place. In February 1910 he stayed with Mrs Byers again at 'Thelma', Bellevue Street, Cammeray.



58 Market Street
Henry Lawson lived here in 1907.

In March 1917, Lawson wrote from Leeton to George Robertson of Angus & Robertson who was preparing a selection of his verse for publication:

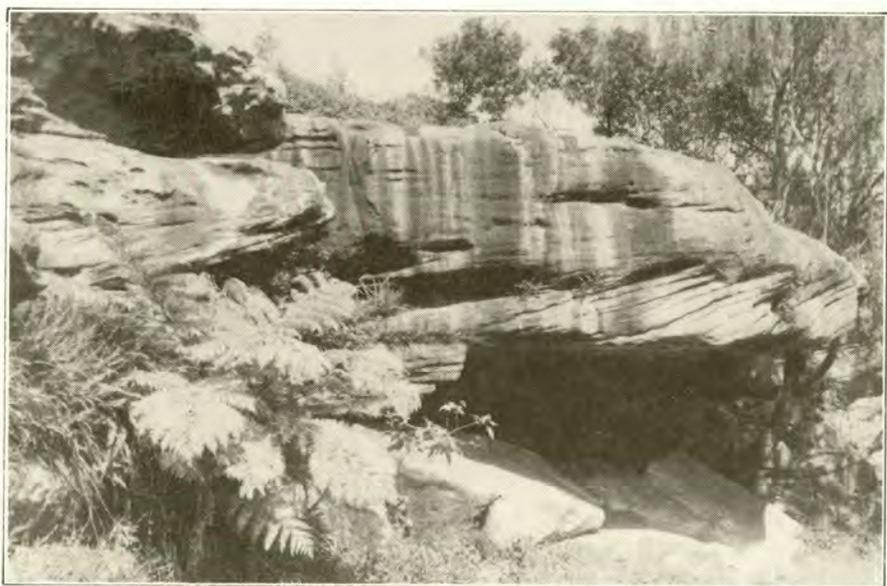
'Above Crow's Nest' was written in '06-'07 in an unusual little cottage in a little paddock of its own in Market Street, Naremburn, belonging to a Mrs M'Gill; and just at the head of a deep rocky gully running into Middle Harbour. A Catholic school is opposite. Anyone round there could tell you where I lived. (Ask the grocer or butcher in the street behind for Mrs McGill's cottage — but you'd know it.) Away to the west the Blue Mountains, to the east the (then) bare sky-line heights of the near shores of Middle Harbour. Down round some solid stone houses, built for sieges with almost flat roofs — and some unfinished — on a level with flat-top roofs above. I raised kitchen stuff, hens, and Muscovy ducks there (and at other homes) in those years — and they kept us in groceries sometimes. Only one or two bohemians who came week-ends knew anything about my home life. (I had another place at Cammaray Park — Cammaray was the aboriginal name of North Sydney — vegetables only.) Talk about 'high lights' I think 'Above Crow's Nest' is a better bit of scene-painting than ever an artist painted. It would be well worth your time to go to Naremburn about sunset some fine autumn day and wait till the afterglow. You'll see it all, and, if you have the imagination I believe you have, you'll see the 'Rider on the Skyline' too. That and several good companion pieces (not disposed of) for the Bulletin were written there and then.

Everything on that skyline is magnified and brought nearer — man, horse, and dray; but I never could make out what that solitary horseman was, though of course he must have been something real and mundane. My Horseman on the Skyline is riding hard tonight.

(From Henry Lawson, *Letters 1890-1922*, Colin Roderick (ed.), Angus & Robertson, Sydney 1970.)

George Robertson wrote to Lawson in 1917: 'Twenty years hence "Above Crows Nest" may be considered the greatest of your warning prophesies.'

A number of years later, soon after World War I, Lawson returned to Naremburn for a short period to a spartan room in the same general vicinity. He was very conscious of his own drink problem and how it also affected his associates, as some of his writings portray. (See his prose work 'The Boozers' Home'. Lawson had been in 'Rest Haven', formerly 'Echo Farm', a home for inebriates on Echo Point, Roseville, in 1898.) There are some, not so young, who can recall being told by older folk who enjoyed the convivial atmosphere of the local pub at that time, how Henry would join their assemblies in the hotel at Crows Nest, with pockets empty and famished for the dire need of a drink. He recognised his own ability of expression and would offer to compose a topical verse or two in return for a drink. Henry was always able to relieve his parched condition in this way. What a pity that those compositions of his were never recorded. Many were down-to-earth, descriptive, spontaneous and effortless creations, most of which were lost with the passing of that day.



Henry Lawson's cave in the Bicentennial Reserve.

(Photo by Eric Wilksch)

Lawson was anxious not to be too offensive to benefactors and acquaintances, so when he had had a few too many, as often was the case, he would not go straight home after leaving the tram near Garland Road but weave his way down to the bush at the end of Gaza Road. East along the edge of the bush he'd reach a cave like a large overhang-

ing rock, in the rear of which was a long narrow protected crevice which readily accommodated his tall frame. Here, with his beloved pipe as his only company, he'd dry out in temporary retirement from society. This cave which can be regarded as his alternate residence in Naremburn, overlooked Flat Rock Creek where the steep banks sloping down to the stream formed a ravine of considerable beauty. Just upstream were the Naremburn Falls. These Falls were of unparalleled beauty and no doubt the splash of the falling water must surely have been soothing and inspiring to Henry. His cave really was in a grand setting and we will never know the profound influence it must have had on him.

Posterity, however, is fortunate that the cave still exists today and deserves to be tended and preserved as a shrine to that great Australian. This is the site which must lay claim to his statue to guard the refuge of his Spirit, not in an out-of-the-way city park. The cave overlooks the playing fields that now replace the magnificent waterfalls and wooded ravine which our civic fathers saw fit to destroy forever for the sake of a repository for garbage and rubbish. Only slight compensation is afforded as these fields will now form part of a linear park system and will be named Bicentennial Reserve, Willoughby.

But the spirit of Henry Lawson lives on and Naremburn's present and future generations should be able to recognise with pride that they also owned part of that literary giant. What finer tribute could be rendered, belatedly perhaps, than to dedicate part of what remains of that gully to the memory of such a great literary genius. It would be a fitting posthumous recognition.

Around his time in Naremburn, Lawson had a continuing concern for the probability of war on our shores, reflected in some of his prophecy poems, and further indicated in his short poem, 'Every Man Should Have a Rifle' (1907), indicating the need, he saw, for every man to be adequately armed.

However, Henry derived pleasure from exhibiting his lighter side. This is evident in a short humorous poem inspired by his Muscovy ducks in Naremburn:

The Muscovy Duck

*The rooster is a brainless dude, although he sports a crest,
The hen's an awful fool we know, though hen-eggs are the best;
She'll flutter, cackling, anywhere save through a gate or door,
And try to hatch a door-knob, too, for forty days or more.
The turkey is of small account, we'll let it go in peace,
And other fowls are ornaments, and geese are simply geese;
But over all that cackle, hiss, or gobble, quack, or cluck,
My favourite shall always be the quaint Muscovy duck.*

*I'm fond of Mrs Muscovy, I think she knows the most
Of all the different kinds of fowls that poultry breeders boast.
She knows best how to build her nest when laying time is past,
And you should see the knowing pride with which she sets at last.
She waddles out for food and drink — she's not afraid of us.
And if we fix her now and then she doesn't make a fuss;
No frantic flaps of useless wings, no cackle, hiss, nor cluck,
She's queen of all philosophers — the quaint Muscovy duck.*

*It is a wondrous thing to see, and a wondrous thing to tell,
Her ducklings know as much as ducks the day they leave the shell.
That she is proud as proud can be, is plain to any dunce —
The little ducklings set to work to grow up ducks, at once;
And on a sunny winter's day, 'tis a good thing for the eyes
To see her waddling round and watch her ducklings catching flies.
I love her for her waddle and her patience and her pluck,
Her wag of tail and nod of head — the quaint Muscovy duck.*

Thanks to the late T. M. Watchorn, and to the late Leo Haylen for recollections of statements of his late uncle, Mr Les Haylen, a journalist and acquaintance of Henry Lawson, on Lawson's presence in Naremburn.

CONSTABLE (FIRST CLASS) THOMAS MANKTELOW

Thomas Manktelow was a member of the Police Force in an era when, because of the manner in which they pursued their duties, police were referred to as 'flat foots'. Those same size elevens (or bigger) were often employed in summarily administering the law, usually more by threat than by action, but always very effectively.

Born in England in 1866, he migrated with his parents at the age of eight, to New Zealand. As a young man he came to New South Wales and joined the Artillery from which he bought himself out to join the Police Force. About this time, 1893, he represented New South Wales against New Zealand as a Rugby Union player, being a member of the old Randwick District Club.

The following year he joined the Police Force and was attached to Broken Hill station as a Probationary Constable. Because of his outstanding service in a daring capture of criminals, his appointment was confirmed after only ten months of service. His application of the law in the apprehension of law breakers earned him a high reputation. As a result, he was promoted to the rank of First Class Constable with less than five years of service. After eight years, and a further six years at White Cliffs, Constable Manktelow was transferred to North Sydney Police Station. A year later, in 1909, he was appointed Police Officer In Charge of Naremburn, which position he held until his retirement

SOME NAREMBURN PERSONALITIES

seventeen years later, in October 1926, after over thirty-two years of service.

Thomas Manktelow lived at No. 3 Glenmore Street in a house named 'Kent'. On the front fence was a sign, 'State Electoral Office', as part of his duties was to collect and check the Electoral Roll. He always experienced personal sadness when he had to remove a local name from the Roll because of death. His daughter, Mrs Belle Carlin, proudly



Constable First Class Thomas Manktelow
(Photo from his daughter Mrs Belle Carlin)

recalls his years in Naremburn. A stalwart figure, having been an athlete, he was well-respected as he upheld law and order.

Manktelow never owned a car or had a telephone; he didn't consider them really necessary. A police officer's place was close to the people he protected. He walked the beat, usually carrying a baton and a small revolver, often showing his presence at night. On many occasions he was accompanied by the family Scotch terrier, Scotchie. He didn't always favour his company. The dog would go ahead of him and the hoodlums, louts or what have you, would spot the canine companion and go for their lives. He detested their practice of brazenly occupying the tramshed seats. Furthermore, he would even catch them smoking around the back. Would-be tram passengers would often have to stand forlornly nearby.

Constable Manktelow was the local Social Service, distributing baby clothes and blankets to the needy, the supply of which he had often organised: that was how police carried out their accepted duties. In his entire service life he carried out his duties to their full extent, irrespective of the number of hours expended. Young people in general held him in high regard, even though they had their own names for him. He took a very active personal interest in the everyday affairs and activities of the district. With his wife he was an active and devoted

member of the Congregational Church. Mrs Manktelow was a particularly effective worker within the Church with the rest of the ladies. When the Progress Association was revitalised in 1925 Thomas Manktelow added his wholehearted support and was a great influence and example of civic responsibility. (The Progress Association had been responsible for gaining the first full-time policeman for Naremburn, Constable Coggins, in 1901.)

A proud occasion for Constable Manktelow was when just after his retirement, he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal for meritorious service. He received the well-earned decoration from the Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair, at a ceremony in Government House gardens. He continued as a respected and concerned citizen until his death on 13 October 1946 at the age of nearly eighty years.



RUTH BUCKNALL

Australia's Prima Donna

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over three octaves

INCLUDING THREE DISTINCT VOICES

Featuring her New, Novel and Distinct
Original Character Study Act

Australia's Anzac Bush Girl

Introducing New and Original Songs
of her own composition, including
∴ SONGS OF AUSTRALIA ∴

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RUTH BUCKNALL

One of the finest voices ever to grace a concert platform was that of Ruth Bucknall. Born of English migrant parents, James and Hannah Bucknall, and reared in a stone house in Grafton Avenue, she was always ready to assist at local concerts. She had a delightful and strong voice right from her earliest singing days; her first big critical acclaim came for her performance in *The Messiah* in the Sydney Town Hall in 1907 at the age of sixteen. The Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, who was present, was loud in his praise of the young vocalist with such a great quality and richness of voice.

In 1911 she accepted the opportunity to go to England where she experienced a remarkable, stimulating and successful career on the concert platform. She was chosen to appear on the same programme as Peter Dawson in the Albert Hall. Ruth was billed as Australia's Prima

SOME NAREMBURN PERSONALITIES

Artistes will do well to carefully read and thoroughly digest the whole of the clauses in this agreement, as the conditions will be rigorously enforced by the Management, and it is to be clearly understood that the Artiste has read through and considered all the clauses before signing this contract.

BEN & JOHN FULLERS' THEATRES AND VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND ELSEWHERE.

Proprietors: Ben & John Fuller Limited.

Governing Director: BEN J. FULLER.

Managing Director: JOHN FULLER.

General Manager: WILL J. DOUGLAS.

General Manager in New Zealand: WALTER FULLER.

Head Office.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Cable Address: Pendant, Sydney.

AN AGREEMENT made this Eighth day of November in the year One thousand nine hundred and Twentytwo BETWEEN Ben and John Fuller Limited hereinafter called the Management of the one part and MISS RUTH BUCKNALL hereinafter called the Artiste of the other part WITNESSETH that the Management engages the exclusive professional services of the Artiste to render perform and produce a certain Balladist act or speciality or in his or their usual entertainment with (1) One person in vaudeville and/or revue minstrel first part and/or vaudeville and/or revue musical comedy, dramatic performances sketches burlesque pantomime or moving pictures in whatsoever part is assigned to him or in his usual or any approved speciality in vaudeville and also if required to supervise rehearse and produce ballets and train and direct supernumeraries when and where required at least twice each day in one two or more theatres every evening and matinees and not over twelve times each week when required on the Management's behalf and for their benefit at such places in Australia New Zealand and elsewhere as the Management may appoint and from the dates for the periods and at the salaries stated in the Schedule hereto and the said Artiste accepts the said employment and agrees to perform same to the satisfaction of the manager at said time and said theatre or such other time and place as the management may require as aforesaid and will abide by all the terms and conditions as hereinafter contained.

It is thoroughly understood and fully agreed upon that the salary provided in this contract covers performances up to twelve performances weekly and all necessary rehearsals. For any extra performance an amount equal to onetwelfth of the weekly salary shall be paid for each extra performance.

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THIS CONTRACT

For a term of Twentysix weeks commencing on the Twentieth day of November, 1922 or thereabouts at a salary of (£12) TWELVE pounds per week for so many weeks of the said term as the Artiste spends in actual performance.

The Management shall at their expense provide the Artiste with passages by boat and rail (2nd class) and the usual amount of luggage allowed free by the Railway or steam boat companies but no excess luggage while the Artiste is travelling by boat or railway between boats railway stations and places of performance but not to and from hotels or private addresses. The Management shall also have the right to travel the Artiste by steamer or rail as they think fit and to send the Artiste by whichever route the Management may deem advisable. The Artiste if engaged at a place outside of Australasia and New Zealand shall be provided by the Management at their expense with passages by boat and to and from.

The Artiste shall not be entitled to receive from the Management the amount of any passage money or freight charge on luggage which the Management hereby undertakes to provide for the Artiste.

The Artiste shall not be paid his weekly salary during time spent in travelling or in awaiting the opening weekly date of the place of performance to which he has travelled nor during the time when the Artiste shall not be performing.

The Management shall have the option of continuing this agreement on the same terms as aforesaid for a further term of TWENTYSIX weeks or any part thereof from the expiration of the abovementioned term. Should the Management allow the Artist to continue this agreement after the expiration of the said term without the period of re-engagement being definitely fixed at the time the engagement may be determined at any time short of the full period of the option by the giving of a week's notice by the Management to the Artiste and in default of notice being given as aforesaid the engagement shall terminate on the expiration of the full period of the option.

The Artiste shall be responsible at all times for the care of his luggage in transit in use or otherwise and parts of opening performance shall be carried with hand baggage.

*Extracts from the contract of engagement of Ruth Bucknall dated 20.11.1922.
There were two further pages of conditions of an extremely demanding nature.*

Donna and her style was acclaimed as 'a new, novel and distinctly original character study act'. Those who knew Ruth readily identified her style as reflecting the typical Australian casual approach, quite unassuming and natural. During World War I, when performing for Australian and British troops, she was billed as 'The Anzac Bush Girl' with her very slouchy slouch hat resplendent with emu feathers. A regular request was for 'Roses of Picardy'; Ruth was the original singer of this classic. It always brought her close to 'her boys'.

Immediately after the war she returned to Australia and was heard far and wide, displaying the talents that had captivated overseas audiences. Her voice amazingly extended over three octaves. Where renowned singers appreciated the assistance of the flute to sustain difficult notes in the high register, Ruth held such notes at full volume unassisted and with complete ease. It is recalled that she once appeared on the same programme in Melbourne as Dame Nellie Melba.

In November 1922 she became contracted to Ben and John Fullers' Theatres and Vaudeville Circuit as a balladist, to perform anywhere nominated for a salary of £12 per week, which comprised up to twelve performances per week and included all necessary rehearsals. Any extra performances were to be paid at the rate of one pound each. The terms of agreement of the contract were severe in the extreme. Travelling time and time awaiting opening date were not paid. Salary was paid only when actually performing.

Ruth Bucknall was born in 1891 and died in 1976 at the grand age of eighty-five. She married an Englishman, Robert Paddley, but continued to sing under her maiden name. She lived at Northbridge, Balmoral and later at Brighton-Le-Sands. She had two sons and two daughters. Few people would know today that Ruth Street, Naremburn was named in 1915 in her honour, especially for her patriotic wartime contribution of her special talent.

As a member of St Cuthbert's Church of England she was always happy to give of her best at Sacred Musical Recitals. Her voice was heard and acclaimed at many district musical functions whenever her busy schedule permitted it. Her love for the family church at Naremburn was displayed by her ready acceptance to sing at the Golden Jubilee commemorative service of St Cuthbert's in July 1966 when, at the age of seventy-five, she captured the congregation with a moving rendition of 'O Divine Redeemer'.

The story would not be complete without a reference to her father. He worked at the wool scour at Neutral Bay, walking there and back daily. He was a strong man of powerful build described as broad and short. He earned the local title of 'the sawn-off giant' and was known in the family as 'Little Daddy'. His block of land in Grafton Avenue was a rocky outcrop, part of the West Street Quarry stone deposit. As it was of high quality, he decided to quarry and dress the stone to build his

own house in his spare time, despite lack of formal training. That house still stands and has had recent extensions added. Unskilled Daddy Bucknall always regretted that some of the stone courses were not quite straight. Next time you pass down Grafton Avenue, seek out this easily recognised house, halfway down on the northern side, and reflect on the courage and talent it represents.

THE SOUP KITCHEN QUEEN

The Depression of the 1920s was hitting hard and biting deeply, many households experiencing what it meant to be hungry. Children were sent to school without an adequate breakfast, hoping to share someone's lunch, and returning home still hungry to a sparse evening meal. Though able to feed her own children, frugally but sufficiently, the thought of other under-nourished children weighed heavily on the mind of one dear lady. Her name was Mrs Agnes Norton, then living in Atchison Street. She soon gathered up a band of willing workers among whom was the Rector of St Cuthbert's Church of England, Rev. Edgar Potter. The Parish Hall was made available for use as a soup kitchen. Mrs Norton so impressed the Gas Company with her perseverance and concern that they installed, and lent her free of charge, five gas coppers in the hall rear annex for her soup kitchen.

District shops, including Crows Nest, were prevailed upon in rotation to contribute ingredients. Mrs Norton left home at 2.00 am in all weathers to prepare the day's soup. Her helpers would arrive with her. She was fastidious in her efforts to maintain high quality soups and impressed on her helpers that the soups had to be of the same standard as was acceptable at home. Soon she received the title of 'The Soup Kitchen Queen' and received commendations from far and wide, including the Right Hon. W. M. Hughes and Dame Mary Hughes, Mr Sanders, M.P., State Member, and the Mayor of Willoughby. Soup was available to needy school children on their way to the Public School, and again at lunch time; after school they could take a billyful home. Billies (billycans) were made by men helpers from appropriately sized tin cans.

Hunger knows no social boundaries and children at the Catholic school experienced the same deprivations, so the soup kitchen was approached to consider their plight also. Of course the children there were accorded the same privilege but there was one small situation to be overcome. In those times an unfortunate state of animosity existed in most communities because of religious differences, despite the suffering of common deprivations. (Thank God those barriers no longer exist.) It was found expedient to supply the Catholic children at 12 noon, half an hour before the Public School commenced their lunch break. Apart from this precaution, all children received equal consideration.

Details of 'The Queen's' activities in those difficult times are proudly recalled by her daughter, Mrs Daisy Wilkinson.

THE RT. HON. W. M. HUGHES

Well-known Billy Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia from 1915 to 1923 was elected to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly in 1894 and remained a member until Federation when, in 1901, he successfully stood for election to the Federal Parliament. Naremburn people were among his constituents. He remained their active member until his death in 1952 at his home in Lindfield. He was truly a man of the people and for the people. With Dame Mary Hughes he found obvious pleasure in attending occasions such as annual prize-giving functions at Naremburn Public School.

Always approachable, he took up any cause he considered worthy of his support. He always maintained information of developments and these letters, short but to the point, were usually in his own handwriting. The Progress Association has a number of these interesting documents on its files. Hughes was a politician who practised office economies, as demonstrated by his use of stationery with out-of-date letterheads which he merely crossed out and corrected by hand.



The Mayor, Ald. Herbert Piper (Naremburn Ward) with the Premier Mr Stevens and Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes (Prime Minister 1915-1923) at a district function in 1925.

(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)



*William Mathers Jack O.B.E., Member House of Representatives
(Photo from Mr Alan Jack)*

WILLIAM MATHERS JACK, O.B.E.

Better known far and wide as Billy Jack, he was one of Naremburn's most illustrious adopted sons, chosen by the residents as their Federal Member of Parliament for the electorate of North Sydney from 1949 to 1966. He was proud of his humble beginnings and of attaining such a pinnacle. His whole life was dedicated to serving people.

Born on 1 May 1890 at Dundee, Scotland, he left school at fourteen and immediately found employment with the Dundee Eastern Cooperative Society Ltd as a message boy. Later he was apprenticed to the grocery and provision department of the Society. After nearly eight years he left this employment in 1912 to migrate to Australia, settling in Balmain. With the excellent reference from his Dundee employer, he soon obtained a position as a grocer with the Balmain Cooperative Society. The following year he moved to Walker Street, North Sydney and opened a grocery shop next to the Methodist Church. He was always proud of that accomplishment because the year at Balmain was the only year he ever worked for a boss in Australia.

The very next year, 1914, he commenced the business he was to follow for the rest of his commercial life. He purchased a horse and cart and embarked on his butter, eggs and ice business, delivering to homes in the nearby northern suburbs. The business expanded rapidly. Two years later he married Annie Smith and settled in Pine Street, Cammeray; the following year he was able to purchase a house in Holterman Street, Crows Nest, where daughter Elizabeth (Ella) was born. In 1922 he moved to Naremburn, having purchased the well-known home in Merrenburn Avenue, originally part of the Merrenburn

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57 VICTORIA ROAD,
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17 HIGH STREET, LOCHES.

BRANCH - WEST CLINGINGTON ROAD.

60

6 - March 1912.

This is to certify that the bearer William Jack has been in the employment of the above Society from May 1904 to March 1912, first as message boy, then as apprentice, and finally as an assistant in one of our Grocery and Provision Departments.

He is thoroughly honest, sober, of irreproachable character, and a first class counter hand. He leaves our services of his own accord to go abroad and with every confidence we can recommend him to anyone in need of a first class workman. With best wishes for his future success.

William Phillips, Manager

Estate of Alexander Dodd an early Scottish landholder and highly esteemed member of the local community. A few years after settling here, son Alan was born.

During his twenty-eight years in Naremburn, Billy Jack gained a reputation, surpassed by few, through his several services to the community. When the Depression hit, several years after his arrival here, his concern for his fellow citizens was put to the test. In following his business as 'the butter and egg man' he came face to face with many homes where the Depression was biting deeply. Especially where children were involved, he never refused to leave butter and eggs. 'Pay when and if you can,' was his quietly spoken slogan; many couldn't pay at all. Billy never ever spoke of these situations, they were confidential. Years later the stories of his benevolence were told by the beneficiaries. Those children, to this day, well over fifty years later, recall the circumstances with gratitude.

The Jack family took a keen interest in local community affairs and Billy became involved in the Naremburn Progress Association through which he was introduced to the ramifications of Local Government. He considered he was needed to ensure that Naremburn was effectively represented on Willoughby Council and he was duly elected as an Alderman of Naremburn Ward in 1939. As time progressed his municipal concern extended beyond Naremburn and he attained the position of Deputy Mayor in 1947. Then he reached the pinnacle of his aldermanic career when he was elected by his peers to the office of Mayor for 1949-50. Earlier, when the Progress Association sponsored

the formation of the Naremburn Amenities Development Association (N.A.D.A.), Billy, his wife Annie and daughter Ella also joined that group of ardent workers for the benefit of the local community.

Billy Jack was a man who considered any personal participation with deep self-examination. And so it was with his political participation. Motivation for adopting Liberal Party philosophy must have resulted from serious examination of what it offered, not for himself, but for his neighbours, his people and his country. It was no surprise that, after winning party pre-selection in 1949, he was duly elected, though not with a big majority of votes (750), and sent to Canberra. It was about this time that he moved to another home, in Rutland Avenue, Castlecrag. At subsequent elections his majority regularly increased. Many of his supporters could not forget his generousities during the Depression. They were all votes for the man. He retired from Federal Parliament in 1966 and in 1968 was honoured with an O.B.E. 'for services to Parliament and the community'.

As a politician Billy Jack demonstrated that great oratory was not necessarily the hallmark of a dedicated and effective politician. He cheerfully wore the title of 'Silent Billy' because he knew his constituents always met a sympathetic ear, which he converted to a persuasive representation. He spoke rarely from the floor of the House. One of his last speeches resulted from a deep inner conviction and he commenced . . . 'I can contain my silence no longer . . .' His daughter Ella assisted him in his Electorate Office where her personal knowledge and understanding of the man were of great value. Their close association was sorrowfully broken six years after his retirement from politics, upon her death after a long illness.

The year before he left his native Scotland Billy Jack joined the Masonic Order with the St David Lodge No. 78 in Dundee. The tenets of the Order profoundly encouraged him to mould his life and character around those principles. Further fulfilment was happily experienced when he found he could continue his association with the Order in Australia. He served several Lodges with his leadership and also held a supervisory office in the United Grand Lodge of N.S.W. He regularly and actively supported many Masonic benevolent activities. Billy Jack was also a devout and dedicated church member and always felt privileged to attend the many church services in his several official capacities. He was a Senior Elder of Crows Nest Uniting Church. He was a Scot and proud of it, and always exhibited an appropriate sense of humour. In the early 1920s he joined the Northern Suburbs Scottish Association which later honoured him with the position of 'Chief of the Association' for a number of years. When the Willoughby Park Bowling Club was formed, he was a foundation member. Two of his happiest experiences were his visits home to Scotland with his good wife, in 1957 and again in 1976. The grocer's boy who made his way to a seat

in his country's Federal Parliament visited his old home.

After his first and only stay in a hospital (Royal North Shore) in 1975, he and Annie entered the Warrina Retirement Village, Castle Hill. At the age of ninety he voluntarily surrendered his driving licence. The following year, in August 1981, his dear wife Annie died suddenly. A dutiful partner, a true lady and a tireless worker in the community, she was respected and mourned by a vast field of associates. Just over a year later, on 14 September 1982, aged 92, William Mathers Jack, O.B.E. had his earthly sojourn directed to eternity. 'He lived respected, and died regretted.'



*Opening of the Children's Library by Mr Ray Maher M.L.A.
From left, Ald. A. D. Faunce, W. Ward, W. M. Jack M.H.R. and
R. Maher M.L.A.
(Photo by Eric Wilksch)*

NAREMBURN'S COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS OVER THE YEARS

A TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY WORKERS

There are two kinds of people: those who do the work, and those who reap the credit. Join the first group for there is less opposition. — Gandhi

Volunteer organisations were the mainstay of the Naremburn community and the members of these groups were the lifeblood of its society. The builders of Naremburn, from its beginning as Central Township, were recorded in only a few instances and in general are a forgotten group of community-spirited people from many walks of life. By the beginning of the twentieth century they had left their mark on their society in the form of the churches, the schools and the Progress Association. They also had representation on the Borough Council.

Time progressed, the Boer War was an unpleasant memory and there came another time of trial when the young men and some women answered the challenge of that most serious of involvements, volunteering for war service. Local Honour Rolls bear silent testimony to the magnificence of their attestations of loyalty. Those at home rallied to service as concerned citizens on the local front. That conflict finally over, an event for history books, and the 1920s saw one great hive of community service organisations develop. The returned servicemen, fired with enthusiasm to build the local scene to one of community strength, joined with the rest of the citizens. They left as lads and the survivors returned as men. Many, with leadership qualities developed in the hardest and most demanding school that mankind could evolve, became leaders in the community. The only reward was to see their local part of society the better for their participation.

Another depression taxed the community almost to its limits. Close on its heels came the 1939-45 war, and another spontaneous display of loyalty and concern on all fronts. Post-war community reconstruction saw another expression of enthusiasm as sons took over or, as was often demonstrated, joined their fathers in the rebuilding of society. Young family people, men and women, rallied and became tireless workers for the community, imbued with unparalleled optimism.

They were the post-war unsung heroes, the builders of a worthwhile society.

Today, community volunteer participants, especially in the ranks of local organisations, are rapidly dwindling in numbers; many, after decades of faithful and diligent service, are regretfully reaching the age when only a much reduced form of involvement is possible. Today's lifestyle attracts few replacement volunteers at the same age as the 'faithful oldies' first entered into voluntary community service. Most have reached the stage when they can no longer participate, and many more have passed on to receive their just celestial rewards for service to their beloved terrestrial community. Their philosophy was that enunciated by St Augustine: 'In doing what we ought we deserve no praise for 'tis our duty.'

A tribute in recognition of the unselfish contributions of voluntary workers in the community:

*They gave themselves to Naremburn
And involved themselves in action.
They sought no payment in return,
Just personal satisfaction.*

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

A Progress Association is formed: When concern is felt for situations on the local scene as they affect the community, it is not unusual to voice an opinion to your neighbour or to anyone at all who will listen. Not so in Naremburn. The year was 1901, Council elections were looming and the people of Naremburn felt their area was still the neglected outskirts of the Borough of Willoughby.

A group of public-spirited residents called a public meeting in the Temperance Hall, Garland Road South on Wednesday, November 29th. E. E. De Baskerville Carden, a leading and esteemed citizen, presided and explained the purpose of the gathering. Very soon a motion was before the meeting 'that those present form themselves into a Progress Association'. Thirty-one persons immediately pledged membership. The office bearers were: Harold McBurney (President), Joseph Rohan (Secretary), Jeremy Crowley (Treasurer), Messrs H. J. Kershaw, James Burke, G. Barnes, De Baskerville Carden (Vice-Presidents), with Mr Holdship as Patron. Messrs W. Prentice and C. Schultz were elected Auditors. And so the Naremburn Progress Association was born, actively and successfully engaging in the current Council elections, supporting their candidates Messrs W. Prentice and T. Ackling. Because of the wide representation of the Association, the members had at one time considered the alternate names of Naremburn and Middle Harbour Wards Progress Association, and East Willoughby and District Progress Association. However, finally the original name was retained.

A missing Minute Book located: The only records available of the Association prior to 1925 are contained in the first Minute Book, which came to light in 1976, covering just over two years' activities to 1904; it portrays aspects of the district lifestyle and the civic frustrations that beset the community, as well as many other aspects of conditions in general. The Minute Book was 'found' when Eric Wilksch, Publicity Officer of the Willoughby District Historical Society and President of Naremburn Progress Association, sought information about the early history of Naremburn in the local press. William Rohan of Forestville responded that he was the son of the foundation secretary and he held the first Minute Book which he was anxious to return to the Association. What a find! History had to be rewritten: this Association was now the indisputable first, and thus the senior Progress Association, of the Municipality. By a strange stroke of fate, the very next meeting of the Association following the find proved to be the 75th anniversary of its formation. A Mayoral Minute and appropriate plaque from the Council commemorated the event. It was proudly hung in the Children's Library, but regrettably during alterations to the building it disappeared and unfortunately has not been located again. As a special gesture, Life Membership was bestowed on Mrs Ellen Grace, a member of long standing and a Secretary with conspicuous dedication for a long period. A handsomely bound copy of the Minute Book is now held in the Local History Section of Willoughby Municipal Library.

Active community involvement 1902-1904: Following the Council elections when Messrs Prentice and Ackling were elected, the new Association soon indicated it was the much needed voice to ensure civic justice as well as demonstrating a caring concern for community matters in general.

Tramway: At the meeting of 15 January 1902, the motion 'that a public meeting be held to urge the extension of tramway from Ernest Street (Crows Nest) to Frenchs Road' is recorded. The meeting was quickly and widely publicised and duly held on the 22nd of the same month. Deputations to the various appropriate authorities followed. As tramway history records that this stretch of tramline had existed since 1898, the above minute is rather confusing. However it would appear that the extension referred to was really the extension of the section as it affected fares. Several further references in the Minutes to the tramway are similarly slightly misleading in their terminology.

Fire Alarms, police and gaslight: At the same meeting of 22 January 1902 a Minute 'that a request be made to the Fire Brigade Board to place a telephone fire alarm at the corner of Slade Street and Willoughby Road' is recorded. A motion recorded at the following meeting, without explanation of its implication, is left to the reader's interpretation. It reads 'that the Secretary be instructed to write to

Minutes of meeting held in Temperance Hall
Naremburn on Wednesday Nov. 27th 1901

Mr De Baskerville Garden presided.

Proposed by Mr. Barnes 2nd by Mr Kershaw that this
meeting form itself into a Progress Association
(carried)

The following Officers were elected.

Gen Sec. Mr Kershaw. Proposed by Mr Barnes 2nd by Mr Sharp.

Gen Treasurer. Mr Crowley. Prop. by Mr B Sharp 2nd by
Mr Barnes.

Patron Mr Hilditch. Proposed by Mr Crowley 2nd by
Mr. Hunt.

President Mr McBurney. Prop. by Mr Kershaw 2nd Mr Barnes.

1st Vice President Prop. by Mr J. Deane 2nd by Mr Watts that
3 Vice Presidents be appointed carried

electd. Mr Barnes prop. by Mr Deane 2nd by Mr Sharp.

Mr Kershaw prop. by Mr Schultz seconded by Mr Crowley

Mr Burke proposed by Mr Crowley 2nd by Mr Sharp

Prop. by Mr Watts that resolution to the effect that
there be only 3 Vice Presidents be rescinded
& that four Vice Presidents be appointed
(carried)

Mr De Baskerville was the other Vice President elected on Mr Kershaw's
motion 2nd by Mr Crowley.

Prop. by Mr B. Hear 2nd by Mr Arthur that
meeting adjourn till Dec 11th at 8 P.M. (carried)
a vote of thanks to the Chairman closed
the meeting.

The names of 39 persons were taken who
promised to join the association

First page, first Minute Book of first Progress Association in Municipality, 1901.

Police re push (corner Slade Street)'. There was apparently concern over general surveillance of the area because it was recorded later that a request was to go to the local Inspector of Police for a resident policeman for Naremburn. This appears to have been successful as Constable Coggins duly took up residence in Rhodes Avenue. Later he was also given assistance on his beat in response to further requests. The unlit streets caused concern and the Gas Company was requested to instal gas lamps in Naremburn streets. The Company stalled the request by promising to lay pipes when they became available for the purpose.

A free library requested: Residents were anxious to improve their education so the Association requested the Council of the Borough of Willoughby to establish a free library at Naremburn under the powers conferred by Section 141 of the Municipalities' Act. (A free children's library was built sixty years later.)

The Association also advocated the introduction of a Technical College at Crows Nest and enlisted names of people desirous of attending studies.

Dusty tram tracks: A request to reduce tram fares to three penny sections to Frenchs Road was refused. Then the condition of the tram tracks was regarded as a justifiable basis for a complaint to the Commissioner. The request was 'to water the tramlines from Chandos Street to Frenchs Road, as the intense dust there, is injurious to the health of passengers, and damaging to their apparel, and that it is to be pointed out that electric pumps could be erected at Flat Rock to draw water from the creek'. The Commissioner replied asking if the Council would contribute towards the cost of the water. The Council requested the Water Board to assist in the matter but the Water Board replied that they would not make any water available for that purpose.

Overgoverned: The opinions of the Association reflected those of the community and the following motion (without comment) may still reflect the beliefs of society — 'That in the opinion of the Association, the most pressing legislation for the next session of Parliament is a bill for the reduction in the number of Members and Ministers, and also a comprehensive Local Government Bill, and that a copy is sent to the Premier, The Hon. John See'.

Opposition to new Council Chambers: The Council proposed to build new Council Chambers. The Association actively protested and considered that money would be better spent in Naremburn and Middle Harbour Wards. Furthermore, the selected site was not central, being in the north-west of the Borough. A respectful protest was sent to the Governor through the Premier, Sir John See, praying that His Excellency may be pleased to withhold his sanction to the loan for the erection of a Town Hall until the question of site and cost shall have been determined by a referendum of ratepayers of the Borough. The Governor, Sir Harry H. Rawson, advised in reply that he had been

pleased to authorise the Willoughby Council to borrow £3,000.

Dissatisfaction with Council – secession: From the earliest reports of the Naremburn Ward there were utterances regarding the poor and unconcerned treatment from Council. ‘The Cinderella Ward’ was a tag the Ward carried for very many years. By 1902 the people had really had enough of shabby treatment. The Association was motivated to the point at which a committee was formed to collect ‘statistics’ regarding separation from the Council of the Borough of Willoughby and joining North Sydney Council if admitted. They were at that time far from satisfied with their share of Council works. No further reference to this secession appears.

Postal delays in 1902: There were reasons to complain about the postal service, such as late or even non-deliveries. At the time, postal deliveries were along English lines, two deliveries each day, including Saturdays. The following complaint was brought to the notice of the Association – James Lawton considered that since the Federal Government took control of the Post Office he had recently missed three letters. Before the department would make any enquiries, a fee of twopence halfpenny had to be paid. This was taken up with Federal Member Dugald Thomson of Parliament House, Melbourne. A shuttling of correspondence between the two parties resolved nothing, and eventually Mr Lawton had to come up with the twopence halfpenny. Mr Lawton also complained about the late delivery of a letter. He had posted a letter at his head office in the city before 1.00 am on Friday to Mr Carden of Market Street Naremburn and it had not been delivered until Saturday afternoon (!).

Active support for North Shore Bridge: Early in 1902 a motion, ‘That the construction of the North Shore Bridge is a necessity for the district’ was recorded with no supporting explanation. Later in the year, the Association sent two delegates, Messrs B. Wear and Hutton, to a conference on the building of the North Shore Bridge. The Secretary of the North Shore Bridge Committee later wrote requesting the forwarding of the subscription list at their earliest. He was also advising that the amended tenders for the Bridge had been extended from 27th January to 16th March. The Association replied, asking when the agitation was to take place as public meetings should be held without delay. A reminder was included that a receipt had not been received for contributions forwarded. The project concluded successfully thirty years later.

Public baths: The Councils of North Sydney and Willoughby were requested to co-operate in establishing public swimming baths at Long Bay for the people of Naremburn and the north-western slope of North Sydney to have suitable opportunities for the rising generation ‘to learn the useful and healthy art of swimming’.

Further general concern: The Association considered that the

citizens of Naremburn should have their own hall. Enthusiastic support was given to the formation of the Naremburn Model Brass Band, much to the delight of the younger generation. A motion was recorded to extend Garland Road from Central Street to Willoughby Road. (See separate items on each of these concerns.) The Association affiliated with the Progress Associations' Union of N.S.W.

New Council boundary considered (or another secession move): In June 1904 the Progress Association recommended 'that a petition be sent to the Councils of the Boroughs of North Sydney and Willoughby suggesting that in place of the irregular and tortuous boundary proposed between the Boroughs, the following simple and natural boundary be adopted viz. commencing at Lane Cove Road [later Pacific Highway] between St Leonards Railway Bridge and Herbert St following the watercourse to Flat Rock Bridge, thence by Flat Rock Creek to the head of Long Bay, Middle Harbour'.

There is no record of discussions regarding this proposal but it would appear that it was another effort at secession from Willoughby Council. Records of questions regarding progress of the petition did not indicate any answers. Also, there was no reason given as to why there was a motion at the meeting on 5 October 1904 'that the secretary be instructed to write for the return of the petition'. The proposal would have affected most of Naremburn and followed a previous secession move in April 1902.

And then — silence: That first Minute Book extended only to 1904; after that there is complete lack of records of the Association for twenty years. Another amazing discovery in 1981 brought to light a small steel box of correspondence and papers giving more information from the middle 1920s when a new crisis arose as a catalyst to revitalise the Progress Association.

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

TELEPHONE
SECRETARY . . . X 4657

5 GARLAND ROAD.

NAREMBURN.

PRESIDENT
MR. J. E. HARDYMAN, J.P.

HON. SECRETARY & TREASURER
MR. D. MARTIN, J.P.

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Disquiet within Naremburn Ward: Apart from always appearing to be the neglected Ward, there were often feelings of disquiet within Naremburn Ward. It comprised basically two major suburbs, Naremburn and Artarmon, and also included parts of St Leonards, Gore Hill and Willo-Tarmon. Naremburn and Artarmon each had its Progress Association and Willoughby Progress Association also represented part

of the Ward. (Willo-Tarmon was an area given that name because it was situated generally between Willoughby and Artarmon. It later lost its identity.) Then there was the situation of Council representation, three aldermen to be equally divided. Somehow the Artarmon component thought that they should have two from their area, although it did not always work out that way. Artarmon Progress Association claimed erroneously that they were the senior Association in the Municipality, ten years older than Naremburn. In fact Naremburn Progress Association held that distinction, being originally constituted in 1901, senior by fourteen years.

Matters came to a showdown in the approach to the triennial Council elections at the end of 1925. Naremburn's President Ken Quinn, who grew up in Naremburn, saw active service in the Great War with a commissioned rank and was a tireless worker in the community, nominated as a candidate. Artarmon Progress Association published a circular naming Mr Quinn and warning Artarmon residents not to vote for him as his election would sway the representation in favour of Naremburn and he would seek to spend most of the Ward revenue at that end of the Ward. The candidates elected were Messrs Clatworthy, Piper and Clarke.

Several months prior to the election, Naremburn Progress Association set in motion a proposal to divide the Ward into two separate Wards because of an imbalance that existed. Available statistics indicated that the Ward was, unfairly, the biggest of the four Wards, carrying 36% of the electors, compared with the others having 27%, 22% and 15%. Revenue from rates was proportionate but allocations were not. A well organised campaign was set up and a comprehensive petition presented to the Minister for Local Government. A deputation was also marshalled and, after several delays, introduced to the Minister. Arguments presented were substantial and indicated sound reasons for the proposal. Although not presented as a supporting situation, it would remove the recurring problem of the attitude of the Artarmon end of the Ward. The deputation met the Minister on 6 October 1925 and a reply was received from him dated 1 April 1926. The final paragraph stated: 'The Minister has decided that further action with respect to the proposal should remain in abeyance for the present.'

Confusion continued at election times when 'How to Vote' notices, originating in Artarmon were distributed throughout the Ward. These did not identify the candidates supported by their Progress Association but simply said, 'Your Progress Association's Endorsed Candidates'. On one occasion such a placard was erected on vacant land opposite the residence of the President of the Naremburn Progress Association. There was also another Progress Association in the Ward, the Naremburn West Progress Association, which appeared only to 'surface'

immediately prior to Council elections when an endorsed set of candidates would be offered. After the elections it would return to 'suspended animation'. In more recent times the relationships of representatives have been more amicable and Ward Aldermen have been at pains to ensure absolute impartial representation.

EXTRACT FROM CIRCULAR ISSUED BY

ARTARMON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

**WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
NAREMBURN WARD**

"To the ELECTORS of ARTARMON.

"You have at present TWO DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES on the Council, namely, Alderman CLARKE (Mayor for four successive terms) and Alderman THOMSON. Their colleague is Alderman PIPER, with whom they work in unity.

"Aldermen CLARKE and THOMSON were returned to the Council by the efforts of this Association, and we strongly urge the electors to again return them with their colleague, Alderman PIPER.

"One of their opponents at the present elections, Mr. P. K. Quinn (who lives at Garland Road, Naremburn) aims at again securing at least two representatives from the Naremburn end of the Ward. At a recent deputation to the Assistant Minister for Local Government Mr. Quinn complained that under Aldermen Clarke, Piper, and Thomson's representation most of Naremburn's rates have been spent at Artarmon.

"If Mr. Quinn succeeds in his objective, Artarmon may have no representative at all, or possibly only one, and, naturally, Mr. Quinn would seek to readjust matters from his point of view and spend most of the revenue at the Naremburn end of the Ward.

"To PREVENT this possibility extend no support whatsoever to Mr. Quinn. Cut him and his associates out.

=====
=====
=====
"Polling Day is Saturday next, 5th December.

"Issued by the Artarmon Progress Association.

"I. J. BURCH, Hon. Secretary.

"R. STREDWICK, President."

To my numerous and trusted supporters.

My opponents recognise in me a

NAREMBURN WARD CHAMPION

and as you do also, give a solid vote on Saturday for

**CLATWORTHY
HARDYMAN
QUINN**

P. K. B. QUINN, J.P.

Ex-Lieut. A.I.F.

Naremburn's lack of postal and banking facilities: Australia Post's historical section records that there was a post office at Naremburn prior to 1886. In that year the post office closed, possibly because the improved roads and the new all-weather Flat Rock Bridge would enable residents to attend to postal needs at other sites: possibly it was a form of decentralisation.

Adequate postal and banking facilities are taken for granted but Naremburn then had none. So a group of zealous and public-spirited citizens decided that something had to be done about this deficiency. In 1925 they revitalised the Naremburn Progress Association to give their plan the necessary teeth. In early July of that year the Secretary, David Martin, set in motion the Association's decision to bring about the righting of these shortcomings. Simultaneous representations were made to the Postmaster-General's Department and to the Commonwealth Bank for each to be represented at Naremburn. The support of politicians was enlisted: the M.L.A.s C. Murphy, D. Kay, A. A. Reid and W. Scott-Fell were approached and, on the Federal front, the inimitable local Member, the Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes. In the initial letters to all the above, it was indicated that 'this district is developing rapidly, and the absence of any local postal and banking facilities is seriously felt by the business and private sectors alike'.

The Bank promptly replied that it did not propose to open a branch at present at Naremburn but had now written to the Postmaster-General's Department about the practicability of establishing a Savings Bank agency in the district. The Members of Parliament pledged their wholehearted support. The P.M.G.'s Department, through the Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes, intimated that the facilities at present provided included a public telephone, a letter receiver and a stamp vendor. In addition there was the benefit of a twice daily delivery of letters and a free delivery of telegrams. Furthermore, any residents provided with telephone services could arrange for transmission of telegrams by lodging a small sum with the exchange which could be utilised for whatever telegraphic transactions they may require. Money order, postal note and Savings Bank facilities were available at Crows Nest. It was considered that requirements were adequately met. However, one concession was made: the stamp vendor's licence, previously withdrawn, had been re-issued.

These explanations were not considered satisfactory and the Association really went into action. The State Members were finally successful in earnest representations to the Bank: in a letter of 7th October the Association was advised that a non-official post office agency would be opened. It was regretted that an official branch could not be opened but the private agency would be happy to advise on the opening and operating of accounts.

The Post Office proved to be more difficult and Federal Member

Hughes was prevailed upon to arrange a deputation to the Deputy Postmaster-General. The Secretary of the Progress Association, an ex-serviceman, decided to 'butter up' Mr Hughes, keeping in mind his reputation for battling for servicemen for which he became known as 'The Little Digger'. In the letter, the following paragraph was included: 'We may add that the majority of our members are ex-servicemen, and as such, we value your personal attention more than the average public body that might seek your support.' This really pleased the Right Honourable gentleman and a deputation was soon arranged. Available details show that it was planned like a military manoeuvre. The deputation was finally introduced by Mr Hughes to the Deputy Director, Posts & Telegraphs on 29 April 1926, led by the architect of the exercise, the Secretary, David Martin. The various speakers were marshalled to stress individual aspects. They carried out their assignments superbly. There was great rejoicing when the letter to Mr Hughes was sent to the Association. It read in part: 'I have to inform you that approval has been given to establish an Allowance Post Office with Money Order and Savings Bank facilities in charge of Mr J. G. Charlesworth, Willoughby Road, Naremburn. Arrangements are being made for the establishment of telephone and telegraph facilities.'

And so ended successfully the ten months of battling. Suburban and daily newspapers carried the result with appropriate and conspicuous headlines; Naremburn became further recognised as a growth centre. In August, advice was received that the trunk-line had been installed for the transmission of telegrams and the transaction of trunk-line business. A final victory is recorded: a second public telephone was installed in Naremburn, this one in Rhodes Avenue. The first one was located in Slade Street. Later, a 'fully ventilated model' was installed in Brook Street near Grafton Avenue.

It is an interesting reflection that the early Post Office which closed in 1886 was conducted in conjunction with a shop and residence at Lot 39 (No. 49) Market Street, later obtained by the Sisters of St Joseph's, together with Lot 38, to become the first Catholic School in 1894. This shop and Post Office was first recorded as such, on Council's register in 1882, as owned by John Mullins. Previously it was occupied by E. Harris. When the Post Office was closed in 1886, certain shops at various times were licensed to sell postage stamps. The last one to be so licensed prior to the restoration of full postal facilities was Mrs Emily Swain's at No. 278 Willoughby Road.

The railway battle that became a non-event: When the Sydney Harbour Bridge was designed, Dr Bradfield had in mind the need for a railway to service the Manly district; two pairs of railway lines on the eastern side of the Bridge were incorporated in the design for that particular purpose. Only as a temporary measure were two sets of tram tracks laid in their stead.

In 1926 the great talking point on the north side of the harbour was of course The Bridge. The route of the proposed service to Manly became an issue. One suggested route was through Mosman and this was strongly supported by suburbs along this proposed line. However, an alternate proposal was from a point between St Leonards and Artarmon stations through Naremburn and Northbridge. Northbridge Progress Association fostered a fighting spirit with the formation of a Railway League to promote this proposal. In February 1927 they propositioned the Naremburn Progress Association also to form a Railway League. It was stressed that this route had been found to be the most direct route to Manly, in addition to being by far the cheapest route. The Naremburn Railway League was duly formed to support the proposal, with the Progress Association officers constituting the officers of the new body. The Willoughby Municipality Federated Progress Associations also took up the cause and strongly urged affiliated associations to strengthen the scheme by forming Railway Leagues.

Willoughby Council supported the route to Manly through Naremburn and Northbridge, or otherwise through the municipality of Willoughby. The Town Clerk in April 1927 wrote to the Progress Associations that 'this Council is of the opinion that in view of the development and large increase in population that has taken place in the Northern Suburbs during the past few years, which development must increase more rapidly with the early completion of the North Shore Bridge, and the electrification of the existing railway lines, the construction of an electric railway from Sydney to Manly and district should be undertaken as soon as possible in order to give the residents of these parts direct communication with the city as well as provide the population of Sydney and outer suburbs with direct communication to the large number of pleasure resorts along the coast from Manly to Broken Bay'.

Public meetings were held at Mosman and at Northbridge, with observers from the rival camps infiltrating each other's meetings. Meetings were also held at Manly. There were very favourable reports from borings at The Bluff (Seaforth), for the railway bridge. A close bond of mutual involvement developed between Willoughby Council and the various Progress Associations in this common cause. The Associations sought the support of the Council while the Town Clerk conveyed to them the thanks of Council for their support of the proposed railway through the Municipality. So confident was the populace in 1927 that the Naremburn-Northbridge line supporters stated that 'when we get our railway Northbridge will be the most desirable suburb in Sydney'.

The years rolled by, the Great Depression took its toll, unfortunate political situations arose, and hopes for the Manly railway began to fade. This was a time of bitter disappointment for those who had

exercised so much effort and displayed such enthusiasm in the project. The motor car era was developing and people saw independence with this means of travel, no dependence on time-tables or crowded trains. Various reasons were put forward as to why the railway failed to eventuate, some possibly without foundation. Business houses in the Manly district and along the proposed route were said to have made it known to the Government that construction of the railway would make access to the city so easy that their customers would no longer shop locally. Similarly it was said that passenger transport on the harbour, especially to Manly, would rapidly diminish and be phased out if fast rail transport between Manly and the city became a reality. There have been several attempts to re-awaken the project with the availability of newer construction techniques. Monorail systems have also been suggested but the Manly railway still remains a non-event.

Council works take time in Grafton Avenue: On 2 June 1927, the Progress Association assisted the residents of Grafton Avenue to request Council to kerb and gutter the south side of their street. The north side had been done some years previously. Mr Bailey, the Town Clerk, replied on 27 June that the work had been considered but no funds were available at that time. The Secretary, David Martin, replied on 31 July expressing regret and drawing attention to the lack of proper drainage and the effect on health; also, heavy tip carts and drays passing daily (from the quarry) were causing damage to the roadway's edges. Council replied on 19 August 1927 that the matter would be considered with the estimates for the ensuing year. The Association reminded Council on 7 February 1928, urging consideration for inclusion in the current year's estimates. A brief note from Council, dated 19 May 1928, advised that no funds were available.

The Association took up the request again the following year, on 18 June 1929. The Town Clerk replied on 19 July, regretting non-availability of funds. On 3 September 1930 Council was again approached and was advised that accumulated stagnant water was considered as contributing to the outbreak of typhoid. The reply of the Town Clerk advised that the matter was deferred for consideration in the following year. Feeling that Council would consider the situation favourably then, no approach was made in 1931. They were wrong. So the Association wrote again on 14 April 1932. The reply of 18 May indicated that Council had already decided its programme of works but the situation would come up for consideration for the next programme. The Association at this stage apparently gave up their pursuits in this matter.

In December 1978 Council was reminded of the earlier correspondence. And now, in 1988, over sixty years 'down the track', the south side of Grafton Avenue is still not kerbed and guttered.

Another municipal secession effort: On Monday 19 April 1937 a

meeting of ratepayers organised by Naremburn Progress Association took place in St Cuthbert's church hall to consider seceding from Willoughby Council in favour of attachment to North Sydney Council. This was to affect only the actual Naremburn portion of Naremburn Ward. Enthusiastic discussion ensued, and there was certainly plenty of adverse criticism of the Council regarding the manner in which Naremburn was being disregarded. There was also much dissatisfaction with many aspects of the general administration of the Council. The appropriate brand of 'The Cinderella Suburb' had been a running sore since before the Association was formed in 1901.

A big half-page advertisement was placed in *The Suburban Herald* calling the public protest meeting. This local weekly paper was also happy to take a keen interest in reporting this situation as, in the previous year, it had had a verbal altercation with Council for not calling for tenders or quotations for the supply of paper and printing. Instead, the Council, they alleged, had shown favour to another local printing establishment (named) at costs much higher than those of *The Suburban Herald*.

Many of the terms used in the records of these meetings are from articles in this newspaper, hence the flowery and descriptive terminology. A committee was formed to draft a petition to the Local Government Department seeking secession. Two thousand signatures were expected. A further meeting was called for full discussion of protests. At the subsequent meeting on 13 May 1937 in St Cuthbert's church hall, every seat was occupied and only the firmness of the chairman kept the meeting in order, so incensed were the residents. The report indicated how the residents felt neglected, money was being squandered and their patience exhausted. They wanted the freedom that was 'the birthright of every Briton' not to be under the domination of 'municipal muddlers'. Rates were being collected to continue that 'orgy of extravagance which made Willoughby Municipal Council a laughing stock for other councils'. They wanted the liberty to be embodied in the Municipality of North Sydney where, by the guidance of wise men 'we may be wisely governed'.

Not one kind word was spoken. One resident of thirty-eight years stated that in that time not one penny of rates had been spent within sight of his home. Council's two mowing machines were really only used 'as riding-cock-horses' by the manipulators riding to work every day, having their lunch and starting for home an hour later. Only four hours work a day was obtained from the 'clap-clap-clutterbuck roller'. Concrete roads were being built where gravel was quite good enough. Money was being squandered on golf links and a £10,000 golf mansion. With 'childish seriousness' £500 was being wasted annually for 'cushy jobs' for two men to interview 'bashful ratepayers to coax them to pay their rates'. The smoky 'stench pot' in the valley

was more than Naremburnians could accept. Having to wallow along footpaths was unacceptable in wet weather, as was having to drive through the mire between where kerbstones should be. They considered they couldn't receive worse under the yoke of the present Council than those things which had justified for so long the 'Cinderella Ward' stamp on Naremburn.

The three Ward Aldermen, Piper, Milne and Town, were present. They, having donned their 'war paint and gore spattered habiliments', told of the battles they had fought and retreated from. They appeared ready to endorse the accusations against the despised Council. 'Like the lamb feigning timidity, they entered the den and lay peacefully with the wolves.' The electors made it known they would call for an account of their stewardship before the next elections (at the end of the year). It appeared the Aldermen were aware that the move to secede would probably not succeed. It was stated at the meeting that the re-election of some Aldermen would be as difficult 'as sweeping back the sea tide with a broom'. Those present joyfully contributed to the expenses of the meetings, in excess of requirements.

A further meeting was called for 21 June 1937 when the wording of the petition, to be signed by residents and tendered to the Local Government Department, would be finalised. The steaming situation apparently started to cool down as Council met with the 'rebels'. Several deputations discussed the many aspects of dissatisfaction. There are no reports available of the outcome of the action of the rebel group. However, at the Council elections on 4 December of that year, the candidates supported by the group were elected. They were Aldermen Milne and Town and Ald. Henry who was a solicitor and Secretary of the Progress Association; he replaced Ald. Piper who had not sought re-election. As forecast, the election was fought on the secession issues. An interesting observation is that the Progress Association had previously instituted action to secede from Willoughby Council and join with North Sydney Council exactly thirty-five years earlier (to the meeting day) on very similar grounds. This was not mentioned at the last effort. Probably there was no one around from the 1902 action and the Minute Book recording the first effort had been 'lost' until its amazing reappearance in 1976.

Naremburn needed a hall: From early times there was realisation of the need for a Public Hall. At the best of times church buildings are an unsatisfactory alternative, but let it be recorded that, restricted as their availability can be, church organisations have contributed greatly to the community by making their buildings available whenever possible.

The Naremburn Progress Association was aware of this difficulty. Their first meetings were in the Temperance Hall and later in various church buildings. In 1902 representation was made to Mr Broughton of the Broughton Estate requesting a grant of land for a Hall for a

Working Mens' Institute of about 50 feet frontage on Willoughby Road or Central Street.

The Association was advised that this request would be considered. A reminder brought a reply in August 1903 from Charles H. Broughton, executor of the estate of the late Thomas Broughton, that the matter would be dealt with in September at a meeting of executors; it received unfavourable consideration. A similar request was made to the executors of the Berry Estate. This was also unsuccessful.

The need for a hall was considered regularly. The building boom after World War I required valuable land to be developed for residential purposes. Then the Thirties Depression placed a further damper on such a project but the need for a Hall never flagged. In July 1945 the Progress Association requested Council to resume vacant land situated in the Naremburn Shopping Centre for the purpose of erecting public amenities. In the following month the Association was informed that Council had accepted the proposal very favourably in principle but favoured an alternate site — two weatherboard cottages in Central Street. At the September meeting, the Association was informed that Ald. Cohen had been asked to call a meeting to draw up plans to finance and control the proposed Public Hall and other amenities, which he had agreed to do but so far nothing further had been heard. A Baby Health Centre was one of the amenities sought at the Association's March 1946 meeting. A motion was carried 'that seeing Willoughby Council is not co-operating with North Sydney and Lane Cove Councils, would the Willoughby Council see its way clear to choose a site for a Willoughby Clinic and that, we suggest a site in Central Street, Naremburn'.

At the October 1946 meeting there was a further lengthy discussion on the possibilities of erection of a Public Hall in Naremburn. It was decided to invite eight local bodies to a meeting to discuss the situation; this meeting was to take the place of the May 1947 meeting. The April 1947 meeting was attended by the Mayor, Ald. Joseph Bales. The minutes recorded the following patronising report: 'The President gave a brief outline of our aim, and explained to the new members why we were anxious to have this Public Hall in Naremburn. Ald. Bales gave us some good leads, and how to go about obtaining our object. He stated that Council would help us as much as was in their power, but before they could do so, we would have to prove our worth.' The occasion was also Ald. Bales' birthday and appropriate greetings were expressed.

At the public meeting in May, the results were most gratifying and plans were immediately put into operation to form an appropriate organisation; the Naremburn Amenities Development Association (N.A.D.A.) was formed on 21 May 1947. At the November 1947 meeting, in reply to a question regarding a Public Hall, the President, Bill Ward, informed members that N.A.D.A. had been accepted by the

Chief Secretary's Department and plans were in action to raise funds. The Progress Association gave its wholehearted support to the new organisation which, from the time of its inauguration, worked tirelessly for its nominated goal.

EXECUTIVE.

N. A. D. A.

Naremburn Amenities Development Association

President:
W. E. Ward.

Vice-President:
Wm. Lyon.

Hon. Secretary:
G. F. Warren.

Hon. Treasurer:
E. G. Little,
8 Palmer St., Crows Nest
XB4206.

Hon. Organiser:
Mrs. A. D. Faunce,
XF1533.

Hon. Publicity Officer:
L. V. Wilson.

Hon. Auditor:
H. W. Blewitt.

Appointed under Seal by the
Willoughby Municipal Council.



Registered as a Charity under
Charitable Collections Act, 1934-41.

13 Adolphus Street,
Naremburn
XB 2334

**NAREMBURN AMENITIES
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

N.A.D.A. is formed: The Progress Association called a public meeting for 6 May 1947, with all local bodies, to discuss a Public Hall for Naremburn. It was resolved that an Association be formed for this purpose, under the sponsorship of the Progress Association. On 21 May the inaugural meeting was held at the residence of Mr & Mrs A. D. Faunce in Garland Road, and the Naremburn Amenities Development Association was duly formed. Within a week a constitution was drawn up and Council was petitioned to appoint the Association under the provisions of Section 527 of the Local Government Act. The Chief Secretary was also petitioned at the same time for the Association's registration as a Charitable Organisation. Naremburn Branch of the R.S.L. also put their weight behind the Association and combined with it for a number of fund raising functions.

Foremost of the objects of N.A.D.A. was a Public Hall, also a Children's Library, Public Gymnasium, Baby Health Centre, places for recreation, etc. House parties, card parties and the like, carnivals, balls, dances, novelty functions and so on became regular events to raise money for the objectives. The first big carnival was held on 26 January 1948 on Hallstrom Park and, as a result of this highly successful function, the carnival became an annual event for a number of years. Musical groups also offered their services.

In 1949 Council was petitioned to secure a suitable site for a Baby Health Centre. N.A.D.A. was advised within two months that three sites were considered, which included Nos 7 and 9 Central Street. No. 7 was regarded by the Department of Public Health as a suitable position, although it considered that a Baby Health Centre was not necessary for Naremburn at that time. However, Council was urged to resume the two properties nominated for future amenities for the area. In November 1950 Council advised of the intention to acquire the properties. (No. 7 was resumed for a Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre, gazetted 17 April 1953.)

The need for a Children's Library became obvious and avenues for such a facility were explored. In 1954 the Congregational Church was approached to use the lower hall but this was not considered appropriate by the Church. Advice was received in 1957 that Council's Works Committee would inspect the premises at No. 9 Central Street on Saturday, 5th October as it had become vacant. At the inspection it became obvious that the building was totally unsuitable for restoration as a library and would have to be demolished to enable a new building to be erected. This decision was received with great joy. Plans for a Children's Library were drawn up by Mr Roche, Council's Health and Building Inspector, and £3,500 was provided in the 1958 estimates. However N.A.D.A. considered that the building would better fit its environment with a pitched roof (instead of flat) and that the building should be slightly larger. The Association was happy to pay the additional £500. This plan enabled the inclusion of two committee rooms and a more attractive roof. The building was commenced in May 1958 and opened on 18 October 1958. It was so sited that when a Baby Health Centre was eventually built, the space between the two buildings would become the forecourt to the hall, to be built on ground at the rear. Council assurance was that a hall would soon become a reality, as plans indicated. The Council of the day recognised the magnificent efforts of N.A.D.A. and named the building in large letters on the front wall, N.A.D.A. CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

As the years rolled on and Council's officers from that time left the scene, plans and promises for a hall were 'lost'; the Cinderella Suburb was once again relegated to its position out in the cold.

The N.A.D.A. Children's Library: This was the first of a designed complex of buildings which included a Baby Health Centre and a Public Hall. The Library was opened by Mr Ray Maher, M.L.A., the local Member, on 18 October 1958 at 9 Central Street.

From its inception, all work relating to the staffing and local administration of the library was carried out by members of N.A.D.A. Besides generous monetary contributions to ensure that the building was appropriate for its purpose in the community, many of the furnishings were selected and procured by N.A.D.A. Suitable tables for study

use, heating, kitchen accessories, free standing display shelves, portable dais, wall decorations and the like were contributed by the Association. A tireless worker, Mrs Vi Wilksch, besides donations of furniture, was always available with transport to the many fund raising functions. 'Ral' and Ivy Faunce were also organisers of many of these 'evenings' but the whole group was a fine example of regular member participation.

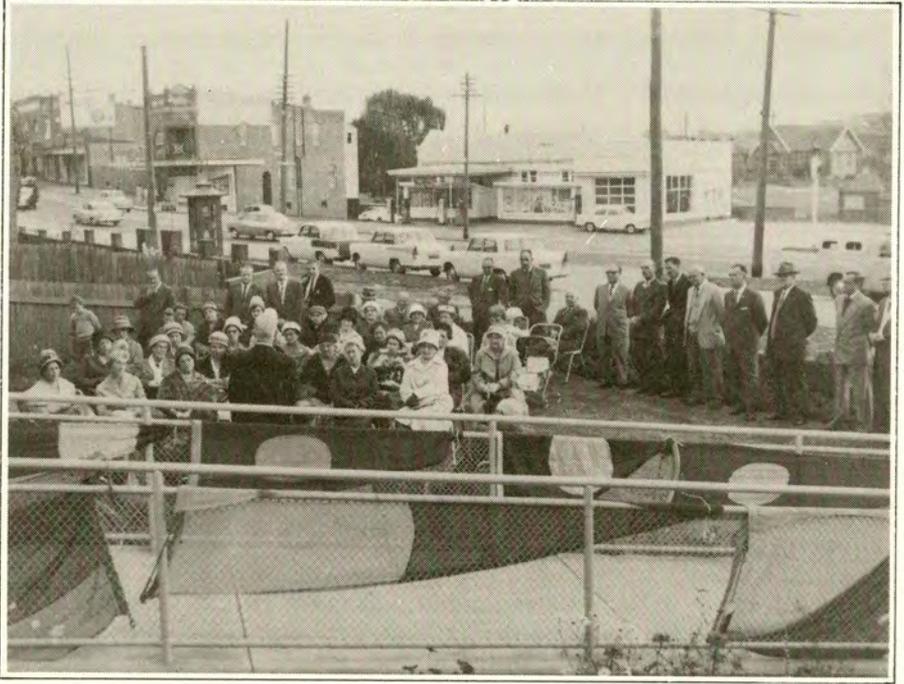
The President, Ald. A. D. Faunce, worked tirelessly to ensure supplies of appropriate books were regularly maintained. A Reference Library and Study Room were established with many items donated by members. Miss Joan Ranyard (later as Mrs G. Warren) was the Secretary during this time. Library attendants were voluntary workers and Association members. Local children soon became attached to them, cementing permanent friendships. These attendants were Mrs Iris Cox, Mrs Elva Ranyard, Mrs Eva Cole, Mrs Ivy Faunce and Mrs Joan Warren. Mrs Cox had undergone special Librarian training.

Soon after the establishment of the Central Library at Chatswood, complete control of the Children's Library was assumed by that body. Librarians from there also staffed the Naremburn Library, and the volunteer librarians, some of whom had undertaken special training in that field, were dismissed. With children losing their favourite and friendly confidantes, attendances waned and soon the library was available for only one short period per week. As time rolled on and Council became more deeply involved in community welfare programmes, the library building was impressed for these pursuits and a diminished library was conducted from the adjacent Baby Health Centre.

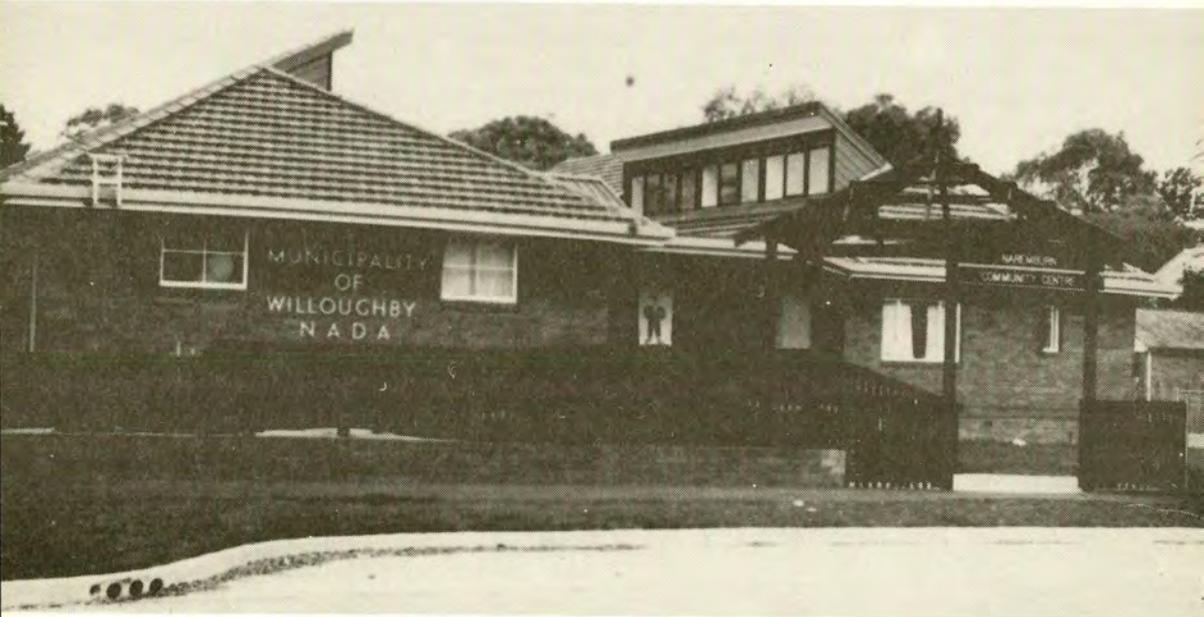
In 1986 development commenced on the buildings to enlarge the accommodation and enable better functioning as a Neighbourhood Centre. The fervent hopes over eighty-five years for a Public Hall on the site died forever with the new development. It is sad to record the destruction of the dreams of pioneers and toilers for local community welfare. It is, however, necessary to record their hopes and contributions, many of which have been erased as subsequent, perhaps ill-informed, administrations act unaware of the hurts imposed by removals and transformations.

The Baby Health Centre: One of the original visions of N.A.D.A., and of the Progress Association, was a Baby Health Centre. Council, in its wisdom had, as a result of N.A.D.A.'s representations, resumed two cottages (Nos 7-9) in Central Street, for a Baby Health Centre and Children's Library. Despite early setbacks when the Department of Health considered such a Centre was not necessary at Naremburn, continuing efforts by N.A.D.A. were finally successful and Council proceeded forthwith to plan the Centre in conjunction with the Department. As with the Children's Library, Frank Roche, Council's

THE NAREMBURN STORY



*Above: Naremburn residents at the opening of the Baby Health Centre.
Below: The new Community Centre incorporating the previous Library
and Baby Health Centre.
(Photos: Eric Wilksch)*



Chief Health and Building Inspector, drew up the plans. The site, the old cottage and land, the estate of the late Jane Westerland, was procured for £805. Estimated cost of £5,000 and £375 for fittings, with a subsidy of 75% from the Department, was adopted for the 1960 estimates. The sponsors for the appropriate motion were the Naremburn Aldermen, Faunce and Brain.

Final completion enabled the Centre to be opened on 13 May 1961, and N.A.D.A.'s second vision was fulfilled. The Minister for Health, W. Sheehan, M.L.A., appointed the Speaker and local Member, Ray Maher; M.L.A., to perform the opening of the Centre because of his own inability due to previous commitments. Those present included mayors from neighbouring municipalities, W. M. Jack, M.H.R., local Federal Member, Dr Grace Cuthbert Brown, Department of Maternal and Baby Welfare, Miss D. Watson, Department of Health, and Sister Byrne, sister of the Clinic. Council was represented by Aldermen and Officers of the Council led by Ald. Faunce representing the Mayor. Many local residents also attended. Ladies of N.A.D.A. prepared refreshments, happy in the knowledge that the third vision, a Public Hall on land reserved for that purpose at the rear of the two now completed projects, was a foregone conclusion. But it was not to be. A quarter of a century later, and a complete change of Council's composition, and the hall was no longer a consideration. Instead, a completely modernised and greatly enlarged facility, a Community Centre incorporating the two original buildings, was developed on the site, and opened on Wednesday, 16 September 1987.

OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Naremburn Hospital Auxiliary: The Naremburn Branch of The Royal North Shore Hospital Auxiliary Service League was one of many such groups in the district. Much needed finance was raised by these Auxiliary branches, some of the many voluntary groups which put so much effort into aiding community welfare. Money was raised by street stalls, card parties, house parties, functions large and small, various drives, any way at all to generate funds.

To indicate their value to the hospital, a report of 1925 described the Garden Fete held by the Naremburn Branch on February 9th and 10th in the school grounds. At the opening, Mr Broome, local headmaster and Patron of the Branch, introduced Ald. Piper, the President. He stated that this Auxiliary in the previous year had raised sufficient to maintain the whole hospital for 3½ days, an absolutely magnificent effort. Naremburn regularly exceeded its quota. After the Patron declared the fete open, he was handed a cheque for £5. 5. 0 raised by the junior girls of the public school.

Auxiliary Branch members were entitled to special concessions.

Subscribers of one shilling (ten cents) per month to membership of a Branch were, if sent to the hospital by their doctor, admitted free of charge and enjoyed the privilege of a free bed allocated to the Branch.

As was the fate of so many community service organisations because of lack of enthusiasm in the community to replace aging members, branches of the Auxiliary gradually closed down. Only the Willoughby Branch now remains, having absorbed members of those branches, and is proud of ongoing achievements today. Although working specifically for The Royal North Shore Hospital, a number of the Branches were affiliated with the United Hospital Auxiliaries of New South Wales, and members wore the red and gold badge with pride.

General civic activities: The churches had activity groups for all age levels which catered for the various interests of young people and adults. These included sporting teams. Similarly the schools were also anxious to ensure healthy activities for their young folk. For adults there were also activity groups with objects to aid the community at home as well as further afield.

NAREMBURN.

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

It is doubtful if in any other portion of North Shore there are so many civic activities as in Naremburn. There are few of its citizens who are not interested in local movements.

There are social clubs almost without number. There are Hospital Auxiliaries, an enthusiastic body of citizens who work in co-operation with the teachers in the interests of the Public School. There is a welfare association, and benevolent associations, and a progress association which is a mass of energy. The sporting clubs are all very excellently managed. And so the list might be extended.

All the churches have drawn round them committees of workers, and attendances at the services in Naremburn are frequently favorably com-

mented on by visitors. The public school is the centre of widespread interest. The kiddies are encouraged to work for the charities of the district, and the appeals which come from farther afield are also generously supported by these young people.

There are all sorts of clubs and societies among the teachers. No one can say that civics are not excellently taught in this fine school which has doubled its attendance in a few years.

Naremburn sometimes complains that it is the Cinderella in the eyes of the Willoughby Municipal Council, but, if that is so, it is not the fault of the local progress association, which is composed of men who have a liberal amount of common sense, and a wonderful capacity for service. This body is very alert in the interests of the suburb, and the two representatives of Naremburn in the Willoughby Council—Aldermen H. W. Clark, and H. P. Piper—are able and tireless fighters for the rights of their constituents.

Anyhow there need be no fears that Naremburn will not be a place of expanding interests and progress. With so many civic activities as its assets it is destined to become one of the choicest parts of North Shore.

The Suburban Herald 27 April 1928

**NORTHERN SUBURBS VOLUNTARY
TRANSPORT FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS
BULLETIN**

PATRONS:

J. L. Geraghty, M.L.A.
L. A. Denison, Esq., and
Mrs. Denison.

PRESIDENT:

Rev. A. N. S. Barwick.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Brigadier F. B. Hinton, M.C.
Ald. E. A. Pepper, J.P.
Mr. H. Woollett, J.P.

COMMITTEE:

Mr. A. Watts.	Mr. A. C. Bamford.
Mr. A. Massey.	Mr. W. G. Webster.
Mr. P. Stuckey.	Mr. T. H. Aitken.
Mr. V. Schweinberg.	Mr. F. H. La Mothe.
Mr. R. Hilderbrandt.	Mr. D. French. ;
Mr. S. W. Evers, M.O.	Mr. J. B. Gurney, J.P.
Mr. R. J. Stiffe, F.C.A. (Aust.)	Mr. R. Curbishley.

No. 11. GRATIS. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Edited by Ald. E. A. Pepper, J.P.

AUGUST, 1945.

KEEP THIS FOR REFERENCE

Women who desire to avail themselves of the services of the Northern Suburbs Voluntary Transport for Expectant Mothers to take them to hospital after 6 o'clock at night should telephone the Hon. Organising Secretary (Mr. C. F. Williams), XB 4546.

Transport to hospital between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. is guaranteed to any expectant mother living on the North Shore. The service is absolutely free, being made possible by the public-spiritedness of the voluntary drivers of the organisation.

**BABY BORN
AT HOME**

**DRIVER'S PROMPT ACTION
BRINGS NURSE**

At 10.20 p.m. on Sunday, July 15, a telephone call was received by the Hon. Organising Secretary of the Northern Suburbs' Voluntary Transport for Expectant Mothers (Mr. C. F. Williams), asking for transport for an urgent case from Market Street, Naremburn, to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Crows Nest. Mr. R. Hilderbrandt, a veteran voluntary driver of the Organisation, was allotted the job, and reached the house within five minutes of the call being received.

On arrival he found that the woman he was to convey to hospital was too ill to be moved, and he at once informed Mr.

Williams to that effect. He was instructed to go to North Sydney, pick up Sister Walkley, and take her to look after the patient. This he did, landing her at the house at 10.35 p.m.—a quarter of an hour after the first call was received. But, quick as he was, he was not quite quick enough, for the woman gave birth to a baby just before he and the sister reached the house.

Sister Walkley, however, was in time to be of considerable assistance to the doctor who had been hurriedly summoned to the case, and took charge of the mother and child until such time as an ambulance could be obtained (approximately an hour and a half later) to take them to hospital.

The husband of the woman subsequently called on the secretary and thanked the Organisation for its prompt and efficient service.

**DONATION FROM
WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL.**

The following letter from the Town Clerk of Willoughby (Mr. S. A. Bailey), enclosing a cheque for £10, the annual subsidy of that Council to the funds of the Northern Suburbs' Voluntary Transport for Expectant Mothers, has been received by the Secretary of that Organisation, and is acknowledged with thanks.

To the other North Shore local governing bodies who also generously support this very worthy Organisation, each year, its officers, in grateful anticipation, address this exhortation:—

"Go thou and do likewise!"

Town Hall,
Victoria Avenue,
Chatswood,
August 8, 1945.
C. F. Williams, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary.

Re Subsidy.

Dear Sir,
In connection with the above matter, I beg to enclose herewith cheque for £10, being subsidy approved by this Council to your Organisation.

Your acknowledgment in due course will be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
S. A. BAILEY,
Town Clerk.

Northern Suburbs Voluntary Transport for Expectant Mothers: One of the many voluntary welfare organisations which have existed in the area including Naremburn was the Northern Suburbs Voluntary Transport for Expectant Mothers. It was a wartime emergency service, vital to the community. The President, Rev. A. N. S. Barwick, was the Rector of St Cuthbert's at Naremburn.

P. & C. Association Younger Set: The Parents & Citizens Younger Set of Naremburn Public School was formed in 1932 and was an appropriate organisation to give young people the opportunity to be involved in a variety of activities. Weekly physical culture classes were held at the school on Monday evenings with an instruction fee of sixpence per lesson. End-of-year social and dance in the Girls' School assembly hall was a function always eagerly awaited.

The Willoughby District Group of Torchbearers For Legacy: In 1958 this Group was formed to raise funds for Legacy, an organisation concerned with the welfare of dependants of ex-servicemen. As many of the Group members were residents of Naremburn, the meetings were held in Naremburn at the Children's Library often referred to as the N.A.D.A. Hall. The Group was never a numerically strong body but its members were dedicated to the cause for which they worked: in the seventeen years of operation, the activities undertaken raised many thousands of dollars for Legacy.

The means for raising money, besides members' subscriptions and levies, were wide ranging. They conducted street stalls, cookery demonstrations (at home and with gas and electricity authorities), demonstrations of home care equipment and beauty aids, home entertaining, general feminine interest subjects, ice cream making and cake decorating. Visits to manufacturers of a variety of products raised money as well as being interesting and educational. Fees were received for market research involvements. Button days were very successful and high yielding. Entertainments included wine tastings, card evenings, theatre parties, mannequin parades, cruises, car drives, barbecues and luncheons. Television evenings were held. These were get-togethers in the home of someone who had a television set in those early days of this particular medium, when a pleasant evening was spent in comparative silence, viewing the hazy black and white — or rather, grey — images on the screen. Supper of course brought the evening to a close after the stations had closed down. Mr & Mrs Ernie Lockwood had the first T.V. set. Members took part-time jobs with caterers and the like, and gave the proceeds to 'the cause'.

Unfortunately, owing to the loss of many energetic members, the Group relinquished activities in 1975, having received many commendations during its term of service, as one of the most active and successful Groups in the State.

F.R.A.C.A.S: See 'FLAT ROCK'.

NOT ALL WORK: NAREMBURN AT LEISURE

Naremburn's own brass band: At the meeting of the Naremburn Progress Association on 7 January 1902, a motion was moved and seconded 'that steps be taken by the Association for the formation of a brass band in the district'. It was duly passed. A month later, the Association resolved to hold a public meeting on 13 March with the object of forming such a band. Some time went by before the band was finally formed in 1903. During this time there were several drives to raise the necessary funds. The name chosen was The Naremburn Model Brass Band. The bandmaster was Mr Brown, the member of the Association who had seconded the original motion to form a brass band.

Later regular reports indicate that the band was held in high esteem in the community. One report stated that a successful concert was held in mid-1904 to raise further funds. The amount of £4. 6. 9 was raised. The Association was again active regarding brass bands when it was to the fore in organising the formation of a Municipal Brass Band 25 years later. A meeting was held for this purpose on 2 October 1929.

Cock Fighting: One means of satisfying the sporting needs of the men in the community was Cock Fighting. One such activity was conducted by an individual known as 'Skeeta'. The location of his fighting arena was in a small clearing in the thick bush below the end of Market Street. 'Skeeta' lived nearby.

Schoolboys of the time recall the activities as in the early 1920s, but references to the 'sport' go much earlier. The boys would sneak up to the site in the bush to watch the proceedings from their hideout. One aspect they couldn't understand was that often, at the conclusion of the day's events, some of the men would engage in heated bare knuckle fights. Not being close enough, or perhaps a little ill-informed, they didn't know that there was a probable connection between the fight results and things called 'bets'. Recalling the cock fights, those junior spectators, now very senior citizens, and much wiser too, describe the 'sport' as HORRIBLE.

Old North Sydney Pigeon Racing Club: In Ross Lane, a little lane off Dalleys Road, near Northcote Street, there was a builder's workshop until 1913 when a Racing Pigeon Club took over occupancy. This externally austere building is the headquarters and meeting place



*Premises of Old North Sydney Pigeon Racing Club
(Photo by Eric Wilksch)*

of the Old North Sydney Pigeon Racing Club, a dedicated group of pigeon racing enthusiasts. The Club's quarters are used prior to every race to set the racing clocks. Tom Allen has been racing his pigeons with the Club for sixty years, 'since I was just a lad'. The homing speed of a good pigeon makes the reintroduction of the Pigeon Post an attractive proposition, with direct home delivery, e.g. from Gympie (Qld) to home, in twelve hours.

The Naremburn Merrymakers Club: This was a group formed towards the end of World War I whose interest was in the presentation of general entertainment, with emphasis on amateur theatrical stagework. It became quite a large group and presented the opportunity for young people to be involved in a field that, besides being educational, developed artistic appreciation while occupying much of their leisure time to advantage.



*Naremburn Merrymakers Club, about 1920.
(Photo from Mrs I. Green)*

Tennis in Naremburn: Representative Tennis Clubs were active on the lower North Shore in the 1880s. Just prior to World War I an Association of tennis clubs was envisaged but not until 1921 was the Northern Suburbs Lawn Tennis Association formed with eleven member clubs which had been in existence since early in the century. Fifteen clubs with 179 registered competition players were soon members of the Association.

About 1924 the term 'Lawn' was deleted from the Association, and by the following year there were 39 affiliated clubs with 536 registered competition players plus a great number of other regular social players. The popularity of the game was sweeping across the country and private courts became status symbols. Tennis was 'in' even though many informal get-together games were 'hit and giggle' affairs. With the startling success of the Association, land was purchased in Wheatleigh Street, Naremburn in December 1928 to build suitable courts. Already courts owned by Alfred List were in use adjacent to this site. Within a few years five courts were laid, funded to a great extent by a one penny per week levy on each registered member. Alfred List served the Association in many positions including President, then as Patron.

In 1935 an amazing 186 affiliated clubs formed the Association with nearly 3,000 competition players. During the Depression and subsequent World War II years, the sport suffered a serious setback and a



The Medlands Cup, Remah Tennis Club 1937
 (Photo by Eric Wilksch)

considerable number of private courts fell into disrepair. Post-war reconstruction was vigourously approached and in 1961 a new Association Club House was built.

Just prior to his appointment to a Parramatta Parish in 1924, Rev. H. W. Barder, then Rector of St Cuthbert's Church of England, suggested the preparation of a tennis court on adjacent church land in Merrenburn Avenue. His successor, Rev. E. Potter, appreciating the value of active sport in character development, soon had the court established. Tennis activities immediately reflected the popularity of the sport.

The Remah Tennis Courts in Grafton Avenue are now privately owned and operated as R. W. Francis Pty Ltd. Comprising four courts, they were laid down about 1928 as two separate developments, the two eastern courts by Jack Hamer, and the other two by Ken McNab assisted by his brother Neil. Hamer's courts were illuminated for night tennis. Ultimately the whole concept was similarly lit. In the early 1960s R. F. W. Francis bought all the courts and formed a family company to conduct the business. When Mr Francis died, his wife continued to maintain the courts which are in a delightful setting overlooking the beautiful wooded Flat Rock Gully. A barbecue area overlooked the steep rocky crags that comprise the undeveloped northern slope of the estate. Occupancy of this area was shared over many years with a pair of friendly goats who established a friendship with players in return for those always available tidbits. In return the goats were expected to control the grass.

Over the years several clubs were formed by the various groups who used the courts. One of the bigger groups was the Remah Tennis Club on Hamer's courts. One of the trophies was The Medlands Cup for the annual Gents Singles Champion. This trophy, missing for many years, recently came to light in a box of odds and ends left for a charity White Elephant Stall. Those who held this trophy over the years of competition were:

1937	H. BLEWITT	1945	S. KITNEY
1938	H. BLEWITT	1946	R. SOUTHWOOD
1939	A. ANDERSON	1947	M. RYAN
1940	A. ANDERSON	1948	B. CORK
1941	M. RYAN	1955	G. FARLEY
1942	T. MITCHELL	1956	K. HOWELL
1943	S. AYRES	1957	G. HOWARD

From 1980, following the new boom years in tennis, the Northern Suburbs Tennis Club Ltd has been operating and developing a fine tennis complex at Talus Street near St Leonards, which has proved a particularly popular venue for the sport, actively and socially.

Naremburn's own tennis 'great': A well-known tennis identity is claimed by Naremburn as 'ours'. He is Fred Stolle who gained his early

schooling at Naremburn Public School. As a student, a tennis career was an obvious probability. His standard of play was so high that he had no competitive opposition so he played alternate sports as school involvements. During the Naremburn Public School's Centenary celebrations preparations in 1987, the committee discovered that Frederick Sydney Stolle had never collected his Intermediate Certificate. This was rectified when the then Principal, Mr W. Shea and the committee handed the 1953 document to Fred at a meeting with him on one of his brief visits to Sydney from his home in Miami, Florida.

The Dramatic Entertainers: In the early 1930s this was a band of amateur thespians whose comedy presentations were very well

The Dramatic Entertainers present
'The Mummy and the Mumps'
a farce in three acts.

S. Cuthberts' Hall, Naremburn on
Sat., Nov. 29, & Sat. Dec. 3, 1932
at 8 p.m.

Orchestral Items.

Admission 1, children 6d

Proceeds for Church Funds.

Booking at Lowe's Shoe Store 3d extra
E. B. Lenchan, F. N. Farley,
Producer. Hon. Sec.

Thursday, November 24, 1932. Naremburn Younger Set

The Naremburn Parents & Citizens' Association Younger Set held its first social and dance in the girls' school assembly hall on Saturday night. The attendance was good, there being about 40 couples present. The function was organised by Miss Lena Bunton; the music provided by Miss Mackay (piano) and Miss Beer (violin); Mr. W. Heine acted as M.C.

The spot, streamer, and affinity dances were special features of the evening. Supper was served. Members of the Parents and Citizens' Association present included the Mesdames Davenport, Newton and Hewitt and the Messrs. Davenport, Newton and Piper.

The Younger Set conducts a physical culture class at the School on Monday evening of each week. Miss Penrass is the instructress, and the charge for instruction is 6d. per lesson.

The
Search Light
Thursday, November 24, 1932.

Dramatic Entertainers Again

The Naremburn Dramatic Entertainers should have record houses at S. Cuthbert's Hall when they present their latest successful effort, 'The Mummy and the Mumps.' This three-act farce is crammed full of side-splitting situations, and it is safe to say that the Entertainers do not permit a dull moment to occur from start to finish. The setting of the play is 'Fenella,' an American young ladies' college, where 'Frances Briscoe' endeavours to impersonate an eminent archaeologist, 'Sir Hector Fish,' who is believed to be detained in quarantine. Many rib-tickling situations take place when the real 'Sir Hector' unexpectedly turns up. The dual female impersonation of the Headmistress which this leads to in the last act should prove a laughter riot. The production is in the capable hands of Mr. Eric B. Lenchan, and the strong cast includes Misses P. Farley, A. Fry, I. Crittle, J. Brothers, G. Bull and Messrs C. Crittle, F. Nolan, N. Brothers, A. Grey and T. Farley, all artists of proven ability. The show is to be presented next Saturday, 26th November, and the following Saturday, 3rd. December. Excellent musical items will be provided by the *Excelsior* Orchestral Society, who have selected a fine programme.

patronised. Their reputation for this form of entertainment was reflected in the number of requests to perform in places well outside the district. Their shows were staged at St Cuthbert's Hall, supported by the Excelsior Orchestral Society. So popular was the group that repeat performances had to be given locally as well as at other venues.

The Dog Fanciers' Club community fighters' recreation: Restoration of the Naremburn Progress Association in 1925 kept the office bearers particularly active with the many needs of the community but they sought alternative involvements as forms of recreation. In 1928 the Northern Suburbs Dog Fanciers' Club was founded, with leading members of the Progress Association instrumental in its formation. The Association's President, Kendal (Ken) Quinn was the Club's President, and the Association's Secretary, David Martin was elected Publicity Officer. The extensive catalogue of the Annual Championship Show reflected the extent of the Club's activities and the contributions of Messrs Quinn and Martin to the Club's projects. Mr Martin, a trophy donor, specialised in breeding Fox Terriers. Mr and Mrs Quinn owned Kara Kennels (at Lindfield), breeding Pomeranians. They were generous donors of trophies and prizes.

The Northern Suburbs Dog Fanciers' Club

(Founded 1928)

Under the Rules of the Kennel Association of N.S.W.

Cricket: The sport was popular in Naremburn, but the only records available refer to St Cuthbert's teams. During the ministry of Rev. Pearce, a keen player, cricket became a great involvement in the parish. Together with Rev. Le Huray the game flourished.

Rev. Barder, who came to the parish in 1922 continued the support, and in that year they were district premiers in "B" grade. In 1923 a "C" grade team was formed.

After World War II enthusiasm waned, but in 1956 a Cricket Club was formed and soon the local players were demonstrating their skills in the Northern Suburbs Cricket Association with some outstanding players. With the diminishing strength of the parish in recent years, the Club became one of the casualties.

OTHER HAPPENINGS AND HAZARDS

1882 – a drought and other tragedies: This was a year of trial for many people in agricultural pursuits: many fruit trees and other crops were lost because of the drought. Anglicans were set a special day of prayer for rain. Local church people on this day, Thursday, 12th October held special morning and evening prayers for rain. A report in the church magazine stated ‘. . . and on the Saturday following, the joyful rain came down in refreshing showers, and continued at intervals for several days.’

That year also saw a serious diphtheria epidemic. Together with typhoid it was taking its sad toll. The churches were greatly concerned for the welfare of the people and considered that reasons for the situation were poor quality water, unsatisfactory drainage and ventilation and the disposal of refuse. It was recommended that the Municipal Council inspect and analyse the water in the various wells and tanks and bring about general sanitary reform to minimise the prevalence and danger of epidemics.

Tornado wreaks havoc and tragedy: The fateful morning of 27 March 1906 started with wind gusts and heavy rain which seemed to increase in intensity as the day progressed. Just before 2.00 pm the crisis came – a violent tornado with its characteristic circling and twisting effect. Orchards and gardens, the residents’ pride and joy, disappeared before their eyes; air pressure differences between the insides and outsides of houses blew out walls and lifted off roofs, to be deposited unpredictably along the tornado’s route.

The most disastrous effects were in the Nareburn Park area. Thomas Harold Leslie had taken up residence with his family six years previously and his weatherboard house was completely wrecked, the roof being deposited as a ruined pile on the neighbouring property. Mrs Francis Boyd Leslie and two of her daughters, Ethel and Ivy, were seriously injured, necessitating immediate hospitalisation. Mr Leslie was away at work. Nearby neighbour Patrick Toomey lost his life, by the sudden approach of the tornado, as he tended his fruit trees: the warning from his wife came too late for him to reach safety. The chimney and part of the roof collapsed over him: he had no chance of escape.

More than a hundred homes in the path of the storm were seriously

damaged as it cut a horrifying swath along the gully east of the railway line. It careered along Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway) towards Crows Nest where it divided and continued towards Berry's Bay and Lavender Bay, leaving further ruin in its wake. Complete destruction of the women's baths at Lavender Bay was the final blow. It lost its velocity on its way across the harbour, without any damage to shipping.

Long Bay shark hazard: The upper reaches of Long Bay, where Flat Rock Creek entered the bay, were regarded as a treacherous area because of the presence of sharks. The general opinion was that it was a breeding ground, and children were always warned of the danger. This was before the construction of Tunks Park.

Mrs Mary Teteris recalls that, as a young girl, she and other children were walking along the edge of the bay when a terrier which had been swimming in the water had come out and was shaking itself, as dogs generally do. In a flurry of water, a shark leaped out, took the dog and, with a twist of its body, sprang back into the bay with it. This experience was an indelible lesson of the hazard concealed below the surface of the placid bay.

Travelling to and from work: In the days when local people had to travel to the city to work, the working day was long and tiresome and travel included a slow ferry trip across the harbour and then the tram: it meant an early start and a late arrival home. In a letter from her present home in England, Miss Mary MacDermott gives us an insight into wet-weather travelling when there were just stepping stones across Flat Rock Creek west of the bridge and a walking track. She writes:

My father would go to business in Sydney each day, and with the short wet days in winter he would wear a pair of wellington boots down to the tram stop at Flat Rock, and hide the boots under a bush ready for his return at night. And a hurricane lantern would be left there too.

Others recall similar circumstances in winter when people walked all the way to the harbour ferries, hid their wet-weather boots and lanterns behind rocks or anything else suitable and hoped for the best. These personal items were regarded as private and almost sacred and would rarely be misappropriated. The sixpence a day saved in fares represented half an hour's wages (or better) or three hours or more wages per week. Worthwhile . . . ? In those days it was.

House names instead of numbers: In early days houses were known only by their names instead of numbers. These names often were indicators of the country of origin of the occupier. Many of the houses now no longer display the original names. As an example of the names used in 1920, the west-side residences in Willoughby Road, south from the hardware shop to the school, were in order named as follows:

ELSPETH	CHELTON	ARENAL	ASHDALE
KOREE	KIA ORA	ARALUEN	TARA
WOODLANDS (the school house) — previously SHERBOURNE.			

IN 1925

- The population of Naremburn had almost doubled since 1920.
- Naremburn Progress Association proposed that Merrenburn Avenue be developed as a Digger's Memorial Avenue.
- Naremburn Cricket Club fielded three teams.
- A local suburban newspaper forecast transmission by wireless of photographs by 1975.
- Electric trains were referred to as 'tin hares'.
- Naremburn Younger Set changed its name to Naremburn Social Club; Miss Crittle, Secretary.
- Municipal elections for Naremburn Ward were held in a vacant shop at No. 221 Willoughby Road.
- Naremburn Progress Association's slogan for the Municipal elections was, 'Waking up Willoughby'.
- The Progress Association instituted action to obtain a post office which was successful the following year.
- The Progress Association attained a financial membership of 241.
- Rumours were afloat that Naremburn might receive the Municipality's garbage and nightsoil.
- The Water and Sewerage Board advised that extension of sewer mains to that portion of Naremburn west of Willoughby Road (southern area) was delayed till more settlement was developed in that area.
- The enrolment at the school reached 1,500 and was still growing.
- The Progress Association actively moved to divide Naremburn Ward as it was by far the biggest in the municipality and such division would ensure a better deal for Naremburn.
- Naremburn Ward Aldermen stated that they regarded their voices in Council 'like children in the wilderness'.
- December Council Elections: Certain candidates were very annoyed when opposition aspirants had their names written on the footpath outside the polling booth overnight.
- Dorman Long's (Harbour Bridge contractor) football team started using Naremburn Park for training.

Naremburn children see royalty: For the opening of Parliament House, Canberra in 1927, King George V sent Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of York to represent him and to perform the ceremony. They arrived on the Royal Yacht H.M.S. *Renown*. The Duke of York later became King George VI, following the abdication of the uncrowned King Edward VIII.

The royal visitors also came to Sydney and were accorded a tumultuous welcome with a grand procession on Saturday, 26 March 1927. School children were allocated special strongpost positions from which to view the procession and give vent to their own vociferous welcome. The strongpost for Naremburn children was No. 16, outside

'Craignish', 185 Macquarie Street, Sydney. The Duchess had the special concern of the children because Their Royal Highnesses had to leave their infant daughter back home in England. The infant princess of course became Queen Elizabeth II.

Naremburn's interest in another bridge: Naremburn was very directly involved in another bridge — the North Shore Bridge, better known as The Sydney Harbour Bridge. A bridge to span the harbour had been considered for many years and another positive effort was launched about 1900 when designs and tenders were actually called. In 1902 the North Shore Bridge Committee was formed. Naremburn was represented by two members of the Progress Association, Messrs B. Wear and Hutton. Subscription lists were circulated and monies raised were called in in January 1903. Tenders for the construction of the bridge were to close on 27 January 1903. The closing date was later extended to 16th March. The ultimate result of that exercise is not available, except of course that the bridge was not built — then.

From a Progress Association Annual Report in 1932 we learn that Dr Bradfield submitted a design in 1912 and in 1924 Dorman Long & Co. Ltd signed the contract for construction of the final design. The estimated cost for 2¾ miles, including approaches, was £6.25 million. Erection was to be completed within six years. The final cost was just under £10 million.

The people of the northside were expected to pay one-third of the cost, principally by a levy of one halfpenny in the pound on their Council rates. Northside councils collected this levy from 1923 till several years after the bridge opening in 1932. In the Naremburn report, it was stated that by the opening day, northsiders had paid over £1.5 million and they were consequently hoping for relief from paying a toll. Another proud experience for the people of Naremburn was their involvement with the Floral Float for the opening. They grew many of the flowers for the District float, and that was after a carefully co-ordinated twelve months programme.

A snake menace: In January 1943 the Progress Association requested Council to clear undergrowth in the vicinity of Gaza Road because of the number of snakes that were giving concern to nearby residents. One member had been forced to kill snakes in his backyard, on his front lawn and on the footpath and once, when he was sitting in his kitchen, a snake crawled through the window. Another member supported the action as a snake had recently been found in his children's bedroom.

Another secession proposal: In July 1970 the Crows Nest Chamber of Commerce tendered an application to North Sydney Council requesting the attachment to that Council of specified areas from two neighbouring municipalities. One was the area south of Flat Rock Creek. This of course was Naremburn. It is not known where or

why the prompting for this proposal originated; the reason given for the request was that such attachment would assist in the faster development of the area. A motion before North Sydney Council to go ahead with the application to the Boundaries Commissioner was lost in favour of a resolution to seek a further report on the situation.

NAREMBURN NEGLECT

CINDERELLA

"neglect of the Willoughby Council"

NEGLECTED

Naremburn's Lament

Naremburn

**CINDERELLA OF
WILLOUGHBY**

Naremburn has long been the Cinderella of the Northern Suburbs. Its streets are in a bad state.

examples of Council neglect.

Naremburn residents are dissatisfied.

Naremburn the Cinderella Suburb

From the earliest civic reports of Naremburn, the 'Cinderella' term continually appears. Journalists regularly used the term as being analogous with the suburb's name. Neglect appeared so real it led to the brink of secession from the municipality on at least three occasions.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Since closure of the church in 1973 and its purchase and occupation for worship by the Armenian community, few records of the church can be located. Earliest references to Congregational Church activities were noted in a Council Rates Register of 1884 where Lot 7 in Adolphus Street had a red ink notation — 'Congregational Church'. It does not describe the building. In another Register around that time, there was only the word 'church' pencilled in for the site. It could have been the first church in Naremburn. (Lot 7 is now Nos 6 and 6A Adolphus Street.)

In the Registers of 1888 and 1889 Lot 7 was shown as 'Church' in the same bold ink writing as for other Lots though no owner was indicated. However in 1890 the entry showed Lot 7 as 'land' and the owner as George Leafe. There was then only one house in that section of the street. The church previously referred to apparently was not of a very substantial nature, and it can be assumed that the only attraction to George Leafe was for the land it occupied.

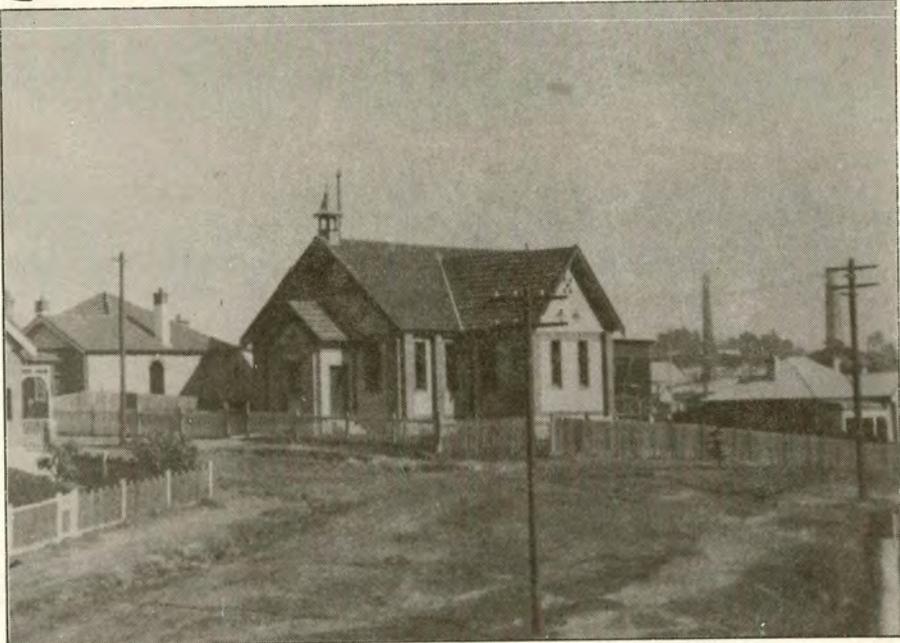
No records or references are available regarding this church's activities after vacation of the Adolphus Street premises. Probably it was only a small group and generally attached itself to the North Sydney Fellowship.

A brief report of the Congregational Church at Naremburn published in *The Congregationalist* in 1960 indicated that the first church was commenced in Naremburn by members of the North Sydney Fellowship in about 1903. The church was situated in Central Street in a hall previously known as The Temperance Hall, owned by George Leafe.

The Congregationalists longed for a church building of their own, and soon obtained two blocks of land (Lots 22-23) in Glenmore Street, a prime, elevated site on the corner with Qiamong Street. This was at the time of the development of the large Thomas Broughton Estate which also comprised the original grant of Humphrey Evans of 1794 on which this land was situated.

A church of weatherboard construction was first recorded here in the Council Rates Register in 1907. This building was said to have been damaged by fire, and in 1917 it was replaced by a fine brick

CHURCHES & SCHOOLS



*The Congregational Church and surrounds, c.1920.
(Photo: Mrs Belle Carlin)*



*The Congregational Church, c.1940.
(Photo: Mrs Joan Pezzella (nee Woodcock))*

church. In 1920 a pipe organ was purchased, installed and dedicated as a memorial to the fallen heroes of The Great War of 1914-18. The organ had previously been in service in the Devonshire Street Congregational Church before its demolition for extensions to Central Railway Station.

A record of the church would not be complete without a brief reference to the contributions, talents and support by the Woodcock family. Joseph Henry Woodcock was an English migrant who arrived in 1913 and first set up business as a grocer at Frenchs Road. Later he took over the grocery on the corner of Willoughby Road and Rohan Street. A highly respected businessman, he soon became a very active member of the Congregational Church and held many responsible positions, including Secretary and Choirmaster. He was recognised with a Life Deaconate in 1947. He died in December 1965. Joseph Woodcock developed and conducted a fine Children's Choir named The Sunshine Choir, which excelled at the special Anniversary Sunday service on 9 October 1927. The following evening there was a special Festival of Song. The whole family followed his lead and even as children were active in the church wherever they found an opportunity. His son Eric was a keen worker and held the position of Treasurer for many years before he left the district.

Among the best remembered organists was Perc. Beckenham who married Doris Woodcock. His place at the organ is always recalled



*Inside the Congregational Church in the 1920s.
(Photo from Mrs Belle Carlin)*



*The Woodcock family. Back row: Eric, Hilda, Doris, Frank.
Front row: Mr J. H. Woodcock, Ethel, Mrs Woodcock. (Photo from Eric Woodcock)*

by older members. He was best known for his contribution as an educationist. He was a teacher at Naremburn Public School and rose in his chosen career finally to attain the position of Deputy Director of Education. The first organist in the Glenmore Street church was Mrs Elsie Priestly, and another fine player was Brian Carlin.

Another stalwart of the church was the highly respected local policeman, Constable Thomas Manktelow (q.v.). He was appointed a Deacon. Living in his retirement in Naremburn, he was a tireless worker and was recognised as a vigorous fund-raiser for such projects as the installation of electric light and electric bellows for the organ. The pipe organ was converted from manual bellows to electric operation by Percy Beckenham Sen., a marine engineer who adapted an electric forge blower for the purpose. He was assisted by Rock Wilson. To transport the massive blower from his premises at 9 Edward Street, Willoughby they built a kind of heavy duty billycart.

Three generations of the Matters family were also closely involved with the church. William George Matters I built the new brick church in 1917. An excellent bricklayer and tuckpointer, he left his mark on many substantial houses in the district. William George Matters II specialised as a tuckpointer, a trade that demanded excellence in restoring the deteriorated lime mortar between brick courses. He also worked on the building of the church. Mrs Grace Matters, wife of

THE NAREMBURN STORY



Above: Congregational Church working bee c.1920. Back row: Messrs Richards, F. Pryor. Middle row: T. Manktelow, Rev. W. Marsh, C. Forsyth, A. Bradley, Rock Wilson, Mr Grimes. Front row: Mrs F. Pryor, Miss Joan Marsh, Mrs C. Forsyth, Mrs Springett. Children: Twins Colin and Alan Pryor. (Photo: Mrs Belle Carlin)



Sunday School children, Shield Competition winners and teachers in 1920s. (Photo from Mrs Belle Carlin)

W. G. Matters II, was a long-time Deacon and member of the church committee and active in the Ladies Guild right to the final meeting. William George Matters III installed all the electrical wiring, fittings, etc. when the hall was added to the church in 1951.

The Congregational Church was always proud of the strong Sunday School and at one time there were twenty-nine teachers and over two hundred and fifty pupils. The Annual Picnic and Sunday School Anniversary were yearly highlights. Balmoral Beach was the regular picnic venue and travel was by tram, which in early days terminated at Spit Junction. The downhill run to the beach was offset by the slow uphill toil at the end of the exhausting day. Who could forget the huge pile of sandwiches of corned beef and of egg. There were clothes baskets full of sandwiches and there were raspberry and lemon syrup drinks. Everyone had a mug on a string hanging from his or her neck. Among the ladies recalled as the tireless caterers were Mesdames Pryor, Wilson, C. Forsyth, Springett and Bulford. On the tram going home, the children sang appropriate Sunday School choruses such as 'Travelling home, travelling home, led by Jesus travelling home'. For the Sunday School Anniversaries, there were tiered platforms around the organ played by Perc. Beckenham and Esther Wilson. Belle Manktelow (who recalls so much of those Sunday School days) was at the piano. She first attended when she was four and became a Sunday School teacher at fourteen.

As a popular diversion, a tennis court was developed at the rear of the church prior to the addition of the hall. The commemorative marble tablet on the hall recorded:

THIS FOUNDATION STONE WAS LAID ON AUGUST 14th 1951
 BY REV. C. DENNIS RYAN B.A. CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGREGATIONAL
 UNION OF N.S.W. PASTOR: H. R. JEFFERIES J.P.

Rev. Jefferies was for some years an Alderman on Willoughby Municipal Council and he conducted a number of Special Civic Church Services when he was the regular minister, in conjunction with the North Sydney Church. Those services always included Civic dignitaries and on special occasions the State Governor. This type of service had long been part of the Church's recognition of civic involvement. On Sunday 24 May 1928, after a special Afternoon Song Service, a Civic Service was held in the evening, attended by His Worship The Mayor Ald. L. Bavin, the Town Clerk and Aldermen. The Rev. Henry E. Lawson preached the sermon titled 'Christ and Municipal Life'. Perc. Beckenham presided at the organ for the service, Miss Doris Woodcock was the pianist and Robert Pendlebury added harmony playing his violin. In September of that year a Sunshine Fair was conducted and the takings of £200 were reported as the best on record. It was a

mighty Fair with fourteen stalls. It also included A Cookery Competition.

In October 1963 the Rev. Jackson tendered his resignation. This necessitated the Church's appraisal of its financial ability to maintain a minister at Naremburn. As a result, the decision was taken in February 1964 to form a Joint Pastorate with the North Sydney Congregational Church. With this merger, the Rev. Harry Raymond Jefferies also became the Naremburn minister. Later that year an approach was received from the Methodists inviting the Naremburn Fellowship to unite with them in the Lower North district. It was considered at a meeting but no firm decision was reached.

In mid-1966 the Armenian Evangelical Church in the district approached the Church seeking use of the Church for 11.00 am Sunday services. A three month trial period without charge was arranged. At this time the Rev. Jefferies tendered his resignation because of the deteriorating financial situation that faced the Church. However, he offered to continue his pastoral services without stipend. In 1967 the Rev. Gordon Jones accepted combined pastoralship between Lane Cove and Naremburn Churches.

An annual Anniversary Service was held each October; in 1968 the Year Book and the Union indicated it was Naremburn's Sixtieth Anniversary and an appropriate service commemorating this milestone was arranged. Then, after members' reappraisal, it was considered to be the Seventieth Anniversary. (Municipal Council Registers record the first church on this site as in 1907 although completion and dedication may not have been effected till the following year, but community records refer to services having been conducted previously in a hall in Central Street.) The Special Anniversary Sunday was planned and two services, at 11.00 am and 7.15 pm, were held on 27 October 1968. A special effort was made to invite past members of the Church. The morning service was enhanced by a parade of Scouts and Cubs arranged by Mr Bassett, Group Scoutmaster of 1st Naremburn Scouts. The Rev. Gordon Jones conducted both services.

The Anzac Service in the following April was in the format that they had been proud to follow, with attendance by ex-service representatives, Municipal Council Officers and Aldermen and the various groups of Boy Scouts, Cubs and Girl Guides.

In August 1969 the Rev. Jones advised that he was retiring from the joint Lane Cove-Naremburn Fellowships, but that he proposed to be a member of Naremburn and to continue rendering pastoral care there. The next few years were difficult indeed, numerically and financially, but the regular Special Service observances were maintained — Anniversary, Civic, Temple Day and Anzac. Organisations such as the Order of the Eastern Star chose this Church for their annual church service of the Order.

At this time, uniting proposals were being prepared between Congregationalists, Methodists and Presbyterians, and the Naremburn Fellowship was advised of the voting procedure to be followed. At the special meeting on 18 June 1972, all eight members present voted by secret ballot in favour of union. In October of that year, the Rev. Jones resigned from the ministry on account of increasing ill-health. The members' sadness was intensified by his death a few months later, on 10 December, after a ministry of five and a half years. The Rev. Goodsell from the Roseville Church helped out with limited pastoral care.

Difficulties were experienced in filling the various church offices including organists. During the final fifteen years those at the console included Mr Yatman, Miss Aaron, Bill Clarke, Brian Allen, Mrs Ann Schreiber (nee Heap), and Miss Searle.

Time was obviously running out for the Naremburn faithful and at a Special Meeting on 29 March 1973 they resolved to dissolve the Naremburn Congregational Fellowship. At the next Special Meeting on 18 October 1973, a lengthy resolution directed the dispersal of properties and requested the Congregational Union to dispose of property and assets to the best advantage of the work of the Union. This being the final meeting of the Naremburn Congregational Fellowship, those present attached their signatures to the last Minutes:

As this was our final meeting,
 Mr Sheridan, thanked Secretary for
 his help over the years and he in
 turn, thanked all members for their
 assistance since death of our Minister
 last year.
 There being no further business
 the meeting was closed.

D. M. Richards

A. Duncombe

D. Sheridan

J. Jace

V. Abraham

P. Horster

A. Duncombe

Final meeting of Congregational Fellowship, 18 October 1973.

As the winding down of the Church proceeded, more and more of the executive and general duties were left to fewer and fewer final members. In the last years Mr W. Duncombe carried out much more than his recognised duties as Secretary and Treasurer. He then finally enacted the terminal executive procedures.

Over the many years of the work of the Church at Naremburn, many credits must be awarded to the Ladies Guild. There was no function or special service which did not owe its success to their involvement. If a complete history of this church is ever written, this band of faithful workers must feature with prominence. Activities of the Guild ensured members' interests were maintained, with financial advantage to the Church. Their final meeting also concluded in a spirit of regret but with understanding of the inevitable conclusion:

*So we all extend a very big "Thank you"
to this maybe our last meeting together, "Love
Peace and Goodwill to all."*

Signed President - M.E. Jones.

Secretary - B.M. Richards

Treasurer - H. Duncombe

Members of Graham

Trace matters

Denis Lovett.

Dr. Foster

M. Becke

John & Ann

D. Sheridan

Final Minute of Ladies Guild, Congregational Church

The church premises were then purchased by the Armenian Church for worship; later, they found a more suitable building elsewhere. Vandalism and general neglect took their toll as final acts of undeserved indignity. In October 1987 the church was demolished to make way for a Retirement Homes complex developed as an Armenian enterprise. The Temple which had enshrined Divine Serenity, which had embraced times of happiness, occasions of sorrow, and had filled the hearts of its flock with that Blessed Assurance engendered by their Faith, is now but a memory immortalised in the pages of history.

CHURCHES & SCHOOLS

The roll of ministers who served the church at Naremburn was compiled from an early brief report and The Congregational Year Books. Accuracy depends on the information regularly furnished to the compilers. Some inaccuracies were corrected to conform with records in the last and only Minute Book available, 1959-73.

CENTRAL STREET

The Rev. N. J. Cocks	(Pastoral care from North
The Rev. R. B. Reynolds	Sydney — No dates.)

GLENMORE STREET

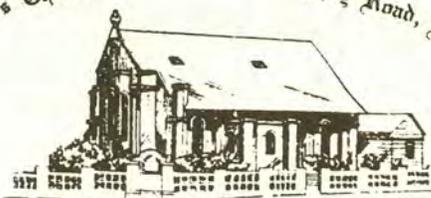
The Rev. W. A. Marsh	— - 1913	Pastoral care
	1913 - 1924	Full time
The Rev W. Geary	— - 1926	
The Rev. Henry E. Lawson	1927 - 1936	
The Rev D. L. Riley	1937 - 1938	
The Rev. J. A. Walliker	1939 - 1946	
The Rev H. R. Jefferies	1946 - 1954	
	vacant	
The Rev. J. McG. Jackson	1958 - 1963	
The Rev. H. R. Jefferies	1963 - 1967	While at North Sydney
The Rev. C. Gordon Jones	1967 - 1972	

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Anglicans in Central Township worshipped at St Stephen's, North Willoughby from the time that church was formed in 1872; prior to that, services were conducted wherever accommodation was available. Around 1881-82 discussions commenced regarding the possibility of building a School Church at Central Township for the parishioners residing there. About this time the future for 'The Township' seemed assured. The first application had been made for a public school and a number of small shops and businesses were operating.

In July 1882 a meeting was held to plan for the new church. John Williams of Market Street was appointed Treasurer and his son was elected Secretary. A site was already available in Market Street. The architect, Alfred Cook, designed and planned the new church without fee. It was to be of brick, with a later decision to construct of timber.

St. Cuthbert's Church of England Willoughby Road, Naremburn



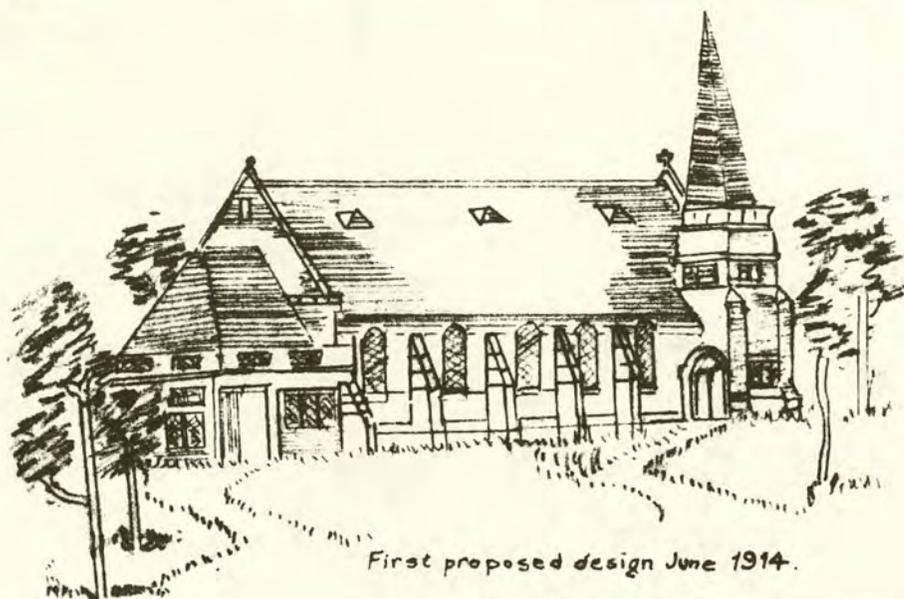
Many fund raising functions were held and a Subscription List was opened. Tenders were called and awarded to Mr T. Nicholson. On Saturday, 10 February 1883 the cornerstone was laid by the Very Rev. the Vicar-General, in the presence of over one hundred people. The land for the new church was held in the joint names of Rev. D. Murphy and Archbishop Smith. (This stone is now a cornerstone at the south-east corner of the house that was built at No. 53 after the church moved to its present site. The inscription was then obliterated.)

The Vicar-General, in his address, correctly forecast that this small church could lead to something of a much greater magnitude. The church was completed and opened on Saturday, 5 May 1883 by The Very Rev. Dean of Sydney, assisted by the Revs S. H. Childe, A. Yarnold and D. Murphy, Curate of St Stephen's. Seating 140, its cost including land was about £450. Most of the furnishings were donated by parishioners, the lamps being the gift of Alexander Dodds. Before the following winter the church was lined by the Nicholson brothers who donated their labour; the materials cost £12. Worship time was 3.15 pm each Sunday with Sunday School at 2.00 pm. Alexander Dodds was Superintendent.

Unfortunately after scant notations of the first two years of achievements, no further recorded activities are available. However, in 1901 the church was used for meetings of the newly formed Progress Association. It can also be recorded that from the time of the planning of the church, the locality gradually became more widely known as Naremburn, the previous District name.

Rev. Daniel Murphy, Rector of St Stephen's, ministered to the new church until the appointment of Rev. Arthur Reeves as Curate in 1906. Rev. Reeves resigned from his appointment in 1907. He was succeeded by the Rev. W. A. Fletcher who, after a year, was followed by the Rev. W. H. Edwardes. The following year the Rev. C. M. Statham replaced him. Within the year, in 1910, his place was filled by the Rev. F. W. E. Wilkinson until the Rev. W. T. L. A. Pearce was appointed Curate-in-charge in 1912 and Rector in 1917.

The Rev. Murphy died on 15 April 1909 and was buried in Gore Hill cemetery. He was a well respected man, tireless in his ministry to the two churches and a concerned participant in community affairs. Regrettably the inscription on his gravestone fails to record his ministry.



First proposed design June 1914.

(Drawn from church records by Eric Wilksch)

to the church at Naremburn, the church he was greatly instrumental in bringing into existence.

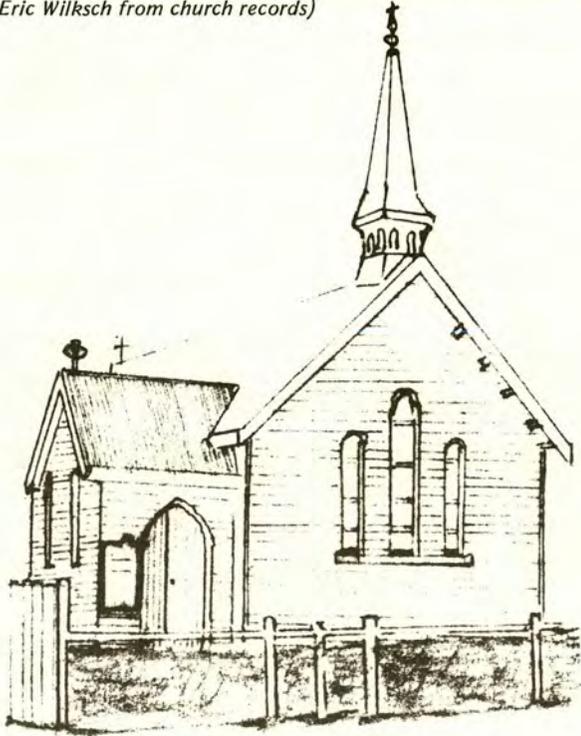
In 1912 the Mission District of Naremburn was created and in December of that year the Rev. W. T. L. A. Pearce, B.A., was appointed as the inaugural Pastor of the new District. (It was proclaimed a Parish in 1917.) Soon after his arrival Rev. Pearce saw the advantage of uniting the two churches of the District. The other church was in Alexander Street, Crows Nest. He learnt of the availability of suitable land in Willoughby Road at the corner of Merrenburn Avenue. He was supported in his quest by Charles Butler, a local building foreman. Many members opposed the selection on the grounds that the block of land was unnecessarily large. The Archbishop in 1914 gave his unreserved support and consent for a centrally located church, and assurance of a substantial grant if the congregation could raise £500 in the next six months.

Some planning had already taken place and the church *Messenger* proclaiming this information, carried on its cover a sketch of the proposed church with typical flying buttresses and a tower and spire at the north-west corner. A later scheme depicted a design very similar to that ultimately selected but showing an attractive tower and spire above the entrance porch.

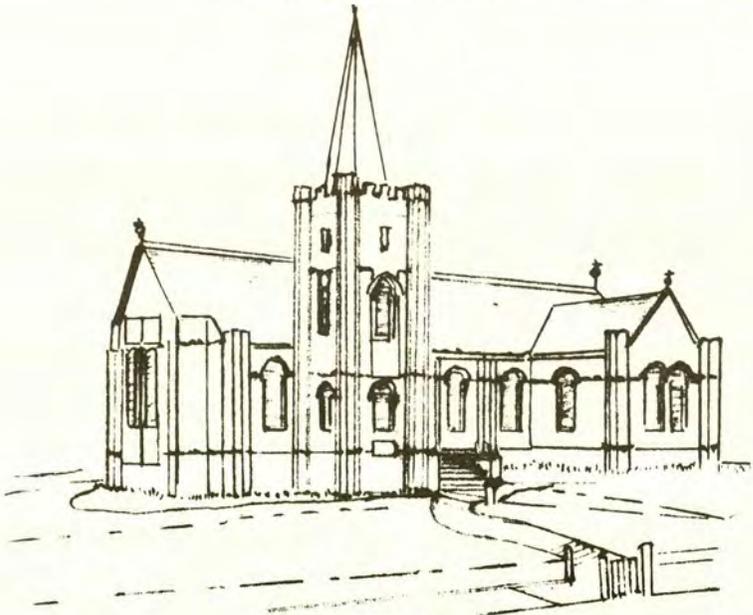
The Rev. Pearce had displayed his energetic application to his clerical obligations: without assistants, and in the preceding eighteen months, he had made 5,575 home visits and 900 visits weekly at hospitals and like places. He had also held 240 services.

THE NAREMBURN STORY

(Drawings by Eric Wilksch from church records)



Market Street Church 1883.



A later design

Building plans continued despite the privations of wartime and many men away on war service. Tenders were ultimately called, with B. J. Waterhouse, the architect. The successful contract went to builders, Messrs Paynter and Tropman. The foundation stone was laid by the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Wright, on Saturday, 11 December 1915, and the building was opened by the Archbishop on Saturday, 29 July 1916. Church records register the sorrowful and serious aspects of the World War then raging; the pathos of war was evident in the regular reports. The Honour Roll, later erected, bears mute testimony to the sorrows inflicted on the community. A Memorial Wall along both street frontages was erected even before the cessation of hostilities, complete with a fine trachyte slab commemorating the fallen, across the corner. Four fine wrought iron gates, memorial gifts, were also incorporated. The wall, gates and slab were dedicated by the Dean of Sydney accompanied by Chaplain McKenzie M.C., of the Salvation Army, on 21 December 1918. (Regrettably, in the 1970s, because of deterioration and some damage, the wall was recapped at a lower level, sadly losing most of its original character. The attractive surrounding brickwork and the trachyte memorial slab were also removed. The slab now reposes in the church. The memorial gates were also removed as they could no longer be accommodated with the lowered wall.)

A church plant was not considered complete until a hall was added. This situation was approached with enthusiasm as a further opportunity to demonstrate gratitude to those who served for King and Empire and to remember especially those who had made the Supreme Sacrifice. B. J. Waterhouse was also the architect for the hall. Francis Pontey, head of a local family and Parish member, was the contractor for its erection. The foundation stone was laid on 5 February 1921 by General Sir Granville Ryrie. The Memorial Hall was duly completed and dedicated by the Archbishop of Sydney on 1 August 1921. The Parish Hall soon became an asset to both the Parish and the community in general as a place for meetings and functions. The public school opposite, used the hall for some classes when the school was unable to cope because of inadequate accommodation. The hall was used for the last time for the luncheon following the morning service on the occasion of the Centenary Service in 1983.

After eleven years with the Parish, Rev. Pearce accepted an offer to move to St Augustine's, Neutral Bay in 1922. His years at Naremburn were most progressive for the Parish. When he came, there was a debt of £100 on the old church with parishioners numbering about fifty. When he left there were over 350 members with a similar number of Sunday School children. The Confirmation Class in 1921 numbered ninety. The Curates assisting Rev. Pearce were Rev. P. Westley and then Rev. J. R. Le Huray.

The successor to Rev. Pearce was Rev. H. W. Barder, M.A., who had

been a chaplain in the A.I.F. He was regarded as an intellectual, full of energy and activity but expected co-operation. He organised ecumenical Watchnight Services (New Year's Eve). His comparatively short stay ended in May 1924 when he accepted a call to All Saints, Parramatta. He is particularly remembered for a history he produced — *An Historical Sketch* which extended from 1912-24 and recorded the life of the Parish in that period. His magnificent contribution of a well-documented historical record for posterity has one regrettable short-coming — the congregation would have included members who could have recalled the life of the church from its beginning in Naremburn in 1883. That gap can never be effectively filled now. Despite this comment, 'Thank you Rev. Barder.'

The Rev. L. T. N. Hamilton, who was the Assistant Curate, maintained pastoral care until the appointment of the Rev. E. Potter. His overlapping ministry ensured a smooth transition. The Rev. Edgar Potter, L.Th. left a lasting mark in Naremburn. His sixteen-year ministry was one of great fulfilment and satisfaction. It encompassed the years of plenty after World War I, the deprivations accompanying the great Depression and the onset of World War II. His great concern was for the deaf, and much of his ministry was directed to those so afflicted. A sudden serious illness cut short his ministry in June 1940.

Rev. A. N. S. Barwick followed that illustrious ministry and saw the sorrowful side of war as it affected those back home, especially when he advised them of bereavements. He also took a keen interest in community service affairs. In 1943 Rev. R. N. Simmons accepted the challenge of the Parish through the closing years of the War. He also saw competent, resourceful and experienced leaders emerging at the lay level as it affected the Parish in post-war reconstruction. Ill health brought his ministry to a regrettable close in 1952.

For the next three years the Rev. C. M. Kemmis applied himself to the service of the Parish during a post-war development time. His successor in 1955, the Rev. Don Langshaw, saw the opportunity to put into practice ideals he had been espousing. When he accepted a 'call' in 1960, he left the scene reflecting his active involvements. The Rev. Andrew Hayman who followed served the Parish with the deepest sincerity and, when he left in 1968, was remembered for his fine and concerned ministry. He was succeeded by the Rev. William Bloxham and, during his four year term, he ensured that the Parish maintained its appreciated place in the community. He was also remembered for his punctuality with services. In 1972 the Rev. David West accepted the challenge as a young minister and, during his four years at Naremburn, had the valuable opportunity to experience the value of community involvement.

Parishioners had the interesting experience of a second ministry with the Rev. Don Langshaw in 1976. Changes in Parish circumstances

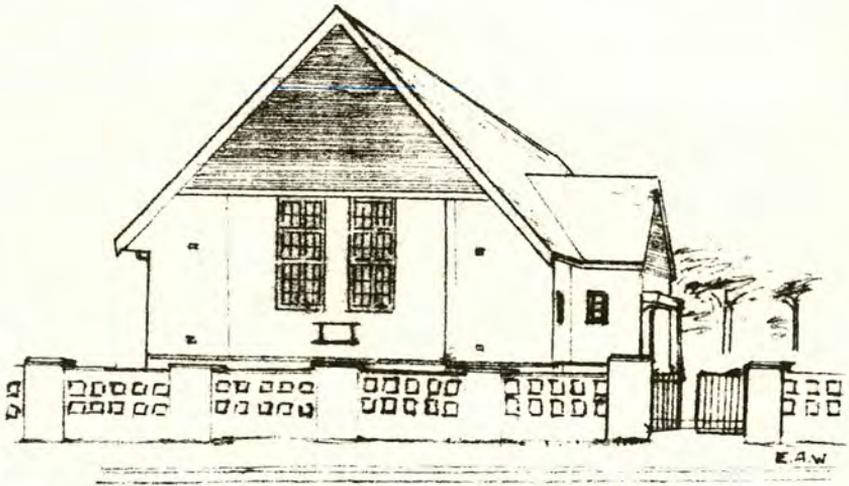
saw the formation of a combined Parish with All Saints at Cammeray. This was certainly a challenge he effectively pursued. His successor in 1981 was the Rev. Joe Burrows, and during his six-year incumbency he was actively involved in a massive reconstruction programme. He would not consider a 'call' until the programme was completed in 1987. The Rev. Ernest Brian Wynn commenced his ministry in the combined Parish in February 1988 facing the challenge of a congregation meeting further devastation by an expressway extension.

To record in detail all the ongoing activities of the Parish would result in a very extensive report indeed, and will be covered in a history of the Parish in the course of preparation. The Parish after World War II experienced a series of activities and projects that reflected the magnificent support of the laity and maintained the strength and viability of the Parish. The fine choir was sustained and all age groups were energetically involved in appropriate activities. Sporting teams proudly brought credit to the Parish.

Then this Parish met conditions which affected many church circles — a decrease in numbers brought about by the death or relocation of senior members and a general move out of the area. There were few replacements for the Parish among the influx of new residents who came from a great variety of cultural origins. To add to this, the proposed Warringah Expressway became a reality and claimed many houses in the area, many of them homes of parishioners. Among the devastations, it placed a physical chasm between the rectory in Rhodes Avenue and the church.

Rectors had come and Rectors had gone, and each year the anniversary of the present church in 1916 was celebrated with great enthusiasm. No one really remembered the building of the first church in Market Street had been in 1883. The year 1983 was almost on the doorstep when it was realised that year was the centenary of that first church. The parish was already beset with problems of a property nature. The hall was considered to be in a bad state of repair and the loose heavy tiles of the roof were considered unsafe. The rectory was too far separated from the church, and the diminished congregation indicated a smaller worship area would suffice. This was during the incumbency of the Rev. Joe Burrows who became very aware of the situation and worked tirelessly in search of a practical solution. Plans were to demolish the Memorial Hall and to erect a rectory in its place. Consideration was given to re-arranging the worship area in a much reduced format and to include a hall within the church. A number of plans were considered and finally all rejected.

The Centenary of Anglican worship in Naremburn arrived and a great day of thanksgiving and rejoicing was celebrated on 5 May 1983. With many former parishioners present, it was also a day of reminiscences, especially around the display of memorabilia. The



The Memorial Hall, 1921

luncheon was held in the hall in the company of many church, parliamentary and civic dignitaries. This was the last time the hall was used: soon after, it was demolished and replaced with a new rectory. The old rectory had been built about 1910 by Mr C. Schultz, a builder of high quality houses; it was purchased by the Rev. L. Pearce soon after his arrival in 1912 and sold by him to the Parish after he left in 1922. This was now sold for an excellent price and enabled the new rectory to proceed. It was dedicated on Sunday 30 September 1984. A demountable hall was erected on land at the eastern end of the church property and dedicated on Sunday 22 March 1987 by Rev. David West, a previous rector, thus completing the church plant at one location.

All Saints Cammeray is part of the combined Parish with St Cuthbert's, Naremburn. The consolidation was effected during the second incumbency of the Rev. Don Langshaw.

A LIST OF CLERGY RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE NAREMBURN CHURCH FROM 1883

The Rev. Daniel Murphy of St Stephen's Church, Willoughby.	1883 - 1906
The Rev. Arthur Reeves	1906 - 1907
The Rev. W. A. Fletcher	1907 - 1908
The Rev. W. H. Edwardes	1908 - 1909
The Rev. C. M. Statham	1910
The Rev. F. W. E. Wilkinson	1910 - 1912
The Rev. W. T. L. A. Pearce, Curate-in-Charge.	1912 - 1917
The Rev. W. T. L. A. Pearce, Rector	1917 - 1922
The Rev. J. R. Le Huray, Assistant Curate	1921 - 1923
The Rev. H. W. A. Barder, Rector.	1922 - 1924
The Rev. L. T. N. Hamilton, Assistant Curate	1923 - 1924
The Rev. E. Potter, Rector	1925 - 1940
The Rev. A. N. S. Barwick, Rector	1940 - 1943
The Rev. R. N. Simmons, Rector	1943 - 1952
The Rev. C. M. Kemmis, Rector	1952 - 1955
The Rev. D. E. Langshaw, Rector	1955 - 1960
The Rev. A. W. Hayman, Rector.	1960 - 1968
The Rev. W. Bloxham, Rector	1968 - 1972
The Rev. D. A. West, Rector	1972 - 1976
The Rev. D. E. Langshaw, Rector (With Cammeray).	1976 - 1981
The Rev. J. A. Burrows, Rector (With Cammeray).	1981 - 1987
The Rev. E. B. Wynn, Rector.	1988 -

THE NAREMBURN CHURCH OF CHRIST (1925-85)

Sixty years of this Church's activities began when a group of adherents sought suitable premises in the district. A Mr Plummer considered a hall in Central Street as ideally situated but expressed concern that the building was in a bad state of repair. Mr Edwards, a well-known and respected tea merchant, came to the aid of the group by purchasing the building and restoring it. The one condition was that it would always be known as The Naremburn Church of Christ. The only major changes made were the remodelling of the front entrance and windows, the addition of a kitchen and also a Baptistry and windows.

Mr Plummer was installed as the first Pastor. After he moved to Victoria to further his ministry, he was succeeded by Henry Charles Gowans, proprietor of a printing business. Mr Kirkwood followed for a short time and when he concluded his ministry it was decided that



Church of Christ in Central Street, 1970

(Photo: Eric Wilksch)

pastoral duties would be carried out by lay preachers. Jim Jones, a dedicated local resident accepted the challenge and held the position to lead the congregation until its closure. On 25 May 1960 a special meeting was called to discuss ownership of the building. A decision was made to purchase it to ensure the continuity of the church under the same name.

Two members are entitled to special recognition for the magnificent contribution of their talents to Church activities over many years. Charles Coomber, over a span of forty-five years (1925-70) served as Secretary, Elder and Sunday School Superintendent. Jim Jones served as Sunday School Teacher, Deacon, then Sunday School Superintendent, Secretary and Pastor and, with the assistance of Reg. Troy, kept the building in a satisfactory state of repair.

As membership began to wane and it became obvious that a viable future was uncertain, a decision was made in 1985 to cease activities as a church, in October of that year, concluding a valuable ministry to the community. The building was disposed of and, with the sale of all assets, all monies were dispersed to the various mission societies and activities supported by the Church during its sixty years' ministry.

— (Based on recollections of Jim Jones, Willoughby.)

ST LEONARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

The first Church School in Naremburn was the Catholic school in Market Street, alongside the first Church of England on Lots 38 and 39 held in the name of Mary Angliss. It was opened in 1894 by the Sisters of St Joseph's. It is reported that an old shop was acquired, which is probably correct as a shop and early post office were recorded on this site at one time. The school also served as a church and, by the end of the century, had become totally inadequate for the dual role despite having been enlarged. On Sundays some of the congregation were crowded on to the street. Masses were celebrated by the Jesuit Fathers. The number of children had also increased to the extent at which teaching was carried out with difficulty.

A new school/church was built in 1904. The foundation stone had been laid by His Eminence Cardinal Moran and the building opened by him on Sunday, 4 December 1904. The inscription on the stone is: 'This stone was blessed and laid by His Eminence Cardinal Moran. The 21st February 1904.' This stone was ultimately brought to the present church site and left in the school playground where years of shoes climbing over it obliterated much of the pertinent inscription and it appeared generally regarded as an un revered mystery stone. It is now intended that it be restored and placed in an appropriate position as a permanent reminder of the early days of Catholic education in Naremburn.

The Sisters of the new school held a number of fund raising functions, including a grand concert in the School of Arts, North Sydney. This school/church laboured effectively for many years but eventually it became obvious that a separate church would soon be essential. Fortunately those entrusted with the task of seeking an appropriate site were men of vision and selected a fine site at the corner of Willoughby and Donnelly Roads, part of the Alexander Dodds Estate which was part of the original grant of J. S. Ryan of 1849. This portion of the estate was known as Dodds' Picnic Grounds.

The plans for the new church were of magnificence and vision. The proposed new church was given the patronage of St Leonard of Port Maurice. The cost of the land was £1,456. The foundation stone was laid in April 1913; on 7 December 1913 the building was solemnly blessed by Monsignor O'Brien and dedicated by the Right Rev. Monsignor O'Haran. This was the first section of the planned new church and consisted of the central portion, half of the nave and a chapel for the Sisters of St Joseph and their boarders, with seating accommodation for about 600 persons. Even at this time this portion of the church was regarded as one of the most handsome and artistically constructed churches on the northern side of the water.

This building enabled the Catholics who worshipped in the school/

churches in Market Street and Chandos Street to worship under one roof. The Church School in Chandos Street, although officially given the name of St Columcille, was always known as St Ignatius's. It was in the care of the Sisters of Mercy. Our Lady of Dolours school at Greenwich, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, together with St Joseph's Orphanage for girls at Gore Hill, conducted by the Sisters of St Joseph, were also considered in the church district.

The Pastor of the Parish was Father Barry who, after the dedication ceremony at a public meeting (nowadays known as a reception), gave a fine address relating to the circumstances surrounding the new building and mentioned that the remaining debt of the project was £3,651. The full cost was £4,102. The building (at this stage) had a length of 88 ft by 72 ft across transepts and a height from ground to ridge of 56 ft. It was illuminated by gas lights. The architect was J. T. McCarthy, with Messrs Brown and Haynes of Marrickville the builders. The plans for the complete building provided for twin towers and a spire 118 ft high.

In 1916 the Catholic Parish of Naremburn subdivided from the Parish of Chatswood. The need for a presbytery close to the new church was obvious, a cottage being rented for the purpose at 30/- per week. The heavy debt on the church delayed the building of the much needed presbytery. By 1918 the plans for a presbytery had been prepared by J. T. McCarthy and received the approval of the Architectural Committee and His Grace, the Archbishop of Sydney. During the year, building commenced but the laying of the foundation stone was abandoned owing to the outbreak of the influenza epidemic. The contract price was £2,369 and, with other expenses, it totalled £2,500. A garage had been erected during the previous year on church grounds adjoining the presbytery site for £110. The presbytery was completed for the blessing and opening by His Grace the Archbishop in October 1919. At the public reception which followed the service, Rev. Father Sheerin welcomed the visitors, gave a brief outline of the project and lauded the efforts of Archbishop Barry, responsible for the building of the church and for selecting the presbytery site.

With the new church and facilities becoming well established at the site in Willoughby Road, and the school still being conducted at the original site in Market Street, consideration was being given to complete the consolidation of the entire plant adjacent to the church. The Depression retarded the programme, but it was decided to venture in faith. A new school, hall and annex were built during those years, enabling the Market Street school to be closed in 1931; classes resumed in the new school the following year.

The present convent which replaced the original inadequate building, later demolished, had the foundation stone blessed on 22 September 1935 by Very Rev. E. O'Brien, P.P., V.P. of the Catholic Presbytery,

Mosman. The convent was enlarged to accommodate Juniorate girl students as boarders. Younger boarders were also later admitted. The Kindergarten rooms were completed in April 1937 and immediately occupied. The building was described as handsome, well lit and well ventilated, with a verandah eighty feet long. Most of the material used in the construction was recycled from the Market Street building: this included 39,000 bricks, timber, roofing, slates, glass, etc., all described as being in first-class condition. Plans and specifications had been prepared gratis. The building, fencing and ground repairs cost about £800. The entire work was valued at £2,500. Attendance at that time totalled 130 children.

Approval was granted in 1936 to build three additional classrooms to cater for the rapid increase in the number of children. The remaining usable materials from the church school in Market Street were utilised in the new rooms, as a buyer for them could not be obtained. The stone foundations also found a place. The foundations of the new rooms were planned to carry two storeys should they be needed in the future. By recycling the Market Street materials, it was hoped the new building would be completed free of debt. The plans and specifications were obtained free of cost from a local builder 'who is one of our people'.

St Leonard's school today has an enviable standing in the community and is rightly proud of its acceptance by so many migrant families as the school of their choice. A principle inculcated in the school's educational ideals is to continue to provide individual care and an all-round Christian education.

The church spire: Although the original plans were for twin spired towers, the architect and others considered a single spire the more appropriate structure to complete the church, given the aesthetics of the building and the elevation of the site which made it a distinctive landmark. Allan G. Robertson of Kingsgrove, an architect of merit and a member of the church, was commissioned to carry out extensions and add the spire. Spire building of timber with a copper sheath, as generally practised, was becoming a lost art as so few spires were being built. Consideration was given to employing more modern means of construction. Stan Hall, a civil engineer of the North Shore, was approached to see if he would consider designing a structure utilising steel. Mr Hall accepted the challenge, foreseeing a major difficulty in safely placing a completed spire into position on the tower. Its galvanised steel framework was prefabricated in two sections for delivery, assembled on the site and hoisted in entirety on to its permanent position, complete with the attractive and appropriate coronet surmounting it. The copper cladding was then attached and securely seamed. The spire, finished in 1955, assured its intended attraction as a landmark, promoting of course its primary role of ecclesiastic symbolism.



*St Leonard's Catholic Church
spire prepared for hoisting*

(Photo: Miss Catherine Matters)



*Copper cladding of church
spire almost complete*

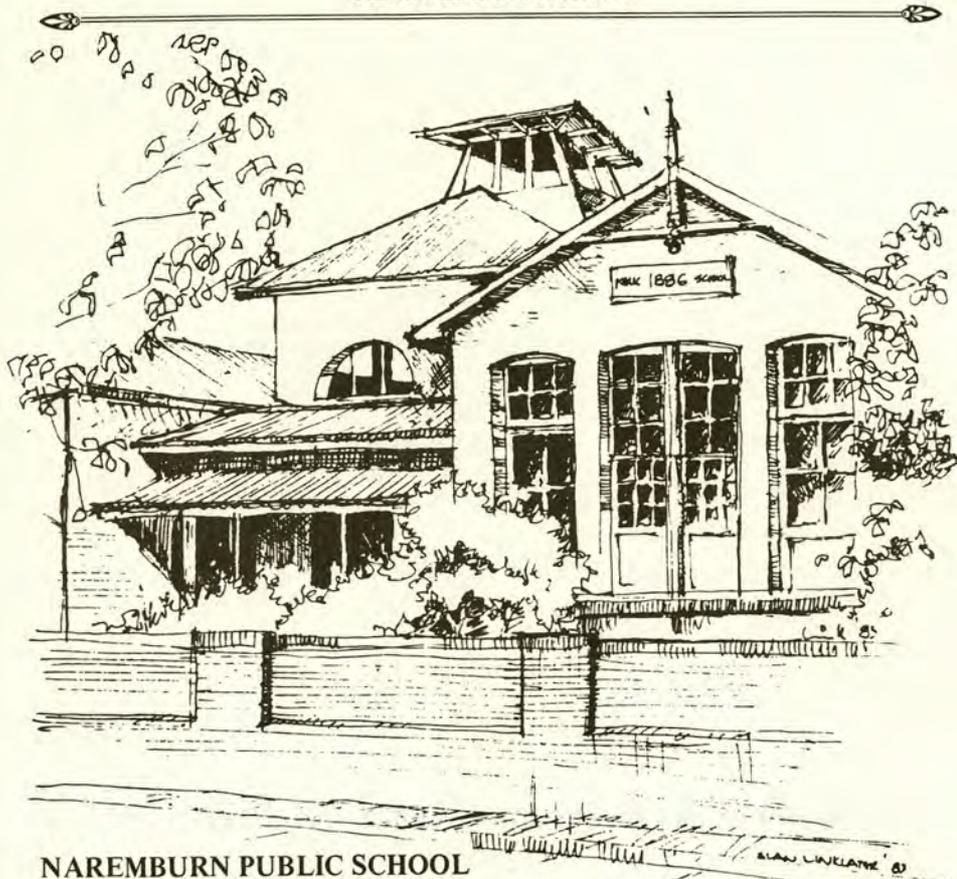
(Photo: Miss Catherine Matters)

Father Holland: It is generally conceded that the Parish Priest who enjoyed the longest and most popular incumbency at St Leonard's Roman Catholic Church, Naremburn was Father Vincent Holland. For confirmation that his popularity 'knew no bounds', ask anyone who was a child during the time he served his flock at Naremburn. Children always loved and adored him, even at a time when 'oldies' were just tolerated, perhaps even avoided. Observing the adulations of his extensive young 'family' was like a journey back in time, a re-enactment of the Good Shepherd: 'Suffer the little children to come unto me'. This regular sight was always like a replay of one of the most beautiful stories of Scripture and children ever told. As these children reached adulthood, their respect for Father never waned, their proud moments were when their own children spontaneously exhibited the same love and affection for their great and concerned Pastor.

In 1976 Sister Helen, a talented teacher at the Convent School, encouraged her young pupils to produce a brief history of Naremburn. One article was titled, 'A Tribute to Father Holland'. In simple and brief language it says it all. The few spelling errors are retained:

Father Holland has been a priest for 53 yrs and has been a parish priest for 42 yrs. Father has been in Naremburn for 21 yrs and has been a parish priest all the time. He will celebrate his 22nd anniversary for being in Naremburn on the 4th Nov. 1976. He had his Golden Jubilee in 1972.

Here are some places that Father has been before coming to Naremburn; Maroochra, Eskenville, Richmond, Penrith, Eskenville, and then Naremburn. Father Holland is always on the playground and all the children love him. He always welcomes people from other countries and has a fantastic memory for names and places. Some people I know feel more comfortable saying confession to Father Holland than to other priests.



NAREMBURN PUBLIC SCHOOL

As the 1800s were reached, rapid changes were taking place in the locality known until then as Central Township. The district name of Naremburn was being adopted for the settlement which was progressively being enlarged, though there were some dwellings unoccupied. These were generally substandard even by local values of the time.

The nearest public schools were at North Sydney, one and a half miles distant, and at North St Leonards, one mile away. The children traversed rough bush tracks for the shortest way. Parents were concerned for the safety of their school-age children if they were to attend school regularly irrespective of age and weather conditions.

An application was tendered to the Department of Public Instruction in January 1882 for a public school. This was rejected. For the forty-seven children indicated, alternate schools were available, so Inspector J. L. Jones reported. In February 1885 a further application was made, this time by John Williams, of Market Street, on behalf of parents. The number of school-age children was stated to have increased to sixty-five. Inspector Allpass considered that conditions had not drastically changed and that about twenty of the children were below

the statute age of six years for compulsory attendance and could not be considered. The application was rejected.

John Williams, who had a glass case factory in Garland Road, was an ardent community worker and active in building the first Church of England in Market Street. He was very perturbed by the action of the Department and sponsored a further application in September 1886. As proof of the local need, the Department was informed that a local lady resident had formed a private school but the seventy or eighty pupils were too many for her limited accommodation. Inspector Allpass this time regarded the situation so sufficiently changed that he recommended a school be built at Naremburn. Also there were some thirty children in the Gore Hill area to be considered. Mr Allpass further recommended the two acre site where the school now stands, despite a dispute over the ownership of the land. William Clymer's tender of £1,250 (\$2,500) for the erection of a school and teacher's residence was accepted.

The Department received an application from Miss Florence Williams for appointment as girls' mistress. Miss Williams was the local lady who had established the private school and whose action appeared to convince the Department of the genuine need of a public school. She was not appointed as she held no qualifications and had no satisfactory experience or even the required training. Miss Williams was the daughter of John Williams, the principal promoter for the development of a public school. The exercise of the private school had certainly been successful. Her (temporary) private school had probably been conducted in the new Church of England in Market Street.

On 16 May 1887 the school commenced with William Swann (q.v.) as Head Teacher. There was no fanfare for the opening, and following heavy downpours of rain severely affected early enrolments. By the end of the year the roll stood at over 180. The school comprised two rooms, one smaller than the other. Within a year John Williams became quite agitated in his efforts to have the boys and girls segregated. His daughters, he complained in a letter, had come home quite ill from the effluvia of tobacco from some of the big boys. Language not fit for young girls to hear was being audibly whispered. He feared production of larrikins and resultant debauched minds of young girls. The District School Board, after a visit in 1891, recommended the school be enlarged, which was done in the same year.

Sanitation is often a problem in public institutions and schools are no exception. In 1904 there was considerable disquiet over the situation of the school toilet facilities. The newspapers published a number of scathing reports about the prevailing conditions. The sewer line stopped close to the school but, because of existing levels and lack of nearby residential development, it was not considered economical to connect the school. All was not rosy when a number of

Council Aldermen visited the school to inspect the situation. So offensive were the conditions that, with one accord, they lit their pipes and puffed hard to offset the smell. When there were a number of diphtheria cases, the school toilets were blamed, especially by the newspapers. Then in 1906 the sewer was connected.

In 1907 the number of children on the roll was about 500 but desk accommodation was only for 260, so an effort was made to improve the situation. A deputation to the Minister presented a petition of signatures over thirty pages long. The Minister had had prior briefing on Departmental recommendations, hence he was able to placate the deputation by assuring the members that they would get the enlargements sought. The additions costing £1,855 (\$3,710) were completed by September 1908 and furnished with dual desks to replace the old style long desks and forms. A building was erected in 1911 for the purpose of manual training and domestic science but it was occupied almost entirely by pupils from other overcrowded classrooms until the infants' building was completed in 1912. The new infants' building had the appearance of a Federation-style bungalow.

At the beginning of 1913 the status of the school was raised to Superior Public School because of the number of secondary pupils available. However, the title was lost in the following year because of the availability of secondary schools with better facilities in nearby suburbs. It was apparently restored later as it appeared on correspondence and general school materials for many years, right through the 1920s and into the 1930s.

In 1916 John Broome was appointed Headmaster and held that position till 1932. Pupils of his time continue to speak in high and affectionate terms of the man. This was reflected in the high opinion held of the school at the time by parents everywhere. Perusal of enrolment forms indicates the wide area from which pupils came to be part of a school with such an enviable reputation.

In 1921 a junior technical department was established for boys from local and neighbouring suburbs. This section continued to grow and at the end of 1935 it was transferred to become the basis of the new North Sydney Junior High School, which ultimately became North Sydney Technical High School.

Although apparently not on departmental records, accommodation was so acute in the early Twenties that the recently built Church Hall, at the Church of England across the road, was impressed to accommodate classes for some time. Pupils of the day still refer to this situation. Also in the 1920s the number of senior girls at Naremburn school grew, and in 1925 a domestic science department was formed. At the beginning of 1934 this section formed the basis of Willoughby Girls' High School.

The school reverted to being a primary school once again from 1936.

In 1941 an Intermediate High School department was formed which provided a secondary course up to Intermediate Certificate standard. The school was now known as Naremburn Intermediate High School. This lasted until 1966 when the Intermediate High School rating was dropped and the school became a Central School. The only difference, however, was the name. The secondary section of the school was finally removed at the end of 1974 and the school again became a regular primary school.

The great developments were in the 1920s so we will return to those years. They were regarded as the years of the school's 'high': enrolments soared and were expected to continue with the establishment of secondary sections. New buildings were envisaged but the Parents and Citizens Association was not happy with the proposal which was to decrease yard space further. A large meeting appointed a deputation to wait on the Minister, urging that any further buildings should be on a site other than at present. It was to stress that enrolment was now 1,200, with great increases envisaged for a number of well-founded reasons. A recommendation was for vacant land then available across the road (Dalleys Road). The success of the deputation can be gauged by the magnificent two-storey brick building erected in 1923 for the girls' department. It was designed to accommodate 400 pupils and would permit further extensions.

Enrolment reached 1,500 in 1925, partly as a result of overcrowding at neighbouring schools. So the last big additions were made, being completed in 1927 with the accommodation for an additional 500 pupils spread over several departments. Reports of several pupils of the day state that at assembly one morning Mr Broome announced that he had enrolled the two thousandth pupil. What this figure actually referred to is not known as the official peak enrolment is shown as 1,700 in 1930. Then, by 1935, there was a slight drop and, by 1940 the figure stood at 850, mainly through the loss of the secondary section.

The teacher's residence was demolished in 1933 to afford more playing area. It had been rented to one of the cleaners for several years. When this residence was built in 1887 it was given the name 'Sherbourne'; later it was renamed 'Woodlands'.

Enrolments have continued in a downward trend, particularly as Naremburn's population became older. Also, it was affected by the influx of migrants whose children in many instances were being enrolled in private and church schools. A drastic blow was experienced when the Warringah Freeway was constructed to Naremburn, causing demolition of many homes and the relocation elsewhere of the occupants. A further decrease is to be expected with the planned extension of the Freeway by the Gore Hill link. Losses are also incurred by parents leaving for other areas as families increased in number.

Many of the houses of the Federation period were comparatively small and a number were of the semi-detached style.

Some interesting sidelights to the School's history are:

Disputed land ownership: When building of the school was originally authorised and land purchase from the Thomas Broughton Estate being finalised, several disputes of ownership arose. One contestant was John Boyce, an aged surveyor, living on this land in a rather primitive abode. He claimed he had been given this portion of land by the Gores in 1853 in appreciation of his service to them, especially in the capacity of looking after the land for them. A few years later there was another dispute when several men laid claim to the land, insisting they held title. They stated they would occupy the premises until their claim was recognised. In an ensuing court case they were found guilty of trespass.

Aboriginal involvement: During the first years of the school when children had to leave their hats and lunches in a style of open vestibule, it would happen that by lunchtime lunches would be missing, stolen by the local Aborigines. They were encamped 'down the back of the school at the creek'.

(A comprehensive history of the school, *Naremburn Public School 1887-1987* published in 1987, prepared by the Centenary Committee of the P. & C. Association, is the source of much of the material in this article.)

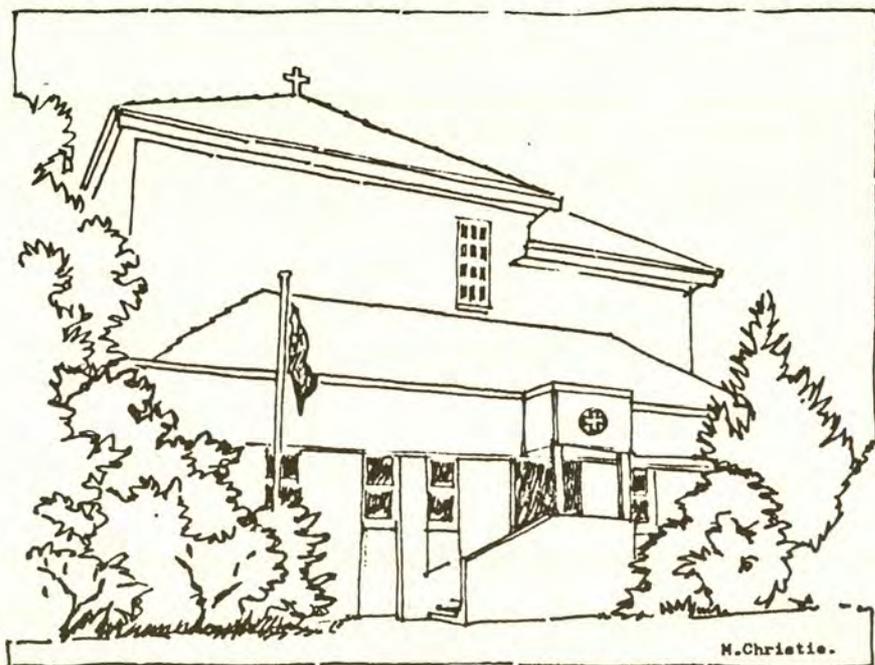
ANOTHER DISTRICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

In the same year (1894) as the Catholic School opened in Market Street, another school was opened in Chandos Street on the southern side at the west corner of Mitchell Street. This was regarded as being part of Naremburn. The following description of the opening of this school, and its local involvement at the time, is particularly interesting and is from the publication, *A Seed That Grew*:

Not far south, and also in what is now Naremburn Parish, another school was opened at the same time in Chandos Street and this was committed to the care of the Sisters of Mercy. All who were associated with this school speak of it in terms of affection. It was near the present St Leonards railway station, and the situation is described as "a picturesque one amidst pleasant rural surroundings". The solemnity of the opening outdid anything on the North Shore before or since; besides the Cardinal there were seven archbishops and bishops present. There was a Synod sitting in Sydney at the time. The party lunched at "Wheatleigh", the residence of Mr Thomas Dalton, and marched in procession the short distance to the new school headed by the Marist Brothers Boys' Band. Father Brennan, the Parish Priest, enumerated the educational establishments in the parish, and declared that any one of them was of more importance and value than a golden reef such as had lately been discovered at Coolgardie. Cardinal Moran named the school after St Columcille, but it was never known by any other name but that of

St Ignatius. It would be very hard today, standing in Chandos Street to summon up the scene as it was that day in 1894. Bishop Lanigan of Goulburn said he felt himself quite at home as an old bushman in a district that reminded him of parts of his own diocese. It was a surprise to him to find this fine school among the trees, and he quite enjoyed the walk that afternoon, he said, along the bush track.

— *A Seed That Grew*
by H. A. Johnston S.J.,
Cresta Printing Co. 1956.



*St Leonard's Catholic School from Merrenburn Avenue, 1987.
(Drawing by M. Christie)*

DISPOSAL OF THE MUNICIPALITY'S WASTE

PAST HISTORY

The report of this activity is dealt with in this book because unfolding events indicate the close connections with Naremburn regarding the final location of this facility. Furthermore, it was the Naremburn Progress Association which took the most active part in displaying concern for an appropriate location from the citizens' point of view, often representing other nearby communities. The Progress Association's involvement began in 1925. At this time a depot for the destruction of garbage and disposal of nightsoil operated at a location west of Chatswood, in an open area at the foot of Beaconsfield Road near Swain's Creek; ideally there were no residences close by.

Developers seek land in the west: By 1925 land developers were looking at land west of the Pacific Highway in the Beaconsfield Road-Lane Cove River area, not far from where the waste disposal depot was located on the Thomas Woodhouse grant of 1841 and near where the Chatswood Golf Links are now situated. Land had been subdivided for residential lots and purchasers included a knight of the realm among other people of note. Unfounded assurances had been given that the depot was about to be closed due to relocation. One Alderman of West Ward who was particularly vociferous in supporting the relocation was Dr Clarence Read.

Garbage was burnt by the open hearth method and the contractors for this service, Messrs Anderson and Stephens, offered to build an incinerator there, on their own land at no cost to Council. Nightsoil was treated by the filtration system and the residue was disposed of as fertiliser. The site of this part of the operation was generally referred to as The Fertiliser Plant.

Rumour had it that garbage was to be tipped in Wilson's Brick Pit near St Leonards or that an incinerator was to be erected close to The Royal North Shore Hospital; nightsoil would be transferred into the sewer main near Flat Rock Bridge. Later it was found there was substance in this story. This was in February 1926 and the Naremburn Progress Association went into action and confronted Council for an explanation. The St Leonards incinerator project was no idle rumour. The Council actually intended to use parkland off Herbert Street and

Hampden Road. Then Council moved to purchase five acres on the eastern side of Herbert Street owned by C. G. Lancely. Alderman Read strongly favoured the proposal. However, in the lively debate of a recision motion at the following meeting, the proposal was defeated. This was in April 1926.

Mayor R. T. Forsyth who favoured the proposed site, spoke of the savings in transport costs of also the garbage and coal. He also envisaged the utilisation of residue for concrete making. He further said he had support from Lane Cove Council to share its use. He explained some concern for its close proximity to The Royal North Shore Hospital. The site under consideration was on Artarmon Public Recreation Park adjacent to the Henry Lamb grant of 1794. Alderman Piper, Naremburn Ward, said 'The local residents will fight it tooth and nail. Their blood is boiling over the matter.' Another Alderman suggested disposal of garbage by making a good road to the sea so that the waves of the ocean might consign it to the sea. This proposal even gained a supporter. Others sympathised with the Naremburn Ward people but intimated it had to go somewhere. A recision motion was carried.

At this time Mr Corrigan, Health Inspector of the Council, tendered a proposal to erect a viaduct over the watercourse at the end of Hampden Road between Artarmon and St Leonards and fill it with garbage and ashes from the brick kilns. He also recommended a destructor of the Meldrum type, costing £11,500 to share with neighbouring councils; his recommended site was at Flat Rock where residues could be used to create building sites along Willoughby Road.

Another site considered: The next positive planning of Council was in October 1926, for a Garbage Destructor and Nightsoil Tip at the foot of Market Street and Garland Road, Naremburn, overlooking Flat Rock Creek and the gully. This site comprised land considered at that time unsuitable for home building. It was portions of the J. C. Tucker grant (1856) and John Buchanan grant (1857). (The J. C. Tucker grant portion was gazetted as resumed for Public Recreation in 1948.) The proposed incinerator was to be a brick structure, costing £18,000, of ornamental design and no nuisance whatsoever to anyone (!).

The Naremburn Progress Association was furious over the proposal and requested Council to receive a deputation. Artarmon Progress Association was invited to support them in the protest, they being part of the Ward. A public protest meeting was held at the corner of Willoughby Road and Slade Street at 8.00 pm on Friday, 29 October 1926. Cecil Murphy, M.L.A. also attended. The *Evening News*, next day, in its coverage of the meeting, reported that Ald. Dr Read was said to have stated in Council that 'as Naremburn was the poorest portion of the Municipality, it was the most suitable place for a sewerage tip and incinerator'.

The Progress Association alerted such interested bodies as the War

Service Homes Commission and the Government Savings Bank of N.S.W. which financed many of the homes built in the area. Both expressed their concern and gave their support. The former wrote a rather scathing letter to Council indicating their concern for the amenities of the sixty or more homes they had built in the district and which would be affected. Northbridge Progress Association now also vigorously entered the protest. When the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board was approached for certain details of the site, they refused to furnish any information to the Associations, stating they would deal only with the Council. It should be recorded that many members of the Nareburn Progress Association were returned soldiers of the Great War and they didn't fail to display their fighting spirit. David Martin was the energetic Secretary, with Ken Quinn the equally vigorous President. A local Ward Alderman, Herbert P. Piper was intensely loyal to his constituents and their interests. He published a newspaper, *The Searchlight*, circulating in the municipality. It gave the project regular coverage to ensure the public were kept fully informed of developments.

An alternate site for the project was suggested at Scotts Creek in a so-called Noxious Trades Area, where the company of the tanneries would be appropriate. This was at the east end of Victoria Avenue on Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board land, part of twenty acres acquired by the Board in 1905 from the grant of George Woodcock of 1858 and known as Willis Park. It could be obtained for £800. However, Council acquired the land at Market Street and Garland Road for £1,083. Council obtained a favourable report from the Department of Public Health, after a Council Select Committee investigating all the suggested sites reported in detail how this was the only site they could confidently recommend as being suitable in every respect. Council was now all set to go on with the project when it was made aware that the 'residential' zoning of the selected site would not permit development of the proposed industry. Legal opinion was sought on the definition of 'industry' and briefly the opinion of counsel (Mr W. W. Monahan, Barrister, of Phillip Street) in February 1929 indicated that the destruction of garbage was an industry, and undoubtedly so if it was carried out for reward. It was indeed in error to continue the development as the zoning (residential) then stood. The Council was advised that it could vary the zoning through certain courses available, but the recommendation was to heed the climate of the residents' indignation 'as one of municipal expediency'. It was financially embarrassing to Council that £1,083 had been spent purchasing the land and even more embarrassing to find itself unable to proceed because the land was a proclaimed residential area. It was later referred to as an 'heirloom [of] neither use nor ornament which would not even provide sustenance for the goats which roamed the region'.

Back to Scotts Creek: Further investigations by Council of the previously suggested site at Scotts Creek now revealed it as quite appropriate and the engineer reported very favourably on it. A letter was even sent to the Naremburn Progress Association, in reply to their query about certain rumours. The Town Clerk (G. A. Bailey) on 5 August 1932 advised that Council had resolved that the Tip and Dump would be erected there, subject to Department of Health approval. Once again a storm of protest was raised by local residents and organisations there, culminating in an election being fought over the issues, as a result of which certain Aldermen were defeated.

However, rumours abounded that moves were afoot for the depot to be developed at Kent's Paddock near Naremburn (referred to in reports as 'the alternate site'). A 'last ditch' appeal by the Naremburn and Northbridge Progress Associations to the Minister for Health, Mr D. Weaver, M.L.A., setting out in detail the effects on the community of this alternate site and giving a history of actions leading to the present, brought the unexpected reply — '. . . I now wish to advise you that I have decided to arrange for the transfer of the site to that known as Kent's Paddock, off Willoughby Road, Willoughby, adjacent to Flat Rock Creek'. The Minister had given this direction without inspecting the site. A contract had actually been let, subject to Ministerial approval, for the Scotts Creek site. The terms were described as 'extremely onerous' and the protesting residents' action, together with the Minister's edict, was a welcome way out for Council to avoid the terms of the contract. It is also interesting to note that the local Member had actually been interested in purchasing land in the Scotts Creek area.

The Kent's Paddock site: This site fronting Willoughby Road was on the original John Burrows grant. It was owned at the time of proposed acquisition by Council, by Henry George Kent, a blacksmith. This land extended from Flat Rock Creek to unsealed Small Street, Willoughby. A shed was the only building on it. Kent lived in 'Alton' a weatherboard cottage on the other side of Small Street on the corner with Willoughby Road. The rest of the land ultimately acquired along Small Street and the creek comprised original grants purchased by J. W. Bligh and Humphrey McKeon (1856). It also included land south of the creek, being portions of the J. C. Tucker grants (1856). All this land was resumed for the purpose of a 'Garbage Destructor and Sewerage Dump' on 29 September 1933. Mr Kent had for some years been conducting a private tip on the land and residents and Council were very much aware of the nuisance it created. Northbridge Progress Association had found the need to request Naremburn Progress Association to take some action to have it abated.

Northbridge enters the arena: At the end of 1932 the Northbridge Progress Association, which had been generally supportive of the

residents' concern, now became particularly vociferous and supported the Naremburn Progress Association by organising a massive public meeting of protest for Tuesday, 10 January 1933 in the Northbridge theatre. Following this meeting, a letter containing a copy of a resolution passed and a synopsis in telling terms setting out the situation as it affected the municipality in general and local residents in particular, was sent to the Minister for Local Government by the Secretary of Northbridge Progress Association, Norman Landers. Certain Aldermen were being branded turncoats because of the way they turned round and voted contrary to the platform on which they were elected. Counsel was briefed on the matter of the destructor's location with regard to the zoning of the land. Willoughby Road was zoned industrial, the other streets residential. The lengthy opinion of counsel was that, although the structure did not front on Willoughby Road, the gazettal of the area did permit development on the land even though access was not from Willoughby Road. This unusual situation of course favoured the Council. The opinion was from Barrister W. R. Blackett.

A public enquiry: On Friday, 31 March 1933, Mr E. R. Gallop, Supervising Engineer, Department of Public Works, conducted a public enquiry into the proposals of Willoughby Council to borrow £12,000 and £7,000 respectively, for the purposes of acquisition of land, erection of a garbage destructor, installation of a nightsoil dump and construction of road approaches thereto, at Flat Rock Creek on premises then known as Kent's Paddock.

David Martin, Secretary of Naremburn Progress Association, spoke on behalf of the 2,000 ratepayers and residents who had petitioned the Council. He spoke at length on the whole sorry and sordid saga of resiting the facilities from an open space to a built-up residential area. He gave a thorough review of the financial involvement and the additional expenses incurred in the proposal; he referred to the amazing action of the Minister for Health, when reviewing the Scotts Creek site, in calling for an alternate site to consider and then, almost 'out of the blue', giving his approval to the alternate site (Kent's Paddock) without even visiting the site he favoured to evaluate its suitability officially. Other well-rehearsed speakers were Ald. Piper and Messrs Quilkey, Lamb, Selby, Cook and Henderson who opposed the Council's proposals and generally favoured garbage destruction to continue at the site then in use. The Commissioner closed the enquiry at 5.30 pm, stating he would visit the sites discussed and then furnish his report to the Minister for Local Government.

The incinerator gets the nod: The result of the enquiry is now part of history. Walter Burley Griffin got the opportunity to maintain his presence for posterity and added another incinerator to his collection of plans of such utilities. The building, with its unusual embellishments

typical of the architect, was built of local sandstone of which there were ample supplies of high quality available in a quarry close by to the east (just over the present Flat Rock Drive). A stone slab on the western side of the building records appropriate information in the following inscription:

THIS TABLET DEDICATED ON THE 6th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1934
BY ALDERMAN H. W. CLARKE J. P. EX-MAYOR RECORDS THAT
THIS PLANT WAS WHOLLY DESIGNED AND ERECTED BY THE
REVERBERATORY INCINERATOR AND ENGINEERING CO. PTY. LTD.
OF SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.
ARCHITECTS: WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN, SYDNEY,
ERIC MILTON NICHOLLS, MELBOURNE.

On the same day another tablet was unveiled with the formal inscription indicating its commencement to deal with the Municipality's garbage:

THE MUNICIPALITY OF WILLOUGHBY
REVERBERATORY REFUSE INCINERATOR

THIS TABLET COMMEMORATES THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THIS PLANT
ON THE 6th DAY OF SEPT. 1934
BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR:
ALDERMAN E. E. ALCORN, J. P.

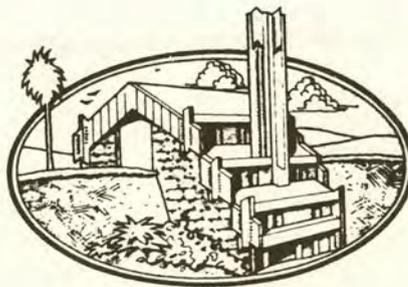
ALDERMEN OF THE COUNCIL

E. E. ALCORN J. P.	R. E. KEEGAN
J. BALES J. P.	J. T. C. MAY J. P.
O. CLAFTON	A. V. MELDRUM
H. W. CLARKE J. P.	C. NELSON
W. K. FULLERTON	A. S. NORQUAY J. P.
L. J. JENKINS	H. P. PIPER
C. A. BAILEY F.I.C.A.	TOWN CLERK
H. D. ROBB A.M.I.E.	ENGINEER
E. C. CORIGAN A.R.S.I.	HEALTH INSPECTOR

Incinerator failure gives concern: In 1951 H. D. Robb, Council Engineer, advised Council of his concern for the ability of the incinerator to cope with the municipality's garbage. It was decided to investigate the possibility of installing depurators to dispose of surplus garbage by the bacteriological method then being considered elsewhere in similar situations. Alternately, controlled tipping would have to be employed to deal with this serious situation. The Council's Works Committee inspected the site at Small Street and adopted a recommendation 'That the Engineer submit a report to the General Purposes Committee to develop THE WHOLE OF THE FLAT ROCK CREEK AREA for playing and recreational purposes on stage construction lines . . .' Aldermanic consideration of environment protection and conservation apparently had at that time not yet reached the 'wheel stage'.

The Engineer, to his credit, investigated means of disposal elsewhere within the Municipality and also beyond, but with no success. He was also awaiting the result of the introduction of bacteriological disposal at Canterbury. There they were having difficulties with the introduction of the bacteria because of quarantine restrictions which finally refused release of the cultures on well-based grounds. Council now had the problem of the incinerator not coping with all the garbage collected and the possibility of complete failure, involving the disposal of about 550 cubic yards of garbage per week — somehow, somewhere.

Restaurant &



Function Centre

The Incinerator

The incinerator's fate: In 1967 it was finally decided that the incinerator was no longer in a condition to be operated for its intended purpose and it was closed down. The sewerage disposal facilities, though, were still in use for some time because there were still many unsewered premises in the municipality.

Council was now faced with a substantial stone structure with some claim to recognition as an example of Burley Griffin architecture, although locally it had an infamous history. Several groups in various

fields of the arts showed interest in converting the building for some appropriate use. Council favoured its demolition and this situation was considered by the Naremburn Progress Association. It was recommended that their Alderman, 'Ral' Faunce, oppose demolition on the grounds that in view of the high cost of such action, the expenditure was not justified, and that it remain closed until a use could ultimately be found for it.

In 1979 the brothers Colin and Garry Dilworth successfully applied to Council to lease the building, restore it and develop the premises as a restaurant. So, the despised and smelly incinerator has been, since September 1980, a restaurant managed by Colin Dilworth and rated among the finest in Sydney. With the surrounding development of the Bicentennial Reserve and Swimming Pool Centre, its viable future appears secure, and further developments are receiving serious consideration.

PRESENT DAY GARBAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

When garbage and refuse could no longer be disposed of at the Flat Rock tip, such facilities had to be sought in other municipalities. A privately operated Transfer Station was developed at Lancelly Place near Artarmon (ironically still in Naremburn Ward). Here refuse was received, transferred and compressed into container-like transports and taken elsewhere. A new, much improved receiving and transfer depot is being developed nearby by the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority.

THE GULLY IS RAVISHED

Tipping and burning of rubbish and refuse was already taking place in Kent's Paddock by the owner long before the land was acquired for the incinerator, and Council received many complaints of the annoyance caused by the fires burning the refuse. Most of the complaints came from the Naremburn Progress Association on behalf of the suffering residents. Adjoining Progress Associations even requested the Naremburn Progress Association to complain for them.

It was envisaged that the new incinerator would cope with everything that was flammable, leaving only a mere fraction of the original material as readily disposable cinders. However, rapidly changing lifestyles soon had the incinerator obsolete. Packaging of merchandise and food items changed from almost entirely flammable material to a greater content of metal and glass: the incinerator and conveyor system were not able to cope with the high content of solid materials in the refuse to be burnt. Grates and moving sections became choked and

much of the refuse had to be tipped and burnt in the open. Where better to tip than the convenient gully and creek close at hand? And the amount of refuse continued to grow, so wherever possible it was burnt. Then another era came, when less and less materials were re-used (later known as recycling). Industrial waste became another component, as did motor vehicle tyres. All these problems were easily overcome: burn whatever can be set alight. Objectionable odours from factory waste were another pollutant, especially when in contact with fire.

Thus began the disaster era for nearby (and not so near) residents. Black tar and soot laden smoke billowed regularly from the tip. Painted house surfaces suffered and became streaked. Furnishings and fabrics were affected; washing days had to be planned according to the direction of the wind. Vile smelling fumes from burning putrefied refuse and the acrid fumes from the chemical waste added to the unpleasantness to which the residents were subjected. Council regularly received complaints from the Naremburn Progress Association. The complaints were received but, probably because the means of refuse disposal was an attractive low cost exercise, the objectionable activities continued. The Association was even advised that fires had to be maintained as they were required to burn quarantined timber, etc., for the Quarantine Department. Someone's face must have been red when Council was informed that such advice was completely in error because one of the members of the Progress Association was the Quarantine Officer who directed such procedures. The tip had never been authorised or registered for such destructions, and never would be considered appropriate for such purpose by the Quarantine Department.

The years rolled on, with nights often disturbed by the roar and clatter of sheets of iron, metal and the like on the tip face collapsing and sliding down into the gully as fires below burnt away supporting materials. Council came to the realisation that this situation was getting out of hand and just could not continue. A huge covered concrete drain was constructed down the gully to take the creek water, and the gully began systematically to be filled in. No more fires . . . and all rubbish was covered with soil, back filled. Naremburn Progress Association had finally won the day. Some burning did continue but such fires were always 'started by someone else'. The last bush fire, which destroyed a large portion of the bushland on the north side, was started by one of these mystery fires; burning papers were blown into the bush in the late afternoon of a hot windy day, even though the tip was under supervision and surrounded by a security chain wire fence, with gates locked when left unattended. This was when the tip had extended to the eastern side of Flat Rock Drive.

This method of tipping laid the foundations for the ultimately unstable surfaces of playing fields. Strange as it may seem, it was

Mr Burley Griffin who first supported a proposal for destruction of bushland to convert the gully to playing fields. On 6 February 1928, a deputation was received by Council to address it on a massive scheme for the resumption of foreshores of Middle Harbour, and for acquisition of land to be converted into playing areas for children, involving extensive destruction of bushland. Mr Burley Griffin was one of the main speakers in the presentation of the far-reaching scheme. Another proposal by the deputation was for the resumption of the valley of Flat Rock Creek, Naremburn as a playing area. It would result in an area of about 15 acres and would become a valuable asset of Council. This was at the time when it had been decided to erect an incinerator and sewerage disposal unit in bushland at the end of Market Street. The scheme espoused by Mr Griffin advocated the destruction of the finest portion of the bushland of Flat Rock Gully, an area fortunately still conserved for posterity, although a portion was lost to Flat Rock Drive as well as by Council's tipping activities. The Griffin recommended project was also to utilise the refuse of the incinerator and sewerage disposal scheme. Fortunately, because that disposal project had to be abandoned, Griffin's proposal was treated likewise. Of course, subsequently Council desecrated the bushland of the gully in an even worse manner, west of the contemptible Griffin-motivated proposition.

The sorry saga continues: After the bisection of the gully in 1968 by the extension of Brook Street which was named Flat Rock Drive, tipping continued east of this road 'to compensate for the lost space taken by the Drive', despite pleas to save the remainder of the gully. Although this was to continue for a few years only, the civic fathers felt the urge to press on with tipping down the gully to about West Street. This would in effect annihilate the gully's bushland character. The appearance of survey pegs and paint markings on rocks was the cue for the Progress Association to investigate the situation. Assurances had been given that tipping on the east side would commence in 1969 and be concluded by 1972. As the tipping and filling spread relentlessly eastward, no concern was evident regarding the appropriate dispersal of surface water from surrounding streets which spilled across the reclaimed area and quickly soaked into the filling.

The result was catastrophic. Because of this water, putrescible material which had been tipped and poorly covered, resulted in a vile stench throughout the neighbourhood. Water soaking into the tipped material also produced an objectionable leachate to ooze into the creek and bushland, further polluting the waterway. Action of water on the tipped material below generated subterranean heat which in turn generated a vile smelling steam. This blew up through the loose rocks at the side of Flat Rock Drive. It was an eerie sight at night in headlight beams as these plumes of steam appeared like geysers.

And then the mystery of the tip pollution along the eastern face and

the stench-ridden exudation was solved. With obvious satisfaction the Mayor of that time was able to announce it was caused by ponding. Council's engineer had deduced that the culprit was Flat Rock Drive which held back the soaked-in surface water west of this road, and when this water broke through under the road it caused the problem. Local observers knew otherwise. Nareburn Progress Association, supported by Northbridge Progress Association observers, stated that a considerable volume of surface water from Nareburn streets regularly spilled over the surface of the eastern tip, scouring it and gaining access to the great amounts of buried putrescible material, and then exuding as the vile smelling leachate. This water was completely uncontrolled when it reached the tip.

The Maritime Services Board and the Department of Health regarded the oozing leachate as a pollutant and health hazard as it attracted massive numbers of flies and other vermin, was of obnoxious character and had a lethal effect on adjacent bush. Neutralising chemicals were spread across the face and bank of the tip; a system of hose drip outlets from a central reservoir further reduced the unpleasant situation. The Department of Health closed the tip for general use and placed strict conditions on Council tipping procedures. A subsurface lineal drain was also constructed to direct the surface water to a southern outlet. This drain reduced the problem considerably and the villainous, and probably nebulous, ponding amazingly disappeared. Local residents knew only too well what had been buried. Olfactory perception ensured a constant awareness. Seepage and surface water from a northern surface drain continued unchecked to maintain an offensive presence.

The major result of this 'misdemeanor' was that tipping down the gully had to cease. Despite assurances to observe the direction, tipping did continue, mainly to increase the height of the filled area, until 1985. The area became a repository for concrete pipes, heaps of gravel and cinders, piles of broken bitumen and concrete awaiting recycling. Piles of hospital cinders at one time created a further pollutant; on windy days ash was blown down the gully, entering houses and giving the appearance of billowing smoke from a bush fire. This was the welcoming scene for the public entering the municipality at its southern gateway.

Land values depressed: For nearly half a century, the continuing reception and treatment of the municipality's garbage, pan nightsoil and general rubbish and refuse in the incinerator and Flat Rock Gully, had a serious and depressing effect on land values nearby. As late as 1975 when plans were prepared for the 'Castle Vale' residential development on the Hallstrom factory site, a professional report to Council on that land stated: 'The area has been one of the poorest in Willoughby, being next to the Tip . . . '*

The general area of tip activities was always referred to as 'at Naremburn', probably as Naremburn residents were the section of the community most inconvenienced and the source of most complaints. The entire gully at times was a dense smoke haze, even extending to St Leonards. When the area gained respectability by the development of The Incinerator Restaurant it became 'at Willoughby'.

* From Mirvac Pty Ltd. Application for suspension of existing zoning.
Report by E. A. Shead Pty Ltd and R. T. Forsyth Pty Ltd.

'Solution for pollution': This is the title of an early Warner Bros 45 rpm record by Charles Wright. It is a question that Wright poses: he is surrounded by pollution and it concerns him for future generations. He also recognises the financial cost. In Naremburn we have pollution that has so often and for so long offended in Flat Rock Creek.

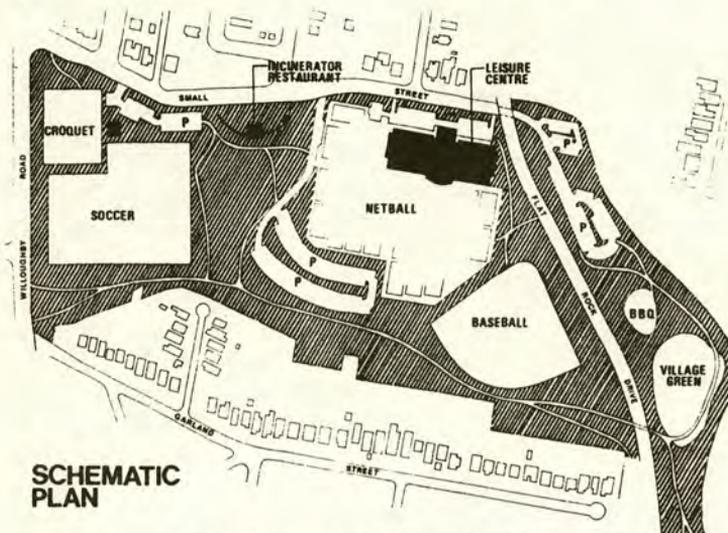
In early times the stream was one of clear water that drained the area west of Willoughby Road, popular haunts for cranes, water hens and other water fowl, water rats, tortoises, water dragons and so on. Two streams met at Flat Rock Bridge, one from Artarmon, the other commencing close by St Leonards Station. Both have become convenient disposal units. Most of the coarse materials appear to predominate in the one from Artarmon. Liquefied pollutants appear to originate mainly from the other tributary. During the early post-war years there were regular complaints to Council from the Progress Association regarding liquid waste entering this drain from what was referred to as The Prune Factory. Stagnating, this effluent became particularly objectionable. There appeared to be oils and greases improperly disposed of, and at times a heavy grey slurry entered that creek. Vile smelling chemical types were also regularly present.

Because of the commercial building developments near the source of this creek in the vicinity of the railway station, the stream appears to run its commencing course under some of the buildings, hence it is difficult to trace the source of pollutants and to ascertain whether the problem is a deliberate act. The lower reaches of the main creek bear mute but offensive testimony to an inconsiderate section of the community upstream. Of course leachate originating from the tip contributed to the pollution of the creek but this was gradually reduced as tipping of source material ceased.

Besides the oily rocks and gravel, ugly sludge in the pools and a general smell of chemicals 'gone wrong', one sees every kind of refuse imaginable. Supermarket bags are strung everywhere, containers of all types, tree loppings, garden refuse, furniture and furnishings, plastic sheeting, building refuse, metal items — name it and it is there. Motor cycles, toys, supermarket trollies, even a motor car adorn the waterway; all ultimately finds its repose in Long Bay, after a final journey under Tunks Park. And to think that the series of clear, beautiful and enticing

pools were once the pride and joy of children who regularly swam and played there.

Until a few years ago, after a good flushing from a flash flood, tiny fish were observed a few hundred metres upstream from the Suspension Bridge, having negotiated shallow rapids, to perish in a day or so from a heavily polluted surge. But not today: pollution is constant. As is obvious, there appears no easy solution for pollution.



Plan for the completed Willoughby Bicentennial Reserve

THE NEW PLAYING FIELDS

As tipping progressed at Flat Rock and reclaimed areas were regarded as consolidated, playing fields were developed. However, the settling process continued, and as a result of this, depressions formed which became shallow lakes in wet weather so that large numbers of swamp frequenting birds migrated to the area; there was a recommendation to develop the site as a wetlands project. This situation caused surprised and deep concern to the municipal leaders but not to the local residents who, over the years, had witnessed the nature of materials which had been dumped without effective compaction.

Then, in 1983, the Willoughby Bicentennial Community Committee was formed to plan the Municipality's bicentennial activities. Many sub-committees were formed, comprising dedicated residents and others, for the number of projects to be undertaken. One of these was the Environmental Projects Sub-committee which comprised:

Messrs Peter Murray (convenor), Bill Mitchell, Jack Wiesner, Eric Wilsch,

Mrs A. Kabos, Ald. Betty Fowler (Council's representative) and

Messrs Peter Wicking (secretary) (Council staff) and Rob Parsonson (Council staff).

Messrs. Murray and Wilksch were Naremburn residents with intimate knowledge of the area, and Vice-President and President respectively of Naremburn Progress Association. The committee met frequently to discuss various proposals which included a lineal park system of walkways and cycle ways from Artarmon to Long Bay, incorporating a grand modern sports complex on the reclaimed Flat Rock tip site. After evaluating applicants for commissioning as Planning Consultants, the committee's recommendation was in favour of Forsite Landscape Architects and Planners Pty Ltd. Many constructive meetings were held with the company's representative consultant who was able to evaluate and appreciate the concerns of the committee for the development as well as for the environmental considerations such as bushland preservation to be observed in planning. The successive plans for a very difficult development area were presented progressively for appraisal to the interested and concerned public. These exhibitions were organised by the committee on site and elsewhere.

Everything began to look rosy for the ultimate exciting sporting complex. It was to be funded to a great extent from tipping fees for the massive amount of clean fill required for landscaping to cater for a wide spectrum of organised sporting activities. The reclaimed area east of Flat Rock Drive was to be developed only for passive recreation activities.

And then, to the amazement and disbelief of the resident component, Council decided that there was no longer any need to recognise any further input from the committee. Also, the planning consultant from the commissioned company terminated his employment and a replacement was appointed. From then on, the consultant dealt only with Council staff. A major planning variation involved considerable bushland destruction to accommodate car parking facilities. With no committee guidance, the effects of the new consultant's plans were not immediately recognised. Council was unintentionally led to believe by its staff that no destruction of bushland was involved and passed the amended plans. Action by an observant and very concerned member of the committee, aided by an Alderman of the Ward whom he informed next day, resulted in a Council on-site inspection. A professional Bushland Management Consultant fully supported the committee member's concern and his assessment of value of the affected bushland. A particularly interesting part of the dwindling bush was thus saved.

The overall development is seen to assure an exciting result. After much deliberation, Council has officially named the area: 'Bicentennial Reserve, Willoughby'. It is hoped that the small playing field named Hallstrom Park after its benefactor, Sir Edward Hallstrom, will retain its identification within the new development on that site.

An Entertainment Spectacular at the Reserve, commencing with a procession of floats, groups and vintage cars, was planned for the

opening of the first stage on 30 April 1988. During the preceding three days Sydney experienced deluges of rain unequalled in recent years. The programme had to be cancelled. The opening ceremony, conducted by The Mayor, Ald. Noel Reidy, in the Incinerator Restaurant in the presence of community leaders and those directly connected with the Reserve development, was carried out by the Hon. Peter Collins, M.P., local Member and nearby resident. The planned entertainment was presented in the Westfield Centre, Chatswood. Heavy rain continued throughout the day of the opening.

The rest of the planned linear park of passive recreation areas, cycle ways and walkways is eagerly awaited. A bushwalk already exists but requires further developing. When established, the entire development will be a magnificent attraction at the Municipality's southern gateway.

THE NAREMBURN SAGA

*The people of the Northern Shore
Had found a site, and in it saw
A place for homes to congregate,
In rough terrain their homes to make.
Soon many a home saw light of day;
Gave rise to what would come their way,
A future for a shopping site.
And all went well, all looked bright,
Soon Market Street saw several stores
Where housewives did their shopping chores.
The Anglican Church and Convent School
Taught more than just the Golden Rule.
Central Street became the Main,
Though never saw a puffing train,
And Slade Street also had a share
Of shops whose shelves were never bare.
'Central Township' was its name,
Then 'Naremburn' the town became.
The pioneers were real hard workers,
No one there would call them shirkers.
A working day was never light,
From early morn till late at night.
Six days were then a working week,
On Sundays did their rest they seek.
Then Flat Rock Road became extended,
And finally at Chatswood ended.
'Twas then the future seemed obscure,
And shops around were never sure
If customers would buy elsewhere
At shops opened up not far from there.
So then the message came through clear:
To move the shops to the road quite near,
Where passing trade would surely stop,
And on their way would pause to shop.
The railway line then drained the cup,
When other centres had opened up.*

*But Naremburn shops kept up their end,
And passers-by their cash did spend,
And Moran & Catos, and Goodlands as well,
Derrins and others the list did swell.
Just every shop was there to woo
The local needs, and others too.
Wars had come and wars had gone,
When many a Mother had lost a Son.
Then out of the gloom the horror came:
'The Warringah Freeway' was its name.
It tore the dear old town asunder.
More effectively than mighty thunder
It tore her vitals from within;
The 'Powers that be' near 'did her in'.
She lost some streets, and people there
Then lost their homes; a cross to bear.
Broken hearts made tears to flow,
As family homes just had to go.
Recovery was racked with pain,
But the dear old place showed life again.
The fight was uphill all the way;
Success was seen to come some day.
And then the 'Powers' did really show
That they could strike another blow.
The future that is cast we see
Will be by Government decree.
By isolation it will choke
The remaining shops to just go broke.
So the oldest centre of North Shore
Will very soon be just no more.
Now since these lines at first were penned,
The plans revised show a different end.
Instead of death by isolation,
The end is planned by desolation.
With shops destroyed, it'll all look neat,
And disembowelling now complete.*

—E.A.W.

CONVERSION TABLE OF EARLY VALUES

CONVERSION TABLE OF EARLY VALUES

Some of these items will be encountered in the text while others will assist in appreciating similar publications and as a record of terminology in general use in a bygone era. Converted equivalents are not all exact to complete decimal values.

1 gallon			4.5 litres
1 quart			1.137 litres
1 pint			0.569 litres
1 mile			1.61 km
1 furlong	1/8 mile		201 m
1 chain	1/10 furlong		
1 link	1/100 chain		
1 pole	5½ yards		
1 yard	3 feet		0.915 m
1 foot	12 inches		30.5 cm
1 inch			25.4 mm
1 ton	20 cwt		1016 kg (1.016 t)
1 hundredweight	1 cwt	112 lbs	
1 quarter	1/4 cwt	28 lbs	
1 stone	1/8 cwt	14 lbs	6.35 kg
1 pound	1 lb	16 oz	454 g
1 ounce	1 oz		28.34 g
1 acre			0.405 ha
1 rood	1/4 acre		0.101 ha
1 perch	1/40 rood		25.3 m ²
1 guinea	21/-	21s	\$2.10
½ guinea	10/6		\$1.05
1 pound	£1. 0. 0 20/-	20s	\$2.00
1 sovereign	£1 gold coin		
½ sovereign	10/- gold coin		
10 shillings	10/-	10s	\$1.00
5 shillings	1 crown 5/-	5s	50c
2 shillings	1 florin 2/-	2s	20c
1 shilling	1/-	1s	10c
6 pence		6d	5c
3 pence		3d	
1 penny		1d	
½ penny	halfpenny	½d	
1 farthing	¼ penny	¼d	

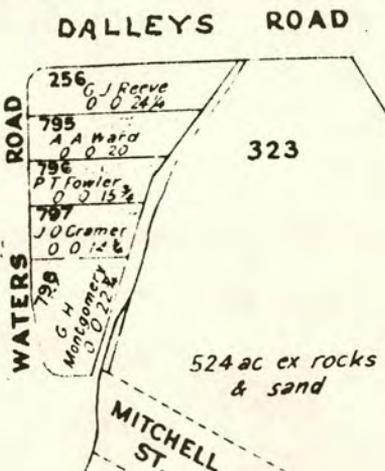
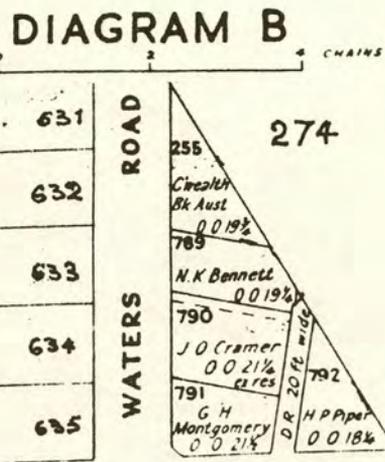
REFERENCE TO PORTIONS.

Pt.	Plan	Loc	Vol or Date	Area			Purchaser etc.
				A	R	P	
Pt. 126	170 000	3D	17-11-1838				See face of Map
208	568 000	3D	9-6-1839				See face of Map
209	568 000	3D	1-5-1849				See face of Map
Pt. 210	568 000	3D	11-5-1854				See face of Map
Pt. 211	352 000	3D	12-7-1839				See face of Map
225	25 000	2C	21-4-1840				See face of Map
234	646 000	3D	29-10-1856	5	2	3	J.S. Ryan
235	646 000	3D	15-10-1856	5	2	35	J.S. Ryan
236	646 000	3D	29-10-1856	5	1	30	Thomas Cronin
237	646 000	3D	26-8-1856	5	2	19	A.L. Carlett & G.L. Coleman
238	646 000	3D	22-10-1856	6	0	3	J.S. Ryan
239	646 000	3D	29-10-1856	5	1	13	C.W.F. Stier
240	646 000	3D		5	1	38	John Burrows
241	646 000	3D		5	0	20	J.W. Bligh
242	646 000	3D		5	1	22	J.W. Bligh
243	646 000	3D	22-10-1856				See face of Map
244	646 000	3D	22-10-1856	6	3	0	J.C. Tucker
245	646 000	3D	22-10-1856	5	1	30	J.C. Tucker
246	646 000	3D	29-10-1856	5	0	0	Robert Adams
247	646 000	3D	29-10-1856	5	0	20	George Woodcock
248	646 000	3D	29-10-1856	5	1	20	John Mackell
254	3071	3D	3185 145	0	0	39 1/2	Harry Pearson
255	3450 R	3D					See face of Map
256	3436 R	3D	4403 250				See face of Map
266	947 000	3C		1	3	36	R62986 for Public Recreation Notified 9th September, 1908
273	945 000	3D	3-12-1794				See face of Map
274	945 000	3D	3-12-1794				See face of Map
449	3071	3D	2909 207	3	0	28 1/2	John Evans
459	2147	3D	1365 18	0	1	8	Mary Mason
460	2147	3D	1395 116	0	1	8	Ellen McCormack
461	2147	3D	1395 116	0	1	8	Ellen McCormack
462	2147	3D	1935 225	0	1	8	Frank Mason
498	597 000	3D	22-7-1853	5	2	10	John Buchanan
499	597 000	3D	22-7-1853	5	2	10	James Dumas
500	597 000	3D	15-3-1854	6	0	0	Dugald MacPherson
501	597 000	3D	22-7-1853	6	0	0	Dugald MacPherson
502	S 2510 000	3D	1-3-1855	7	0	0	Thomas Ryan
503	S 2510 000	3D	5-1-1857	8	2	0	John Buchanan
507	S 2510 000	3D		3	3	20	J.W. Bligh
508	S 2510 000	3D	23-12-1857	5	3	0	James Yates
509	S 2510 000	3D	5-1-1857	9	2	23	P.F.G. Craft
510	S 2510 000	3D	5-1-1857	8	0	0	John Buchanan
511	C 618 000 R	3D		2	3	30	Humphrey McKean
512	618 000 R	3D		4	0	0	Humphrey McKean
513	618 000 R	3D	15-10-1856	8	0	17	Thomas Glover
514	618 000 R	3D	24-4-1855	9	2	20	Thomas Strickland
581	3071 R	3D	3267 29 0 0	24 1/2			A J & L R Mullins
584		3D	1367 94 0 1	21 1/2			Catherine McKenzie
585		3D	1371 158 0 1	8			John Mackenzie
586	2152	3D	1719 211 0 1	9 1/2			William Sheldonhaque
587	2110 R	3D	1581 91 0 1	6			W S Hague
588		3D	1545 4 0 1	8			John Gady Junior
589		3D	1655 63 0 1	8			Elizabeth Toomey
590	2153	3D	1918 164 0 1	8			Elizabeth Toomey
591	2110 R	3D	2084 19 0 1	8			C F Broughton
592		3D	1670 20 0 1	8			C F Broughton
593		3D	1670 23 0 1	8			Catherine Butler
594	2145	3D	1510 149 0 1	24			W J Weldon
595	2110 R	3D	1437 210 0 1	6			Frederick Crewe
597	2155	3D	1604 32 0 1	3 1/2			E M Kemley
613	2157	3D	1761 107 0 1	8			Henry McDermott
614	2157	3D	1761 107 0 1	8			Henry McDermott
615	2158	3D	2126 110 0 1	8			Henry McDermott
616	2158	3D	2165 203 0 1	8			W L Dosh

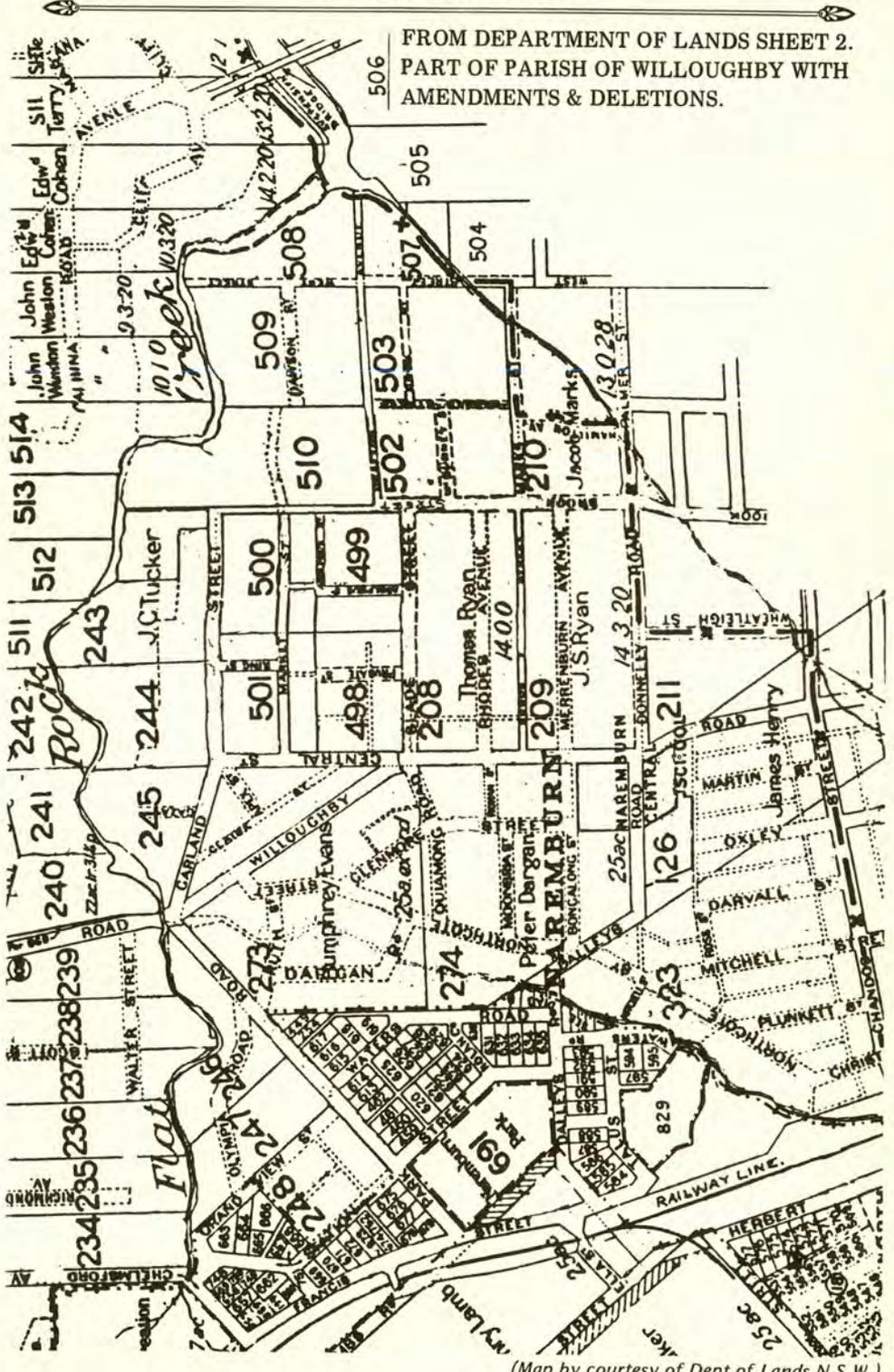
Locate Portion No. in Column 1.
 Date of purchase Column 4.
 Area Column 5.
 Original purchaser Column 6.

REFERENCE TO PORTIONS

Por	Plan	Loc	Vol	Fol	Area			Purchaser etc.
					A	R	P	
617	2109 R	3D	2118	234	0	1	8	W.L. Dash
618	2109 R	3D	2165	203	0	1	6	W.L. Dash
619	2109 R	3D	2165	203	0	1	20	W.L. Dash
620	2109 R	3D	1361	105	0	1	22'	Emma Brittliff
621	2109 R	3D	1764	236	0	1	8	John Bartlett
622	2109 R	3D	1879	93	0	1	8	Thomas Carew
623	2109 R	3D	1701	170	0	1	8	Denis Carew
624	2109 R	3D	1805	199	0	1	8	Denis Nolan
625	2109 R	3D	1802	38	0	1	22'	C.W. Markness
626	2109 R	3D	2165	204	0	1	8	W.L. Dash
627	2109 R	3D	2165	204	0	1	8	W.L. Dash
628	2109 R	3D	1896	17	0	1	6'	Edward Denn
629	2109 R	3D	1792	177	0	1	2	Margaret Nolan
630	2109 R	3D	2035	206	0	0	36	Johanna Kelly
631	2109 R	3D	1598	46	0	1	8	Henry Monk
632	2109 R	3D	1841	78	0	1	11	W.L. Dash
633	2109 R	3D	1841	78	0	1	11	W.L. Dash
634	2109 R	3D	1841	78	0	1	11	W.L. Dash
635	2109 R	3D	1627	184	0	1	11	Margaret Witt
655	2109 R	3C	2165	205	0	2	21	W.L. Dash
656	2161 R	3D	1691	129	0	0	28	R.S. & J.M. Callaghan
657	2161 R	3D	3155	178	0	1	0	W.C. Davis
658	3187 R	3D	3216	143	0	0	25%	J.R. Nunn
659	3187 R	3D	2992	218	0	0	70%	D.F. Bradshaw
660	2109 R	3D	2137	47	0	0	31%	W.L. Dash
661	2109 R	3D	3354	95	0	0	28	Alexander Farster
662	2109 R	3D	2003	43	0	1	14	W.J. Orr
663	2109 R	3D	1356	220	0	1	25	William Duffy
664	2109 R	3D	1481	184	0	1	22	Arthur Chivers
665	2109 R	3D	2428	149	0	1	2%	J.R. Toombly
666	2109 R	3D	3444	189	0	1	31%	T.S. Monk
667	2109 R	3D	3070	245	0	0	25%	C.H. Nunn
668	2109 R	3D	2143	191	0	0	36%	W.L. Dash
669	2109 R	3D	2165	206	0	0	36%	W.L. Dash
670	2109 R	3D	2165	207	0	1	1	W.L. Dash
671	C 2109 R	3D	1521	141	0	0	39%	Gustav Johnson
672	2109 R	3D	2084	37	0	1	4	John McGarry
673	2109 R	3D	1667	34	0	1	10	A.E. Thomas
674	2109 R	3D	3444	185	0	0	28%	J.G. Leslie
675	2109 R	3D	1673	73	0	1	8	A.M. McClymont
676	2109 R	3D	1340	125	0	1	8	G.B. McClymont
677	2109 R	3D	1669	138	0	1	8	J.R. McClymont
678	2109 R	3D	2165	208	0	0	28%	W.L. Dash
679	2109 R	3D	1868	108	0	1	5	R.H. Johnson
680	2109 R	3D	2946	75	0	0	32%	Thomas Leele
682	2109 R	3C	2090	140	0	2	23	Catherine Jarrett
691	Ms 1713 Sy	3D			6	3	32	R 30156 for Public Recreation Notified 4th November, 1899
748	3187 R	3D	3155	168	0	0	30%	W.C. Davis
749	3187 R	3D	3132	28	0	0	24%	C.J. Nunn
750	3187 R	3D	3291	152	0	0	20	Ethel Gilrow
751	3188 R	3D	3420	126	0	0	19%	Samuel Orr
752	3189 R	3D	3155	169	0	0	28	W.C. Davis
789	3450 R	Dmg. B	4521	218				See face of Map
790	3450 R	Dmg. B	3874	107				See face of Map
791	3450 R	Dmg. B	4378	162				See face of Map
792	3450 R	Dmg. B	3857	161				See face of Map
795	3636 R	Dmg. B	4458	165				See face of Map
796	3636 R	Dmg. B	3874	176				See face of Map
797	3636 R	Dmg. B	3865	69				See face of Map
798	3636 R	Dmg. B	4378	163				See face of Map
829	3853	3D			Abt. 3	2	0	R.73306 for Public Recreation Notified 16th September, 1949



THE NAREMBURN STORY



(Map by courtesy of Dept of Lands N.S.W.)

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

ERIC WILKSCH, J.P. was born and educated in the Barossa Valley, S.A. He served with the R.A.A.F. during World War II and then worked, until his retirement, with the N.S.W. Dept of Agriculture, also being seconded to the Commonwealth Departments of Primary Industry and Plant Quarantine.

In 1950 Eric and his wife, Violet, settled in Naremburn where Eric still lives, directly involved in many community activities. He is the long-serving president of the Naremburn Progress Association and a member of Naremburn Amenities Development Association. He was founding president of the Crows Nest Garden Club, a position he has held for nearly thirty years, founding president, and now vice-president, of the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association and a member of the Flat Rock Area Conservation Action Society. Eric is a foundation member of the Willoughby District Historical Society and is its publicity officer. He is a member of the Willoughby Bicentennial Community Committee and a member of two of its project subcommittees. He has an interest in the various church groups in his area and, as a member of the Willoughby branch of the Lantern Club, works for the welfare of children at the North Rocks Deaf and Blind Children's Centre. In 1984 Eric Wilksch received the annual Willoughby Municipal Council Award for Citizen of the Year for Community Service.