

# Rail humour (not)

by Glenda Hewitt

## Joke one: Summer shade

On 12 May, local state Member Gladys Berejiklian MP asked the Transport Minister a Question on Notice about maintenance work at Artarmon railway station.

The Transport Minister, the Hon David Campbell MP acknowledged the seating and



*Artarmon station, now minus its green shade*

planter boxes had been removed but said both would be replaced. The seating has been returned, but don't expect to see the trees (and the shade they provided) return. The Transport Minister's words were "there will be two new concrete encased garden beds placed on the city end of the station."

Shade on the city end of the platform will be non-existent, and at the time of writing, the garden beds are two small soil-filled spaces at platform level.

No shade means, in summer, commuters are most likely to crowd at the northern edge of the platform – even though regular commuters have worked out there is more likely to be available seating at the front of city-bound trains. It looks like the commuter choice will be sunstroke or standing.

## Joke two: Access

A recent article in the Sydney Morning Herald (July 4-5) reports that Beverly Hills railway station has a lift for the 3500 commuters who use it each weekday. Waterfall station with 540 daily commuters is scheduled for a lift, as is Lawson with 520 commuters and Picton with 460 commuters.

Hang on a minute - Artarmon, the 48th busiest station in the rail network with 8660

commuters **doesn't** have a lift and is not scheduled to get one. If you have struggled into Artarmon with luggage, a pram or in a wheelchair, you must be scratching your head by now.

If upgrades are based on need, Artarmon must rank fairly high based on the demographic and the patronage.

## Joke Three: The stairway access

Are the stairs at Artarmon station a risk? They are steep and narrow and require a high level of concentration when being used.

A NSW WorkCover Guidance Note Preventing slips, trips and falls makes the following recommendations:

The dimensions for the 'rise' (R) should be: minimum 115mm, maximum 190 mm. However, it is very important that the 'rise' is in proportion to the width of each step, ie the 'tread' or the 'going'. The dimensions for the 'going' (G) - that is the top part of the step - are minimum 250 mm and maximum 355mm.

According to the Guidance Note, correct stairs should have dimensions as follows:  
 $2R + G = \text{minimum } 550, \text{ maximum } 700.$

Do the Artarmon station stairs meet this standard? ■