

# Neighbourhood Watch Hackett Newsletter



Electronic copies of the newsletter  
[www.nhwact.org.au](http://www.nhwact.org.au)

**APRIL 2026**

## **HOLIDAY SECURITY**

Neighbourhood Watch ACT has developed this checklist to help residents minimise the risk of home burglary whilst absent.

### **Lock up when leaving**

Lock all doors, windows, gates, sheds, pet doors, skylights, and other access points.

If leaving a car at home, lock it and secure it in a garage or behind locked gates.

If you have a garage, make sure the main and access doors are both securely locked.

Remove any spare keys hidden outside your home.

### **Create the impression that someone is at home**

Keep your lawn mown and trim the shrubs and bushes around the front entrance.

Set timers to turn lamps and lights on and off at night.

Use timers to turn your radio or TV on and off throughout the day.

Turn down the volume on your telephone ringer and turn off alarm clocks.

Check or instal motion sensor lights at front and rear entries

### **Stop any regular deliveries**

Cancel any regular deliveries, such as newspapers or food.

Arrange with Australia Post to have your mail redirected or held at the post office.

Organise a trusted neighbour, family member or friend to collect your mail whilst away.

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

### **Chair**

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### **Deadline for next newsletter**

Friday 24 April

### **Hide valuables out of sight**

Keep valuables like laptops, jewellery and keys out of view from windows and doors.

Store tools, ladders, and other items securely so they can't be used to break into your home.

### **Ask neighbours, friends or family to**

Put your bins out on collection day and bring them in afterwards.

Adjust blinds or shutters throughout the day to give the home a lived-in look.

House sit for you or check on your property on regular intervals.

### **Don't advertise your absence**

Set your social media profiles to private and remove any unknown followers.

Avoid sharing holiday plans or updates publicly on social media.

Update voicemail and email autoreplies to remove any mention of being away.

## HACKETT PROFILE

### ANDREW BLANCKENSEE AND JULIE MATTHEWS



Andrew was born in the Perth WA suburb of Applecross, one of three children. After his school years, he completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in politics and history at the University of WA, then wanting to make his own way he moved to Sydney, working with the then Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. He then worked as a public servant for three years and next as a Community Housing Officer. Whilst working on the migrant and refugee English program (AMEP) he saw the vitality of this teaching, and completed a one year Diploma of Education, majoring in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages (TESOL). He was appointed to a government high school and taught English to refugees and migrants. The students were predominantly Vietnamese and Khmer so he decided to take a course in Vietnamese. He again met his future wife Julie in that class.

Julie grew up in Warrawee, then a developing suburb of Sydney. She took a Bachelor of Social Work at UNSW. In her first job she established a Family Support Centre in Bondi, which incorporated an existing volunteer-run tenancy advice service. Andrew and Julie met when he approached the centre, to ask if he could use the centre's vacant back yard to grow vegetables for the centre and himself. He later joined the Board of the Centre and volunteered on the telephone tenancy hot line. Julie next worked for a housing commission estate. She managed to organise a regular bus trip for the residents from the estate to a shopping centre. This became a regular Sydney bus route, bus 333. Two years of travelling, through Asia and Europe followed, and on her return she worked as a community development worker helping Indo-Chinese community organisations. She saw the benefit of studying the Vietnamese language, and at the course she again met Andrew

They married and lived in Marrickville for five years. Their son Matthew was born during this time. Andrew was teaching TESOL to adults; Julie worked for the NSW Government, and also completed a Masters Degree in Public Policy.

In 1991 they moved to Canberra, where Julie had obtained a position in Immigration in the Commonwealth public service. They rented a house in O'Connor. Andrew worked initially at the Queanbeyan TAFE, organising an Outreach program. Before their second son was born they bought their current house in Hackett. Andrew was now working at the Canberra Institute of Technology teaching English as a Second Language. He was also a Union representative and worked as the TAFE organiser for the Australian Education Union for 3 years. He retired in 2013, after teaching there for 21 years and being made a Life Member of the AEU. Julie continued working in the Commonwealth public service. She retired from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2017.

When Andrew retired he tried out five retirement projects. Two of these are still maintained; he presents a program of folk music on Art Sound FM Community Radio, and he is a volunteer guide at the Museum of Australian Democracy. He is now on the Board of the Canberra International Music Festival (tickets for sale at [www.cimf.org.au](http://www.cimf.org.au) !) and is Deputy Team Leader of Hackett's fire unit CFU52. He sings in two choirs, one of which, Worldly Goods on occasion perform at the National Folk Festival. He has also completed a distance education Associate Degree in Winegrowing, from Charles Sturt University, Wagga Campus.

When Julie retired she became a Guide at the National Gallery. She is now President of the Gallery's Guides Association. Walking regularly with a bush-walking club and walking their dog Adam each day in Mt Majura Nature Reserve is keeping her fit. Andrew and Julie frequently visit their two sons and three grandchildren in Melbourne and also visit Margaret River, in regional WA. Julie has taken up knitting, and each year knits a beautiful jumper for each of her grandchildren and sometimes for her sons.

Julie and Andrew have been living in Hackett for over 30 years. They love its leafy and quiet streets, the proximity to the bush and the feeling of being part of a vibrant community.

## CRIME IN HACKETT AND NEARBY SUBURBS February 2026

	Assault	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft	Shop stealing	Number plate theft	Other theft	Arson	Property damage	Total
Ainslie	2	1	1			1	2		5	12
Campbell	3			1		1	2		2	9
Dickson	2		1	11		2	9		4	29
Downer		1	1	2			1		1	6
<b>Hackett</b>	<b>1</b>						<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
Lyneham	5	1		1	1	1	3		3	15
O'Connor	1		1	1		1	2		2	8
Reid	1						5		4	10
Turner	2	2	1				2		2	9
Watson	2	1	1	1			2		3	10

Offence	Street	Date	Offence	Street	Date
Other theft	Haddon Place	5 January	Property damage	Russell Street	28 January
Assault	Dunlop Street	27 January	Other theft	Antill Street	24 February

### FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA

**Third Sunday working bee** on *Sunday, 19 April, 1- 4pm* Meet at the nature park entrance in Mackenzie Street, near Grayson Street . We will be tackling woody weeds in Hackett, removing a variety of woody weeds growing near the Bluemetal Road and Hackett Houses Track, including some non-local natives.

Bring sun protection, drinking water, and garden gloves if you have them. We provide gloves, tools, and a home-made cake for afternoon tea.

All welcome. Novice weeders can pair up with experienced FoMJM volunteers.

More information and a map [www.majura.org](http://www.majura.org)

### HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (HCA)

#### A cleaner Hackett through community action

The Hackett Community Association would like to thank the 30 participants who collected a trailer load of rubbish on Clean Up Australia day. The diligent volunteers picked up enough rubbish to fill a trailer, including many cigarette butts, mown plastic pieces, a bike frame, pieces of metal signs, broken chairs, plastic crates, and the wooden frame of a bed.

The HCA would like to thank Terry de Luca who has coordinated the Hackett CUA day every year since 2005 – well done Terry

### DUMPING UNWANTED ITEMS

A resident has reported that unwanted items are being dumped at a small park in Hackett. Dumping is illegal, attracting fines, and can be a health or safety problem, and is unsightly.

#### To dispose of unwanted waste items:

Access Canberra will provide you with a free, once-yearly collection of bulky items, up to 2 cubic metres, if you request it.

The commercial company Dial-a-tipper will remove household objects, for a fee.

#### To dispose of items of good quality, that others could use :

A trailer could be used to take them to Goodie's in Mitchell, that sells donated second-hand goods cheaply.

On the "Buy Nothing Hackett" Facebook group, goods can be advertised to give away.

On the online apps Marketplace and Gumtree, goods can be advertised for gifting or for sale.

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### Overwhelmed with Clutter and a Disorganised Home...?

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FREE Decluttering Quick Start Guide **HERE**

<https://www.getwellsorted.com.au/guide/>

For hands-on or virtual assistance:  
[virginia@getwellsorted.com.au](mailto:virginia@getwellsorted.com.au)



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## PICKLEJAM

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0413 584 744  
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## PJ'S PROJECTS

Sculpture, Furniture  
Custom projects,  
Inside, outside, large,  
small; recycled and  
salvaged wood

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