

Neighbourhood Watch Hackett Newsletter



Electronic copies of the newsletter
www.nhwact.org.au

MARCH 2024

NEXT OF KIN CARDS.

Last year ACT Policing introduced Next of Kin cards.

The cards hold :

the holder's name

their date of birth

contact details of a nominated Next of Kin

and are placed in the holder's purse or wallet or on the phone

These cards were introduced to assist police officers in finding individuals in the event of a missing person or casualty, where officers are unable to identify someone quickly.

These cards are available at all ACT police stations.

Hackett NHW asked ACT Policing if we could have a supply of these cards to issue to the residents of Hackett, since residents may find it difficult to attend a police station.

Unfortunately we are told that this is not possible due to limited stock. The police suggest that older/vulnerable people who are unable to attend a Police Station call the Seniors Liason Officers on 02 5126 9103 asking for a NOK card. The officers can then arrange for one to be mailed out. You would need to provide name, address and date of birth.

GRAYSON STREET UNITS

The units on the north of Grayson Street are a well-known feature of Hackett. When the building of Hackett began this land was offered for a new type of medium density housing known as patio housing. The units were designed by the architect Dirk Bolt and their planning is much admired – small well-designed homes, usually with a near-ground-level entry; many run east-west so that the house receives plenty of north light; many have small courtyards giving a restricted but adequate space for gardens and walls giving privacy.

Some assume that the walls of the units show the limits of the properties. In fact, unit-holders' land extends towards the nature strip by the roads and the path in the park. A number of unit holders have established gardens beyond the walls, or from the house to the limit of the property. These gardens are on private land not public property.

Emergency 000
Attendance 131 444
Crimestoppers 1800 333 000
Inquiries 6256 7777

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Deadline for next newsletter

Friday 29 January 2024

HACKETT PROFILE

Clare (Potas) McNamara



Clare's parents Magda and Erwin Potas left Hungary after World War II and with their young son spent 3 years in a refugee camp in Germany. Clare was born whilst they were there. The family migrated to Australia in 1949. Erwin and

Magda were both trained photographers, and when they arrived in Sydney they started working for a photographer in Bondi Junction. Initially the family lived in a boarding house but because Erwin and Magda worked long hours the children went to the boarding school Lake House at Narabeen. The children spoke no English, but there were many activities to enjoy. Clare learnt to swim. Finally Magda and Erwin, who found it difficult as migrants to rent a house, after a year with a friend's help found a home at Rose Bay, and the children returned to their parents and enjoyed a happy family life.

Clare had dreams of becoming a ballet dancer, but an injured foot was one reason for changing direction when she left school, and after taking courses in television production techniques and typing she obtained a job with the film department of Channel 9, becoming a telecine operator - putting films of the program for the day onto huge telecine projectors and watching the sound and screen levels as it went to air. When the family moved to Canberra, after a brief time as a public servant she joined Channel 7. Life was a lot of fun, including skiing at Guthega, but she wanted to travel. She visited East Africa, the UK and Hungary where she met members of her family, then took a tour in Europe, 19 Countries in 10 Weeks, with 44 other young people.

On her return to Canberra, still with an urge to travel, Clare joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; she was still working there 40 years later. Her first three postings were Ghana,

Mexico and Hongkong. Then marriage and the birth of three boys held her in Canberra. But the marriage ended; she kept working at Foreign Affairs and Trade and moved to Hackett in 1990. Clare found life as a single mother not easy. When the children were small they travelled with her to her posting - in Fiji a "housegirl" (whom they visited this year) cared for them. As they grew older they went to the boarding school at Tudor House in Moss Vale then on to the King's School in Sydney. She was posted overseas as a Consular Officer and Administrative Manager to Bangladesh and then later to Nepal, the Solomon Islands and Mauritius.

She retired in 2013 and recently published a book "The Photographers Potaschnikow" which she and her brother wrote. It is a history of Erwin and Magda and their families, an incredible story of survival living during the war in Hungary occupied by German troops then by Soviet troops. It follows the family's migration to Australia. In 2022 she married Brian; they met originally in Bangladesh where he worked with the British Foreign Service. They travel frequently to Britain and elsewhere. They have a holiday house at the coast where they regularly holiday with the children and 9 grandchildren.

NHWACT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Neighbourhood Watch ACT relies on its members to keep the organization going.

NHW ACT Volunteer roles of the organization:

- Local area activities
- Marketing and public relations
- Media
- Event coordination or support (including assist at events)
- Information technology
- Governance and administration

If any member would like to volunteer in any of these areas send an email to admin@nhwact.org.au

CRIME REPORTED IN HACKETT AND SURROUNDING SUBURBS

Of the 10 northern suburbs shown in the crime statistics table each month, Hackett often records the lowest numbers of entries.

In this month's crime statistics table Hackett has **ONLY ONE ENTRY!**

CRIME IN HACKETT AND NEARBY SUBURBS January 2024

	Assault	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft	Shop stealing	Number plate theft	Other theft	Arson	Property damage	Total
Ainslie		2	1		1	1	1		4	10
Campbell	3		1				2		3	9
Dickson	3			4	7	3	8		4	29
Downer	1	1	2			2	3		2	11
Hackett							1			1
Lyneham	5	1	4		1	2	9		4	26
O'Connor	3		2				2		2	9
Reid	2	5					2		2	11
Turner	4	3	3				3	1	4	18
Watson	1	4	1	4		3	7		8	26

Offence	Street	Date	Offence	Street	Date
Other theft	Rivett Street	6 January			

FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA

Autumn bird walk on *Sunday 24 March 8-10am*, meeting at the Mackenzie Street Nature Park entrance with bird enthusiast Peter Miller to see, hear and learn about birds. Wear sturdy shoes, bring binoculars and a bird ID app or field guide if you have them, bring a gold coin donation if you wish a species list.

Third Sunday working bee at North Watson on *Sunday 17 March 9-12*, meeting at the Nature Park entrance at Antill St, North Watson (50 m south of the roundabout) on a search and destroy mission for woody weeds growing on the north side of Oldfields Lane. We recommend you bring sun protection, drinking water, sturdy shoes and clothes that cover your limbs, and garden gloves. We will provide tools, gloves and morning tea.

For more information about either event and a map visit majura.org

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Hackett oval changerooms In May 2019, the HCA contacted the ACT Graffiti Management area, regarding graffiti on the Hackett Oval change rooms. Very quickly the unit arranged for mural artist, Dai Cameron, to work with staff and students from Blue Gum Community School to design and paint murals on the walls. With the help of Silver Sprayers, murals were painted on four walls by the end of June 2019 and contract painters had repainted the non-mural areas and the eaves of the roof.

On 13 February 2024, security fences were placed around the building and a large portable toilet was placed next to the rooms, and two more large containers near the cricket nets. There was no sign indicating the purpose of the fence. It turns out the *Sport and Recreation facilities roadmap 2020-2024* identified the “pavilion” for full refurbishment. The HCA and the Blue Gum School were not consulted about the proposed works. Unfortunately the front mural was destroyed with the removal of the timber panelling. But the Government has agreed to work with Blue Gum and HCA to prepare a new mural.

Clean Up Australia Sunday 3 March The Hackett Community Association is running its annual **Clean Up Australia** table at the Hackett shops between the hours of **10am and 1pm** in the open space near the North Canberra Osteopathy. To participate in the event you will need to register on the day and if possible, bring your own gloves.

Meetings Our next committee meeting will be Tuesday 9 April starting at 7.30pm and then every two months (June, August, October, December). If you would like to participate, please send an email info@hackett.asn.au.

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