

WILLOUGHBY CITY NEWS



Council's fight for Flat Rock Creek

Willoughby City Council is fighting to protect Flat Rock Creek in the wake of last year's devastating pollution incident.

On Monday 5 December 2022, a major fire broke out at the Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre at Artarmon, which is within the Flat Rock Creek catchment. Soon after, community members reported significant foam plumes and fish kills in the natural areas of the creek in the suburbs



of Naremburn and Northbridge (pictured left).

Following a Council resolution on 12 December 2022, the Council wrote to the

NSW Environment Protection Authority, seeking the outcomes of testing results and urging regulatory action to better manage pollution impacts from the Cleanaway site.

The Council has also resolved to:

- Work on, and seek funding for, new projects that improve water quality in the catchment, including natural wetland and pond areas and additional gross pollutant traps; and
- Continue to raise concerns about the Beaches Link project, in particular the Flat Rock Drive construction site which has the potential to cause damage to the Flat Rock Gully area.

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In the catchment, there are currently four gross pollutant traps (which trap waste before it enters the waterway) and 15 bio-filtration devices (gardens on the side of the road which intercept and help filter stormwater). The Council is planning to install a further ten bio-filtration devices in this catchment over 24 months.

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Welcome to the first edition of Willoughby City News for 2023. The lack of COVID-19 restrictions, along with beautiful summer weather, has helped ensure a busy start to 2023.



I am sure many residents took part in our Lunar New Year festivities, which included enjoying the eight inflatable rabbits set around the Chatswood CBD and many free events, as well as our fabulous lantern parade and Willoughby Symphony Orchestra concert in Chatswood Park.

In February and March, Willoughby City also hosted a series of events and activities for Sydney World Pride, including an interactive Rainbow Accordion at The Concourse. We also held our much-loved annual Seniors Festival.

There has also been plenty of action when it comes to new capital works.

As covered in this edition of City News, the Council has completed the 3.5km Pacific Highway shared path, which makes it far easier for everyone to cycle or walk between St Leonards and Chatswood.

The Council has also commenced construction of the Willoughby Leisure Centre redevelopment, and is part way through upgrading our beautiful Northbridge Baths.

Many residents may have noticed that drainage and returfing works have now been completed at Alan Hyslop Oval at Willoughby East, and the dogs and local community are loving the lush new grass.

On a personal note, I was very excited to name the four Willoughby community members honoured as part of our 2023 Citizens of the Year Awards. Special congratulations to Maria Chan (Citizen of the Year), Lucy Periera (Young Citizen of the Year), Meredith Foley (Environmental Citizen of the Year) and Mary Anne Veliscek (Cultural and Community Development Award).

Wishing you all well as we head into Autumn, and the cooler months of the year.

Cr Tanya Taylor
Mayor, Willoughby City Council

CELEBRATING OUR SMALL CRITTERS

Dozens of inspiring and humorous stories, poetry and artwork from Year 5 students have been celebrated in Willoughby City Council's latest Wildlife Storybook, which champions the vital biodiversity role played by small bush creatures.

Around 50 proud students and their parents, grandparents, carers and teachers gathered at Chatswood City Library for the launch of the 12th annual Wildlife Storybook. The Wildlife Storybook is a culmination of a Council-led program that sees each Willoughby primary school visited by Bushland Education Officers to learn about the local environment and the creatures within it. The students work with their teachers to research a particular animal and share stories with their classmates.

The book celebrates Willoughby as home to many small species including ants, snakes, bats, small birds, bugs, plankton and seahorses. These species, although mostly unseen, play a vital role as essential decomposers, soil aerators, fertilisers, seed stors, transporters and pollinators. A Golden-tailed Spiny Ant artwork by Castle Cove Public School student Olivia (pictured right) was selected for the front cover.

The Wildlife Storybook can be purchased for \$10, or borrowed, at Chatswood City Library, or downloaded at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/School-Programs





SUMMER FACELIFT FOR NORTHBRIDGE BATHS

Swimmers flocked to the iconic and historic Northbridge Baths over summer to take advantage of upgraded access points and an improved and safer pool walkway.

As part of \$370,000 in works, new rubber softfall material has been installed around the bath's perimeter walkway (pictured above). In addition, new stairs have been constructed from the carpark directly to the grassed area near the baths, while an existing set of stairs from the carpark to Widgiewa Rd have also been upgraded. Slip-resistant rubber tiles have also been placed on stairs leading into the water.

Council has invested \$220,000 into the project, while the NSW

Government provided \$150,000 through its Places to Swim Grant Program.

Further works are planned during autumn, including the installation of permanent ground-cover under the existing shade sail, a new energy efficient smart BBQ and new turf areas.

Often called 'one of the hidden jewels of Willoughby City', the Northbridge Baths opened in 1924 and will next year celebrate 100 years of use.

LEISURE CENTRE WORK UNDERWAY

Construction work is now underway on a \$38.9 million upgrade to create a modern and expanded Willoughby Leisure Centre.

On 8 February, Willoughby Mayor Tanya Taylor, Willoughby MP Tim James and Belmadar Managing Director Alf Marrocco celebrated the commencement of work. Belmadar is a Naremburn-based construction company. The Council is providing just under \$34 million in funds for the works, with the NSW Government providing \$5 million from its Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund. The upgraded centre is due to be completed by mid-2024.



HIGHWAY TRANSFORMED INTO ACTIVE TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

Cyclists and pedestrians can now travel between Chatswood and St Leonards using a safe off-road path, following the opening of the 3.5km Pacific Highway shared path.

The \$5.8 million shared path was built by Willoughby City Council, with the support of \$2.29 million in NSW Government funding from its Precinct Support Scheme.

The shared path is a clever re-purposing of the existing Pacific Highway footpath and road verge into pedestrian and cycling route, including new landscaping and bus shelter relocations. As shown in the map to the right, the path begins at Herbert St, St Leonards and runs to Nelson St, Chatswood. After a short 100m section of on-road travel on Nelson St (a quiet cul-de-sac) pedestrians and cyclists can then use the existing off-road Frank Channon Walk alongside the North Shore train line to travel directly into the Chatswood CBD.

This shared path is in line with the Council's community priority to enhance transport options and connections, including increasing the number of journeys to work which do not use a motor vehicle.

The shared path has been designed to integrate with Willoughby's active transport network, including connections to the Gore Hill Freeway shared and cycling paths, and on-road

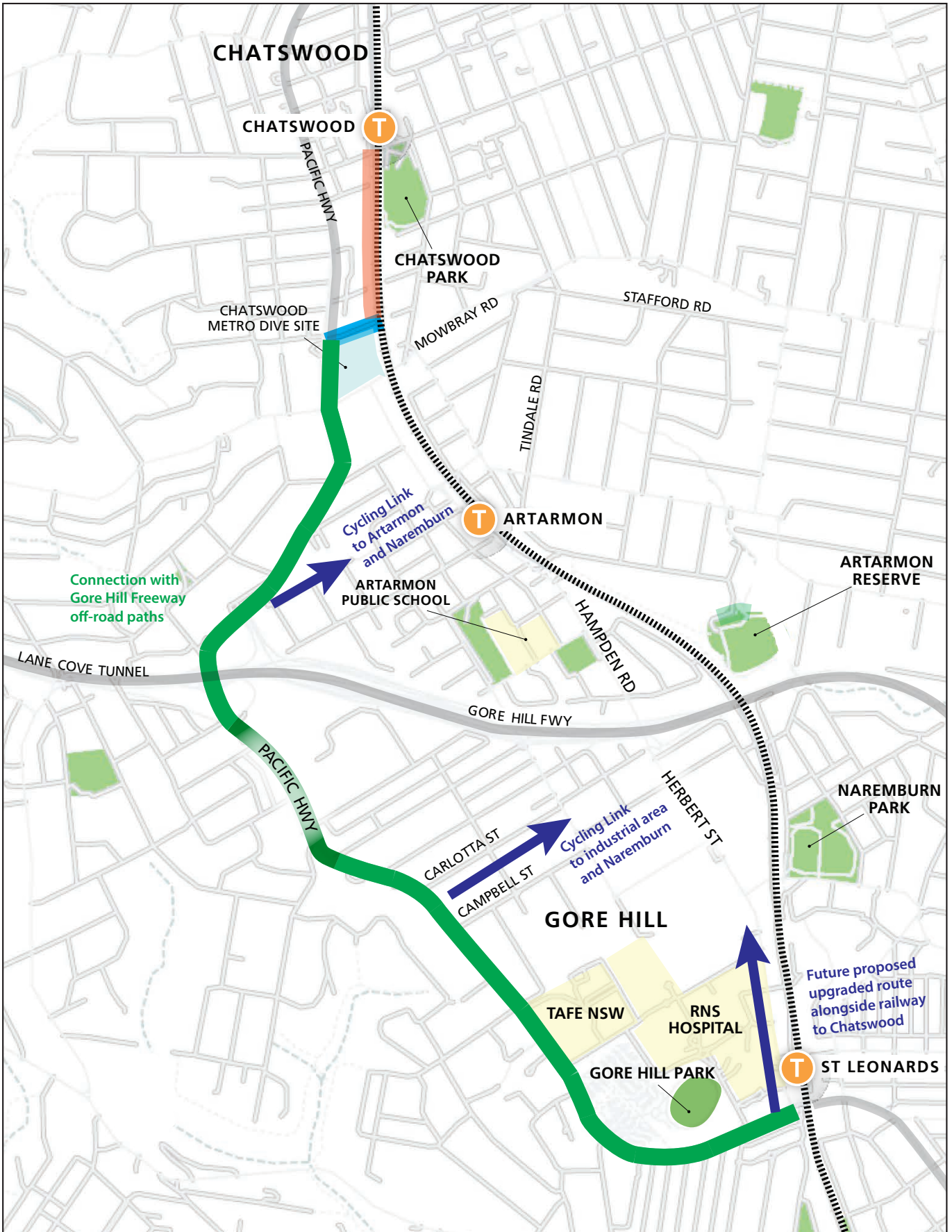
cycling routes to the Artarmon industrial area, Artarmon railway station and Naremburn local centre.

A second stage of the Pacific Highway path project, involving the installation of specialist bicycle crossings at signalised intersections along the route, is due for completion by December 2023.

Willoughby City Council is currently planning an additional cycling and pedestrian route between St Leonards and Chatswood, which will be parallel to the North Shore railway line and run through the Artarmon local centre.



MAP: NEW PACIFIC HIGHWAY SHARED PATH



KEY

- New off-road shared path (Pacific Highway)
- New marked on-road bicycle route (Nelson Street)
- Existing off-road path (Frank Channon Walk)

EVENTS

SUSTAINABILITY



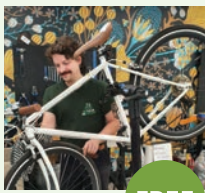
FREE

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOWCASE

29 APRIL, 10AM - 2PM

What: Could your next car be an electric vehicle (EV)? Come check out some EVs up close and learn more about them from their owners.

Where: Chatswood Mall, corner Victoria Avenue and Victor Street, Chatswood



FREE

BIKE REPAIR AND RECYCLE

21 MAY, 2PM - 5PM

What: Learn all the basics of fixing your bike so you can save money and ride safely. There will also be a drop-off point for any unwanted bikes to be reused or recycled on the day.

Where: Northern Suburbs Netball Association Club Room, 2/4 Small Street, Willoughby.



FREE

ENERGY TRIVIA NIGHT

11 MAY, 6.30PM - 8.30PM

What: Come along for a fun night of energy-related trivia and compete in a team to win prizes.

Where: Willows at Willoughby Park Bowling Club, 13 Robert Street, Willoughby East

ZENITH THEATRE



DISNEY ALADDIN JNR

24 MARCH TO 1 APRIL

What: Discover 'A Whole New World' with this magically updated version of the Academy Award-winning Disney classic

Cost: \$29

Where: Corner McIntosh Street and Railway Street, Chatswood



THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

21 APRIL TO 29 APRIL

What: Jim Coyle's new arrangement of The Pirates of Penzance is a high-energy romp full of fun, action and adventure.

Cost: \$38 - \$44

Where: Corner McIntosh Street and Railway Street, Chatswood



BE MORE CHILL

5 MAY TO 13 MAY

What: The fan-favourite musical *Be More Chill* is a rocking new sci-fi musical about growing up, high school, and what we will do to get what we want.

Cost: Adults \$49, Concession \$45

Where: Corner McIntosh Street and Railway Street, Chatswood

VISUAL ARTS



FREE

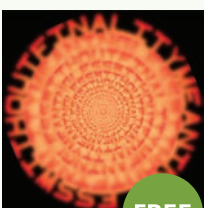
SMART EXPRESSIONS

8 MARCH - 2 APRIL

What: A Council curated exhibition of student artworks selected from the 2022 NSW HSC.

Where: Art Space on The Concourse, 409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

Image: Aram Zarigian, *It's All in the Detail* (detail), 2022, digital photography



FREE

SPIRIT WAVE

3 - 28 MAY

What: An exhibition exploring spirituality in a diverse and contemporary world.

Where: Art Space on The Concourse, 409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

Image: Miguel Olmo, *meaninglesswithoutfinality* (work in progress), 2023, digital animation still

WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (WSO)



DEDICATIONS

20 MAY, 7 - 9.30PM

21 MAY, 2 - 4PM

What: Hear WSO's Concertmaster Maria Lindsay perform Anna Pavlova's lush Monolog, alongside a performance of Australian jazz legend Tommy Tycho's Violin Concerto, dedicated to Lindsay herself.

Cost: \$15.30 - \$57

Where: The Concourse, Chatswood



FANTASTIQUE

29 JULY, 7 - 9.30PM

30 JULY, 2 - 4.30PM

What: Embark on a fantastic journey of discovery with Dr Nicholas Milton AM and the WSO.

Cost: \$15.30 - \$57

Where: The Concourse, Chatswood



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LIVE AT LUNCH



BAROQUE AND CLASSICAL TREASURES FOR FLUTE AND GUITAR

26 APRIL, 12 - 1PM

What: Leading classical guitarist Giuseppe Zangari and flute virtuoso Jane Rutter are fast becoming one of Australia's favourite flute guitar duos. Don't miss their brand new program featuring works by the great Baroque composers and the 'father' of the Classical period, Joseph Haydn.

Cost: \$38 - \$64

Where: The Concourse Concert Hall, Chatswood

ART EXHIBITION WINNERS

Four winners were selected from more than 50 entries to a Willoughby art exhibition, which is set aside for people who are living with disability, experiencing social isolation or at risk of marginalisation.

During December 2022, the *Connect, Collaborate, Celebrate* art exhibition was held at the Dougherty Community Centre at Chatswood.

Now in its fourth year, the exhibition is a platform for artists of all abilities to promote themselves and expand their creative talent. This year's exhibition attracted 56 entries from all over Northern Sydney. Pictured below: *Flutter Flutter* (detail) by Alison Hall



HUGE CROWDS ENJOY YEAR OF THE RABBIT

Thanks to great weather and an expanded range of events, Chatswood's 2023 Lunar New Year (Year of the Rabbit) festival enjoyed increased interest and visitation.

The festival's website witnessed a considerable surge in online traffic, recording 80,000 page views – a 35 per cent increase from last year's 60,000. Meanwhile the Chatswood NSW Facebook and Instagram pages also saw major audience jumps.

The Lunar New Year Comedy Festival was a remarkable triumph, with an 80 per cent attendance rate and significant social engagement, expanding its appeal to a wider demographic.



Pictured above: Chatswood's Twilight Lantern Parade held in February 2023 was very popular.



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AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Willoughby City Council has celebrated the significant achievements of four community members who've been honoured at the Council's 2023 Citizen of the Year awards.

The four award winners are:

- Maria Chan – Citizen of the Year (pictured right with Willoughby's 2023 Australia Day Ambassador George Ellis, Mayor Tanya Taylor and NSW MP Tim James)
- Lucy Periera – Young Citizen of the Year
- Meredith Foley – Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Mary Anne Veliscek – Cultural and Community Development Award

Maria is the President and Chartered Member of the Rotary Club Chatswood International and has worked diligently with the local Willoughby community to raise funds for various local projects. Lucy Periera has been part of the Chatswood Youth Centre volunteer management team for more than three years and is also part of the Willoughby Youth Action Group. Meredith Foley was awarded for her outstanding commitment to environmental conservation through her involvement with the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) and many Council community events. Mary Anne Veliscek is a member of the Market Gardens Park Community Garden. She is responsible for initiating the building of raised garden beds at the garden to accommodate users with physical disabilities to get involved with gardening.



MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Council is made up of 13 Councillors including a popularly-elected Mayor. Councillors represent one of the four wards that make up Willoughby, while the Mayor represents all the wards.

MAYOR



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