



Artarmon Neighbourhood Watch - CW5 - Summer Update

By Clare Hamilton-Bate

A representative from Artarmon NW regularly attends the 'North Shore Local Area Command - Community Safety Precinct Committee'. Information from the Committee, communicated back through groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, is an important community awareness tool for the police. For example:

Did you knowHow crime stats are used by the police?

Every two weeks, reported crimes are plotted on a map and from this our Local Area Command (LAC) determines the areas to receive an extra police presence in the coming weeks. To ensure this approach to policing is really effective, the police need our help – it is really important to report all crimes, including vandalism and graffiti attacks - what they don't know they can't act upon!

Did you know.....The North Shore Local Area Command (LAC) is different from most other LACs in that the vast majority of the crime is committed by people from outside the LAC?

Chatswood is now the third biggest shopping district in Australia and that obviously attracts some bad elements. The police advise that in order for an arrested person from outside the district to obtain bail, there is a non-return clause inserted in their bail conditions - if they are seen again in the area they are re-arrested.

Policing strategies such as these appear to be working, as crime rates generally are going down. Detailed crime statistics for Artarmon will be available in the next edition of the Artarmon Gazette.

Crime Prevention for Residential Premises

The old adage of 'prevention is better than a

cure' is exactly right when it comes to crime prevention for residential premises. Check through the following, how does your home rate?

Street Number – The street number must be prominently displayed at the front of your home. The street number should be a minimum of 120 mm high and visible at night. Clear street numbering helps the police and other emergency services to respond quickly when incidents are reported.

Fences and Gates – fences not only define property boundaries, but they also restrict access to your property. Front fences should be open style construction, to increase visibility onto the property. Regularly maintain your fences and gates to ensure they remain an effective deterrent for unwanted visitors.

Landscaping – Trees and Shrubs should be trimmed to reduce hiding places and increase visibility to and from the street. Overhanging branches should be trimmed to prevent people using them to gain access to other parts of the property, for example, to an upper level of a house.

Security Lighting – Security lighting should be installed to provide effective illumination during the hours of darkness, particularly over entry/exit points. Consider using timers to turn lights on and off when you're not at home.

Thank you to all those who have passed on information to NW in recent months, helping us to keep the Artarmon Community updated and informed.

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

'National Neighbour Day' Sunday 29th March 2009 NW Sausage Sizzle in the Park Artarmon Reserve Play Park

Join family and friends to celebrate 'National Neighbour Day' with a sausage sizzle in the park on **Sunday 29th March** from **4.00pm – 6.00pm**.

Neighbourhood Watch will provide and sizzle the sausages – just bring your other picnic bits, rugs & drinks as well as your neighbours, families and friends.

It's a great opportunity to meet residents from all over Artarmon in a safe, child-friendly environment.

Neighbour Day is held on the last Sunday in March – the aim is to encourage everyone to have better relationships with the people next door and across the street. Neighbour Day aims to develop a greater sense of community caring, especially to look after the vulnerable and elderly who live alone.

Unlike other awareness days you don't make a donation, buy a badge or a ribbon or wear a silly hat. All you do is introduce yourself to the people next door, across the street, in your community. By introducing yourself and passing on your name and telephone numbers you are helping to break down the barriers of loneliness and isolation experienced by so many in modern communities. For more information on Neighbour Day go to www.neighbourday.org.