

State imposed higher density

Glenda Hewitt

Artarmon is a unique suburb. It has a rail station, a shopping village, a commercial/industrial zone, a high-density area, social housing, a library, a community garden and a primary school. It is also a hub of cultural diversity. In 2024, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated 9,800 people live in Artarmon. But, coming up, population density will increase significantly due to changes in State Government planning laws.

It's important to remember that a housing crisis does not happen overnight and it is also important to ensure that the 'immediate' solution of adding additional housing stock does not create longer term problems. Where is the planning for infrastructure to support a significant increase in proposed population density?

Planning, until now, has been thoughtful and well structured, undertaken in consultation between Willoughby City Council and residents via an approved LEP (Local Environment Plan). In this process, 6,500 additional homes across our local government area had been factored in and



approved by the State Planning Department in 2020. Now, due to state planning changes, which came into effect in February 2025, up to 4,500 additional dwellings are being mandated for the local government area covered by Willoughby City Council without any additional investment in infrastructure to support the increased population.

Artarmon has been identified by the state as an area of focus for higher density.

State Government has recently overridden local planning to legislate low to medium rise housing reforms which will impact Artarmon. Changes will not be immediate, but under the new laws the future face of Artarmon will be more people, less space and no supporting infrastructure.

The changes will occur mostly within 800m 'walking distance' of Artarmon Station.

State Planning legislation overrides Council's planning controls and allows higher and denser development than is currently supported by available infrastructure and services. In addition, the tree canopy which keeps Artarmon cool, filters our air and provides a rare near-city wildlife buffer is likely to slowly disappear.

The proposed higher 'low to medium rise' legislation also comes at the same time as the cancellation of two proposed new schools on the north shore.

Simultaneously, land needed for meeting future health needs, Lot 4B on the corner of Herbert Street and the Pacific Highway) is being sold by the state government



By Thepm CC BY-SA

for a 62-storey residential and commercial development. Expressions of interest for the sale/lease of this former hospital land closed on 15 May 2025. This is land that was quietly transferred out of the health portfolio and now sits in the hands of the Department of Planning.

Putting it all together, the future brings more population density, a 62-storey residential building on former health land and more dwellings around Artarmon with no schools to support the population increase, no additional green space, no improvement to roads, more pressure on (old) water and sewerage systems, and no money from state government to council to provide the additional infrastructure needed to ensure a healthy, engaged, vibrant community. Just more people: lots more people, living in smaller spaces.

More housing may be required, but is this the way to do it?

To help you understand what the state legislative changes mean for Artarmon, the APA is holding a Public Information Meeting in the Artarmon Community Hall on 11 June 2025. Council officers will explain the state government changes and the impact on Artarmon. ●

Inside this issue

Letters	p2	Food Pantry	p9
What's on	p4	Mutkins Family	p11
Public meeting	p4	RNS Hospital	p12

supporting the Artarmon community spirit

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 discusses matters of interest and concern.

Written contributions and photographs are welcome. Please submit all non-advertising material to the editor. We accept material via email. Editing may be necessary for style, space or layout considerations.

Views and opinions expressed in the Artarmon Gazette are not necessarily those of the Artarmon Progress Association or its members. Although all care is taken for accuracy, no responsibility can be taken by the association, editor, designer or printer.

Publisher Glenda Hewitt
publisher@artarmonprogress.org.au

Editorial Team Jacquelyn Hole
Felicity Vacchini
Jane Cozens
Lauren Tinyou
Glenda Hewitt (acting editor)
editor@artarmonprogress.org.au

Advertising advertise@artarmonprogress.org.au

Distribution Judy Simpson
Design/ Meredith Shimmin
Production meredith@shimmin.com.au
Printing The Print Facility
RAnge@theprintfacility.com.au

Print Run 5,300 copies
Address PO Box 1733 Artarmon 1570
Website www.artarmonprogress.org.au/Gazette

Published by: Artarmon Progress Association

ABN 55 397 278 515
Since 1906

**The APA committee meets at 7.30pm
on the 1st Wednesday of the month,
excluding January. Public welcome.**

Venue:

**Artarmon Community Hall,
139 Artarmon Road, Artarmon**

PO Box 1733 Chatswood NSW 2057
sec@artarmonprogress.org.au
www.artarmonprogress.org.au

President Glenda Hewitt
Vice President Chris Baker
Treasurer Adrian Alexander
Secretary Daniel Rasins
Traffic & Parking Chris Baker
Federation TBA

Membership Mary Ann Irvin
Glenda Hewitt
Heritage & History Project Sumita Kumar
Adrian Alexander
DAs and Council Liaison Plamen Bassarov

NEXT EDITION DEADLINES

Wed 6 Aug Copy & advertising due
Sun 7 Sept Delivery complete

© Artarmon Progress Association, 2025

No material may be reproduced by any means without
the permission of the Editor.

Editorial

With so much going on in the world (wars, extreme weather events and changing geopolitical loyalties) we on the Gazette editorial team (GET) decided to look at all the good things that exist around us and which make our community stronger, connected and resilient. From simple things like exploring what it means to be a good neighbour to seeking out the facilities and activities that bind our community, we have gone searching and will continue bringing this information to you in the next few editions of the Gazette. We have also asked for contributions from those in the community who are, in large or small ways, making a difference.

Letters

Access and inclusion

Accessing the community is not easy in a wheelchair at times. I want to thank the Artarmon Progress Association for inviting me to attend the March meeting and participate in a discussion about disabled car parking spaces in Artarmon before they put in a submission to council.

I don't think people realise how important allocated disabled car parking spaces are, but if you have mobility problems, health issues, a walking stick, walking frame or wheelchair, a flat space with ability to open the door safely and step onto an even surface is critical.

Now with the streetscape changes completed I can access some of the Artarmon shops and also visit my friends in Artarmon by catching a train or a maxi taxi. I live in St Leonards.

I recognise that there is competition for parking at Artarmon shops, but it's about inclusion and being able to independently access community facilities. I know people think that the disabled car spaces are not used, but that is more about perception than reality.

I really appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the APA conversation and also thank WCC for their commitment to meeting disability standards. All the community benefits from this.

H. Woodman



At the same time as keeping our eye on the micro picture, we are ensuring that we also keep a watchful eye on the big picture by monitoring impending density changes and keeping pressure on the state government to stop the sale of (former) hospital land to developers. Once gone, forever gone.

You can be part of our GET team. If you are passionate about connecting the community and have the skills or connections to make a contribution, please reach out and talk to us. Our community is stronger for it.
(See page 15)

**Jane, Felicity, Jacqueline,
Lauren and Glenda**
editor@artarmonprogress.org.au

Speed limits and road signage

I totally support the expansion of a 40kph limit in residential areas, but it has to be policed. In London many boroughs have introduced 20mph (32kph) limits and they now have powers to issue fixed penalty notices for speeding (but not loss of points). The police concentrate on the main roads and highways. It is an unashamed revenue earner which is ploughed back into road improvement and safety. Despite concerns about increased congestion, there is no evidence traffic is moving slower and collisions (and more importantly injuries) are down.

Regarding road signs, some thought needs to be given to their location and the clarity of information.

For example, the 'no entry sign' at the junction of Broughton Road and Hampden Lane is so positioned that pedestrians have to step into the road to see if a vehicle is coming down Hampden Lane. Other signs may either be obscured or carry unclear information.

Regarding 'rat running', clearly this is a problem and I understood from the Artarmon Masterplan that the turn left into Hampden Lane off Broughton Road was going to be reversed to stop drivers avoiding the new traffic signals. So far this has not happened so there is no deterrent.

Of equal concern, though, is the use of the local streets for testing high performance cars in 'sports mode' from (presumably) the dealers and garages on the other side of the Gore Hill Freeway. Is there a channel to take this up?

I. Gunter, Broughton Road

A note from the President



Navigating a path to achieve good community outcomes on behalf of all of you can be challenging at times. One person's passion/cause is not necessarily the

view of the majority. That's why your input, engagement and support is critical if we are to make Artarmon stronger. There is strength in numbers.

Recent advocacy, on your behalf, by the APA has included requesting Council to be thoughtful about street garden plants to ensure any seeds generated do not 'infest' bushland areas; a review of the shared user

(bike) path to improve on visibility and safety for both pedestrians and bike riders; and input on disability parking spots around the shopping areas in the Village. Decision makers need to know that communities are watchful and concerned.

Our suburb is again in the process of change as a result of recent State Government Planning legislation. We can expect developers to be active in taking advantage of these changes and we (you?) need to be vigilant. Bearing in mind that change is not always bad but they need to improve our area. When development occurs there has to be corresponding improvements in social, health, education and utility infrastructure. It's up to all of us to make sure this happens. How Artarmon will look in the future is difficult to predict. Nothing stays the same, but the trick is to ensure that future change is good for our community.

Help me understand. What motivates a graffitist? For a brief period of time the Brand

Street railway bridge was graffiti free thanks to cleanup work undertaken by State Rail. Not anymore.

Graffiti is an eyesore and it is particularly galling that the graffitists have no respect for street art. The artwork in the railway pedestrian underpass has also been defaced. It's sad that this senseless damage occurs and that someone seems to think it's ok.

Speaking of the Brand Street rail bridge, the closure of Brand Street on the weekend of 26-27 April was a demonstration of how critical this thoroughfare is. The 15 minute 'detour' via Chatswood to get from the western side to the eastern side of Artarmon was less than impressive.

Glenda Hewitt
President APA

Follow us on Facebook

 <https://www.facebook.com/ArtarmonPA>

Traffic calming and pedestrian safety

Chris Baker, Vice President

Willoughby City Council has advanced traffic calming measures on Artarmon Road with the construction of a pedestrian island close to the intersection with Cooney Road. This followed the installation of bollards and flags on the Cordia Way bridge. Crossing a busy road has been made much safer and has also slowed traffic. The final plan is to include a crossing between Cordia Way Bridge and Sydney Road, but traffic engineers have advised local residents that this section is a little steep and an alternative design will need to be considered. The APA will continue to press for further traffic calming measures in this area, and throughout the suburb, where appropriate.

Good news as well from local residents is that heavy vehicles are seen much less frequently on Artarmon Road following Council's highly successful enforcement programme last year.

The APA has been working with Council on traffic issues following the rejuvenation of the Artarmon Village. A temporary bus zone has been repositioned and, importantly, a pedestrian crossing has been installed at the intersection of Francis Road and



Hampden Road. The APA has received good feedback from local residents.

Many thanks to Councillor Georgie Roussac for assisting with traffic calming measures on Artarmon Road and to the traffic engineers at Willoughby Council for implementing a solution.

We are continuing to explore the appropriateness of 40km/hour speed limits and have commenced discussions with another Progress Association in the Willoughby area. As well as The City of Sydney and Inner West LGAs, the southern half of Waverley LGA in the eastern suburbs will soon be subject to a blanket 40km/hour limit.

If you have any traffic issues in your area email vicepres@artarmonprogress.org.au ●

May 3 Federal election

It was one of the tightest contests in the historic 2025 Federal election.

The headline 'too close to call' hung over the seat of Bradfield for most of the ballot count, with pundits unable to predict how the addition of the former North Sydney electorate voters, absorbed into Bradfield following electoral boundary changes, would impact the outcome.

Indeed, at deadline for the Artarmon Gazette, two weeks after election day, the outcome of the vote in the Federal seat of Bradfield was still not declared.

The contest came down to first-time Liberal candidate, Gisele Kapterian and Independent Nicolette Boele who made her second run at the seat.

With neither Boele nor Kapterian achieving an outright majority both were reliant on preference flows from the other candidates. The September Gazette will do a detailed analysis of how Artarmon voted. ●

What's on in Artarmon

OOSH (out of school hours care) – Kids Cottage

School Terms Mon-Fri 3pm–6pm
Email artarmon.oosh@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Before school Care – Kids Cottage

School Terms. White Street
Phone 1300 105 343

Artarmon Guides and Junior Guides

Cleland Park, Barton Road, Artarmon
Email regionmanagers@girlguides-nswactnt.org.au

North Sydney Family Support Kids Cottage Playgroup

Thurs 10am–11.30am during school terms (free)
Phone 9410 0174

Artarmon Parklands Community Garden

Thursday and Sunday mornings.
Contact ArtarmonCommunityGardensSec@gmail.com

Artarmon Progress Association

1st Wed. Monthly (ex Jan) 7.30pm
 Artarmon Community Hall
 139 Artarmon Road, Artarmon.
Email hello@artarmonprogress.org.au

Playtime at St Basil's

Wed 10am–12pm during school term. St Basil's church hall,
 6 Broughton Road.
Info www.artarmonchurch.org

Multiple Birth Families Playgroup

Mon 9:45am–12pm during school term
 Artarmon Kids Cottage
Info https://nssmba.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events

Bush Care (3 Groups)

Artarmon Reserve. 1st & 3rd Wed. 2nd Thurs. 3rd Sun monthly – 9am–12 noon
Contact Council: 9777 7875

Cleland Tennis Club

Barton Road, Artarmon
Email secretary@clelandtennis.org

Domestic Violence Line

Call 1800 65 64 63

Northern Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy

Call 1800 737 732

Lifeline - Harbour to Hawkesbury

Call 13 11 14

Elder Abuse Help Line

Call 1300 651 192

IN THE LIBRARY

Contact Artarmon Library 9419 2849

Artarmon Book Club

Thursdays once a month

Chinese Book Club (Mandarin)

First Thursday each month
 6.30pm–7.30pm

Story Play (0-4 years)

Mondays 10am–10.30am
 Playing, singing and stories. These free weekly sessions are run by library staff and TAFE students

Justice of the Peace Service

Thursdays 6pm–7pm

Tech Help

for BorrowBox, Hoopla and Indyreads
 Thursdays (it's best to book a time)



Events

Performance: St John Passion

Willoughby Symphony Choir
 + Willoughby Symphony Orchestra
 Sunday 27 July 2025 at 2pm
Bookings theconcourse.com.au

Willoughby Literary Festival

17-20 and 26-27 July 2025
Info Willoughby City Library website

Parkinson's Marathon Walk

Artarmon Reserve 27 July 2025
Google pitchinforparkinson

QUICK QUIZ June 2025

1. Where does the Willoughby Park Run start? (Bonus point if you know what time)
2. How many empty shops are there in the Artarmon Village on Hampden Road?
3. What family has lived continuously in Artarmon for 100 years?
4. Which historic house on the north side of Mowbray Road stands empty?
5. Who was granted most of the land of East Artarmon in 1810?

(Answers on page 13)

APA Public Information Meeting

The future look of Artarmon

What does the State's Planning legislation mean for Artarmon?
 Legislation passed in February 2025 overrides Council planning and introduces higher density provisions for areas within 800 metres of the railway station.

They will potentially change the face of Artarmon.

Get the facts

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Wednesday 11 June Time: 7.30pm

Artarmon Community Hall, 139 Artarmon Road

Guest Speaker: Mitch Noble, Acting Planning and Infrastructure Director,
 Willoughby City Council

artarmon framing

Custom framing

Mounting
 Laminating
 Artwork Hanging Systems
 Canvas Stretching
 Mirrors
 Conservation Framing
 Art Restoration
 Advice and Help with
 Presentation & Conservation
 of Most Things

Andrew Fortescue

94a Reserve Road, Artarmon
 Ph: 9439 9992

9.00 -4.30 Mon -Fri • 10.00 -2.00 Sat



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Jan Conway

Writer and Editor Jane Cozens

Have you often dreamt you'd write that book once you have retired?

Long time Artarmon resident, Jan Conway, did just that. She enrolled in a short writing course at Sydney University, joined various writing workshops and societies and from there her new creative journey was launched.

Jan's first book, *Skimming the Surface: expats in Kiribati*, was published in 2020. It follows the family's adventure, forty years ago, when her husband Andy was appointed manager of The Bank of New South Wales on the small coral atoll of Tarawa, Kiribati. This assignment to a newly independent and quite undeveloped Pacific nation certainly had its challenges for all the family.

For Jan, the initial test was organising the family's move which involved shipping over two years of supplies, including food, clothes, medicines and toiletries. In this memoir, Jan shares the joys and challenges of island life and the social demands of being the bank manager's wife, all very different from the life on a tropical paradise she was expecting.

The book has been described as a warm and wonderful memoir and was highly commended in the 2022 book awards of The Society of Women Writers NSW.

The Society, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, is an organisation that brings together women to celebrate and promote Australian literature. It holds monthly writing workshops and literary and member speaker

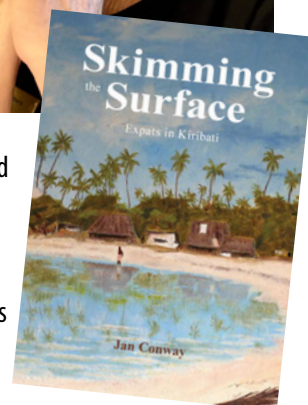
events at the beautiful Mitchell Library and is open to any women writers or appreciators of literature.

So, what is the life of an author like?

Jan sets aside three days a week for writing. As a member of a writing workshop group 'Mondays at 11' (formally Willoughby Writers) who meet at Northbridge Golf Club, she is inspired and committed to writing a new chapter to be read and reviewed each week but does admit she is constantly reading and researching, thinking and planning about her latest creation.

Apart from writing, Jan is a past president and secretary of The Society of Women Writers NSW and now has recently taken up the position of editor of its magazine *Women's Ink* published three times a year. She even does the design and layout. But writing is still her passion and she loves the challenges and learning processes it brings.

In 2024 Jan was awarded a three-month writers' residency in North Devon. This is a yearly award given by the patron of the Society, Di Yerbury. After submitting her summary of work and research plan for her next project, Jan set out in July 2024 visiting archives and libraries throughout England and Wales. She is working on a book called *The Photo Album* which is about seven generations of her ancestors and their lives and journeys from the UK to Australia.



When Jan started writing her first book, she considered writing children's books about their life on

the island. As she read back on old letters to friends and family, which detailed their day-to-day life, she realised that a memoir would be a better fit. Jan has only once returned to Kiribati, with two of her now grown children, in 2016. Not a lot had changed except for introduction of mobile phones and solar power, and the damaging effects of an uncaring new world; pollution making the fish in the lagoons inedible, the beaches littered with rubbish, and a real threat from rising sea levels due to climate change.

Her book *Skimming the Surface: expats in Kiribati*, is available through your library or from wallacia35@gmail.com. ●



Willoughby Literary Festival

17-20 July: Conversations and Ideas
26-27 July 2025: Speculative Fiction and creative fun

The inaugural Willoughby Literary Festival promises to be a vibrant celebration of

books, ideas and imagination. Held over two weekends in July, the festival features a stellar lineup of author talks, panel discussions and interactive workshops for both readers and writers.

Authors include Jane Caro, Linda Jaivin, Shankari Chandran, Tim Ayliffe, Rebecca Huntley, Toby Walsh, Amy Hutton and Garth Nix.

Keep an eye on the Willoughby City Library website for the full program and more author announcements.

Bach at its best

Bach's masterpiece is always stunning. Fifteen Artarmon residents will be performing in the powerful, dramatic and fast-paced, *St John Passion* being put on by Willoughby Symphony Choir and Willoughby Symphony Orchestra.

**2pm, Sunday 27 July 27,
The Concourse, Chatswood.**

**St John
Passion**



Parkinson's Marathon Walk

The Parkinson's Marathon Walk, which aims to build awareness and

community for people living with Parkinson's Disease (PD), is now in its fourth year. The event is being held at Artarmon Reserve on 27 July 2025.

This year the organiser, Dean Laws, founder of The Dean Team, is aiming to set a world record for the largest PD Warrior class. His major sponsor is Advance Rehab Centre, also based in Artarmon.

After being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, Dean connected with Parkinson's NSW, and was introduced to a life-changing therapy, the PD Warrior program – an approach that uses exercise and neuroplasticity to help rewire the brain. With a dedicated team working with him on the Warrior Program, Dean's symptoms improved dramatically.



Walk safely to school

Ann Marie Cahill

National Walk Safely to School Day was held on Friday, 16 May 2025. To be fair, I wouldn't have known about it, except for Artarmon Public School (APS) sending a supportive message to all parents and carers. This is good because we already have so many APS students walking safely to school each day.

Walk Safely to School Day is a national event across Australia to encourage primary school children to travel to school safely. It started in New South Wales in 1999 and extended across Australia in 2004.

Initially, the idea was to promote healthy habits for kids. Walking to and from school is excellent for physical exercise and has also been connected with supporting healthy minds with a 'mental buffer zone' both before and after school. Over the years, it has become equally important in promoting healthy neighbourhoods and communities. It is recommended that children under 10-years-old be supervised while walking to and from school, with children under

8-years-old holding the hand of a supervising adult. However, contemporary society cannot always accommodate this, and our strong neighbourhood connections are there to help.

Around 8.30am on a Friday not so long ago, I noticed a small group of APS students walking through the park near our home. They were laughing and joking together on their walk to school. One of them saw me, waving as they walked past before catching up to their friends. They all looked so relaxed and comfortable, like they had been walking to school forever – I suppose, for them, it had been forever. This has been a part of their childhood, just like my own children.

2025 is our family's last year at APS, and I no longer take the early morning walk with our kids. The youngest is now ready to walk by themselves and watch out for their friends. For many, National Walk Safely to School Day is every day. But that wouldn't be possible without the support of our community. Artarmon has definitely stepped up for the role. On behalf of APS parents: Thank you. ●

Girl Guides in the community

Girl Guides Australia is a nationwide volunteer organisation for girls aged 7-17 and there are units in Artarmon, Lane Cove and Chatswood as well as across the North Shore.

Finding your local unit can be a great opportunity for girls to make new friends, learn new skills, meet people in their local area beyond their school and get outdoors.

Girl Guides also give back to their local area with regular service opportunities – maybe it is helping to prepare the local war memorial for ANZAC day or helping the local council during ANZAC day ceremonies. It may be holding neighbourhood fundraising events to raise money for activities like a jamboree or adventures and exploring local outdoor spaces and activities. With the harbour and multiple national parks right on our doorstep, there is no shortage of ways to enjoy our neighbourhood with Girl Guides.

The benefits of Girl Guides aren't only for the girls however, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for adults as well. Maybe

you've been looking for a new hobby or are keen to see what your daughter's unit gets up to each week? You may have even been a Girl Guide yourself in the past and be looking to give back. The organisation is seeking volunteers from all walks of life, not just parents.

If you're new to Artarmon and the North Shore, volunteering can be a great way to meet like-minded people who live nearby and start building links in the area. Volunteering is proven to boost mental health and increase a sense of wellbeing.

Many of our senior leaders have started out as casual volunteers but found they enjoyed it so much that they opted to progress to leader and manager qualifications, gaining skills and certifications recognised by employers.

Girl Guide meetings are typically held on a week-night evening during school term and there is flexibility in how much or how little time you want to commit, with weekend and school holiday activities also available.



If this is of interest to you, check out the Girl Guides website at girlguides-nswactnt.org.au/getinvolved. ●

Living in a community

Gwyn Denton

Burra Road is a beautiful, tree-lined street that has charming homes and easy access to the Artarmon Reserve and Oval. On any given morning, you will see cyclists, joggers and walkers (many with dogs) taking in the morning magpie and kookaburra calls. School children are often rushing to the train or hauling heavy musical instruments to band practice. The trains rush past. At night, there is often a choir of frogs and, if we are lucky, the special call of an owl. It's a lovely street with a lovely community of people.

I have lived in Burra Road for nearly 25 years and over this time I have come to love our street. I know most of my neighbours by sight, quite a few by name and many others by their dog's name.

I am part of a wonderful Facebook group called Neighbourras where useful information

is shared about free household items or toys, local information and requests for help. I love how there is a regular Christmas gathering on the Sunday before Christmas (yes, it's already in the calendar), and how 3-4 of us are working collaboratively with the council to manage our concerns about the creek in the Artarmon Reserve. One neighbour has set up a community library and another pet sits. We have a local repairman and gardening services.

I know my neighbours will bring in my bins if I forget and love how they keep an eye on our home and collect our mail when we go on holiday. I love that there are pet dogs that lean against their front gate waiting for a back scratch as I walk past and how I can nod a friendly greeting to those who don't speak much English.

Don't get me wrong, we don't live in each other's pockets, but we share the rhythm of our daily lives. We hear the dogs, and mowers, we smell the dinners and hear the laughing (and arguing). We meet the new pets and mourn those that pass. We have friendly chats, share advice on doctors, schools, tradies, sports clubs and gardens and sometimes get into serious political or parenting discussions over the fence. It's not always perfect, there have been disagreements, and yes, I did reverse into a neighbour's car once ...

Community is the small things, the smiles, the shy greetings or hand-waves, the kind gestures and willingness to be open that help us to feel safe and that we belong. Everyone deserves this. While we have a beautiful bush surroundings, it's the sense of belonging in a community I love the most about my street. It has taken time, patience, tolerance, goodwill but it's worth it. I hope your street is the same. ●

Owls in Artarmon

Judi Homewood



Greg Sharkey, CC BY-SA 4.0

Artarmon Reserve is not only a peaceful haven for people in our community but is an important site for birds and other creatures. Large trees have survived and the work of the local bushcare volunteers removing weeds has created an understory that hosts the prey species of many of the larger birds, such as possums, rodents, lizards and insects. The Reserve is also connected to the larger remnant bushland areas to the east, providing an important wildlife corridor.

One bird species for which this combination of large trees and healthy understory is particularly important is the Powerful Owl, Australia's largest species of owl. Because they are nocturnal, they are more often heard than seen, with a distinctive, surprisingly

soft, double hoot call. They use large trees, at least 150 years old, for breeding sites. These are the trees likely to have hollows where the female can deposit her eggs and raise the clutch, as well as adjacent trees where the male roosts. Likely Powerful Owls mate for life. Each pair maintain a territory. They are regularly heard (and sometimes seen) in Artarmon Reserve, where they eat mostly Ringtail Possums, Sugar Gliders, Flying Foxes and sometimes rodents. Their conservation status in NSW is "Vulnerable".

A second nocturnal bird resident in the Reserve, often mistaken for a species of owl, is the Tawny Frogmouth. Their silvery grey plumage, with marbled brown and grey on their bellies make them masters of camouflage as it allows them to mimic the trees in which they roost. However, they can be seen in the day if they perch on low tree branches. If you get too close the adults make an alarm call resembling clicking, to signal to the young to remain still. At night, the adults, also monogamous, call to each other with a sound remarkably like a car alarm (oom oom oom). They hunt for insects, microbats, and occasionally small mammals. Their conservation status is "Least Concern".

Powerful Owls face two manageable predation challenges. When they fly to the ground to catch prey, they are vulnerable to attacks by cats allowed to roam at

night (or feral). There is increasing concern about secondary poisoning from the class of rat poisons called second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide poisons. The problem occurs because after the baited rodent (e.g. a rat) dies or becomes ill, the poison remains active and is toxic to anything that scavenges it. In the absence of regulation, our behaviour can influence outcomes for these birds e.g. keep cats indoors (especially at night) and use non-anticoagulant rodenticides (or other methods). ●

Sydney | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

ARE YOU CONSIDERING
A MOVE IN 2025?

Have a confidential discussion
with a local expert from a
global network.



Nicholas Jones
Sotheby's International Realty
Lower North Shore
+61 434 679 059
nick.jones@sydneyair.com
sydneysothebysrealty.com



Artarmon Village: Looking good, Artarmon

Nick Logan, President, Artarmon Village Inc

Well, Artarmon Village's new plants all thrived through the wet, humid autumn and both Wilkes Avenue and Hampden Road are looking a treat.

People are returning to Artarmon shops and although no business owner will tell you they are rolling in dough, at least things are slowly turning around after the streetscape roadworks.

The strip lighting is on at night on the brickwork on the Village Green in front of the station and it is great to see families using the area to eat delicious food from the local shops or while they are waiting for a lift home.

After being told too many times by the Commonwealth Bank and Australia Post that we have the "convenience" of Chatswood it has occurred to me that Artarmon Village is a handy and convenient destination especially with respect to health care. We have high quality doctors, dentists, physios, chiropractors, pharmacists and optometrists within a stone's throw and with the convenience of easy, free parking.

Stay tuned for some Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations popping up around the 'hood'. After some consultation they will be installed in residential streets rather than taking up valuable parking spots in the shopping centre. I would encourage anyone waiting for their EV to charge to walk down and check out our village shops.

A reminder that Hampden Road and Wilkes Avenue are now non-smoking zones. I am not convinced that people have noticed the signs yet. Maybe it is time we increased the signage until people recognise the change? Transport NSW has opened grants for Street Events again, this time for a three year program. Our Festival and Events Team friends in Willoughby City Council have applied for Artarmon Street Festival (ASF) 2025, 2026 and 2027. After the success of the ASF last year we can't wait to do it again as those who attended last year had a ball. The date for the next event has been pencilled in for 5 July 2025.

Thank you for supporting the small businesses in Artarmon Village. I cannot tell you how much we appreciate you all.



Follow us on Facebook
@artarmonvillage



Follow us on Instagram
@artarmonvillageinc

www.artarmonvillage.com.au



Does managing your medicines feel like a burden?

Make taking your medicine simple and easy:

- Ask our pharmacists about blister packing and rest easy knowing that you have everything you require in a secure organised pack.
- Blister packing reduces your chances of missing or accidentally double dosing.
- Our packs are portable and discreet and make taking your medicine while travelling a breeze.
- Maintain your peace of mind with an easy pack that you control and never run out of tablets or miss doses again.
- We can even organise weekly deliveries.

Nick Logan

**Pharmacist
Advice**



We'll sit with you so you understand!

96 Hampden Road, Artarmon
Phone 9419 6880 Fax 9419 6868
Email nloganpa@bigpond.net.au
Web www.pharmacistadvice.com.au



St Basil's Food Pantry Lauren Tinyou

Artarmon, as we know and love it, is defined above all by its sense of community. But what does that truly mean? To answer that question I point you to a local initiative that deserves recognition – the Community Pantry.

Run by Anglicare, the Community Pantry operates in churches all over Sydney supporting individuals and families in difficult socio-economic situations. The Artarmon Community Pantry, hosted at St Basil's church, 6 Broughton Road, runs every second Monday from 1- 2pm.

For many, low income, job loss and other challenges make accessing essentials like food increasingly difficult. To help ease this burden, the Community Pantry offers people the opportunity to fill a bag with fresh produce for just \$5 and a bag of pantry staples for \$15. This not only makes food more affordable, but also makes healthy

food which is often more expensive than unhealthy options, more accessible.

Beyond that, the Community Pantry fosters a sense of empathy, care and connection that reminds people that they are not alone. Mark Chen, who oversees the Community Pantry at St Basil's Church, knows this well.

When asked the purpose of the Community Pantry Mark simply said, "helping people in need", adding that it also supports those in the community who are often ignored or go unseen.

Mark mentioned the heartwarming story of a man who hadn't been to the pantry for a while. When they next spoke, Mark asked why? The man responded that he loved the Community Pantry, but hadn't needed it recently, he'd found a job! That is the true spirit of this initiative: offering

support through hard times, with hope for better days.

Yet, despite its value, the Community Pantry faces a significant challenge, visibility. At present, it relies on word of mouth and posts on the Anglicare Sydney Facebook page to spread the word. This limited outreach means many who could benefit may not even know it exists. So, what can we do? Simple, talk about it. Be aware of programs like these and share them with others. Even if you're not in need, someone you know, or someone they know, might be.

When asked for any final thoughts, Mark made one message clear, "Community Pantry is for everyone. No matter your religious affiliation, everyone is welcome." ●

COMMUNITY PANTRY DATES											
JAN	–					MAY	12	26		SEP	01 15 29
FEB	03	17				JUN	23			OCT	14 28
MAR	03	17	31			JUL	07	21		NOV	10 24
APR	14	28				AUG	04	18		DEC	08

TeamSouperStar - Alice Fong Jane Cozens



It all started in 2021, Covid had hit, the weather was cooling down and an Artarmon friend invited Alice to help out at the Martin Place Soup Kitchen. Alice was hooked. She came home and rallied her Artarmon friends and families to cook soup on a weekly roster to serve those in need in the city. Within a few months she had up to 100 volunteers from the North Shore. TeamSouperStar was born.

Alice's passion to help has continued and become even more necessary given the rising cost of living impacting those on lower incomes or with special needs. Today she is concentrating her efforts on a smaller footprint by helping our local community. With the assistance of Artarmonites Tracey,

Brendan and a few other families, including students doing their Duke of Edinburgh award, TeamSouperStar sets up tables at an Artarmon social housing complex twice a month to distribute fresh food and prepared meals to anyone who needs it. Alice has also connected with a local solo mothers' group and will help out with any requests needed.

Thanks to the donations from Box Divvy in Willoughby, Crows Nest and Cammeray, a farm to door distribution service, Northbridge Bakers' Delight and Harris Farm Lindfield, Alice and her team have been able to collect fresh food to give away to those who need it.

Alice says the satisfaction that this service gives to her and her helpers is rewarding and gives a sense of purpose. The recipients also appreciate the love and care and grow their own sense of community, many of them arriving early to chat with their neighbours and help the team set up.

Alice says she loves contributing to the community. She grew up in one of Hong Kong's resettlement estates and

understands what people may be going through during hard times. She describes herself as a "community warrior".

A good neighbour and friend to many. ●



Wendy Bishop

Historic Homes - Carmen and Windsor Gardens

Adrian Alexander

The early days

In April 1810, William Gore received his land grant of 150 acres which incorporates most of today's East Artarmon. Today, the northern boundary of this property mostly follows Mowbray Road.

In April 1840, NSW Governor Darling granted Maria Brown, widow of George Brown, 160 acres in Chatswood. Mowbray Road, between Tindale Road and Sydney Street, passes through the property near its southern border. By 1843, the land was leased to Francis Mitchell, who in 1864, bought the property.

In November 1873, Richard Harnett and Alexander Stuart purchased 145 acres from Mitchell and by the late 1880s began subdividing the property. The 6 acres on the southern side of Mowbray Road was, in 1880, subdivided into five allotments.

By the 1880's, the population of Willoughby Municipality was about 800. The region was starting to develop. A railway line was under construction (opened in 1890), Artarmon was still mostly farming and brickmaking and Chatswood was an emerging village with residential subdivision progressing.

Carmen

Carmen is a house situated on the southern side of Mowbray Road near the intersection of Archer Street. It is not clear when the house was built but it may have been constructed by Francis Mitchell in the late 1860s.

In 1880, Alexis Mackenzie, Commissioner for Affidavits of NSW Supreme Court, purchased about an acre of land on which Carmen stood. Newspaper articles between 1880 and 1884 announced the births of three Mackenzie children at Carmen.

In 1882, Mackenzie began a four stage, 21 allotment, subdivision on land bounded by Mowbray Road, Orchard Road, Nea Street and Young Street Chatswood. The subdivision included the land where the historic house *Hilton* now stands empty on Mowbray Road.



Iroquois Windsor Gardens

In 1882, the Carmen allotment and the adjoining acre of land on its western side were subdivided into 18 lots and offered as the Carmen Estate by Alexis Mackenzie but was later withdrawn from sale.

In 1883, *Carmen* was offered for sale and described as 'a pretty detached cottage residence, occupied by A.G Mackenzie Esq., brick on stone with a hall, 6 rooms, kitchen, verandahs back and front, stables and coach house 1¼ acres, securely fenced, orchard, flower and kitchen gardens, paddock, ample supply of water'.

The house was acquired by Frank Coffee, an American journalist and horticulturist. Five of his six children were born at this house.

In 1905, the Carmen Estate was again offered for sale as 14 allotments with the location of *Carmen* clearly shown on subdivision advertisements.

Carmen has been well maintained and is an excellent example of colonial housing.

Windsor Gardens

In 1884, Frank Coffee bought the adjoining 2 acres to Carmen. In 1888, Coffee began building the grand Victorian gentleman's residence *Iroquois* while living next door. In 1894, *Iroquois* was described as having '10 rooms, pantry, kitchen, washroom, two cellars, ocean views from Tower, fernery. . . 2 acres of an orchard. . . oranges, lemons, prunes, Japanese plums, peaches, plums,

apricots, nectarines, pears, quinces, etc. . . well sheltered by a belt of camphor and pine trees, water laid on'.

Horticulture was one of Coffee's passions. He established a specialist nursery, Frank Coffee & Co, at Pearce's Corner, Wahroonga on 18 acres. He imported stock, including the Valencia orange from Luther Burbank, an American plant breeder. In 1902, the nursery property was subdivided and sold for residential purposes.

Coffee was also a book importer, publisher and ardent traveller. He crossed the Pacific more than 40 times.

The Catholic Press reported in 1920 that 'Mr Coffee has been a prominent and popular figure in Sydney for many years and is one of the most generous benefactors of Catholic Charities. His home is the centre of American life in Sydney and is famous for his hospitality'.

Coffee died in 1929, aged 77.

In 1925, The Coffee family sold *Iroquois* to the Burke Family. The Burke Family lived at *Iroquois* until was sold in the 1940s. The house was converted into a function centre and renamed *Windsor Gardens*. In 1986 a development application was lodged to convert the property into a retirement village and in 1988, a permanent Conservation Order was placed on the original house. ●

history@artarmonprogress.org.au



Three generations in Artarmon

Helen Mutkins

after that Patricia's parents bought a house on Smith Road. Everyone knew everyone. And everyone looked out for their neighbours. There were frequent card nights, progressive dinners and invites from anyone who had a TV. Even just before his death in 2018, Kevin would deliver someone's newspaper from their front lawn to their verandah, or wheel in the bin after garbage collection for those who found it difficult.

Kevin became a local Justice of the Peace with many neighbours and locals calling in to Onyx Road for Kevin to witness 'this' or sign 'that'. He was always up for a good old yarn as well. Kevin joined many community organisations and his circle of friends and acquaintances grew throughout his life. He was a die-hard golfer, a member of the Artarmon Bowling Club and the North Shore Orchid Society where a number of his awesome orchids won prizes. He also worked as a local real estate agent, one with incredible local knowledge.

Patricia was the community Avon Lady. In the late sixties and early seventies she would

drive around in her blue VW Beetle visiting customers way beyond Onyx Road. Patricia still had a handful of loyal customers well into the 2000s.

Kevin and Patricia brought up their four children in Onyx Road where they enjoyed a childhood embraced by the sense of community and caring. The street party gatherings were always well attended and Kevin would always enjoy bending someone's ear if they were interested in a little bit of local history. They went on to enjoy 11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Up until Patricia's death in January this year, many of the Onyx Road and Smith Road neighbours 'popped' in to check on her and they even organised Friday afternoon 'happy hour' at Pat's so she wouldn't miss out.

The Mutkins family home for more than 100 years is in the midst of a community which still thrives and cares for each other. Who couldn't love Artarmon? ●

VALE Patricia Mutkins (1930 – 2025)

This is a story of community. In 1922 the foundations to our family home were laid in Onyx Road. It was the second house on the street. As a baby, my father, Kevin Mutkins, moved in with his parents, Albert and Elizabeth. Kevin's grandfather had a house in Carlos Street and his aunt had a house, of the same design as Onyx Road, in Smith Road.

Kevin built strong local friendships through Catholic youth group, his local Parish in Chatswood and as one of the first day pupils of St Pius X College in 1937. With a strong sense of community and belonging, there were many hikes and picnics down through the gully to Tunks Park and the beautiful Lane Cove National Park.

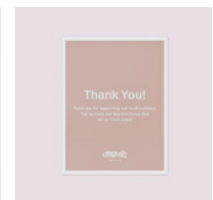
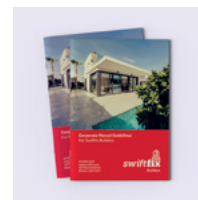
Kevin married Patricia in 1956 and bought Onyx Road from his mother. It wasn't long

**CAN DO
CAN DO
CAN DO
CAN DO
CAN DO**

**WE'RE YOUR LOCAL PARTNER
IN BRINGING YOUR CUSTOM DESIGN,
PRINT AND SIGNAGE TO LIFE!**



KWIK KOPY ARTARMON
T: 02 9438 1122 | E: print@artarmon.kwikkopy.com.au
Unit 1, 64-66 Whiting St, Artarmon NSW 2064
ORDER ONLINE: artarmonshop.kwikkopy.com.au



At Kwik Kopy, we're your one-stop shop for design, print, and signage that brings your vision to life.

- Communicate effectively with eye-catching brochures and flyers
- Stand out with our impactful range of large-format signages
- Say thank you with personalised cards for a memorable experience

Are you ready to make a statement?

Kwik Kopy®
**WE MAKE
POSSIBLE**

The community garden is located on what was previously the upper bowling green of the former Artarmon bowling club. It is surrounded by the superb natural bushland of Artarmon Reserve.

Community Garden Yuen Yuen Yip



The garden has flourished over the last three months. The final weeks of summer and the beginning of autumn have been warm with wet periods, which boosted growth and provided a bumper crop. There was plenty of produce to share between the garden members, and the four-legged and winged members of the garden also had a share in the harvest. The entire crop of fully ripened (and protected) rockmelons provided a sumptuous feast for wildlife and the

brush turkeys excavated for tubers. Deterrent strategies for turkeys using netting and stakes have been relatively successful.

The warm and wet weather has also been ideal for the proliferation of weeds. Nothing is wasted in the garden though – appropriate weeds (without seeds) are used to brew ‘weed tea’ in barrels and bins to be used as liquid fertiliser. Remaining weeds are broken down in the green compost bays.

As the weather cools, summer plantings have been cleared and seedlings sowed for the winter harvest. The Artarmon Parklands Community Garden (APCG) operates as a common space where space is shared rather than individually allocated or “owned” by members and all produce is shared amongst members who dedicate time to the garden.

Tasks are carried out as needed, rather than allocated to individuals. For example – we noticed that the squashes were flowering but the fruit was not maturing due to the lack of pollinating insects and bees. A couple of members, who go on a daily morning walk, have taken it upon themselves to pass through the garden and hand pollinate in an attempt to increase the yield.

The APCG had a presence at Thomson Park on Neighbour Day to share who we are, what we do and to welcome participants from all walks of life, from all corners of the globe to join as members. While many of our members are neighbours in Artarmon, there are just as many who come from neighbouring suburbs and beyond. The APCG fosters a sense of community that extends well beyond the working bees on Thursdays and Sundays. It threads people together who speak their same language, who share the same street or suburb or who have common interests. It connects with community gardens in neighbouring suburbs and beyond by the sharing of ideas. It offers a place for social connection, for solace and for purpose. ●

Email: ArtarmonCommunityGardensSec@gmail.com

Still hope for Royal North Shore Hospital

The For Sale sign on the vacant lot on the corner of Herbert Street and the Pacific Highway at St Leonards implies the hard-fought battle to keep the land for future hospital use is being pushed ahead by the state government.

But it's not over until the (slim) block of land is sold, according to Artarmon resident, Judy Simpson, one of the many members of the Save Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) community action group.

The prime 3,300 square metre vacant lot directly opposite St Leonard's Station was identified as surplus to requirements by the Minns government under its land audit of publicly owned property and rezoned last November. In fact, capitalising on the valuable lot was also in the grasp of the previous Coalition Government that proposed a 45-storey residential tower – a so-called compromise on the 60-story tower originally recommended.

Now the land is being offered for sale with approval to build a staggering 62-storey

apartment tower overshadowing the hospital. The community sweetener is the offer that 67 of the 448 proposed apartments (15%) would be allocated for employees at the hospital.

Local residents recognise there is a desperate need for affordable accommodation to be provided to essential workers – the low paid nurses, cleaners, kitchen staff and indeed young doctors without whom hospitals literally cannot operate.

However, the 67 apartments, only 15% of the total build, will scarcely put a dint in the need for affordable accommodation. The sale will also privatise the public asset preventing it being utilised for public health services at a time when the current hospital is already overstretched.

The Northern Sydney Local Health District also opposes the sale on the basis it is not compatible with the future health needs of the community and the affordable housing allocation violates the Labor Government's election promise to provide a minimum



of 30% affordable housing for new developments.

Councillors from North Sydney and Lane Cove Councils are supporting Willoughby Council's request for modelling to be carried out regarding the future medical demands in the RNSH catchment area.

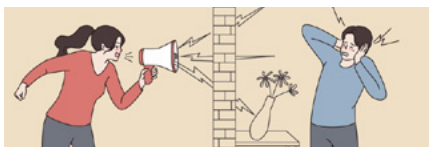
While the EOI process closed on 15 May, the Save Royal North Shore Hospital community action group urges residents who do not agree with the sale to write in support of the Willoughby Council's motion to keep the land in public ownership for future hospital and health services. Write to either (or both) The Premier Chris Minns and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully. ●



How to be a great neighbour (without becoming a local legend)

Being a great neighbour isn't about baking pies or forming an association with a secret handshake. It's about mastering the subtle art of not being annoying, while occasionally dazzling your neighbours with moments of unexpected brilliance—like catching their runaway recycling bin mid-flight or remembering their dog's name (even if you don't remember theirs).

First rule: noise. You're not a DJ! If your music can be heard three houses down you're a public menace. Keep your lawn equipment use to daylight hours—preferably not during Sunday hangovers or toddler naptime.



Second: parking. Your car should not block anyone's driveway, or existential will to live. Bonus points if you warn folks before hosting a 12-car cousin reunion.

Third: rubbish diplomacy. If the bins are out and a storm's coming, rescue the neighbours' before they become airborne missiles. It's not just heroism—it's mutual survival.

Fourth: security. Protect yourselves and your neighbourhood from burglary. Report suspicious behaviour to the police (132 444). NOT just Facebook groups!

Occasional friendly gestures go a long way: wave when you see them, lend tools without a contract, and return them in the same century. If you receive a package for them, resist the urge to shake it or google its contents.

Above all, be the kind of neighbour who gives people peace of mind—not material for a group chat rant.

In conclusion: be quiet-ish, be kind-ish, and if you ever borrow a ladder, bring it back. ●

That's it. You're officially a neighbourhood treasure.

INTERNATIONAL WINNER



In early April, 13-year-old Artarmon student, Hailey Tinyou, represented Australia at the 2025 Vegas Acro Cup, an international acrobatics/gymnastics competition. Hailey and her team partner, Myriam Couroumah, brought home silver in their pair routines and Hailey also earned silver for her individual routine, amassing an impressive score in the highly competitive event.

The four-day competition saw elite representatives from USA, Canada, Australia, Poland and Mexico compete. The event was an experience Hailey described as "an interesting way to see other countries routines, styles and skills".

QUICK QUIZ answers

1. Artarmon Oval 7am
2. Eight
3. Mutkins family
4. Hilton
5. William Gore



NETWORK

PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL
AIR CONDITIONING

YOUR NETWORK OF EXPERTS, ONE CALL AWAY

We're here to fix all - **Plumbing, Electrical, and Air Con.** Delivering convenience, quality workmanship & no hidden surprises. With 40 years of dedicated service in Sydney, we stand proud on our legacy of reliability, customer satisfaction and lasting solutions.

LICENSED TRADIE READY FOR DUTY

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 🔹 BLOCKED DRAINS | ⚡ INDOOR ELECTRICAL | ✱ AIR CON INSTALL |
| 🔹 HOT WATER | ⚡ OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL | ✱ AIR CON SERVICING |
| 🔹 ALL PLUMBING | 🔹 EMERGENCY SERVICES | ✱ AIR CON REPAIRS |

CALL 8529 4605

✓ 24/7 SERVICE ✓ UPFRONT PRICING ✓ SAME-DAY SERVICE

This promotion entitles the bearer to \$60 off the next invoice when work is carried out. Not valid on travel fee, work already done or quoted work. Must present promo code at time of service to receive discount.

ABN: 20 663 487 536 LIC: 467374C



Feedback from our representatives ...

From the mayor



Tanya Taylor

As we move through the year, I'm proud to report on key projects and advocacy efforts shaping our city. I also want to acknowledge the Naremburn Ward Councillors and the work they've

been doing with the APA members and the Artarmon community; it is appreciated.

Council continues strong advocacy around Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH), engaging NSW Health and other authorities to push for better transparency, accountability, and community input — especially on parking, access and future site use. We've raised serious concerns about declaring parts of the campus surplus to health needs and proposals for residential development on this historically health-dedicated land. It's encouraging to see neighbouring councils like North Sydney and Lane Cove now joining us in calling for the site to stay in public hands for health services, not private development. Similarly, the Metro Dive Site remains a top priority in our discussions with the state government. Construction impacts must be managed responsibly, and surrounding neighbourhoods, especially Artarmon, must be protected from long-term disruption. We continue to call for stronger mitigation measures, clearer communication with residents and to advocate for the school that was planned for the Dive Site.

We know the Artarmon Bowling Club site has been a long-standing topic of community interest. We're excited to be moving forward with a plan that balances community use, respects the site's heritage, and supports long-term sustainability. It's now full steam ahead, with works on track for completion in the coming months.

At the Willoughby Leisure Centre, construction is progressing well with the primary structure of the new pool hall now in place. While the scope of the project has evolved in response to unexpected underground site conditions, Council remains committed to delivering a facility that meets the needs of our growing community. With

upgraded facilities, improved accessibility and energy-efficient design features, the new centre will be a place for everyone. Completion is expected in February 2026, subject to the usual construction risks. We appreciate your patience, and I look forward to welcoming you back to a space that's fit for the future.

I'm also pleased to announce that additional Kiss & Ride zones are coming to Artarmon, helping ease congestion and improve safety during busy school drop-off and pick-up times. This initiative responds directly to community feedback and reflects our ongoing commitment to making it easier for families to move around our area.

Finally, as a result of our strong advocacy, the NSW Government is proposing tougher penalties for tree vandalism — an important win for protecting Willoughby's precious urban canopy. You can have your say here: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/exhibition/protecting-our-trees-changes-deter-illegal-tree-and-vegetation-clearing> (Consultation runs from 23 April to 4 June 2025).

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any feedback or issues you'd like to raise.

E: Tanya.Taylor@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



Georgie Roussac

Council has recently announced the Willoughby Leisure Centre will cost an additional \$26.1 million (\$65m in total) and reopen its doors in early 2026. For more detail (article and video) go to the 'news' tab on Council's website. On time and on cost delivery must be a key focus of all Council projects, large and small, and must become the norm rather than the exception. I am very concerned about this latest overrun and am demanding that Council implement dramatic improvements to how it manages projects.

With today's cost of living pressures, finding low cost or free services can provide some relief. One wonderful service is our libraries. Willoughby's libraries aren't just about books, there's so much to love about them.

Libraries are free. As well as being able to borrow books, audio books, e-newspapers, stream movies, music and more at no cost, Willoughby's libraries also provide free author events, book clubs, JP services, tech literacy workshops, rooms for high school student use, a photo digitisation service, and online language courses.

Libraries can come to you. Home library services are free and available for people who are unable to visit the library in person including older people, people living with a disability or chronic illness and their carers.

Libraries provide a refuge. Whether you need a quiet moment or a free place to get out of the severe summer heat, libraries provide a safe, cool place to relax.

Willoughby Library's annual customer survey report (1,934 responses in 2024) signals community support for longer opening hours at Chatswood Library on Sunday mornings. Over 680,000 people visit Willoughby library locations each year, with 95% of these to Chatswood library. Currently Chatswood library opens at 1.30pm on Sundays. If it were to open at 9am on Sundays it would likely receive an additional 400 visits per Sunday, or around 20,000 additional visits per year. Extending Chatswood library's hours on Sunday is something I'm exploring given the widespread community benefits. It is also valuable to look at what additional uses can be undertaken in our branch libraries to ensure they are fully activated and utilised.

E: Georgie.Roussac@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
M: 0459 879 379



Anna Greco

Standing Up for Public Health and Our Green Spaces:

I continue to strongly oppose the proposed sale of Lot 4B in the Royal North Shore Hospital precinct. This land is too important

to lose—it must remain public land for public health. I've put forward a motion for Willoughby Council to formally join North Sydney and Lane Cove councils in urging the Premier to withdraw Lot 4B from the state's disposal program. Instead, we are calling for a collaborative, master-planned approach

Feedback from our representatives ...

with the Northern Sydney Local Health District that prioritises the long-term public good.

Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse Pavilion

Update: Progress continues on the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse Pavilion. All major concrete works - including both decks—are complete, and a new concrete tile roof has been installed. On 1 April, a modification was approved to replace the proposed Modwood deck with concrete. The accessible pathway is 90% finished. The project is on track for completion in September 2025.

Affordable Housing at Abbott Road:

The affordable housing project at Abbott Road, Artarmon, is advancing. Tender assessments for demolition and construction services are complete, and a Section 4.55 modification application has been submitted. The outcome is pending, with a report to Council expected by June 2025.

Celebrating Our Bushland Team: Kudos to our Bushland team for their quick response to vandalism earlier this month. Within hours of the report, they had restored the damaged bush furniture using recycled timber from local trees like Turpentine, Blue Gum, and Blackbutt—preserving the character of our natural spaces. Much of this bush furniture is placed along Willoughby's walking track network, offering scenic resting spots and enhancing the experience for walkers.

If you haven't already, download the free Willoughby Walks app to discover local bushwalks and the handcrafted features along the way. I also encourage you to join your local bushcare group. The volunteers do incredible work protecting our bushland and always welcome new members with open arms. For more information email

willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Bushcare or give me a call - I'd love to chat!

E: Anna.Greco@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
M: 0459 866 064



Nic Wright

status, potential use, and the impact of redevelopment. These are reasonable concerns, and I welcome community involvement. But it is important that the conversation is based on facts.

Lot 4B is not "hospital land". It has not been part of the Royal North Shore Hospital campus for over 15 years. In 2008, the site was formally transferred to the state's development agency and has since been zoned as surplus government land. Located opposite the St Leonard station, it is surrounded by commercial and residential buildings, as well as NSW Health administrative offices. Importantly, NSW Health has completed a comprehensive master plan for the hospital's future and concluded that Lot 4B is not required for future hospital expansion or related health services.

The proposal for Lot 4B includes a mixed-use redevelopment with more than 400 new homes, a significant portion of which would be set aside as affordable housing for key workers, including nurses,

There has been considerable discussion in the community about Lot 4B, a site within the Herbert Street Precinct in St Leonards. Many residents have raised questions about its

teachers and paramedics. The site is well connected, with convenient access to public transport, employment centres, schools and health services, making it a practical and appropriate location for new housing.

Australia is facing a once-in-a-generation housing crisis. There is a growing shortage of homes that are accessible, affordable and well-located. Solving this challenge will require a collaborative effort between all levels of government, including local councils. I further note that if we want to look at preserving heritage conservation areas in other parts of the city, then we must also be willing to support well-planned density in places that have already been identified and zoned for it.

Finally, while Council is not the consent authority for this development, we must however continue to advocate for high standards in design, infrastructure and community benefit. Our role is to represent local interests, to ask the right questions, and to keep residents informed.

As your local councillor, I will continue to support planning that is thoughtful, transparent and evidence-based. Lot 4B presents an opportunity to help meet pressing housing needs in a way that supports sustainability, equity and community wellbeing. The challenge now is to ensure the outcome reflects the needs of our community while contributing meaningfully to the broader housing solution.

As always, I welcome your feedback.

E: Nic.Wright@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
M: 0481 033 442

Gazette Coordinator

Are you someone who enjoys talking to people and who would be prepared to join the Gazette team? You would be responsible for keeping in touch with the people who advertise in the Gazette. Gazette advertisers understand the value of advertising to the 5,300 households that receive the Artarmon Gazette, but someone is needed to coordinate this part of the Gazette.

Gazette Editor

The Gazette has a fabulous, experienced graphic designer and a talented, organised 'editorial team' who help pull the material together, but an editor is needed to project manage. Do you have a project management/marketing/communications/writing background?

The Editor works with the Gazette team to come up with stories, manage editorial contributions plan the layout and keep everyone on track.

And if you love walking around the 'hood' Judy is always keen to find more people to help deliver the Gazette.

All these roles are voluntary and make a strong contribution to the people of Artarmon.

Get Involved!

Email: pres@artarmonprogress.org.au

SNAP SHOT

ARTARMON

Laing+Simmons
Artarmon

VOL.48

MARKET WRAP UP

Autumn has been a mixed season, with above average rainfall creating a miserable set of weekends for vendors, prospective buyers and agents alike. We have seen reduced numbers of properties brought to market during this period compared to last year, with the announcement of the federal election definitely resulting in many vendors putting off listing their property, during what is always a disruptive and uncertain time.

Lower levels of stock have been seen across the board including the rental market. This has translated to both strong sales results and rental prices being achieved during this period. We also note consistent auction clearance rates of between 65-69% during the season.

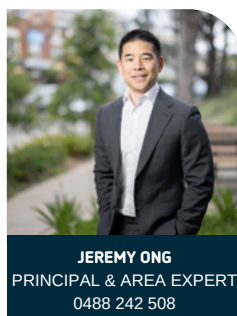
The RBA's cut to interest rates in March has spurred further confidence in demand, we have noted increasing interest from first home buyers and investors. Further talks of additional cuts will no doubt further boost demand for property, and with some local economists suggesting up to a further three by years end, this may be a notable boost indeed.

With the federal election concluded and likelihood of further rate cuts this year, the outlook for the spring sales market is shaping up to be quite positive.

With the right local agent on your side involved in selling your property being more crucial now than ever. If you are thinking of selling or interested what your property is worth in the current market, please contact our experienced agents to see how we can best assist.



CATHERINE ONG
PRINCIPAL & AREA EXPERT
0418 672 881



JEREMY ONG
PRINCIPAL & AREA EXPERT
0488 242 508

Catherine Ong

Jeremy Ong



lsre.com.au/artarmon

SALES RESULTS FOR AUTUMN 2025

STREET ADDRESS				Sale Price	Sale Date
1/5 BROUGHTON ROAD	2	1	1	\$915,000	4-Feb-25
22 ROBERT STREET	2	2	2	\$2,710,000	14-Feb-25
18 STAFFORD ROAD	4	3	2	\$4,150,000	14-Feb-25
402/8 BROUGHTON ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,245,000	17-Feb-25
11/35-39 PARKES ROAD	2	2	1	\$1,000,000	17-Feb-25
22 WEEDON ROAD	3	1	1	\$3,150,000	18-Feb-25
22/11 HAMPDEN ROAD	2	1	1	\$860,000	21-Feb-25
12/1 PALMER STREET	2	1	1	\$925,000	22-Feb-25
18/29-33 PARKES ROAD	2	1	1	\$870,000	22-Feb-25
5/24-28 CLELAND ROAD	3	2	1	\$1,620,000	23-Feb-25
5/2 MCMILLAN ROAD	2	1	1	\$955,800	24-Feb-25
14/3-11 MCMILLAN ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,055,000	26-Feb-25
2/26 ERIC ROAD	1	1	1	\$734,000	27-Feb-25
268 MOWBRAY ROAD	4	2	2	\$3,600,000	27-Feb-25
29/8 BULLER ROAD	2	1	2	\$1,230,000	28-Feb-25
2210/9 ERIC ROAD	2	2	1	\$1,481,000	1-Mar-25
4/8 JERSEY ROAD	2	1	2	\$1,358,000	7-Mar-25
5/108 RESERVE ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,350,000	7-Mar-25
1/3 BROUGHTON ROAD	2	1	2	\$1,400,000	11-Mar-25
6/421-473 PACIFIC HIGHWAY	2	2	1	\$925,000	14-Mar-25
18/1 JERSEY ROAD	2	2	1	\$880,000	19-Mar-25
1 SELWYN STREET	4	2	1	\$4,088,000	22-Mar-25
44 SYDNEY STREET	4	2	1	\$3,800,000	26-Mar-25
41/1 JERSEY ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,165,000	5-Apr-25
28/19-21 MILNER ROAD	3	2	1	\$1,700,000	9-Apr-25
109 ARTARMON ROAD	5	4	2	\$5,185,000	12-Apr-25
9 BURRA ROAD	4	2	1	\$4,460,000	12-Apr-25
2 COONEY ROAD	5	3	1	\$5,400,000	12-Apr-25
3/3 ELIZABETH STREET	2	1	-	\$830,000	30-Apr-25

*Data where prices disclosed from the period 01/02/25 – 30/04/25 via RPData.

Meet the team

@

Laing + Simmons Artarmon



		Quantity	Lowest Sale	Highest Sale	Median Value	Average Value
House	2 Beds	2	\$830,000	\$2,710,000	\$1,770,000	\$1,770,000
	4 Beds	5	\$3,600,000	\$4,460,000	\$4,088,000	\$4,019,600
Unit / THouse	2 Beds	16	\$860,000	\$1,481,000	\$1,027,500	\$1,100,925
	3 Beds	2	\$1,620,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,660,000	\$1,660,000

SALES SUMMARY FOR AUTUMN 2025