

# A short history of public plantings in Artarmon by Mollie Shelley

**1926** The first Artarmon Street Beautification Committee – trees, palms and shrubs provided free by the Royal Botanic Gardens. Palms planted along streets in Artarmon. Some of these palms still survive.

**1929** A local resident, Charles Wickham heads up a garden committee that canvases local residents door to door for financial support. As a result they are able to employ a gardener two days a week to keep the Station gardens in order. They plant 1000 bulbs, 200 roses, 30 shrubs and many other herbaceous and other plants.

**1930** The Royal Botanic Gardens trees are no longer free – trees, palms, shrubs a shilling each. Hedge plants like privet are 15 shillings per hundred!



*The Charles Wickham memorial in the remaining station gardens*

Willoughby Council requires residents to pay one pound ten shillings for street beautification near their properties.

**1931** Brush Box seed given to Council by botanical seed collector from Woy Woy – the trees are subsequently planted throughout the suburb, splendid specimens are still living in Hawkins Street.

**1932** Charles Wickham's Artarmon Railway Gardens are famous. Willoughby Council encourages the formation of Street Beautification Committees.

**1934** Station Gardens Report to APA – There are over 700 subscribers, the gardens area is now two acres. There has been terracing and planting on the west side. Over 400 trees and shrubs have been planted.

**1935** Stations Garden Committee report to APA: 825 residents subscribe. The gardens receive favourable mention in newspapers in Adelaide and Melbourne. Death of Charles Wickham.

**1937** Tree planting for the Sesqui-Centenary (150 yrs white settlement) in Francis Street, Jersey, McMillan and Barton Roads.

**1940** Funds diminish as generous donors leave the district.

**1941** Railway Station Gardens taken over by Willoughby Council.

**1942** End of gardening project – Council notified.

**1951** APA tree planting ceremony. Local



*Remnants of original palm plantings in Tindale Rd*

Associations invited to plant a tree as an evergreen reminder of the Nation's Jubilee.

**1968** Flowering cherry trees planted on Artarmon Village Green as a monument to early pioneers.

Willoughby Council has been increasingly active in street tree planting in our area since the turn of this century.

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