



YARRALUMLA

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ACT
NEWSLETTER



From the Area Coordinator

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2025.

I hope you all had a safe and peaceful summer and, if you had to work through it, at least managed to have some downtime to recharge your batteries to face the new year afresh.

The crime statistics for January were more promising than December. In the latter, we recorded 6 crimes, a figure similar to Curtin and two less than Deakin. We had one *motor vehicle stolen* and one *theft of number plates*. There were two cases each of *other theft* and *other property damage*. Curtin's statistics were spread over six separate categories, one each of *assault other*, *burglary*, *shop stealing*, *motor vehicle theft*, *theft of number plates* and *other theft*. Deakin reported one *burglary*, two cases of *motor vehicle theft*, one *bicycle stolen* and two instances of *other theft* and *other property damage*. The improved start to the new year saw us with two crimes, one being a case of *assault other* and one of *other property damage*. Curtin's four crimes consisted of one *theft of number plates*, two of *other property damage* and one of *other theft*. Deakin did not record any crimes.

While the criminals among us seem to have taken holidays in January, not so the scam merchants. I continue to receive incomprehensible emails from many different sources and fewer but too many phone calls that seem to have been randomly selected. I fear that the delete buttons on my computers (at home and at work) and my phones (mobile and landline) will wear out before the communication devices themselves. It is tempting to dismiss these events as minor irritants but I am afraid the statistics show they are far more serious.

The amount of money we are losing each year is staggering and I urge you to ignore calls and emails that tell you you have won prizes and make offers to which you know you are not entitled. One particularly irritating approach I have had recently is from a barrage of messages telling me that my computer is damaged, I have x number of viruses, my security cover has expired and I am in danger of losing data. For what it is worth, my security cover is up to date and I am continuing to operate my computer as normal, albeit with these interruptions.

A perusal of the nation's press indicates that the scourge of domestic and sexual violence has not diminished over the summer. That an ombudsman for our universities is expecting to handle up to 15,000 complaints a year is appalling. According to the Canberra Times, one in 20 university students is a victim of sexual assault and one in six of sexual harassment. How this relates to the wider community, I do not know but it is encouraging to see that the authorities are tackling the problem even if it is shocking that such a situation exists. Clearly, it is important to report any such conduct no matter where it occurs and we should all resolve to ensure that we do not tolerate such behaviour.

As we start the new year, it is important that we have a full committee of our local chapter of Neighbourhood Watch if we are to serve you adequately. We are without a Treasurer and I would appreciate any approach from a local resident who is prepared to step into the breach. I am proposing to update our bank about who can sign for our account and I should be very happy to add the name of a treasurer so, feel free to contact me.

Until next month...

YARRALUMLA CRIME STATISTICS

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

| DATE | STREET | OFFENCE TYPE |
|----------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 07/12/24 | PERTH | Other theft |
| 08/12/24 | BLACK | Other theft |
| 10/12/24 | SCHOMBURGK | Theft of Vehicle Number Plates |
| 11/12/24 | HAMPTON | Other property damage |
| 17/12/24 | COMMONWEALTH | Motor vehicle theft |
| 29/12/24 | FRANCIS | Other property damage |
| 02/01/25 | MARINER | Assault other |
| 21/01/25 | LOFTUS | Other property damage |



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ACCC SCAMWATCH

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS



STOP – Don't give money or personal information to anyone if unsure.

Scammers will offer to help you or ask you to verify who you are. They will pretend to be from organisations you know and trust like, Services Australia, police, a bank, government or a fraud service.



THINK – Ask yourself could the message or call be fake?

Never click a link in a message. Only contact businesses or government using contact information from their official website or through their secure apps. If you're not sure say no, hang up or delete.



PROTECT – Act quickly if something feels wrong.

Contact your bank if you notice unusual activity or if a scammer gets your money or information. Seek help from IDCARE, report scams to Scamwatch and cybercrime to ReportCyber.

Scamwatch
www.scamwatch.gov.au

IDCARE
1800 595 160
www.idcare.org

ReportCyber
www.cyber.gov.au

YARRALUMLA NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

MEETINGS

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| THIS MEETING | 18 FEBRUARY 2025 |
| NEXT MEETING | 18 MARCH 2025 |
| VENUE | YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL |
| START TIME | 7:15 PM |

The NHW committee generally meets on the **third Tuesday** of the month at the school, and when school facilities are unavailable, in the Uniting Church hall. The NHW committee does not meet formally in Dec and Jan during the long school break.

CONTACTS

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
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Jogalong includes a 6 km handicap run for women and girls, and a 3 km run for women, and children (girls and boys) aged 12 years and under. Mini jog is a 2 km handicap run for girls and boys aged 12 years and under.

Canberra Runners members and non-members are all welcome. Visit the Canberra Runners website for more info: canberrarunners.org.au



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