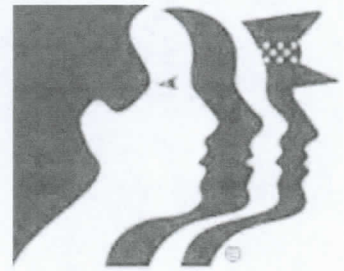


Neighbourhood Watch Hackett Newsletter



Electronic copies of the newsletter
www.nhwact.org.au

APRIL 2025

CYCLISTS IN THE ACT

Cyclists share the same road rules as cars, with some further specifications

Anyone on a bicycle must:

Wear an approved, properly fitted and securely fastened helmet
Have at least one effective brake, and a warning device such as a bell or a horn

Have a front white light and a red rear light, visible for at least 200m

Have a red rear reflector

Riding on shared paths and footpaths.

In the ACT a cyclist may ride on shared paths and footpaths. When doing so, a cyclist must keep to the left and must give way to pedestrians. When a cyclist wishes to overtake a pedestrian, ringing a bell or calling out is a courteous procedure, giving the pedestrian warning of the cycle's presence. It may be necessary for the cyclist to move off the path to overtake.

On-road bike lanes

If a bicycle lane exists, an on-road cyclist must ride in the lane provided, unless it is impractical (eg pothole, debris)

Cyclists beware that motorists may not anticipate your moving out for hazards.

Cycling two abreast

It is legal to ride two abreast in the ACT. This may mean one rider inside and one rider outside of the designated bike path. Or two riders in the regular flow of traffic if there is no bike lane. These riders should not be more than 1.5m apart and should exercise consideration of other road users.

Pedestrian Crossings

Using a crossing, cyclists may stay on their bike

Cyclists must slow to 10kph or less

Minimum overtaking distance for motorists

When passing a cyclist, motorists must leave a 1 metre distance when driving at up to 60kph, and 1.5 metre distance when travelling over 60kph

Emergency 000
Attendance 131 444
Crimestoppers 1800 333 000
Inquiries 6256 7777

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Deadline for next newsletter
Friday 2025

HACKETT PROFILE

Gisela von Gavel



Gisela grew up in Oberwälden near Stuttgart in Germany. She was born at the start of World War II. Her father was the village schoolteacher, but left to serve 5 years in the army. Gisela and her

brother were not greatly affected by the war; there was food rationing, but her mother leased two farm plots to grow vegetables and fruit, kept chickens in the back yard, and used her silver and linen to barter with village farmers for other necessities. The villagers were obliged to share their homes with refugees from the neighboring bombed city. After the war, Gisela remembers the American tanks driving through the village and she saw her first Black American.

Her father returned from the war and he was a stranger to his two young children; her brother had never met him. Before the war her father had needed to join the Nazi party to be able to get a job; this meant that now he could not get a job as a teacher. He joined a firm selling his beautiful water-color paintings for some years, until he was able to return to teaching.

At the end of school, Gisela trained as a nurse. After two years working as a nurse, she and a friend decided to travel. They left for Australia on her twenty-first birthday. When she arrived at the migrant hostel near Melbourne she found sleeping in an iron bed in a Nissan hut strange and the Australian food not to her taste. They quickly found a job at the Queen Victoria Hospital. Their German qualifications were not accepted but they were taken on as trainee nurses for some months before they became nursing sisters. She found the stern matron intimidating and the system different. They left the hospital after a year to see more of Australia. Cairns was not the exciting place she expected. In Sydney they joined a private nursing agency. Gisela's job was attending an elderly lady who needed someone there at night. At weekends Gisela was often invited to join her at elegant luncheons.

Gisela met her future husband Peer in Sydney. She was invited to a party to welcome visiting German sailors; he was there from Walgett to see

his brother, the captain of a German merchant ship. Peer had paid his own way to Australia in 1952. They were married in Walgett in 1963 with only friends of Peer as the guests. They bought a Millard caravan and for the next four years travelled from property to property with Peer building fences, shearing sheds and telephone lines. They would camp near the shearers' quarters to access electricity, showers and toilets. Or they camped by a bore for the water. They went spotlighting for kangaroos; the skins were pegged out to dry, sent to Sydney for tanning, then posted to delighted relations in Germany. They went shooting pigs, ducks and even snakes that came too close to the van – Gisela was a good shot. She loved the life. Property owners always invited them to dinner; Gisela still found the cooked mutton not to her liking.

They lived in the van for 18 months after their first daughter was born. She played in a large meat safe to prevent her walking on bindies (spikey grass seeds). Before their second daughter was born they moved into a house in Walgett. As Peel was away working most of the week Gisela was unable to take a job. But when their third daughter started school Gisela could work at the primary school and later at the high school, where she worked for 31 years as a library assistant.

The three daughters went to Walgett High School which was large enough to provide tuition in a wide range of subjects. At that time students came also from Lightning Ridge. Then that town gained its own High School, and Walgett High school shrank to 100 students, mostly indigenous.

In 1984 Peer had a heart attack and could no longer do heavy work. He became a ranger for the Pasture Protection Board. He was a skilled pilot in the local aero club and could use a plane to check on the drovers. The aero club also did air drops to outlying farms when the region flooded. He retired at 72; but still enjoyed repairing equipment for the farmers. He died in 2006.

Gisela stayed working in Walgett for another 4 years. When she retired she came to Canberra, where two of her daughters and their families live. A grandson, training as a nurse, has lived with her for 5 years. She finds much to do here; Provis, U3A, concerts, gym, and more.

NEWSLETTER PROFILES

The Editor is always pleased to hear from people who would like to share their story and be included in the newsletter as a Profile.

CRIME IN HACKETT AND NEARBY SUBURBS January 2025

	Assault	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft	Shop stealing	Number plate theft	Other theft	Arson	Property damage	Total
Ainslie	1	1	3			1	1		2	9
Campbell	3		1	1						5
Dickson	1		1	5	11		15	1	10	44
Downer			1	1			4	1	2	9
Hackett							3		3	6
Lyneham	6	2	1	1	1	2	2		3	18
O'Connor						1	3		1	5
Reid				1		2	4		1	8
Turner	2	3	2	2			2		5	16
Watson	1	1		1		1	4		4	12

Offence	Street	Date	Offence	Street	Date
Property damage	Phillip Ave	2 February	Property damage	Selwyn St	19 February
Other theft	Gilbert St	9 February	Other theft	Gilbert St	19 February
Other theft	Gilbert St	18 February	Property damage	Skeats St	23 February

FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA

Sunday working bee 27 April 1 – 4pm, North Watson Autumn means it's time to treat deciduous woody weeds. We will remove Briar Rose and Hawthorn growing in the nature park close to the Federal Highway. Meet at the entrance to the nature reserve at Tay and Ian Nicol Streets, North Watson. Please be on time to join us on the walk to the site. Wear clothes which cover your limbs and sturdy shoes; bring drinking water, sunscreen and garden gloves if you have them. We provide tools, gloves and a delicious home-made cake for afternoon tea. No experience necessary – all welcome.

More information at <https://majura.org>

Spotlight walks 5.30pm Friday 11 and Saturday 12 April Enjoy looking out for nocturnal animals, walking on gravel tracks on Mt Majura's lower slopes. BYO torch. Places limited, bookings essential. Email Fommnaturewalks@gmail.com. More details after you book. Enquiries welcome.

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Next meeting Tuesday 13 May at 7.30pm by Zoom. If you would like to participate please send an email to info@hackett.asn.au.

HELPING PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILDREN'S MATHS EDUCATION

John Carty was Head Teacher in Mathematics at Merici School for 30 years. He spent some years handling the AST scaling tests for the ACT Government before he retired. He still works with the Australian Council for Educational Research, and with local schools providing professional development courses for student and new teachers.

He has published a book aimed at helping parents, and grandparents, to get involved with their child's maths education, particularly word problems. It contains 777 maths questions for children from age 10 to year 10, with hints on how to solve them, and answers.

To purchase a copy of his book *Mathematical Word Problems: For Parents to get involved in their child's Maths via word problems* call John on 0418 674 733.

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