

## Artarmon air quality likely to decline



Photo: Thiess John Holland

**Will the exhaust stack in Artarmon become a symbol for community lifestyle disintegration? TJH photomontage shows the top of the exhaust tower emerging from the low-lying industrial area east of the Pacific Highway.**

**By Michael Dawes**

Artarmon can now add decreased air quality to its list of negative impacts arising from the Lane Cove Tunnel (LCT). Whilst travel times from the city will be significantly improved, the congestion caused by the harbour crossings will simply move the 'car park' on Epping Road to the Gore Hill Freeway. Artarmon and Naremburn residents will now receive the additional fumes from the slow moving cars that were once Lane Cove's domain.

At the APA's Public Information Meeting in November, the audience of over 100 was presented with information regarding the impact on air quality from vehicle exhaust emissions that will emanate from the tunnel's eastern ventilation stack located in the Artarmon Industrial Area. The modelling presented by Thiess John Holland (TJH)

indicates only minimal increases of pollutants which will be well below the accepted health standards. Independent expert, Dr Ray Kearney, advised that the exhaust plume will bounce, causing pockets of concentrated pollution. He also advised that TJH modelling concentrated on particulate matter rather than the more concerning volatile organic compounds.

With one of the air quality monitoring stations to be located in Artarmon we will at least have access to relevant data which will indicate which of these views is correct. We must ensure that measuring protocols are comprehensive enough to provide full information to a level and standard acceptable to the community and to properly reflect emissions over peak periods.

The Minister's Conditions of Approval for the LCT do not require filtration. However,

under the conditions of approval there is a requirement that "the tunnel be designed and constructed so as to make provision for future installation of an appropriate pollution control system to treat air emissions from the tunnel as may be required by the Director-General". The Federal Government has offered to contribute to the LCT filtration cost, but the State Government has refused to take the money on the basis that it will not be directed to spend it on any specific tunnel project.

The proposed stack will be the tallest 'building' in Artarmon, dominating the local skyline. More community consultation is required by TJH in relation to this significant structure.

The tunnel will also cause increased traffic flow through Artarmon streets and the village shops, and create more noise pollution. Parking and traffic flow issues in local streets have not been addressed. Unless community action is taken, it will be too late for changes to be made.

The next Public Information Meeting on 1 March will focus on the traffic impacts of the tunnel. Willoughby Mayor, Pat Reilly, will be asked to voice where he stands on proposed solutions to the filtration and traffic flow issues. ■

*Join the fun at*  
**ARTARMON**  
**COMMUNITY FAIR**  
 Saturday 30 April  
 WILKES AVE PLAZA  
 10am to 3pm

**How will Artarmon traffic changes affect YOU?  
 Public Information Meeting 8pm 1 March. Details page 2**

# Artarmon Progress Association

ABN 77 319 108 019

Established 1914

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

PO Box 540 Artarmon NSW 1570  
sec@artarmonprogress.org.au  
Phone 9904 6064 / Fax 9411 6616  
www.artarmonprogress.org.au

## COMMITTEE 2004-2005

**President** Michael Dawes  
**Vice President** Michelle Sloane  
**Joint Secretaries** Erica Waalkens  
Marieka Ashmore  
**Treasurer** David Bruce-Steer  
**Committee** Keith Anderson  
Geoff Cameron  
Brian Hall  
Tony Kemm  
Sonia Powell  
Mercedes Riviera

## 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.

**Editor** Anne Weinert

9904 6223

editor@artarmonprogress.org.au

**Advertising** Geof Cameron

9411 6461

gazette@artarmonprogress.org.au

**Distribution** Tony Kemm

9419 6927

**Design/** Robin Hundt

**Production** 9958 3590

rhundt@geko.net.au

**Cartoons** Wendy Bishop

9420 4884

**Printing** Premier Print

Solutions

9901 3434

**Advisory** Michael Haynes

**Committee** Toni McKay

John Peacock

Mollie Shelley

Rhoda Stewart

Katrina Weir

Erica Waalkens

**APA Website** Hosting by Interosys

## FUTURE DATES

Tue	1 Mar 05	Public Information Meeting, 8pm, Primary School
Thu	21 Apr 05	Gazette copy closes
Fri	29 Apr 05	Gazette advertising closes
Tue	24 May 05	Gazette delivery complete
Tue	31 May 05	Public Information 8pm, Artarmon Library

# Editorial

Welcome to the first Gazette for 2005.

During this year, we will continue to highlight the work that the APA does in our community, and the big issues that are likely to affect us all. At the moment, a potential increase in traffic and decrease in air quality arising from the LCT project are clearly the most pressing, and we highlight both.

In her column, Kate Lamb talks about Social Capital, and mentions the response in the community to the tsunami. I too have my experience of how this building of community can quickly bring results. Wanting to do something extra, I decided to collect clothes to take to a drop off point. Making only half a dozen phone calls to people involved with the APA and the Gazette, within a couple of days we had more clothes than would fit in our spare room. We sorted and packaged them, and dropped them with a Sri Lankan association that was shipping them to affected areas. My thanks to all who dropped off clothes and toys on my porch - hopefully they will be of use where they have gone.

We welcome your feedback on the Gazette - including articles, contributions, and letters. Glenda Hewitt, a local resident and Community Representative on the Chatswood South Community Liaison Group for the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link is a new, and hopefully regular, contributor.

We want to continue to be able to produce the Gazette in its current form, and any assistance you can give our volunteer group would be gratefully appreciated.

Anne Weinert editor@artarmonprogress.org.au ■

## Letter to the Editor

*Via the Gazette, we would like to thank the Artarmon Progress Association and members of the community for deeming us worthy of nomination for the Willoughby Citizen of the Year Award, awarded at celebrations on Australia Day 2005. We are thrilled and overawed at being chosen as the recipients of the inaugural Cultural and Community Building Award 2005 - a most prestigious honour.*

*It is our great pleasure to be part of the Artarmon business community, and to participate in and support local events within Artarmon and the Willoughby municipality. You have our pledge for continued support in whatever way we can.*

*Thank you all so very much.*

*Bob & Lynn Greaves, Artarmon Framing and dale thomas gallery.*

## PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

1 March 2005, 8.00 - 10.00pm, Artarmon Primary School

### How will Artarmon traffic changes affect YOU?

Speaker: Mayor Pat Reilly

**LCT air quality and traffic problems still unresolved!  
Design of exhaust stack/filtration issues still unresolved.  
Proposals for alleviating traffic problems - are they good enough?  
What strategies/solutions does Council have to RTA/government intransigence?**

***Come along - hear what your Mayor has to say - seek answers to your questions/concerns.***

***Let the council and RTA/government know if you are still not satisfied.***

***Solutions will only be achieved if the community speaks loudly enough.***

***FOR ARTARMON'S SAKE, COME ALONG AND HAVE YOUR SAY.***

**BE INFORMED/GET INVOLVED**

***Note Venue: Artarmon Primary School Assembly Hall (parking is available in the grounds, using the Barton Rd entrance)***

# APA - what's happening in your Association

## A note from the President

By Michael Dawes

My sympathies to anyone who was directly affected by the tsunami. It has been wonderful how Australia has responded to the tragedy with amazing generosity and just shows what can be achieved when everyone works together.

Despite an extremely hot evening, it was standing room only at our November Public Information Meeting, and I thank all you hardy souls for your interest. Our aim, to educate the community on the impacts of the Lane Cove Tunnel on air quality in the Artarmon area, was achieved. The speakers provided information from opposing viewpoints, the essence of which is described in our lead article. It was pleasing that a number of people offered to

assist with any future campaigns that APA might mount regarding the LCT issues as a result of the meeting.

A number of Committee members recently reviewed the Council's plans for the refurbishment of Wilkes Ave. Whilst not as extensive as the APA might have hoped, the improvements will be welcome and the Council has promised completion prior to the Artarmon Fair on 30th April.

APA has also requested of the Council that the street lighting in Elizabeth St, between Wilkes Ave and Artarmon Rd, be improved.

Two of our Committee members, Peter Egan and Daisy Chee, have recently resigned due to work pressures not allowing adequate time to devote to APA. I thank Peter and Daisy for their efforts for the time that they were on

the Committee. Peter's secretarial duties have been taken over jointly by Erica Waalkens and Marieka Ashmore, and I thank them for this. If anyone else is interested in joining the Committee then please let me know as spreading the workload helps all involved.



Michael Dawes

Our next Public Meeting on 1st March, will focus on traffic issues associated with the LCT, and as the Committee is meeting with TRA shortly before, we should be much better informed as to what is happening on this front. See the box on page 2 for further details - I hope to see you there! ■

## What we've been working on

By Keith Anderson

Since the last Gazette, your Association has been very involved with LCT/GHF and related issues. Of these, concerns remain over air quality and traffic and these have been addressed in our lead article in this issue. Design and appearance of the proposed ventilation stack, high on Pacific Highway, above the Artarmon Industrial Area, remains a worry for residents of West Artarmon. Other matters frequently arise, mainly related to the construction/work sites and depots/heavy vehicle movements etc. which require regular monitoring. In this respect, Sonia Powell, through her membership of the Community

Liaison Group, has been a tower of strength. Preservation of parts of the Sydney Water Site on PH has been assured to facilitate possible improvements at the PH/Mowbray Rd intersection.

Other matters the APA has been working on include:

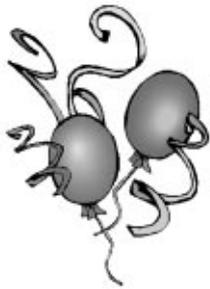
In Artarmon Reserve, the Council has still to cost the completion of **perimeter fencing for the playground**.

Some time ago, at the APA's request, Council installed two **water bubblers** at the Reserve - near the pavillion and in the playground. The one close to the Pavillion, however, has been

smashed twice - and Council is about to replace it again. If anyone sees acts of vandalism in the Reserve, which is difficult to patrol, please contact the Police.

We continue to lobby for a **lift for better access** for the elderly and disabled at the Station.

Also at the Station, State Rail has been reasonably successful in reducing the gap/**step from the platform** to the train on the Hornsby side. However, there still remains a large step on the City side near the Station entry. APA continues to press for improvements. ■



The Artarmon Progress Association

# ARTARMON COMMUNITY FAIR

Saturday 30 April 2005

"Celebrating Community & Heritage"

### Special Events/Activities:

Official Opening of the refurbished Wilkes Plaza!

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Heritage Photographic Exhibition

Art Exhibition and Awards

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*The APA Community Fair is organised with the support of Willoughby City Council and the National Trust*

# Artarmon Public School news

By Katrina Weir

## Artarmon teacher recognised for technology expertise

Late last year, Artarmon teacher Mrs Daphne Scott headed to Governor Macquarie Tower in Sydney's CBD to receive the prestigious Excellence in the Integration of Information and Communication Technologies award. Sponsored by the NSW Department of Education and Training, the award was presented to Mrs Scott by Education Minister, Dr Andrew Refshauge, at a ceremony attended by around 80 people.

The annual award is open to every teacher from Kindergarten to Year 12 working in the public education system.

Jan Cohen, Deputy Principal of Artarmon School, decided to nominate Daphne for the award because of her expertise with computers, the work she has done integrating computer technology into so many Artarmon classrooms and the programs she has developed for the whole school. Another key reason was her enthusiasm and dedication in establishing and maintaining the school website.

"Artarmon School is extremely fortunate to have a teacher like Daphne and we all congratulate her on winning this award. It is not only her knowledge of computers but her willingness to share this knowledge with her colleagues and students that makes her such a valuable resource for the school and its wider community," explained Jan.

Mrs Scott said she is delighted to have been recognised for the contribution she has made to public education. Winning this award has inspired me to further develop my own skills and understanding of the applications of technology in a school environment," she said.

Mrs Scott is an accredited computer coordinator and experienced classroom teacher. Prior to joining the staff at Artarmon School two years

ago, she worked as a TILT (Technology in Learning and Teaching) Facilitator responsible for training teachers in the use of computers in the classroom. This year she aims to further develop the students' skills in communications, research and multimedia presentations. ■

## Primary campus welcomes COLA

Like other schools throughout Sydney, Artarmon School can now boast its own COLA, or Covered Outdoor Learning Area. The COLA is a steel construction measuring 13.3m x 19.9m, which in practical terms means it can seat all of the 400 plus students in Years 3-6. For several years, Artarmon School has coveted a COLA and now, after raising 50% of the necessary funds through the P&C (which were generously matched by the Department of Education and Training), the project is complete.

"Having seen the ability of other local schools to have outdoor lessons and assemblies, despite the extremes of weather, the COLA is a very attractive option for the health, education and well-being of our students,"

Michael Simmons, Principal of Artarmon School, explained.

The COLA can be used as a covered area for learning, a shaded lunch and play area, wet weather protection during recess and lunch periods, an outdoor assembly



*Daphne Scott receives the Excellence in the Integration of Information and Communication Technologies award from Education Minister, Dr Andrew Refshauge.*

area, a drama, dance, music and physical education area, or as a venue for social activities, visiting performances and fetes. ■



*The COLA is ready for the school year.*

## Expect some noise

By Glenda Hewitt,

Community Representative, Chatswood South Community Liaison Group

Railway work between Mowbray Rd and Chatswood, associated with the Epping-Chatswood rail link, is expected to pick up pace throughout February. The noisy work of sheet piling to hold back the embankment will take about 8 weeks and stump removal was scheduled for the rail closedown which occurred on the weekend of 12 and 13 February. The piling will be installed between Mowbray Road and Hopetoun Street with piles being driven 4 - 5 metres into the ground to form a continuous pile wall. Subsequent to this, heavy earthmoving machinery will be brought in to remove excess land fill.

Associated with the works, the Frank Channon Walk has been closed and classified as a construction site while work is undertaken. Once completed, the Walk will be widened and

upgraded with new landscaping.

The rail corridor will be widened northwards from Mowbray Road to allow for the addition of an extra track starting around Mowbray Road and merging into two just north of Nelson Street. No explosives will be used and the new rail line being built is designed to be quieter because the continuous tracking will have less joints.

Scheduled works occur during designated hours and contractors are obliged to adhere to these. To find out what is happening there is a specially designated Infoline 1800 684 490 and a 24 hour Construction Response Line 1800 775 465. They are there to be used!

Five rail shutdowns are planned for this year to allow for both maintenance and work in the rail corridor on the Chatswood to Epping rail link: 12 - 13 February, 23 - 25 April, 9 - 10 July, 22 - 23 October and 26 - 31 December. ■

## Community safety at risk

By Glenda Hewitt

The risk of an accident on the Palmer St, Pacific Hwy intersection continues despite community action. In 2002 residents were advised that improvements to ensure pedestrian safety were going to be made. Three years later, despite a letter to Council, the problem remains.

Safety bollards, a condition of consent for the SAAB development on the Pacific Highway, are still not installed despite undertakings given by Council. Meanwhile, several pedestrians have escaped being hit by cars through sheer good luck and a matter of seconds.

Installation of the bollards is a simple solution that would stop bikes/cars jumping the Palmer Street closure. The temptation to take a short cut through the gap between the bus shelter and the car yard exit is just too much.

Palmer Street is only dead end in name for vehicles. Residents continue to hope that it doesn't become a dead end for a pedestrian. ■

# Bikes for kids - meet John and Anne Karbowlak

By Mollie Shelley

John and Anne were walking along Muttama Rd in October last year when they noticed a child's bicycle that had been left out for the Council Clean-up. They decided that a bike like that would make a wonderful Christmas present for some less fortunate child. They recalled how the gift of a bike had been a defining moment in the lives of their own two sons, Konrad and Max.

So John picked up the bike, cleaned and restored it. How could they get more? Kids in Artarmon go on bicycle outings and expeditions with their parents and they grow out of their bikes before they wreck them. John stuck notices on telegraph poles and dropped notes in letter boxes. The ABC did several interviews with him on 702. The bikes started to roll in, some delivered to the house or carport, others left on the nature strip. About 80% of them were from the Artarmon area.

John organised working bees. Anne and the boys helped; neighbours and relatives worked in teams in the evenings and at weekends. He estimates that before last Christmas somewhere between two and three hundred hours work went into the cleaning and restoring of forty-seven bikes. His firm, Axiom Australasia, sponsored the purchase of spare

parts for repair work. *But ...* every bike rider must have a helmet. About 50% of the required helmets were donated by Artarmon people. John and Anne purchased and donated the rest and also the hire of a truck to transport the bikes to their new owners.

The bikes were given to four charities - Anglicare, Centrecare, Eastern Scarba (The Benevolent Society's Centre for Children) and a Refuge at Carlingford. The majority went to a Sudanese community nominated by Anglicare. A barbecue was held at Homebush where numbers were drawn out of a hat. The winners each received one of the bikes. The photo shows some of the lucky recipients. For me, as interviewer, it is significant that John doesn't have any photos of himself with the bikes.

It is now the New Year. The bikes continue to arrive (you should see John and Anne's carport!) and John says he has aims for 2005. "We will collect all year round and plan to hold working bees in August, September and



Some of the recipients of the bikes.

October. We will put out a call for help, try to involve not only willing individuals but also businesses and bike clubs. The latter might be able to help us with fixing brakes. We encourage people donating old bikes to clean them up if possible, give them a coat of car wax, before they deliver them. It takes us about an hour to clean each bike."

As John finishes our interview he says with determination, "next time we do something, every kid gets a bike - no one misses out."

If you would like to help, contact John on 9884 7345. ■

## How To Increase Your Employees' Productivity And Create A Strong And Sustainable Business Culture

Would you like your employees to be more motivated, work more effectively, take ownership of your company's vision and produce more measurable results for your bottom line? Achieving all this is possible when you know how.

Executive coach and psychotherapist Donald Marmara tells us that the key to getting the most from your employees and producing strong profits from your business is to obtain clarity on your business's values/vision and align your staff's values with these. You need to facilitate communication throughout the organisation and teach management and staff how to interact effectively.

"There is a strong human element that contributes to the success of a company" says Donald. "Not only does management need to be focused and motivated, but it is also important for all staff to function in an environment that allows them to play to their strengths and tap into their full potential".

So how do you go about creating this

environment in your company?

Utilising management coaches and team building programs has proved to be a popular method of turning around companies or improving their effectiveness. In order to create lasting changes in your business you should ensure these coaches are experienced counsellors or psychotherapists. This is because you need to work with people's values and personalities and the underlying motivational dynamics in order to develop effective techniques and strategies that will suit each individual.

By focusing on getting the most out of yourself and your staff, you will find that you are able to obtain larger productivity gains and create a cooperative culture that will not only result in an increase in profit, but create the platform for rapid growth and expansion in the future.

The results you can achieve are phenomenal, with one company that Donald works with growing by over

100% and expanding into two new states in the last 12 months. This company is expected to double in size again by the end of this year, making it the biggest service provider in its industry in Australia.

**Introductory Offer:** Artarmon Gazette readers who want to learn how they can increase their employees' productivity and improve their own effectiveness as a Manager/CEO can take advantage of a half-price one hour consultation with executive coach and psychotherapist Donald Marmara. In this session, Donald will show you how you can unlock your full potential as a manager and implement the necessary changes in your business to reach all your goals.

To take advantage of this introductory offer, call **9413 9794** and mention this article to secure your **half-price** consultation. All sessions carry a 100% satisfaction guarantee, meaning you won't pay a cent unless you are 100% satisfied with your session.

# Worthy Award winners

By Anne Weinert

Some people seem to have boundless amounts of energy, and despite their own adversities, manage to continue to help other individuals and causes. Lynn and Bob Greaves of Artarmon Framing and dale thomas gallery are such a couple. On Australia Day, they were awarded the inaugural award for Community and Cultural Building by Willoughby City Council.

A heart transplant recipient, Bob has worked for the Australian Heart Lung Transplant Association for a number of years. He and Lynn met when she was curating an Art Show for St Vincent's Hospital, after losing her first husband who had also been a transplant recipient.

Lynn has been a business owner in the area for over 15 years, and they now support local artists, including those with special abilities, through the dale thomas gallery.

They have been great supporters of the APA, through their regular advertising in the Gazette, and especially by staging the hugely successful 'Art 2064' exhibition for the 2004 inaugural Heritage Fair.

The Association was pleased to be one of the many supporters of their nomination for the Awards.

Congratulations Lynn and Bob! ■



Lynn and Bob Greaves, with Toni Richards, Willoughby Citizen of the Year in 2003, as nominated by the APA.

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# Lane Cove Tunnel ventilation stack: ugly function, ugly design

By **Sonia Powell**,  
Artarmon CCLG3 Representative

Community Consultation Liaison Group (CCLG3) members have provided strong negative feedback on Thiess John Holland's (TJH) urban design proposal for the tunnel's eastern ventilation stack. This is one of only two chimneys that will vent all the exhaust fumes collected from the 3.6 km twin tunnels.

**Location:** the 6000 sq. m site is accessed from the cul-de-sac at the end of Marden St, near the north western edge of the industrial area.

**Size:** the chimney's internal cross sectional dimensions are 6.0m x 10.0m. The proposed height of 134m AHD places the top of the stack about 60m above the level of the Pacific Highway (see photomontage, p1).

**Buildings:** much of the site will be occupied by low-rise operational buildings and transformer pens, on a similar scale to the surrounding industrial area. The stack itself will emerge as a very tall, relatively slender rectangular chimney. Jutting out about three-quarters of the way up the chimney are two wide side-by-side monitoring platforms to house emission monitoring equipment. An external staircase climbs much of the northern

wall of the chimney.

**Proposed finishes:** the operational buildings will have robust industrial finishes - eg fibreglass cladding, painted concrete. The chimney itself will be finished like an office tower in anodised aluminium and colourback seraphic glass. The tall external staircase will be clad in raw galvanised steel mesh paneling. Translucent glass balustrades and galvanised steel mesh will surround the high monitoring platforms.

**Visual impact:** the height of the tower will make it inescapably visible to the industrial area and to a large number of Artarmon and Lane Cove homes, apartments and townhouses. TJH's urban design plan is based on a highly flawed analysis of the visual impact, and includes the ridiculous assertion that "the stack would have minimal visual impact within its immediate and wider context".

**CCLG3 input:** as a community representative, I have commented to TJH on:

- the need, with any public infrastructure building having such a significant visual impact, for more widespread community consultation beyond the small group on CCLG3
- the designer's poor understanding of the

tower's visual catchment and its impacts on local residents

- options to partly camouflage the stack by combining it within a multi-purpose building, maybe the neighbouring Corinthian building. Gazette readers, what do you think? Would this improve the visual appearance or make it too bulky?

- night-time light pollution
- inappropriateness of some of the finishes, and
- restoring natural screens such as tree-covered earth embankments.

**Your concerns:** Your feedback would really help me and the other community representatives, and we are happy to pass on your comments or concerns to TJH.

Email me at [lctgroup@artarmonprogress.org.au](mailto:lctgroup@artarmonprogress.org.au)



Sonia Powell, Artarmon CCLG3 representative

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



## Australia Day

Congratulations to Bob and Lynn Greaves of Artarmon Framing, the first recipients of the Cultural and Community Building Award introduced by Willoughby City Council

this year. The 2005 recipient of Citizen of the Year Award was Marie Harris for an impressive and varied range of community work.

Another new award was for Services to Young People. The recipients were Willoughby Public School and Cromehurst Special School for a unique buddy program run by the two schools since 1995. The program consists of two students from Willoughby Public School buddying up with one student from Cromehurst Special School. The program provides shared lessons and activities involving students from both schools, on and beyond the school campuses. It fosters an appreciation of students' strengths and individual qualities and develops social, communication and moral skills. Comments provided by parents after the award ceremony certainly supported these comments made during the ceremony. Words like 'patience' and 'understanding' were the ones that stayed with me. A sound and solid

program which is worthy of the Award.

## Lane Cove Tunnel

A series of site meetings with residents to consider the local and bigger picture of **landscaping** issues are scheduled to start in late February and early March. Local residents in Artarmon and Naremburn were shocked before Christmas to find large trees being felled. The message has been heard loud and clear that landscaping to repair the damage being done by this project is an important local issue. As a Councillor I will be watching to ensure proper and appropriate consultation occurs and that the resulting plans for works reflects what the community seeks.

The **access road** off Willoughby Rd to the works site will be in use at the end of January. Work at the end of Park Rd already has the steel in place for one of the new columns which will support the road to widen the current freeway.

The first of the **traffic counts** for the local area traffic management study have been completed. More will be done after the project is completed. The current data has to be modelled before any release of same occurs. There is no advice at this time as to when the RTA will be releasing this modelling.

## Wilkes Avenue

The plans for the refurbishment for Wilkes Avenue have been on exhibition. Further consultation will occur, and the matter will then come to Council for approval.

One of the owners who attended the pre-Christmas meeting told me an interesting story concerning the upper story on the south of Wilkes Avenue, which was constructed so the floor could be used as a billiard parlour - which it was for some time. It has recently been restored back to its original concept although it is now used as an educational

centre. The open plan area has break-out room facilities for training and meetings and the facilities are available for private hire. It is a very convenient meeting facility tucked away in Artarmon but obviously extremely close to public transport.

I wish all residents of Artarmon a happy prosperous 2005.

I can be contacted on 9958 0483 or at [stuart.coppock@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stuart.coppock@willoughby.nsw.gov.au) ■



Barry Thompson

The Christmas break passed all too quickly and I am now back in the reins trying to play catch up on all the activities that did not stop through the holiday period. Eve and I did find time to

enjoy the music, lectures and food of the Woodford Folk Festival (SE Qld) and some of the Australian Open tennis. While in Melbourne, I checked out some of Walter Burley Griffin's Melbourne architectural works and realised what a gem we have in **Willoughby's Incinerator**. I also used and photographed some of Melbourne's parks and bikepaths - no wonder Melbourne rates so well as a liveable city.

One of Council's challenges during this holiday period was to find an adequate and appropriate response to the **South Asian disaster**. At its January 31 meeting, Council confirmed its support for a program that will see Willoughby sponsoring and providing long-term assistance to one or more groups in the affected areas. This decision has been taken with the benefit of some hindsight - the Federal Government's generous financial package, as well as the magnificent generosity of individual Australians and peoples of other nations. It is Council's

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

hope that Willoughby will still be helping long after the media have moved on; that the program we set up will act as a precedent for other disaster assistance programs that inevitably will be required in the future; and that the development and implementation of the program will assist in honing our humanity and community here in Willoughby.

Plans for the **upgrade of Wilkes Ave** have been on display through January and early February and the project is scheduled for completion prior to this year's Heritage Fair on April 30. The amount of community involvement and interest has been most gratifying. It augurs well for the continued development of this area for 'meeting and eating'. Some of our aspirations for the area, such as public toilets and diversionary facilities for young children, will have to wait for Stage 2, but that too will enter the planning phase during 2005.

The **Industrial Areas Steering Committee** met again in early February to finalise its response to Council's proposals arising from the Consultants' Report. Many of the recommendations are non-contentious and are generally welcomed as timely and effective. All the recommendations from the Steering Committee will be considered for inclusion in the changes to the draft LEP and DCP, which will come to Council shortly. The documents will then be exhibited for public comment - with adoption of the planning instruments by Council likely in the second half of the year.

I initially became involved with the Steering Committee as a representative of the Artarmon Progress Association and the Federation of Progress Associations. Those bodies felt that the agreements worked out for the rezoning of the ABC site provided a basis for positive change throughout the Industrial Areas for the

benefit of all stakeholders. Sadly, that theme seems to have been lost in transit. Still in the the Industrial Area, it is my understanding that the option to purchase the **ABC site** was exercised late in 2004 and that the plans for development no longer include relocation of the Lower North Shore bus terminals onto the site. I remain concerned that plans for the site will not do justice for such a precious piece of inner-Sydney real estate. [barry.thompson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:barry.thompson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au) or 9412 1596. ■



Kate Lamb

What an extraordinary start to the year. My daughter Shanti was due to fly into Sri Lanka on the 4th of January "to lie on the beach for a couple of weeks". You will understand then why I feel I have had all the good fortune I need for the year as I imagine what could have happened, had the tsunami occurred a week later. She has been away for six months now and has seen and experienced a great deal in that time. She tells me however that the last two weeks, spent cleaning and shifting rubble to rehabilitate a district hospital just south of Batticaloa, has been the highlight of her whole trip. She has been doing this work under the auspices of the YMCA and in the company of people from all over the world, including the British National Guard! Working with others motivated by their concerns for humanity has clearly been an uplifting and possibly life changing experience. I am so very proud of her.

And I feel sure there isn't one of us who has not done what he or she can to assist. On New Year's Day, I was so glad to hear from the

young woman who came collecting on behalf of the UNHCR of how generous my neighbours had been. Our own St Stephens, working with Mayor Pat Reilly, organised a well attended ecumenical memorial service on January 16th. I am aware of several fundraisers organised by local people as well as clothing and medicine collections. At our first Council meeting this year, we formalised Council's contribution which will be looking toward medium to longer term ways in which we can support reconstruction projects, social and material.

David Putnam has written a great deal about the concept of Social Capital and interestingly he describes two kinds, 'bonding' and 'bridging'. The first is about the connectedness experienced when we share things with other people - for example, cultural and spiritual beliefs, practices and histories. A couple of weeks ago as I was on my way through Artarmon Reserve I rang the bell (on my bike) to warn a couple of pedestrians that I was approaching. As I passed, I heard my name mentioned - so I had to stop and find out theirs didn't!

Because they read the Gazette, Peter and Kathy are well informed about their community, the issues and it seems - a number of its personalities! As we exchanged news and views they told that what they really liked about living here is the sense of community. This pleasant and comfortable experience explains how bonding capital works.

Bridging capital is even more precious. It is what allows us to reach out to those with whom we may appear to share very little. It is a lot harder to cultivate but we need far more of it. My hope for this New Year is that both locally and globally it will be a great year for building our bridging capital reserves.

[kate.lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kate.lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

## Gladys Berejiklian MP

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*Gladys invites you to discuss local issues with her.*

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# Regeneration in Artarmon Reserve

By Mollie Shelley

Have you been for a walk in the Reserve lately? Have you noticed how steadily it is recovering from the weed-infested place it used to be? Volunteer Bush Regenerators have been working in the area for eighteen years (see the article on Volunteer Phillip Scholl in the August 2004 Gazette). There has been some recovery at the shrub and tree layers but until Council's Fire Hazard Reduction Team started a programme of small controlled burns in the area there was not a great return of lost plant and bird species. The removal of dense thickets of lantana and convolvulus had meant there was not so much shelter for little birds. Small area burns have stimulated a dormant seed bank which has been lying in the soil.

Fire! The very word provokes anxiety, particularly during an Australian summer. I had a reassuring discussion with Council's Bush Care Coordinator, Mandy Wilson, and Liz Powell who is responsible for Bush Regeneration in Artarmon Reserve.

Willoughby Council, as required under legislation, has a representative on the District Bushfire Management Committee along with other Councils, National Parks and Wildlife, and the Fire Brigade. As required under the Act, Willoughby's Bushland Coordinator

produces a plan showing Willoughby bushland areas rated according to risk, from low to high. Artarmon Reserve has the lowest rating. Most of the Fire Hazard Reduction Team's work is focused on high risk areas and has a particular concern for the protection of property.

Just as important, though, are small ecological burns in areas rated as low risk such as along the creek behind Burra Road, to encourage the regeneration of lost species and to dispose of perennial weeds that are difficult to remove by hand. The Fire Hazard Reduction Team consists of four team members all trained in bush regeneration and fire management. They coordinate their work with the NSW Fire Brigade.

You can see the results of the burns in the dense layer of vegetation, particularly shrubs and grasses, where regeneration is taking place. This is valuable habitat for native fauna, particularly smaller birds. In some areas the density of fern stems prevents larger creatures, including dogs from the track, following them. There are now more blue wrens, and the Whip Bird has returned after a long absence. Among the returning plant species is the beautiful golden *Pultenaea daphnoides*.

There are two volunteer Bush Care groups meeting in Artarmon once a month - a group



Illustration by Wendy Bishop

of five regulars on Wednesdays and another larger group of about twelve on Sundays. Some live close to the Reserve, others more distant including some welcome people from our high rise apartments. Volunteers work for about three hours with a half hour break for morning tea, which they bring themselves. Parents bring their children who play nearby in the bush. Helping bush regeneration in our Reserve is a friendly social activity where new friendships are being forged.

If you want to help - contact Mandy Wilson, WCC, on 9777 7718. ■

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

Info: Wendy Bishop, 9420 4884.

## Need a JP? By Anne Weinert

Since Ralph Doughty sold the butcher shop in Hampden Rd, the Gazette has received a number of enquiries about finding a JP in Artarmon.

You can do this either through the Attorney General's Department, which administers and manages applications and appointments of JPs in NSW, or through the NSW Justice's Association, to which most JPs belong. Both have websites where you can search for a JP in your area or by postcode (see Box). You may then need to phone or email the JP to make an appointment. In addition, your local Police

Station or Willoughby City Council will most likely have someone on staff at most times who is able to sign your documents.

Becoming a JP is a voluntary service to the community, and therefore it is important to respect a JP's time and availability. So here are a few tips to make sure you take the information and documents you need to your appointment:

- NEVER sign the documents you need witnessed before you are in front of the JP. The JP must sign the document after it has been signed by you, and in your presence.
- If you are taking copies of documents, take the originals also so the JP can sight them and sign that the copies are certified true.

- For documents that require the JP to have known you for a specified time period, DON'T expect them to sign if this is not the case.

There are often people other than JPs who can sign documents that require having known you for a period - doctors or lawyers for example. Read your documents carefully, and see if they can be signed by someone else if this is more convenient. ■

**Finding a JP in Artarmon**  
<http://lawlink.nsw.gov.au/public/welcomePublic.do> Search by postcode.  
[www.nswja.org/findJP.html](http://www.nswja.org/findJP.html)  
 Click on 'North Shore' & look for your closest suburb -- Artarmon, Chatswood etc.

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# New timetable to cut off-peak trains

By Michael Haynes and John Jones

Rail timetables which came into force in July 2004 halved the number of trains from Artarmon to the City during the daytime at weekends from 8 to 4 per hour, on a quarterly-hour service.

The 'new, permanent' timetable which will be introduced in September 2005 will also spell some changes, but on balance, it appears that 'Artamon' (as it is persistently spelt in the

timetable) may be better off.

On weekdays, all peak hour trains will stop at Artarmon, whereas now, on average, one in three just 'shoot through'. But weekday off peak trains which now start at Gordon and Lindfield will be eliminated, reducing the frequency from 8 to 4 trains an hour. Effectively then, off peak weekday frequency will be the same as the weekend service, which will be maintained at the levels introduced in 2004.

The other proposed change is an increase in

scheduled running times, making it easier for trains to run to schedule. Currently, the all-stations running time between Artarmon and Central is 21 or 22 minutes - this will increase to 25 - 27 minutes. Whether the slower trains will lead to better timekeeping remains to be seen. ■

## Talking 2064

Congratulations go to **Maylean and Pieter Cordia** of Godfrey Road who were awarded medals (OAM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in January 2005. Maylean and Pieter received this honour for service to the preservation of the health heritage of Prince Henry Hospital through the Prince Henry Hospital Trained Nurses Association Nursing and Medical Museum.

*Ward 13*, one of 10 short animations from around the world short-listed for an **Academy Award nomination** (only 5 were nominated, including another Australian film, *Birthday*

*Boy*), was partly made in an Artarmon home in the 1990s. Written and directed by Peter Cornwell, *Ward 13* is a 15-minute action, suspense, hospital escape thriller, starring characters brought to life through a combination of metal, clay, silicone and polyurethane. Peter spent years crafting the film using the laborious stop-motion animation process, which originally started in the corner of his Burra Road bedroom in his spare time. ■

A caretaker committee is being formed to incorporate the **Artarmon/St Leonards Chamber of Commerce**.

For information regarding the inaugural meeting, phone Lynn Greaves, Artarmon Framing & Dale Thomas gallery - 9439 9992.

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## St Basil's Anglican Church Artarmon

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### Lent and Easter

As I write this short note for the Gazette, Lent is about to begin. Lent has a long tradition in many cultures and is celebrated in many and varied ways. In some countries the days leading up to Lent are great festivals before the traditional times of fasting and reflection during the forty days before Good Friday.

This year at St Basil's we have revived the old tradition of Shrove Tuesday or, as it is more commonly called, Pancake Day; just a small way of celebrating together before Lent begins. Over the forty days a series of studies will be held each week to prepare ourselves for what is

the most important time in the Church's calendar.

The Sunday before Lent we usually spend time reflecting on the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. When that incident was recorded by Matthew in his Gospel, God says about Jesus "This is my Son ... listen to him", and that's why we spend time on the Lenten studies.

But those words on God's lips also make me ask myself the question "To whom do you and I listen?"

To whom do we listen about life, and death, and the life that goes beyond death?"

#### EASTER SERVICES

Thursday 24 Mar	7.30 pm	The Lord's Supper	Easter Day 27 Mar	10.00 am	Holy Communion (with children's program)
Good Friday 25 Mar	9.00 am	Devotional Service		6.00 pm	St Basil's @ 6 - a light evening meal followed by an informal service

#### REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00 am	Family Communion	6.00 pm	St Basil's @ 6
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Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by arrangement with the Rector.

If we can be of any other help or if you have an enquiry about the Christian faith or Church activities, please phone on 9412 1315.

# REAL ESTATE COMMENT

**Artarmon units and townhouses have continued to appreciate, as this comparison over the last ten years clearly demonstrates.**

*Gil Davis is the Principal of Home Traders Gil Davis & Associates (formerly Richardson & Wrench Artarmon). He can be contacted on 9411 7299 or email [gil@hometraders.com.au](mailto:gil@hometraders.com.au)*



**Gil Davis**

So much is written about real estate prices and trends that is difficult to know what to believe.

I take issue with reporting that considers the property market as a whole, arguing that in fact there are a huge number of markets influenced by local considerations as much as by generic ones. Thus there may well be an oversupply of expensive, new, high-rise units whilst their older, low-rise and cheaper cousins are in undersupply and highly sought.

It is interesting to observe that volume of sales has fallen dramatically but this is largely because there is little new development. Over a third of sales remain in the \$400,000 to \$450,000 price bracket.

This analysis includes the year ended 30 June 2004 and a lot has happened since. However, anecdotally, my experience is that Artarmon units and townhouses are continuing to perform strongly though disincentives by the State Government (exit tax and land tax) are having a negative impact on investor interest. Both prices and rentals appear stable.

Units/townhouses	2003/4
<b>Cheapest</b>	\$170,000
<b>Dearest</b>	\$800,000
<b>Average</b>	\$461,000
<b>Increase</b>	8.3%

## FINANCIAL YEAR ANALYSIS - ARTARMON UNITS

Price (\$)	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
<b>To 300,000</b>	107 (90.5%)	160 (90%)	212 (95.5%)	138 (83.5%)	118 (62%)	114 (47%)	32 (18%)	12 (6%)	2 (1%)	3 (2%)
<b>300,000 - 350,000</b>	8 (6.5%)	10 (5.5%)	10 (4.5%)	27 (16.5%)	47 (25%)	76 (31.5%)	90 (52%)	33 (16%)	19 (11%)	10 (7%)
<b>350,000 - 400,000</b>	1 (1%)	5 (3%)			11 (5.5%)	32 (13%)	31 (18%)	75 (37%)	47 (27%)	18 (12%)
<b>400,000 - 450,000</b>		1 (0.5%)			7 (3.5%)	15 (6%)	15 (9%)	51 (25%)	68 (38%)	53 (35%)
<b>450,000 - 500,000</b>		2 (1%)			1 (0.5%)	5 (2%)	5 (3%)	17 (8%)	17 (10%)	25 (16.5%)
<b>500,000 - 550,000</b>					5 (2.5%)			5 (2%)	12 (7%)	16 (10.5%)
<b>550,000 - 600,000</b>					1 (0.5%)			4 (2%)	6 (3%)	18 (12%)
<b>600,000 +</b>	2 (2%)				1 (0.5%)	1 (0.5%)		5 (2%)	5 (3%)	9 (6%)
<b>Total Volume</b>	118	178	222	165	191	243	173	202	176	152
<b>Total Sales</b>	\$28.2m	\$43.7m	\$53.4m	\$43.5m	\$57.5m	\$74.6m	\$61.1m	\$78.9m	\$74.9m	\$70.1m
<b>Average Price</b>	\$238,836	\$245,300	\$240,627	\$263,326	\$301,197	\$307,028	\$353,127	\$390,402	\$425,797	\$460,965
<b>Increase (decrease) on previous year</b>	6.5%	2.7%	1.9%	9.4%	14.4%	1.9%	15.0%	10.6%	9.1%	8.3%

E & OE The information in these two tables has been extracted and compiled using the records of the Valuer General's Department and our sources. It is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed.



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