



Artarmon Neighbourhood Watch - CW5 - Spring Update

by Ian Fletcher & Clare Hamilton-Bate

Artarmon Post Office Holdups

Chatswood Detectives are investigating an armed hold-up which occurred at the Artarmon Post Office on Monday afternoon, 14th September, as well as another incident at the Post Office shortly after 2pm on the 10th September. The offender in both matters is described as Caucasian, approximately 35 years old, medium build. He was wearing a baseball cap, grey hooded jumper and red shorts. Anyone who was in the area around the time of these offences who feels they have information which could assist police is asked to call Chatswood Detectives on 9414 8499, or CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000.

Police Community Safety Committee

At the last meeting we were advised of a rash of car break-ins in the Westfield and Chatswood Chase car parks, particularly on Thursday nights – late night shopping straight from work. So, don't leave computers or anything in sight whenever you park your car – put them all in the boot.

We were also shown area frequency maps for break and enters. Comparing the maps for January this year to those from last month is most interesting. The frequency in January (mid summer) was very much greater than last month. The police said this was partly due to new tactics for combating these crimes but also partly due to seasonal factors. In winter there are fewer people out and about and the people responsible for these crimes tend to stand out more than they do in summer, when there are lots of people around. Also when people go out in summer they are more likely to accidentally leave windows open or doors unlocked. So, with summer coming, remember to secure your house when you go out – lock all windows and doors. Lock doors even when you are home, and don't leave windows or doors open at the

front of the house if all the family are in the back of the house or in the garden.

The Police Fingerprint Car

The North Shore Local Area Command operates a fingerprint car, the purpose of which is to provide transport for forensic police to examine scenes of break and enters to collect fingerprints and other evidence. This assists in community security by improving break and enter clear-up rates. The Crime Prevention Officer is also able to use this car to help spread his message by way of addressing community meetings and visiting householders to advise on their home security. The CW5 Neighbourhood Watch Community is making a \$500 donation to the fingerprint car as this vehicle is not funded by the State Government.

When you are on Holiday – Tips to Keep Your Home Safe*

There are things you can do every day to help make your home safer but when you are on holidays it is not as easy. A home that looks unattended is generally an easier target for a burglar.

The key to deterring burglars while you are away is to make your house look like someone's at home. Before heading off on holiday, here are some easy tips to prepare your home:

- Leave a radio on & tune it to a talkback station
- Use a timer on lamps to make it look like someone is inside
- Cancel deliveries, such as newspapers, or have a trusted person collect them for you
- You should also have a trusted neighbour, or relative clear your letterbox & take your bin out & in, even if empty
- Hang old clothes on the line & leave old shoes outside the front door

- If you are going away for an extended period of time, consider a house-sitter & arrange for your lawn to be mowed
- Don't leave invitations or notes about holidays in plain view such as stuck on the fridge, next to the phone or on a white-board
- Divert your home phone to your mobile or lower the volume on your phone
- On your answering machine say 'We can't come to the phone right now'.

CW5 Neighbourhood Watch AGM & Christmas Cheer: Monday 14th December, 8.00pm, Artarmon Library

Come and join us at the Neighbourhood Watch AGM, discuss the future of Neighbourhood Watch in Artarmon and enjoy some Christmas Cheer. This is always a good social occasion and an opportunity to meet other members of our community.

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. If you would like to join the NW committee and help support the activities of Neighbourhood Watch in our area, contact Clare by email clarehb@telstra.com. ■

*Source : Neighbourhood Watch – Victoria

karmee
Great Coffee™

Fresh Roasted
Coffee