

Councillors' feedback...feedback...



Artarmon Parklands Playground

The Artarmon Parklands upgrade includes a playground extension with new slides, a

double flying fox, spinning disc and a new community garden. Opened just in time for the September/October school holidays, the playground has proven popular with older children keen to venture onto the rope climbing structure and bounce on the in ground trampolines. Enjoy a rest at the new picnic tables under shelters.

Artarmon Oval

The Artarmon Oval closed in September 2019 for its \$800,000 upgrade. It includes renewing drainage and irrigation, levelling the oval surface, replacing the turf, installing a longer and wider cricket wicket and installing a 120,000 litre storage tank to enable water from the recently built stormwater harvesting system to be utilised for the irrigation of the oval and the flushing of toilets in the amenities block. The project will result in a higher quality playing surface and allow increased usage. I am pleased to report the project is on track and will reopen in April 2020.

Bowling Club site

The selection of a new pavilion to replace the former Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse will offer a flexible and open air space for the community – a space that is not currently available. The design should include space to host meetings and small exercise activities. The development application for the demolition of the bowling clubhouse was approved by Willoughby Local Planning Panel on October 29, with two conditions. The first is that a development application for the new pavilion must be approved before the bowling clubhouse is demolished. The second is that a heritage interpretation strategy needs to be prepared.

Local Strategic Plan and Housing

The local centres and housing strategies, which develop our long

term planning, are moving towards the final stages. For the Artarmon Village, there were 42 submissions, while 72 people dropped into information sessions and 37 people attended a round table. Residents generally agreed with the proposed vision but there were concerns around the building heights proposed. Most were keen to see the area refreshed, but maintain a village atmosphere and character. An attractive streetscape was important and most people liked the idea of the library site redevelopment. An increase in housing around the train station was popular. Ideas around better use of green space, pedestrian and cycle ways were well received. Council proposes to publish the final strategies in early 2020.

- gail.giles-gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



Long Term Financial Plan

At the 17th October Council meeting, Council endorsed the exhibition of the Draft Long Term Financial

Plan (LTFP) for community feedback. Willoughby Council's LTFP forecasts Council's financial sustainability challenges and position over the next 10 years. It contains financial performance indicators and strategies for Council to guide sound decision making. This will ensure Council's ongoing ability to meet the community's needs and service requirements. The community's aspirations are expressed by the Community Strategic Plan. The LTFP is one of three components of an integrated Willoughby City Council resourcing strategy. These components are:

- LTFP – current and future financial challenges and strategies including those relating to alternative funding sources, changing service levels, staging and asset management;
- Workforce plan – current and future staffing needs and strategies;
- Asset Management Plans – current and future requirements to maintain, renew and commission new assets.

In delivering the Community Strategic Plan, Council must carefully consider its ability to resource the identified activities and services of priority to the community.

In short, this means considering the time, people, budget and assets required to get the job done. As Council has finite resources, it is important to prioritise our activities to achieve maximum benefit to the community while at the same time being fiscally responsible. Please refer to Council's website to have your say or email me nic.wright@willoughby.nsw.gov.au. Finally, it's been a big year, so I hope you and yours have a nice break over Christmas and I look forward to hearing from you in the new year!

- nic.wright@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



Wombat Crossing

Community consultation has been conducted on a proposal to change the existing pedestrian refuge on Elizabeth

Street at Wilkes Avenue to a wide, raised pedestrian crossing (also known as a Wombat Crossing) to improve safety. The wombat crossing will improve safety by giving priority to, and enhancing the visibility of, the high number of pedestrians that cross Elizabeth Street, particularly during weekday peak periods, to and from the Artarmon train station. The new traffic arrangements will also slow traffic along Elizabeth Street on both approaches to the new wombat crossing. There will be a loss of one parking space on the north-east corner of the crossing. This is necessary to comply with design requirements and will ensure approaching motorists and pedestrians have adequate sight distance to each other. The new pedestrian crossing forms part of the streetscape upgrade works for the Wilkes Avenue precinct which is in the planning stage and will go to public consultation shortly.

Parking Restrictions for Artarmon West

Plans by Willoughby Council to apply parking restrictions in west Artarmon streets will deter all day commuters leaving their cars when using Artarmon Station and boat, trailer and caravan owners. Council considers the

Councillors' feedback...feedback...

new scheme will address the limited supply of spaces in the area while supporting businesses that contribute to the local economy. Parking demand in west Artarmon has increased over time and it is anticipated that it will continue to grow in light of ongoing land use changes and demands generated by the new Sydney Metro. Timed parking restrictions in the Artarmon Village will also increase parking turnover on the weekends and better align with the local business operations. The changes will be introduced in early 2020 after final approval at the December 2019 Council meeting. There will be 225 unrestricted spaces with four hour parking limits. Streets involved include Barton Road, Buller Road, White

Street, Parkes Road, Cleland Road, Benton Avenue, Robert Street and Eric Road. Resident permit holders would be exempted. Seventy parking spaces with 30 minute and one hour limits will be extended to various times on weekdays and weekends on parts of Francis Road, Hampden Road, Broughton Road and Jersey Road.

Draft Local Centres Strategy

The Independent Report on the feedback on key ideas, scenarios, draft master plan for Artarmon demonstrates that there is support for open space, public domain, community hubs and employment options but concerns about impact of heights on streetscapes, heritage values and village atmosphere.

There are also concerns regarding adequacy of infrastructure and traffic impacts. Artarmon residents are in general agreement for key ideas but mixed views regarding whether existing façades should be retained. There is also strong support for redevelopment of the library site and increased housing around the train station. Willoughby Council will further examine submissions and liaison will take place with state infrastructure providers and the progress association. Final proposal will be presented to Council by April 2020.

Please share with me your thoughts and I welcome feedback on any current issues.

- christine.tuon@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Cameron Avenue explorers by Adrian Alexander



Dilys and Malcolm Booth / APA

The December 2018 edition of the *Artarmon Gazette* ([www.artarmonprogress.org.au/Gazette/issues/Gazette 201812.web.pdf](http://www.artarmonprogress.org.au/Gazette/issues/Gazette%201812.web.pdf)) documented the John Booth family involvement between 1906 and 1910 in the subdivision of the five acres which is Cameron Avenue.

John and Catherine Booth (nee Cameron) moved to New Zealand about 1910 when NSW was in severe drought. They considered there were better prospects for farming in New Zealand than in Australia.

The descendants of John and Catherine Booth living in New Zealand

contributed to our research and we were able to expand on their knowledge of the Booth family activities in Australia.

Earlier this year, grandson of John and Catherine Booth, Malcolm Booth and his wife Dilys visited Cameron Avenue for the first time, having previously been unaware of the location of their grandfather's land development activities. They were impressed with the standard of houses in the street and commented on the trees and gardens. Malcolm and Dilys were pleased to experience Artarmon and gained a better understanding of the role that John Booth played in the development of Willoughby City in the early 1900's. Malcolm and Dilys also visited the other two John Booth subdivisions in Willoughby South and in Stanley Street Chatswood.

John Booth's Willoughby *South Hills of Ophir Estate*, off Edward Street near Channel 9, has street names of Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Cobar, Wyalong and Lucknow. Booth dabbled in gold mining investments and owned mining leases. Malcolm and Dilys confirmed there were gold mining company share certificates in John Booth's Estate records.

John and Catherine Booth named their eldest son Andrew Cameron Booth. Malcolm and Dilys honoured Catherine in the naming of their two children, which shows the esteem that Catherine is held within the family.



Artarmon Library

139 Artarmon Road, Artarmon • Telephone: 9419 2849

Opening Hours

Monday	10.00am – 1.00pm
Tuesday	2.30pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am – 1.00pm
Thursday	2.30pm – 8.00pm
Friday	2.30pm – 5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am – 12 noon
Sunday	Closed
Public Holidays	Closed