



# Theodore Neighbourhood Watch and Safety House Group Newsletter

Issue 1—JULY/AUGUST 2009

## Theodore Convenor:

Russ Morison

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## Next Theodore NHW and Safety House

### meetings:

Sunday 26 July

Sunday 23 August

4pm at the Calwell Club, Were St Calwell.

Dear Theodore Resident,

On Sun 14 June 209, 75 residents attended a public meeting with the aim of starting a Neighbourhood Watch in the suburb.

**REWARD:** To honour those that attended, we will send you a copy of our committee minutes, the details of which would not normally be reported in the newsletter. All we ask is you to **email us** above or call the number to get your copy of those minutes.

Much was said about continuing crime – in summary, some of the more recent issues surrounded criminal damage –broken fences and rock thrown through window, vehicular break in, vandalized building materials, break ins, drugs, stealing, group violence, unacceptable public, threatening and other anti social behaviour to name a few.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) have indicated that 15 crimes were reported or an average of one crime committed every second day in our suburb last month alone. We believe it is much higher than that, and part of the reason it is not reported is fear of

reprisals from the perpetrators themselves.

**What is Neighbourhood Watch?** This voluntary community crime prevention program seeks to reduce crime, particularly involving property, individuals or community groups. By being actively vigilant you can assist the AFP to identify offenders of crimes so that they can be brought to justice!!

**Join Us.** If you want to win the fight, you need to do something about it. Theodore has many bright, passionate people with great ideas to help reduce crime and anti social behaviour. Our suburb, our residents and our lifestyle demand it. Why not join us – Membership is free. Membership forms are available at Calwell and Theodore shops or by asking us for one. You will make new friends and build a sense of community spirit in the suburb.

## THEODORE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND SAFETY HOUSE COMMITTEE

Our committee is passionate about building a community that is free of crime and anti social behaviour. Our committee is actively encouraging residents to assist in resolving these problems. Why not join us?

Our monthly newsletter will offer you crime prevention strategies and tools to improve the safety and security of our suburb. It will also keep you posted on things happening around us. We'd love to hear from you. Drop us a line or give us a call or come to our committee meetings. We are also planning regular public meetings that will allow you to engage with our speakers and air your concerns. We are keen to restore our community spirit to the suburb. We will also have local fund raising-membership drive days, Clean Up Theodore day to name a few. Its your suburb and your home, not just ours.

Continued on next page...

*Coffee on the go*  
@ CALWELL SHOPPING CENTRE

**SENIORS TUESDAY**

Bring a friend every Tuesday to receive a **FREE** regular coffee when another regular coffee is purchased (10am – 12noon).

Seniors Coffee + Cookie  
**\$3.50**

<b>MILKSHAKES</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
Buy 2 milkshakes and receive a 3rd for <b>FREE</b> .	A wrap or foccacia with 2 eggs & bacon for <b>\$5</b> .

**OPEN 7 DAYS from 8am - 5pm**

**PH 6291 0022**

09-06926/2

**IN CONFIDENCE** Everything we do is for your benefit! To allow us to keep abreast of crimes and how they were committed, and to permit us to keep abreast of any other of your concerns as they happen, we have established a **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND SAFETY HOUSE EMAIL ADDRESS.**

Of course, not everyone has email, so you can call Werner on 62914160 (AH) and he will take any details you offer – they will be kept in confidence but reported at our committee meetings as they occur as we build a profile on our suburb. The committee contact will be on a rotational basis each month.

Special thanks to Bendigo Bank Calwell for a generous donation to kick start our operating account.



All the best  
**Russ Morison**  
Theodore Neighbourhood Watch Convenor



**Convenor Russ, Theodore Shop owner Yvonne and Dep Convenor Calwell NW-MLA Steve Doszpot promoting Neighbourhood Watch recently**

**Sponsorship – one of the key means of getting the message out is the monthly newsletter. We need at least per month.**

**If you have a business you wish to promote, how about considering our newsletter. 1416 homes or roughly 4000 residents will get to see your advert. Contact the Editor for more information.**

**Some useful phone numbers:**

For all life-threatening emergencies use: “0 0 0”

CRIMESTOPPERS use : 1800 333 000.

For police attendance use: 131 444.

For anything like graffiti, pot holes in roads, public lights out, laneway or playground rubbish, footpaths damaged etc to ACT Local Municipal Services 132281 or email [city.management@act.gov.au](mailto:city.management@act.gov.au)

**Some useful web sites:**

For ACT Neighbourhood Watch information:  
<http://www.NHWact.com.au>

For information on Safety House:  
[www.safetyhouseact.org.au](http://www.safetyhouseact.org.au)

Sporting or recreational group? Go to:  
[www.actcommunities.org.au](http://www.actcommunities.org.au)

**A couple of diary dates:**

Sun 26 Jul—Neighbourhood Watch and Safety House Committee meeting at the Calwell Club-all welcome. Book with Werner on 62914160 (AH) to come and contribute. Meeting commences 4pm.

Sat 15 Aug—10am-3pm Fund Raising Sausage Sizzle Calwell Shops forecourt external. This is a great opportunity to meet with other neighbours and find out more about our work. Bring the kids along and enjoy some great tucker.

Sun 23 Aug—4pm Calwell Club Public Meeting  
Subject: Follow on Forum on Neighbourhood Watch – “Creating an intelligence network in Theodore. On our own we can do little but in strength we can do much. Now is the time to respond in creative ways to help ourselves in conjunction with the AFP to reduce crime and restore pride in Theodore and our individual homes”.

Come and share your ideas, and past experiences and contribute to making our suburb safer. Meeting run by Theodore Neighbourhood Watch and Safety House program. BYO pen and paper.



Please assist our Police by reporting all suspicious activity to

CRIME STOPPERS on 1800 333 000

For Police Attendance call 131 444, but for all life-threatening emergencies call 000

## Safety In Numbers

Hi there! I'm Jess, a resident of Theodore. I'm a stay-at-home mum of three and have been wondering when someone will make Theodore a safer place for my family to live in...thank you very much! I recently got sick of feeling disheartened, ambivalent and fearful about living here. I don't want my kids growing up thinking there's no point asking anyone for help around here because it's not safe, no one cares and people are too busy with their own lives to get involved anyway. Then I realised my silence had actually helped give rise to this lack of community spirit I was feeling. So I made the conscious decision to do something myself. But what? I have no time to volunteer for anything. Then I heard about the Safety House Program...

Safety House is a community based program providing a safer environment for our children and other citizens. Safety House has grown directly from the concerns of parents for the safety of children and other vulnerable members of the community.

Once approved as a Safety House, I'm not required to go anywhere. I don't need to be home all the time. There is no disruption of routine or restriction to me or my family. People in need come to me. I'm not required to let them in. Safety Householders are not expected to solve the problem, only assess the situation and contact the appropriate person/s who could be a parent, carer, friend, relative, Ambulance or Police. I am the link in the chain for that person getting to where they need to be to feel safe. My letter box displays the Safety House logo, a smiling house on a yellow background (representing a warm, friendly place that is easily identified). The logo is a visible sign assuring someone that it's okay to approach. My house is a safe place to seek refuge, should they feel unsafe, threatened or unsure. Assistance will be provided to anyone 24/7.

**Any member of the community can offer their house as a Safety House. Police checks are undertaken on the occupants of the premises before they are accepted as Safety Householders.**

**Start talking to your kids** about the Safety House Program and the kind of scenarios in which seeking out a Safety House would help, for example bullying, being lost, being approached or followed. We really need more Safety Houses scattered right throughout Theodore to make the program successful.

In our suburb of Theodore, 2 houses are officially Safety Houses after a long hiatus! As you can gather by the weather worn street signs on Lawrence Wackett Crescent and at the Preschool, Theodore has been a Safety House suburb in the past. Let's make it a feature of our suburb for the future - a strong signal to everyone that Theodore residents care!



**Jess Little**

For further information or to become a Safety House, visit our web address

**[www.safetyhouseact.org.au](http://www.safetyhouseact.org.au)**

Or leave a message on voicemail. The number is **0432 499 554**.

We are a volunteer organisation.

So please leave a clear message. Don't be shy and hang up!

### **We want you!**

Do you want to make a difference?

Do you have a spare hour or two a week?

We are looking for people to take on the role of Treasurer and/or Secretary on the Theodore Neighbourhood Watch committee.

To find out more, contact Russ on 0408 947 935.

### **(IT COULD BE YOU) Witnesses sought to road-rage incident or how to act safely and effectively when you see trouble**

This incident occurred at the intersection of Lawrence Wackett Circuit and Tharwa Drive, Theodore Fri 12 Jun 09. This is addressed to all those who normally pass by when road rage occurs or someone is being assaulted.

**Immediate Action** : The AFP advise you to protect yourself first.

Stand a distance from the incident, THEN call the AFP on 000 and pass on all details of the incident. **Don't pass by – it could be you next time!!**

Get indirectly involved and stay safe at the same time.



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## Theodore crime statistics for May/June 2009

Crime statistics have been removed from the web version of this newsletter as requested by the AFP.



**Steve**  
**Doszpot**  
Canberra Liberals MLA

If you have any neighbourhood issues you would like to discuss, please contact:  
t: 6205 0131 f: 6205 0412  
e: [doszpot@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:doszpot@parliament.act.gov.au)  
w: [www.parliament.act.gov.au/members/doszpot](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/members/doszpot)



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