



# CHIFLEY Neighbourhood Watch Group

July  
2009



**AFP**  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

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>

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### School Holiday Security

The school holidays are now upon us and unfortunately this means our school grounds will be empty for two weeks, making them easily accessible to would-be offenders.

Our schools are there to nurture and educate our children, and becoming a victim of crime can cause significant disruptions, not only to the school administration who are responsible for repair and replacement bills, but also to the students who return to study after their holidays without vital educational equipment.

ACT Policing will be increasing pro-active patrols around all ACT schools during the holiday period, but we are also asking you, the community, to assist us in ensuring our schools remain secure. Anyone who observes suspicious activity around schools is urged to report this to police immediately on 131 444. This includes suspicious persons or vehicles seen at odd hours of the night, and any signs of potential criminal activity such as the sound of breaking glass or electrical equipment being used at odd hours.

School holiday periods also see an increase in the number of children congregating and playing in public areas, and police are urging all parents to ensure that their child knows the dangers associated with strangers and what to do should they be approached by a suspicious person. Parents should be aware of their child's whereabouts at all times, and should make sure that their child knows how to contact police should they require immediate assistance.

School holidays are meant to be a fun time so let's make sure that both our schools and our kids stay safe and secure.

Source:

[http://www.afp.gov.au/act/on\\_the\\_beat/on\\_the\\_beat\\_archives/2009/14\\_april\\_2009.html](http://www.afp.gov.au/act/on_the_beat/on_the_beat_archives/2009/14_april_2009.html)

### Chifley Neighbourhood Watch Meetings

Chifley NHW will be meeting in the YMCA meeting room in the former Melrose Primary School, Eggleston Crescent, Chifley, on **Thursday** nights

**18<sup>th</sup> June**  
**20<sup>th</sup> August**  
**15<sup>th</sup> October**  
**17<sup>th</sup> December** at  
**7:30 pm**

### Missing persons

The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre has launched a new website, [www.missingpersons.gov.au](http://www.missingpersons.gov.au). 35,000 people are reported missing each year in Australia. That is equivalent to one person every 15 minutes. 95% of missing persons are found within a short period of time (usually within a week).

Older people with dementia or memory loss are at risk of going missing. Find out more about by viewing this year's National Missing Persons Week campaign at the website listed above.

The NMPCC is funded by the Australian Government through the Australian Federal Police and aims to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons in Australia.

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**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.

**Good home security**

Good home security is more than just fitting deadlocks or alarms and with home burglaries forming over 65% of all burglaries reported to ACT Policing in 2007/2008 it is important that you employ a number of simple precautions you can take to protect your property.

Burglaries are often crimes of opportunity and most intruders are looking for, and unfortunately often find, a house left open or unlocked, making it easy for them to get what they can with ease and make a quick getaway. Make sure your house is always locked up, even if you are at the back of the house or out in the yard.

Thieves generally don't like stealing property that is clearly identified as it is harder to dispose of. A good tip is to engrave your electrical equipment and other personal property with your driver's licence number, prefixed by 'A' for ACT. Engraving machines are available from your local Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Also, keep photographic records of all your property that can't be engraved, especially jewellery and works of art, and store valuation certificates in a safe place.

More information on keeping your home and personal property safe can be found on the AFP website at [www.afp.gov.au/act/crime\\_prevention](http://www.afp.gov.au/act/crime_prevention), including a pamphlet entitled *making your home more secure* and a personal property inventory to assist you in recording your property.

Members of the community also play a huge part in protecting our homes from burglars. If you see any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood, please contact police as soon as possible on 131 444.

*Source: Canberra Times*

**Smoke alarms**

With the implementation of the *stay safe, stay alive* campaign this winter to reduce the number of house fires across the ACT, it is important to make sure your smoke alarms are in good order. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and working correctly greatly increase the survival rate of occupants of a building in the event of a fire.

There are two types of smoke alarms available for residents on the market, the ionisation smoke alarm and the photoelectric smoke alarm. The photoelectric smoke alarm may be more effective in detecting smouldering fires. The ACT Fire Brigade recommends that as your ionisation smoke alarm becomes faulty or nears its expiry date (usually ten years) you consider replacing it with a photoelectric smoke alarm.

If you have not replaced your smoke alarm batteries since daylight saving ceased, as recommended by the ACT Fire Brigade, or in the past twelve months, you should do so as soon as possible. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly.

**HEART FOUNDATION WALKING**

Have you made a resolution to be more physically active?

Do you enjoy walking in your local area?

Would you like to get out more and meet new people in the Woden Valley while doing something positive for your health?

With the warmer temperatures, longer days and balmy evenings, summer is an ideal time to get moving and get outside. It's also a great time to start working towards achieving some of those healthy lifestyle goals that you set for yourself for the New Year.

Joining a Heart Foundation Walking group in your area can help you stay motivated to exercise regularly whilst providing you with social support, health information and newsletters. Groups cater for a wide range of ages and fitness levels. The Heart Foundation encourages people to 'walk and talk', so it's very much a social outlet as well as an activity program and everyone is welcome."

Why not join or start a Heart Foundation Walking group in your neighbourhood?

Current Heart Foundation Walking groups in this area are

Farrer Goodwin Goers	Thurs Sat Start 10:00 AM	45min(retirement)
Garran Walking Group	Sun Start 8:00 AM	1hr med/fast walk
Deeks Café Pearce	Weds Start 9:30 AM	1 hour(medium pace)
Curtin Walking Group	Tues 4.00PM	1 hour fitness walk

For further information and details of a walking group near you call Bill Caddey at the Heart Foundation on 62692658 or visit <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/walking>

**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: "000"**