

10 March 2020

Mr Michael Cashin
Community Life Manager
Willoughby City Council
Level 4, 31 Victor Street
Chatswood NSW 2067

Dear Mr Cashin,

Willoughby City Council – Artarmon Parklands Development

The Artarmon Progress Association welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Artarmon Parklands Development.

The Artarmon Progress Association advised members of the Have Your Say survey on the Willoughby City Council website and invited their input to help shape the Artarmon Progress Association response.

Our community has expressed the strong desire to preserve and build on the features and benefits of the existing clubhouse facility. Many would prefer to retain the clubhouse, and many believe the facility should be redeveloped. Three strong and consistent themes have come through in the feedback: ecologically sustainable development; historic preservation; and social, connected communities.

Design Features & Uses

Ecologically sustainable development

There is strong community support for the facility to adhere to the concept of ecologically sustainable development. Members stressed the importance of reducing consumption of non-renewable resources, minimizing waste, and creating healthy, productive environments. Key design features requested for the site include:

- a. generate renewable energy
- b. dispose of waste onsite including environmentally friendly composting toilet system
- c. incorporate greywater systems
- d. preserve and reuse Clubhouse structural components and materials
- e. allow rainwater harvesting
- f. use solar & LED lighting
- g. durable and beautiful, in keeping with its setting.

Historic preservation

Preserving the history associated with the former Artarmon Bowling Club is of critical importance to many in the community, particularly the important role women played during the formation and patronage of the bowling club c1957 and the post-war architecture. There are a number of heritage items that require preserving such as the large honour board. A story board that reflects the women's contribution to the social and cultural development of our community was also requested.

Of equal importance is acknowledging and capturing earlier histories. The Cammeraygal clan, and potentially the Wallumedegal clan, are the original habitants of the area and held strong associations to the land. This aspect of our history must also be recognised.

Social, connected communities

All responses from members highlighted the critical importance of an inclusive facility that provides space for all ages and all walks of life.

Members stressed the need for an all-weather fully enclosed space for community groups to gather for:

- recreational purposes including dance, fitness and exercise classes. Members are keen to preserve and reuse the clubhouse's wooden floorboards to reduce injury and improve comfort during classes.
- educational purposes including a "Repair Café" and classes focused on renewable energy, bush care skills, organic gardening and ecology/threatened species.
- one-off hire for low key private functions, social events and workshops (noting restriction on noise and time curfews were important).

A weather protected space for larger gatherings was also a popular concept to service larger community meetings, neighbourhood gatherings and celebrations.

Accessibility features were considered essential and non-negotiable. These included accessible toilet facilities and an accessible entrance to the Artarmon Parklands facility and playground.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club was designed to overlook the 'lower green'. Maintaining the panoramic view over the existing playground maintains the historical design features and offers a wonderful connection between the facility and the playground.

The site also has an eye to the newly established community garden. Although still in its establishment phase, the community garden is proving to be a popular destination and place of interest. Developing a facility that complements the community garden and playground environments and meets the needs of a growing and diverse patronage is a challenge and wonderful opportunity.

The Artarmon Progress Association looks forward to working with the Willoughby City Council to develop a facility that achieves the optimal outcome for the Artarmon community and visitors to the area.

Yours faithfully



Georgina Roussac

President

Who we are

The Artarmon Progress Association, Inc. was founded in 1906 as a not-for-profit group and our objectives are to promote the welfare, physical and intellectual advancement of the suburb of Artarmon and the City of Willoughby, to protect the interests of the residents, and to encourage a keener spirit of citizenship and mutual help amongst residents.

Our newsletter, the Artarmon Gazette, is distributed quarterly to over 5,000 homes and businesses in Artarmon. We regularly communicate with residents and act as a conduit between local residents and elected representatives on matters concerning our local community.