



Area 98 Aranda – Cook Newsletter July 2009

Neighbourhood Watch

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

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Zone:
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Coming Events

Friends of Aranda Bushland

Our August work party will be on **Sunday August 16th** 9.00am to 12.30pm.

Details will be posted on the notice boards around the Bushland or can be obtained by ringing 6251 1345. Members of the community are always welcome to come and help or just drop in to see what we are doing.

Morning tea will be at 10.30am.

Neighbourhood Watch Meeting

The next NHW meeting will be held on **Wed 2nd September** at 7:30pm. 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

Friends of Mt Painter's August work party will be held on Saturday, 8 August, from 10am to 1pm in Horse Paddock Gully. We will be making up and installing a new style of tree guard to protect existing plantings in the gully. The gully is on the east side of the hill and is reached through the Booth Crescent entrance to the reserve, between houses numbered 20 and 22. From the entrance, bear half left and follow the signs. Come warmly dressed and bring something to share for morning tea (tea and coffee will be provided); strong gloves would be helpful.

Contact Sarah Hnatiuk, the Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of Mount Painter, on 6251 2228 or 0424 263 565, or email hnatiuk1@cyberone.com.au for more details.

Found Ladies Watch

A ladies watch was recently found on the footpath in Bandjalong Crescent, Aranda. If you think the watch could be yours contact Grant on 0428 859 228 or at grantmil@hotmail.com.

Garbage and Recycling



RECYCLING

Aranda:	16 July 30 July 13 August
Cook:	23 July 6 August 20 August

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



JAMISON TRAVEL

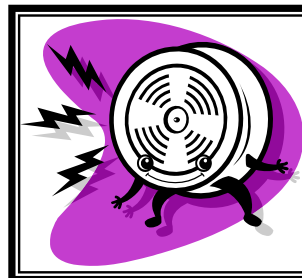
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Management of Security Alarms



Over the 2009 Easter long weekend two security alarms accidentally malfunctioned in Aranda; one at a private residence, the other at a school. For over 16 hours the alarms caused considerable distress for occupants of neighbouring homes. After an overnight ordeal resulting in a lack of sleep, the residents just wanted for the noise to stop. It seemed a reasonable

request, yet the solution in the ACT is not easy. Police will not act unless there is visible evidence of forced entry to premises, and although officers of the ACT Environment Protection Authority will 'investigate' complaints, they will not enter premises to silence alarms without the owner's permission.

On behalf of affected residents, Aranda-Cook Neighbourhood Watch sought assistance from Member for Ginninderra, Mary Porter MLA to enquire what official processes residents should follow to cease unattended security alarm noise. In response the ACT Attorney General, Simon Corbell MLA offered the following:

- The ACT does have laws governing the use of security alarms.
- Noise pollution is regulated through the Environment Protection Act 1997 and the Environment Protection Regulation 2005.
- There are provisions under the Regulations that require building intruder alarms to cease sounding within 10 minutes after being activated by a detection device if installed before 1st December 1997. If the unit was installed on or after 1st December 1997 building intruder alarms are to cease within 5 minutes.

The Attorney General stated that Environment Protection Officers receive very few complaints about burglar alarms and that standard response procedures to noise complaints implemented by the Authority resolve most noise issues, (from our perspective however not the issue of actually turning off a blaring alarm).

A suggestion was put forward by a NHW member that 'police or an ACT government official should be required to attend sites after an alarm has been sounding for over one hour who should make an onsite assessment and be legally empowered to engage the services of a specialist tradesperson to silence the alarm and the owner should be liable for the costs'. Mr Corbell relayed advice that neither the Australian Federal Police nor the Authority has this power. Both agencies seek compliance with existing laws through education, awareness and enforcement where necessary and appropriate. He went on to say, 'should there be an increase in the frequency of residential burglar alarm incidents indicating a significant problem; the Government will give further consideration to the practicalities of silencing alarms.' 'In doing so, however, we will need to address the liability issues that could result from disabling power or alarms on private premises.' He informs residents experiencing noise problems to contact Canberra Connect on telephone 13 22 81 and an Environment Protection Officer will investigate the complaint.

Aranda-Cook NHW acknowledges this advice and remains keen to facilitate community education. However, the fact that unattended alarms cannot be silenced by authorities is still a concern, notwithstanding infrequency of the event. Readers of this newsletter may be interested in viewing how the Western Australian Government deals with the issue.

See: <http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/files/Health-Noise/noise%20laws%20and%20your%20alarm.pdf>

Residents wishing to express their views on this topic are invited to email: aranda.cook.nhw@gmail.com



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Some points to consider

Most back-to-base alarms are monitored and attended by the installation company. The problem mainly occurs when alarms are stand alone units, not remotely monitored. This raises the question of the purpose of an alarm. There are probably four reasons for an alarm:

- to deter a potential intruder,
- to startle or disturb an intruder during the early stage of unauthorized entry,
- to alert neighbours that a residence may be intruded by unauthorized entry, and
- to signify to passing security patrols that an unauthorised entry may have occurred.

So what do residents who install a building alarm expect their neighbours to do? Is it to:

- look out for suspicious activity or evidence of forced entry?
- witness actual criminal activity?
- call police or a relevant security agency?
- contact the owner or occupant of the premises?

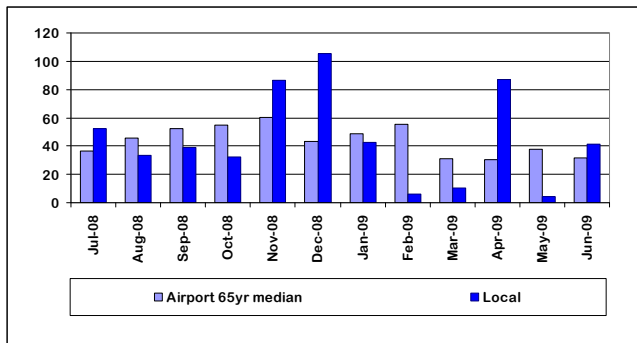
Perhaps it is one or two or all of the above. If cooperation is expected from neighbours then intentions ought to be communicated to them. At least two trusted neighbours should be informed on how to deal with alarms sounding and possess the mobile number of the owner.

Furthermore, to avoid malfunctions, all security alarm systems should be periodically serviced. There is a peak body called the Australian Security Industry Association Limited. It represents 85% of the security industry in Australia and maintains a professional code of conduct for its members and an avenue for addressing complaints. It has a webpage that may assist consumers at:

<http://www.asial.com.au/Whattolookforwhenchoosingasecurityprovider>



Water Matters



June saw an increase in the ACT's rainfall with over 10mm falling on the last day. You will notice that there is a marked difference between the Aranda and Cook figures, this is due to the times our recorders took their measurements, not because Cook had more rain than Aranda. Our rainfall total for the calendar year 2009 is now 208.0 mm over 39 days: better than 2008 and 2004.

Our recorders collected the following:

- Dexter St, Cook - 48 / 52.5mm;
- Mirning Cr, Aranda - 31mm; and
- Bindaga St, Aranda - 34.6mm.

Despite the relatively good rain during the month dam levels rose only slightly to 43.37.

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



Sing Across Europe

If you enjoy singing and travelling, why not combine both and join Canberra's Austrian Choir as it prepares for its 2010 European Concert tour. All voices are welcome, especially tenors and bass. We sing in German and English but if you don't speak German, we'll teach you the words. Rehearsals are every second Thursday night at Jamison. *You don't have to sound like Pavarotti or Callas but you do need to love singing and the idea of performing in beautiful old churches and concert halls in Austria and Germany.* For further



information please contact Gunter Brandstetter on 0419 263 123 or Sue Faulkner on 0405 712 502 or auschoir@pcug.org.au

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Refugee Assistance Honoured



For the past 30 years Denise Molony of Cook has played a significant role in helping displaced citizens of Asia and Europe settle in Australia.

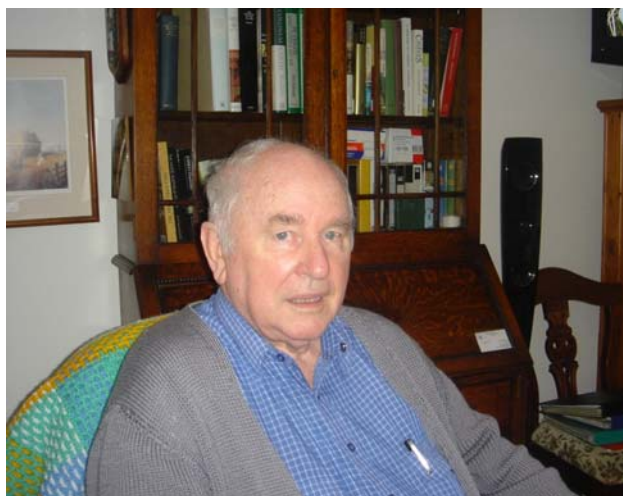
She and her husband, Professor John Molony joined the Indo-China Refugee Association in 1979 and offered their time and effort in a very practical way. They ensured that those people and their families who were granted refugee status were given much needed initial support to restart their lives in Canberra. This began by meeting them at the airport or transport terminals, conveying them to suitable accommodation, transporting them to doctors and dentists, settling them into schools and

providing language tuition. They were part of a team of eight active volunteers who were supported financially by a broader group of 30 or so sponsors. Denise recalled that the Federal government funded the purchase of white goods and provided official avenues of assistance through several departments, including immigration, labour, health and education. The group worked closely with Companion House, real estate agencies, the Red Cross and other charitable organisations. 'Community response to appeals for help was often overwhelming', she said. Also noteworthy was the contribution of the Kate Carnell and Jon Stanhope governments.

Assistance was really designed to settle newcomers during their first three months, but as friendships developed, the group's support frequently extended much longer. In later years the group became part of the Independent Community for Refugees to Australia (ICRA) and focus shifted to helping people from Kosovo, Albania and Afghanistan. Many of these people were burdened by traumas few Australians could imagine. Across the decades Denise, John and their colleagues helped settle up to 150 refugees—about 30 or so families. In accepting her award of a Medal of the Order of Australia in last month's Queen's Birthday Honours, Denise was quick to acknowledge the humanity displayed by all those citizens who have provided refugee support.

Photo and story – Peter Phillips

Medal for service to church and history



In last month's Queen's Birthday honours list, a well known and much loved figure of our local community was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his 'service to the Canberra region through historical organisations, and to the Catholic Church of Australia'. Until his recent retirement to Calvary Haydon Village, Father Brian Thomas Maher served as Parish Priest at St Vincent de Paul Church, Aranda for 15 years.

A fifth generation Australian of Irish ancestry, Brian Maher was born at Corowa and raised in Galong and Binalong. In 1957 he graduated with honours in Agricultural Science from the University of Sydney, and then worked in various

rural centres before choosing to undertake theological studies. He was ordained as a priest of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in 1966, starting with pastoral service in Cootamundra, then moving on to a number of NSW parishes.

In the ACT he spent 10 years at Braddon where he was appointed in his first role as parish priest. This was followed by six years at Bungendore where he worked hard to restore four parish churches. Then in 1992 he took over the parish of Aranda from Father Paul Bateman.

Brian Maher's interest in history began at age 10 when he read grave headstones in Galong. He has been a long term member of both the Canberra and District Historical Society and the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra. From 1986 to the present he has authored 12 publications on the history of rural parishes including Bungendore, Moruya, Yass, Crookwell, Binalong and the ACT. His major work is *Planting the Celtic Cross* - a history of the foundations of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn which describes the impact the convict and immigrant Irish had on the communities in which they settled. Particularly relevant in this book is the role of Catholic institutions in the fields of education, health and welfare.

Father Maher is a great contributor to the discipline of historical research and presentation. He is extremely generous in sharing his knowledge and is well-known throughout Australia by family historians.

Photo and story – Peter Phillips

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