

## **ACT Neighbourhood Watch INC. (Association)**

ACT NHW has begun its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year with renewed energy. All of the voluntary Board of Management positions that can be filled are at present being filled by a committed person and there is renewed interest and enthusiasm about the NHW effort at every level of the public realm.

We have already met with Government representatives as well as the Chief Police Officer and Strategic Crime Prevention Leaders to ensure that partnerships are healthy and doors remain open for a good flow of communication. The Board of Management believes that this is particularly important as the Territory explores if and how it will pursue the idea of "Suburban Policing Consultative Committees". We have made it abundantly clear on three official occasions recently that we have genuine questions about this initiative but we remain open minded about the possibilities. There have been repeated assurances that we will be consulted at every juncture of the development process. The challenge has been set before us and we are looking forward to it.

Meanwhile, the ACT Government has renewed its commitment to support ACT NHW Board of Management operations to the tune of \$20 000 per annum for this year and the next three (or at least for this term of government). The first installment will arrive in line with the May 2009 budget. We are thankful for this support which is the first from the government in some years. Along with it comes a renewed relationship with the ACT Police Minister for which we are also pleased.

There is a buzz about the Board of Management as we surge ever closer to the completion of our revised constitution and the publication of our Strategic Plan for the next few years. Rejuvenation of old NHW areas, especially in the city's inner north and inner south continues to occur and the new drive into South Tuggeranong is building momentum weekly with new sponsorship efforts being canvassed and a new generation of committed people emerging from wider community circles than previously experienced.

A case in point is the Calwell NHW group in South Tuggeranong which was launched in August last year and is already developing a strong visibility by jointly sponsoring and convening community events. Seen pictured here releasing doves of peace at the Town Square near Calwell Shops are (from left to right); Steve Doszpot MLA who is the Assistant Convenor for Calwell NHW, Sam Wong who is the Chairperson of the Canberra Multicultural Forum, Rosemary Lissimore who is the President of the Tuggeranong Community Council and students from Theodore Public School. The event mirrored the release of the doves of peace at the commencement of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Calwell NHW provided a sausage sizzle whilst volunteers spoke with attendees about NHW issues & utilized the ACT NHW display trailer to promote messages about safety, security & well being.

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans are well advanced with our President Mrs. Ursula Macdermott convening the celebration dinner for September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The dinner and associated promotional ideas are set to receive a high profile through the local media as we develop an anniversary programme for the week from September 23<sup>rd</sup> up to National NHW Day on the first weekend in October. Our gazetted anniversary day is 25<sup>th</sup> September, when the first public meeting of NHW in the ACT was convened in the southern suburb of Kambah in 1984. Phil Morrall OAM became the first NHW Area Coordinator in the ACT

after the consultations he had been having with the AFP culminated in the official commencement event. Phil is still an Area Coordinator in Kambah today.

Other 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary initiatives are focused on increasing the visibility of ACT NHW throughout the community by serving at significant events like Seniors Week and White Ribbon Day.

Graeme Hush (Rev'd)  
Deputy President  
ACT NHW Inc. (Association)