



FARRER Neighbourhood Watch Group

April
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Area Coordinator:

Christopher Hudson
Mobile: 0411 114 044
nhwfarrer@bigpond.com

Editor: Janet Ilchef
ilchef@orac.net.au



Sponsorship and distribution of this newsletter to residents in Chifley, Curtin, Farrer, Hughes, Isaacs, Lyons and Mawson/Swinger Hill is authorised by ACT NHW Inc. A modified version without monthly crime statistics is available at: <http://www.nhwact.com.au>

From the Area Coordinator:

Farrer Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

Recently three committee members tendered their resignation from the Committee. Thanks go to Alan Nash, Tracey Mackey and Philippa Crossley for their assistance over the years. In particular, I would like to thank Philippa Crossley for her tireless work and contribution to Farrer Neighbourhood Watch, as a member, an Area Coordinator, an editor and a friend, as well as for her contribution to ACT Neighbourhood Watch as a whole. Philippa's qualities of selflessness and total application to the job at hand set an example for volunteers of all persuasions, particularly those in Neighbourhood Watch.

Road safety

A resident recently reported their concern that some local primary school children are failing to observe basic road safety. The resident was forced to stop their car when a large group of primary school age children, having seen the resident's oncoming car, walked out in front of it, leading much younger children on to the road. Any resident associated with children is asked to reinforce the road safety rules, and to remind children of the injuries that can be sustained in an accident. We need to look after our children.

FARRER RIDGE PARK CARERS

This group meets at Athllon Depot on first Sunday of the month. Summer start 8.30, rest, 10 am-12 noon

May 3 - 10 am: Continue weed removal.

June 7 - 10 am: Check erosion sites and maintenance, including the Farrer Hill Nature Trail, the outflow area down from the Reservoir. Horehound removal.

Thanks to local employers

On behalf of our volunteers, the ACT Emergency Services Agency would like to express its sincere gratitude to the employers of Canberra for their generosity and understanding.

"You have made a valuable contribution to a community that is feeling immense personal and collective loss." ESA Manager Media and Community Information Darren Cutrupi said

Source and full article:

http://www.esa.act.gov.au/ESAWebsite/content_esamedia_page/2009_media_release_archive/february_2009/february_2009.html

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PH: 6290 0599

FAX: 6290 1589

karen.rush@karenrush.com.au



Crime Statistics: Crime statistics are deleted from the Website at the request of the AFP - they are available on hard copies distributed to all residents of the suburb.

Identity theft

What is identity theft?

Identity theft is a type of fraud which involves stealing money or gaining other benefits by pretending to be someone else. Having your identity stolen can be devastating- both financially and emotionally.

Identity theft can occur in many ways- from somebody using your credit card details illegally to make purchases to having your entire identity assumed by another person to open bank accounts, take out loans and conducting illegal business under your name.

How does identity theft work?

Identity theft works in a range of ways- from crude methods to well organised scams.

Many of us have a wealth of personal information readily available- cards in our wallet, mail, public records, information saved in our computers and information posted on social networking sites.

Identity theft can happen easily and quickly. By leaving your personal information readily available, scammers will have easy access to this information. For example, scammers will pay people to rummage through rubbish tips and steal letters (also referred to as 'dumpster diving') to collect personal information. However, despite your best efforts, a determined scammer can also create elaborate and cunning plans to trick you into providing your personal details. For example:

- Phishing scams are all about tricking you into handing over your personal and banking details to scammers. Most work by setting up special links in the email to take you to a combination of genuine and spoofed websites.
- Phoney fraud alerts are similar to phishing scams where scammers trick you into handing over your personal details. A common fraud alert involves the scammer pretending to be from your bank informing you that your credit card or account has been cancelled because of suspicious criminal activity (various excuses are used). They will then trick you to provide account details to 'confirm' your identity.

- Bogus job opportunities are usually posted on job websites. The scammer may use or sell your personal information provided in the job application

Warning signs

- You get an email or a phone call out of the blue asking you to 'validate' or 'confirm' banking details.
- You notice that amounts of money go missing from your bank account without any explanations.
- The caller pushes you to provide personal information and discourages you from checking if it's a genuine request.
- You are unable to obtain credit or a loan due to an unexplainable bad credit rating

Protect yourself

- NEVER send money or give personal details to people you don't know and trust.
- If you receive a call from your bank or any other organisation, don't provide your personal details instead ask for their name and a contact number. Check with the organisation in question before calling back. Never rely on a number provided in an email or click on the provided link, instead find the contact number through an internet search or back of your ATM card.
- Regularly check your credit card and/or bank statements to ensure that suspicious transactions are detected.
- Shred all documents containing personal information, such as credit card applications, bank statements.
- Log directly on to a website that you are interested in rather than clicking on links provided in an email.
- Always get independent advice if you are unsure whether an offer/request is genuine.

Source and more information:

<http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/content/index.phtml/tag/identitytheft>

Farrer Book Club

A group of Farrer book enthusiasts meet on the second Sunday of each month at 11.00am at the Farrer Cafe at Farrer Shops to discuss books. Our theme for April is "The oldest book in your house" and for May is "My favourite book- fiction or non fiction". You are welcome to join this friendly group and just turn up any month you can make it. Please ring John Davenport on 6286 4775 for more details or leave your name at the Farrer Cafe.

Please assist our police by reporting all suspicious activity to: CRIME STOPPERS use: 1800 333 000.

For police attendance use: 131 444.

But, for all life-threatening emergencies use: "0 0 0"

