



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Torrens - May & June 2020

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### **From the Area Coordinator**

COVID-19 has unfortunately meant our valued long term sponsor has withdrawn funding for printing of this newsletter.

We're now seeking sponsors so we can continue printing and delivering the Torrens NHW Newsletter. If any readers are in a position to help us, then for a modest outlay your business or association logo, contact information, website URL and other information could appear on our front page and be delivered to every household in Torrens. For further information, please contact me at [torrens@nhwact.com.au](mailto:torrens@nhwact.com.au)

### **Reminder to use poo bags!**

In the interests of maintaining a clean and safe neighbourhood, a Torrens resident has asked us to remind dog owners to carry a poo bag when walking their dogs. The ACT also has penalties for dog owners who don't carry poo bags when walking dogs.

Owners are urged to pick up after their dogs and dispose of the bag and its contents in a responsible manner, i.e. place it in the home rubbish bin. Thank you to all those dog owners who are already doing the right thing.

**If you have any suggestions to improve the safety, security and well-being of our neighbourhood, please contact me at [torrens@nhwact.com.au](mailto:torrens@nhwact.com.au)**

NHW newsletters are available online at <https://www.nhwact.com.au/newsletters.php>

### **Introducing your NHW Torrens team**

Anne Plunkett, Torrens NHW coordinator, has lived in Canberra since 1974 and in Torrens since 1989, when not on overseas postings with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Since retiring in 2017, Anne has expanded her activities and interests. She thinks NHW is a great way to learn more about Torrens and its people, and hopefully make a modest contribution to the safety and well-being of our our neighbourhood.

While Anne is a newcomer to NHW, a small team of volunteers have been quietly delivering around 1000 NHW newsletters to your mailboxes, the local newsagent and primary school, every couple of months for years.

John Nicolson was one of the first people to move into his street in Torrens, in 1968, with his wife, Beth. Originally from South Australia, they raised 3 children in Torrens. A former Chief Surveyor for the ACT, John retired in 1991. He was one of the original newsletter deliverers when NHW first started in Torrens and started again about 5 years ago.

For the past few years, John also provided the rainfall recordings in this newsletter. He has had a rain gauge in his backyard since 1968, and provided rainfall measurements to the Bureau of Meteorology in 1983, and now for NHW.

Through personal contact, a friendly word and family connections, John invited 3 more people to distribute the newsletter: Dean Wallace, Peter Hogan and Malini Devadas.

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### **COVID-19 update**

Look at Canberra's COVID-19 dashboard

<https://bit.ly/2zOsbhn>

Discover Canberra's COVID-19 recovery plan

at <https://bit.ly/3h5QOa0>

To keep ourselves safe continue to:

- Stay 1.5 metres away from other people whenever we can.
- Maintain good hand washing and cough/sneeze hygiene.
- Stay home when unwell, and get tested if you have respiratory symptoms or a fever.
- Consider using the COVISDSafe app. Delete it after the pandemic is over. Download from <https://bit.ly/2XFRkno>



During the COVID-19 pandemic, ACT Policing are focused on businesses that may have closed for extended periods due to COVID-19, by liaising with business owners and patrolling premises.

Officer in Charge of Community Safety, Detective Station Sergeant Mark Rowswell said "Property crime is opportunistic in nature. There are many simple steps that can deter would-be thieves. If you have CCTV, a security alarm and security lighting, keep them on. These can deter burglars and assist police to identify offenders."

"If you don't have CCTV, consider if now is a good time to install it. Speak with your neighbouring business to identify if common cameras can be installed. Businesses can also display clear warning signs – referencing security features such as alarms and CCTV, or that no money or valuables are kept on site."

The ACT Keyholder Register is a list of the names and after-hours contact details of business owners or others who have access to a business premises. It's stored on the Australian Federal Police's (AFP) confidential computer system and only accessed when police need to contact the business owner or another relevant contact person after hours"

Business owners can register their details on the ACT Keyholder Register to improve safety procedures. Keep the information up to date. The register is at <https://bit.ly/2MFjpFi> Find out more about business security at <https://bit.ly/2AQDwNT>

### **New President for NHW ACT**

Margaret Pearson has stepped down as President of NHW ACT. She'll focus on her role as company Secretary for the Board of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia. Margaret's extraordinary contributions to NHW ACT over the 15 years included 2 terms as President.

NHW ACT welcomes long-time Canberra resident Laurie Blackall as President. In 1989 Laurie established NHW in Florey. He continued the relationship when he retired from the public service and became Area Coordinator for Casey. Last year he was elected Treasurer for the Board.

**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.**



Laurie sees a great future for NHW in the ACT, and "looks forward to the challenges of building capability to remain relevant in an increasingly connected and informed community".

### **Ramblings around Woden – a new chapter 3**

*Neville Bleakley, for Curtis Campbell of Torrens*

The fortitude of those affected by the Valley fires of Jan 1952 is to be admired. The Russells re-built their house "Narrabundah" in what is now Endeavour St Red Hill, where Charlie lived - the bane of Canberra bureaucracy - until his death on 26 Mar 1998, aged 93. Marion Douglas nee Eddison of "Yamba" said her father – know to all as Capt Eddy - drank a couple of whiskies then said "What the hell... let's get on with it". Mrs Eddy, on finding that her garden was not badly burnt, said "There's always someone worse off than you".

Let's finish on a lighter note. Mr Kent Hughes was Minister for the Interior at that time. He saw the effect of the fires, and contacted the Campbells of "Yarra Glen" to find out what had happened. George Campbell's son Robert offered to drive Mr Hughes and his secretary to the site of the fires. They went in the Campbells' Land Rover, which had the back up. By the time the party had traversed the blackened paddocks, everyone in the vehicle was covered with black ash. What was worse, the Minister and his secretary had to attend a cabinet meeting in Melbourne that afternoon, so they had a flight to catch. They had a quick wash in the Campbell bathroom at "Yarra Glen", then went on their way. One can only imagine the greetings from their cabinet colleagues when they arrived in Melbourne!

Robert Campbell's efforts were worth it. Mr Hughes found that the Electricity Authority was responsible for starting the three fires. Valley farmers received compensation from the Government for their losses.

### **The Inspector returns**

14 ACT Policing officers have received the title of Inspector. This happened last in the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in the 1990s, before a review and a flattening of the AFP's structure.

Since then, officers in charge of sections, police stations and specialist units held the rank of Station Sergeant. The new title reflected the seniority of these officers within ACT Policing, but did not provide parity of rank with other police jurisdictions.

Restoring the title to to ACT Policing, and soon the wider AFP, ensures officers with significant service and experience, working across police jurisdictions, are recognised.

Chief Police Officer for the ACT, Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan said the title of Inspector holds great significance for police across Australia.

"A number of current and former ACT Policing officers campaigned for some time to reinstate Inspectors in the AFP. Their compelling arguments and pursuit of this change has come to fruition, and while it is appreciated now, I know the upcoming leaders of ACT Policing will also thank them for their efforts."

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Dean came to Canberra in 1964, and apart from two overseas assignments with Treasury in the UK and with the IMF in Bhutan, he and Alma have lived in Torrens since 2006. Their 5 children went to Sacred Heart Primary in Pearce. Retiring in 2016, Dean has been delivering the NHW newsletters for the past three years. He is happy to deliver a newsletter he considers to be useful, worth sharing and welcomed by Torrens residents.

Living in Canberra since 1977, most of those years in Torrens, Peter came on board around the same time as Dean. A self-employed businessperson, Peter retired early for health reasons in 2007. He enjoys walking, particularly in support of a good cause. His 2 boys went to Torrens Primary and Melrose High.

Malini came to Canberra in 1977 and moved to Torrens in 2006 with her husband, John. Their 2 children also go to Torrens Primary and Melrose High. She started delivering the newsletters more than 2 years ago, after a chance conversation with John. The newsletters match her wish to be involved in the community and her love of walking.

**All about vulnerable road users**

Children, pedestrians, motorcyclists, and cyclists are vulnerable road users, because they do not have the same protection as a car during a collision.

Drivers should pay particular attention in and around school zones. Children are our most vulnerable road users who are at high risk around traffic. Also, vehicles must be at least 1m away from a cyclist in speed zones at or below 60km/h, and 1.5ms at above 60km/h.

**Crime Statistics**

**March 2020 – Three incidents**

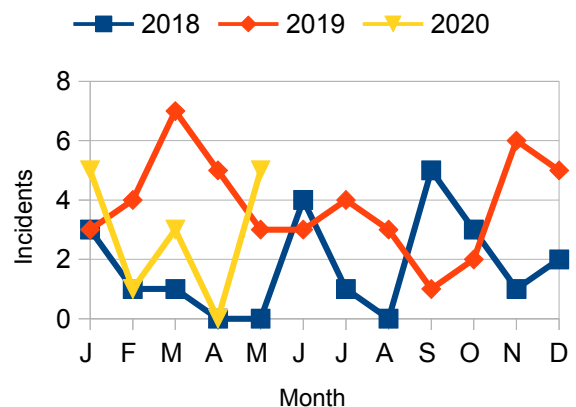
Kavel	Assault other	07/03/20
Coles	Other theft	25/03/20
Parsons	Other theft	27/03/20

**April 2020 – No incidents reported**

**May 2020 –Five incidents**

Stevenson	Burglary dwellings	01/05/20
Beasley	Motor vehicle theft	07/05/20
Batchelor	Other property damage	10/05/20
Cawker	Other property damage	31/05/20
Beasley	Theft of vehicle number plates	07/05/20

**Monthly Incident Tracker**



**Rain Statistics**

	2019	2020
<b>Mar</b>	78.8mm- 11 days	101.4mm- 11 days
<b>Apr</b>	28.0mm- 2 days	87.4mm- 11 days
<b>May</b>	57.0mm - 10 days	22.8mm - 7 days

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