

# Neighbourhood Watch Hackett Newsletter

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[www.nhwact.org.au](http://www.nhwact.org.au)



**JULY 2025**

## SCAMS WHEN SELLING SECOND-HAND GOODS

ACT Policing is again reminding the public to be cautious when selling second-hand items, as reports continue to be received about sellers handing over goods without being paid. ACT Policing's Proactive Policing Team is currently investigating a group of individuals who have allegedly scammed sellers out of their items. but there are others who are continuing to scam members of the public.

Items that have been handed over without the seller being paid include vehicles and other items of value. In most instances, the individuals use fraudulent transfer receipts or cancel electronic payments once the item has been exchanged.

ACT Policing is urging Canberrans who sell items online via popular platforms to never hand over goods until payment has been received – ideally in cash. Funds deposited in bank accounts should be verified by checking the seller's account – and not relying on the buyer's transaction evidence. Warning signs include a buyer willing to buy an expensive product without viewing it in person and the payment to the person not matching the identity of the account holder.

ACT Policing suggest electronic payments be made using instant transaction methods such as PayID or Osko. Exchanges of items should be made at public places, with sellers taking note of details of the buyer, including their name via a form of identification, or vehicle registration.

Anyone who believes they have been a victim of a similar incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers.

[police.act.gov.au](http://police.act.gov.au)

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

**Chair**  
Jude Bowman 0412 711 508  
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**Deadline for next newsletter**  
Friday 25 July 2025

## HACKETT PROFILE

### ANNA NOVAK



Anna and her grandson Ryan, who suggested that she be a Profile

Anna was born at Cakovec near Zagreb in Croatia during World War 2. Her father had a farm, with pigs, hens, turkeys, ducks and a Jersey cow to provide milk, growing vegetables, corn and wheat and some wine grapes. Of the war, she remembers as a very young child visiting a Hungarian military establishment often, where in response to her “I am hungry” she would receive a bucket of food. As a child after school each day she would help her father on the farm.

On finishing school, she trained and obtained a certificate as a nursing aide. After the war, Croatia became a part of Yugoslavia, a Communist country led by President Tito. As her family were Christians, life was difficult and in 1961 she escaped with her aunt and uncle to a refugee camp in Austria. There they arranged to migrate to Australia. A marriage to a young Croatian living in Australia was arranged for her. The three left for Australia by ship; Anna was married two weeks after she arrived. They all worked on a vegetable farm at Werribee in Victoria – 10 hours a day, 6 days a week.

Her parents migrated to Australia two years later, and the family bought 45 acres of land in Colac, Victoria. They divided it into 3 farms, one for the parents, one for the aunt and uncle, and one for Anna and her husband. Anna and Paul grew vegetables and flowers, and had a Jersey cow. Anna drove a tractor

and other farm equipment. She loved it there, running her own home, learning English and making friends.

But the land was not satisfactory for growing vegetables, so the uncle and aunt sold their farm to Anna and Paul, and moved to Canberra where he worked as a bricklayer and she worked in a motel. Anna’s parents also sold up and moved to Canberra. Anna and Paul now had a bigger farm and a house to rent out, and Paul was determined to succeed, but in 1965 a heavy frost destroyed all their vegetables so they sold their farm and moved to Canberra.

Paul worked as a bricklayer and Anna worked at the old Canberra Hospital for several years. She divorced Paul. Some years later she began 43 years of happy marriage to Vladimir. She worked in Gus’ restaurant; the restaurant had just been opened by Gus from Vienna, who was determined to bring a bit of European sophistication to Canberra with his outdoor dining. Her mother cared for her three children whilst Anna was at work. She worked at first as a kitchen hand, eventually preparing all the food except the hot dishes. Gus acted as a father figure to her. She later came to work in Goodwin Aged Care and continued there until her retirement.

She attends Catholic churches in Evatt and Farrer. In the street where she lives now there are three other Croatian families. She maintains Croatian traditions. The Sunday mid-day meal is with family and friends in a nearby park, or on a large deck at the back of the house, built especially to allow such large relaxed gatherings. The Croatian Club is a place to go for celebrations.

She and her dog Shara were regularly seen walking around the neighborhood until his death 6 months ago. She is a skilled and generous grower of vegetables, her large crop feeding family and friends. She enjoys a warm friendship with her neighbors and family life is very important to her. She has a close family with 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

### NEW TREASURER

Keith Simpson is taking on the role of Treasurer for Hackett Neighbourhood Watch. Keith has been Treasurer of a number of volunteer organizations, including the Gunuma Ski Lodge and the Burrawang Coastal Club.

## CRIME IN HACKETT AND NEARBY SUBURBS April 2025

	Assault	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft	Shop stealing	Number plate theft	Other theft	Arson	Property damage	Total
Ainslie	2		2				3		4	11
Campbell		1		1		2			1	5
Dickson	2		1	4	5	1	14		5	32
Downer	2						3			5
<b>Hackett</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>
Lyneham	2					1			1	4
O'Connor	2	1					2		1	6
Reid	1			1			2		1	5
Turner		1		1			1		1	4
Watson		1		1		1	2		2	7

Offence	Street	Date	Offence	Street	Date
Assault	Madigan Street	8 May	Other theft	Maitland Street	30 May
Burglary dwellings	Antill Street	18 May			

## FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA

**Third Sunday working party: weeding near the Hackett tank** on *20 July 1-4pm* to remove woody weeds and spread mulch to protect native plantings. Meet at the water tank, access from Rivett Street nature park entrance, near Grayson Street, Hackett.

## HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Defibrillator for the Hackett shops** Service One Mutual Ltd (credit union) has developed the '[Streetbeat](#)' program which aims to make life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) publicly available 24/7 across the ACT. AEDs can be used when someone (young to elderly) has a sudden cardiac arrest. With support from businesses and the community they have installed AEDs in many shopping centres including Dickson and O'Connor. The Hackett Community Association is raising funds to install one at the Hackett shops. They are placed in either a wall-mounted red cabinet or a free-standing mounted securely on concrete. The AED is portable so it can be used anywhere in the suburb and not just at the shops. We have already been offered around \$3,000 by Hackett businesses and organisations to reach our goal of \$3,500. If you would like to contribute (donations are tax deductible) please send an email to [info@hackett.asn.au](mailto:info@hackett.asn.au) and we will provide you with further details.

**HCA AGM** We are holding our AGM on *Saturday 23 August* from 3-4.30pm in the tea-room next to the Folk Dance Canberra Hall (between Blue Gum Community School and Maitland House).

## DRIVING TO THE SNOW

If you plan a trip to the snowfields these holidays, here are some things to consider.

1. Before you leave, check that the car is in good working order.
2. Check whether you will need snow chains.
3. When driving, make sure your vision is clear through the windscreen. In colder area you will probably have to defog it. The air conditioning system must be working properly, the windscreen wipers also.
4. Drive to the conditions – caution in fog, ice, snow; watch for icy patches in shady parts of the road; use gears not brakes to slow down; use headlights.

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## Ryan's Fitness Classes

Hackett Community Centre  
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8:00am – 9:00am  
Every Friday 7.00am – 8.00am

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Christine 0423 257 463  
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## PICKLEJAM

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## PJ'S PROJECTS

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