

## MORE ABOUT OUR STREET TREES by Mollie Shelley

At intervals over the last ten years I've written about the trees planted on nature strips in Artarmon. This is not only because it is recognized that they are emotionally important to us and add to our sense of well-being. Increasingly, we have become aware of how much our own health and the welfare of future generations is dependent on them. I won't need to remind you that we are living just downhill from one of the busiest centres in Sydney and in a quadrilateral mostly bounded by busy Mowbray Road, Pacific Highway, Gore Hill Freeway and Sydney Street.

Our Council is diligent about tree planting on nature strips. Repeat plantings produce a sense of place, giving a precinct an identity. It is a pleasure to go down Smith Road in early summer when the mature jacarandas are in bloom or in late winter when their leaves are golden. Visitors to the area mention Carlos, "that street with the magnificent Chinese Elms". I became so interested in the number of new Jacarandas being planted I decided to try to count them. The numbers include both established trees and new plantings: Tindale Rd down to the station and around the various intersections there, 40 trees; Smith Rd, 11; Stafford Rd, 27; Stewart

St, 20; Onyx 12; Weedon, 17, smaller numbers in Shepherd and Cameron and isolated plantings in other streets. Jacarandas are not fast growers but they are long lived and should be a joy to future generations.

Other significant plantings in our area are the 34 Crepe Myrtles in Burra Rd and another 14 in Godfrey, the Blueberry Ash in Shepherd, Sapium or Chinese Tallow in Godfrey, Brush Box in Hawkins and those Chinese Elms in Carlos that I already mentioned. So I was particularly pleased when I discovered more of them in Thompson Park around the children's playground. An exploration around the streets between the railway and the highway found that there was a lot to be grateful for in the way of established trees in the area so there seems to have been no need for Council to carry out more than individual plantings. There have been so many Bottlebrush of various species planted in Artarmon that I didn't try to count them. There are also numerous Brush Box trees remaining from that gift of seed given to the Council in 1931.

I'd like to repeat a few of the facts about trees and the benefits humans receive from them. They are visually dominant in the streetscape,



*Cartoon by Wendy Bishop*

they change shape as they mature and there is almost as much bulk underground as in the canopy. They act as windbreaks, reduce temperature and solar radiation, intercept glare from cars, are environmental sinks for carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide, filter dust and rain (60% of which is held in the leaves or runs down the branches and trunk) and they act as visual screens reducing the impact of buildings. So look after the trees on your nature strip.

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