

Hot contest for Naremburn seats

by Eva Wiland, Artarmon Gazette editor

There will be a hot contest for the three Naremburn Ward seats on Willoughby City Council in the lead up to the September 8 local elections after two seats were vacated by outgoing councillors Kate Lamb and Barry Thompson.

Based on the nominations on August 8 and the information at hand as the Artarmon Gazette went to print, 12 candidates are standing for the three seats – seven independents, three Labor and two Liberal candidates.

In group A is Naremburn resident Vanessa Adams, who is running, independent with two Liberals on her ticket – North Willoughby resident Abbas Abroon and Willoughby resident Alan Tomlinson.

In group B is lifelong Willoughby City resident Nic Wright, 29, who is



Glenda Gartrell



Nic Wright



Michelle Sloane



Robert Newman



Susan Biggs



Stuart Coppock

running a Labor ticket with Artarmon resident Glenda Gartrell and April Pressler of Naremburn. Nic has been involved in several not-for-profit organisations. A former Artarmon Public School student, Nic is basing his campaign on a keen interest in social engagement. He is passionate about delivering results to ensure Willoughby remains a great place to live, work and relax.

Ex APA president Michelle Sloane is in group C, independent (see: www.michellesloane.com). On her

ticket are Susan Biggs, Naremburn resident and Robert Newman, Artarmon resident and also a former APA president. They stand for active engagement and involvement in the community; local support for the aged, including appropriate housing; and protecting, maintaining and restoring the area's natural and built environments. "We are focused on representing everyone in that community in an open and honest way," Michelle told the Artarmon Gazette.

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Artarmon farewells outgoing councillors

by Eva Wiland, Gazette editor

APA was the springboard for Barry Thompson in the council elections eight years ago. He has been Artarmon's resident councillor and before that spent several years on the APA committee and the Gazette. He was one of two Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations (FPA) vice presidents in the two years before his election. "That experience gave me some idea of what I would face as a councillor," he told the Gazette.

Barry won his first election by the very close margin of two votes, decided after a recount and hearing before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. "I was pleased that I was able to increase my vote at the second election and came out with a comfortable margin," Barry said.

"I believe I have represented all the diverse streams of the Artarmon community in my time on council and have attempted to look at the 'bigger picture' rather than be caught up in some of the petty politics and rivalries that can distract the public's attention." He mainly campaigned on the environment and building a sustainable future issue. "I may choose to follow up this interest after I leave council," he said.

Kate's future role will be on a more personal note – as grandmother for the first time. "I find that contemplating the future of this new life is what gives me common cause with others in a metaphorical as well as a real sense," she said.

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Reflecting on her 21 years on the council, three as deputy mayor, she told the Gazette she was pleased to be associated with its achievements such as the Hallstrom Park playground and oval taking over from being Gordon Rugby Club's clubhouse and home ground; the final affordable housing provisions in the WLEP; an extensive network of bicycle infrastructure; bushland management practice "second to none"; and the northside Aboriginal Heritage Office. ■

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In group D is Stuart Coppock, who is seeking re-election as an independent. On his ticket are independents Robert Manning and Orla Murphy, both Naremburn residents. He is also standing for Willoughby Mayor, challenging long time incumbent Pat Reilly.

Stuart's "Believe in better" mayoral campaign kicked off on July 25 (see: <http://www.facebook.com/stuart.coppock>). His election promises include new lighting for Artarmon Reserve; a yearly Willoughby City musical and arts festival; preserve residents parking outside their homes; an "arms length" review of the council's finances; and commitment to Artarmon's conservation areas. "Master planning is a proven way to proceed with urban change," he said at his campaign launch. "West Artarmon is a solid example of this. The [NSW] Government's green paper provides an opportunity to approach town planning [this way] (see p10) but it also provides a serious challenge to retain some of our land use gains."

APA is inviting all the nominated candidates for Naremburn Ward to a public meeting on Wednesday, August 29, at 7:15pm, at Artarmon Community Hall at 139 Artarmon Rd.

For those who will be away on election day, go to http://www.votensw.info/councils/willoughby_city_council for postal vote applications. Pre-poll voting will take place from August 27 to September 7, at the Dougherty Community Centre, 7 Victor St, Chatswood.