



O'MALLEY & GARRAN

Neighbourhood Watch Groups

This newsletter is authorised by ACT NHWatch Inc. Association. A modified version without the monthly statistics will be posted on the internet at: www.nhwact.com.au.

Distribution: 1,765 copies of this newsletter are delivered to letterboxes in O'Malley and Garran by your local Neighbourhood Watch volunteers.



Edition #69

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Your Zone Representative is:

JULY-AUGUST 2009

Neighbourhood Watch ACT Inc. (Association) 2009 AGM:

The 2009 AGM of our ACT Association was held on 13 August at the Ainslie Football Club. Notable changes and happenings were:

New President: Margaret Pearson of Farrer Group was elected as the President for the next two years. Margaret was formerly the secretary of the Association having previously served Farrer as their Area Coordinator following the rejuvenation of the previously defunct group in Farrer. Her enthusiasm and skills have made Farrer Group the biggest ever in ACT, and most successful Group in ACT as they boast 190 members.

New Constitution: The new Constitution for the ACT Association was approved by the members at the meeting. Although the previous one had served the ACT community well, it was 25 years old and it

contained issues no longer relevant and was due for a significant overhaul.

NHWatch Stickers for your Rubbish-bins:

These bin stickers are available free of charge from
Garran Group, Bob Hunt Ph 6281 1472
O'Malley Group, Neil Garvey Ph 6286 3062

Next Garran NHWatch Group Meeting:

The next Garran Neighbourhood Watch Group meeting will be held at 7:30pm on

Tuesday 8 September 2009

at the Garran Primary School's hall.

This meeting will be chaired by
Garran's Secretary
Mr Bob Hunt.

All residents of O'Malley and Garran are welcome to attend these meetings.

This Neighbourhood Watch newsletter is proudly sponsored by Nicky Symon of Peter Blackshaw Real Estate



Interest rates are at a record low

If you're thinking of moving, or would just like an update of the value of your home, please contact me for a complimentary appraisal. I live in Garran and I have the experience and expertise required to achieve the maximum price for you.

Nicky Symon 0418 285 797
nsymon@peterblackshawdickson.com.au

Nicky is a local Garran resident, and is proud to support Neighbourhood Watch, an integral community service.

Dickson office 6262 5122
1-5 Woolley Street, Dickson
Lic Agent Blackshaw Real Estate Dickson Pty Ltd

PETER BLACKSHAW
MARKETING QUALITY PROPERTY



Garran NHWatch Group Request for 'Help':

Thank you to those who have offered their assistance in response to our recent newsletters.

It is greatly appreciated.

Most of our Garran group zones have a resident who delivers the newsletters but we need some back-ups to fill occasional vacancies or absences to deliver the monthly newsletters to designated zones. If you can spare an hour or so each month please contact Garran NHWatch's

- Secretary Bob Hunt on **6281 1472**, or
- Treasurer Mr John Watsford on **6281 5771**.

Neighbourhood Watch 25th Anniversary

The 25th anniversary dinner for ACT's Neighbourhood Watch will be celebrated in the Olympus Room, Hellenic Club, Phillip on

**Wednesday 23 September 2009,
7pm for a 7.30pm start.**

The cost is \$30 per person.

Drinks are available from the Club's bars.

Residents and all members and past members of ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc (Assoc.) are invited to celebrate the birthday.

Bookings and payment by cheque
or money order payable to:

ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc
(Association) can be made to:

NHWatch Delegate, Brian Schiller **62861138**
NHWatch President, Ursula Macdermott **62810673**

AGM for ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc (Ass'n):

The Annual General Meeting of ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc (Ass'n) was held on Thursday 13 August 2009 at the Ainslie Football Club.

New Website for NHW Australasia:

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia advises it has a website which is now up and running.

The website is: www.nhwa.com.au

ACT's Drink-drive offences still too high:

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

The number of drink-drivers apprehended during July has continued at the same rate as the preceding month, despite the highly visible campaigns and efforts by ACT Policing.

"A total of 117 drivers were apprehended for drink-driving offences during July, the same as in June," ACT Policing's Supt Mark Colbran said.

"This result, coming after such a concerted effort by police and road safety agencies during July to alert the public to the dangers associated with drink-driving, shows that we need ramp up our awareness and enforcement even more."

The ACT recorded its highest-ever number of drink-drive apprehensions during the 2008-09 reporting year: 1789.

This was an increase of 203 over the previous corresponding period (2007-08), and 404 more than in 2006-07.

Supt Colbran warned the Canberra community to expect a combination of targeted and random breath testing by police in the weeks ahead.

"The drink-driving problem in the ACT has to be tackled in different ways for different audiences; that's why we have introduced the '*Real Decisions, Real Consequences*' program for young drivers in senior schools and colleges," Supt Colbran said.

"But as is the case with some recent apprehensions, unfortunately some people in the community ignore the messages. That's why enforcement is an important component of our anti-drink drive effort."

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

Source: Peter Brewer, Media & Marketing ACT Policing.

(...a sobering message from AFP....)

Please assist our police by reporting all suspicious activity:
CRIME STOPPERS use : 1800 333 000.



For police attendance use: 131 444.
For all life-threatening emergencies use: "0 0 0".





Govt dumps Grocery Choice website

Extract from: ABC: Sandra O'Malley, June 26, 2009

The federal government has quietly dumped its Grocery Choice price-monitoring website, only days before the unpopular initiative was due to be relaunched. The website faced criticism from its inception and last December independent consumer group 'Choice' took over responsibility for the project and its remaining \$13 million budget.

'Choice' was shocked by the government decision, saying it was a bad day for consumers. It was only told of the decision by industry players and the media. Federal Consumer Affairs Minister, Craig Emerson, made the announcement in a statement after a meeting with major grocery retailers, saying it had become clear the aims of the website were not feasible.

Grocery Choice was one of the many Rudd-Government's pre-election commitments. It was designed to appease consumers who felt they were being ripped off amid skyrocketing food prices. 'Choice' was due to relaunch the website on July 1.

"I am shocked and disappointed at the decision by the consumer minister to side with supermarkets rather than consumers," 'Choice' chief Nick Stace said.

"Supermarket prices are higher in Australia than many other developed countries and Choice agreed to deliver Grocery Choice because we believed we could make a difference for consumers."

Mr Stace said the decision to pull the website suggested supermarkets were worried about losing their market power. *"Consumers were to be given up-to-date information on 1,000 products, rising to 5,000 within weeks,"* he said. *"To pull the site five days before launch shows that we were on the money and the supermarkets are worried about losing out to consumer demands."*

GroceryChoice had now gone the way of FuelWatch, which was torpedoed in the Australian Parliament.

But independent senator Nick Xenophon accused the government of giving up on reducing the massive market power of Coles and Woolworths. *"By giving up on the scheme, the government is effectively giving*

up on making things fairer for consumers and smaller supermarkets" he said.

Major retailers applauded the government decision saying commonsense had finally prevailed. Australian Food and Grocery Council chief *Kate Carnell* said it was never going to be feasible to compare thousands of prices across thousands of supermarkets in a timely manner and with any degree of accuracy. *"The practice of constantly surveying food and grocery prices could have also undermined competition by impacting on local price flexibility."*

National Association of Retail Grocers of Australia chief executive Ken Henrick said providing price data would have been a significant cost to retailers, which would have been passed on to consumers.

Competition expert Frank Zumbo, from the University of NSW, said the website had never delivered any meaningful information to taxpayers.....

Emails to the Editor:

1. Hi Neil,

I don't have a number for you but I wanted to let you know that we had a robbery at (xxxxxxxxxx) yesterday. Some thousands of dollars of valuables were taken.

Last night my wife noticed a white van with orange pipes on top driving slowly in Culgoa Circuit –around 10.00 pm – and then a neighbor noticed the same van cruising around O'Malley this morning. Unfortunately nobody had the presence of mind to take the 'rego' of it. The Police have been alerted and have told the AFP Protective Force to be on the lookout. If you or your team see anything that fits the description you might let the Police know asap.

Many thanks (name and address supplied)

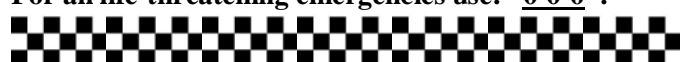
2. Thanks Neil. I appreciate your kind thoughts. The suspicion about the van was the late hour it was cruising around your street -10.00 pm and then it was slowly cruising along Kareelah Vista again this morning. It was an old van and as they stole our plasma TV –amongst many other items –they would have needed a van to take the 'plasma' away.

Many thanks (name and address supplied)

Please assist our police by reporting all suspicious activity:
CRIME STOPPERS use : 1800 333 000.

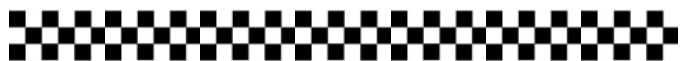


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