



Area 98 Aranda – Cook Newsletter August 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:


Does your organisation have an event or activity that you would like to include in this newsletter? Just contact the Editor on aranda.cook.nhw@gmail.com.

Coming Events

Aranda Residents Group (ARG)

The ARG is holding its Annual General meeting at 54 Araba Street ARANDA on **Wed 26 August 2009** at 8:00 pm (till 9:00 pm). ARG remains a strong voice of residents to the ACT Government for such issues as the Aranda Shopping Centre redevelopment, A10 Zoning (multi-dwellings), the GDE project and bushfire management. The current committee invites people who have a passionate interest in the welfare of Aranda and its residents to join us. RSVP to Eric Leape, ARG Committee Secretary on 62533971 or eric@berrico.com.au before 22/08/09 please.

Neighbourhood Watch Meeting

The next NHW meeting will be held on **Wed 2 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

The September work party will be held in Stromlo Gully on Saturday, 12 September, from 9.30am - 12.30pm. Park on William Hovell Drive on the city-bound side of the road, at the end of the metal guardrail, 800m from the intersection of William Hovell and Coulter Drives. Follow the signs on to the reserve. We will be planting tree and shrubs seedlings and installing tree guards to protect existing plantings.

Friends of Aranda Bushland

Our September work party on **Sun 20 September 2009** from 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.

Toastmasters

Toastmasters is a movement for all who wish to improve their speaking skills before an audience. Canberra has some 30 clubs, but the most convenient for you meets fortnightly at West's Southern Cross Club (Catchpole Room, PS pay-week, 7-9pm). Call 0424 116 639, or details from tinyurl.com/mguhvh.

Canberra's Nomenclature September Meeting

- How many ACT suburbs are named in honour of more than one person?
- Which two people played a significant role in the naming of Aranda?
- What are the policies that shape the naming of Canberra's streets?
- When was the gazettal of the latest suburb named after an Australian Prime Minister?
- How many ACT streets are named after women?
- When did place naming in the Canberra area begin?

If any of these questions intrigue you, then don't miss the next public meeting of Aranda-Cook Neighbourhood Watch on Wednesday evening 2 September. Peter Phillips in his role as Place Names Officer from the ACT Planning and Land Authority will reveal interesting stories on the **History of Canberra's Nomenclature**

**7.30pm-9.00pm, 2 September 2009,
Function Room, Southern Cross Wests Club,
Bowman Street, Macquarie.**

- Bring some questions of your own.

Garbage and Recycling



	RECYCLING
Aranda:	13 August 27 August 10 September
Cook:	20 August 3 September 17 September

Bins should be placed out 7am.

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Guardian Angels Presentation

At the July meeting of the Aranda Cook NHW, Mr Damian Heffernan, a Canberra representative of the Guardian Angels, provided attendees with an oversight of the group and what it might achieve in the ACT. Many people regard the Guardian Angels as a vigilante group roaming the streets looking to involve themselves in often violent confrontations. However this impression is far from the truth and group members are trained to avoid confrontation and provide a visible presence to act as a deterrent.

Mr Heffernan's goal is not to set up a citizen's patrol to keep the streets of Aranda and Cook safe. Little is to be gained from such a group except for twisted ankles and bruises as residents pick their way through quiet, poorly lit streets. The aim of the presentation was to gain a feel for what services the Guardian Angels could provide the ACT community.

Of great concern at the moment is the issue of school bullying. According to Mr Heffernan, the Guardian Angels have had a lot of success overseas with their teacher education and conflict resolution programs. At this stage Mr Heffernan has approached the ACT Education Department however at the time of the meeting there had been no feedback from the department.

Another area discussed was cyber bullying and the need for intervention and child protection. Again this is an area where the Guardian Angels have had a great deal of success through their Cyber Angels programs. Throughout the presentation Mr Heffernan pointed out that the Guardian Angels are opposed to conflict and their aim was to provide assistance and safeguards against negative influences. One of the main concerns voiced by attendees was the danger of providing another layer of conflict resolution when there are already a number of organisations already providing this service. Whether the Guardian Angels will be able to introduce any of their programs into Canberra schools or set up a Cyber Angels organisation here remains to be seen.

Our thanks go to Mr Damian Heffernan for a presentation, which certainly sparked a great deal of debate.

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Drink-driver apprehensions hit record levels

ACT Policing has released its 2008-09 Traffic Operations reporting year data which reveals that a record number of drink drivers have been apprehended.

During the 12-month period ending June 30 2009, 1789 people were apprehended for drink-drive offences.

This is an increase of 203 apprehensions over the previous corresponding period (2007-08), and 404 more than in 2006-07. It is the highest number of drink-drive apprehensions recorded by ACT Policing and almost doubles the number of drink-drive apprehensions from 10 years ago (951 in 1999-2000).

A snapshot of the data reveals the following:

- Male offenders represent 83 per cent of drink-drivers caught by police;
- Drivers under 24 years of age represent 41 per cent of drink-drive offenders;
- Police conducted 90,647 breath tests during the reporting period, the second highest number since 2000-02. The highest previous number was 100,803 in 2006-07.
- The proportion of drivers tested to those who recorded a positive reading was 1 positive to 50 tests. This is a similar outcome to the previous reporting period (1 in 51).
- Previously, the highest number of drink-drive apprehensions reported in the ACT was 1730, recorded in 2003-04.

Commenting on the 2008-09 results, Traffic Operations' Acting Superintendent Darryl Neit said that despite all the efforts of police and road safety authorities, the messages to motorists about the dangers of drink driving were still not getting through.

"We have a sworn duty to keep the community safe so while this problem exists and people continue to be

killed and maimed on the road as a result of drink-driving, our enforcement strategies and efforts using targeted and random breath-testing will continue unabated," A/Supt Neit said.

"If you drink and drive, you will be caught."

Problem Trees?

Long periods without water and old age are having an effect on the trees around Aranda and Cook. While your trees might not look as sorry as the



one above you may have noticed that they have past their prime and are dying. If that is the case and you are considering removing a tree there are a number of things you need to consider. First off is the tree on your lease or is it on the nature strip. If you know it is on the nature strip contact Parks, Conservation and Lands (you can do this through Canberra Connect on 13 22 81) and report the problem. A City Ranger will come out and inspect the tree and advise you on what will be done. Be aware that if they do decide to remove the tree this can take some time due to the departments limited resources. Also **you can ask for a replacement tree.**

If the problem tree is on your lease you need to assess its size, if it meets one or more of these criteria you will need to obtain permission to remove it:

- 12m or more in height; or
- greater than 1.5m in circumference at 1m above ground level; or
- with two or more trunks, the total circumference of all the trunks, 1m above ground level, is 1.5m or more, or
- 12m in crown width or more.

To obtain permission you will need to submit an "Application to Undertake a Tree Damaging Activity" to the Tree Protection Unit. The forms are available at ACT Shopfronts or you can ring Canberra Connect. They are also available in PDF format on line at http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/13442/Application_for_Tree_Damaing_Activity.pdf.

Approval to remove a tree is contingent on its meeting certain criteria which include:

- The tree is dying and its life expectancy is short,
- It represents a safety risk,

- It threatens to cause substantial damage to a building structure or service,
- The potential size of the tree is inappropriate to its location,
- Solar access to the lessee or neighbour during prescribed hours is affected,
- The tree is causing an allergic reaction to a member of the household or neighbour,
- The tree is part of a close planting and its removal will benefit the other trees.

When filling out your application, ensure you use the above criteria as the reasons for the trees removal. The more research you do before filling out the form, the better, information such as the species of the tree, reports from builders, doctors and other relevant parties, and planned replanting options will all help with your case.

After you have submitted your application your tree will be inspected by a member of the Tree Protection Unit and a determination will be made as to whether it can be removed or other remedial action needs to be taken. Written advice will then be provided on whether the tree can be removed. You can expect your arborist to ask to see the letter of permission prior to the trees removal.

If the ranger is in doubt as to whether the tree is on your leasehold or on territory land a check will be made. Your application will be forwarded on to Parks, Conservation and Lands should the tree be on the nature strip and you will be advised of this.

For more information visit the TAMS website <http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/environment/trees/urban/treeprotectionintheact>

TIP: Shop around when looking for someone to remove your tree. Quotes for a large tree can vary by over \$500.

Thank you to the members of the Tree Protection Unit and Parks, Conservation and Lands Rangers for the information they have provided in putting together this and the Your Nature Strip article.

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



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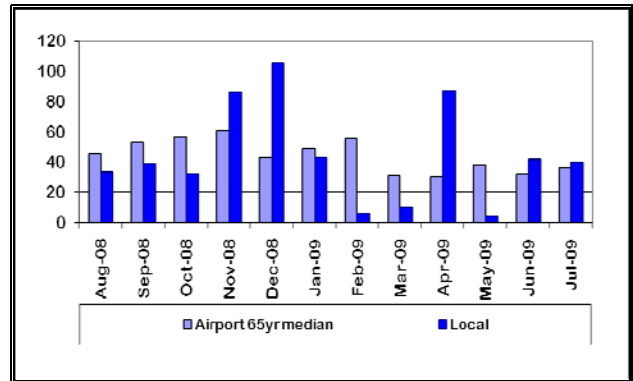
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Water Matters



Overnight rain on the first day of the month was treated differently by our recorders, so figures appear quite different. It was however a dry month for the ACT with airport rainfall being over six points lower than the average. Our rainfall total for the calendar year 2009 is now 241.1 mm over 48 days: better than 2004 but less than subsequent years.

Our recorders collected the following:

- Dexter St, Cook - 33.1 and 40mm;
- Mirning Cr, Aranda - 51mm;
- Noala St, Aranda - 30mm; and
- Bindaga St, Aranda - 45mm.

Dam levels rose slightly again this month to 44.6%.

Contact Details

Emergency (Police, Fire Ambulance): 000
 Police Attendance: 131 444
 Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
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