

Neighbourhood Watch Hackett Newsletter



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

MAY 2026

STOP CHILD ABUSE

Trace an Object is an Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) initiative that gives everyday Australians an opportunity to provide information that could help law enforcement to solve a case.

Trace an Object publishes images of objects and locations from the background of child sexual abuse images and videos, with the aim of identifying their origin. Members of the public are asked to review the images and provide information that may help identify victims and/or offenders. Images have been sanitised for public viewing to protect the victim and the viewers.

If a member of the community believes they have information about an object or a location pictured, they are encouraged to submit a report to the ACCCE, who will work with relevant law enforcement authorities to investigate the lead.

Originally a Europol initiative, Trace an Object is an investigative tool to help us generate potential leads for investigation of child sexual abuse material. The more people who view the objects, the more likely the ACCCE will be able to generate leads that ultimately result in the removal of a victim from harm and an offender brought to justice. Even the smallest pieces of information can assist our investigations.

The images can be viewed at www.accce.gov.au/trace. Information reports can be made directly to the ACCCE on this site.

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

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Deadline for next newsletter

Friday 29 May

HACKETT PROFILE

Margaret Smythe and Bill Book



Margaret was born in Sydney, one of four children. Their father was a teacher and they moved to Cooma,

then Junee, then Canberra in 1962. She remembers the lake being filled; and watching her sister playing hockey in Acton, now underwater. She attended the brand-new state-of-the-art Downer Primary School, then Watson High School, which was also new (both since demolished). She took a B.A. degree in Asian Studies at the ANU, studying Indonesian. Then she moved to Flinders University in Adelaide, taking a Social Administration Degree. She moved to New Zealand in 1980 to join Bill, whom she had met whilst travelling there several years earlier.

Bill was born in Port Frances, Ontario, near the United States border. He remembers the outdoor life, and visiting relatives throughout USA; his grandmother was American. When he finished school he took short-term laboring jobs for some years. He worked two stints in a logging camp on Vancouver Island, this gave him funds to study for one year of an Arts degree at the University at Thunder Bay. But a boarding house with no insulation, temperatures from -30 degrees to -50, frost on the blanket at night - he decided to head for a warmer climate. He had \$500 which would get him from Vancouver to Sydney, via Fiji and New Zealand. He worked on a tobacco farm in New Zealand, and in Australia on Track Maintenance at Tom Price and Dampier mines. He liked living in New Zealand and returned to NZ to become a tobacco farmer, but decided he was not cut out to be a farmer, and moved to Auckland where he took a B.A. degree in History and Sociology, followed by a Master's Degree. When Margaret joined him she worked in the Alcohol Research Unit at Auckland University.

When the Masters degree was completed the pair took off travelling to USA and Europe. They remember working for a company in USA that provided drivers for moving cars around the country; this gave them free travel around much of the US and Canada. They returned to Canberra to marry and for the birth of their first child in 1984.

Bill completed a Graduate Diploma of Education at the CCAE (now the University of Canberra) then a

Graduate Diploma in Student Counselling. He taught sociology and business studies at Narrabundah College for 15 years. For 7 months of that period he was Course and Careers Advisor at the AIS for the 70 students in residence. At this time, grants allowed children from around Australia to train there, with hopes of Olympic success. He joined the Australian Education Union Office, working over 12 years until retirement.

Margaret joined the Federal Public Service after their daughter was born, working in road safety, program management in Regional Programs, then in Aviation and Airports, all within the same department; she remained there until retirement. Two more children were born in this time, and Margaret became an early adopter of the new system of permanent parttime work, to enable balance between child-rearing and work.

When they had both retired they travelled to Spain and walked the Camino Trail. This gave Bill the desire to continue taking long walks. He walked the Bibbulmun Track (Perth to Albany), taking noodles and muesli as food supplies. He lost 6 kilograms and became severely protein deficient. He still cycled home to Canberra across the Nullarbor. He has since walked the Hume and Hovell Track and the South Coast Track from Sydney to Mallacoota, and taken better provisions. He started Dragon Boat paddling with the Canberra Griffins and has enjoyed 23 seasons. He supports various charities; for the Great Shave he has had his beard shaved off five times, for Kids with Cancer he was sponsored to ride more than 1000k in a month. Margaret is an ANU Film Group member; this began when she was at university, and continues still. When the children were young, she and Bill belonged to a baby-sitting club with other Hackett and inner north families. This group continues to socialize together, with holidays at the coast and walking and cycling groups. She and Bill are members of the Hackett fire-trailer crew. They enjoy travelling in Australia and overseas, and spending time with their adult children and granddaughter.

REPORTING A SCAM TO SCAMWATCH

If you have been the victim of a scam, it is important that you report this to Scamwatch. Reports of scams are used to identify new scams, disrupt scams, and warn consumers and businesses. Some scam reports are shared with law enforcement agencies, banks, and other companies who can take steps to stop scammers.

CRIME IN HACKETT AND NEARBY SUBURBS March 2026

	Assault	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft	Shop stealing	Number plate theft	Other theft	Arson	Property damage	Total
Ainslie	4			1		2	1		8	16
Campbell	2					1	2		4	9
Dickson	2	1	1	2	11	1	10		3	31
Downer	1						1		2	4
Hackett	1	1	1							3
Lyneham	2	1				1	4		4	12
O'Connor	2	2		1	1	2	3		6	17
Reid	2						4		4	10
Turner	2	1		2			5		7	17
Watson	1		1	1		1	1		6	11

Offence	Street	Date	Offence	Street	Date
Burglary dwellings	Gilbert Street	3 March	Assault	Skeet Street	23 March
Motor vehicle theft	Hackett Place	22 March			

FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA FRIENDS OF MOUNT MAJURA

Sunday community planting event on *Sunday 24 May, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM*. On World Environment Day, FoMM joins other community organisations to plant native species, helping to restore this endangered Box-Gum Grassy Woodland ecosystem. Ideal for novice planters and families, this will be a relaxed, supportive planting session with guidance from experienced planters. Water, tea, coffee and a light lunch is also provided.

Meet at Horse Paddocks car park, Antill Street, opposite Justice Robert Hope Park. (NB only limited parking available - walk, ride or car pool recommended) Bring drinking water, sun protection and, if you have them, gardening gloves and small tools like trowels and mattocks.

More information and a map www.majura.org

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (HCA)

What to do with our autumn tree leaves The leaves on the beautiful trees of Hackett are starting to fall. The ACT Government has a website “*Managing garden leaves*” (<https://www.act.gov.au/environment/water/waterway-friendly-gardening/managing-garden-leaves>) which has very useful information on how to deal with the leaves including:

“Leaves are welcome in your green bin and will be composted and used in projects around the city. Never rake leaves onto the road, even if a street-sweeping truck is scheduled. Leaves collected by street sweepers cannot be composted and end up in landfill.” There are many other suggestions on what you can do with the leaves.

Next HCA Committee meeting will be held on *Tuesday 19 May 7.30-8.30pm* via Zoom. If you would like to participate please send an email to info@hackett.asn.au

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