



Newsletter

Hawker/Weetangera



Hawker/Weetangera NHW Community Meeting

Neighbourhood Watch Hawker/Weetangera held a community meeting on 19 March 2026 at the Belconnen Bowling Club, with a strong turnout from local residents. The evening focused on crime prevention, current hotspots, and practical steps residents and businesses can take to improve safety across our suburbs.

Our **local NHW team** summarised the work undertaken since the community meeting in July last year, including developing printed resources for NHWACT, growing our online community and mailing list, encouraging people to report crime, holding outreach stalls and producing and delivering newsletters. Recent crime statistics for Hawker, Weetangera and surrounding suburbs were discussed, noting that Hawker continues to experience a higher number of incidents, particularly around the Hawker shops. A coordinator has submitted 34 Fix My Street reports, which has resulted in the removal of unsightly graffiti, dumped rubbish and repair of damage in public spaces.

ACT Policing reinforced the importance of reporting **all** incidents and suspicious behaviour, and explained how safely obtained, useful evidence — such as CCTV footage or photos can support investigations. They also outlined how police prioritisation works and spoke about the role of the PACER (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response) mental-health response team which is comprised of a police officer, paramedic and mental health clinician. Referrals to the team are received from ACT Policing or ACT Ambulance Service.

Crime Stoppers ACT highlighted anonymous reporting options and programs such as BikeLinc, which helps reunite owners with stolen bicycles. Video footage can now be uploaded as part of online Crime Stoppers reporting. Approximately 3 cars are stolen in Canberra each day, with 1 in 4 of those cars having had the keys left in it at the time it was stolen.

Neighbourhood Watch ACT shared practical home and personal security advice and encouraged residents to stay connected with neighbours and report anything unusual.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- ✓ **Keep reporting:** Residents were encouraged to report any suspicious behaviour and property damage — 000 for emergencies, 131 444 for online reporting for non-urgent matters, and Crime Stoppers for anonymous information. Even small details can help build a clearer picture.
- ✓ **Collect evidence safely:** Photos and video can assist investigations when captured safely and provided directly to police. Avoid posting identifying footage on social media.
- ✓ **Support for local businesses:** Discussion covered the impact of shop theft, the use of banning notices, and the importance of witnesses or victims providing enough evidence to support prosecutions.
- ✓ **Home and personal security:** Practical tips included improving outdoor lighting, securing gates and sheds, keeping valuables out of sight, and marking property for identification.



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Provide your email address via our Facebook Messenger or Email: hawker@nhwact.org.au





Crime Statistics



Below are the ACT Policing crime statistics for February and March 2026. Remember to **REPORT** any issues no matter how insignificant they may be at the time.

FEBRUARY 2026




| Suburb | Street Name | Offence type | Start date |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
| WEETANGERA | GILLESPIE | Other property damage | 03/02/26 |
| HAWKER | DELAMERE | Other property damage | 04/02/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Other property damage | 06/02/26 |
| WEETANGERA | BELCONNEN | Assault other | 07/02/26 |
| WEETANGERA | MAYO | Motor vehicle theft | 07/02/26 |
| WEETANGERA | LINE | Motor vehicle theft | 12/02/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Shop stealing | 15/02/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Shop stealing | 15/02/26 |
| HAWKER | MURRANJI | Other property damage | 23/02/26 |
| WEETANGERA | GIBBES | Other property damage | 26/02/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Shop stealing | 27/02/26 |

MARCH 2026

| Suburb | Street Name | Offence type | Start date |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
| HAWKER | JINKA | Other theft | 04/03/26 |
| HAWKER | BONROOK | Other property damage | 04/03/26 |
| HAWKER | JINKA | Other property damage | 04/03/26 |
| WEETANGERA | BELCONNEN | Other theft | 04/03/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Shop stealing | 07/03/26 |
| HAWKER | BEETALOO | Other property damage | 08/03/26 |
| WEETANGERA | SMITH | Other theft | 11/03/26 |
| WEETANGERA | SMITH | Other theft | 11/03/26 |
| HAWKER | BELCONNEN | Assault causing ABH | 13/03/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Shop stealing | 13/03/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Shop stealing | 15/03/26 |
| HAWKER | ELSEY | Other property damage | 15/03/26 |
| HAWKER | BEETALOO | Other property damage | 17/03/26 |
| WEETANGERA | SOUTHWELL | Motor vehicle theft | 19/03/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Shop stealing | 20/03/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Other property damage | 22/03/26 |
| HAWKER | MURRANJI | Other property damage | 25/03/26 |
| WEETANGERA | SOUTHWELL | Other property damage | 25/03/26 |
| HAWKER | BEETALOO | Other property damage | 26/03/26 |
| WEETANGERA | GIBBES | Motor vehicle theft | 26/03/26 |
| HAWKER | HAWKER | Shop stealing | 28/03/26 |
| HAWKER | BEETALOO | Other property damage | 28/03/26 |
| HAWKER | JINKA | Other theft | 30/03/26 |

There were considerably more offences reported in March. It is great to see people REPORTING issues. This was a focus of our recent community meeting and helps provide a greater picture of what is happening in our suburbs.

Statistics matter - we've been advised recently that police resourcing and government decisions are heavily guided by reported statistics.

-  **Always** report incidents, no matter how insignificant it may be
-  **Phone 131 444** for non-emergencies or **000 for emergencies**
-  **Phone 1800 333 000** or submit a form at [Crimestoppersact.com.au](https://www.crimestoppersact.com.au) to report anonymously.

Hawker Tennis Centre

Local community groups, businesses and shop owners, along with several supportive MLAs, have continued to speak with one voice about the serious safety and crime risks posed by the long-abandoned Hawker Tennis Centre site.

The deadline imposed by the ACT Government for the lessees to improve fencing and security at the site has now passed. Some early steps have been taken — including temporary fencing at the front of the courts and some mowing of the grass. These measures are welcome, but they do not resolve the community's broader concerns. Community representatives are continuing to liaise with the ACT Government to encourage these concerns to be dealt with.

This neglected facility has been a magnet for antisocial behaviour for many years, raising ongoing concerns for public safety and community wellbeing. A petition has been submitted to call for the lease to be terminated and to ensure public ownership of the site and to commit to using the site for sport and recreation facilities only, in consultation with the community.

We understand that community groups plan to continue advocating for meaningful progress so that this site can be made safe and eventually put to positive use.



What Thieves Commonly Look For

Knowing what offenders typically target can help residents to reduce risk and better protect their homes, vehicles and valuables. When burglars enter a property or vehicle, they tend to look for items that are easy to grab and carry, and quick to sell. Some of the most commonly targeted items include:

Cash - Still one of the most attractive items because it's untraceable and immediately usable. Avoid leaving cash visible or stored in obvious places.

Car keys - Often taken from hall tables, kitchen benches or hooks near the front door. Many vehicle thefts occur using the owner's own keys. Keep keys out of sight and away from doors and windows.

Jewellery - Small, valuable and easy to conceal. Store jewellery out of sight, ideally in a locked drawer or safe.

Laptops, mobile phones and tablets - Portable electronics are easily resold. Back up your data regularly and consider marking devices with your licence number using a UV pen.

Passports and personal identification - These can be used for identity theft if stolen. Keep passports and important documents stored securely with other valuables.

Tools and equipment - Power tools and garden equipment are frequently taken from unlocked sheds, garages or vehicles. Keep sheds and vehicles locked, engrave tools where possible, and check that they're covered by insurance.

Parcels - Unattended parcels left at the front door are an easy target, especially in quieter streets. Consider parcel lockers, click-and-collect, or arranging deliveries for when someone is home.

Phishing Scams

Phishing is a common scam where criminals try to trick people into giving away personal or financial information. They often send emails, texts or social media messages that look like they're from trusted organisations such as banks, government agencies, phone providers or major retailers. Their aim is to steal things like banking logins, credit card details, passwords or identity documents.

When are scams most common?

Scammers often increase activity during busy shopping periods, tax time, major events or emergencies. Messages may appear to come from:

- The ATO
- Banks or super funds
- Phone or internet providers
- Delivery companies
- Charities.



Many scams use fake websites that look real and promote deals that seem "too good to be true". Be cautious of countdown timers, pressure to act quickly or unusual payment methods. Always check the website address before entering any details or making a purchase.

Get more information or report a scam:

Scamwatch (National Anti-Scam Centre): <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au>
Australian Signals Directorate (ASD): <https://www.asd.gov.au>
ACMA – Phone scams: <https://www.acma.gov.au>

Staying alert, slowing down, and checking before you click can help protect you and our Canberra community from scams.

Key Contacts

| ORGANISATION | NUMBER | ORGANISATION | NUMBER |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Emergencies | 000 | Access Canberra | 132 281 |
| Police | 131 444 | State Emergency Service | 132 500 |
| Crime Stoppers | 1800 333 000 | RSPCA | 6287 8100 |



AED for Weetangera Shops

Hawker and Weetangera have great communities, built on connection and looking out for one another. With many people visiting the Weetangera Shops and nearby sporting facilities each day, quick access to lifesaving equipment is essential.

Woolworths Hawker has an AED inside the store on the right-hand wall as you enter (7am–10pm). Our understanding is that it can only be accessed and used by Woolworths staff who are trained first-aid responders.

To provide 24/7 access in Weetangera, Neighbourhood Watch Hawker–Weetangera is working to install a public AED at the Weetangera Shops.

How You Can Help

We're seeking to raise \$3,500 for the purchase, installation and maintenance of a community AED. Every contribution helps — and donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.



DONATE AT:
<https://www.streetbeat.life/fundraisers/WeetangeraShops/act>

Upcoming Events

The Hawker Repair Café dates have been scheduled and our team are aiming to be present at the June and December markets. There are so many wonderful crafts and goodies to pick up — and the best part is you can browse the stalls while getting a household item repaired. It's the perfect chance to support local makers, discover unique finds and enjoy the buzz of our community markets all in one visit.



Accurate Reporting



Accurate reporting is one of the most powerful tools we have to keep Hawker and Weetangera safe. Every incident — whether it's theft, graffiti, dangerous driving, property damage, or suspicious behaviour — helps build the true picture of what's happening in our suburbs. When incidents go unreported, they simply don't appear in the data, which makes it harder for authorities to recognise emerging issues or justify additional support.

Clear photos or video, vehicle descriptions, dates and times, clothing, appearance, and a simple explanation of what seemed unusual all help police connect the dots. By reporting promptly and recording what you observe, you're not just helping police — you're helping your neighbours and contributing to a safer, more informed community.

Our Partner.. Softball ACT



Team Registrations are now open for slow pitch Social Bash.

- 8 weeks + 1 week of finals from Wednesday 22 April - Wednesday 17 June (24th June + 1st July available in case of weather-affected rounds)
- \$655 team entry fee.
- Weekly and 1st place canteen vouchers up for grabs!

Registration and more information available through the following link:

<https://www.act.softball.org.au/events/351527>

Why not get involved and have some local laughs!