

West Ward Bytes

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WE MET THE STATE CANDIDATES

In association with the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations (FWPAs), the Chatswood West Ward Progress Association (CWWPA) hosted a 'Meet the Candidates' session on Thursday 19th March. This session was well attended with over 120 people present, as well as the North Shore Times.

Four of the six candidates contesting the seat of Willoughby in the Legislative Assembly attended: Peter Cavanagh (Labor); Edward Re (Australian Cyclists Party); Alison Haines (The Greens); Gladys Berejiklian (Liberal). Melody Ho, (Christian Democrat Party Fred Nile Group) and Aldo Di Santo, (No Land Tax) did not show.

The meeting was conducted using the format of the FWPAs where all questions were submitted in advance and all candidates were given equal time to address the meeting. This was different from previous meetings where questions from the floor can often lead to a rambunctious outcome. The feedback received was the the eeting was well constructed, well run and well received.

NEXT MEETING
Annual General Meeting
&
General Meeting

Thursday 16 April 2015
7:30 PM
Dougherty Centre
7 Victor Street, Chatswood

More stories online at:
cwwpa.org

WESTFIELD CARPARK SAGA

The situation in Westfield's car park turned toxic recently when shoppers were receiving car park tickets that were out by 10 minutes. The CWWPA had reported this situation to Westfield (and Council) some four months ago. At the time, Westfield said that everything was 'honkydory'. They claimed their computers used 'Standard Time'. At that time (in December) the machine was some 5 minutes out.

A good example of what was happening was: you arrive at the carpark (by your phone's time) at 6:01 PM. The ticket was being imprinted with a time stamp of 5:56 PM. Trouble was, when you left (expecting to have your free entry after 6PM) you could be faced with paying an unexpected parking fee.

Both the North Shore Times and radio station 2UE took up the story with the Editor of the West Ward News being interviewed. Finally, a call from the Customer Services Manager at Westfield. He acknowledged that there had been a problem. The story is that their carpark computers are not connected to the Internet (and hence cannot access a world time clock). To make matters worse, the batteries in the computers had gone flat. That is why the clock was running slow. (Believe it or not !!). The manager assured us that they have changed the batteries and that everything has been fixed. We will continue to monitor the situation.

HIGH RISE SCHOOLS ?

The Department of Education is talking about building multi-storey schools. Potentially, overcrowded Chatswood School sites could be considered.

Multi-story schools are not new. St Andrews in the city is one example. However, multi-storey is new for public schools. Currently, the majority of public schools have no more than two storeys.

The first thing that often falls to mind with high-rise schools is lifts. Walking up flights of stairs is a positive benefit for students. A healthy exercise. However, lifts are required for special needs and perhaps for some of our ageing teacher force. Having a high-rise school can also mean more playground. In fact, in one high-rise school almost the entire block was available for student play. Some of the area provides shade, covered by the building above. A great outcome.

One aspect of the concept of a high-rise school that may need some thought is if the Department of Education start developing housing above the school (to pay for the cost of construction). This could mean more traffic around the school. So we need to see an Environmental Impact Assessment on these new ideas.

Remit \$10 to the Treasurer
CWWPA c/- 33 Coolaroo Road
Lane Cove North, 2066.

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