

Neighbourhood Watch Hackett Newsletter

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



FEBRUARY 2026

ONLINE SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

Esafety provides free one-hour online presentations or webinars covering a range of topics concerning safety on the web.

Current topics are:

- February 10 Can you spot a scam?
- February 17 Safer online shopping and banking
- February 19 Technology and your health

Further topics are presented throughout the year. For further information contact

Beconnected.esafety.gov.au/online-safety-presentationsd

NHWACT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NHWACT starts its community engagement this year at the Royal Canberra Show on 20 – 22 February. It will again join with ACT Policing and ACT & Region Crime Stoppers to contact and provide information to the community

DANGER OF LEAVING PETS IN HOT VEHICLES

Last month police received a report of two dogs locked in a car in a shopping centre carpark. Police arrived and observed the two dogs in a very distressed state, with the outside of the car very hot to touch and all the windows shut.

Officers gained access to the vehicle and immediately transported the dogs to a nearby vet for life-saving treatment.

ACT Policing Sergeant Mick Serbatoio said that it was important to remind people of the dangers of leaving animals in vehicles.

“Luckily in this instance bystanders contacted police who were able to intervene quickly, but this could have very easily had a tragic outcome.

If you do see an animal in a vehicle in distress, contact Domestic Animal Services Rangers on 13 22 81, or if it’s an emergency contact police on Triple Zero (000).”

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

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Deadline for next newsletter

Friday 20 February

HACKETT PROFILE

Anthony Burgess



Anthony was born in Blacktown, Sydney, the oldest of four children. His childhood was spent in Albury; his family lived on the edge of town, and the children

could play without constraint.

In his teens Anthony took on a milk run. Poor pay, but it gave him enough money to buy things like a computer and music cassettes. In year 11 he was enthralled by the band Midnight Oil, by their music and by their songs of environmental and social issues. His interest in the band has been maintained over the years when the band stopped as their singer Pater Garrett entered parliament, then it started again when he rejoined the band. Anthony has been to about twenty of their concerts over the years, and mourns the death of drummer Rob Hirst last month.

He was a scout and a venturer, and enjoyed camping. Each year his family went camping around NSW in the holidays.

Anthony took a Science degree in Mathematics and Statistics at the ANU, staying initially at Bruce Hall. He chose the ANU because Canberra was a city not as large as Melbourne or Sydney. He excelled at school and, similar to many like him, in his first year he felt that he need not study. A failure in one subject woke him up; he obtained excellent results in subsequent years. He took part-time jobs when a student; as a cleaner, maintenance and gardening on campus, and landscaping.

After he obtained his degree Anthony joined the Public Service and briefly tried actuarial studies; he quickly decided it was not for him. Over the next ten years he was a business analyst. He married Megan and two boys were born. As a business analyst he moved to the IT company EDS (taken over by HP) and

worked there in project management for 16 years. He moved to Hackett when he and Megan separated.

After 16 years at HP he was feeling continually stressed and anxious and sought more community-based work in Lyneham High School Administration, which he still enjoys.

He has a great workshop, equipped with wood-working tools. Using reclaimed wood, he has made a range of tables, stools and clothing ladders as part of charity fund-raising and in promoting a singer/songwriter. He has made many other things, such as dining tables, a barbeque stand, and bookcases. He is currently making three coffee tables – one for him and his partner Alice, one to sell, and one to give to charity.

He had been a squash player for decades but a knee injury stopped that a few years ago. He is now a recreational mountain-bike rider. One son is also a skilled squash player and has obtained a sports scholarship to Edinburgh University where he can study his chosen field of engineering. Anthony reflects that, unlike in his time when communication overseas was by letter and communal phone, he can stay in constant communication with his son by WhatsApp three times a week. He and Alice visited him on a European trip last year.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a great band of volunteers that ensures that each month our newsletter is delivered to every home in Hackett. Some leave us each year, due to their leaving Hackett or illhealth. So we are asking others to join us as delivery volunteers, to spend half an hour each month to deliver newsletters to 25 -30 houses. If you would like to volunteer please contact

Jude Bowman, our Chair: 0412 711 508, judebowman@home.netspeed.com.au

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE OVER

School is back on 2nd February and another batch of small children has started their school adventure. So remember to watch out for children on their way to school on foot or by bike, and remember to slow down as you drive through a school zone.

CRIME IN HACKETT AND NEARBY SUBURBS November/December 2025

	Assault	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft	Shop stealing	Number plate theft	Other theft	Arson	Property damage	Total
Ainslie	2	6	1	1		4	16		9	39
Campbell	5	1		3		1	2		6	18
Dickson	5	3		4	8	1	11		9	41
Downer	1		1				2		1	5
Hackett		1				2	6			9
Lyneham	5	5		3			7		9	29
O'Connor	2	1				1	4		1	9
Reid	3	3	1				11		10	28
Turner	4		1				6	1	2	14
Watson	6	4	1	1		1	3		6	22

Offence	Street	Date	Offence	Street	Date
Number plate theft	Hackett Place	1 November	Other theft	Hull Place	8 December
Number plate theft	Prell Street	4 November	Other theft	Madigan Street	9 December
Other theft	Fison Street	20 November	Other theft	Caldwell Street	11 December
Other theft	Holtze Place	22 November	Burglary dwellings	Madigan Street	27 December
Other theft	Dunlop Street	8 December			

FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA

Summer Bird walk led by bird enthusiast Peter Miller on Sunday 8th February 8am sharp -10am.

Meet at Mt Majura nature reserve entrance, North Watson near junction of Tay & Ian Nicoll Streets.

Wear sun protection, bring water, wear sturdy shoes as it will be on and off tracks. Bird apps or ID books, cameras and binoculars could be useful. Gold coin donations are welcome. No booking required.

Butterfly walk led by butterfly biologist Dr Suzi Bond - Sunday 22nd February 10:30am - 12:30pm

Meet at Antill St Hackett, nature reserve entrance and dirt carpark (with old Canberra bus stop), 350m uphill from Fison St. A slow easy walk on a fire trail with Suzi who is passionate about ACT's butterflies. She is author of *A field guide to butterflies of the ACT*.

Wear sun protection, and sturdy shoes, bring water, a camera and binoculars if you have them, otherwise simply enjoy learning about the local butterflies.

Gold coin donations are welcome.

Third Sunday working bee: tackling woody weeds in Hackett on Sunday, 15 February 9am – 12 noon,

meeting at the nature park entrance at Mackenzie Street, near Grayson St We will remove a variety of woody weeds growing near the Hackett Houses Track. Bring sun protection, drinking water, garden gloves if you have them. We provide gloves, tools, and a cake for morning tea.

All welcome. Novice weeders can pair up with experienced FoMM volunteers, to learn and give back to the beautiful grassy woodlands on the slopes of Mt Majura.

More information and a map www.majura.org.

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (HCA)

Hackett Shops - Revitalisation Plan for Public Spaces

In 2019 the Hackett Community Association (HCA) submitted a plan to the ACT Government requesting a variety of upgrades to the Hackett shops. Many of these were done in 2020-21 but there are some additional works that could be done as parts are looking tired and need an upgrade. Hackett residents and HCA member Alex Gillespie and Anna Howe have prepared plans for further works. Draft plans can be seen on the HCA website Community Actions page <https://hackett.asn.au/community-actions/>. If you would like to provide comments and suggestions for additional work, please send your ideas to the HCA info@hackett.asn.au

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