

Tunnel filtration – what are the facts?

By Michelle Sloane

Over many months now the APA has sought to provide as much information as it can about the impact of the Lane Cove Tunnel on our community. While there are many issues that are of concern to a number of residents and local businesses, it is clear that the question of filtration is one of the most important.

We all "know" that air pollution is bad for our health and over the years have accepted a number of initiatives introduced by various governments aimed at reducing it. We have accepted the banning of backyard burning, the introduction of unleaded petrol and many other engine design changes, even though they may have increased the cost of our cars. These actions have resulted in some reduction of air pollution levels with both carbon monoxide and lead levels in the air falling to roughly one third their previous levels. Air pollution levels continue to fall but at a slower rate.

While air pollution reduction is having a positive effect, many health professionals and air quality analysis and research still argue that air pollution continues to make us sick. The main cause of this is thought to be the increasing levels of ozone, volatile organic chemicals, nitrous oxide and particulate matter present in the air we breathe. The component of most concern appears to be fine particulate matter. A major source of fine particulate matter in city air is diesel exhaust which contains carbon particles carrying toxic and carcinogenic organic materials such as benzene, complex sulphur and nitrate.

A recent article in the *North Shore Times* (29 October, 2004) by Penny Durham referred to recent evidence in the *New England Journal of Medicine* about the effects of air pollution on public health. Ms Durham refers to one study published in September 2004 which "found that air pollution had chronic adverse effects on lung development in young people aged 10 to 18".



While the RTA and to some extent, the Department of Health, seem keen to play down the evidence about the adverse effects of vehicle emissions, the body of evidence identifying the negative impacts on public health is growing, with diesel exhaust now being recognised internationally as a carcinogen.

In June 2000, the NSW State Labor Conference passed a motion calling for the filtration of emissions from the M5 East and future road tunnels, and a similar motion was passed by the November 2000 Local Government Association Annual Conference. However, despite years of community protest, Parliamentary Inquiries, various workshops and thousands of petitions and letters, supported by a growing body of scientific evidence, no decisive action has been taken by the relevant government bodies to ensure that appropriate tunnel filtration is utilised even though the technology is available and can be used in a cost effective manner.

With all these issues in mind the APA has decided to devote its next public information meeting on 30th November to the issue of Air Quality Monitoring – Tunnel Ventilation and Filtration Issues. Artarmon is an incredibly diverse community of residents, industry and workers along with Artarmon Public School being located close to both the

expanding Gore Hill Freeway and the eastern ventilation stack.

The APA has invited Sue Netterfield and Emily Cracknell, representatives from the construction joint venture, Theiss / John Holland, along with John Lee, the Lane Cove Tunnel Officer for both Lane Cove and Willoughby City Councils who will address wider issues and Dr Ray Kearney, Associate Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology from the University of Sydney, who is a well known community advocate for the installation of filtration systems in traffic tunnels to remove noxious exhaust pollution.

Traffic-related air pollution continues to be a primary target for public health policy in Europe, Britain, USA, India and Japan. In Australia, the response of our governments seems mixed at best. However, it does seem clear that the possible adverse public health and environmental consequence cannot be denied.

As a community we need information and we need to work together to raise our concerns to those responsible for decisions that will affect the quality of our lives. These are important issues for us all. I urge as many people as possible to come along to the meeting to hear what our speakers have to say, ask questions and raise any concerns you may have. ■

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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artarmon GAZETTE

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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	30 Nov 04	Public Information Meeting, 8pm, Artarmon Library
Thu	27 Jan 05	Gazette copy closes
Fri	28 Jan 05	Gazette advertising closes
Tue	22 Feb 05	Gazette delivery complete
Tue	1 Mar 05	Public Information Meeting 8pm, Artarmon Library

A Note from the President

By Michael Dawes, APA President

The AGM was a great start to our new year with an attendance of over 40 people and a number of new faces who were happy to get involved with the committee. This was a positive indicator for the APA and I would like to encourage more people to become members, so that we can truly claim to be representative of the Artarmon community. With a number of major issues looming it is important that we gain your support so that we are in a strong lobbying position if necessary.



Michael Dawes

The main issues that we foresee in the short term relate to the Lane Cove Tunnel (LCT). We are concerned about the increased traffic flows through Artarmon and the associated increases in air and noise pollution. The original EIS for the Lane Cove Tunnel predicted a traffic increase of 58% through Artarmon streets. The APA has presented a number of suggestions to the RTA as to how this might be improved. We await the Local Area Traffic Management Plan which has been brought forward a year and is now due for release in January 2005, to see whether any of our suggestions have been adopted.

You are also probably aware that one of the LCT exhaust ventilation stacks will be located in the Artarmon Industrial Area, which is not that far from the Artarmon Public School. The APA is concerned about the fumes emanating from this stack and in order to gain a better understanding of where these fumes might end up and how they will be monitored we have invited two speakers, one from the LCT consortium and the other a proponent for tunnel exhaust filtration, to present at our next Public Information Meeting (see details below). Our local state government representative, Gladys Berejiklian will also be in attendance. I urge you to attend so that you too might learn more about this contentious issue.

On a more positive note, the launch for the Artarmon Fair 2005 was held recently. The fair is planned for Saturday 30th April and we are greatly encouraged by the positive response from our local businesses in supporting this fabulous community event.

May I also recommend that you take a look at our much improved web site www.artarmonprogress.org.au, which has been redeveloped with the assistance of Tristan Gutsche, who has put in many unpaid hours on our behalf. We appreciate his efforts enormously, and look forward to your feedback as to how we can continue to develop the site.

Finally I would like to thank our outgoing committee for the great work done last year, especially Anne Weinert, who resigned to take on the role of Editor of the Gazette, and Keith Anderson, our President for the past three years. John Peacock has done a great job as Editor of the Gazette, and we welcome his ongoing involvement in the Gazette Committee.

Best wishes to you all for a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. ■

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

30 November 2004, 8.00-10.00pm, Artarmon Community Library, Elizabeth St

Air Quality Monitoring - Tunnel Ventilation & Filtration Issues

How will the construction of the Lane Cove Tunnel affect Artarmon residents?

Will it exacerbate traffic and other pollution problems in Artarmon?

Is anything being done to protect our interests?

Want to know more and voice your opinion?

Then, come to the Meeting and hear from the following qualified speakers:

- Ms Gladys Berejiklian, Member for Willoughby, will present the Lane Cove Tunnel (LCT) issues that she is working on. Take this opportunity to let Gladys know your concerns!
- Ms Sue Netterfield and Ms Emily Cracknell from Theiss-John Holland (the Joint Venture contracted to design & construct the LCT) will explain the nature, purpose, accuracy and adequacy of proposed air quality monitoring measures.
- Dr Ray Kearney, a medical Associate Professor at Sydney University and prominent advocate for tunnel filtration, will present a balance to the views of the LCT Joint Venture.
- Mr John Lee, who monitors LCT developments and impacts for the Lane Cove and Willoughby Councils, will also share his views.

All members, residents and business people welcome.

APA - what's happening in your Association

APA Changes its Constitution

At the last AGM the members approved two changes in our constitution which was last amended about four years ago.

The first change was to formally change its name to Artarmon Progress Association Inc (from Artarmon & District Progress Association Inc), to reflect that the constitution restricts membership to those living and working in the postcode district of 2064 - known as Artarmon. There is a category of associate membership which caters for others who live outside Artarmon.

The second change was to allow leaseholders to become members of the APA. A significant section of Artarmon is made up of the Industrial Area and a number of businesses do not own their own premises. It is now possible for individuals who lease premises in the 2064 area to join the APA if they so desire.

"A load of old garbage?"

By Michael Haynes

In the last year, Willoughby Council has changed the way it runs the collection of recyclables and the quarterly cleanup. The need to divert potentially recyclable material away from landfill and the safety of collectors were the two main drivers behind the changes. So said Greg Foster, Willoughby Council's Sustainable Environment Manager, when he spoke to a meeting of the APA in May 2004.

In July 2003, the black crate was replaced by a yellow-topped 240 litre wheelie bin. The new bin was intended to receive "mixed recycling", that is paper and cardboard, glass bottles, plastic containers (types 1 to 5) and steel cans. Some residents who had previously meticulously separated their paper and glass were reluctant to throw the lot into a single "mixed" bin.

But Greg explained that the new bin allowed for a greater range of recyclables to be

Wilkes Avenue Plaza Refurbishment

WCC is currently completing the design for the refurbishment of Wilkes Ave, which we featured in the August Gazette. The design will go on public exhibition in early December 2004. Following a 2 week period for final comments, the design will be reviewed, if required, and work is scheduled to commence in early February. The work will be completed in time for the Artarmon Community Fair on 30 April 2005.

The design addresses concerns raised through consultations with small businesses, building owners, patrons, pedestrians and commuters and includes new lighting, rubbish bins, relocation of phone boxes, undergrounding of power poles and removal of tired planter boxes. All the new street furniture will be in keeping with the existing buildings and streetscape, the current red brick paving will

collected, and meant that all handling was now mechanical. Previously, the operator emptied the black crate manually, sorting the bottles by the colour of their glass into separate sections of the truck. Leaving the truck and manual sorting had caused a number of industrial accidents.

Greg said that all paper and cardboard (including food-stained material, such as pizza boxes) could be recycled - provided the food was removed from them first. Light globes and fluorescent tubes could not be recycled and should be put into the garbage.

This year, the four general cleanups have been replaced with two general cleanups plus one for bulk vegetation and one for metals and whitegoods. Previously, all of the material collected in general cleanups was sent to landfill, with no attempt to sort it. Now the whole of the metals and whitegoods go to one recycler, and the bulk vegetation to another.

be enhanced and new paving installed in Elizabeth Street to the end of the shops.

The design also provides opportunity for decorative pavement inserts to be designed in consultation with the community. WCC Arts & Cultural Manager, Jacky Talbot would be very interested to hear from people who have stories, photos and other memorabilia about Wilkes Ave from its past or current history.

At 10.30am - 12.00 noon, Wednesday 19 January 2005, a kids design workshop will be held as part of the Children's Holiday program at Artarmon Library. This is one of several opportunities for the community to have input into the pavement design.

For further information about the public art project please contact Jacky Talbot on 9777 7994 or culture@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

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The new collection arrangements will be reviewed in the light of experience and residents' comments. ■

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Lane Cove Tunnel Project – construction liaison report

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 (LCT) construction works from the Pacific Highway to Naremburn.

Where's the LCT project up to?

Construction started several months ago on the twin tunnels, expected to open in 2006.

Underground tunnelling is well under way, both from Marden Street in Artarmon where the tall eastern ventilation stack will be located, and also from the western end. Spoil is being trucked out through the Industrial Area around the clock.

The main local surface works management compound is up and running on the corner of Burley St and the Pacific Hwy, with satellite construction compounds adjoining residential areas in Broughton Road, Barton Road and Reserve Road, and on the south side near Alto Place.

TJH has had to manage asbestos contamination discovered in the earth they were excavating at two of the compounds in local residential areas. They have also had to manage the heritage issues around the old brick-baking kilns buried underground in the former huge brick pit alongside the Gore Hill Freeway (GHF).

Initial surface construction works have started between the Pacific Hwy and Hampden Road. The main purpose of this stage of the works is to build the new transit lanes on either side of the GHF. In the long term, this will increase the capacity of the freeway by 50%. More immediately, moving existing traffic onto the new lanes will make space to cut and cover the main tunnel entrance in the middle of the

freeway, and to relocate the Reserve Road ramps.

Current local works include:

- temporary viaduct over Broughton Road (opposite Ekidna Cottage long day care centre) to carry traffic from the Pacific Hwy onto the freeway eastbound
- Reserve Road overpass and ramps
- changes to the Hampden Road overpass
- eastbound along the freeway: new transit lane and retaining walls
- westbound along the freeway: transit lane, cycleway, retaining walls and viaduct over the Warman building
- excavation of the former green island between the freeway and its westbound Pacific Hwy off-ramp, and new retaining walls
- preliminary works along the Pacific Hwy near Alto Place. The loop ramp into the tunnel from the Highway northbound will involve cut-and-cover construction through Alto Place next to the childcare centre.

Reserve Road interchange

I've set out here some construction information that might interest our community's budding civil engineers. Why not take your curious youngsters for a walk to observe this major infrastructure project taking shape in our neighbourhood?

Major work lasting until mid 2006 has started on the Reserve Road bridge and ramps. This will widen the freeway by two transit lanes in each direction, provide new on/off ramps on the outside of the freeway and a shared

cycleway/ pedestrian underpass on the southern side of the freeway under Reserve Road.

Questions and concerns

Major policy matters that concern the wider

community - eg air quality and ongoing major traffic management issues - are resolved at the political/governmental level. The APA is playing an active role here to help protect our community's interests. The CCLGs deal with more 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

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

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. ■



Sonia Powell, Artarmon CCLG3 representative

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Saturday 20th November 2004 • 11am – 1pm

This will be both an introduction and an explanation of some of the subtle complexities of harmonic dance and conscious action philosophy on which it is based. There will be opportunities for discussion.

The demonstration, talk and discussion will be given by Debby Mader. There is a one hour Open Class beforehand from 9.30am – 10.30am.

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Community Fair and Local Business Heroes

By Michelle Sloane

Artarmon thanks our COMMUNITY FAIR 2004 LOCAL BUSINESS HEROES and launches the 2005 COMMUNITY FAIR.

On Thursday 21 October the APA formally thanked those businesses and organisations who generously supported the APA's inaugural 2004 Community Fair. The Artarmon Community Library was the location for this event where the APA President, Michael Dawes, thanked all those who helped and reminded us that the success of the Fair was due largely to "symbiosis". He suggested that the Fair's success was the result of the cooperation and support of local residents, businesses and our local Artarmon Public School. I think we all agreed...he was right!

Some of the key contributors to this "symbiosis" were:

- Artarmon Public School who supported the Fair with a wonderful selection of musical performances and the "Images of Artarmon" art and craft exhibition and the Artarmon P&C for holding their very tempting Mother's Day Gift Stall.
- Lynne and Bob Greaves from Artarmon

Framing and dale thomas gallery, who with the help of Jacky Talbot, Manager Arts and Culture for WCC, organised our very professional 'Art 2064' exhibition, showcasing the work of Artarmon based artists.

- Alto Ford Artarmon who sponsored our very popular and much jumped on Alto Ford Jumping Castle!
- Willoughby City Council who provided a tremendous amount of support of various kinds, organisational, logistical and financial – special thanks to the events coordination team!
- Gil Davis from Home Traders who from the very beginning offered the APA an enormous amount of support ranging from professional signage, sponsoring the "Images of Artarmon" exhibition and along with his team, helped us deliver many activities, including our Heritage Street walks.

Many people worked together to make the 2004 Fair successful, but a very big thanks go to all those who live in Artarmon who came along on the day to enjoy what our community has to offer.

Our 2005 Artarmon Community Fair will be "bigger and better"! It will be held on Saturday

30 April 2005. It will again be located in Wilkes Ave and Elizabeth Street, however, we plan to increase the number of stalls and extend the Fair to the village green area on Hampden Road.

Our theme for 2005 is "Celebrating Community and Heritage" and we hope to again bring you a wonderful range of community based activities and stalls, including water conservation, rainwater and recycling displays, native plants, cake stalls, heritage walks, art and photographic exhibitions and stalls, bush land and bush care exhibits and walks, sausage sizzle, children's entertainment and much, much more!!

If you are interested in being a Local Business Hero, have an idea for a stall or just want to be part of the fun, please contact Michelle Sloane, Fair Coordinator on 9410 0481 or 0412 267 828. ■

Community Fair 2004 - Local Business Heroes

Home Traders Gil Davis and Associates
Willoughby City Council
Alto Ford Artarmon
Artarmon Framing and dale thomas gallery
Taurus Marketing and Consulting
Artarmon Valet Service
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Artarmon Public School news

By Katrina Weir

Year Two Reads to Raise Funds for Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an extremely debilitating condition that randomly attacks the central nervous system. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of the disease cannot be predicted, but can range from tingling and numbness to paralysis and blindness. It affects women more than men but the cause of MS is still unknown and research continues in an effort to find a cause, and ultimately, a cure.

Each year, MS Australia hosts the MS Readathon™, an event designed to get kids across Australia reading books for six weeks to raise money for people with MS. This year, 2X,

one of the year two classes at Artarmon Primary School, participated in the MS Readathon and raised more than \$1,700 by reading more than 400 books.

With prizes such as a The Cat in the Hat DVD, Shrek 2 fun pack and Xbox games, the children found the idea of participating in the MS Readathon hard to resist.

The class's effort was coordinated by Suzy Gajewski, a mother of one of the children in 2X. She decided to encourage the class to join other children around Australia because she believes the MS Readathon is great fun and an opportunity for the children to give back to the community. She was also excited by the idea of seeing the children enjoy a diversity of reading material for a good cause.

The response of the children and their teacher, Mrs Tiffany David, was very enthusiastic. In the end, 18 children participated, sought sponsorship and continued reading for the full six weeks.

Mrs Gajewski believes one of the reasons for the success of the class' participation was the support offered to the children along the way.

"We established a reading board at the back of the classroom where the children could list their favourite books and give them a rating.

This encouraged other children to read the books their friends had enjoyed, and gave them a reference for their future reading," she said.

The benefits for 2X joining in this important event were enormous but most importantly, it provided

an opportunity for the children to help the community, explore new books and share these with their classmates.

Year 1 Students Benefit from Reading Recovery Program

Reading Recovery is a systematic, early intervention program for children experiencing difficulty with reading and writing. It was developed in New Zealand in the late 1970s by Dr Marie Clay following years of research and studying how children engage with the reading process.

Reading Recovery is designed for year 1 students only. During the program, the student and specially trained teacher work together for 30 minutes each day for up to 20 weeks. The program aims to bring the children's levels to grade average.

Reading Recovery was introduced to Artarmon



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Jane Cantrill

Public School in 1998. The school now has funding for five children to participate in the program each day.

Jane Cantrill started teaching Reading Recovery at Artarmon School in 2002. Having been a classroom

teacher, she wanted to learn more about the processes of reading and writing, and to understand why some children don't succeed in these areas. Since starting in the role, she is amazed at the results the program can achieve. "Reading Recovery is a very intensive program and children progress much faster than they do in a classroom. Generally, children will progress from reading level one to level 17-18 and from writing five words to between 100-150 words within the 20 week program," Jane explained.

"The children view Reading Recovery as special, a treat; and they are very proud of their achievements. You can't get a job much better than that," she said.

2004 Student Representative Council Continues Tradition of Generosity

The Artarmon Primary School Student Representative Council (SRC) has a tradition of generosity and accomplishment, and 2004 has shown to be no exception. At the beginning of each year, one person from each class (Year 2 to Year 6) is elected as SRC representative.



SRC with Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Hughes and Westmead Hospital's Gilly Paxton

Together with the two school captains and assistant principal, Mrs Pauline Mitchell, the group meets weekly.

According to Mr Michael Simmons, Principal, the SRC helps the children learn the real value of their contributions. "The SRC serves several functions within the school. It gives the students a voice in the school's decision making and is a forum from which elected students can

give something of themselves to their peers," he explained.

This year's head of the SRC is Michael Johnston and vice-president is Gina Lee; both were elected by the council's members.

Throughout 2004, the SRC has arranged fundraising activities to support:

- Stewart House: Dolphin Day raised a total of

\$1,220 comprising \$800 in sales of toy dolphins and \$420 from mufti-day donations

- The Children's Hospital Westmead: Crazy Hair Day raised \$1,349.60 through sales of bandaged bears and gold coin donations.

The SRC has received positive feedback from these charities including certificates of appreciation and phone calls from staff expressing their gratitude. ■

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Lane Cove Tunnel

There is some good LCT news. As a condition of consent, the RTA has to prepare a 'local area traffic management plan' ("LATMP") which it had proposed to complete at

the end of the project. It was my opinion, and that of Council Officers, that this was unacceptable, and the plan should be completed as soon as possible in case design changes might assist with outcomes. The RTA agreed to bring forward this work, and it is now underway.

A meeting was held at Council on 14 September with Officers of the RTA. At this meeting I raised many issues concerning the LCT (one was the issue above). Two particular design issues arose – firstly, allowing traffic travelling south of the Pacific Hwy (PH) to gain access to the Gore Hill Freeway (GHF) and exit at the new Reserve Rd ramps to get to the Artarmon Industrial Area (AIA). If this were possible it would remove traffic from the Highway using Hampden Rd to get to the AIA. Secondly, for traffic moving west from Hampden Rd to the GHF to gain access to the PH where it crosses over the freeway. This is not currently possible but could be investigated as a means of removing some traffic from Hampden Rd and other parts of Artarmon.

There has been a shortage of local work sites for Theiss John Holland which could potentially lengthen construction times. Council has approved the use of some of its land at the back of Artarmon Reserve near the freeway with access still through Chelmsford Ave. There has also been some concern to keep traffic through Artarmon, including construction workers travelling to site, to a

minimum. TJH have indicated that they will maintain strict controls on staff parking and have requested approval to use Council carparks such as Bicentennial Reserve for limited staff parking. One of the residual issues for Council, upon completion of the project, will be the management of the land around the freeway as possible "public open space". In 1999 I raised this issue and have been pushing through Council for the RTA to address the issue. LCT has assisted putting this matter squarely onto the agenda. The community might get the outcome it deserves after so much inconvenience with this piece of public infrastructure; that is, more available open space.

State Electoral Boundaries

It was my pleasure to support the APA, who put in a written submission to the State Electoral Boundaries Commission, calling for all of Artarmon to be in the same state electorate. Currently Broughton Rd is the boundary between the Lane Cove and Willoughby state electorates. The decision will be out at the end of this year.

Installation of Parking meters on Herbert Street

The installation process will be undertaken in two consecutive stages. During stage one, meters will be installed on the eastern side of Herbert St, and stage two involves installation of meters on the western side. Only those areas that already have time restricted parking will be subject to parking fees.

Sports in the City

Council Officers have requested assistance in the preparation of the issues paper on 'Sports in the City'. What are your concerns or thoughts? Please let me know via email: stuart.coppock@willoughby.nsw.gov.au ■



I sit down to write this message having just returned from Armidale where I represented the Mayor at the Local Government Association conference. Almost all local government bodies

in NSW send representatives so the range of issues under discussion was wide. Of particular interest to me was a Sustainability Forum which, among other issues, looked at public transport options for the future and brought home to me the varying needs of different parts of Sydney, let alone the whole state. Those discussions confirmed that recent changes to provision of bus services resulting from the Unsworth Report will provide Willoughby with an opportunity to be involved with provision of services within the city – with a regional approach through NSROC likely to be the most productive.

While talking busses, you may have seen reports of a proposal to move two Sydney Bus depots to Artarmon. A scheme for the former ABC site proposes to relocate the Willoughby and Neutral Bay depots onto the lowest level of the redevelopment. Major existing buildings on the site will be retained and complemented with new, mainly industrial, buildings. The proposal has come from the developer of the Telstra site in Herbert St and appears to fall short of 'landmark development status' which, I believe, this Artarmon site warrants. The development proposal will seek approval from local and state authorities and will be put out to public exhibition. Only with these consents in hand, will the option to purchase the land be exercised. No doubt, the additional traffic generation due to the bus depot will be the subject of traffic studies. At this time, few details, such as access routes for buses, have

PHYSIOTHERAPY



For over twelve years, Physiotherapist Ann Liebert has run her practice in Artarmon, specialising in:

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Councillors' feedback...feedback...feedback

been revealed.

Concerns over design and construction issues on the Gore Hill Freeway extension have consumed lots of Council time over recent months. Some issues have involved the construction consortium (TJH), others involved the RTA, and the most difficult issues to address have involved both groups – with each trying to pass responsibility to the other. Communications from the consortium to affected residents have often been tardy, despite efforts from Council to demand timely release of information. The Community Consultation Liaison process has proven to be cumbersome at best, with high demands placed on participants in terms of the number of plans to be reviewed, the time available for review, the impact of feedback and restrictions on how the plans can be distributed for broader comment. Council will continue to challenge both TJH and RTA, legally where necessary, while attempting to negotiate to achieve outcomes that meet best practice while minimising disruptions for residents.

Proposed LEP and DCP amendments arising from last year's Industrial Areas Study will be revealed to the IA's Study Steering Committee later this month. They will then be distributed for community comment early in 2005. Still in the Artarmon Industrial Area, there have been some minor changes to parking restrictions. I am still waiting for action in response to my call for a general review of parking issues.

Finally, on the east side, I have supported the Artarmon Progress Association in their calls to have the Artarmon Reserve playground completely enclosed. Council has now responded positively.

Barry.Thompson@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au or 9412 1596. ■



Kate Lamb

I have just returned from the NSW Local Government Conference in Armidale. The good news is that North Sydney's popularly elected Mayor, Genia McCaffery, was resoundingly elected as the Association's President, for a two year term. I am pleased to report that the Independents (of whom Genia is a fine example) are a real 'third force' in NSW Local Government, freeing us from the Lib/Lab arrangement which so constrains us at other levels. Genia is an intelligent and articulate woman who is passionate about preserving the quality of our environment - built and natural. And she has a big challenge ahead if what Diane Beamer had to say at Conference is any indication. Apparently she and Craig Knowles think that a blanket State Planning Policy permitting townhouses & villas in all 2A Residential zones is an appropriate response to Sydney's population crisis. Looks like the Dual Occupancy debate all over again!

As is my habit, I rented a bike for travel to and from the venue (it was at UNE, one or two kms outside of town). I find this a great way of getting around regional towns and cities as the streets are so wide with so little traffic and you can see so much more than on foot. A lovely shared path following Beardy Creek ran from the centre of town almost to the Uni and each time I used it I marveled at the chorus of frogs who warned each other of my coming – all the way along! What a thrill to know that this little ecosystem was so very healthy! I never actually saw one of these frogs but the kids I met under the bridge one afternoon told me that they were big (as my hand) and green – and they did show me the tadpoles! I found all

this pretty heartening as I remember hearing on the news very recently that a global study of amphibians has found that more than 120 species have died out over the past 24 years and that currently, a third of all known species face extinction, largely due to habitat loss.

Here in Willoughby, we use a now regular bird survey co-ordinated by birdman Andy Burton, to give us some idea of how well our city preserves and enhances remnant habitat (about 10% of our land area). In reporting on the most recent survey, the third since 1995, Andy specifically acknowledges and thanks at least 4 Artarmon residents (take a bow Colin, Judie, Tony and Shelagh!). In 1995 Andy confirmed 105 species observations in Willoughby's two major catchments – Lane Cove River and Middle Harbour. By 2000, the total number had risen to 121. At the conclusion of the 2004 survey this number had risen to 144!!! Andy credits the return of the Eastern Whipbird to Artarmon Reserve to Council's having successfully (through e.restore projects) created a 'habitat corridor' through from Northbridge /Tunks Park. In a similar vein, he urges us to think of treating street tree plantings and suburban backyards (assuming we can fend off Minister Knowles' town houses & villas) as having similar potential! kate_lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

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Also: Same Day Photos

Revisiting Artarmon Village Green

By Mollie Shelley

In May 2001 I wrote about the history of the Village Green and the plantings in this area. Recently we've had rain but this follows fiercely hot, dry summers. I wanted to look at the plants again keeping in mind dire warnings about climate change.

I started at the far side of the Library where Azaleas and Hardenbergia are threatened by a fresh crop of weeds, as is much of the area. There are two main problems affecting Sydney's azaleas – lace bug and petal blight. Lace bug silvers the leaves and, in the worst scenario, can lead to defoliation and ultimate death of the plant. It thrives in hot dry conditions. Petal blight loves moisture and humidity. This year we had showers as the flowers were opening. The result, about a week of good flowering, hardly justifies the space azaleas occupy.

In front of the Library, lavender and Dianella thrive in a garden exposed to full sun and the reflected heat from bricks and concrete. Nearby Lilly Pilly is doing well although suffering from the pest that causes pimples of new growth. New varieties resist this disease. It is worth seeking them out.

Throughout the Station precinct it is noticeable that Camellia japonicas have suffered from the heat except when in very sheltered positions.

Sasanqua camellias are doing well. They, together with dwarf Nandina domestica, grace two brick planter boxes in Wilkes Plaza. Another brick planter box, longer and narrower than the others (hotter and drier?), has become a drought-stricken desert except where, at the wider end, a little sad mondo grass struggles to survive.

At the entrance to the tunnel on the west side the two young Ash trees are in danger of being smothered by rampant ivy. Ivy, like other robust, dense climbers, may kill its host if it grows into the crown restricting the sunshine necessary for the production of chlorophyll. It is a real nuisance in home gardens because of the amount of work necessary to keep it under control. Also near the entrance to the tunnel, young jacarandas seem to be in good shape.

Gazanias, the bright yellow daisies covering one side of the rockery, have proven their worth during the drought. Plants that are earning our respect because of their ability to survive and flower profusely beside freeways, on traffic islands and in gardens near traffic bumps include Gazania, Arctotis (African Daisy), bottlebrush, Gynea Lily, grevilleas and new strains of lantana.

Along the high wire fence beside the railway line, Trachelospermum jasminoides is working towards producing a dense screen, doing better



Illustration by Wendy Bishop

than some of the climbing roses. Rosemary is happy; cliveas and a campanula ground cover are doing it tough but hanging in there. But what's to be done about the rapidly multiplying onion weed?

Across the road planter boxes of Murrays and Cumquats now look better thanks to the joint care of shopkeepers and Council staff and in spite of the efforts of occasional vandals and litterbugs. ■

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

Info: Wendy Bishop, 9420 4884.

Artarmon Library extends hours and services



Storytime at Artarmon Library

Monday storytime for preschoolers at Artarmon Library has eased the pressure on attendance at storytimes at the Central Library in Chatswood. The new hours also allow the library to promote class visits from the local schools in Artarmon to the library".

"I think it's fantastic that

Artarmon Library now has storytime. It's good for the kids to have some interaction with other kids and book reading is very educational. It's great that Artarmon Library has introduced storytime because now I don't have to go to Chatswood", said Artarmon mum Fiona Suardana of Benton Ave, Artarmon.

"I think it's very good. It's much more convenient with storytime at Artarmon. Now I don't have to catch the train to Chatswood", said another Artarmon Mum Hanty Susanto. ■

By Samantha Glass

In August, Artarmon Library extended its hours and introduced a regular storytime session for pre-schoolers at 10.30am every Monday during the school term. Since then, the library has been full to overflowing some Mondays for storytime.

"Artarmon Library is the busiest of the sub-branches of Willoughby City Library Service. The library is very much part of the Artarmon community", said Willoughby City Council Mayor Pat Reilly. "The introduction of a

Library Open Hours are:

Monday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Regular story-time for pre-schoolers	(10.30 am - 11.30 am)
Tuesday	2.30 pm - 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Thursday	2.30 pm - 5.00 pm
Friday	2.30 pm - 5.00 pm
Saturday	9.30 pm - 12.00 pm

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GUIDES
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NEW SOUTH WALES

Guides Bike-a-thon – thanks, Artarmon!

By Sonia Powell

Congratulations to the Artarmon District Guides on their fantastic Artarmon Bike-

a-thon on 19 September. Thanks to the girls, the 200 plus participants and the generosity of local businesses, the event raised well over \$3500 for the autistic children's charity, Giant Steps, and another \$800 for the local Guide units. Participants also planted more than 400 trees on the day in conjunction with Willoughby Council's e-restore program. Well done to the organising committee of Michael

Swinsburg, Leisa Davidson and Ed Chapman and a big thank you to all the sponsors and supporters.

The Guides have also enjoyed a fun-filled week-end District Camp in October at Glengarry, North Turramurra. The girls practised signalling, coding, tracking and teamwork skills. ■



The Guides made Morse code beads spelling their names.

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Talking 2064

Congratulations to Frank and Pina Mico, who were featured in the last Artarmon Gazette, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations also to Simon Bell who was the graduate at Nick Logan Pharmacy in 2002 and continues to work Saturdays. In October, Simon was named the Young Pharmacist of the Year 2004 by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Simon also received the \$10,000 Mayne Education Grant which will support his participation at a pharmacy-specific education event such as an international conference or

course to a maximum value of \$10,000. Until recently, Simon was overseas in his role as President of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Association for 2003 to 2004.

Claire O'Reilly is the graduate for this year. She will be registered as a pharmacist in December this year and has decided to stay on indefinitely.

Artarmon's well known florist, Adam Gallo of Northside Flowers in Hampden Road, has sold his shop to spend more time at his farm west of the Ranges. Adam's daughters who worked in the business, Rosa and Marissa, are both soon to have babies. **Meredith Salisbury**, the new owner of Northside

Flowers, is enjoying working in Artarmon, and has been thrilled by the warm welcome received from residents.

Toni Richards, who was named a Citizen of the Year by WCC in 2003 after having been nominated by the APA for her dedicated work in the local community, has fulfilled a long-held dream and qualified recently as a Civil Marriage Celebrant. We wish her well. ■



St Basil's Anglican Church Artarmon

6 BROUGHTON ROAD, ARTARMON • RECTORY 9412 1315 • OFFICE PH/FAX 9413 9713

Coming Soon!

If you go to the movies you are familiar with the 'Coming Soon' sign; it speaks to us of an approaching event; there is a sense of anticipation about 'Coming Soon'. I can remember as a child standing on the front verandah and watching for friends and relatives or parents coming in the front gate, with the same feelings of anticipation.

This time of the year leading up to Christmas has been called Advent for much the same reasons. Advent reminds us that we are celebrating a 'coming soon' event, Christmas; or more importantly a 'coming soon' person, Jesus.

We celebrate Advent and Christmas because Jesus comes to us in three ways:

- he came 2000 years ago at the first Christmas to live, die and rise again for us
- he comes into our lives now by the power of his Holy Spirit, and
- he will come again, and as the children's game puts it, whether we are ready or not.

The way we make ourselves ready is by our own 'coming'. Jesus comes to us, we come to him, first by faith and then by living our lives through the power of his Holy Spirit

and according to his law of love.

Many people begin their coming to Jesus by coming to church; it is a sort of symbolic act for them representing their start on the journey of faith or maybe just a sign that they would like to find out more. For many coming to church then becomes an indication that their whole lives are now 'a coming to Christ'.

This Advent and Christmas might just be the time in your life when you can come. The services at St Basil's every Sunday are held at:

- 10.00am Holy Communion (with a children's program)
- 6.00pm St Basil's @ 6 - an informal service which includes a light meal, singing, prayer and a Bible talk/discussion.
- 12 noon Korean language Service conducted by the New Directions Church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES at St Basil's

Sunday 19	5.00pm	Children's Carol Service
Christmas Eve	9.00pm	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9.00am	Holy Communion (with children's program)
Sunday 26	9.00am	Holy Communion

REAL ESTATE COMMENT

Each year we present our comparison and analysis of Artarmon sales over the previous ten years. In this edition we look at houses.

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



Gil Davis

It certainly has been an extraordinary twelve months of ups and downs. With the benefit of hindsight the high point of the market was October last year prior to the three successive interest rate rises. Prices have since softened but it is interesting to observe that the average price is still 8.2% higher than for the previous year.

The bulk of sales fell in the \$800,000 to \$1.2 million range, the same as in the previous twelve months. A significant change was at the higher end with five sales over \$1.4 million in lieu of two the year before. One even broke the magic \$2 million mark.

Volume was also up from 38 to 44 sales. This is still a very small proportion of all houses representing an annual turnover of only 4%. This must make Artarmon one of the most tightly held suburbs in Sydney.

Happily for us, we continue to sell three quarters of the properties and are grateful for the trust shown by our clients. We hope this will continue, especially as we endeavour to stay at the forefront of agency practice and give back everything we reasonably can to local groups.

Houses	2002/3	2003/4
Cheapest	\$605,000	\$700,000
Dearest	\$1,805,000	\$2,100,000
Increase in average price over previous yr	10%	8.2%
Over \$1 million	48%	56%
Our sales	73.5%	75%

10 Year Comparison of House Sales

Price	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/3	2003/4
Under \$600k	43 (93.5%)	41 (91%)	40 (79%)	21 (51%)	16 (36%)	12 (27%)	3 (11%)	2 (5%)		
600 - 800,000	3 (6.5%)	4 (9%)	11 (21%)	18 (44%)	21 (48%)	14 (31%)	11 (41%)	16 (46%)	5 (13%)	2 (5%)
800,000 - 1 mil				2 (5%)	7 (16%)	14 (31%)	10 (37%)	6 (17%)	15 (39%)	17 (39%)
1-1 .2 m						3 (7%)	2 (7%)	3 (9%)	11 (29%)	11 (25%)
1.2 -1.4m						2 (5%)		5 (14%)	5 (13%)	9 (20%)
1.4 -1.6m							1 (4%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	3 (7%)
1.6 -1.8m								1 (3%)	1 (3%)	1 (2%)
1.8 -2m								1 (3%)		
2mil										1 (2%)
Total Volume	46	45	51	41	44	45	27	35	38	44
Total Sales	\$20m	\$19.6m	\$25.3m	\$24.4m	\$28.6m	\$33.8m	\$21.85m	\$32.58m	\$38.91m	\$48.44m
Average Price	\$436,000	\$436,000	\$495,000	\$595,000	\$650,000	\$751,000	\$810,000	\$931,000	\$1,024k	\$1,108k

E & OE This information in this table 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.

110 Hampden Road, Artarmon

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