



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Torrens – July & August 2020

Area Coordinator: Anne Plunkett
Email: torrens@nhwact.com.au
Website: www.nhwact.com.au

Community Fire Units – Keeping Torrens safe

Peter Taylor, Team Leader ACT Fire and Rescue, Community fire Units 25 & 57 Torrens

After last summer's horrific fire season we are more alert to the dangers of fire in our suburbs. Community Fire Units (CFU) were established after the deadly 2003 fires, when NSW and ACT fire authorities recognised the need for community support in managing fires in high risk areas. Canberra now has over 800 highly trained community fire unit volunteers helping to cover high risk suburbs across Canberra.

In Torrens, our high-risk areas stretch along Hawker and Gouger streets, which are on the interface with the Mt Taylor Nature Reserve. Many of you would be aware of the two ACT Fire and Rescue trailers in these streets. They are equipped with state-of-the-art firefighting equipment ready for quick responses to fire emergencies. Just before the 2019 summer, Fire and Rescue assessed our suburb as being at higher risk than before and we now have two community fire units in Torrens. We have a very active group of around 19 volunteers all from Torrens trained and accredited with ACT Fire and Rescue. If it was not for Covid, you would have seen us undertaking training exercises in and around Hawker and Gouger Streets.

The ACT Government has just given us conditional clearance to re-commence our training regime, ahead of this summer's fire season. The CFUs volunteers' primary responsibility is to support the Fire and Rescue, Rural Fire Service and the Police in an emergency. This support is most likely directed toward ember attacks around houses and resident safety.

- Find out more at <https://www.esa.act.gov.au/join-us/volunteering/community-fire-units>
- We always welcome new members. Minimum age is 14. Contact me at tayloripeter@gmail.com.
- Do you have a bushfire survival plan for your household? Prepare yours using the template at <https://bit.ly/35imWnC>
- We're holding an informal meeting on **Sun 4 Oct from 4pm at the Hawker Street Trailer** (near 64 Hawker st). Bring a chair, a drink and nibbles. Meet your CFU members and we'll discuss the upcoming fire season and volunteers training & recruitment. We will follow social distancing and other Covid-safe arrangements.



ELECT PRINTING
02 6280 6925

Proudly sponsored by Elect Printing

112 Wollongong St Fyshwick
www.electprinting.com.au 6280 6925

Canberra's quality printer for over 30 years



COVID-19 update

The ACT Public Health Emergency has been extended to 19 Nov 2020. The ACT Chief Health Officer can continue to take any action, or give any direction, considered necessary to protect Canberrans from and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the ACT.

It's been more than 5 weeks since the last COVID-19 case in the ACT. Over 67,000 tests were conducted since the pandemic began.

While the ACT is in a good position, there will be further outbreaks in Australia and we need to remain vigilant.

The Recovery Plan is focused on minimising and managing risk. Restrictions will be further eased when the situation permits.

We ask Canberrans to maintain the behaviours we have all learnt over the past months - keep your physical distance, practice good hand hygiene and stay at home if you are unwell and get tested for any COVID-19 symptoms.

It's in everyone's interest to keep our city free of COVID-19 and prevent community transmission so that we can maintain our path to recovery and protect our most vulnerable community members.

Taken from a speech by ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith

Full speech at <https://bit.ly/31r7Z02>

ACT Covid portal at <https://bit.ly/3jeRN81>

Reporting Historic Sexual Assaults

ACT Policing's new Historical Sexual Assault Online Reporting Portal allows victims of historical sexual assault to lodge a report with the police. It complements existing reporting methods such as visiting a police station, contacting ACT Police Operations for a patrol attendance or via referrals from external stakeholders. The new portal sends a report to ACT Policing who then contacts the victim.

Victims may want an investigation, initiate court proceedings or simply contribute for reporting purposes. The new portal outlines the information required for such proceedings and give victims the choice to proceed with a criminal investigation or not.

Any incident of sexual assault no matter how long ago can be reported. If an incident happened less than 6 months ago, call 131 444, go to a police station or visit the hospital.

Visit the portal at <https://bit.ly/31KcTW5>

Ramblings Around Woden: The Illoura Saga

Block 40 *by Neville Bleakley*

The best-known tenants of the soldier-settler block called Illoura were Guy Tanner and his wife Frances (Brownie) Parramore of Tarcutta who purchased it in 1928. Their stories are well worth telling. However, the next few editions of Ramblings will tell the history of Illoura before their purchase.

Illoura was actually two soldier-settler blocks: the amalgamation of Blocks 40 and 26A in the District of Woden. It occupied most of present-day north-west Curtin, bounded by

Please assist our police. Report all suspicious activities to CRIME STOPPERS on 1800 333 000

For police attendance call 131 444. For all life-threatening emergencies and crimes in progress call 000.



Cotter Road in the north, Heysen St to the south, McCulloch St to the east and Malangi St Weston to the west.

Block 40 was leased to John Francis Donnelly in Oct 1920. Donnelly, born in 1885, was a member of the pioneering Donnelly and Massy families of the Gundaroo-Bungendore districts. He was the quartermaster sergeant on the staff of General Bridges when World War 1 began. He was wounded at Gallipoli (where Bridges was killed).

Donnelly was subsequently transferred to the Western Front. In May 1917 he commanded companies in the Second Battle of Bullecourt that achieved what Charles Bean described as the finest work by Pioneer Regiments in that war. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his efforts. He finished the War as the Commanding Officer of the 1st Pioneer Battalion.

After the war, Donnelly returned to Bungendore where he became an auctioneer. However, he still applied for a soldier-settler block in Woden. He was only given a short-term lease of Block 40 as he did not intend to live on the lease but to raise stock on it.

Part of his lease was resumed to make a camp for the workers of the Outfall Sewerage Works at Westridge who, Donnelly complained, left his gates open, allowing his stock to escape. Donnelly became disenchanted. His lease was terminated in July 1924, and five months later Block 40 was incorporated into Block 26A. Donnelly died in Sep 1962, and is buried in Woden cemetery.

ACT election information

From a media release published by ACT Elections on 10 Sep 2020.

The 2020 ACT Legislative Assembly election period officially began on 11 Sep, marking the start of the ACT government's caretaker period.

ACT Electoral Commissioner, Mr Damian Cantwell AM said COVID-19 safety measures meant this ACT election will be different. Early voting services have tripled, and voters are encouraged to vote early and vote safely.

The ACT has more than 99% enrolment. While people can no longer update their existing enrolment, recent legislative change means the small number of people not yet enrolled can do so right up to, and on, the final day of voting. Enrolling online ahead of time is a more efficient and COVID safe process.

The three-week voting period starts on Mon 28 Sep. ACT Elections has consulted closely with the ACT Chief Health Officer and the extended voting period is just one of many measures designed to uphold appropriate social distancing and hygiene requirements.

Fifteen early voting centres will be open every day between 28 Sep 2020 and 16 Oct 2020. 82 polling places will be open on the final day of the voting period, 17 Oct 2020.

Details of polling places for the 2020 election can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2ZT46jr>

Please assist our police. Report all suspicious activities to CRIME STOPPERS on 1800 333 000

For police attendance call 131 444. For all life-threatening emergencies and crimes in progress call 000.



Dogs on Mt Taylor

A Torrens resident has asked us to remind dog owners to keep their dogs on the leash at all times on Mt Taylor Nature Reserve. Recently, two off leash dogs attacked another dog. Dog owners may be fined for off leash dogs.

Caring for Mt Taylor

Kathy Eyles, Mt Taylor Parkcare Group

The Mt Taylor Parkcare Group partners with the ACT Parks and Conservation Services in looking after the Mt Taylor nature reserve. The Group recently celebrated 31 years of working on the mountain under the guidance of Anne l’ons and is made up of local residents who use and live close to the reserve.

The Group generally meets on the first Sunday of the month. Activities include weeding, erosion control works, trail repairs and closures. Early summer, it leads a wildflower walk and a butterfly walk.

- Learn more about the mountain on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MtTaylornaturereserve>
- Find out about volunteering in the ParkCare program at <https://bit.ly/33fgwD8>
- To volunteer, email mttaylorparkcaregroup@gmail.com

The Waterwatch program is another environmental volunteering opportunity. It monitors creeks, wetlands and rivers in the Southern ACT. It's just completed it's annual August survey of ACT's platypuses.

- Learn more at

<http://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/>

- If you want to volunteer email Martin at waterwatch@sactcg.org.au

Crime Statistics

June 2020 – Four incidents

Beasley	Assault other	14/06/20
Batchelor	Motor vehicle theft	12/06/20
Beasley	Other property damage	05/06/20
Basedow	Other theft	18/06/20

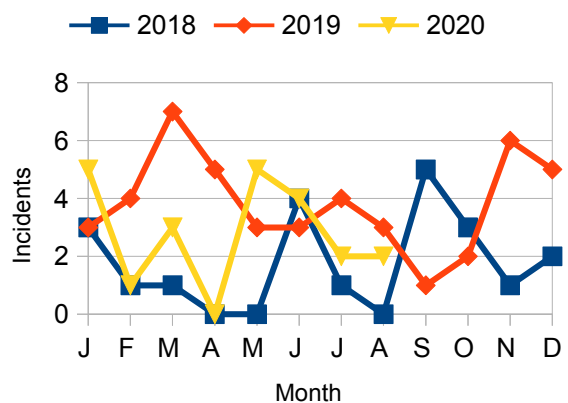
July 2020 – Two incidents

Parkins	Assault other	19/07/20
Davies	Other property damage	25/03/20

August 2020 –Two incidents

Gouger	Motor vehicle theft	07/08/20
Darke	Other theft	05/08/20

Monthly Incident Tracker



Rain Statistics

	2019	2020
Jun	19.2mm- 8 days	54.0mm- 7 days
Jul	8.6mm- 5 days	45.8mm- 8 days
Aug	21.2mm - 8 days	105.0mm - 11 days

Dru Yoga classes at Pearce Community Centre
Designed for all ages, fitness levels and flexibility

Web www.canberrayogacentre.com.au
Contact info@canberrayogacentre.com.au

