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Mark Crew,
Castlecrag Progress Assoc.

Density at what price?

Artarmon, Chatswood West and now Castlecrag Progress Associations are all grappling with the consequences of the changes to the NSW planning laws introduced in 2024 (see APA June Gazette article State Imposed Higher Density). These changes were ostensibly introduced to increase housing supply by fast tracking the approval processes for residential projects. Observation would say that the changes were brought in without adequate consultation and are designed to largely bypass local councils.

While it is recognised that there is a need for Australians to be able to own their home and for rents to be affordable, there are unintended consequences when ad hoc planning is imposed: a lack of infrastructure not meeting the social requirements of higher density living.

Although Artarmon and Chatswood were not nominated as one of the eight priority high growth areas near transport hubs in greater Sydney for accelerated rezoning under the Transport Oriented Development (TOD), they could be added at a later stage. They are, however, affected by other changes to the planning laws under the Minns Government, namely, the Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy, changes to the criteria for State Significant

Developments (SSDs) and the establishment of the Housing Delivery Authority (HDA).

Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy

This policy is designed to change planning controls to encourage more low and mid-rise housing to be built within 800 metres walk from nominated town centres and transport hubs such as Chatswood and Artarmon. It will allow buildings up to 6 storeys.

Despite being near transport hubs developers are still factoring in more car spaces than Local Environment Plans (LEP) require.

State Significant Development (SSD)

New State Significant Development (SSD) guidelines have been created, adding a residential development component for developers in the Greater Sydney Region. Large construction projects above approximately \$60 million can now be fast tracked. This is going to have a huge impact on Chatswood.

Large residential building projects can get up to a 30% bonus in height, in return for committing 15% of apartments to affordable housing for 15 years. Chatswood includes 20 of the 27 SSD proposed projects.

While Artarmon residents may not think SSDs will impact the suburb, with 27 SSD projects for Chatswood there will be a flow-on effect. Picture 754 Pacific Highway where the Housing Delivery Authority has approved a recommendation for a 21-storey tower, where previously

only up to 5 storeys (12 m height) were permissible under the LEP.

In Castlecrag, under the SSD, a proposed 11-storey apartment building of 150 units as shop-top living has been applied for by Conquest, the new owners of 100 Edinburgh Road. This is despite it abutting the world renown Griffin Heritage Area and only having one effective road in and out of the suburb.

On 27 November 2024 the Castlecrag Progress Association presented its position on the previous redevelopment design of 38 shop-top apartments to the Sydney North Planning Panel. In it they acknowledged their responsibility to be part of the solution to increasing Sydney's housing stock, despite some local opposition. That design was approved and the community had broadly grown to accept it.

The Housing Delivery Authority (HDA)

In November 2024 Premier Chris Minns announced a pathway for developers to bypass council approvals to speed up approval and delivery times for State Significant Projects. To this end a new body named the Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) was set up to sit within the planning department to head the process.

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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.

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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:

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NEXT EDITION DEADLINES

Wed 5 Nov Copy & advertising due
Sun 7 Dec Delivery complete

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Editorial

In this edition of the Artarmon Gazette we hear from the Artarmon, Chatswood West and Castlecrag Progress Associations about the impact of changes to the NSW Planning Laws introduced in 2024. The article explores the unintended consequences of ad hoc planning.

Following on from last edition where we looked at what makes our community stronger, resilient and connected, in this edition we look at places and activities that promote calm, health and well-being around Artarmon. You can read about forest bathing in the reserve, and volunteering in the sanctuary of the Artarmon Parklands Community Garden. Other articles look at peaceful activities such as Art Peace Therapy and coffee with the birds.

In Spotlight, we introduce our resident wildlife ecologist, Thomas Newsome, founder of the Global Ecology Lab at The University of Sydney. We learn about his focus on rewilding and the Lab's aim to restore the food chain, return a natural balance to the environment and enhance biodiversity in urban areas.

Our regular items include an update on Artarmon Public School, the Girl Guides report on the 2025 Trek for Girls Nepal; the history of Artarmon libraries and Neighbourhood Watch with some tips on how to protect yourself from bag thieves.

Finally, make a note in your diary to meet the new federal MP for Bradfield at the APA's next Public Information Evening on Wednesday 10 September.

**Jane, Felicity, Jacqueline,
Lauren and Glenda**
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Density at what price?

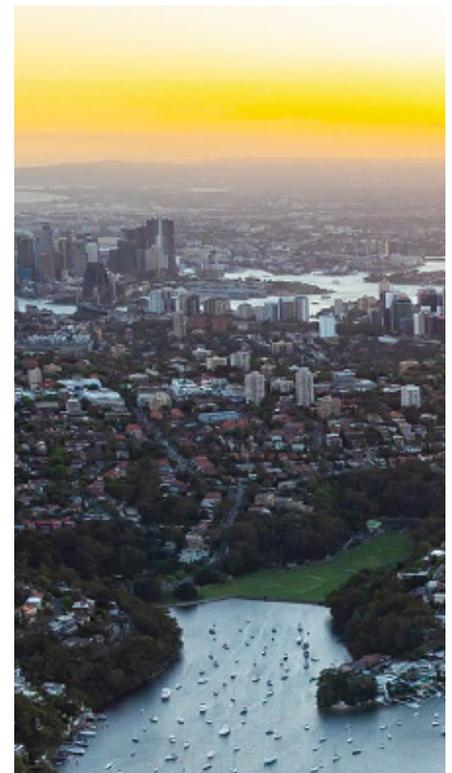
Continued from page 1

The HDA includes key figures from the Planning Department and the Premier's Department.

The HDA has been criticised for its lack of transparency and accountability to the public. Sydney City Mayor, Clover Moore has noted that communities often learn about developments affecting them through minutes from closed meetings, rather than through direct engagement with the authority.

Willoughby's Local Environment Plan (WLEP) which took seven years to develop and was only gazetted in 2023 has been sidelined by the State Government.

Within the state planning process the community is being disempowered. Spot rezoning is overriding good planning and design excellence. ●



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<https://artarmonprogress.org.au/Gazette/Gazette-Media-Specs-2023.pdf>

The core purpose of the Artarmon Gazette is to publish high-quality, independent, public-interest news and information for the Artarmon community.



Letter to the Editor

My husband and I are new to the area, having recently purchased a unit at 24 Hampden Road. We've really enjoyed settling into the community.

We're writing to raise a concern about the pedestrian crossing outside 26 Hampden Road. Both of us have had near misses with vehicles at this location, and we're particularly worried given its proximity to the primary school. We feel this poses a serious safety risk to residents, especially children and families.

Has the Association previously addressed this issue, or is there any ongoing discussion about improving safety at this crossing? We'd be grateful for any advice on how best to submit a formal request to Council. We believe there's a strong case for extending the 40 km/h school zone up to the tennis courts as a traffic calming measure, or alternatively, installing enhanced signage or lighting to improve pedestrian visibility.

We also wanted to say how much we enjoy reading the Gazette—it's been a great way to stay informed and feel connected to the neighbourhood.

G. Welsh

A note from the President



Staying engaged with Council is an important means of ensuring the community voice gets heard and that Council officers stay connected to residents. Have

Your Say on the Willoughby Council website is one way to voice your opinion and there are also four advisory committees: Access and Inclusion, Active and Integrated Transport, Bushland, and Natural Heritage and Sustainability. It takes time to participate, but having the opportunity to ensure Council hears your voice, firsthand, through these mechanisms is important.

And of course, there is the APA. Your progress association is made up of community members who give their time to represent the interests of our suburb at all levels of government: local, state and federal. The APA team advocates on important issues, so, what you tell us through conversations, emails and via the APA Facebook page are important. Currently we are focussing on Royal North Shore Hospital, traffic problems, thoughtful development, and social connection: these are all issues that have wide impact on the entire suburb.

To ensure we can address important issues, Vice President, Chris Baker is currently collating a list of Artarmon traffic blackspots and you can find his article on page 11. The APA is actively seeking your input on the location of black spots.

Did you know that there are now two new recycling initiatives available: mattresses (you need to book a pick-up) and Homecycle (hard-to-recycle items including soft plastics, textiles and blister packs). More information is available at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/waste.

It was disheartening to see another shop in the village disappear, almost overnight, when 7-Eleven closed its doors. Your continuing support of the shops in the village is important to maintaining a vibrant community.

Speaking of which. Congratulations to Zuccherò Café Bar, it recently won the North Shore Local Business Awards Outstanding Café 2025 category. Welcome to Hoo and Tu who have taken over the restaurant in Broughton Road (now called Hoo and Tu's Kitchen) and also to the new florist, Luxe Petal, on Hampden Road.

Don't hesitate to email me if you have something on your mind that will help Artarmon thrive and grow. That left-field idea might lead to something great, and I'm always willing to listen.

Glenda Hewitt
President APA

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

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APA Public Information Meeting

Nicolette Boele MP for Bradfield

Newly elected Independent, Nicolette Boele, became Artarmon's representative in Federal Government on 4 June after a closely contested election. On Wednesday 10 September she will join us for a conversation at the Artarmon Community Hall. This is an opportunity for you to get to know your new Bradfield MP.

A conversation with Nicolette PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Wednesday 10 September @7.30pm

Artarmon Community Hall, 139 Artarmon Road

Round and about: a selection of events

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Artarmon Progress Association get-together
- 6 Chatswood Street Fair*



- 10 APA Public Information meeting: Guest Speaker, Nicolette Boele MP (Member for Bradfield)
- 12 Moonlight Meander, Mowbray Park*
- 19 *Gypsy*: A musical fable. Zenith Theatre (one for the Sondheim fans)*
- 22 Multicultural cooking demonstration (Japchae: Korean sweet potato noodles)*
- 24 Composting and worm farming*



OCTOBER

- 1 Artarmon Progress Association get-together
- 8 *Ukrainian DNA* (Art Exhibition) at the Concourse*
- 18 Willoughby City Symphony Orchestra: Mahler*



Banduristyy: Maru Jarockyj



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)

NOVEMBER

- 5 *In Between* (Art Exhibition)*
- 5 Artarmon Progress Association get-together
- 15 Naremburn Ward Councillor Community pop-up*

* (details on WCC's events page)

QUICK QUIZ September 2025

1. When was the first library opened in Artarmon?
2. By what other names are Noisy Miners known as?
3. What do the Japanese call the practice of immersing oneself in the forest?
4. Who read the first news broadcast from the new ABC Gore Hill studios in 1956?
5. When did the first children's library of Artarmon open?

(Answers on page 15)

Artarmon Library Opening Hours

Monday: 10am - 2pm
 Tuesday: 2pm - 5pm
 Thursday: 2pm - 8pm
 Friday: 2pm - 5pm
 Saturday: 10am - 1pm



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Thomas Newsome

Wildlife Ecologist

Jane Cozens

From a masters' degree on red fox management, a PhD in dingo ecology, to a Fulbright scholarship studying the reintroduction of wolves into parts of the US, Associate Professor Thomas Newsome is currently focussed on "rewilding" our local area.

The world is facing an extinction crisis. Did you know half the world's mammal extinctions have occurred in Australia over the past 200 years? This is due to habitat loss, introduction of predator animals, in particular foxes and cats, and climate change.

To investigate how humans impact animal ecology and biodiversity, Thomas established the Global Ecology Lab, part of the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at The University of Sydney. Together with research fellows, PhD and honours' students and local indigenous communities, their goal is to restore the food chain, return a natural balance to the environment and enhance biodiversity. "We translate science into impact through species reintroductions, habitat restoration, invasive species management, and strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflict."

Thomas' research and field trips regularly take him to the Tanami and Simpson Deserts where there are long term ecological monitoring projects in place, the Snowy Mountains and ACT, and the United States where he is involved in the Washington Predator Prey Project and a global extinction education program.

Thomas grew up in a family of ecologists in Canberra, studied at Sydney University and lived and worked for a period of time in Alice Springs. After his father's passing, he

discovered a half-finished manuscript "The Red Kangaroo in Central Australia" which his father had researched in the 1950s and 60s. Thomas completed and published the book as a joint author.

Thomas and his wife Fiona live in Artarmon with their two boys who attend Artarmon Public School and play soccer for Chatswood Rangers. They love the community feel of Artarmon and the school, and the suburb's proximity to the reserve and transport – a perfect combination in which all in the area would agree.

Rewilding in our backyard

Rewilding is a form of ecological restoration that, through the process of animal reintroductions, assists the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed.

Rewilding often involves removing predators like foxes and cats from fenced sanctuaries, allowing threatened and vulnerable species to return safely. Thomas is involved in such a project on the south coast of NSW where eastern quolls have been successfully returned to a predator-free sanctuary.

But more common species can also return on their own given a chance. Already in northern Sydney there has been an increase in populations of the long-nose bandicoots and brush turkeys (whether you love or hate them) following habitat protection and fox control.

To further rewild the northern Sydney area, historical records are being studied, habitat areas surveyed and native wildlife that is



"regionally common but locally missing" ranked. Interestingly, the bush rat is one of the top species identified to be reintroduced into this area. Unlike the introduced black rat, the bush rat will typically stay away from the home, and if their numbers are bolstered enough, they can out-compete the black rat and help reduce the impacts of this vermin. This is better than poisoning, especially given the increasing occurrence of secondary poisoning of native species that may ingest the poisoned remains.

Rewilding in urban areas also allows for an education process. As locals we can learn by awareness and change our behaviours: keep cats indoors; dogs on lead in bush areas; and join community groups, such as Bushcare.

More details about rewilding in the northern Sydney area will be available as the project gets underway. ●



Long nosed bandicoot: Wikipedia



Brush turkey: Andrew Silcocks



Dingo



Eastern quoll: Wikipedia

Trekking in Nepal Alison Cappetta

Earlier this year I joined 17 remarkable women from across Australia on a life-changing journey through the Himalayas as part of Trek for Girls Nepal 2025—a fundraising initiative supporting Girl Guides Australia. Together, we raised over \$40,000 to empower girls and young women through leadership, education, and global opportunity.

Our adventure began in Kathmandu, where we immersed ourselves in local culture—learning to cook traditional Nepalese dishes and even forging our own Gurkha knives with local artisans. From there, we travelled to Beni, crossing the breathtaking Gandaki Golden Foot Bridge, before beginning our trek in Galeshwar.

Over five days, we climbed through terraced orange groves, rhododendron forests, and sacred shrines, reaching altitudes higher than Mt Kosciuszko. We were welcomed into villages like Bas Kharka, Nangi, and Tikot, where we experienced the warmth of Nepalese hospitality—flower garlands, home-cooked meals, and even a spontaneous wedding celebration.

The most physically demanding day took us to Mohare Danda, 3,133 metres above sea level, through rain, hail, and thunder. But the reward—a rainbow stretching across the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges—was unforgettable.

Beyond the physical challenge, this trek was about connection. In Tikot, we stayed with local families whose homestay program funds education and sport for village children. We danced with our guides, shared stories over sweet tea, and saw firsthand how ethical tourism can uplift entire communities.



This journey was deeply personal. Girl Guides has shaped my life—from my first overseas trip at 15, to leadership roles, and even helping me return to the workforce after 16 years as a stay-at-home mum. It's an organisation that builds confidence, resilience, and purpose.

A heartfelt thank you to all my sponsors and in particular the Lane Cove Rotary Club for their generous \$750 donation towards my personal fundraising goal. Your support helped make this trek—and its impact—possible. The funds raised go to Girl Guides Australia to enable new programs, volunteer support, research, and international opportunities for girls across Australia.

As I reflect on the mountains we climbed, I'm reminded that the real summit was the spirit of community, courage, and compassion we carried with us. Together, we proved that when women—and communities—come together, extraordinary things happen. ●

Willoughby Literary Festival review

Jane Cozens

The inaugural literary festival held over two weekends in July was an outstanding success.

Over 1000 book lovers, authors, publishers and book sellers attended the 40 or so events fostering a sense of connection, shared viewpoints and creativity. Our mayor and many councillors were also spotted supporting this event.

Local highlights included author Jane Caro in conversation with Catherine Fox to discuss Jane's new book *Lyrebird* to a sellout crowd. Given their longstanding Artarmon friendship, both authors were entertaining as well as informative with Jane Caro discussing how her first crime novel came about, the issues introduced, as well as her writing process. Catherine was also able to give insights into her recent non-fiction book *Breaking the Boss Bias: How to get more women into leadership*.



Another Artarmon local, Jan Conway, our spotlight personality from Gazette edition 109, organised a panel of poets from the NSW Women's Writers Society to read and discuss their poems. Other popular panel discussions included crime, historical, multicultural and romance fiction with workshops and children's activities were well received. ●

GOVERNMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Two Artarmon groups have received funding through the NSW Government's 2025 Community Building Partnership (CBP) Program.

Member for Willoughby Tim James said the funding will support local groups that are at the heart of community life. "These grants will deliver grassroots improvements across a wide range of local facilities, clubs, schools and community organisations.

"It's fantastic to have secured this funding to support their work and help strengthen the places that bring us together," he said.

The two local grant recipients are:

- Artarmon Public School (P&C) – Installation of modern water stations for students and visitors to Thompson Oval
- St Basil's Anglican Church, Artarmon – Outdoor enhancement and kitchen upgrades for community events

"I congratulate each of the successful organisations and thank them for the vital role they play in building a better Willoughby" said Mr James.

Libraries of Artarmon Adrian Alexander

Libraries have always been important to residents of Artarmon. Artarmon School of Arts opened in the Drill Hall at 11 Broughton Road (now 3 Broughton Road) in 1918. It provided many services, including a lending library and billiard and card rooms.

In 1926, St Basil's Church of England bought the property and renamed the continuing organisation the St Basil's Institute. This Institute continued the same services as the School of Arts. The building later became the St Basil's Parish Hall until 1980 when the property was sold for construction of apartments.

In 1928, there also was a privately owned Artarmon Library, Book and Gift Shop on the corner of Wilkes Avenue and Elizabeth Street which had a lending library and sold a variety of gifts. At this time, Artarmon East side was still being subdivided.

In October 1943, Mrs Mary Matheson, co-convenor of the Children's Library and Crafts Movement addressed the Artarmon Public School Infant's Club about the merits of the Children's Library Movement. The school did not have its own library at that time.

As a result of that address, a *Children's Library* at Artarmon commenced as a registered charity.

The library opened on 10 March 1944 with two part time librarians and volunteers as assistants at 22 Elizabeth Street.

The adjoining block of land was also used for children's craft classes. The name of the library became the Artarmon Boys' and Girls' Library. The Council subsidised expenses of the library up to fifty pounds per annum.

By 1955, the Willoughby Council was being lobbied by the community to establish a library for adults.

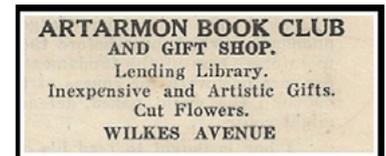
In 1956, the Council initially leased the adjoining land at 2 Elizabeth Street from the NSW Railway Commissioners and immediately began the construction of the buildings to be known as The Artarmon Junior Library and the Baby Health Care Centre. In late June 1957, the Council bought the land from the NSW Railway Commissioners. The registered charity continued to manage the new library. By this time, the Artarmon Public School had its own library. The new library operated each afternoon on school days and on Saturday mornings.

An adult section of the library was introduced in 1964 and the library changed its name to The Artarmon Community Library and by 1969 adults were making more use of the library than children. Extensions to the library building were completed in February 1971.

In 1975, the Council assumed full responsibility for the Artarmon library and the registered charity that ran the Artarmon Library was dissolved with its assets transferred to the Council.



1956 Artarmon Junior Library



APS Artarmon Journal 1928

In 1983, the Artarmon Progress Association recommended that the library building be named The David Warner Community Centre in honour of Mr David Warner, a Willoughby councillor and former Mayor who lived in Tindale Road, in recognition of his service to the community.

In November 2012, the Artarmon Library relocated to the old Artarmon Uniting Church building at 139 Artarmon Road where it is continuing to enjoy increased patronage.

Over the past ten years there has been a gradual introduction of community street libraries throughout Artarmon's residential precincts located within private properties but accessible on the fence line. There is also one on the Village Green. Books can be exchanged free of charge. Artarmon's love affair with books continues. ●

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Art Peace

Local Naomi O'Brien understands how hard it can be to find stillness daily. That's why she offers opportunities for the community to find stillness by using therapeutic creativity, engaging both mind and body.

For the last two years she has facilitated groups across Artarmon and nearby suburbs, engaging people through themes like creative first aid, ageing well, community connection and Neighbour Day. There are no incessant 'pings' demanding attention during her classes, workshops or individual sessions.

ArtPeace Therapy focuses on taking time to be creative. As an art therapist Naomi is passionate about using creativity to strengthen community connections and individual wellbeing.

Since setting up her business Naomi has formed valued partnerships with organisations including St George Community Housing, the Dougherty Centre (as part of the Willoughby Seniors' Festival), and Lane Cove Council. Through her work



with St George Community Housing on Barton Road, she has brought together community members to explore diverse creative modalities such as working with clay, watercolour, ink, mosaics, mandalas, and textiles—while engaging in rich conversations about cultural inclusivity, emotional wellbeing, and each person's internal world. These sessions provide a tranquil escape from daily life.

In addition to group facilitation, Naomi runs one-on-one art therapy sessions for children and teenagers. These personalised sessions provide a safe, creative space where young people can express themselves freely and begin to make sense of their experiences—supporting resilience, emotional regulation, and self-understanding.

Information about ArtPeace Therapy can be found on Facebook or Instagram. ●

A Repair Café for Artarmon?

SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND SKILLS!

Jasvinder Kaur

Do you have a broken toaster, a favourite shirt that needs mending, or a lamp that's stopped working? A local Repair Café may soon be coming to our Artarmon community—and we want your input!

A Repair Café is a free, volunteer-run 2-hour event, run over either one or two weekends each month, where people can bring broken or worn household items to be repaired with the help of skilled community members. It's a chance to reduce waste, save money, learn useful skills, and connect with neighbours in a welcoming, informal setting.

Typical items that could be repaired include:

- Small household appliances (like kettles, toasters, or lamps)
- Clothing and textiles (mending, patching, sewing buttons or zippers)
- Electronic items (basic troubleshooting and small repairs)
- Toys and handheld gadgets.

We want to hear from you! Would you find a Repair Café useful? What kinds of items would you bring? Your feedback will help shape the services offered and ensure the event meets the needs of our community.

We're also looking for volunteers to join a small set-up committee. If you're enthusiastic about sustainability, community projects, or event organising we'd love your help. You don't need repair skills—just an interest in making this project a success.

In addition, we're calling on local repairers to get involved. If you know how to fix small appliances, mend clothes, troubleshoot electronics, or even just help out with welcoming visitors or making tea, your time and talents would be greatly appreciated. Volunteering just a few hours at a Repair Café can make a big difference.

Whether you're a seasoned tinkerer, a skilled sewist, or someone with ideas to share, there's a place for you in this project.

Interested in getting involved, sharing your thoughts, or volunteering your skills? Please contact Jas Kaur on jkaurbd@gmail.com ●



Coffee with the birds

Judi Homewood

Patrons of cafes in Wilkes Avenue will be familiar with the small, grey-

feathered birds with black caps and cheeks, hanging about in small groups and eating food scraps when they can get them. They are Noisy Miners (*Manorina melanocephala*) aka "squeakers" or "soldier birds": one of the native honeyeaters, whose diet should be nectar, insects and native fruits. They have adapted well to urbanisation for several reasons. They have learnt to feed from introduced plants such as camellias, and, of course, human food when it is available.

Open areas with adjacent trees, especially where there are no dense shrubs to provide cover for smaller birds, suit their highly territorial nature. They drive out other birds by dive-bombing them and monopolise areas and food sources to the extent they can prevent another highly successful and aggressive birds, the feral Common

(or Indian) Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), colonising areas.

Noisy Miners are regarded as an environmental problem because of their impact on smaller native birds. In 2014 the Australian Government declared them a "key threatening process" but despite this, there is no current management plan. Two strategies to control numbers include revegetating gardens and parks with lower-storey and dense, prickly shrubs to provide shelter for other birds and preventing access to human food.

Lately the raucous call of the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Zanda funereal*) has been heard in Artarmon. These are large and flashy birds, mostly black in colour with yellow cheeks. Despite the name the yellow tail feathers are hard to see except when the birds are in flight. The second part of the scientific name, *funereal*, is a reference to their black colour. In suburban gardens they feast on the grubs and seeds in acacias, casuarinas and hakeas. ●

Heidi, we barely knew you.

Jacqueline Hole

There was very little time, but I did not know that when we met in April. I recognised your vulnerability (you had just checked out of a rehab clinic) but I also saw the glint of a sweet spirit determined to pursue a better life. You had ambitions to return to nursing training. You loved having a room of your own. It could be Artarmon was a convenient place to settle in, make use of the good public transport and access support services. You took notes and seemed keen to follow up on recommendations.

Heidi died on a drug dealers' kitchen floor in Artarmon on Sunday May 25. She was 24.

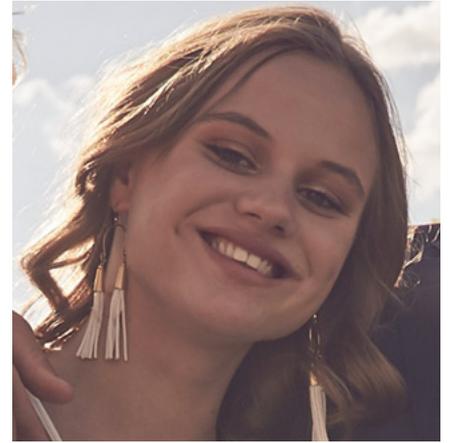
Her too-short life was troubled. Did being diagnosed with borderline personality disorder predispose her to abusing alcohol or was it a way to escape the torments? Her beloved mother had died just before I met Heidi. According to her sister their mother was Heidi's lifeline. She had lost "her person". Her father, sister and brother loved and supported her, but Heidi could be difficult to be around at times. Mental illness is an isolating companion. And grief is a lonely place.

Her family gathered in Mudgee to farewell Heidi in a dignified church service. Her small white coffin adorned with glorious sunflowers.

Heidi lived above the Hampden Road shops in a light filled apartment squeezed between the back street brothels and small businesses. When trouble came knocking – or in this case, someone breaking her kitchen window and mangling the door lock, the neighbours were there with CCT coverage and a place for her to run.

She kept her apartment neat, elegant in its spare but thoughtfully chosen furniture. It was her own body Heidi neglected – I could not get her to go to the hospital about her swollen and painful ankle.

I would see her round and about the Artarmon shops: Heidi had a gift for making friends but that was a mixed basket of good and bad. However we all need companions and recognise like-minded souls – in Heidi's case tormented ones as well as the caring ones. She was interested in joining the Artarmon Community Garden, a reflection of her nurturing nature that extended to



helping homeless people get a shower in her well tended, if tiny, apartment.

She is there still in the other souls we don't see on the margins of our suburb.

It was Frank the local locksmith who rang to tell me about your death. Frank who had attended three times, or was it four, to your broken lock or rekeyed it when a young homeless person had stolen your keys after you kindly let them into your place to rest up and wash their clothes. Frank also wanted to protect you from the devils at your door. But your misfortune was also within.

You knew so little of that in your young life. You deserved so much more. ●

Quiet Spaces in Artarmon (or bathing with your clothes on)

Sue Livingston

Have you heard of the Japanese practice of forest bathing? No towel required; it refers to immersing yourself in the atmosphere of the forest in a mindful way. Studies show that spending time in areas with trees and greenery has positive effects on wellbeing. Chronic stress, anxiety and low mood reduce and an uplift in outlook occurs. Research increasingly indicates a boost to physical health as well.

The beneficial elements of forest bathing are not confined to having



access to a large forest. Artarmon residents are truly fortunate to have so much green space to share. The tracks through the bush from Burra Road to the oval are beautiful at quiet times. Artarmon Park in Parkes Road has magnificent mature trees to enjoy on a meditative wander. The shared path from Weedon Road to the oval has a canopy of trees along its length. The Artarmon Community Gardens lends itself to a mindful walk and a sit in the morning.

If you would like to try a little mindfulness in nature, start with 5 or 10 minutes. Choose a quiet space to walk in an attentive way, or to sit. It is important to turn your phone to flight mode. As you sit or walk, open your senses: what can you see, hear, smell, touch or feel? Keep noticing and sensing what is happening from moment to moment, rather than judging and thinking ahead. If you notice something pleasant, let your attention rest there for a few extra breaths. At the end of your forest bath, "dry

off" by enjoying a full breath in and a long sigh out.

My favourite forest-bathing walk in Artarmon starts at the giant gumnut sculptures near the Artarmon oval. I notice the sunlight leaking through trees, different textures, feel the temperature of the air, I can smell gum trees, hear the birds, dripping water, and feel my walking feet, step by step.

When I began teaching yoga lessons in the (former) Artarmon Bowling Club 17 years ago, we looked out over the bowling green to the trees around the playground. As we practised our single-leg tree pose, my students focussed on their favourite tree to support their balance. I have been grateful to continue to teach in venues around Artarmon since the Bowlo closed for refurbishment and I am hoping we can return to the Artarmon Parklands Pavilion soon, when renovations are completed, to gaze out again as we do our yoga. The experience of trees and greenery gives balance in ways beyond just holding a pose. ●

Artarmon to Middle Harbour walking track Felicity Vacchini

Artarmon is lucky to have a small slice of tranquility (at least between trains!) in the bush of Artarmon Reserve. On any day along the reserve walking track you may meet dog walkers, early morning walkers, joggers, kids on the way to and from school and locals taking the more scenic route to the shops or station.



Artarmon Reserve is a small remnant of Blue Gum High Forest that once followed the clay ridge along the North Shore. Only one percent of this forest type remains and it is listed as an endangered ecological community. This patch of forest includes not only the tall blue gums (*Eucalyptus saligna*) but also tree ferns and a number of magnificent Sydney Red Gums (*Angophora costata*). It's well worth looking up to see the beauty of these trees silhouetted against the sky.

This stretch of track in the Reserve is part of the Artarmon to Middle Harbour interpretive walk which begins at Artarmon Railway Station and follows Flat Rock Creek Valley through the reserve, Bicentennial Park and Flat Rock Gully Reserve to Middle Harbour.

The walk is 3.5km one way and is graded as easy-medium with some steep parts. It has nine stopping points where you can read stories and see photos of historical interest on large poles. There are two signed stops in Artarmon Reserve - the sign closest to the oval includes an Artarmon time line of our evolution past from 100,000,000 years ago until 100 years ago.

The Artarmon to Middle Harbour walk can be done on its own or, if you're feeling energetic and have the time, as part of the Round Willoughby walk. The Round Willoughby walk is a 30km walking circuit made up of a connected series of walking tracks and was designed by resident Neil Hardie. It's been broken down into smaller sections of eight loop walks to provide more convenient options. These loop walks include foreshore tracks with spectacular views, hidden inland tracks with fern-filled gullies and areas rich in history. Each loop takes between 1 hour and 2.5 hours.

You can find maps and track notes for each route and many other walks on the Willoughby Council website. You can also download the Willoughby Walks App which has commentary on both heritage tours and bushwalks in the local government area. The app has self-guided tours for six bushland tracks with information provided at each numbered stop and audio commentary.

So next time you need a bit of tranquility, why not try one of these walks! ●



How bag thieves operate and how to outsmart them

Unfortunately, thieves often target handbags to steal valuables and personal information. The best way to stay safe is to be informed and proactive. Here are some common tactics thieves use—and simple steps you can take to protect yourself.

1. Snatching:

A thief grabs a bag from your shoulder or lap and runs.

Targets: Loose or unattended shoulder bags.

Prevention: Wear a crossbody bag positioned in front of you, and always keep a hand on it.

2. Strap cutting:

Using a razor, a thief cuts through a thin strap and escapes with your bag.



Targets: Bags with narrow leather straps.

Prevention: Use bags with thicker, cut-resistant straps, such as chains or reinforced materials.

3. Pickpocketing (a.k.a. dip and lift):

Often a two-person job—one distracts you while the other reaches into your bag.

Targets: Open or unzipped bags.

Prevention: Always zip your bag closed and consider bags with clasps or locks.

4. Kick and swipe:

In busy settings like restaurants, a thief may nudge your bag out of reach with their foot, then snatch it unnoticed.

Targets: Bags left under chairs or behind seats, especially those out of view or contact.

Prevention: Keep your bag touching you.

Wrap the strap around a chair leg or place it on your lap or in sight.

5. Bag slashing:

Thieves may slash the side or bottom of your bag in crowded spaces, hoping valuables will fall out.

Targets: Bags carried behind or to the side, especially if the owner is distracted.

Prevention: Carry your bag in front and keep a hand on it. Anti-slash materials add an extra layer of protection.

Stay Aware, Stay Safe:

Being alert and choosing the right bag can make all the difference. Whether you're out shopping or catching public transport, a little caution can go a long way.

For more tips and the latest news consider joining the Willoughby Neighbourhood Watch Facebook group. ●

Project Black Spot Chris Baker

The Artarmon Progress Association has always tried to take a proactive approach to traffic in the suburb. Artarmon is encircled by major transport corridors and with population increases some of our local roads are struggling.

One of our projects over the past couple of years is to improve traffic flow and pedestrian access on Artarmon Road, one of the busier roads in the suburb. With the help of local councillors, the Council's traffic group and local residents, we have seen the virtual disappearance of illegal heavy traffic from Artarmon Road. A number of traffic calming measures have already been installed, together with a pedestrian safety island near Cooney Road.

Email your suggestions
vicepres@artarmonprogress.org.au

As well, we have had recent input to several traffic issues in the newly re-modelled Artarmon Village.

The APA is now canvassing the local community to compile a list of what we all

think are some of the worst traffic blackspots in the suburb. There could be any number of reasons you might consider an area a traffic blackspot. It could be a road or intersection where cars speed unnecessarily, or an area where pedestrians are challenged to cross safely. It could be a zone where you think a bus stop could be relocated. Or does your grizzle relate to traffic flow, and your inability to get safely out of your driveway? Perhaps it is an irritatingly positioned parking sign or parking restriction. We are keen to hear from the Artarmon community regarding their thoughts on traffic issues and can filter these ideas and present them to Council.

We already have two for the list. A local resident has expressed concern regarding the pedestrian crossing on Hampden Road between Barton and McMillan Roads. She reports two near misses on the crossing and is rightly concerned given the proximity of the crossing to Artarmon School. (Her letter is included in this gazette). Another local resident has expressed concerns around traffic at the Brand/Elizabeth Streets roundabout and the lack of pedestrian



access points in this area. To us, these are both important issues that can be discussed with Council.

We ask the community to give Project Black Spot some thought. We will be canvassing options from our +300 members and email recipients over the next month or two.

In the meanwhile, if you have any thoughts, please contact our traffic person, APA Vice President, Chris Baker vicepres@artarmonprogress.org.au



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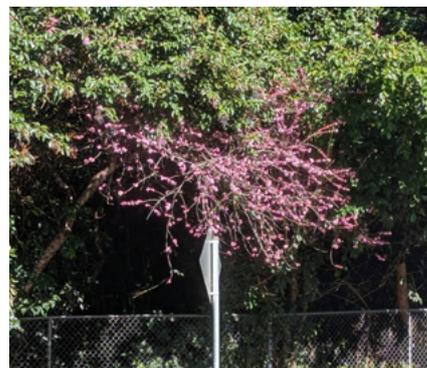
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Your Next Job



★★★★★

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.



Artarmon Parklands Community Garden

Chun Chan and Yuen Yuen Yip

A chill sweeps over the garden as winter comes and gardeners are rewarded with the winter plantings - different types of brassicas, an array of fascinatingly shaped squashes, colourful beans, a variety of leafy greens, fragrant herbs and of course – weeds. We have seen periods of abundant rainfall, accelerating the growth of the plantings and weeds, as well as lovely sunny days to dry out the soggy ground. The plants in our neighbourhood have indicated that the temperatures are warming. The blossom tree on Burra Road near the old library hall has bloomed as we head into the Boo’kerrikin season on the D’harawal seasonal calendar, and our seed handlers are busy sowing for the upcoming warmer weather.

Throughout August, access to the garden was challenging while work on the driveway road to the clubhouse was undertaken. This blocked off direct access from Burra Road for a few weeks and only the most determined gardeners were able to get into the garden.

Difficulties parking, wet weather and slippery alternative pathways made things challenging for our less mobile gardeners but those who could, continued to contribute to the care of the garden. We are very excited to see the light at the end of the tunnel with the transformation of the clubhouse and surrounds almost finished.

At the same time, the gardeners have undertaken additional fixes to improve safety for those who work in and visit the garden. One of our handy locals has made improvements to the uneven ground behind the storage shed. Previously an area difficult to maintain, now additional planting space has been created with terraces built into the slope to form stepped planting beds and the pathway is significantly safer for those who are rostered to care for the chickens. In addition, bracing has been installed on the trellises to support grip and grow. This make-safe replaces the former DIY (think cable ties) which were precariously securing the grip

and grow between the two side panels. The archway is now much safer for supporting vines and hanging vegetables.

The garden is a sanctuary for visitors and for the volunteer gardeners. It welcomes the novices, the experienced gardeners, children, the retired, Artarmon locals and those from afar, from all walks of life. It connects young and old, promotes wellbeing and forms community. The garden is truly a unique place.

The Annual General Meeting took place in July and two new committee members (Leah Bloomfield and Peter Pezzolesi) were elected to fill vacated roles. We look forward to the coming year of delicious crops, friendships and a completed clubhouse. ●

Email: ArtarmonCommunityGardensSec@gmail.com

The Zen of Weeding Candice Greensill

There is something about weeding that is eminently soothing. It’s a time when the phone is put inside to avoid the incessant pinging, and, if someone rings, well, they can leave a message.

My most favourite weeding is bindi-eyes on the nature strip, especially at this time of the year before they go to seed. The joy of digging out the central root with a weed digger and tossing it in the green bin is sooooo satisfying. And you don’t have to leave home to do it.

My neighbours, keen bush carers, get excited about the removal of wandering trad, broadleaf plantain, ehrharta/panic veldt grass and tropical chickweed as these ‘weeds’ choke the native grasses and ground covers in our treasured local bushlands. I have no idea what these weeds are, but the neighbours spend a couple of hours a month working as volunteers with a council co-ordinated

volunteer bushcare group and are now twelve months into their new passion for weeding.

The irony is that they didn’t even know how to identify these pesky weeds until they joined their group and undertook bushcare ‘training’. Now however, they love the quiet time out in the fresh air listening to the birds and revelling in the joy of seeing a patch of invasive weed intruders carefully and slowly removed. Quietly satisfying is how they describe it.

Friends who belong to the community garden also love weeding. They reckon there’s nothing better than a couple of hours in the community garden making it look lovely. The added benefit here is that the weeds in the community garden are given another life and turned into fertiliser or fed to the chickens. One of the easiest natural ‘home-made’ fertilisers is weed tea. Weed tea is made by throwing the weeds into a bin, filling it with water, and waiting a couple of weeks. As

the weeds break down they release all their nutrients and the diluted weed tea is used to fertilise the garden. Weed tea gets a bit smelly, but the end result is worth it.

A keen eye, some time, and a bit of research or training is all that’s required. The zen of weeding is a welcome quiet time to do some thinking, quieten the brain and chill.

Enquiries on how to join bushcare groups can be made by ringing the Bushcare supervisor on 9777 7875. To join the community garden, email ArtarmonCommunityGardensSec@gmail.com.

For your nature strip – just step outside your front gate. ●



ABC: A place in history

ABC Friends Northern Suburbs of Sydney (NSoS) Branch is calling for a sculpture, plaques, interpretive signage and other site markers to be installed at the Gore Hill Technical Park to commemorate former ABC television studios at Gore Hill (1955-2002).

"The ABC's former Gore Hill Television Studios made an enormous contribution to Australia's cultural, social and media history, particularly its news, current affairs, drama, comedy, documentary and children's programs like Four Corners, Play School and The Norman Gunston Show," said Janine Kitson, NSoS Branch Convenor.

The ABC's first television broadcast, ABN-2, was launched by Prime Minister Robert Menzies on 5 November 1956. Michael Charlton and James Dibble read the ABC's first television news broadcast, reporting on the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

The ABC Gore Hill television studios were located on the Pacific Highway, between

Campbell Street and Bradfield Senior College. More recently the site at Lanceley Place was sold off. In 1991 a purpose-built combined TV-radio studio opened in Harris Street, Ultimo, Sydney. In February 2025 new ABC studios opened in Parramatta Square.

A 2002 report recommended that a sculpture and interpretive signage be installed on the Gore Hill site to commemorate the nascent role that the ABC TV Studios played in the history of the nation.

"We were very grateful for the support of Willoughby City Councillors Kristina Dodds, John Moratelli, Anna Greco and Andrew Nelson who attended a guided tour of the site on 17 May 2025", said Janine Kitson.

Following this tour, Janine Kitson addressed a Willoughby City Council public forum urging council to implement the recommendations to install interpretation measures for the site as outlined in the 'Conservation Management Plan ABC Gore Hill Site, Gore Hill, NSW' prepared by Paul Rappoport Architect Pty Ltd in 2002.

"The only indication that it was once a television site is the remaining transmission

tower and the street sign 'Broadcast Way'", said Janine Kitson.

"Possible sites for plaques could include the Channel 7 Gateway Entry Pylons and transmission tower footings (both Heritage listed by Willoughby City Council); the former ABC Communications Tower (1963); the site of the former Bullbrooks Building that was known as the '729 Club' where journalists from Channels 7, 2 and 9 met after work for drinks; memorials including the one for Tony Joyce (1946-1980), an ABC Foreign Correspondent who died while reporting in Zambia".

ABC Friends NSoS Branch is a non-political, not-for-profit organisation representing northern Sydney residents and in 2024 it was awarded a NSW Parliament Community Recognition Statement for its work for the community.

NSoS meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

For more details contact Janine Kitson, Convenor, ABC Friends Northern Suburbs of Sydney Branch (NSoS), E: abcfriendsnsos@gmail.com M: 0428 860 623 ●

Artarmon Public School: Transitions

Ann-Marie Cahill

A few weeks ago, I overheard a couple of Year 6 students standing near the Kindy COLA at APS and watching the younger students running around. The 'COLA' is the open shelter in the upper playground area, next to the main school building on the Abbott Road campus. Most APS students start their school journey here, since it is the primary play area for kindy students.

The two Year 6 students were having a nostalgic moment: "Whoa. Do you see how tiny they are?!" His friend replied, "Yeah. That's why we gotta take care of them." There was a collective sigh before the two friends walked off to their classes on the McMillan campus, sharing stories they remembered from their own kindy days. Stories of how they first met, their favourite canteen orders, and the last one I heard was "remember that massive goal you kicked on the oval?" There was a moment of extreme pride as I realised these two senior students were watching out for their kindy cohort, guided by their own positive experiences as they grew up at APS.

That same sense of 'time passing' was captured beautifully during the school's 100 Days of Kindy celebrations in Term 3. While the kindergarten grade dressed up as 100-year-old citizens, the real celebration was seeing how much they had learned and experienced in 100 days of schooling. From reading and maths to new friendships, this was an important highlight of how much our kindy students can achieve in their first year and all the way to Year 6.

Principal Jono Coombes is also pretty chuffed to see moments like these fairly often. It's one of the perks of his job.

The first orientation for the 2026 enrolment took place on 27 August.

"Starting school is a significant milestone in a child and family's life; we want to provide the best introduction and transition into Artarmon and set not only the students, but the extended families up for success.

"Whether it's a new family joining our school community or a younger sibling who has



been waiting for this day to arrive for so long, come and learn what a school community is about. We thrive on connection and having a strong sense of belonging. We can't wait to meet you and have you join our amazing school."

Don't panic if you missed the first Orientation Day. You still have time to attend two more days in Term 4. Enrolment packs are available at the APS Administration Office, or you can attend a school tour on Friday, 7 November, starting at 9.30 am outside the Administration Office. ●

Feedback from our representatives ...

From the mayor



Tanya Taylor

As spring returns, so too does the energy and colour that makes our city such a vibrant place to live. It's a joy to see our community out enjoying the longer days, from playgrounds and parks to our local events and cultural celebrations.

A highlight of the season is the return of the Emerge Festival, a six-week celebration of creativity and community spirit. Whether you're enjoying live music, exploring the many peripheral events such as the Hongkonger's Street Market, Matsuri Festival, or Moon Festival or taking in the Chatswood Street Fair, there's something for everyone.

Adding to the cultural calendar, this year we celebrate the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra's 60th anniversary. Since 1965, the WSO has inspired audiences and fostered a love of music on the North Shore. The newly announced season marks six decades of creativity and connection. You can find the full program on our website.

Council continues to advocate on key local issues, including the future of the Royal North Shore Hospital precinct. The NSW Government has confirmed that Lot 4b, while no longer needed for clinical use, may support key worker housing and improved campus access. Importantly, the hospital's Master Plan protects space for future clinical services, with the ability to double capacity over the next 40 years. I'll be meeting with planning officials this month to ensure local voices remain part of this conversation.

Closer to home, construction is well underway on the Artarmon Parklands Pavillion, and it's exciting to see this long-anticipated community facility taking shape. Designed with sustainability, accessibility and connection in mind, the Pavillion will feature a multipurpose community room, kitchen, all-weather gathering space, and new public amenities, all set within landscaped surrounds.

We look forward to welcoming the community to this wonderful new space and celebrating its opening together once

complete. The Pavillion will become the third bookable community venue in Artarmon, alongside Barry Thompson Hall, behind the Library and the Kids Cottage. All venues can be easily booked online via Council's website.

There are also two great opportunities to help shape our city's future. The new Community Voice Panel invites residents, workers and students to take part in short workshops and surveys on Council projects. We're also seeking expressions of interest for our Advisory Committees, focused on key areas like sustainability, transport, bushland, and inclusion. You don't need to be an expert, just bring your ideas and genuine interest in one of the topic areas. Visit our Have Your Say webpage to learn more.

Finally, to our local HSC students: we know this can be a stressful time, and we're here to support you. Chatswood Library will offer dedicated study spaces and extended hours just for HSC students on select Friday evenings (6-9pm) in October. Tutors will also be available during these sessions to lend a hand. Keep an eye on the Library website for more details, and best of luck.

We've also launched our Councillor Community Engagement Pop-Ups for this term of Council – an opportunity for residents to meet councillors, share ideas, and raise local issues in an informal setting. Keep an eye on the dates. I encourage you to drop by and say hello.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any feedback or issues you'd like to raise with me.

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



Nic Wright

The recent reports of alleged abuse in Sydney childcare services have been deeply unsettling, particularly with local council-run centres in Artarmon named among the facilities where the accused worked. Like everyone in our community, I was appalled to read the details and my first thoughts are with the children and families affected.

These events have forced a hard but necessary question: is council the right

organisation to be running childcare services? I do not believe it is, and senior council staff have consistently advised us that we are operating outside our expertise in this space.

Council cannot be everything to everyone. Our job is to make sure the basics work for every resident: safe streets, well-kept parks, reliable infrastructure, and local services people can trust. That is what council is built to do well.

Childcare is different. It is a highly specialised and heavily regulated service that requires dedicated providers with the right systems, expertise, and focus. At Devonshire Street Childcare, council is losing close to \$1 million a year to operate a centre in a market where childcare vacancies already exist nearby. That level of subsidy is neither sustainable nor the best use of ratepayer money.

This is not about walking away from families. It is about making sure children are cared for by operators who are fully equipped for that responsibility. Experienced providers are better prepared to meet the high standards of safety and care that parents rightly expect. That kind of expertise should not have to come from the same organisation that is responsible for collecting your bins or fixing potholes.

The real shortage locally is in affordable preschool places, where waitlists are long and families are struggling to secure spots. By stepping aside as the operator and leasing Devonshire to a not-for-profit provider with the capacity to meet this need, we can help deliver safer, higher-quality early education without continuing to lose millions of dollars that could support other essential services.

Every dollar council spends should deliver clear value for the community. I will move a motion in September to begin this change because our community deserves services that are safe, effective, and delivered by those best prepared for the job.

I welcome your feedback on this proposal. Getting this right matters for parents, for children, and for the future of our community.

If you or anyone you know needs help, call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800.

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

Feedback from our representatives ...



Georgie Roussac

What's new in waste and recycling?

Starting 1 August 2025, Council will offer residents free mattress recycling services in partnership with Soft Landing, a leading national social enterprise. Soft Landing will collect mattresses and mattress ensemble bases directly from residential kerbsides. Soft Landing recovers and recycles up to 75% of all mattress components, the current industry maximum, which means less goes to landfill.

Starting 1 September, HomeCycle will replace RecycleSmart as our service provider for hard to recycle items and reusable household goods that can't go in our yellow recycling bin. HomeCycle collects items from your doorstep making it easy to recycle tricky items such as soft plastics, small e-waste items and batteries, good/clean and unwearable clothes and textiles, blister packs, small household items in good reusable condition, toys (but not soft toys), and more.

Each Willoughby Council household is eligible for one free collection per month however wait times may vary depending on demand. Council has switched to HomeCycle given they can collect more bags per pickup - a minimum of three bags is required per collection booking. Hopefully greater volumes per collection will reduce wait times, allow more households to participate, and minimise vehicle emissions through collection efficiency. Type HomeCycle in Council website's search engine.

Don't forget the Community Recycle Centre (8 Waltham Street, Artarmon) offers free drop-off for household items that can't be collected by kerbside bulky waste clean-ups or put in your yellow recycling bin such as e-waste (large and small items), paint, gas bottles, light globes, CDs/DVDs, printer cartridges.

Council is rolling out signage to reduce contamination in yellow recycling and green vegetation bins – look out for stickers on your bins and in apartment waste recycling rooms.

Best of all though is to avoid and reduce the amount of waste we create at home and in our community. One way to do this via repair cafes which fix broken items. There's one in Lane Cove. Also The Sydney Library of Things (LoT) loans extremely useful but only occasionally used items like gazebos, tools, household appliances. Why buy when you can borrow? There are many LoT locations to choose from including Lane Cove.

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



Anna Greco

Take the proposed development at 33–37 Herbert Street, St Leonards. If this project is endorsed by the Housing Delivery Authority (HDA), it will be recommended to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, who can then issue a Ministerial Order to declare it a State Significant Development (SSD).

Once that happens, the application skips council review altogether and goes straight to the State for assessment and approval. Under this process, local councils play no formal role. They don't assess or approve the project. Instead, the final decision is made by the Minister (or a delegate), based on a merit assessment led by the Department of Planning.

The current 33–37 Herbert Street proposal includes three residential towers, with the tallest reaching 110 metres—about 33 storeys. That's a significant increase from earlier plans submitted to Willoughby Council, which proposed buildings around 65 metres tall (roughly 18 storeys). Those earlier plans triggered real community concerns, including increased traffic, overshadowing, and overdevelopment.

This proposal qualifies for SSD because it includes over 300 apartments, with 10% dedicated to affordable housing for essential workers. It's also located close to St Leonards Station and the Crows Nest Metro.

One of my biggest concerns right now is how the NSW Government is fast-tracking major housing projects - and cutting local councils out of the process.

The next step is to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Once released, the public will be able to comment—but the final decision still rests with the State Government, not our locally elected council.

This is just one of many projects in NSW now moving through this fast-track process. And in my view, bypassing councils is not in the best interest of our community—not now, and not for the future of our city.

I will continue to do everything I can to stand up for residents' rights and push for local decision-making—especially when it affects our neighbourhood's liveability, growth, and character. If you have questions or concerns, please get in touch. Let's work together to ensure our community has a real say in its future.

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TAIPEI CHEF CHANGES HANDS

After 17 years in Artarmon, Taipei Chef's owners, Mei and Antonio, have taken a well-earned retirement – handing over to new owners.

Artarmon welcomes “Hoo & Tu's Kitchen” to Broughton Road.

The restaurant serves “Malaysian Chinese flavours with a touch of Taiwanese soul, all cooked from scratch, from the heart”.

Look for the special dishes such as Hainanese Chicken Rice, Chow Mein and classic Laksa.



QUICK QUIZ answers

1. 1918
2. Squeakers or soldier birds
3. Forest bathing (or shinrin-yoku)
4. Michael Charlton and James Dibble
5. 1944

SNAP SHOT

ARTARMON

Laing+Simmons
Artarmon

VOL.49

MARKET WRAP UP

Winter has proven to be another strong period for the Sydney property market, with auction clearance rates averaging an impressive 70% across the season. This level of buyer activity has been underpinned by continued demand for quality homes and renewed confidence following the additional interest rate cut in August, which has further strengthened buyer sentiment.

A key trend this winter has been the clear preference from buyers for renovated, move-in-ready properties. Homes that are tastefully and extensively updated are achieving a noticeable premium, with many attracting strong competition and selling above expectations. Conversely, properties requiring significant work are taking longer to sell and often attracting proportionately greater discounts compared to their fully renovated counterparts.

With buyer demand remaining high, particularly in the downsizer and first home buyer markets, we anticipate that momentum will carry through into spring. This sentiment is reinforced by feedback from our service providers – including trades, property stylists, and photographers – all whom are reporting a busier schedules and a stronger pipeline of bookings looking this the coming period, a strong indicator that more vendors are preparing their homes for sale in the coming months.

If you are thinking of selling or would like to know how your property compares in the current market, our experienced team would be pleased to provide tailored advice and assist you in achieving the best possible result for your property.

SALES RESULTS FOR WINTER 2025

STREET ADDRESS				Sale Price	Sale Date
1/9 BROUGHTON ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,150,000	7-May-25
17 CAMERON AVENUE	5	3	4	\$6,000,000	8-May-25
4/25A HAMPDEN ROAD	2	1	1	\$849,999	12-May-25
7/3 ELIZABETH STREET	3	1	2	\$1,150,000	13-May-25
45/6 FRANCIS ROAD	3	2	2	\$1,800,000	17-May-25
13/11 HAMPDEN ROAD	2	1	1	\$900,000	22-May-25
55 SHEPHERD ROAD	4	2	3	\$3,675,000	28-May-25
43/421-473 PACIFIC HIGHWAY	3	2	2	\$1,350,000	28-May-25
4A/3 JERSEY ROAD	2	2	1	\$1,185,000	31-May-25
203/4 BROUGHTON ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,130,000	31-May-25
5/3 BARTON ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,192,500	31-May-25
52 ARTARMON ROAD	4	2	2	\$4,225,000	31-May-25
1/9-11 KITCHENER ROAD	4	2	1	\$1,980,000	3-Jun-25
6/14 CLELAND ROAD	2	1	1	\$850,000	3-Jun-25
4/1 MCMILLAN ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,100,000	10-Jun-25
34/2 BARTON ROAD	2	1	1	\$850,000	23-Jun-25
19 STAFFORD ROAD	3	1	2	\$4,370,000	28-Jun-25
7/1-3 PARKES ROAD	4	3	2	\$2,420,000	4-Jul-25
6/1 PALMER STREET	2	1	1	\$1,091,000	9-Jul-25
12B MILNER ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,400,000	15-Jul-25
9B/1 FRANCIS ROAD	3	2	1	\$1,720,000	17-Jul-25
5H/1 FRANCIS ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,035,000	18-Jul-25
6/3 MILNER ROAD	3	1	2	\$1,800,000	19-Jul-25
39/2 BARTON ROAD	2	1	1	\$886,100	19-Jul-25
4/36 ELIZABETH STREET	2	1	1	\$995,000	26-Jul-25
2/344 MOWBRAY ROAD	2	1	1	\$838,000	28-Jul-25
5/1 MILNER ROAD	3	1	2	\$1,800,000	28-Jul-25
23/17 HAMPDEN ROAD	2	1	1	\$1,032,500	31-Jul-25

*Data where prices disclosed from the period 01/05/25 – 05/08/25 via RPData.



Meet the team
@
Laing + Simmons Artarmon




lsre.com.au/artarmon

		Quantity	Lowest Sale	Highest Sale	Median Value	Average Value
House	3 Beds	2	\$2,100,000	\$4,370,000	\$3,235,000	\$3,235,000
	4+ Beds	3	\$3,675,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,225,000	\$4,633,333
Unit / THouse	2 Beds	25	\$838,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,051,884	\$1,100,925
	3+ Beds	7	\$1,150,000	\$2,420,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,745,714

SALES SUMMARY FOR WINTER 2025