



North Turramurra Action Group

Autumn Newsletter April 2023

President's Report

Synthetic sports fields

In contrast to the call to reduce our use of plastics, Ku-ring-Gai Council intends to continue its use of synthetic sports fields, with another one recently approved for installation in West Pymble.

This is despite community concerns that synthetic fields adversely impact the environment, are possibly a health risk to those playing on them and that the turf requires replacement after 8-10 years (with limited options for recycling old ones).

Samuel King Park Oval

The reopened oval no longer has an outside drinking tap, and when the field is not in use, the toilets are now locked, preventing general use by bush walkers etc. NTAG will raise these concerns with Council.

Opposition to grandstand development at NTRA

In Oct 22 the Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Panel approved the NSFA's development application (DA) to construct a large, 50m long building at the North Turramurra Recreation Area (NTRA), to house a grandstand, NSFA headquarters and other unrelated amenities, including an exclusive gym, café and media room.

This was despite massive local opposition via petitions and submissions to Council.

NTAG is continuing the fight against this DA. We are currently awaiting response from Council to a letter composed by external legal counsel, on behalf of NTAG, asking if Council intends to comply with Section 74 of the Local Govt Act.

Thank you to residents for your continued support and donations, enabling legal representation.

Christine Drake, NTAG President

NTAG protest - Jan 23

Fighting for our North Turramurra community green space

In January, NTAG and members protested against the handover of \$3.6m of NSW Government funds, by **Alister Henskens**, to the **Northern Suburbs Football Association (NSFA)** to go towards construction of the 300 seat grandstand at the **North Turramurra Recreation Area**. This structure is expected to result in increased out of area traffic and increased noise, create a bushfire evacuation risk and further monopolise the site by one sports group.

The structure will also **further reduce the greenspace** at the NTRA, by adding to the existing, large synthetic field.

In 2010 Council informed residents that the NTRA upgrade would include the following facilities, however these have still not been delivered.

- A park with children's playground and BBQ facilities
- New walking tracks linking to adjacent bushland



About NTAG & membership

NTAG needs your support!



NTAG represents the concerns of North Turramurra residents, balancing environment with development.

Our success is possible because of the support we receive from you, our close-knit community. We encourage all local residents to join NTAG or renew your membership. **Annual fee is just \$20 a year!**

Membership fees pay for our internet service, public liability insurance, post office box, webpage, phone and printing costs for two newsletters a year. Without your support we cannot continue to exist. You do not have to do anything more than pay the \$20 fee.

To become a member

1. Download and complete the membership form at northturramurractiongroup.org
2. Email completed form to ntag@ihug.com.au
3. Transfer payment to:
EFT: St George BSB 112-879 Account no: 488319452
*****Please include your name with payment*****

We ask for your much needed support by joining NTAG or renewing your annual membership

The Unlikely Bushman

If you would like to learn more about the amazing bushland that surrounds us, and the recent social history of North Turramurra and Wahroonga, these are very well described by **Ron Hicks** in his book "The Unlikely Bushman" (Huon Enterprises, 2009).

Ron is an investigative journalist and author. When he stumbled upon evidence of a shack and discovered other artefacts at a location near **Lovers Jump Creek, below Bobbin Head Road**, he set out to discover who and why someone had lived there, and when this might have been.

He found some of the answers he was looking for through extensive research in state records, and conversations with long term local residents. He learned that a bushman, **Alexander 'Bunny' Currie**, had built a large shack hidden deep in the bush, along with stone steps and a well concealed track to provide access. It is believed that the bushman lived here during the 1930's and 1940's.

NT Post Office & Newsagent

The NT post office/newsagency provides our community with vital services, and thanks to its convenient location, it is super easy to access.

NTAG caught up with **Han Yang**, who along with his wife **Leeanne Liang**, has been running the business for the past fifteen years.

The hard-working couple moved to Australia twenty years ago from Harbin in northeast China.



Han Yang

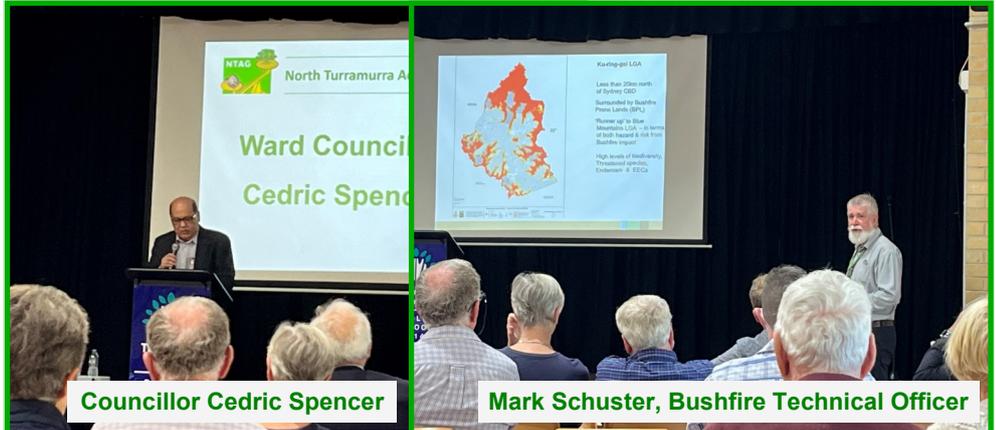
NTAG Nov 22 Residents' Meeting & AGM

Many thanks to our guest speakers for their very informative and interesting presentations at the November 22 NTAG Residents' meeting.

* Ku-ring-gai Council Bushfire Technical Officer **Mark Schuster**

* Wahroonga Ward Councillor **Cedric Spencer**

Thank you to all those who attended the meeting. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon.



Councillor Cedric Spencer

Mark Schuster, Bushfire Technical Officer

How did you come to own this post office/newsagency in NT?

Leeanne and I got into this business because we were both in the corporate world. It presented the chance for Leeanne to be a stay-at-home mother, while I could work long hours here. Our first house was in Turramurra, so when this business came up for sale, we were drawn to it given our familiarity with the area. We now live in NT with our three children.

What do you like about doing business in NT?

It's a very nice, close-knit, friendly area with a village feel to it.

Tell us a little about your services.

Most revenues are generated from the postal-related services we provide. The news agent delivery part of the business has not been viable for some time given the

shift to electronic media. Our new area of focus is passport ID services. In addition to Australia Post, we are an agent for DHL, FedEx and Toll. Should these couriers attempt a delivery which requires a signature and you are not home, the couriers leave the package with us. You can then pick it up at your convenience.

What's the hardest thing about running a post office/newsagency?

The long hours. We are open from 7am to 6pm Monday through Friday, and 7am to 1pm on Saturday. We have the same problem as every small business owner....it's close to impossible to take a vacation.

What kind of an impact did the Covid pandemic have on your business?

Australia Post is an essential service, so we were not impacted much. The Australia Post part of our business experienced a bump up because so many people were receiving a larger number of parcel deliveries.

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