

Artarmon heads to local government polls on 27 March

By John Peacock

Artarmon electors will vote in Local Government elections on Saturday 27 March 2004. Our suburb is in Naremburn Ward, one of four wards within the City of Willoughby, with each ward electing three Councillors. A separate election is held for Mayor, and this year there will also be a referendum on the Civic Place project in the Chatswood CBD.

As with Federal and State elections, the Artarmon Progress Association is inviting all the nominated candidates for Naremburn Ward to a public meeting on Tuesday 9 March 2004 at 8pm. The venue is the Artarmon Primary School hall. Electoral rolls close 16 February and nominations close 27 February 2004.

Our current Councillors for Naremburn Ward are Kate Lamb, Stuart Coppock and Lesley Stephens. Kate Lamb is also our current Deputy Mayor. The Artarmon Progress Association takes this opportunity to express its thanks and gratitude to Kate, Stuart and Lesley for their dedicated service to Artarmon during their four-and-a-half year term of office.

Lesley Stephens moved from the City of Willoughby in 2003, yet continued to diligently attend to Council affairs. Understandably, Lesley will not be seeking re-election. The other current Councillors, Kate Lamb and Stuart Coppock, are both seeking re-election. Key issues for Stuart Coppock include the traffic problems being posed by the Lane Cove tunnel and seeking a solution to commuter parking in residential streets. Confirming her intention to stand again, Kate said - "I want to continue to provide an independent alternative, directly representing the people

of Artarmon and Naremburn. If re-elected, I will continue to work for a healthier environment and I will promote progressive solutions to the problems of urban development. I offer openness, integrity and a commitment to respect our heritage - natural, built and cultural."

Among the other known candidates, Artarmon resident Barry Thompson is standing for election to Council for the first time. Barry is well known to Gazette readers as a frequent contributor and is a former Editor. He has been on the Artarmon Progress Association committee since 1998. Barry's motivation in running for Council is his belief in the importance of Artarmon having a resident as Councillor - none of the current Councillors are from Artarmon. Barry will base his campaign on his previous community service and the skills which he has gained during his career as a corporate manager.

Most of the candidates will be Independents. The Liberal Party has no plans to support candidates in the coming poll as it did at the 1999 election.

At the 9 March meeting, each candidate will be given time to put their case for election and then there will be a question and answer session where members of the audience will be able to quiz the candidates on their views about issues pertinent to Artarmon, or in relation to issues across Willoughby more broadly.

Voting procedures have been changed since the last local government election in 1999. The system for 'above the line' and 'below the line' voting remains, but with some changes. This system was modelled on the State Upper House arrangement that was intended to simplify the voter's task when

presented with a choice among several hundred candidates.

In 2004, the system requires that groupings 'above the line' contain the same number of candidates as are required to be elected for the Ward (three nominees in our Ward). However, preferences will flow from one ticket to others differently this time compared to 1999. Then, each ticket was able to indicate its choice of preferences to the Electoral Commission prior to polling day and all surplus votes automatically flowed to that preference. This time, preferences will flow only as voters indicate on their ballot paper. The preferencing dynamic has changed. Those candidates who choose not to form a ticket will rely on voters being prepared to put numbers below the line for as many candidates as they choose to support.

Within this ticket system, the likelihood of two or more tickets means that those numbered two or three on each ticket have a low probability of being elected. Nonetheless, APA has chosen to invite all candidates to be present and to speak at the Public Information Meeting.

For your interest, all municipalities in NSW, be they cities such as the City of Willoughby or country shires must hold elections on 27 March 2004: NSW Local Government Elections Polling Day. There are 172 Councils in NSW and some are divided into wards, like Willoughby, where councillors are elected from each ward. In undivided Councils, Councillors are elected for each Council area. In some areas, the Mayor is elected directly by the electors (e.g. Willoughby), while in others the Mayor is elected by the Councillors. ■

Public Information Meeting - "Meet Your Local Candidates"
9 March - see page 3 for more details.

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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Secretary	David Bruce-Steer
Committee	Geof Cameron Brian Hall Tony Kemm David McGowen Mercedes Riviera Michelle Sloane Barry Thompson Anne Weinert

artarmon GAZETTE

PO Box 540 Artarmon 1570

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

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

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

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

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FUTURE DATES

Tue	9 Mar 04	Public Information Meeting 8pm, Artarmon Primary
Thu	15 Apr 04	Gazette copy closes
Fri	23 Apr 04	Gazette advertising closes
Tue	18 May 04	Gazette delivery complete
Tue	25 May 04	Public Information Meeting 8pm, Artarmon Library

APA-Notes from the President

By Keith Anderson

Already into its second month, 2004 will be a year during which key issues of the last year or two - such as the Lane Cove Tunnel (LCT), the ABC Site and Willoughby City Council's (WCC) review of the industrial areas (DCP 29), will approach the point where final decisions will be made. This will seal the fate of the representations made - and continuing - on behalf of our community by the APA.

In this respect, as reported in our Nov 2003 Gazette, and notwithstanding the continuing support of WCC, we have not made the impact on the State Government authorities that we would have liked in relation to the potential adverse effects of the LCT on our small community. We can only succeed if we can demonstrate that we have the support of the whole community in our efforts to ensure that arterial traffic does not find its way into our village and residential streets.

More broadly, the voice of Artarmon still needs to be heard on other projects within the City, eg the proposed new Civic Centre on which the community will have the opportunity to vote in Local Government elections, and the State Government's decision on the proposed redesign of the Chatswood Railway Station as part of the Parramatta Rail Link project.

Given the disappointment surrounding the lack of availability of community space in the new Kids Cottage development, Artarmon remains without a really useful community centre. We shall be looking to work with the new council in an attempt to identify a suitable site for such a centre and gain priority for an appropriate project. At this early stage, there is initial attraction in redevelopment of the Council's Artarmon Library site and adjoining small office building, perhaps in conjunction with improvements to Wilkes Ave, which is showing positive signs of becoming a 'restaurant precinct'.

As always, your Association remains alert to impacts on the whole of 'Artarmon 2064', of all proposed changes and developments, and seeks to offer appropriate comment to the relevant authorities. Feedback from our membership and the wider community is vital for us to achieve the best outcomes for our part of Willoughby.

Elsewhere in this Gazette, you will see comment on the forthcoming Local Government elections and the proposed meeting to be sponsored by the APA to enable the community to meet and question both the Mayoral candidates and those standing for election as councillors for Naremburn Ward. Please watch for our Notice of Meeting closer to the time, as council nominations will not be finalised until 27th Feb.

Another major activity which I commend to you now is the Artarmon Fair being planned for Sat 1st May 2004, as our contribution towards Heritage Week. We shall keep you informed as details are finalized - watch for notices in the shops and in your letterboxes.

Your APA endeavours to cover a wide range of activities and interests which we hope are relevant and of interest to the wider constituency.

I commend membership of your APA as a priority resolution for 2004 and in doing so, wish all our members and the Artarmon 2064 community at large a successful and prosperous year. ■

At the Artarmon Community Fair learn more about ...

Noah's Ark Toy Library for Children with Special Needs

Have you ever wondered what lies behind the door near the children's section at Artarmon Library?

This tiny space is home to Noah's Ark Toy Library for Children with Special Needs (NATL). NATL is a small not-for-profit organisation and registered charity that provides quality toys and play equipment on loan to families and groups who have children with special needs.

Established in 1976 by a small group of volunteers in response to a growing need for Early Childhood Services for children with special needs, NATL continues today through the hard work of its dedicated volunteers.

Based in Artarmon since 1980, NATL also operates 4 mobile borrowing locations throughout Sydney's northern suburbs. Help is on hand to provide assistance in choosing appropriate toys to facilitate and encourage the development of specific motor, cognitive, social and/or language skills.

Many of the children are involved in early intervention programs that often require many additional hours of work at home. NATL enables families to borrow the specific toys they need to continue this important work.

The Artarmon location is open every Wednesday during school term from 10.00am till noon.

For further information or perhaps to ask about lending a hand, please pop by or phone Catherine Christodoulou on 9411 4429.

If you are interested in sponsoring a fundraising stall for Noah's Ark Toy Library at the Community Fair on 1 May contact Michelle Sloane on 9410 0481 or 0412 267 828. ■

APA...what's happening in your Association

A round-up of issues the Committee is currently following on behalf of members

Community Facilities in Artarmon

The Independent Audit Report on the processes involved in the development of Kids Cottage was presented at the Council Meeting on 1 December 2003. The General Manager's assessment of the Report concluded that 'Council was less than diligent in keeping the community fully informed of the project' and that 'the community's legitimate expectation of the use of the Centre was that it be used as a childcare centre with associated uses' and that 'the proposed use as a community centre had never been anticipated by residents'.

As a result, any applications for extended use of any form – including for a Saturday playgroup for children with special needs who had used the old facility- must be through a separate DA with the requisite notifications and processes.

An independent audit of community facilities in WCC, presented to the Council in Nov 2003, identified that Artarmon has one of the largest populations by suburb within the City of Willoughby, and that there is no community centre established here. Given the huge financial commitment of WCC to the development of Kids Cottage as a proposed new Community Centre, we were disappointed to see this report silent on what must have been a documented perceived need and/or untapped demand for a facility of this nature.

The APA will continue to work with Council in relation to the possibility of establishing a useful community centre in Artarmon.

How fast are going now?

No doubt you have seen this sign from time to time over the past year or two. Well, you will be seeing it a bit closer to home in the next few months. Willoughby City Council has purchased a portable speed measuring device which can be mounted on the back of a sedan-style vehicle, and are considering the possibility of using this machine in a Neighbourhood Speed Watch Program around local streets.

APA has been invited to take place in a trial of the machine, which will indicate to drivers what speed they are actually doing compared with the speed limit of the street along which they are travelling. The machine would be located in each spot for a 2 hour period.

The APA will liaise with the Council to suggest potential streets and appropriate times of the days for the trial, so if you would like the machine in your street please contact the APA.

It is important to note that the machine only displays the speed and does NOT record the speed or details of car whose speed is displayed. During the trial, the driver of the car displaying the sign will be a volunteer and will not have any law enforcement authority –

and is more likely to be an executive member of the APA or Neighbourhood Watch.

Prospective volunteers can contact Kylie Huard, WCC's Road Safety Project Manager on 9777 7728.

Elizabeth Lodge meeting

A public meeting at Council on 5 February revealed many outstanding issues as far as residents are concerned. These include overshadowing, privacy and management of traffic and waste. These need to be resolved

between the community, Council and the developers in order to achieve an acceptable outcome.

Playground Upgrade Begins

The DA for the Artarmon Reserve playground has finally been through its many hoops, and we are reliably informed that construction will start mid-February and will proceed for approximately 6 weeks. During this time, some or all of the area will not be accessible. An official opening is planned for late May, so watch for details at the Artarmon Fair and in the next Gazette. ■



ARTARMON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY FAIR SATURDAY 1 MAY 2004

WILKES AVE PLAZA
10.00am to 3.00pm

Learn about Artarmon history & architecture through our heritage photographic exhibition and launch of the "GUIDE TO RENOVATING IN ARTARMON"

Enjoy an ART EXHIBITION & PRIZE GIVING sponsored by Richardson & Wrench with entries from Artarmon Public School.

Learn about community groups including the Artarmon Progress Association, Neighbourhood Watch, Safety House Program, Bush Care, Noah's Ark Toy Library and more.

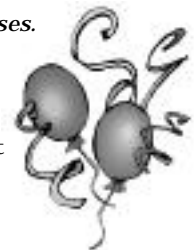
Listen to music provided by the children from Artarmon Public School.

Learn about the products & services of many local businesses.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle, cake stall, clowns, face painting, kid's entertainment & lots, lots MORE!!!!!!

For further information or to be a part of this inaugural event contact Michelle Sloane on 9410 0481 • 0412267828.
Come along & enjoy this great community event!

The Artarmon Community Fair is part of Willoughby City Council's Heritage Festival.



APA PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

8pm - 10pm, Tues 9 March 2004

Venue: Artarmon Primary School Hall

Local Government Elections – Naremburn Ward

NSW Local Government Elections Polling Day is Saturday 27 March 2004. Both Councillors and the Mayor in WCC are elected directly, and each ward within WCC is represented by 3 Councillors. All of Artarmon falls into the Naremburn Ward. Nominations for Councillors are expected from a number of the registered political parties, as well as from independent candidates.

The APA intends to invite as many as possible of those nominating for the roles of Councillor and Mayor to attend the meeting and to put forward their policies.

The activities of Local Government and Willoughby City Council are directly relevant to all of Artarmon and we encourage residents and ratepayers to attend the Public Information Meeting and hear the views of your potential local representatives.

PLEASE NOTE VENUE – Parking is available in the school grounds, using the Barton Road entrance.

Study Report heralds new era for AIA

By Barry Thompson

The consultant's report on the Industrial Areas Study has been issued. Business stakeholders and Council jointly financed the Study to look at problems identified from community response to Council's proposed DCP for the Industrial Areas. APA's interest was piqued particularly by what appeared as inequitable treatment of the rezoned ABC site in comparison to the rest of the Artarmon Industrial Area (AIA). All members of the Steering Committee, including myself, were provided with a copy of the Consultants' report.

Consultants' recommendations include:

- Providing a statement of Council's objectives in relation to the industrial areas (both Artarmon and East Chatswood).
- Defining the term 'industrial' in a 21st century context.
- Expanding the scope of 'complying development' in contrast to 'consent development' in order to limit the need for DA's (especially relevant in cases of change of occupancy of premises).
- Dispensing with the present prescriptive limits on 'Floor Space Ratio (FSR)' and '% Office Space' in favour of more direct controls, eg. those that directly address the Council's Planning Objectives for building height restrictions and setbacks.
- Inverting the current system of usage control so that prohibited rather than allowed uses are listed.
- Requiring Council to review the employment generation potential and long-term impacts of its planning and control decisions particularly with respect to subdivisions.
- Employing an Economic Development Officer to work in the Industrial Areas.

For Artarmon, the Report suggests:

- The blocks on Herbert St north of the RNSH and bounded by Cleg St and the railway line be given a similar zoning to the ABC site. Allow mixed and more intensive development on these sites since they are in close proximity to public transport and other infrastructure.

- Most of the remaining area continues to be classified similarly to the existing general and light industrial classifications with the light being 'complying' with up to 50% of floor space for offices. In the general area, 'complying' development is limited to 20% office but may be increased to 50% by 'consent'.

- Those sites on Pacific Hwy south of Carlotta St be rezoned to give them the same status as those to the north. This rezoning might also apply to the ABC site.

- Establish a transport management association to prepare a Transport Access Plan with a view to providing a shuttle bus service.

These proposals seem mostly like a breath of fresh air and could pave the way for the area to become a vibrant zone for 'new industries' with significant job creation. It is commendable that so comprehensive a document was produced in so short a timeframe. It deals with numerous issues in Artarmon and gives similar time and weight to difficult issues in East Chatswood. Nonetheless, there are limitations. Much more work will be required to turn the blueprint into a workable system.

The Steering Committee for the Study met in early February (after Gazette copy closed). It was the hope of Council officers that the report would be endorsed so that it can be approved by the present Council before its term expires. It will then remain to be seen how the new Councillors react when officers present the next stage of implementation to them. Community pressure may be required to ensure that this issue continues to receive the priority it has been accorded over the last year.

POSITION VACANT - GAZETTE ADVERTISING SALES

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Artarmon Public School Year 6 students take a final bow in Sheik, Rattle and Roll.



People to vote in Civic Place referendum

By Michael Haynes

When residents and ratepayers go to vote in the election for Willoughby Mayor and Ward Councillors on Saturday, March 27, they will be given a third ballot paper. It will ask:

Do you support the Civic Place Masterplan, as exhibited, for a new public library, open space, cultural facilities and carpark in Victoria Avenue, Chatswood?

Voters will write the word "Yes" or "No" in the box.

To help voters make a more informed choice, The Artarmon Gazette interviewed Council's Civic Place Project Manager, Linda Cardew.

AG: What does the Civic Place Project involve?

LC: Demolition of all the buildings in the block bounded by Anderson Street, Victoria Avenue, Archer Street and Ferguson Lane (except the group of shops fronting Victoria Avenue and Archer Street, west from Archer Street and south from Mills Lane).

Building a Civic Centre housing a public library, concert hall, theatre, exhibition hall, shops and restaurants, a boutique hotel, car parking and open space.

AG: Why do we need new facilities?

LC: Chatswood library is now the busiest in the state. It is cramped and noisy. The existing 1,700 sq m of floorspace is to be replaced by 3,000 sq m. The Bailey Hall (350 seats) and Town Hall (750 seats) have poor sightlines, inferior acoustics and inadequate dressing rooms. The plan is to replace them with a theatre (500 seats) and concert hall (1,000 seats).

AG: Couldn't we just refurbish and extend the existing facilities?

LC: This is possible but is not feasible because any work on an old building would require the whole structure to be brought up to current standards. The final cost would be not much less than demolishing and re-building. Piecemeal work on part of the site would rule out any integrated vision for the whole site.

AG: What will it all cost?

LC: The cost (excluding the hotel) has been estimated at \$115m*. About \$85m of this will come from Council sources - rental from Council-owned property, leasing of Council-owned carparks, sale of floorspace ratio, sale of minor redundant properties and government grants and donations. The balance - about \$30m - will come from a 20-year bank loan. While business rates in the Chatswood CBD will be increased by 10% to contribute to Civic Place's ongoing costs - the argument being that businesses in Chatswood will benefit from the increased activity generated by the project - there is no plan to increase any other rates.

[*Ms Cardew stressed that these estimates had been prepared by leading consultants and were, if anything, very conservative.]

AG: How long will it take?

LC: If the project goes ahead - and this will be a decision for the newly-elected Council - there would be 18 to 24 months of detailed design. Construction would then take 3 - 4 years; longer if the project is completed in stages.

AG: What will happen to the library during construction?

LC: The public part of the library will move to temporary buildings on the Devonshire Street carpark site.

AG: What is this "boutique hotel"?

LC: Council plans to invite developers to tender for the construction and operation of a 120-room hotel on the site of the library carpark. The intention is to tap into the conference and convention market by offering both accommodation and venue on the same site. It would be part of the contract that the hotel building would also include - at no cost to Council - a multi-purpose hall and 800 sqm of rehearsal space.

AG: What about local community groups?

LC: Council has a policy of giving community groups the use of the Town and Bailey halls at a discount. This would continue with the new facilities. Commercial use may be limited to prevent community users being crowded out.

AG: What about car parking?



Linda Cardew, WCC Civic Place Project Manager

LC: The plan provides for a 2-level underground car park with 464 spaces. There will be free short-stay parking for library users. After allowing for the closure of the (current) ground-level car parks, there will be a net increase of about 230 spaces. There are some 6,500 other parking spaces within two blocks of Civic Place.

How do I find out more?

- The Civic Place Masterplan is on display in the Town Hall foyer between 10 am and 4 pm (Mondays to Fridays) and 10 am to 2 pm (Saturdays).
- Visit www.civicplace.com.au
- Attend the presentation organised by the Willoughby South Progress Association at Willoughby Primary School on Wednesday, February 18 from 7.30 pm. ■

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Councillors' feedback...feedback...feedback



Deputy Mayor
Kate Lamb

Let me start by thanking the APA for allowing me to make contact with you through the Gazette, over the past four years! Whilst I have used the opportunity to raise several issues which have interested and concerned

me - issues such as reducing waste, providing equitable open space and recreation opportunities, promoting awareness of natural, built and cultural heritage - this time I want to be a bit more reflective about what 'doing my bit' in this community has meant to me personally. Specifically, being on Council has meant that I have learnt many things. Artarmon is home to an amazingly talented, knowledgeable and generous bunch of people. Whether it's about home security, bush regeneration, hydrology, homeopathy or bicycle maintenance - you can find it here. And people are prepared to share it. My sincere 'thank you' to those who have taken the time to share their knowledge with me, to inform and advise me when I have needed it.

One of the most rewarding experiences I have had recently was in Artarmon. Following a Ward Inspection, a resident who was walking by greeted me and explained that having had a stroke, he now spends much of his time on the back verandah watching people as they use the shared pathway along the drainage reserve. He said that even though he had not been a supporter of this development, he has come to change his attitude, that the pathway was "nothing but an asset" to this community. Those of you who remember the tortuous process we went through to achieve it can imagine my reaction to this generous declaration! Reflecting on this, I am reminded that the finest achievements are collective ones and that they often are achieved at some personal cost.

Speaking of generosity, in the four years of this Council term, our Mayoress Beth Reilly and her Charity Committee, have raised and distributed a total of \$131,407 within our City!! The major fundraisers have been the annual Luncheon and the Gala Cabaret, both of which are wonderful examples of how the Willoughby community builds its social capital. Hundreds of local community groups, businesses and individuals contribute by organizing tables, donating prizes and giving of their time and creativity. Thank you to Beth and her Committee and thank you to the many members of the Artarmon community who have been foremost amongst supporters.

Finally, it's my opinion that you have a really excellent Council. I'm not saying its perfect - there's always room for improvement - but you have a Mayor who lives for his City, and a

General Manager who is as straight as a die. This past four years you have had 12 Councillors who have maintained a progressive, proactive and independent approach to the challenges thrown at them by the State Government and who have developed an ambitious but financially responsible vision for the city, developing its regional profile and capitalising on its reputation as second to none in patronage of culture and the arts. I have no hesitation in acknowledging that my colleagues Lesley Stevens and Stuart Coppock have both worked consistently and in their own ways, to advance the interests of Artarmon and the City and it only remains for me to thank them for that. ■



Lesley Stephens

For all those who have been bewildered by a recent increase in the mail - puzzle no more. It's election time for local government! Traditionally it's also time for communities to ponder on what has been achieved for them by their local representatives. There's too much to say in this short column about the past four years so let me just stick to the highlights.

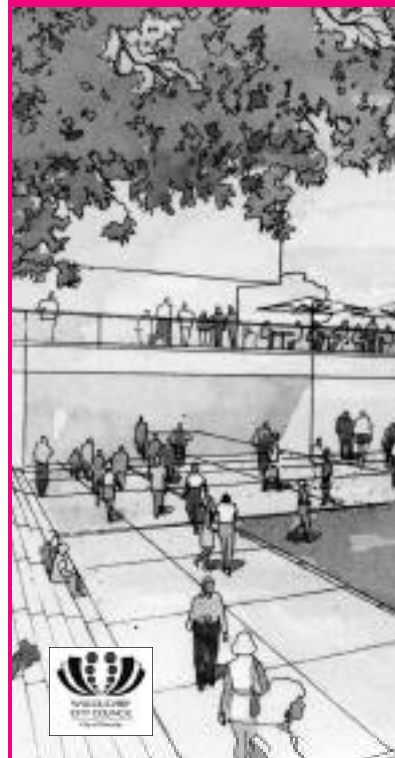
A genuine team effort has ensured that Council has achieved the major goals it set at the beginning of this term. The Civic Place project is ready to be activated, the strip shopping centre

upgrades are over halfway completed while the CBD pedestrian and traffic upgrades have finished. An environmental levy has been responsible for major bushland restoration, creek revival, and seawall maintenance as well as carrying out surveys for better transport options. The first major review of traffic and transport in Willoughby has allowed us to set some policy guidelines for future management.

In addition, Willoughby continues to be a leading recycler and continually researches options for diverting different parts of the waste stream into productive areas. And the footpaths continue to be maintained. I should also mention the new service charter, an increase in community consultation, the preservation of community land, our new Sustainability Development Control Plan, the review of DCP 29 for our industrial areas, a better focus on shared pathways, an astonishing effort from our bushland teams, new policies recognising our Aboriginal heritage, better protection for our heritage conservation areas, and the beginnings of the Snapshot project which aims to visually document the city through the work of community groups.

I will have missed areas like the best delivery of social and cultural services in NSW but you get the picture. Working as a team has meant an increase in decision making. Our officers tell

COUNCIL POLL FOR CIVIC PLACE



CIVIC PLACE

In March 2004, at the same time as the local government elections, Council will ask all registered voters whether they support the Civic Place Project Masterplan.

VISIT THE CIVIC PLACE MASTERPLAN EXHIBITION

at the Civic Centre,
409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood
Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturdays 10am - 2pm
Phone Council on 9777 1000 or visit
www.civicplace.com.au
for more information

Councillors' feedback...feedback...feedback

me this Council has powered through a workload at least twice that of former Councils. And it's qualitative work. Yes, you're right. I'm proud of that.

For Artarmon specifically, apart from the emergence of Artarmon East as the Heritage Conservation Area where our controls have best borne fruit, the Flat Rock Creek improvements would be my choice as the highlight. The recent environmental audit of the Artarmon Industrial Area, ongoing improvements to the Artarmon Reserve, the gross pollutant trap, the e.restore money being spent on bush regeneration between Artarmon Reserve and Bicentennial Reserve, and a newly developed Flat Rock Creek riparian zone policy will all contribute to restoring this creek back to health. It seems such an obvious goal but it has taken us 100 years to tackle it. Another tick for this particular Council.

Areas for future thought in Artarmon include the development of a masterplan for the Artarmon township on both sides of the railway line which would include the redevelopment of the library, station lifts, innovative pedestrian areas and street tree plantings - but that will be for someone else to push. Because of changed circumstances I will not be standing for re-election. Traditionally at this time, Councillors mutter blackly to friends about the amount of time spent on Council affairs, the pettiness of their colleagues and the ingratitude of the community. Not me. The truth is - Artarmon, I have enjoyed it all. You've been a concerned and thoughtful community and I consider myself very lucky to have been your representative.

Being a Councillor is not an easy job. It's physically demanding and mentally draining but I recommend it strongly to those with the

community in their hearts.

You've only got two weeks but you can still reach me on 9979 9477 or send an email to lesley.stevens@prismpix.com.



Stuart Coppock

Civic Place

The figures on Civic Place's Masterplan raise enough questions to encourage a 'No' vote. The cost of the project is currently based on concept drawings, not detailed drawings. Construction industry experience indicates passage of time between concept drawings and detailed drawings will see an increase. A 20% increase in costs would mean Council borrowings would rise by \$6M. A 50% increase in costs would mean additional borrowings of \$15m.

I suggest that Council is potentially pushing its financial resources beyond the limit of fiscal responsibility with this Masterplan. In the last example of a Sydney council undertaking a similar development, residents are still paying a special rate to clean up the cost overrun over a decade later.

In the last month two new theatres have opened in Sydney. One theatre was at a cost of \$42m. Yet in Willoughby's Civil Place Masterplan a new Town Hall, new library, a new concert hall and a new theatre have been costed at \$117m - less than three times this amount.

A 'No' vote in the Poll on Civic Place will not stop the construction of a new library or anything else on the site: it just says you would like another plan and at lesser financial cost. Willoughby Council does not need to go broke over this issue!

Artarmon Traffic

The issue of Willoughby's traffic issues

continues; namely, the Pacific Highway and its intersections with Fullers and Mowbray Rds; and the proposed impact of the Lane Cove Tunnel on the Reserve Rd exit and the intention to use Artarmon residential streets as a major route to get from the Gore Hill Freeway to the Pacific Highway and Chatswood. I have:

- secured a meeting with the Deputy Director General of the State Government Department of Infrastructure and Planning
- obtained an appointment with the Chairman of the Constructing Consortium of the Lane Cove Tunnel
- raised with some passion the Pacific Hwy / Mowbray Rd issue at the last meeting of the Willoughby Council Traffic Committee in 2003 and got the attention of the State Government representatives
- received a reply to a letter from the Minister for the RTA on the subject.

Previously, I assisted in the creation of the contractual condition for an Artarmon Local Area Traffic Management Plan. This puts the Artarmon traffic issue squarely on the table with no easy local solutions for the contractor. My actions are all part of the on-going process to get the right solution for Artarmon.

On other matters:

- Notification for a DA has been issued for the proposed use of Kid's Cottage for Saturday playgroups for children with special needs.
- Council is providing free composting and worm farm demonstrations in late February.
- The Community Grants process for WCC was advertised in the first week of February.
- Notification for a DA has been issued for the amended proposal for 38 Elizabeth Street, Artarmon as a new residential flat building with basement carpark.

I am happy to assist with these or other local matters - please call me on 9958 0483. ■

BARRY THOMPSON

Nominee for Naremburn Ward Councillor
in the Willoughby elections to be held on
Saturday March 27, 2004

No political affiliation

Resident of Artarmon

Seeks to represent ALL stakeholders

Active on local issues:

- member APA executive committee
- Area Coordinator Neighbourhood Watch
- involved with Artarmon Gazette
- supports Artarmon heritage events
- Vice President, Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations (FPA)

Active on Council committees:

- industrial areas steering group
- bicycling/pedestrian advocacy
- rezoning of ABC site
- as APA and/or FPA representative

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Artarmon Public School news

By Katrina Weir

Assistant Principals lead Artarmon infants as kindergarten enrolments soar

The Artarmon Primary School Infant Department is fortunate to have two extremely capable Assistant Principals who will lead the staff and students of the infants department in 2004. The 50 years combined teaching experience of Christine Carey (CC) and Cathie Rothery (CR) will stand the department in excellent stead as the school continues to grow with more than 100 confirmed kindergarten enrolments for this academic year.

As Assistant Principals, Christine and Cathie work co-operatively to ensure the smooth administration of the infant department and a structure which ensures a happy learning environment for both staff and pupils. As part of the Executive Team, they support the work of the



Christine Carey

school's Principal Michael Simmons, and Deputy Principal, Jan Cohen.

Q: What made you decide to be a teacher?

CC: A love of children and a great love and



Cathie Rothery

see as your key role?

CC: To maximise the potential of all students by being the best classroom teacher I can be and to ensure the academic, social and emotional welfare of all K-2 students and staff.

CR: To personally engage in lifelong learning as a role model for students.

Q: What do you like most about Artarmon School?

CC: The fact that the school community values learning very highly and is supportive of the school's endeavours.

CR: The socio-economic and cultural mix which encourages empathy, understanding and acceptance, and leads to a cohesive community.

Q: What are your hobbies and interests?

CC: Reading, walking, eating in our fabulous multicultural restaurants, listening to jazz and visiting art galleries.

respect for learning. I wanted a career that would 'make a difference' and be personally satisfying.

CR: It's one of the few jobs where you can make a difference.

Q: As Assistant Principal, what do you

CR: Bushwalking, swimming at the beach, canyoning and caving. ■

Artarmon Public School chosen as site of historic significance

Artarmon School has been chosen by Willoughby Council as a site for one of 26 commemorative plaques to acknowledge sites of heritage and historical significance across the Willoughby City area. The plaques will record the history of the City of Willoughby since it became a municipality in 1865.

The plaque at Artarmon Public School is already installed and the inscription reads:

"The Infants School opened in 1910 with Eliza Cowan the first teacher. A second story was added in 1917. In that same year a permanent headmaster, John Pugh, was appointed and primary classes commenced. In 1924 four new classrooms were built on McMillan Road. A Bell Tower was erected in memory of the headmaster Mr Machin who died in office in 1925. In 1928 a separate Boys' Department building was erected in Abbott Road. A Jubilee Assembly Hall was built to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary. It was completed in 1962 and officially opened in 1964."

Once all the 26 plaques are in place, a locality guide will be produced and made available from Willoughby City Council. ■

Do you need a flu vaccine this year?

Who should be vaccinated?

Anyone who wishes to reduce his/her likelihood of illness due to influenza should be vaccinated. Vaccination is particularly recommended for those at higher risk of influenza complications, including:

- Older people. For people 65 years and older, the vaccine is funded by the Commonwealth Government.
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders 50 years and older.
- Residents and staff of nursing homes and other long term care facilities.
- Adults and children (6 months and older) with chronic disorders of the lungs or heart or other chronic illness (e.g. asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney or liver disease).
- Women likely to be in the later stages of pregnancy during the 'flu season' (ask your doctor).
- Children receiving long-term treatment with aspirin.
- Those who can transmit influenza to persons at increased risk (friends and relatives of the chronically ill).

Vaccination is also recommended for:

- Healthcare workers and those who work with people at high risk of influenza complications.

- Travellers, particularly those travelling in large groups, or to the Northern Hemisphere between October and March.
- Although not a formal recommendation, vaccination programs in the workplace may be cost effective.

More information on influenza

If you want more information on the 'flu' or the vaccines, which are available from February 2004, come in and see Nick, Ann, Claire, Alison or Jon for verbal or written advice. You'll love our service and we're **OPEN SEVEN DAYS.**

Nick Logan

**Pharmacist
Advice**



**96 Hampden Rd Artarmon 2064
Phone 9419 6880 • Fax 9419 6868**

Email nloganpa@bigpond.net.au
Website www.pharmad.com.au/artarmon

Meet Gil Davis

Interviewed by Mollie Shelley

We are used to seeing his photo on the Real Estate billboards around our suburb and on the back page of the Artarmon Gazette. We've learnt by word of mouth how successful he is. He won awards in 2003 from Richardson and Wrench as their No.1 salesperson for NSW. But who is this man?

Gil's father was a Melbourne architect interested in avant-garde architecture and,



later, in real estate. Gil did an Arts degree at Sydney University majoring in history and archaeology and a Masters at Macquarie in Greek epigraphy (the study of Greek inscriptions). His wife, a pharmacist by profession, is an Egyptologist. Their recreation is reading, studying and travelling extensively - Greece, Turkey, Africa, South America ... to satisfy their passion.

Richardson and Wrench, through the generosity of their Artarmon franchisee, Gil Davis, is one of the most supportive

businesses in our area. Their list of sponsorships and donations is impressive. Gil inaugurated and continues to sponsor the annual Artarmon Primary School Tennis Comp (December) and the annual Junior Competition at the Artarmon Tennis Club (January). He inaugurated the annual Pairs Competition and Monthly Competition at the Artarmon Bowling Club; was the major sponsor for the local Cancer Council Relay for Life in 2002 and 2003; sponsors events and donates to the Girl Guides, the Police Association, the Progress Association - particularly during Heritage Week

- and to many other charities such as the Manly Lion's Club Children's Film Festival.

'Selling Real Estate,' he says, 'is a wonderful job, always different, not a single product that is the same. It is a challenge in marketing, finding a way to attract buyers, meeting the expectations of vendors.'

The downside?

"People's expectations rise when there is money involved and neighbours offer opinions. Real estate shows you a microcosm of the population, a range of personalities. It is interesting but one can get cynical about those who think they are being clever by being manipulative."

The greatest pleasures? He smiles. "They come from the people I meet, the conversations, the sharing of ideas." ■

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Plantings for shady gardens



By Mollie Shelley

Our suburb at the beginning of the 21st century reflects two major changes that have occurred over the last two decades. We have a City Council which has consistently enforced its policy of planting and preserving trees and a generational change to younger, more environmentally conscious home owners. All this is good, but it does mean that many of our gardens are now shadier. It has been suggested to me that in writing about plants for shady gardens I should pay some attention to native plants. I've found the subject too big to handle in one short piece so in this issue I'll talk about natives and save the exotics for next time.

Many of the native plants that thrive in the east of our State grow in light woodland conditions under tall eucalypts, often on sandstone soils, on the margins of forests, or in

deeper gullies where dappled sun is even more restricted.

First analyse your particular situation. How much sun can you honestly say it gets? In summer? In winter? Shady

gardens come in many forms: woodland, forest, a few hours of morning sun then solid shade for the rest of the day, dry shade under large trees, a difficult south garden near the house that gets no winter sun and then bakes in the summer.

Solid shade and forest conditions offer few choices among native plants. Try hardy ferns such as *Pteris*, *Asplenium* (Bird's Nest ferns), *Blechnum nudum*, *Doodia aspera*, *Cyrtomium falcatum* (Holly Fern), and the Maidenhair Fern, *Adiantum*. Also useful are *Cyathia tomentosum* (New Guinea Tree Fern which grows to about 2 metres) and *Dicksonia antarctica* which grows taller, but very slowly. Small palms include *Phoenix roebellini* and *Chamaedorea elegans* (the Parlour Palm).

There are a lot of native plants that do well with filtered sun through much of the day or

with a few hours of early morning sun. They'll do best if you build up the beds to provide good drainage and mulch deeply. I use fallen eucalypt leaves and broken-up bark from my willow gum, *Eucalyptus scoparia*, which provides an abundance of curling bark on my lawn in January each year. In those conditions I'm growing waratah, flannel flowers, *Baekia virgata*, *Crowea exalata* 'Ryan's Star' and 'Southern Star', *Eriostemon myoporoides*, the orchids *Dendrobium speciosum* and *D. kingianum* and various ferns. Elsewhere in my shady, woodland-type garden, apart from ferns and palms, I have the Australian native *Vireya* rhododendron, the lovely Tasmanian vivid green grass *Restio tetraphylla*, pink flowering *Bauera rubioides*, a *Xanthorea* or grass tree and a cycad as well as a number of different species of dendrobium orchids.

In addition to those you could try: *Correa*, *Prostanthera*, *Dianella*, *Pandorea*, *Epacris*, *Phebalium*, *Olearia*, *Dillwynia* and for ground cover the native violet, *Viola hederacea*. Don't let the violet into your garden beds unless you are prepared for it to take up permanent residence on a spreading scale. The best advice I can give you is to go armed with this list to talk to someone in a good native nursery. ■

PERMACULTURE NORTH meets 3rd Monday evening each month in Lindfield.
Info: Wendy Bishop, 9420 4884.



St Basil's Anglican Church Artarmon

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

ST BASIL'S @ 5 is becoming ST BASIL'S @ 6

A new service/fellowship was recently commenced at St Basil's at 5pm and a small but enthusiastic group of people mainly, but not exclusively, in the 25-35 year age group have been meeting for a light meal and an informal church service/fellowship.

There is a warm invitation to anybody who is looking for that type of church meeting on a Sunday evening, although we have decided that 6pm is a better time than 5pm so the time has been changed.

Come and join us and bring a friend; you will be very welcome.

Alpha is on again at St Basil's from Sunday 29 February

Alpha is for:

Anyone interested in Christianity
Learning and laughter.
People meeting together.
Helping one another.
Ask anything.

If you are interested in joining our next Alpha group then please call on 9412 1315 or come to the church for details.



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.

Easter at St Basil's

Please join us for services on:

**Maundy Thursday - 8 April
7:30pm: The Lord's Supper**

**Good Friday - 9 April
9:00am: Devotional Service**

**Easter Day - 11 April
9:00am: Holy Communion**

Help with English

You can join our beginners, intermediate and advanced level classes at 10:15am on Sundays in the Church Hall at minimal cost. Just come along to join.

Regular Sunday Services. Parish Eucharist/Holy Communion: 9.00am and St Basil's @ 6
An inclusive Christian church where all people are always welcome.

'Fireflies' films in Artarmon

By Anne Weinert

Just when we thought the ABC had completed its move out of Artarmon, they have been back on several occasions over the last two months to film scenes for the new drama 'Fireflies' at the Artarmon Bowling Club. 'Fireflies' is set in Lost River, population 487, and stars John Waters, Libby Tanner & Jeremy Sims. It follows the local Rural Fire Service volunteers over one long, hot, fiery summer, as they work together to save both the brigade and their community. Southern Star Entertainment, who produced "Police Rescue", "Water Rats" and "The Secret Life of Us", have transformed the inside of the Club into the Lost River Bowling Club for the filming. They have also been using the Artarmon Reserve carpark for catering and production facilities for cast and crew.

I was allowed onto the set for a scene that was being shot for Episode 12 and couldn't help but see some parallels with the reason that groups like the APA exist in all sorts of communities- the locals come together at the Lost River Bowling Club, and debate the pros and cons of a proposed new development in

the town. A meeting with the developers has been scheduled, but the general mood is that they need to form some sort of local focus group and Committee because they are unsure of what the outcomes will be for the town. The Shire Councillor reminds them that this is what the Council is for (and suggests that they might vote on whether they want a Committee), but the locals seem unconvinced that the Council won't just "roll over".

There are still several weeks of filming to go for this first series, which premiered with a telemovie on ABC TV on February 7th, and indications are that a second may be planned. Ed Morris, President of the Artarmon Bowling & Recreation Club, and Alan Otway, Secretary, certainly hope so. The filming has brought in some much-needed funds for the Club, and may help to give them some greater publicity as they continue their current new membership drive. And as Ed and Alan have been extras in this and other scenes, they may also get to see themselves on television a little more!

For Artarmon Bowling Club membership enquiries, phone Alan Otway on 9437 3940. ■



The filming action in the 'Lost River' Bowling Club - Photo by Anne Weinert

Talking 2064

Artarmon Guides are looking for a District Leader. You could:

- Be part of the World's largest group of girls and women, working together to make a difference in the World.
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- Inspire girls and young women to achieve.
- Laugh and learn with your new-found friends.
- Be unpaid but richly rewarded.
- Increase your self confidence as you share your skills and acquire new ones.
- Be an important role model, someone that girls can look up to.
- Join in international aid projects in places like Mexico and India.

The mainly administrative District Leader role is

an important liaison within the local Guiding community. The majority of your dealings are with adult Leaders. We will train you for your leadership role. All enquires to Guide House on 9698 3322.

At the November meeting of the APA, residents discussed with the guest speaker, Gladys Berejiklian MP, the need for a lift to give access to **Artarmon Railway Station**. Coincidentally, the very next day (26/11), workmen arrived at the station with lovely blue and white signs which gave not only the station name but arrows pointing to "Lift" and "Buses". The stationmaster explained to the workmen that Artarmon had no lift, nor had it any buses. They packed up their signs and departed.

Sequel: On Monday (1/12), workmen re-appeared with brand new signs (no reference to "Lift" or "Buses"). Some of the signs are visible from Hampden Road. ■

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REAL ESTATE FEATURE

How to achieve the best price for your property?

Gil Davis is the Principal at Richardson & Wrench Artarmon. He has been the suburb's leading agent since 1985. He can be contacted on 0439 817 299 or email gil@rwartarmon.com.au



Gil Davis

You only get one chance to achieve the best sale price so how you and your agent go about it is all important. Here are my tips to potentially make you thousands more.

SELLING TAKES COMMITMENT – Your home has to shine from top to bottom. This includes decluttering, soft washing, window cleaning, gardening, cleaning or replacing carpets, floor polishing and so forth. Sometimes it is even worth spending a bit extra such as installing new kitchen benchtops. *We would let you know what needs to be done and arrange it for you.*

DOING IT WITH STYLE – First impressions really do count. A split second is all it takes for a buyer to subconsciously evaluate the look and feel of a room or garden. *Our in-house stylist can make all the difference. (This is a free service to our clients).*

TARGETING THE RIGHT BUYERS - It's a wide, wide world but let's face it, not many people will want to buy your home or be in a position to do so. It is essential to narrow the marketing down to the right sort of people to have a chance of reaching them. *This is where our experience and analysis of buyer response pays off.*

MARKETING WITH FLAIR - Most advertisements drown in a morass of other equally uninspiring ads written at the last minute or are done to boost the profile of the agent. To be effective they have to stand out in their particular medium and be carefully worded. *We prefer to write our ads well in advance and discuss them with our clients prior to placement.*

AND OF COURSE...THE AGENT – A misunderstood role. Sure it takes empathy, experience, the nuance of the right word at the right time, but mostly it takes hard work and supremely good organisation. We put the effort in and get the results, especially with our data basing of buyers and follow up. We also provide all the information a buyer might need to make a decision from sales to community services and the most comprehensive details on each and every property.

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