



ACT Neighbourhood Watch Members Newsletter



As 2024 draws to a close, it is timely to reflect on 2024 and our collective achievements. We can approach the future with a renewed focus. Please accept my sincere gratitude for the time you've contributed, and I wish you well for the festive season and look forward to 2025.

Jude Bowman
Interim President ACT NHW

40th Anniversary Dinner: NHW ACT Vice President (North) Clare McGrath, Former NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall, the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, NHW ACT Vice President (South) Albert Orszaczkzy and NHW ACT Secretary Angela Di Pauli

2024 Royal Canberra Show: Constable Kenny Koala and former handler, David, with the Interim NHW ACT President, Jude Bowman



FROM THE BOARD

Following the end of his second successful two-year term, the President stepped down at the AGM in October 2024. The President's position remains vacant but is being filled on an interim basis by Jude Bowman. **The Board is seeking a community minded individual to continue guiding the organisation to meet the challenges of the changing environment in which we operate and to ensure we continue to foster safety and security within our community.**

An advertisement has been lodged with Volunteering ACT, Justice and Community Services (ACT Government). People interested in learning more about the role should contact Mr Laurie Blackall (0427 304 274) in the first instance.

With the community in mind ACTNHW has continued its renewal phase during 2024 to better adapt to the changing trends of communication. Community engagement remains our priority promoting awareness, security and safety wherever possible.

The Board of ACTNHW extends its collective thanks to members and partners for their on-going support and commitment to the organisation. Your time and contributions are greatly valued.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable festive season and we look forward to connecting with you again in 2025.

THANKS TO OUR OUT-GOING PRESIDENT

The Board gratefully acknowledges

Laurie Blackall's commitment as ACTNHW since 2018 especially as President during the past four years. Laurie's time evolved from being the Casey contact to Treasurer and more recently as to President. He has helped us to embrace technology and invest in new ways of doing business whilst maintaining a commitment to promoting safety and security across the community and building strong and effective relationships with key stakeholders.

Laurie is currently the ACT representative on the Board of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and will continue in this role in the short term. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Laurie and wish him well for the future.



40TH ANNIVERSARY

The successful Anniversary event on 25th September 2024 celebrated 40 years of Neighbourhood Watch in the ACT.

Media coverage included personal reflections from Mrs Clare McGrath our Vice President North available here <https://the-riotact.com/you-could-go-to-the-shops-and-leave-your-doors-unlocked-canberra-was-a-different-place-40-years-ago/811211>

HON DR ANDREW LEIGH MP, the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, and Guest Speaker Andrew provided an overview of the changing trends in volunteering.

MS URSULA MACDERMOTT, as a founding member and former President of ACTNHW, Ursula was ideally placed to provide a History - From then until now.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

2024 achievements include:

- Celebrating ACT NHW's 40th birthday in the ACT
- Commencement of a street sign replacement program. If you see a sign which needs replacing, send details and a photo to admin@nhwact.org.au
- Community engagement with numerous events including:
 - ◇ The Royal Canberra Show,
 - ◇ Seniors' Expo,
 - ◇ promotional events at Bunnings Stores across Canberra,
 - ◇ liaison with Community and Residents action groups and
 - ◇ engagement with seniors' multicultural groups.

Many of these activities were done in partnership with ACT Policing and Crime Stoppers.

- The Annual General Meeting held on 16 October was well attended both in person and on-line via live streaming. A technical outage by Telstra limited participation via streaming.

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE FOR 2025?

2025 is shaping up to be a period of renewed activity and will include:

- A Strategic Planning Day for the Executive Board on 1 February
- A stall at the Royal Canberra Show (Feb 21-23)
- Members information sessions, including clarifying expectations of The Board
- Identifying opportunities for consolidation
- Improved engagement with members and attracting new members and strengthening our partnerships
- Website redevelopment.

Holiday Safety and Security

A few basic security precautions around the home as part of your holiday getaway preparations can also go a long way towards keeping thieves at bay and your property protected.

- Take time to double-check that windows and doors are locked, and make sure that sheds, garage doors, and side gates are also secure.
- If you have a security system or sensor lights, have them turned on.
- Hide those spare keys, cancel the newspaper delivery and ask a trusted friend to keep an eye on your place and empty the letterbox until you get back.

<https://crimestoppers.com.au/campaign/home-security/>



Reporting suspicious behavior: This is important throughout the year not just at Xmas. It's your neighbourhood, you know what is normal and what seems out of the ordinary.

Report any suspicious activities via ACT Region Crime Stoppers either by phone or via the website

DID YOU GET A BIKE FOR XMAS?

Crime Stoppers recommends registering your bike through Bikelinc This will aid in returning your bike if it is lost or stolen.

More information is available on the Crime Stoppers website <https://www.crimestoppersact.com.au/campaign/bikelinc/>