



It's been a productive year. This newsletter highlights just some of what has been happening. Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to our organisation and the community this year. Congratulations and well done!

The Board of NHWACT wishes you a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to further contact in the new year.



Message from the Board

The end of the year is fast approaching, along with it is an increased level of activity associated with planning, preparing for and enjoying a wide range of activities.

Be Safe and Aware and don't drop your guard. Thanks to Gordon NHW for the hints and tips in their December Newsletter.:

- Stay alert and look out for your neighbours and community during the festive season;
- Increased hustle and bustle can lead to mistakes and overlooked details;
- Theft, burglary, scams, and other criminal activities tend to rise at this time of year;
- Offenders may take advantage of lowered vigilance;
- Busy shopping centres create opportunities for pickpockets;
- Roads are busier, and festive behaviour can increase risks;
- Alcohol and substance use can impair judgement and control;
- Large sums spent on gifts attract thieves and scammers.

2025 Volunteering ACT Team of the Year Nominee

The Executive and Support Team of NHWACT has been nominated for the 2025 Team of the Year as part of the Volunteering ACT Annual Awards. The team was among 104 nominations received spanning 7 categories.

Congratulations to the nominees in the NHWACT Executive and Support Team: Lily Wang, Albert Orszaczky, Clare McGrath OAM, Angela Di Pauli and Ian McLean. Pictured are Albert, Angela and Clare.



Multi-residential Living



Do you live in a multi-residential accommodation complex? As our city grows, high rise apartments and other types of multi-residential accommodation are becoming increasingly common.

NHWACT is working with a resident living in one such complex in Belconnen. This pilot aims at improving safety and security in these 'vertical suburbs'. It's early days but the interest and level of engagement is encouraging. If you want to know more email us at enquiry@nhwact.org.au



2025 Annual General Meeting

The usual AGM business was conducted at our meeting in mid-October with participation in person and on-line. Board elections were conducted and the guest speaker, Jean Giese, CEO of Volunteering ACT (pictured) provided an insight into the wider world of volunteering. Her experience is certainly relevant and her presentation was both entertaining and informative. Jean demonstrated the importance of being adaptable and open to change, qualities which as an organisation, we need to embrace as we continue to make a positive contribution to our community.

A new Constitution was overwhelmingly endorsed by those participating in the AGM. This document, which is now available on our website, will guide the organisation into the future. It has been a project-in-progress over an extended period of time. Special thanks are due to a number of key volunteers who have invested in this work including Mary Toohy, NHW Hackett, Kate Donaldson, NHW Hawker/Weetangera, Chris Hunter, NHW Farrer and Laurie Blackall, previous President NHWACT. A polished document can mean the world of difference to the final product. Thank you to Helen Di Pauli for bringing that polish to our new Constitution. Thanks are also extended to the NHWACT Board for their diligence and sustained involvement.

Join our Team!

Want to make a real difference in your community?

We're looking for a volunteer to join NHWACT as our Membership Secretary. It takes no more than 2 hours a week in the comfort of your home.

If you're organised and keen to help keep your neighbourhood safe, we'd love to hear from you. Training and support provided.

Email us at enquiry@nhwact.org.au for more info!



Join Our Team Today!

Seeking a new volunteer for Membership Secretary



Strategic Planning

Scott Lee, Chief Police Officer of the ACT, was a guest at the December Board meeting. It was an energetic and engaging session, strengthening our valued partnership with ACT Policing.

Together, we explored new ways to work with ACT Policing and our local community, plus exciting opportunities for future collaboration.

This is timely as the NHWACT Board is meeting in late January to develop the next iteration of our Strategic and Operational Plans and the associated budget.

A reminder, that if your NHW Area or Facebook Group has an idea which you wish to be considered as part of this planning activity, please submit your proposals by 19 December. The Board will consider each proposal and develop a short list to be included in our operational plan. We've already had some very promising submissions but there is always room for more.

Pictured from L to R is Deputy Commissioner Scott Lee, Clare McGrath OAM, A/g Superintendent Anna Daw, Jude Bowman, Angela Di Pauli and Albert Orszaczky.

2025 Members' Fora

We've had 2 successful Members' Fora this year, both well attended and interactive.

The most recent, in late October, included discussions about Canva, a resource which can be made available free of charge to those involved in NHW Facebook activities and in developing promotional materials for NHW events. Thank you to Melissa Ricketts, the Area Contact for Hawker/Weetangera who introduced participants to the application and provided an insight into how it might be of assistance. Melissa is something of a Canva-Expert and has been making great use of the program and AI which she also mentioned.

This year we have focussed on expanding our social media presence to reach a broader range of the Canberra Community. At our most recent forum, the Social Media Manager, Sharon Leigh-Hazell provided an update of our progress. We're happy to report that our reach has expanded significantly from 16 suburbs represented by our suburban Facebook groups in February to 39 suburbs in November 2025. Our followers have increased from 13,000 to more than 23,000 across our NHW Facebook page and suburban groups!

Sharon's contribution to our social media space has seen significant growth at both suburban and ACT levels. Thank you to all our NHW Facebook admins and moderators who make such a positive difference and allow us to communicate more easily with the wider community.

Feedback from the earlier Member's Forum was discussed and will be a recurring agenda item at future meetings. The next Members' Forum will be in March 2026 and we are hopeful it will include attendance by a member of ACT Policing.



Safe Plates

In the ACT, anti-theft number plate screws are available to help prevent the theft of number plates.

The screws typically require a special tool for removal which deters theft and vandalism.

NHWACT is liaising with ACT Policing to schedule a southside and northside event as soon as practical. In the interim, screws can be obtained from local Police Stations.



Many suburbs have had new signs like #2 installed and replacing old signs like #1!

NHW Street Sign Program

The street sign program has continued throughout the year with faded and damaged signs being replaced with new vibrant signs most recently in Hawker, Weetangera, Gordon, Monash and a number of suburbs in the Inner North. New signs have also been installed in Banks, Conder and Watson. NHW signs provide a visual message to everyone that Neighbourhood Watch ACT has your safety and security interest at heart.

Do you have visitors going through your rubbish bins? Here's some great advice from ACT Policing

- People rummaging through bins are often looking for 10c containers.
- Report suspicious behaviour to Crimestoppers (include descriptions and details).
- Call 131444 for property damage, trespass, or disturbances.
- Avoid placing confidential material in bins to reduce identity theft risk.





NHWACT in action!

Throughout the year NHWACT and Local NHW Groups have been active across our community. Be sure to stay in touch and let us know about any events you may be attending in your NHW capacity.

Write a short story, send us some photos and don't be shy at "shouting your success".

Together we continue to make a difference.

If you would like to be involved, contact us for a chat about opportunities at local or ACT level. Email is enquiry@nhwact.org.au.



Farrer NHW celebrated its twenty first birthday at the Farrer Fair in October

Hawker/Weetangera was at the local school fete



Florey NHW was at the Florey Fair





NHWACT was at Bunnings Tuggeranong and Belconnen for NHW Week



NHWACT and Hawker/Weetangera teamed up for Secure September at Bunnings Belconnen.



In June, NHWACT hosted a delegation of students from the University of Singapore





Business was brisk at the COTA Seniors' Expo in September with volunteers from NHWACT and local NHW areas.



NHWACT attended the launch of the Kenny Koala Exhibition to celebrate 50 years of Kenny Koala.



Hawker/Weetangera NHW had strong engagement at the Hawker Repair Café and was supported by members new to NHW.





The AusIndia Fair had a great atmosphere.

The Volunteering ACT Expo provided an opportunity to engage with other volunteer organisations and members of the community looking for ways to give back to the community.



The Royal Canberra Show is always a great way to kick off our NHW Year.

