



# Area 98 Aranda – Cook Newsletter May 2009

## Neighbourhood Watch

“Neighbours working together to promote a sense of well being, safety and security”

Serving Aranda, north-east Cook & Jamison since 1986

### Zone:

Your Zone Leader Is:

### Contact Details

Emergency (Police, Fire Ambulance): 000  
Police Attendance: 131 444  
Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000  
ACT NHW: //www.nhwact.com.au  
NHW Area 98 Coordinator:  
Vacant  
email: [aranda.cook.nhw@gmail.com](mailto:aranda.cook.nhw@gmail.com)  
Newspaper Editor:  
Boerge Alexander tel: 6154 4146

### Coming Events

#### Friends of Aranda Bushland

The May work party is on **Sun May 17th** from 9.00am - 12.30pm. The group will be removing rose briars from the Rural Lease in the corner paddock between Bindubi St and William Hovell Drive.

The meeting place will be at the Snow Gums stile on William Hovell Drive. There is adequate parking on the road verge on the city-bound side of William Hovell Drive. **Please wear strong clothing and footwear** and bring your own water bottle. FoAB will supply tools and give instruction on what to do. Everyone is welcome. As they work in pairs at this task, people new to the task can be paired with someone who is experienced. Morning tea will be at 10.30am.

The June work party will be held on **Sun 21st June** from 9.00am -12.30pm. The group will be doing track maintenance in the Aranda Bushland and some targeted weeding.

Details will be posted on notice boards or can be enquiries for both activities can be obtained by ringing 6251 1345.

#### Neighbourhood Watch Meeting

The next NHW meeting will be held on **Wed 1st July** at 7:30pm, included in the program will be a presentation on the formation of a local chapter of the Guardian Angels. Also present will be a representative of the AFP to address any issues raised. The meeting will be held in the Function Room at West's Southern Cross Club Macquarie and is open to members of the public. All are welcome.

#### Friends of Mt Painter

The June work party will be held on **Sat 13th June**, from 10:00am - 1:00pm or more information about this work party or any future activities on the reserve, please contact Sarah Hnatiuk, the Volunteer Coordinator, on 6251 2228 or email [hnatiuk1@cyberone.com.au](mailto:hnatiuk1@cyberone.com.au).

### Garbage and Recycling



|         | RECYCLING                   |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Aranda: | 21 May<br>4 June<br>18 June |
| Cook:   | 14 May<br>28 May<br>11 June |

Bins should be placed out 7am. Inquiries phone Cleanaway on 6260 1472 for recycling or 6260 1547 for garbage.

**Waste Tip:** Need to get rid of your old computer or screen? Don't just dump it or break it into bits and throw it into the bin. Computers contain materials (in particular, heavy metals) in quantities that can cause significant environmental harm. There are options:

- Charity Computers, in Charnwood NSW, accepts all computer equipment, however there is a fee for non-working monitors and printers.
- Dell, will collect old computers and peripherals. Usable products with market value attract a cash rebate. However some fees may apply.
- Lioncom, accept 'bulk' computer loads. Recycle computers, monitors & associated computer equipment. You can also drop off any unwanted e-waste.

For contact information go to the TAMS website: [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/Recycling\\_and\\_Waste/Recycling\\_Options\\_in\\_the\\_ACT/recycling\\_guide#computers](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/Recycling_and_Waste/Recycling_Options_in_the_ACT/recycling_guide#computers)

### Reporting Dangerous Driving

In answer to a recent enquiring regarding dangerous driving, Sergeant Bob Muir has replied as follows:

*"The correct phone number to call is 131444 not '000' unless it is very serious or life threatening.*

*The person calling should call 131444 and pass onto the member in ACT Police Operations any observations and details of the vehicle (colour, make and any distinguishing*

features), description of driver and any occupants (clothing, hair colour if possible). If they want to remain anonymous they can call Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 but preferably if they feel strongly enough they should give the Operator on 131444 their details and if necessary provide police with a statement - Police will act on any calls to 131444 and the offender will be prosecuted.

*Do not try and apprehend/detain or speak to the driver and if driving don't follow - just provide us with the details."*

Thanks to ACT Neighbourhood Watch for Passing on this information

### Malfunctioning Burglar Alarms

Over the Easter period a number of Aranda residents were affected by malfunctioning burglar alarms. Although the alarms were reported to police there appeared to be nothing that could be done about them. Peter Phillips, of the Aranda Cook NHW, has contacted the local member to seek 'official' advice on the mitigation of security alarm noise and will provide us all with information in a future issue of this newsletter.

#### Apology for Malfunction of Burglar Alarm

'In relation to the alarm noise that distressed Jalanga and Gingana residents on Good Friday and Easter Saturday, the owner of the alarm wishes to sincerely apologise to all those people who were affected. The owner of the alarm had left advice of her whereabouts with a local contact but unfortunately that arrangement did not work out. As soon as the owner was told of the malfunctioning alarm she immediately returned to Canberra.'

## Your Local Agent

If you are thinking of selling or would just like an update on the Market situation, please contact me for an obligation free appraisal - I am only five minutes away.

### Marie King

Tel: 6251 9111

Mob: 0411 793 937

mk@bel.peterblackshaw.com.au



### Aranda Cook Neighbourhood Watch Needs You



Neighbourhood Watch relies on community members to help out in a variety of ways. We encourage all members of the community to come along to our meetings and provide input into ways we can make our area a safer place to live and work. We also get speakers from outside organisations to provide us with

information across a broad spectrum of fields that impact on all our lives. And of course we put out this newsletter. From

time to time we need to call on members of the community to get more involved and now is one of those times. Right now we need more people to take an interest. We have a few areas where we need help delivering newsletters. It is not an onerous job, just walking around your neighbourhood and putting the newsletter in letterboxes and maybe talking to your neighbours as well. We also need a new coordinator and other committee members. There are always willing hands to help out when needed. So if you want to become more involved in you local community and meet your neighbours, join us. And, if you can you help out, contact Mr Keith Alexander on 6154 4146 or e-mail him at [aranda.cook.nhw@gmail.com](mailto:aranda.cook.nhw@gmail.com)

### Home Safety Program

The Home Safety Program has been relaunched with the sponsorship of the NRMA. The program provides A.C.T residents with a range of information from the various emergency services, aiming to help you make your own home more secure.

There is a range of fact sheets available on topics such as smoke alarms, making your home more secure, when to call the ambulance, and electrical and natural gas safety kits.

The program can send residents information on the above items and more, and can even arrange advice from the fire brigade on fire prevention. Information is provided to residents free of charge. For more information on the program, you can visit the web site <http://www.homesafety.act.gov.au/>, or you can contact the program on 6103 9084. Be aware that the e-mail address for the ACT NHW Secretary is incorrect and should be [secretary@nhwact.com.au](mailto:secretary@nhwact.com.au)

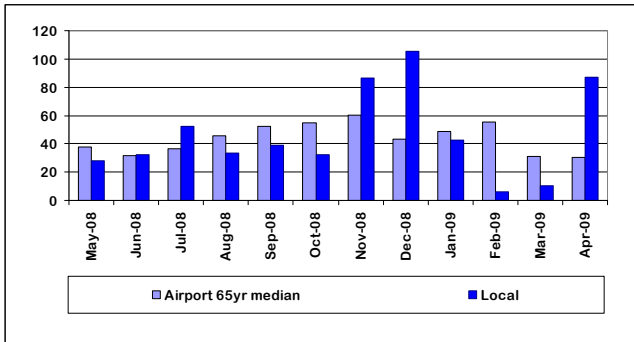
Thanks to ACT Neighbourhood Watch for Passing on this information



### Keys found on Dexter St

A set of car/house keys on a leather key ring with a name on the keys was found at the bottom end of Dexter St Cook in late March. If you think the key could be yours please ring or text on 0419 481 062.

## Water Matters



For the calendar year 2009 our rainfall total is now 150.8 mm over 19 days; better than 2004, 2005 and 2008 but not quite up to 2007 and 2006 totals.

Our recorders collected the following:

- Dexter St, Cook - 87.0mm;
- Mirning Cr, Aranda – 92mm;
- Noala St, Aranda – 86mm; and
- Bindaga St, Aranda – 87mm.

*Previous April totals were:*

- 17.8 mm over 6 days in 2008
- 37.7 mm over 7 days in 2007
- 23.2 mm over 5 days in 2006
- 8.4 mm over 3 days in 2005
- 1.3 mm in 2 days in 2004.

Dam levels unfortunately continued to fall and at the end of April were at 44.13%.

## Entertainment Book

There are still a few copies of the Canberra Entertainment Book available. The book costs just \$50 and is packed full of discount vouchers for dining, hotel accommodation, theatres, sports and retail services. New deals include \$5 off \$100 Coles gift cards, and \$10 admissions to Dendy cinemas. And remember for every book sold Aranda-Cook Neighbourhood Watch will receive \$10.

The latest book has just been launched and is valid through to June 2010. So contact Peter Phillips on 6251 2351 to place your order and he will deliver the book to your home, but hurry only four books remain at time of printing.



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## Closure of 1<sup>st</sup> Aranda Scout Group

After more than 35 years, the 1<sup>st</sup> Aranda Scout Group, is closing down. The group, to which all Belconnen scout groups owe their origin, is closing due to lack of community support. The decision was made at an extraordinary general meeting where it was determined that there was no alternative to the closure.

All youth members will be transferred over to the nearest group, which is Kama (Macquarie). It is anticipated that a commemorative ceremony will be held at a future date, inviting previous 1<sup>st</sup> Aranda members. Cor Visser-Marchant, the Group Leader, has expressed his thanks to all those that have worked so hard to keep 1<sup>st</sup> Aranda going and have been instrumental in providing a wonderful program to the local youth.

## ST VINCENT'S PRIMARY

Bindel Street, Aranda

YOUR LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# OPEN DAY

Thursday 21 May 2009

10.00am – 7.00pm

Ph: 62512442

[www.svdp.cg.catholic.edu.au](http://www.svdp.cg.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: John Vance

## SCAM E-Mail Alert

SCAMwatch is warning consumers to continue to be wary of unsolicited emails that appear to come from well-known businesses or agencies. Scammers trick unsuspecting victims into providing personal details so that they can steal your money or your identity!

We have received several reports about consumers receiving unsolicited emails supposedly from McDonalds. This bogus email offers 'McDonald's customers a \$50 bonus for filling out an online 'customer satisfaction survey''. Below is a copy of the text from the email:

*Dear McDonald's Customer,*

*We are planning big changes for 2009 at McDonalds AU chain of restaurants and because your opinion is very important to us, we invite you to take a short Customer Satisfaction Survey that will help us improve the quality of our food and services.*

*We know your time is valuable, so we will give you a \$50 bonus just for taking our quick 7 question survey. The entire process will take no more than 5 minutes.*

*[link to survey]*

Once the survey is completed, the scammer will request the consumer to provide their credit card/bank details to receive the \$50 payment. Instead, the scammer will use these details to steal money or commit identity fraud.

If you receive this email or any other unsolicited email that appears to come from a company, banking institution or agency, do not follow any of the links in the email as this can result in an unwanted download on your computer.

Remember that reputable companies and banks will never ask you to provide your banking details via an email.

#### **Protect yourself**

- Never send your personal, credit card or banking details over the phone in response to unsolicited emails or enter it on any website if you are not certain it is genuine.
- If you receive unsolicited emails delete them immediately!  
Don't open any attachments, click on any links or reply to these emails.
- If in doubt, always contact the business, government agency or bank to verify that the request is genuine. Never rely on contact details provided in unsolicited emails. Instead, find these contact details independently.
- If you provided your banking details as a result of this email, report the incident to your banking institution immediately.

#### **Report**

You can report the matter to the ACCC Infocentre on 1300 302 502 or report a scam through the SCAMwatch website.



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### **Your Nature Strip**

In the last edition of this newsletter we looked at resident's responsibility with regard to trees and shrubs overhanging footpaths. However, what if you don't have a footpath, what are your responsibilities then? Basically you are expected to keep the nature strip in front of your lease in a tidy state. There are however some other things that you must do, which include:

- Maintaining a strip of stable surface a minimum of 1.2m wide from the verge for pedestrian access.

- Ensure foliage or structures do not cause a line of sight problem for pedestrians or vehicles.
- Ensure that grass is kept below .5m so that it does not cause a line of sight problem or a fire hazard.
- Provide adequate protection for nature strip trees, ie by not parking within tree root zones.
- Protect verge trees and grasses during any construction work on your lease.

There are also some other requirements that residents may not be aware of, such as the need to obtain written permission from the City Rangers Office to develop your nature strip. This includes anything from putting down woodchips, to plantings of any sort, paving or putting up a retaining wall and even putting in a watering system. To obtain permission forward a "Temporary Use/Nature Strip Development' application form to Parks, Conservation and Lands. The forms are available at ACT Shopfronts and the City Rangers Office or you can download one on line from [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/127129/Unleased\\_Territory\\_Land\\_-\\_Nature\\_Strip.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/127129/Unleased_Territory_Land_-_Nature_Strip.pdf)

The form provides a great deal of information on matters such as insurance, tree protection requirements, limitations on structures and maintenance obligations. Also included are the ACT government's requirements of the applicant and a reminder that the territory is not liable for any costs associated with the development. This is particularly important when you consider that utilities run through the nature strip. Be aware that should there be a need to install, maintain or erect any public utility, the utility provider is not responsible for the restoration of any substance, item or material affected by their work. You may also be asked to remove anything you have put down and this will be at your own cost.

If you are having trouble trying to figure out where your lease finishes and the nature strip begins, the general rule of thumb is that the nature strip begins between 0.5m to 1m on the road side of your water meter. If you have an older concrete drive there will often be an expansion joint at the borderline. This also applies to property adjoining a footpath; the footpath not being an indicator of the property line. If you require precise lease boundary locations contact Planning and Land Management by phoning 6207 1939.



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