



**The Cammeraygal People:** The Cammeraygal people of the Guringai nation lived in the Willoughby area until the 1820s and are recorded as being in the northern parts of the Sydney region for approximately 5,800 years. By 1830 there were no Aboriginal people following a traditional lifestyle in the area.

**Geography:** Artarmon is a landlocked suburb, 9 kilometres northwest of the Sydney central business district in the Willoughby local government area.

**Demographics:** The population in 2011 from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population was 8,642 residents in Artarmon, 50.7% of residents were born in Australia. The most common other countries of birth were China 7.6%, England 3.8% and India 3.5%. 57.6% of residents spoke only English at home. Other languages spoken at home included Mandarin 7.8%, Cantonese 6.9% and Korean 3.1%.

**Early development:** Land grants were made in the area now known as Artarmon and St Leonards from 1794 onwards. However, not a lot of use was made of this land until the 1810s when some farms were established.

**William Gore (1765-1845):** William Gore came to Australia with William Bligh who appointed him Provost Marshal. During the Rum Rebellion Gore arrested John Macarthur. Gore was then arrested himself by the Rum Corps and spent two years in the coalmines of Newcastle. In 1810 Lachlan Macquarie, the new Governor, reinstated Gore and gave him a grant of 150 acres of land. The present Artarmon Railway Station is located approximately in the centre of Gore's original farm, *Artarmon*. Gore bought up surrounding grants, and by 1815 owned most of the land between St Leonard's and Mowbray Road. Unfortunately, in 1818, Gore defaulted on his mortgage and lost most of his land, apart from a small portion where he built Artarmon House in which he lived until his death in 1845.

**The 1850s:** During this period large areas of Crown land were auctioned, and orchards and market gardens established. In 1865 the Municipality of North Willoughby was proclaimed, which included Artarmon, Lane Cove and Willoughby. The whole area contained only about 400 residents. In 1890 the area became The Municipality of Willoughby and in 1895 Lane Cove became a separate Municipality.

**The brick industry:** Bricks were first made in the area in 1828. By 1889 the Gore Hill brickworks were the largest in NSW. Some of the firms were Wilsons, Butcher Brothers, Magney & Weynton and the North Sydney Brick & Tile Company dominated. During the mid to late 1800s the brick industry was a primary source of employment in the area. Many "brickies" made a living carting bricks in horse-drawn drays. The railway arrived in 1890, providing Newcastle coal for the kilns and transport for bricks. However, this also resulted in many brick-carters becoming unemployed. The depression of the 1890s resulted in further unemployment in the brick industry, as workers were laid off and firms went out of business or changed hands. Despite hardships the brick industry survived in Artarmon well into the 1900s. The North Sydney Brick & Tile Company was the last to leave the area in 1959.

**Rail transport:** In 1890 the Hornsby-St Leonards railway line opened and Artarmon Station was opened in 1898, precipitating the subdivision of Artarmon Estate. The 1920s and early 1930s saw a rapid residential increase. The western side of the railway line was rezoned in 1969 and the area is now dominated by apartment blocks.

**Gore Hill Cemetery:** Situated on the Pacific Highway with the entrance in Westbourne St, Gore Hill Cemetery is one of the oldest and largest general cemeteries remaining in the metropolitan area. It was established as a historic site with the Gore Hill Cemetery Act in 1974. Many pioneers of the area are buried here. There is also a monument to Mary McKillop who was buried here from 1909 to 1914. The land for Gore Hill Cemetery was dedicated in two parts, in May 1868 and September 1908. The first burial took place in 1877 and the last burial in 1974. The cemetery is still open for the deposition of ashes.



**The Gore Hill Freeway:** The Gore Hill Freeway was opened in 1992 and runs directly through Artarmon, with the Industrial area on one side and the residential area on the other. The freeway has reduced travelling time to the City considerably.

**Retail development:** In 1906, 57 Artarmon residents petitioned for a post office. Although Chatswood Post Office, which had opened in 1897, served them, the system was unsatisfactory. The application was unsuccessful, but a mailbox was established at Artarmon railway station in 1907, with three collection times and local storekeepers were authorised to sell stamps. In 1909, James Hall, a storekeeper, was appointed postmaster and the post war boom of 1919–20 resulted in an official post office in 1924. Thanks to the brisk building trade in the 1900s and the ease of rail access, Artarmon became increasingly prosperous, and shops began to appear on Hampden Road near the station. In 1907 there were 152 houses in Artarmon and four business premises. By 1914 there were 11 shops on Hampden Road and more were in the process of being built. The use of various styles of shop-front brickwork can still be seen today.

**Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH):** Royal North Shore Hospital started out in 1888 as North Shore Cottage Hospital with fourteen beds in Willoughby Road, Crows Nest. Due to the increasing population of the North Shore, a new building was constructed on what is now the Pacific Highway and opened in 1903 by the then NSW Premier Sir John See. By 1948 RNSH had become a teaching hospital and by the 1980s it was viewed as “one of the most modern and complete teaching hospitals in Australia”. In 2000 RNSH embarked on the POEM Project, a state-of-the-art addition the hospital encompassing paediatrics, obstetrics, emergency and magnetic resonance research. The NSW government allocated approximately \$450 million for this project.

**Television:** The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC): In 1956 the ABC opened at Gore Hill. Live programs were produced in a temporary building until 1958 when the new studios were officially opened. The ABC stayed at Gore Hill until 1991 before moving to Ultimo. The ABC site at Gore Hill is now a technical park, but the television tower still remains as it is heritage listed. The studios of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), a public television station, are located in Herbert Street. The Seven Network and Ten Network broadcast from a 216m high transmission tower, operated by TXA in Hampden Road. The Nine Network has its studios in the adjacent suburb of Willoughby.

**Parks and reserves:** Parks and reserves in the Artarmon include Gore Hill Park, Thomson Park, Cleland Park, Marlow Street Park, Artarmon Park, Artarmon Reserve and Barton Road Reserve.

**Artarmon Public School:** Artarmon Public School, on the corner of McMillan and Abbot Roads, began as an infant’s school in 1910. Miss Eliza Cowan, headmistress and assistant, Miss Hancock and 66 pupils. By 1917 the school expanded to include primary classes with 272 pupils. John Pugh was appointed as the first permanent headmaster, with five teachers. The school continued to expand and in 1928 a new building was built on the other side of Abbott Rd. In 1960 the Assembly Hall was built to celebrate the school’s 50 year jubilee.

**North Sydney College of Technical and Further Education (TAFE):** North Sydney TAFE, on the Pacific Highway, operational since 1961. It is on part of a grant given by Governor Hunter to Henry Asser and James Williamson in 1795. By the early 1800s William Gore owned the land, where he lived in a cottage called “Artarmon House”. Richard Harnett later purchased and demolished it in 1869 building a larger residence, also known as Artarmon House. George Whiting purchased Artarmon House and renamed it “Valetta” in 1882. In 1939 the North Sydney Brick and Tile Company bought the land from Whiting, demolished Valetta to make way for their brickyard. The coach house of Valetta still remains on the TAFE grounds.

**The University of Technology:** In 1969 the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), which was called the NSW Institute of Technology until 1988, opened a campus at Gore Hill in a building that was intended to be part of the TAFE. The Gore Hill campus operated until 2006, when it was vacated and merged with the main campus in Sydney. The buildings vacated by UTS have now become part of the TAFE as originally planned.

**Artarmon Library:** Originally in Elizabeth Street, Willoughby Council purchased a former church in 2009 and converted it to a new public library which opened in November 2012.

**Further reading:** *Artarmon: Past, Present and Future* by Grace Warner at 994.411 WIL

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