

Neighbourhood Watch Hackett Newsletter



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

MARCH 2026

SCAMS

Scams are economic crimes run by criminals who are often very organised and sophisticated.

Scams are becoming increasingly hard to recognise. Criminals take advantage of new technology, new products or services and major events. They use them to create believable stories that convince you to give them money, financial or personal details.

Scammers rely on you not spotting warning signs because you're in a hurry, you don't want to miss something that looks like a great deal, or because it seems like it's from someone you trust.

Here are some warning signs to look for, provided by ScamWatch.

- It is an amazing opportunity to make or save money.
- Someone you haven't met needs your help - and money.
- The message contains links or attachments
- You feel pressured to act quickly
- You are asked to pay in an unusual or specific way
- You are asked to set up new accounts or PayIDs

If you have been scammed, immediately contact your bank.

IDCARE is Australia and New Zealand's national identity and cyber support service. They can help you make a plan (for free) to limit the damage.

Report the scam to ScamWatch

If the scam is causing you problems with debt, talk to a financial councillor at moneysmart.gov.au, that has a free and confidential service to help you get your finances back on track

scamwatch.gov.au

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

Chair

Jude Bowman 0412 711 508
judebowman@home.netspeed.com.au

Editor

Barbara Inglis 0413 135 845
inglisjb37@gmail.com

Treasurer

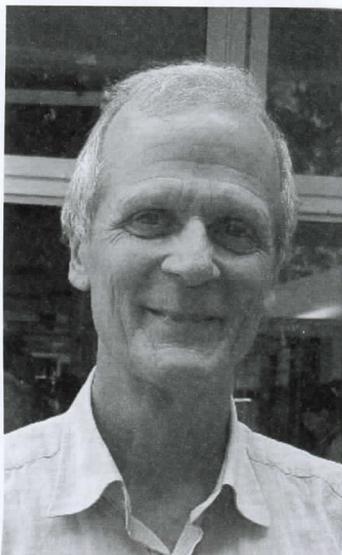
Keith Simpson 0417 481 309
keithsimpsongrapevine@gmail.com

Deadline for next newsletter

Friday 27 March 2026

HACKETT PROFILE

Prachar Stegemann



Prachar was born in Brisbane, one of four children. His father was an Anglican priest, so the family often moved to different towns on the East coast. When living at Toowoomba he found the joy of being a pianist. The next move

took the family to Candelo, near Bega, where there was no piano teacher. So Prachar went to board at Canberra Grammar school, where he could continue tuition. He initially found the disciplined life there difficult. He excelled at the piano, and went on to the School of Music to study for a four-year B.A (music) degree in performance. He was offered overseas scholarships overseas in his last year to further his training.

But in his final year he decided that, though he loved piano-playing, he did not want to spend his future practicing 8 hours a day. When his degree was completed he wanted a year to consider his future. He started weekly meditation classes at the Sri Chinmoy Centre, thinking that meditation might help remove anxiety and allow enjoyment of music. Six months at the Centre changed his life. He went to New York to meet Sri Chinmoy and started following his practices. It led to his belief in a way of life – meditation to calm the mind to see that we all have a wish for peace, love, happiness but material wishes intrude. A peaceful mind requires attention to the food we eat, and to maintaining a fit body.

So Prachar now runs meditation courses at the Sri Chinmoy Centre. He believes that all can find inner peace, but need a technique, like meditation, to achieve it. He is invited worldwide to run free meditation classes: in 2024 he gave courses in 136 cities in 47 countries (a total that he does not want to repeat!) As he believes that meditation allows you to remain calm when your self-beliefs are challenged, he provides classes that offer tools to meditate suiting varied temperaments

and life styles. He is co-owner of My Rainbow Dreams in Dickson, a café providing vegetarian food and a welcoming venue. He is involved in the physical activities of the Centre. The Sri Chinmoy annual marathon race has been held for 12 years.

He has lived in Hackett off and on for 30 years, and has friends around the world. On his runs on Mount Majura he loves the birdcalls that accompany him. He is at peace with his life.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

The Hackett Community Association (HCA) has registered Hackett for a Clean Up Australia (CUA) day event from **10am-1.00pm on Sunday 1 March.**

The HCA will set up a table next to the Retired Advice office from 10am-1.00pm. Hackett Neighbourhood Watch will also set up a table, with information and brochures. If you can participate that would be great – look forward to seeing you help keep Hackett clean.

Hackett Community Association

FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA

Third Sunday Working Bee on *Sunday 15 March 9am – 12noon* meeting at the nature park entrance near the Antill bus stop, tackling woody weeds, garden escapees that are growing under eucalypts close to nearby houses.

Bring sun protection, drinking water and gloves if you have them. We provide tools, companionship, and a delicious cake for morning tea. Visit majura.org for more information and a map.

CAR THEFT

Each month our crime statistics show the theft of motor vehicles in the Inner North.

Advice to help it not happen to you:

Always lock the car when you leave it.

At home, keep the car in the garage and the keys inside stored out of view.

Out driving, do not leave valuables on view in the car, this encourages spur-of-the-moment thieves. At night park the car in a well-lit place.

CRIME IN HACKETT AND NEARBY SUBURBS January 2026

	Assault	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft	Shop stealing	Number plate theft	Other theft	Arson	Property damage	Total
Ainslie	4		2	1		3	4		6	20
Campbell	1	1	1			1	2		6	12
Dickson	2	2		5	13.	3	10		9	44
Downer							2		2	4
Hackett	1	3					3		2	9
Lyneham	9	2		2	1	2	5		3	24
O'Connor		1		1			3		4	9
Reid							4		3	7
Turner	2	3	1	5			5		4	20
Watson	2						2		4	8

Offence	Street	Date	Offence	Street	Date
Other theft	Holtze Place	22 November	Property damage	Madigan Street	15 January
Other theft	Gilbert Street	22 December	Burglary dwellings	Phillip Avenue	16 January
Assault	Stanley Street	2 January	Burglary dwellings	Phillip Avenue	18 January
Property damage	Newton Street	3 January	Other theft	Gilbert Street	22 January
Burglary dwellings	Prell Street	14 January			

HACKETT COMMUNITY FIRE UNIT (CFU)

The Hackett CFU 52 is still going strong with our full complement of twelve members and fully provisioned trailer. The CFUs were established following a recommendation arising from the 2003 bushfires and are located across Canberra in the suburbs adjoining the ACT-NSW border, with our Hackett CFU a relatively recent addition. The CFUs are administered, and fully supported, by ACT Fire and Rescue with fire brigade officers attending CFU drills during the bushfire season to observe and offer advice and to demonstrate procedures, as necessary. The CFUs also provide information to the local community regarding bushfires and individual Bushfire Prevention Plans.

The Hackett CFU will be conducting a 'full wet drill' on Saturday, 28 February 2026 in the reserve area adjacent to Kellaway Street in Hackett. This drill has a number of components: identification and examination of all our equipment; the deployment of standpipes, which are attached to the street fire hydrant points, and of lengths of hose which are attached to the standpipes and in turn have 'nozzles' attached to the ends; setting up and using our portable petrol water pump; and radio communications using our two-way radios. The purpose of a wet drill, as implied, is to use the hoses to spray water and dampen down flammable material which could be set alight. CFU members are not firefighters but operate along the ACT's urban/bush interface to limit fires starting up from e.g. ember attacks and taking hold. During any bushfire, the CFUs would operate at the direction, and under the control, of the ACT Fire and Rescue firefighters.

All CFU members are provided with fire resistant clothing and boots, consistent with fire brigade officers though we are distinguished by blue jackets, and with standard safety equipment including helmets, goggles and gloves and these must be worn during all drills. We are also equipped with a standard Harris radio for communication as necessary with the ACT Emergency Services Communications Centre. Our equipment and our regular training enable us, as best as possible, to reduce the threat of fires starting along the urban-bush interface and assist ACT Fire and Rescue officers as required.

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