

NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

Hello and welcome to the NHW ACT May 2026 Newsletter.

Whatever your involvement, I'd like to thank you for your contribution to our community.

Welcome to Members who have joined NHW ACT since our last newsletter in March. We look forward to getting to know you and to draw on the skills, interests and experience in whatever capacity you wish to contribute.

As with any organisation, change is inevitable and is a response to the evolving needs of our members, the organisation and the community as a whole. We need to be open to new ideas and approaches which will help NHW ACT to make a difference in the community. Change can be uncomfortable but it can also be an opportunity to do things differently. Change provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by our current volunteers and to say thank you to those who have chosen to provide others with an opportunity to step into new roles.

Whatever your involvement, thank you. Your ideas, suggestions and feedback are welcome and can be provided to enquiry@nhwact.org.au.



Picture Jude Bowman

NHW Member profiles

Our intrepid reporter, Emily, chats with members of Neighbourhood Watch ACT to share their stories and highlight the people behind NHW ACT.

Each month, a new profile is published on the NHW ACT website and Facebook page, showcasing the diverse range of volunteers, coordinators, and Board members who help keep our communities safe and connected.

Read them here: <https://nhwact.org.au/index.php/profile-articles/>

GETTING TO KNOW
LILY WANG

Neighbourhood Watch ACT

A monthly feature on the members of Neighbourhood Watch ACT
by Emily Harding
May 2026

Lily Wang, Treasurer
Member since 2023

“Get started as soon as practical if you want to do any volunteer work—every role counts.”

How long have you been involved in Neighbourhood Watch, what first motivated you to join and how did you first hear about Neighbourhood Watch ACT?
I've been a part of Neighbourhood Watch for 3 years since I took the role of Treasurer. I have been looking for an opportunity to use my professional skills (as a CPA) to assist not-for-profit organisations in managing financials and budget. One of my former Treasury colleagues introduced me to the role. I learnt about Neighbourhood Watch ACT at an information stall at Burnings, where some Neighbourhood Watch members were promoting it.

What roles have you held, and what does your current role involve?
At ACT level, I am the Treasurer of the organisation. I have been managing the bookkeeping of bank accounts, collaborating with our external accountant on annual reports and providing ad hoc advice to board members relating to financial and tax queries.



What aspect of Neighbourhood Watch are you most passionate about, and why?
Working closely with ACT police and other organisations (such as Crime Stoppers) to advocate community safety measures to everyone. It is important to know that we are not solely relying on police officers to keep community safe.

What skills or experiences have you gained through your involvement?
I have really expanded my public speaking skills when attending the Royal Canberra Show in the joint booth with ACT police. This is a unique experience to me to learn how to advocate what we do at Neighbourhood Watch ACT and answer questions from public.

<https://nhwact.org.au/>
enquiry@nhwact.org.au
[@NHWACT](#)



Quantifying our contribution

As an organisation of volunteers, we contribute as our time and interests permit. We should not underestimate the importance and extent of each contribution. Jean Giese, Volunteering ACT and the guest speaker at last year's AGM, gave some insight into the extent of volunteering across the ACT and we have taken this information on board.

To better understand the quantum of our collective volunteering contributions through NHW ACT, we have initiated arrangements to capture our volunteer hours. Initially this will focus on the NHW ACT Board and activities they coordinate such as NHW attendance at community events and Members' Fora and their contribution as Board members.

The information will be based on a best estimate rather than requiring detailed recording. Ideally, we would like to capture the diverse roles and contributions across the organisation at all levels including events, meetings, committees, newsletters and deliveries and NHW Facebook and website input and any other activities local NHW ACT groups are involved with. Going forward, and subject to the agreement of local NHW ACT groups, we may look to expand this recording to capture a more comprehensive set of data. I think we will be surprised with the outcome.



Volunteering Opportunities

I am encouraged by the interest in a range of opportunities presently available within NHW ACT. In addition to the roles associated with the Board, several local NHW Groups are actively seeking to fill roles in their respective areas. We have had a positive response about several opportunities but there is always room for more ideas and volunteers.

Specifically, the NHW ACT Board has endorsed two appointments:

1. A new Membership Officer (formerly called Membership Secretary). We are delighted to confirm that Desiree Heather will take on this role from 1 July 2026. Congratulations Desiree and thank you to others who expressed interest in the role.
2. A Project Officer who will work with the Board to progress several projects including:
 - The design and development of a NHW Street Sign Register to facilitate management of these signs in consultation with the relevant contractor.
 - Multi-residential accommodation project. Some initial scoping has already been carried out, including establishing links with relevant stakeholders but progress has been limited.

Congratulations to Michael Terzjiski on his endorsement in this role.



What have we done?

Since our last newsletter we have attended the Volunteering Act Expo and Watson Community Day both at the end of March. As reported in the last newsletter we also had a very constructive Members' Forum in late March.

Volunteering ACT Expo: 20 March

We had a great afternoon at Volunteering ACT Expo at University of Canberra on 20 March.

Members of the Board of NHWACT pitched in to help and met many people eager to find a volunteering role that might suit them!



Watson Community Day: 30 March

We had a wonderful time celebrating Neighbour Day at the Watson Community Day.

Hosted by Watson Community Association, its aim was to bring the local community together, and to showcase local services, businesses and community activities. The weather was perfect and brought out the largest crowd since the event was initiated. Well done to everyone!

Whats coming up?

Did we miss the **AusIndia Fair** in 2026? The answer is "no". The AusIndia organising committee is progressing plans and will be in touch with NHW ACT to confirm arrangements. They are hoping for a date towards the end of June so be on the lookout for further information. It's a great event with lots of colour and culture.

Also in June, NHW ACT has been invited to attend a meeting of the **Jamison Probus Club** to provide hints and tips about staying safe in the community. If you belong to an organisation which would like to know more about NHW ACT, please email enquiry@nhwact.org.au.

In late June, NHW ACT will again host a delegation of students from the **Singapore University of Social Sciences** who are pursuing a degree in Public Safety and Security. This visit is an integral part of their course. ACT Region Crime Stoppers and ACT Policing will also be involved.

The next NHWACT Members' Forum is on 15 July. Mark your diaries to save the date. ACT Policing and Crime Stoppers will both be attending. An email will be sent to members closer to the date. We are hoping to include an option to also participate on-line.





COTA Seniors' Expo 23 and 24 September 2026. This is one of the highlights on our calendar of events. The Expo offers a unique opportunity to engage with seniors at every stage of their ageing journey, providing them with valuable resources, information and support. The revised format covers 1.5 days and NHWACT will have a stall and attendance across both days.

Further information will be provided closer to the date including a request for volunteers to assist.

Annual Reporting

If you are one of the small number of long-standing local NHW Groups which maintain a NHW bank account then this is important information for you.

Information about the 30 June balance, account details and signatories is required as part of the NHW ACT annual financial statements audit. The request for input and the related form will be sent to the relevant Area Contact in the last week of June.



Website Enhancement Working Group



As mentioned at the last Members' Forum, NHW ACT is initiating a project to consider some enhancements to our website. The review is in response to several proposals received from areas which were considered at this year's Strategic Planning Session. We are encouraged by the response to the expression of interest request issued to members in April.

Ten members have volunteered to be part of this working group. They bring together varying skills, experience and interests and their contribution is welcomed and appreciated.

Initial behind the scenes research about the current website suggests that a more holistic approach might be beneficial. The scope of the project will be expanded to include a review of the current website rather than just the suggested enhancements.

In the lead up to this work getting underway, the input from the volunteers for this project and a number of other members has been most welcome in preparing for this work. More on this as plans are formulated and agreed.

Social Media - Volunteer Opportunities

Social Media continues to be an important part of our communication with the community. The number of local Facebook Groups and visitor numbers continues to grow thanks to the dedicated efforts of our Social Media Manager, Sharon Leigh-Hazell. Currently we have over 27,000 followers, covering the NHW ACT Facebook Page, 19 local NHW Facebook groups, and 2 support groups. We are still seeking volunteers to be admins on the NHW ACT Facebook Page and in a number of local Facebook Groups and for a social media manager. We have been able to attract an admin for the Ainslie Facebook Group but it would be great to have more. Want to know more? Visit the website under [Volunteering Opportunities](https://nhwact.org.au/index.php/volunteering-opportunities/) (<https://nhwact.org.au/index.php/volunteering-opportunities/>).



Reconnecting with your suburb:

- Do you live in a suburb that does not have an active NHW Group?
- Would you like to connect with other members in your area?
- Would you like to help set up a NHW group in your area or a Facebook Group?
- Want to learn more?

Contact enquiry@nhwact.org.au

