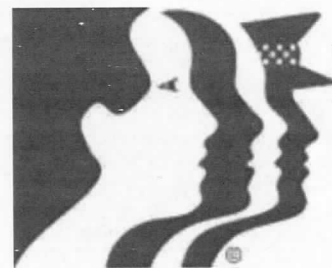


# Neighbourhood Watch Hackett Newsletter



Electronic copies of the newsletter  
[www.nhwact.org.au](http://www.nhwact.org.au)

## SEPTEMBER 2024

It might be winter but Neighbourhood Watch has not been hibernating. Here are just some of the activities happening.

**19 July:** ACT Neighbourhood Watch Members' workshop on anti-scams. Attended by about 20 members and representatives from ACT Policing. A useful and practical session to avoid being caught out by scammers.

**29 July:** Anti-scam community forum hosted by Alicia Payne and guest speaker the Hon Stephen Jones MP, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services.

The Forum was attended by about 350 people all keen to hear what they can do as individuals to limit their risk of exposure to scams and what action is being taken on the issue.

**July/August/September:** ACTNHW, ACT Policing and MCCI are working together to provide various seniors multi-cultural groups with information about community safety, scams and reporting incidents and suspicious behaviour. Sessions are being held, sometimes with the assistance of an interpreter, with Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Serbian, Italian and Korean community groups who meet socially each week as part of the MCCI program.

**ACTNHW signage update:** After 40 years it is to be expected that some of the organisation's suburban signs need to be replaced or refreshed. Work has already commenced in some areas of Belconnen and our team will shortly looking at signs in the Ainslie, Hackett, Watson, Dickson and Downer areas. The signs are usually

placed at the main entry points to suburbs. If you see a sign which is faded or hard to read, please provide the details, including a photo, to [Admin@nhwact.org.au](mailto:Admin@nhwact.org.au) to ensure it is captured in the renewal program.

**ACTNHW 40th Anniversary Dinner:** ACT Neighbourhood Watch is turning 40 and preparations are well advanced to celebrate the occasion at a dinner on 25 September. Invitations will be issued shortly. Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury and the Assistant Minister for Employment, will be the guest speaker and will be discussing "Volunteering".

**16 October – NHWACT AGM:** The Annual General Meeting of ACT Neighbourhood Watch will be held on 16 October from 6pm at the Canberra Southern Cross Club in Woden. Attendance is open to all members of ACT Neighbourhood Watch but registration is required. Notification of this meeting will be sent via email to all members in the coming weeks. Please ensure your contact details are up to date. Your attendance is welcomed and encouraged. The AGM provides an opportunity to reflect on our work during the previous 12 months and set some goals for the coming year

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

**Chair**

Jude Bowman 0412 711 508  
[judebowman@home.netspeed.com.au](mailto:judebowman@home.netspeed.com.au)

**Editor**

Barbara Inglis 0413 135 845  
[inglisjb37@gmail.com](mailto:inglisjb37@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Pat McNamara 6249 1669  
[pmcn@webone.com.au](mailto:pmcn@webone.com.au)

**Deadline for next newsletter**

Friday 22 September

## HACKETT PROFILE

### MAUREEN CUMMUSKEY



Maureen was born in Hong Kong. She enjoyed her 16 years there – good friends, safe environment. Her father was a Chief Engineer on a British merchant ship, and on school holidays took his

wife and only daughter travelling with him to Osaka, Borneo, Rangoon and Calcutta.

Her father retired at 55 years, and the family went to Sydney (UK was too cold for a man who had always worked in warm countries). Maureen trained in a business college for a year, and then became a private secretary in a succession of places over 3 years. In addition to working, she became involved in British and Irish folk music, initially as a spectator and very soon after as a performer at folk clubs and festivals. In 1974 a Canberra musician friend was asked to put together a bush band for a contract to perform at the Lakeside Hotel each weekend for two months, and he invited Maureen to be part of the band.

Maureen liked Canberra so she moved here, obtaining secretarial work through an agency. She joined the Monaro Folk Music Society and went on to serve on the committee as the newsletter editor and then President. She continued performing in Canberra, and when the solo support musician for Billy Connolly fell ill, she was invited to replace him. This led to more support acts for visiting celebrities. She remembers a 4-gig tour with Phyllis Dillon – who was reserved when wearing a full-length mink coat, and became a raucous comedian in a short dress with diamonds, with wild hair and a cackling laugh, when the coat was removed. A very generous fee led to Maureen singing at a women's night at a Belconnen football club, with a male strip show, football players dressed as slaves and over 400 screaming women. After 10 minutes of performing, when she couldn't hear herself singing, she and her agent agreed that she may as well leave!

The next adventure was the formation of a women's theatre company. A 12 month Community Employment Program grant led to

“Women on a Shoestring”, directed by Camilla Blunden, with 10 actors, singers and musicians, appear in Canberra, and the Adelaide and Sydney fringe festivals.

After this Maureen joined the Public Service. With the Women's Bureau of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, for four years she edited the newsletter “Women and Work”. Each newsletter had a theme – sport, music, and such; she travelled extensively interviewing those she had chosen to feature. In the Communications branch of the Education Department she was Event Manager for government Ministers, organizing a variety of events in Canberra and Sydney.

Her singing continued. She co-formed a 5-piece women's band “Salvation Jane”, singing evenings and weekends, at Canberra, Sydney and at the coast. The band became well known and had a monthly residency at the Dickson Pub. The band continued for three years.

Maureen retired from the Public Service in 2009. She and her partner owned a house in O'Connor. In 2015 it was declared to be a Mr. Fluffy house, and they had to join many others seeking to buy a replacement home. They settled in Hackett. Maureen enjoys visiting the theatre, particularly for experimental plays, and listening to folk music. Travelling is a regular pleasure.

## SAMOA JUNIOR SWIM TEAM



Pene and Clyde of Hackett are hosting the Samoa Junior Swim team, who are participating in the 2024 Junior Pan Pacific Swimming Championships held in Canberra. The team could not afford to stay at the AIS during the championships, so the Hamiltons offered their hospitality. There are 6 swimmers and 4 officials in the team. Three of the swimmers are their children Solomona, La'auli and Nafanua. The children started their swimming with the Samoa Development Squad when the family returned to live in Samoa from 2013 to 2018

## CRIME IN HACKETT AND NEARBY SUBURBS June 2024

	Assault	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft	Shop stealing	Number plate theft	Other theft	Arson	Property damage	Total
Ainslie	3	1				2	2			8
Campbell	1	1			2		1		1	6
Dickson	5		1	1	20		9		4	40
Downer	1					1	1			3
<b>Hackett</b>	<b>1</b>						<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Lyneham	1	1		2		2	3		5	14
O'Connor	2		1	1		3	1		2	10
Reid		1	1	1			4		3	10
Turner	2		1				4	1	2	10
Watson	1	1	2	1		3	4			12

Offence	Street	Date	Offence	Street	Date
Other theft	Brennan Street	2 July	Property Damage	Madigan Street	5 July
Property Damage	Steele Street	3 July	Assault	Prell Street	10 July

## FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA

**Spring Bird Walk on Sunday 22 September, 8 to 10am** Meet at the nature reserve entrance at Tay St & Ian Nicol Streets, The Fair, North Watson and walk with bird enthusiast Peter Miller through grassy woodland to observe, hear and learn about the amazing variety of birds on Mount Majura. We will walk on rough tracks and uneven ground, so wear sturdy shoes. Bring binoculars, camera, Bird ID app or handbook if you have them; a gold coin donation for bird list.

For more information visit [www.majura.org](http://www.majura.org). Enquiries: [FoMMnaturewalks@gmail.com](mailto:FoMMnaturewalks@gmail.com)

**Weeding With a View on Sunday September 15 September 1 to 4pm** Help remove Horehound and other herbaceous weeds at the old stock camp on Mount Majura ridge, near the junction of the Casuarina and Summit trails. Enjoy the view, friendly company and the satisfaction of having cleared a patch of weeds to encourage native plants to thrive. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes which cover your limbs, preferably fabric with a smooth surface to resist burrs. Bring sun protection, drinking water, and garden gloves if you have them. We provide tools, gloves, and a delicious cake for afternoon tea.

A map at [www.majura.org](http://www.majura.org) will show the way to the site; note it will take about 30 minutes to walk to it from the edge to the Reserve.

## HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The HCA has received many reports about dumping of household items on our nature strips. Rather than being left and exposed to the weather, some of these items could be used by one of the following groups:

- Vinnies (at Dickson) and their *Goodies Junction* at the Mitchell Resource Management Centre;
- Salvation Army;
- *Roundabout Canberra* accepts items for children eg car seats [roundaboutcanberra.org](http://roundaboutcanberra.org)
- *Buy nothing project* <https://buynothingproject.org> – there is a Hackett group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1535119003556174/>.

The ACT Government provides a *Bulky Waste Collection* where Canberra households are eligible for one FREE bulky waste collection of up to 2 cubic metres per financial year. To request a bulky waste collection call 6205 9521 or email [TCCS.NoWasteBins@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS.NoWasteBins@act.gov.au).

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For hands-on or virtual assistance:  
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[www.facebook.com/greenacresnorthside](http://www.facebook.com/greenacresnorthside)

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