



ACT Neighbourhood Watch Members Newsletter

It's been a busy start to 2025, just the way we like it! 2025 has kicked off with a flurry of activity including attendance at the Royal Canberra Show, the Volunteering ACT Expo, Africa in the Park, Watson Day and a successful Members' Forum. The AusIndia Fair is scheduled for 17 May and we'll be there again. More events are scheduled for later in the year.

Our top priorities for 2025 include engaging a new President, revising the NHWACT Constitution and on-going engagement with Members and the broader Community.

FROM THE BOARD

Arrangements are well under way to engage a new President for NHWACT with an announcement expected in the coming weeks.

Work is also under way to revise the NHWACT Constitution which was last updated in September 2016. The aim is to have a less prescriptive document which is fit-for-purpose and provides flexibility in being able to adapt to the changing environment in which we operate. The draft document will be circulated to Members for comment in advance of the 2025 Annual General Meeting in October.

Special Guest at the NHWACT April Board Meeting: Kishwar Rahman was a guest at the NHWACT Board Meeting in April providing insight into key governance considerations. The Board members came away with comfort that our arrangements and actions comply with our legislative requirements, and that our governance arrangements are sound.

The Royal Canberra Show:

is traditionally our first event of the year and in 2025 we took the opportunity to launch our new Banners. It was a great 3 days shared with our Partners from ACT Policing and Crime Stoppers and engaging with attendees to promote our collective messages about safety, security and awareness.

Constable Kenny and his new partner Emily were a great hit for young and older visitors alike. Police motorcycles and Police cars didn't disappoint either.

The new NHWACT show bags, and other promotional items were popular again. Remember to mark your personal belongings with our UV Marker Pens.



Pictured here is the new pull-up banner with NHWACT's Vice President North Clare McGrath, Interim President, Jude Bowman and ACT Policing.

The NHWACT Members' Forum

held on 2 April was well attended, with an encouraging mix of regular attendees and those participating for the first time. Attendees networked and contributed to wide-ranging discussions. Their participation ensured a successful event.

The agenda included items on IT Support, Facebook and Social Media, NHWACT Membership, back-capturing past newsletters, a proposed repository for NHWACT stories and photos, Volunteer Opportunities, and an overview of what's happening in NHWNSW

Feedback and suggestions provided will be considered by the Board and an action plan will be developed to inform future meetings.



Some of the 22 attendees at the recent Members' Forum



Africa in the Park 2025:

Africa Festival in the Park in April had a party atmosphere and featured a wide range of activities and entertainment, including African live music, traditional dance performances, cultural displays, food and lots of colour.

NHW ACT shared a stall with ACT Policing and fielded queries from festival visitors about personal and property security.

ACT Policing was well represented with officers and the always popular Snr. Constable Kenny Koala and his handler, Emily. ACT Emergency Services Ember the Echidna and SES Paddy the Platypus were also a hit.



Pictured having a heart to heart are SES Paddy the Platypus and NHWACT Vice President North, Clare McGrath

SO FAR IN 2025

2025 is shaping up to be a period of renewed activity and has already included:

- A Strategic Planning Day for the Executive Board on 1 February
- A stall at the Royal Canberra Show (Feb 21-23)
- Volunteering ACT Expo (March 2025)
- Members' Forum (April 2025)
- Africa in the Park (April 2025)
- Improved engagement with members and attracting new members and strengthening our partnerships
- Website updates
- Social Media Project commenced in February 2025 and will continue in coming months
- A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with the AFP (ACT Policing). It provides a framework to:
 - Foster positive working relations between the two organisations,
 - Identify opportunities for collaborative practice, and
 - Promote lawful, collaborative and constructive approach by both agencies to improve the safety and security of the Canberra community.

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2025?

- Engagement of new President
- A review of the current Constitution with a draft to be provided to The Board by 31 May.
- NHWACT is providing new posters for ACT Police Stations.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people and help our Community.

Volunteering ACT Expo

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was among the more than 50 organisations ready to chat with visitors about finding their ideal volunteering role at the 2025 Volunteering Expo held at the University of Canberra Refectory. Pictured at right are Sep Westerhuis (Area Contact for Harrison and District Delegate for Gungahlin), Jo Brazil (Area Contact for Molonglo Valley), Albert Orszaczky (NHWACT Vice President South and Area Contact for Wanniasa), and Mark Lynch (Area Contact for Gordon, Banks and Conder).



There's something for everyone.

As an organisation of volunteers helping to keep communities safe, secure and informed, NHWACT welcomes volunteers both at ACT and local levels. Some of the opportunities available include: marketing and events coordination, media, higher level financial advice, website assistance, Facebook "administrators" for both NHW ACT and area Facebook groups and newsletter deliverers. Contact us via email at Admin@nhwact.org.au to learn more.

ACT Policing is Recruiting



Considering a career change? You might be more suited to policing than you think! Your experience counts with ACT Policing. As an officer with us, you'll experience a variety of work, each day you'll learn something new.

Have you ever considered using your skills and experience to protect your community? ACT Policing is now recruiting, and welcomes people from all backgrounds, trades, and experiences to apply at www.police.act.gov.au/careers.

