

## Wilkes Avenue (Re)developments

By Keith Anderson, APA President

*Keith Anderson seeks local input in relation to the future 'look' of Wilkes Avenue and surrounds.*

### Short Term Upgrade

The evolution of Wilkes Ave to a food court continues. The laundromat is no more. The shop on the north east corner is being converted to a restaurant (including outdoor seating). All existing outlets appear to be enjoying greater levels of business.

In the short term, Council is preparing detailed plans for the changes to the area that were exhibited at the Heritage Fair. These changes will remove the southern planter box (curiously named since nothing thrives therein), update the public telephones to a more modern and less dominant form (Telstra cooperation assumed), and put the power lines underground. Some form of 'public art' is being considered – a suggestion has been made that this might be 'child-friendly' and incorporate an area with soft rubber-crumb paving.

The area will continue to rely on shopkeepers providing rest room facilities for their patrons.

A tentative date for the 2005 Artarmon Heritage Fair has been set for Saturday April 9. Council has been asked to use this date as a deadline for completion of the upgrade.

### Longer Term Plans

In 2003, Council's Finance Director, Nick Tobin, addressed an APA public meeting last year and mentioned the possibility of a project to upgrade the branch library and associated space. He envisaged a collaborative venture, which would include some commercial space as well as expanded community facilities. Library facilities would be retained and updated.

APA has been giving some longer-term thought to the scope and scale of such a project. Options might include:

- An atrium for the food court area
- Public toilet facilities to service the food court and the needs of the Hampden Rd shopping area.

- Dedicated meeting space (to replace the present makeshift use of library space)
- Replacement of the Cameron Ave parking area by underground parking associated with the new building
- Dougherty Centre style self-care units and/or a respite centre for the frail aged
- Multipurpose sports hall suitable for table tennis, badminton, occasional large public meetings or event hire
- Appropriate office/commercial space.

The number and variety of the needs that could be met depend on the 'footprint' available for the building. One suggestion is to interest State Rail in the project. Their involvement would be provision of some of their land on the eastern side of the station. Such provision would need to mesh with their long term plans for the rail corridor. It might allow the building to act as a noise and visual barrier between the station and Elizabeth St. Careful consideration would need to be given to the wisdom of locating aged facilities in such a building. The benefits of proximity to shops and public transport may be outweighed by problems of noise and vibration.

Relocation of the Cameron Ave carpark would allow the land and street to be restored to residential use. It is expected that the funds generated by sale or long-term lease of that land would be applied to Council's contribution to the project funding.

APA seeks community input on these ideas – additional uses or community needs, scale of project, support, concerns, etc. APA will then make a submission intended to encourage Council to commission a project



*Wilkes Avenue - in line for a short term upgrade*

Masterplan, which would then be placed on public exhibition. Once agreed, Council would then seek expressions of interest for development and construction of a commercial collaborative venture.

I welcome your comments on [aandk\\_anderson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:aandk_anderson@optusnet.com.au) or call / fax 9411 1082. ■

**APA AGM**  
**Tues 31 Aug**  
**8pm - 10pm**

**See page 3 for**  
**Speakers and Agenda**  
**Artarmon Library**  
**Elizabeth St**

# Artarmon Progress Association

ABN 77 319 108 019

Established 1914

The APA Committee usually meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month, excluding December.

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## COMMITTEE 2003-2004

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**V P/Treasurer** Michael Dawes  
**Secretary** David Bruce-Steer  
**Committee** Geof Cameron  
Brian Hall  
Tony Kemm  
Sonia Powell  
Mercedes Riviera  
Michelle Sloane  
Anne Weinert

## artarmon GAZETTE

PO Box 540 Artarmon 1570

The Artarmon Gazette is published quarterly by the Artarmon Progress Association. It is distributed by volunteers, free of charge to Artarmon residents and businesses.

The Artarmon Gazette seeks to inform residents and business people about current local events and issues and provide them with a forum in which to discuss matters of interest and concern.

Written contributions and photographs are very welcome. Please submit all non-advertising material to the Editor. Material can be received on disk or via email. Some minor editing may be necessary for considerations of space and layout.

View and opinions expressed in the Artarmon Gazette are not necessarily those of the Artarmon Progress Association or its members. While all care is taken for accuracy, no responsibility can be taken by the Association, the Editor, Typesetter or Printer.

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## FUTURE DATES

Tue	31 Aug 04	Public Information Meeting, 8pm, Artarmon Library
Thu	21 Oct 04	Gazette copy closes
Fri	29 Oct 04	Gazette advertising closes
Tue	23 Nov 04	Gazette delivery complete
Tue	30 Nov 04	Public Information Meeting 8pm, Artarmon Library

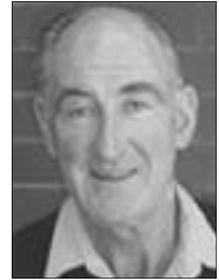
# APA Annual Report 2004

By Keith Anderson, President

As our Annual General Meeting, to be held Tuesday 31st August approaches, it is timely to renew our invitation to all residents of "Artarmon, 2064" to join the APA and contribute to the protection and enhancement of the quality environment.

Your support is needed and there are opportunities at both executive and committee level for contributions towards the community effort.

Looking ahead, we continue to have major objectives and challenges in a number of areas that I have mentioned below.



Keith Anderson

**Lane Cove Tunnel** - Despite all efforts to date, severe potential traffic implications remain quite unresolved. Unless there is a determined and united front, we face being submerged in an unwelcome flood of through traffic, disrupting and endangering the safety of children attending Artarmon Primary School and the amenity of the Village shopping strip - quite apart from adding to the already congested major intersections through which those who drive must pass to enter and exit our suburb.

In her splendid, informative article on page 5, Sonia Powell has detailed important issues surrounding the construction process and some of the lesser known impacts of what will be significant changes to travelling patterns of many residents. I commend this to you.

**Chatswood Transport Interchange** - APA has submitted comments to Willoughby City Council (WCC) and the Parramatta Rail Link (PRL) in support of an efficient, people-friendly interchange with much improved access for all forms of public transport - ie buses, taxis, trains.

There is concern that the new facility will require closure of Orchard Rd, north of Albert Ave, thus denying Artarmon residents a convenient route north, given the frustrations at the Pacific Highway / Mowbray Rd intersection. This matter has also been raised with WCC and the RTA.

**Chatswood Civic Centre** - APA has supported this proposal for the CBD with the proviso that financial issues are acceptably resolved. As part of the "greater" WCC, APA sees its role extending to overview developments in our city centre where the interests of the Artarmon community, both culturally and financially, are involved.

**Community Centre for Artarmon - Artarmon Library / Wilkes Ave** - Given the emergence of the popular small restaurant precinct in Wilkes Ave, WCC has released proposals for some modest enhancements to the plaza. APA would like to see these enhanced to include, say, a clear roof to form an atrium.

There is also potential to redevelop the Council's Artarmon Library site and link it with the Wilkes Ave plaza. Artarmon badly needs a community centre and expectations that the new Kids Cottage, magnificent as it is, might have fulfilled that role, have proved to have been unfounded. We have called for your thoughts on what you might like to see in this area in our lead article in this issue of the Gazette

**Heritage Fair - 2005** - APA is keen to build on the great success of this year's Fair again in 2005. We have Michelle Sloane and her team to thank for their sustained efforts.

**Artarmon Industrial Area** - Consultant's report on proposed DCP No 29 is before WCC. APA has taken a key role in reviewing WCC's proposals for this important industrial area and seeks to ensure that objectives for freeing up some of the overly restrictive requirements of the existing plan are implemented in an acceptable form. APA wishes to ensure the final plan better meets the requirements of modern trends in industrial development and employment whilst preserving those "older" industries that contribute to the needs of the local community.

**Artarmon Railway Station** - We continue to work to achieve better station access, including a lift, and will continue to lobby with the assistance of Gladys Berejiklian, our State MP.

**Public Transport** - Against a background of apparent lethargy or disinterest by the authorities, APA has been seeking and will continue to seek commitments for better public transport for AIA, West Artarmon and bus stops on the Gore Hill Freeway. As well as Government provided services, APA is supporting research into provision of community provided services.

**Reserves** - APA has more work to do to ensure that public reserves within 2064 and access to them are enhanced.

**Gazette** - The Gazette remains a major challenge for those few, dedicated

*Continued next page*

## Letters to the Editor

25 MAY 2004

To Editorial Team, CONGRATULATIONS on a great issue!! Masthead design is great and content excellent with lots of interest. Well done to all involved and thanks for mentioning my stall being at the Fair.

Barbara Bryan, Barbara Bryan Photography

## APA Annual report *continued*

people who spend so much time on its production.

A major objective is to encourage more people to join our team, especially someone who could assist with marketing and managing the essential advertising, without which there would be no Gazette! For this role, a modest "honorarium" may be negotiated.

APA encourages readers to use the services of our valued advertisers.

After a lengthy involvement, Editor, John Peacock, is "retiring" and I take this opportunity to thank John for his sustained contribution to the success of this publication. Fortunately, we have an excellent successor in Anne Weinert, albeit at the cost of losing her from our committee where she has been a valuable contributor.

**Achievements during 2004** have been made in:

**Artarmon Reserve** – Working with WCC, we finally have a marvellous new children's playground as well as the new, soft surface track and bridge around the perimeter of the oval.

**Artarmon Railway Station** - After lengthy representations, the "gap" between the platform and stopping trains is gradually reducing! More work is required if we are to achieve our objective for a lift.

**Heritage Fair 2004** - A marvellous success. Thanks to Michelle Sloane and her team of helpers, including WCC, the School, Gil Davis and the business community who contributed.

**Public Information Meetings** - These have been held regularly as advertised in the Gazette. Notwithstanding a number of excellent speakers on a range of interesting subjects, attendances have been disappointing. We encourage residents to show their support by attending whenever possible.

**Web Site** - This has been upgraded during the year and readers are encouraged to go to [www.artarmonprogress.org.au](http://www.artarmonprogress.org.au) and provide us with feedback. Thanks to David Bruce-Steer for his sustained contribution to the site.

**Other Community Organisations** - Your committee worked closely with WCC, Councillors and Neighbourhood Watch during the year. A special thanks to former councillor Lesley Stephens who retired at the local government elections. We also hope to develop a close relationship with a re-invigorated Artarmon Chamber of Commerce in the future.

### Committee

The whole committee has contributed in a sustained manner and it would not be fair to single out individuals. Suffice to say, I believe the community has benefited from their dedication to a wide range of issues. I am sure the Council has valued our contribution. It is important that Artarmon retains its status in

the eyes of the Council and those other organisations with whom we deal.

With some committee members retiring, APA continues to seek new representatives and appeals to those interested in protecting our local environment to come forward at our meeting on 31st August, or, meanwhile, to contact any member of our committee.

After three years as President, it is time for some fresh blood and ideas and I would like to thank the Committee for their great support during my term. It has been a time of many interesting and challenging issues, several of which are ongoing and along with some new initiatives, will require strong community support if success is to be achieved. ■

## APA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

31 August 2004, 8.00-10.00pm, Artarmon Community Library, Elizabeth St

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### Agenda items

*Minutes from previous AGM, President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Council Liaison, Artarmon Gazette, Membership, Election Of Committee, Other APA portfolios*

#### Proposed changes to the APA Constitution:

- 1) That Clause 3 (Requirements of membership) be changed to read "A person on the electoral roll as a resident of Artarmon, a ratepayer for an Artarmon property **or a lease holder of Artarmon property** may apply for membership of the Association. The geographical definition of Artarmon is that noted by the geographical names board."
- 2) That the name of the Association be altered to: "Artarmon Progress Association Inc." ('& District' to be deleted).

### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Hear from our re-elected WCC Ward Councillors Stuart Coppock and Kate Lamb and newly elected Councillor Barry Thompson.

Listen to their comments on the new Willoughby City Council and all the community issues they will be addressing in the coming year. There are many 'live' issues to discuss:

- What's happening with the Lane Cove tunnel? Are the Artarmon traffic issues being addressed?
- What now for the Civic Place development after the elections?
- Progress and the issues surrounding the Chatswood railway station and bus interchange?
- The proposed Wilkes Avenue and library re-development? ■

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## Years of Teaching Experience in the School's Primary Department

In an earlier issue of The Artarmon Gazette (February 2004), we profiled the two assistant principals in the infant's department. This issue, we focus on the primary department's two assistant principals, Pauline Mitchell and Peter Weyde.



Pauline Mitchell

Pauline Mitchell joined Artarmon Public School in 1999 as assistant principal and classroom teacher. Her 30-plus years of teaching experience range from classroom

teaching in several schools around metropolitan Sydney to developing Italian teaching materials for community language teachers and teaching English as a foreign language to adults and children in Milan.

Pauline brings a wide range of skills to Artarmon Primary, all of them governed by her dedication to the philosophy of public education. Through her teaching she aims to help students achieve their personal best and become good citizens, encourage them to develop strong organisational skills and to develop a love of learning, reading and literature.

Aside from her classroom responsibilities, Pauline is one of two assistant principals in the primary school. In this role, she has many responsibilities including the implementation of years 3 and 4

syllabuses, coordinator of the classroom improvements committee, coordinator of literacy resources for years 3 & 4 and Student Representative Council staff representative.



Peter Weyde

With two assistant principals in the primary school, it is important to ensure a clear delineation of responsibilities.

"Peter [other assistant principal] and I negotiate duties at the beginning of each year. We complement each other and the duties seem to fall according to our professional interests," said Pauline.

"Our values about education and teaching are similar and our communication and ability to accept advice from each other is sound and supportive," she said.

Pauline believes Artarmon Public School is a harmonious, cooperative school with interested students and extremely supportive parents who engender the importance of education in their children.

In her spare time, Pauline enjoys tennis, golf, patchwork, traveling and walking her English Springer Spaniel.

Born in Scotland, Peter Weyde arrived in Australia in 1975. He started teaching OC (Opportunity Class) in 1987 having joined the school the year before. "Being an OC teacher

offers the flexibility to create a differentiated learning program for the students. It also creates a very enjoyable teaching environment," Peter said. Peter describes teaching gifted and talented students, those who qualify for placement in an OC program, as a job that requires lots of commitment and hard work as well as a special set of skills.

He believes his skills are influencing a positive and caring learning and social environment, instilling an interest in learning, thinking outside the square and taking an interest in what interests today's children.

Peter is also passionate about children's literature and has built a comprehensive library of children's books.

Since being appointed assistant principal in 2003, Peter needs to balance his teaching and administrative responsibilities. He says, "Pauline and I each have our own supervision responsibilities but we work as a team on many issues. We constantly consult on daily and longer-term initiatives, and often problem solve together."

Like Pauline, Peter also likes the generally cooperative, polite and motivated students at Artarmon, as well as the supportive, interested parents. He also enjoys the positive attitudes of the teachers and team spirit embodied by the executive.

His interests include playing competitive bridge, travel, baroque and classical music and writing plays for school. ■

## Anti-Bullying a Priority

Wednesday 23rd June 2004 was a special day for Artarmon Public School. The children dressed in orange and wore cards with the motto "It's Cool to be Kind." The whole school sang "Hearts in Harmony" while two students, Katie Trevor and Sarah Krust performed a ribbon dance and local artist Jo Palaitis judged posters depicting the children's ideas of harmony.

But behind the festivities was an extremely important message for the school's community -

**bullying won't be tolerated** - and the official launch of its anti-bullying policy.

Over recent months, Artarmon's deputy principal, Jan Cohen, has been working on developing the school's policy on bullying. The principles of the policy are that every student has the right to be treated as an individual with dignity, to feel safe and to be able to learn free from anxiety. By formalising the policy, and communicating its principles to the school's staff and students, Jan hopes to

develop a more supportive school environment and one where bullies cannot hide. She is deeply committed to the successful implementation of the policy and is planning a range of strategies to reinforce the policy over coming months including rewards for positive social skills, dramatic performances and an annual survey of bullying behaviour.

She also hopes that following the launch, the children will remember some of the following messages:

- It's Cool to be Kind
- Bullying is not acceptable
- Support anyone who is being bullied
- Tell an adult if you are being bullied
- Use positive social skills. ■



Jo Palaitis rewards kindergarten student, Sophie Ramsay for her poster entry.

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# Lane Cove Tunnel Project Update

By **Sonia Powell**,  
Artarmon CCLG3 Representative

Hi, I live in Kitchener Road and I am representing local residents on CCLG3, Thiess John Holland's (TJH) community liaison group focussing on Lane Cove Tunnel construction works from the Pacific Highway to Naremburn.

## Where's the Lane Cove Tunnel project up to?

Construction started a few months ago on the twin tunnels, expected to open in 2006. Works are also starting in Broughton Rd, Reserve Rd north, and Barton Rd - the first of various construction compounds that will affect Artarmon residential areas.

## Impacts on Artarmon during construction

The main eastern construction site for the underground tunneling is in Marden St, where the tall eastern ventilation stack will be located. Around Artarmon, local surface works will include clearing vegetation, building retaining walls, rock-breaking & other earthworks, removing spoil, relocating services etc to:

- widen the Gore Hill Freeway for new transit lanes, lengthening the railway overpass & pedestrian underpasses
- develop the eastern tunnel portal
- relocate the Reserve Road on- and off-ramps to the outside of the Freeway
- reconfigure the Pacific Highway/Gore Hill Freeway tunnel interchange
- develop the North Ryde-Naremburn cycleway.

Along both sides of the Gore Hill Freeway, there will be several worksites and compounds from which TJH will carry out these surface works. Noise, dust, vibration, loss of trees, construction traffic and parking may be issues for residents and businesses in many parts of Artarmon and Naremburn close to the Freeway.

For the volunteers on the CCLGs, it's about working with TJH to identify specific local issues and minimise the impact of construction activities. TJH has also been working actively with community representatives and neighbours – including the school and local childcare centres – to make the next few years as painless as possible.

## What about long-term impacts?

Apart from air quality concerns, there are two key Tunnel issues likely to cause long-term problems for our suburb:

### Increased traffic on local Artarmon streets.

The EIS predicted a 58% increase in traffic on Reserve Rd north after the tunnel opens, as drivers from Sydney's north-west opt to use Hampden Rd to reach Chatswood and north-eastern suburbs. This raises major concerns about pedestrian and cyclists' safety, especially near the school and station; residential amenity; the potential for clearways on Hampden Rd; and the impact on the shopping village. State and local authorities must work seriously to keep this through-traffic on main arterial roads, not on local streets.

### Major redesign of the Pacific Highway / Gore Hill Freeway interchange.

Many Artarmon residents and businesses will pay a heavy price to make this interchange more attractive to the extra through-traffic:

- The left-hand turn from the Gore Hill Freeway onto the Pacific Highway is to be permanently removed. So drivers going home to the huge Northview Apartment complex, and drivers accessing some of the Pacific Highway businesses south of the Freeway, will have to travel much further – either via Artarmon residential streets (Reserve Rd north, Broughton Rd and Rimmington St), or via Lane Cove residential streets accessed along Norton Lane.

• The right-hand turn from the Pacific Highway into Howarth St is to be permanently removed. Residents west of Hampden Rd who

currently drive out towards Chatswood via Rimmington St and Howarth St will in future need to find an alternative route - eg via Hampden Rd, or doubling back through the Artarmon industrial area to turn right onto the Highway.

• It is not clear that drivers leaving the Northview Apartments will still be able to turn right onto the Pacific Highway.

## Questions and concerns

Policy matters that concern the wider community are resolved at the political/governmental level – eg through Willoughby Council, DIPNR and the RTA. The CCLGs deal with specific construction-related issues.

To contact TJH about roadwork construction or design issues, including air quality issues:

- Community Contact Line: 1800 009 280 (24 hours, toll free)
- Website: [www.lanecovetunnelproject.com.au](http://www.lanecovetunnelproject.com.au)

• Community Information Centre: Unit 7, 401 Pacific Highway Artarmon - open Mondays to Fridays 10-6 and Saturdays 10-1

If you have concerns about specific construction issues that you would like me to raise through the Community Liaison Group, send these by email to [lctgroup@artarmonprogress.org.au](mailto:lctgroup@artarmonprogress.org.au) ■



Sonia Powell, Artarmon CCLG3 representative

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## EXTENDED HOURS ARTARMON BRANCH LIBRARY

As of Monday 23 August, opening hours of Artarmon Library will be:

Monday	10am – 1 pm
Regular story-time for pre-schoolers (10.30 – 11.30 am)	
Tuesday	2:30 pm – 5 pm
Wednesday	10 00am – 1 pm
Thursday	2:30 pm – 5 pm
Friday	2:30 pm – 5 pm
Saturday	9.30 – 12.00 noon

For further information contact Angelina Yeung or Alison Davidson of Willoughby Library on 9777 7900.

# Playground Opening a Great Success

The long awaited upgrade to the Artarmon Reserve playground was celebrated with an opening on 16th May 2004, organised by Neighbourhood Watch and the APA, and supported by WCC. The BBQers cooked up over 400 sausages for the many local children

and adults who came to enjoy the sunshine, the new facilities, and the enormously popular balloonist! The playground was officially opened by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Terry Fogarty. NW would like to thank everyone for their generous donations on the day. ■



## *Harmonic Dance* *weaving the etheric*

Weekly classes are held in both Artarmon and Leura. For information on classes, workshops and performances please contact Debby Mader.

Phone: 9411 4232

Email: debby@harmonicdance.org

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# The Winemaker of Cameron Avenue

By Toni McKay

Although Frank and Pina Mico grow grapes in their lush garden in Cameron Ave, Frank doesn't use them for his wine. Nor does he use the method of extracting the juice used by his family in Casignana in Calabria. Although he and Pina have six married children with families, more than enough feet to do the job, he chooses to use up-to-date machinery to make his potent brew.

Frank and Pina are long-time residents of Cameron Ave with only two of their original neighbours still living in the street. Both from Calabria, they met when Frank went to Pina's parents farm in Milperra on a buying trip. They married in 1954 and left Chatswood to buy the greengrocery business on the corner of Wilkes Ave. Frank remembers East Artarmon as being a separate village with most services in the little shopping area. At one time there were two grocery stores, a Franklins store, as well as a Warmans (which became Jewel). The usual doctors, dentist, pharmacy, milk bar, hairdresser, shoe repair shop and butcher where there when the Micos arrived, and Frank remembers buying a gift in the hat shop on the corner of the lane. And the Artarmon Library Stationery and Gift shop "with new books added every week" was there for many years. Much has changed since the mid 1950s in Wilkes Ave.

A chance remark about the name Mico proved most interesting. Frank said that the name is not Italian. He understood his ancestors came from southern France, but recently, a nephew of his who is studying music told him about Richard Mico, a musician in Paris in the late 1600s, who was said to have come from Devon. A look through the Devon parish records confirmed that the name Mico was very well represented from the early 1500s in the village of Branscombe and appears to have originated there in cider-making country, a long way from the wine-making country of southern Italy.

Frank, in his green grocer's position on the corner, saw the comings and goings of a generation of East Artarmon inhabitants in the 27 years he had the business. He recalls delivering orders to many of the elderly original home owners and seeing countless children pass by on their way to and from school. He and Pina keep a keen interest in what happens in their neighbourhood and as Pina says, they "wouldn't want to live anywhere else". ■



Frank Mico, the greengrocer of Wilkes Avenue



Frank and Pina Mico

## North Shore Business Awards Outstanding Pharmacy 2004



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# Councillors' feedback...feedback...feedback



## Lane Cove Tunnel and Gore Hill Freeway

The Mayor has sought a meeting with Carl Scully, Minister for Roads concerning design changes to the LCT project, following representations

made to him by the Artarmon Chamber of Commerce and myself. Design changes were ruled out earlier this year. However Council has received informal advice of various changes to the project, and is currently seeking detailed information on the impacts of tunnel length being increased by 145m, deletion of the exhaust in the tunnel from midpoint to the eastern exhaust stack, changes to ventilation operation under both congested and free flow conditions, and alteration of tunnel gradients. The matters that will be taken to the Minister are:

- LCT EIS prediction of a 58% rise in traffic in Reserve Road north of the Gore Hill Freeway
- layout of the off and on ramps at Reserve Rd do not permit bus "set down and pick up" lanes to service the Artarmon Industrial area
- planned replication of the footbridge crossing the Gore Hill Freeway at Naremburn Shopping centre to provide a bicycle bridge, which may eat into the provision of critical car parking for the Naremburn shopping centre
- the inability of traffic to move between Reserve Rd and the Pacific Highway without traversing residential streets.

Under the EIS consent conditions, the RTA began undertaking traffic studies in the Artarmon area in April. I discussed early finalisation and release of this study by the RTA with the Mayor and the General Manager, as it may assist in discussions with the Minister. Any

release after construction is underway seems to defeat the intent of the consent condition.

The Chandos Street Bridge Link project has been unwittingly caught up in the LCT project. As some Artarmon residents have identified, the toll on the Falcon Street ramps will cause Herbert St and the Bridge (when constructed) to become a rat run. As one person said it would be like putting back the traffic congestion that the Gore Hill Freeway removed.

The S94 funds committed to Bridge come from contributions made from developments in the Artarmon Industrial Area. If they are not used on the Bridge they will need to be used for works dealing with traffic issues associated with the Industrial Area. Could these funds be utilised in accordance with State legislation to support the long standing issues of no bus service into or out of the industrial area from Chatswood or Artarmon? It would require advice but the idea needs to be explored. Comment is sought from the community on this idea.

The State Member for Willoughby recently raised some press coverage about Access to Artarmon Railway Station. There is a program for such works, the Easy Access Program, funded by Commonwealth monies and administered by the State Government. Artarmon is NOT on the Easy Access Program list and needs to be.

A petition for signing by concerned residents is at Nick Logan Pharmacy. The petition requests the State Government to place Artarmon on the list of stations to be upgraded and to give the matter priority due to the high number of persons in Artarmon who need this service for everyday mobility. I have asked the Mayor to raise the matter with the appropriate State Minister. The State Member for Lane Cove has also indicated his

support. It is hoped that one of our State Parliamentarians might run a notice of motion in the Parliament on the issue in conjunction with, and in support of, the residents' petition. ■



A dark cloud hanging over me has gone away. I was informed recently that a challenge to my election as Councillor had been withdrawn. Now I feel I can really get on with the job. Being

on Council sure helps pass my time. I also have had to become ruthless in trying to control the paper flow. It seems I have just digested and dealt with one large envelope and the next one arrives. And a few days away really upset the budding system! Yes, I know, I brought it all on myself...

Civic Place is moving into its detailed design phase following a review of project funding and a vote to proceed. The funding review report by PricewaterhouseCoopers was supportive while recommending ongoing vigilance to ensure that costs do not blow out. Costs will be reviewed again as the next stage of design is completed. A recommendation to look at options for risk management through the construction phase of the project will be studied and reported to Council.

I have joined the Finance Committee of Council, along with seven of my peers. The timing of the election meant that budget preparations were well advanced when we first met. While I had some opportunity to comment, I hope to have greater input to the planning and budgeting process in future years.

You will have received your rate notice by now. Increases for Artarmon were less than for some

## PHYSIOTHERAPY



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**Ann Liebert**  
M.A.P.A. M.M.A.P.A.  
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# Councillors' feedback...feedback...feedback

other parts of the city where the Valuer General was much more bullish. I am pleased that the continuation of the e-restore program, with its special rate, has been so well accepted. Council is in the process of endorsing detailed plans for the program. For example, an energy conservation proposal for Council's major operating assets will give a very attractive return on an investment of about \$500K at the same time as it helps us meet our CO2 reduction target.

Council is studying how we can take advantage of the changes to urban bus controls proposed in the Unsworth Report in order to assist efforts to develop our local public transport infrastructure. That effort will augment the public transport module of e-restore already underway.

In relation to the Artarmon Industrial Area - firstly, Council is actively negotiating on development of the ABC site. I am hoping that the outcomes will be worthy of the landmark status of that site. Watch this space. Secondly, Council is proposing to provide more loading zones on local streets, as a consequence of reactions to closer enforcement of parking controls. The proposals will be brought to the August Traffic Committee, which I attend. If you have a view or need more information on this issue, please let me know.

Finally, I plan to write occasional letters to my constituents. If you would be willing to help me with delivery of these within the Ward, please let me know. The exercise will be good for you and valuable for me as well!  
Barry.Thompson@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au or 9412 1596. ■



Kate Lamb

Since I last wrote this column, I have had the opportunity to travel to what must be one of the most fascinating countries in our corner of the world - China! I visited stunning and

romantic Shanghai, cruised up the Yangtze and toured the breathtaking, World Heritage listed WulingYuan Mountain Range in Hunan Province. I made quite a few contacts with local government people - all of whom were very keen to establish economic and cultural links with Australia. I would like to help foster such links as Willoughby has a fine basis for growing the relationship - did you know that over 10% of Willoughby's population speaks a Chinese language at home?

There's nothing quite like travel to give you a sense of perspective is there? For example, whilst residential density in Shanghai is very high (it is home to more people than live in the whole of Australia), I never felt crowded anywhere. I have learnt that skyscrapers can be things of beauty. And I was very impressed with their investment in the public domain. There was no litter. Streetscapes were really attractive with public artworks, generous bicycle lanes often separated by beautiful street tree plantings and wide, wide footpaths. So many new parks (redeveloped on the site of bulldozed 'sub standard' housing) with lovingly transplanted, advanced specimen trees such as ginkgo, magnolia, camphor laurel and plane. Topiary is very popular, especially along the all too plentiful freeways. Every road junction is a major planting opportunity at ground level and above - they have planter boxes of jasmine hanging off the flyovers! This is what can happen where there is plentiful cheap labour

and unchallenged government decision making (not that I'm advocating that!)

At our last Council meeting, I sponsored a Motion which saw Council supporting the option of job sharing for Councillors. This will now be debated at the NSW Local Government Conference in October. I put this up because early this year I became aware of two very talented women who wanted to run together - in this Ward. One of was the APA's own Michelle Sloane - can anyone doubt her capacity? I think respect for diversity is a great strength in a community and that this move is a logical extension of what is already the most representative sector of government. Therefore it is no surprise for me to see where the strongest opposition seems to be coming from!

I hope that all you creative folk out there have got your entries in for the "most coveted contemporary art prize on the north shore". This year there are 8 divisions with the 3D Open Award being a substantial \$5000. Winners will be announced on September 3rd at the event which launches 2004's bigger and busier than ever, Willoughby Spring Festival. Watch Council's website ([www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au)) for details of the month's events.

e: kate.lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au ;

p: 9958 0415; f: 9958 6576 ■

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# Water and your garden plants

By Mollie Shelley

Our conversations inevitably turn to water: how much do plants need; which plants require less water; can we still afford exotics? The only plants I lost over the summer were natives – Eriostemons which were deeply mulched but were twelve years old and had their roots disturbed by the removal of a nearby plant. In this article I've looked at some general issues to take into consideration when deciding on new plantings.

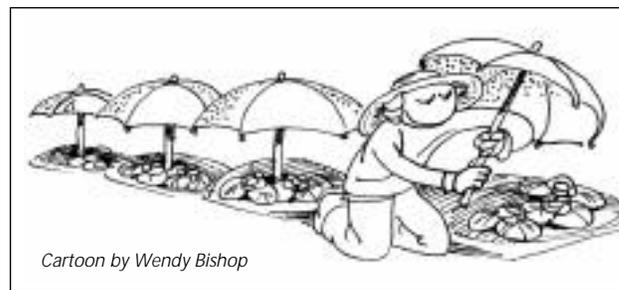
Heat damage is much affected by soil conditions, location and aspect. At the two extremes, humus rich clay soils will always retain more moisture than impoverished free-draining sandy soils. The garden at the bottom of a terraced slope will have more moisture than the narrower beds higher up. Gardens built close to where there was originally an easement will have more underground water than those higher up the hill.

Plants exposed to reflected heat from concrete drives, footpaths or other structures are more likely to burn when temperatures soar. Plants have a much greater chance of survival if protected from the heat of the midday and early afternoon sun, under trees, beside fences and houses provided they are given a drink before too long. How long will depend on the species, the soil and depth of mulch. It's up to

you to get to understand your plants in the same way as you understand that your children and grandchildren all have individual needs derived from the environment in which they have to survive.

Establishing a garden under drought conditions is a challenge to your ingenuity. Apart from mulch and such products as Wettasoil, Saturaid and Rainsaver crystals, there are other tricks you can get up to. Last summer I threw a strip of shade cloth over some treasured plants by ten o'clock each day, removing it in the late afternoon. In an earlier drought, establishing a new garden on sandstone soils, I learned to plant a small rock beside each new plant. The stone 'drew' water, provided stability and gave the new plant a cool moist root run. I still find small rocks an asset in the garden.

Country gardeners trying to establish new trees plant a bottle, neck down with its flat bottom cut off, beside the tree or shrub. They can then give the plant a drink down at root level by filling the bottle with water and allowing it to trickle down slowly. The trick, I'm told, is to only water when the plant is showing signs of stress, otherwise you encourage it to keep its



Cartoon by Wendy Bishop

roots at the level of the bottom of the bottle rather than forcing it to forage deeper.

Natives or exotics? Most natives are tough but many plants from South Africa have low water requirements, e.g. the Proteas. Mediterranean plants, many of them silver-leaved, are drought resistant. The NZ Arthropodium or Renga Renga Lily needs little water and its foliage is attractive. I've found narrow-leaved plants such as Ophiopogon, Liriope and Ruellia useful as are the daisy family, Easter daisies, Shasta daisies and Stokesia.

But let me repeat: I believe that manure, compost, deep mulch, rocks and stones are your best defence. ■

PERMACULTURE NORTH meets 3rd Monday evening each month in Lindfield.

Info: Wendy Bishop, 9420 4884.

## Artarmon BushCare Volunteer Profile



Philip Scholl, leader of the Artarmon Reserve Bushcare Group

By Samantha Glass

Weekend Aussie bushland carer and weekday Journalist for the NSW Premier's Department, Philip Scholl, is the Leader of the Artarmon Reserve BushCare Group. Philip and his team, supported by Willoughby City Council (WCC) BushCare convener Paul Bullock, meet for a few hours on the first Sunday of every month to tend to their extensive 'bush backyard'.

Locally renowned as a BushCare stalwart, Philip and his neighbours were inspired to save a spread of urban bushland 18 years ago. Their

common goal was to rid a beautiful bushland reserve of the creepers and weeds that were smothering it. "The natural bushland didn't have a chance. If it weren't for us vines would have taken over, smothering and killing all the trees. Weeds would be thriving and eventually there would be no natural bushland left", he said.

No sooner had Philip and his fellow bushland fans begun taking on the weeds in their 'backyards' than WCC's BushCare Group was formed, providing elemental

and consummate advice through free courses and on site at each meeting. "They [WCC] helped steer us in the right direction. We participated in the free courses, learning the right ways to get rid of weeds. In the 18 years since the bushland tending sessions began, there have been magnificent improvements. "It's now the way Australian bushland should be," said Phil. "We began clearing weeds and all of a sudden Angophoras (Sydney Red Gums), Blue Gums and ferns all started re-growing.

Phil's Bush Care group is a varied team with adults and children from around the reserve and beyond. WCC Mayor Pat Reilly said Philip and the Artarmon BushCare group were to be commended for their continued efforts over the years.

"They are a fine example of the kind of community we enjoy here in Willoughby and I congratulate their stamina in continuing to care for our bushland over so many years", said the Mayor. "Having the kids involved gives them an experience that they will have for the rest of their lives. We hope these experiences will influence their connection with our exceptional bushland reserves and conserve them well into the future. "You don't have to live near a reserve to join in and enjoy the outdoors. Many people in Willoughby join Bush Care groups because they don't have gardens or simply because they have an affinity with the bush", said Mayor Reilly.

Mr Scholl encourages more people to join the group or even start their own. "Because the reserve requires constant care and because it is so large, it could cater for dozens of groups, the more people that join the BushCare Groups the greater impact we can have", he said.

To join a BushCare group or for more information about identifying and eliminating noxious weeds contact Willoughby City Council on 9777 1000. ■



## Girl Guides are recycling corks

By Sonia Powell

Artarmon's Girl Guides have been promoting Australia's cork recycling program at recent community events.

The girls ran a cork-guessing competition at the Artarmon Fair, and honed their marketing skills at the annual Bunnings Warehouse Guide Biscuits sale. One lucky Bunnings customer won a new wheelbarrow by correctly guessing the exact number of corks it contained.

Thanks to Guides Australia, around 10% of Australia's cork is now recycled. In Artarmon, ask a school family to take your corks to the

Artarmon Public School canteen, or give them to a local Guide to take to the Guide Hall behind the Barton Street tennis courts. Most Body Shop outlets will also collect your corks for the recycling program.

Coming up: watch out for details of the **Artarmon Bikeathon on 19 September**. Have fun on wheels, and help us support autistic kids through 'Giant Steps'. Contact Leisa Davidson on 9427 7156 for more info. ■



Guides at the Artarmon Fair

### Talking 2064

**Congratulations** to our local pharmacy, Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice of Hampden Road, for winning the "Outstanding Pharmacy" section of the 2004 North Shore Business Awards. Well done Nick and team!

**The casual observer**, looking through the trees at Artarmon Reserve one morning in mid-June, could have been excused for thinking that the playing field was covered in snow. Closer inspection revealed that it was covered in sheets of a white plastic substance

which was then ploughed in as part of the re-grassing of the playing area.

**One of Artarmon's best known faces** is George who sells papers at the station for the Artarmon Newsagency. George has been unwell for a couple of months and returned to work a couple of weeks ago. We welcome George back to work and to good health.

**A recent spate of vandalism** has seen the boom gate in a car park in Broughton Rd being broken once a week, and several break in attempts at the pharmacy. Lights in Broughton Rd have been smashed on the weekends. Some louts on the way home? ■

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### Prayers For Rain

Special prayers for rain were conducted on 15 August in Anglican churches throughout Sydney. At a time when we are beginning to experience our great need for God to be gracious to us and send us rain, could I remind each of us that we also need to turn to Him as we seek His generosity.

### St Basil's New Times For Sunday

- 10.00am Parish Communion with Children's Programme
- 12 noon Korean Church Service
- 4.45pm Conversation English
- 6.00pm St Basil's@6. Phone 9412 1315 for more details.

### Market Day

Saturday 18 September  
9.00am - 1pm  
St Basil's Church Hall

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# REAL ESTATE COMMENT

## Sales are good but listings are scarce

Writing three months ago, I predicted that market forces would prevent Artarmon prices from falling far and this has proved correct.

*Gil Davis is the Principal of Home Traders Gil Davis & Associates (formerly Richardson & Wrench Artarmon).*



Gil Davis

We are now in what I consider to be a "fair" market. Well located properties are attracting strong interest and poorer ones have to reflect good value to sell. Hitherto the latter would sell at a premium only because buyers felt they had to buy something quickly before prices rose.

This year, a mere twenty houses have sold in all Artarmon at an average of \$1,117,050 (as at 10/7/04). This includes a wonderful, record breaking, private sale of \$2,100,000 in Shepherd Road. Seven homes have sold on the western side and one on Mowbray Road leaving only twelve sales in east Artarmon.

Unit sales volume is also way down. There have only been thirty five sales (to mid June) with prices actually similar to last year. Two bedroom units have averaged \$420,550 and three bedroom units \$547,500. Two bedroom townhouses have averaged \$493,875 and three bedroom townhouses \$575,000. Please note that completely up-to-date figures are hard to compile and statistics can be inaccurate on such low volumes, but it does give a good general idea.



## Home Traders going from strength to strength

I am proud to report that our name change has been well accepted and we are leaving the restrictions of our former franchise association well behind.

In a climate that most agencies are finding tough, we are expanding our sales force because we are now selling a large volume of properties in surrounding suburbs. Meanwhile, our Artarmon market share of houses is an astonishing 75% and approximately 30% of units and townhouses.

I believe the techniques that we have developed to achieve higher prices really shine through in those more difficult times as many happy clients attest. More exciting developments are in the pipeline.

Regards

***Gil Davis***

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