

WANNIASSA NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER – December 2024

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About NHW

NHW is a community crime prevention program aimed at promoting a sense of safety, security and wellbeing. It seeks to reduce crime, particularly property crime and offences against the person and it aims to promote a secure environment resulting in safe and active neighbourhoods. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on their neighbours' properties, particularly if no one is home, and to report any suspicious behaviour to police.

You can show your support for this worthwhile organisation by becoming a member, with **no fee involved**. The Application Form can be accessed via the following website link: www.nhwact.org.au.

Anyone interested and available to assist with the delivery of Newsletters in their nearby streets, or being involved with any other NHW activities, should contact the Area Coordinator, either by phone or (preferably) email. The relevant details are shown in the banner heading above.

Report it

Report any suspicious activity, person or vehicle to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at act.crimestoppers.com.au. If a crime is in progress or police attendance is required, it should be reported promptly to the police on 131 444.

Crimes can also be reported online (preferably) at either the 'report a crime' tab at www.police.act.gov.au or the 'report crime online' link at act.crimestoppers.com.au or direct to a police station. For record purposes, we encourage you to also indicate that you are a Neighbourhood Watch member when reporting incidents or providing information.

It is important to report all suspicious activity no matter how trivial it may appear. A particular incident may be one part of other related incidents, and this report may lead police to apprehend offenders.

What do I report?

It is important to notice and report any identifying features of suspicious people or vehicles. The more distinguishing features noticed the better to assist patrolling police with their enquiries.

These can include such things as gender, height, shape, hair, clothing, any particular traits or characteristics such as walking with a limp, stooped, etc.

Similarly for vehicles, any additional details including number plate, size of vehicle, SUV 4-wheel drive, sedan, station wagon, hatchback, colour, any damage or conspicuous features in the paintwork, significant wheels, etc.

Also, if you notice a child or animal trapped in a hot vehicle, please call 000 to ensure prompt attention from both ACT Policing and ACT Ambulance.

Other Important Information

It's that time of year again when everyone and everywhere tends to get busy. Planning special events, holidays, end of term activities for the children, shopping, getting last minute jobs done before the end of year close-down, and the list goes on.

Amid all of this hustle and bustle, and increased pressure, it is easier for mistakes to happen, for things to go unnoticed and perhaps forgotten. It is at this time of year when the incidence of theft, burglary, scamming and other shady activities increase. Those who are 'up to no good' will look to take advantage of our guard being down.

Shopping Centres are busy, giving the potential pick-pocket more pockets to pick from!

Roads are busier, and with the festive season comes festive behaviour. Being 'merry' can for some mean increased alcohol consumption, and perhaps other substances, causing a lack of judgement and control.

A great deal of money may be spent purchasing gifts, many of which the would-be thief or burglar would like to get their hands on, as would scammers enjoy duping us out of our hard-earned cash.

Protect your valuables

- Keep cash and valuables out of sight.
- Adjust your blinds or curtains so you can't see what is inside.
- If you hang your key near a door with glass panels, make sure it is out of reach of anyone who could smash a pane.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash in your home unless it's in a good quality safe.
- Keep valuables in a safe spot and photograph items such as jewellery.
- Record the serial numbers, makes, models, colour and size of your specific items. Keep the list of inventory in a safe place and keep another copy away from home. Make sure you update the inventory when you get new property.

So, please, this festive season be vigilant, careful, thoughtful and, of course, NEIGHBOURLY.



Monthly Crime Statistics

The following criminal offences have been reported in Wanniasa since the previous Newsletter.

Offence type	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.
Assault (ABH & Other)	5	-	5
Burglary dwellings			
- Ashley Drive	-	-	1
- McBryde Crescent	-	-	1
Motor vehicle theft			
- Degraeves Street	1	-	-
- Ricardo Street	1	-	-
- Wheeler Crescent	-	-	1
Number plates theft			
- Comrie Street	-	1	-
Shop stealing			
- Sangster Place	3	5	1
- Comrie Street	3	1	-
- Denigan Street	2	1	1
- Gartside Street	-	1	-
Other theft			
- McBryde Crescent	1	2	-
- Grattan Court	1	-	-
- Rylah Crescent	-	1	-
- Mackinnon Street	-	1	-
- Kirkton Street	-	-	1
- Ashley Drive	-	-	1
- Comrie Street	-	-	1
Other property damage			
- Brodribb Street	1	-	-
- Denigan Street	1	-	-
- Sangster Place	1	-	-
- Ramsay Place	1	-	-
- Langridge Street	-	1	-
- Balfour Crescent	-	1	-
- Ashley Drive	-	1	-
- Gartside Street	-	-	1
- Sangster Place	-	-	1
- McBryde Crescent	-	-	1
- Illingworth Street	-	-	1
Total	21	16	17

Facebook Presence

A reminder that ACT Neighbourhood Watch has an active Facebook page where you will find some useful information regarding various local activities and community events. There is also some helpful advice relating to community safety and directions on crime prevention and reporting.

You can access us at www.facebook.org/NHWACT/, or can also connect through our website at www.nhwact.org.au where you will also find several worthwhile items of general interest.

What's in a Name?

The theme used for local street names throughout Wanniasa was Victorian State Politicians.

Garratt Street: John Masters Garratt (c1827-1881), land and commission agent and Victorian politician; MLA East Geelong 1871-77.



ACT Policing Information

Safe party behaviours – Hosting a party

Hosting a party at home or at a local venue can be a lot of fun. You and your guests want to have a great night and remember it for all the right reasons.

Here are some helpful tips when preparing to host a party:

- lock away valuable or fragile items
- food is important when serving alcohol, it helps to slow down the rate that alcohol is absorbed into the system. It's a good idea to serve food at regular intervals during the night
- try to avoid advertising your party using the internet, SMS, email distribution lists, online notice boards, social networking sites or word of mouth. This will lessen the chances of gatecrashers turning up at the event
- make the start and finish times clear on your invitation
- ensure the invite states 'Invite Only' to avoid uninvited guests
- clearly state if your party is alcohol free, BYO or if alcohol will be supplied
- ensure there is a phone in case of emergency and that you have a well-stocked first aid kit
- be mindful of your obligations as the host, stay in control and sober so that you are able to deal with any problems or emergencies
- gatecrash-proof your party by having a responsible person stand at the door that can discourage gatecrashers from entering. It can also be a good idea to hire private security guards to stand at the door for larger parties.

Source: ACT Policing at: police.act.gov.au/community-safety/alcohol-and-drugs/safe-party-behaviours

Conclusion

I would once again like to record my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Director and staff of Luton Real Estate in Tuggeranong for their generous support with printing of the quarterly Newsletters. I also express my appreciation to the several helpful members that have assisted with the letter box deliveries during the past year.

Finally, I wish all Wanniasa NHW members and other local residents a safe and joyous festive season and a happy and healthy 2025, hopefully free of the lingering curse of the Coronavirus.

Useful Numbers:

Emergencies (serious/life threatening)	000
Police Attendance (minor crimes)	131 444
Crime Stoppers (provide info)	1800 333 000
Access Canberra	132 281
Water/sewer emergency	131 193
Lifeline Crisis Support	131 114
State Emergency Service	132 500
RSPCA	6287 8100
Home Safety Program	6163 9084
Citizens Advice Bureau	6257 1687

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Proudly supporting Wanniasa Neighbourhood Watch

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