

ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc. (Association)

Neighbourhood Watch in the ACT has started 2007 with a lot of enthusiasm. We are boasting our strongest representative Board in ten years with three new district delegates. Along with this injection of people who have time and energy for the cause of creating safer communities, we are on the eve of launching a strategic plan in partnership with ACT Policing which will plant Neighbourhood Watch for the 30000 plus residents in the extreme south of the ACT for the very first time. This will take considerable effort and will be our main ACT wide focus prior to Easter.

ACT NHW has been really encouraged by the initiation of ACT Policing's Suburban Policing Strategy in the latter part of 2006. We are forging new and strengthening relationships with community police officers under the appropriate oversight of our crime prevention partners. Clear and monitored communication between ACT Police and ACT NHW is producing a flow of the most useful and effective primary community education resources that we've seen in years. This flow is being deeply appreciated by our officers at the coal face.

We are as always, very proud of our volunteers who give far and beyond the call of duty and we are looking forward to our second major encouragement and service awards event to be held later this year. In this editorial we would like to highlight the efforts of one of our most loved members who was honoured recently when our President, Ursula Macdermott nominated Mrs Christine Coulthard OAM as our Canberra wide newspaper's weekly local hero.

The article listed Mrs Coulthard's many community involvements which include her long term membership of the ACT Neighbourhood Watch Board of Management, President of Gungahlin RSL, President of Gungahlin Safety House, Coordinator of a Day Club for seniors and State President for the Korea & South East Asia Forces Association.

The content of the article centred around Christine's sense of satisfaction as the primary reason for her continuing efforts to give so much back to her neighbourhood and the wider community. When asked how valued she thought her work was, Christine cites a comment from one of her day club clients upon discovering that she (Christine) was going to close the day club for two weeks over Christmas. "What am I going to do?" she asked. "What did you do before I arrived" Christine replied. "I was just so sad and lonely", she said. Christine concluded that this sort of response was surely more than enough evidence for how her work is valued.

Well done Christine! ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc. (Association) congratulates you and on behalf of the community at large, thanks you for all your efforts, care and support for so many. We simply offer this testimony about Christine's achievements to you the reader of this edition of NHW Australasia for your acknowledgement.

Mrs. Ursula Macdermott
President
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Graeme Hush (Rev'd)
Deputy President / Secretary
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