

## Artarmon Gardens and Permaculture by Mollie Shelley

For the last seven years, since September 2001, Wendy Bishop has been generously illustrating our garden article with her imaginative cartoons. Wendy, who lives not in Artarmon but in Lane Cove, is a past president of Permaculture North. You will, by now, have seen the amazing drawing mounted on the Artarmon Library wall behind the No-Dig Garden. It is a co-operative work between Artarmon Primary School children and Wendy, their artistic co-worker. The No-Dig garden is the work of a group of mainly local people who subscribe to the principles of permaculture.

Recently I visited the ABC Gardening Expo where Permaculture North (PN) had a beautifully designed site showing how attractive and productive a permaculture garden can be. It was enhanced by some of Wendy's artistic work on large placards. I helped myself to several of their informative leaflets so what I write here is directly influenced by them. I've also drawn on two books which I borrowed from our Artarmon library with advice and applause from Suzanne, enthusiast and custodian of the 'Sustainable Living' collection in the library. One book, *Introduction to Permaculture*, by Bill Mollison, the founder of the movement, is quoted on one PN leaflet. "Introducing

**Permaculture North Inc**" says '(it) is a dynamic non-profit organization run by volunteer members who are passionate about achieving healthier lifestyles through permaculture design and sustainable living practices.' Mollison's definition of permaculture says 'it is the design system for creating sustainable human environments. The word is a contraction of "permanent agriculture" but also of permanent culture, as cultures cannot survive for long without a sustainable agricultural base and land use ethic.'

The PN leaflet on the No-Dig garden gives detailed instructions on how to build one, a list of supplies you will need and a point-by-point set of instructions. The leaflet 'Putting together a balcony garden' would be a most useful source of information for gardeners, and potential gardeners, in apartment buildings. If you aspire to growing some of your own food but have only a balcony on which to do it, get in touch with Permaculture North. They have the information and the expertise.

I am the owner of a garden with a considerable amount of shade, so the leaflet 'Growing food plants in shady gardens' is a good source of information for people like me. To their list of plants I would like to add the new dwarf broc-



coli which, to my surprise, has done well in a position with very little sun. I particularly liked the comments on understorey forest plants and the difference between the qualities of our sun and that experienced in Europe.

Friends who attend Permaculture North meetings tell me they have a program of good speakers. Why don't you go along, meet the friendly people there and in your gardening enhance both your health and your sense of well-being?

PERMACULTURE NORTH meets 3rd Monday evening each month in Lindfield. Contact 1300 887 145 or [info@permaculturenorth.org.au](mailto:info@permaculturenorth.org.au).



## Artarmon Neighbourhood Watch - CW5 - Spring Update

By Clare Hamilton-Bate

As summer approaches and we spend more time out in the garden, leave doors and windows open to enjoy the warm evening breeze and pile our 'outdoor toys' (bikes, surf boards

**Artarmon Neighbourhood Watch Area CW 05. Crime Stats for July - Sept 08.** Source: COPS

Date	Offence	Street/Road/Ave
1-Jul	Break/Enter/Steal	Smith
7-Jul	Other Steal	Artarmon
14-Jul	Steal from Vehicle	Shepherd
18-Jul	Break/Enter/Intent Steal	Burra
23-Jul	Steal from Vehicle	Smith
30-Jul	Steal from Vehicle	Stafford
30-Jul	Steal from Vehicle	Stafford
4-Aug	Steal from Vehicle	Cobar
4-Aug	Steal from Vehicle	Cobar
11-Aug	Other Steal	Drake
29-Aug	Break/Enter/Steal	Sydney
29-Aug	Steal from Dwelling	Carlos
1-Sep	Break/Enter/Steal	Burra
1-Sep	Break/Enter/Steal	Cameron
3-Sep	Break/Enter/Steal	Stafford
3-Sep	Steal from Vehicle	Stafford
8-Sep	Steal from Vehicle	Tindale/Artarmon
9-Sep	Malicious Damage	Cambridge/Elizabeth
10-Sep	Break/Enter/Intent Steal	Elizabeth
14-Sep	Other Steal	Stewart
15-Sep	Steal from Vehicle	Stafford
24-Sep	Break/Enter/Steal	Elizabeth
27-Sep	Graffiti	Elizabeth
28-Sep	Break/Enter/Intent Steal	Stafford/Tindale
28-Sep	Break/Enter/Intent Steal	Stafford
28-Sep	Steal from Vehicle	Stafford/Tindale
28-Sep	Steal from Vehicle	Smith
29-Sep	Break/Enter/Steal	Stafford
29-Sep	Break/Enter/Intent Steal	Burra
29-Sep	Steal from Vehicle	Burra
29-Sep	Steal from Vehicle	Pyril

etc) on the front veranda, a word of caution and a reminder to take extra care.....

As the crime statistics for the east side of Artarmon (NW area CW5) indicate, there has been some unwanted activity in our neighbourhood in recent months. Police indicate that this is not restricted to Artarmon, but neighbouring suburbs including Chatswood, Greenwich and Northbridge are also experiencing increased 'opportunistic criminal activity'.

One significant area of increase has been in the number of 'break & enters' into houses during the night via unlocked doors and windows. Thieves are doing very well, including taking handbags and laptops. In some incidents, the car keys have also been taken and they then take the car as well. **If you don't already lock up securely at night - start now!** You can contact your local Crime Prevention Officer (S/Con Matt Jewell - 9414 8518) at Chatswood Police Station if you would like more information, or a free security assessment of your home.

In east Artarmon, of the 31 incidents of crime reported in the period July- September 2008, 13 were 'stealing from vehicle'. From direct reports to Neighbourhood Watch we know many of these vehicles were parked off the road in the driveway or carport when the crime occurred. **Navigation units are common targets....don't leave them in the car, or if you do, ensure they are well hidden from view.**

Several incidents of bicycles being stolen from front verandas, or from the side of homes have been reported in recent weeks. **Make sure your bikes and other valuables stored out-**

**side are secure and ideally out of sight.**

And finally, Chatswood police have reported a new ATM trick. In a recent incident, blue tack was stuck just across the cash dispenser tray but out of sight - people would go to the ATM and withdraw cash but the cash wouldn't drop into the tray. When the person left the machine to seek help, others continued to use the same ATM. The perpetrator watched from a distance and when all was clear he simply walked up, removed blue tack and took all the cash - in this instance he was caught. But, **if no cash comes out when you use an ATM, as a first step, check that there is no blue tack blocking the cash tray.**

**Apologies - cancellation of NW Sausage Sizzle in the Park - Sunday 2nd November.**

The traditional NW Spring sausage sizzle / picnic in the park was cancelled, as the logistics of organising, cooking and serving with only a very small group of committee members was just too difficult. We hope to 'rally more volunteers' and schedule an alternate community event later in the summer.

**Spring Neighbourhood Watch AGM - Monday 8th December, Artarmon Library.** Come and join us for the AGM, discuss the future of Neighbourhood Watch in Artarmon and to enjoy some Christmas Cheer. This is always a good social occasion and an opportunity to meet other members of our community.

Please let me know on 9904 6646 if you would like to join the NW committee and help support the activities of Neighbourhood Watch in our area.