

GETTING TO KNOW JUDE BOWMAN



Neighbourhood
Watch ACT

*A monthly feature on the members of Neighbourhood Watch ACT
by Emily Harding*

February 2026

“Dare to join, dare to contribute, dare to spread the message”

Jude Bowman – President
Member since 2010 to Current

How long have you been involved in Neighbourhood Watch, and what first motivated you to join?

I've been a part of NHW ACT for 15 Years. I saw in the local Neighbourhood Watch newsletter (in Hackett) was asking for helpers to deliver newsletters. I delivered newsletters for 6-8 years and continue to fill in on an "as required basis".

How did you first hear about Neighbourhood Watch ACT?

Through word of mouth and local NHW newsletter.

What roles have you held, and what does your current role involve?

At the suburban level, I have served as a newsletter deliverer and Area Contact for Hackett. I organised the 52 delivery zones in my local area and developed and established the zone boundaries for Hackett, which remain in place today.

At the ACT level, I am the Membership Secretary and President. I helped create and implement the transition from mail-based correspondence to an email database system. I have also served briefly as the Public Officer. Throughout my time with Neighbourhood Watch, I have worked with many people across the organisation.

What aspect of Neighbourhood Watch are you most passionate about, and why?

Making a difference in how safe and secure people feel and helping people when they have an issue.



I also really enjoy opportunities to be involved across the whole organisation.

What skills or experiences have you gained through your involvement?

I have expanded my IT skills, including learning to use social media platforms such as Facebook and design tools like Canva. Sharon has been very supportive in helping teach me and answering any questions I have had along the way. I have also developed strong organisational skills and improved my communication skills through my various roles.



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What achievement or experiences in Neighbourhood Watch are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of the work I've done reviewing and improving the membership database, which has made it more accurate and much more useful for communicating with members. As President, I've also focused on improving communication across the organisation, looking for and progressing new opportunities that support community safety, and rebuilding relationships with stakeholders and partners. Throughout all of this, I've tried to be a collaborative and approachable leader.

How has your involvement in Neighbourhood Watch impacted your local community?

People come to me with all sorts of interesting questions. My 'job' is to better assist the community and individual residents at suburban and ACT level. For example – there was an abandoned car on side of the road. A person from the community contacted me asking if I could help as they had gone through "Fix my Street" and nothing had happened for a couple of weeks. I did another report on "Fix my street" and that afternoon the car was removed. I'm sure the timing was a coincidence but those affected were pleased to have a positive outcome.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about joining?

Dare to join, dare to contribute and dare to spread the message. Find something you're comfortable with and do it. Reach out and identify ways in which you feel confident to contribute and explore those avenues.

What keeps you motivated to continue volunteering?

Seeing positive results, along with new ideas and contributions, really keeps me motivated. I also value the regular catch-ups with other volunteers and stakeholders – staying connected makes a big difference.

Can you share a memorable moment from your time in Neighbourhood Watch?

For me, it's the little wins and the feeling that we're making a difference. Creating certificates of appreciation to acknowledge the work people do for NHW was memorable – seeing how much that recognition meant to them. I also value the moments when people step forward and offer their time to help. One standout memory was the 2025 Annual General Meeting, where people gave positive feedback and actively contributed on the night.

What do you enjoy most about your local community?

I really enjoy people's willingness to stay involved and to share their feedback. It shows that they care about the community.

What do you do outside of Neighbourhood Watch – hobbies, work, interests?

I enjoy gardening and spending time with my grandchildren and family.

From a NHW perspective, what are the most significant concerns in your community?

Home invasion and community safety.

What do you consider to be the greatest challenge(s) for NHW going forward?

Remaining relevant, moving with the times, attracting new/ active volunteers across all age groups, especially younger volunteers.

What direction/assistance from NHWACT would assist you to improve the safety and security of your community?

Being open to peoples' ideas and helping them to feel confident to approach NHWACT.

An interview with Jude Bowman
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