

Artarmon Parklands Nearing Completion

by Peter Wilton

Work by Willoughby City Council on the new Artarmon Parklands is well underway. The Artarmon Parklands is being developed at the former Bowling Club site on Burra Road and is being integrated with Artarmon Reserve. Willoughby City Council's aim is to create a district park for Artarmon residents where they can enjoy a range of outdoor activities in a bush park setting.

The park development has come about due in large part to the generosity and goodwill of the former bowling club members who sold the site to Willoughby City Council on the condition that it is used for community recreational purposes. This new site increases Artarmon's open park space by almost a hectare (2 acres).

The park will have a range of facilities most of which will be new to Artarmon. A community garden will occupy around a quarter of the bowling club site. It will enable residents to share in gardening activities, something that those who live in apartments without garden areas currently may not be able to do.

A fitness area with outdoor fitness equipment will occupy the northern section of the park. A new play area will provide a range of activities. The existing children's playground in Artarmon Reserve is retained and being remodelled. It will adjoin a new adventure area that will have more challenging activities for teenagers and an outdoor bowls arena for people of all ages.

The parkland will have an outdoor pavilion to be built near the location of the old clubhouse building. The pavilion will provide a large covered



Example of a pavilion

area that will be accessible to all park users. BBQs, outdoor kitchen and toilet facilities are to be included in the pavilion structure.

The pavilion will further enhance the Artarmon parklands by expanding its range of uses. It will enable the park to be used in problematic weather and provides a covered outdoor space that all park users can access and a gathering space for families and community groups. The pavilion's design will include memorabilia and images that honour the bowling club heritage, its past members and legacy.

The parklands are located on existing bike paths and bush tracks. Improved disable access and upgraded car parking at Artarmon Reserve will help make the new parklands accessible to all Artarmon residents.

Together with the other new park amenities, it will make the Artarmon

Parklands a "go to" destination for many families.

The new park is scheduled to be open by November 2019 upon completion of the first stage of the development. The second stage involving the construction of the pavilion is planned to be completed next year.

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