



Area 98 Aranda – Cook Newsletter September 2009

Neighbourhood Watch

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Zone:
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Coming Events

Friends of Mt Painter

The OCTOBER WORK PARTY will be held on Saturday, 10 October from 9.30am - 12.30pm in Glenloch Gully. We will be making up and installing tree guards around trees and shrubs that were planted in 2005 and are being damaged. To join us, park on the city-bound side of William Hovell Drive at the end of the metal guard rail, 800m from the intersection of William Hovell and Coulter Drives. Walk on to the reserve following the signs and red tapes.

For more information, please contact Sarah Hnatiuk on 6251 2228 or 0424 263565.

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.

The next work party will be on Sunday 18 October 2009, details will be in the next newsletter.

Guided Spring Wildflowers Walk

Celebrate 20 continuous years of work by volunteer Parkcarers who have been restoring FARRER RIDGE NATURE PARK. Come along, enjoy the walk, the wildflowers, the wildlife and the company. On **Sunday 27th September at 10 am**, starting at top of Muresk Street. Bring cameras and binoculars!

For more info contact: Sally McIntosh, Stromlo depot, Parks, Conservation and Lands, 6205 7384

Frogwatch

Leap into Frogwatch this Spring! Find out all about our local frogs. Learn how to identify different frog species. Take action to protect these fascinating creatures. Frogwatch is an exciting community activity that is open to everyone with an interest in frogs. Frogwatch aims to involve large numbers of volunteers to undertake frog monitoring in the ACT and region.

To participate, simply come along to one of our free Frogwatch training events, where you will learn all about our amphibian friends. You will receive your free Frogwatch Kit

that includes all you need to know to participate in the ACT and Region National Water Week Frogwatch Census in October 2009. Contact the Frogwatch Coordinator for more details on our Frogwatch training events: email waterwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au or phone 02 6278 3309.

Neighbourhood Watch Annual General Meeting

The next NHW meeting will be held on **Wed 4 November** 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.

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.

Garbage and Recycling



RECYCLING

Aranda:	24 September 8 October 22 October
Cook:	17 September 1 October 15 October

Bins should be placed out 7am.

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Magpies

Magpies, for most of the year, are a wonderful part of life in the Aranda Cook area. Their beautiful oodling call, soft chatter and individual character keep us entertained and their diet helps with insect control in our gardens. However between July and November, magpies build their nests and raise their young and during the time when there are eggs or young in the nest male birds defend their territory from intruders. Unfortunately some birds do this by swooping, beating their wings, clacking their beaks and sometimes pecking or scratching, making contact with the top of your head or ears. The behaviour can be dangerous and is often quite scary, particularly for young children. Fortunately swooping behaviour generally only lasts for around six weeks.



Not all magpies swoop and they don't just confine this activity to humans, your pets are equally at danger from being swooped. Those birds that do swoop have often started this behaviour as a result of harassment, so don't chase or throw things at the birds. Also don't pick up any fledglings that might have fallen from the nest, as this may be construed as threatening behaviour from protective parent magpies. Sometimes it is the colour of clothing, noise or the speed at which you travel through the magpie's territory that alarms the birds and triggers swooping.

If you do pass through a swooping magpie's territory it is important to stay calm and protect your face. Some ways you can protect yourself include:

- don't run, walk quickly through the magpie's territory;
- try a different route to avoid that birds territory;
- protect your head with an umbrella, hat or helmet (an umbrella is particularly useful if you bus stop is under the swooping birds nest);
- wear glasses to protect your eyes;
- watch the bird while walking away from the area—magpies are less likely to swoop if you look at them;
- attach a flag or streamers on a stick to your bike or backpack and cable ties to your helmet; and
- walk, rather than ride your bike, through the magpie's territory.

You can protect your pets by:

- putting them in a safe in your house, garage, kennel or hutch;
- putting your dog on a lead when walking through the magpie's territory;
- not allowing your pets to attack magpies; and
- not leaving dog or cat food out in the yard.

If a bird becomes particularly dangerous and aggressive or has caused an injury through a direct strike you should contact Territory and Municipal Services as soon as possible. Urban Wildlife Rangers can provide more detailed advice about how you can live with magpies and in extreme cases, and as a last resort, removing problem birds.



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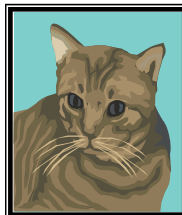
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Dog and Cat Laws



Queensland councils are in the process of enacting a law to register cats. While in the ACT this is considered unnecessary it is perhaps timely to look at some of the laws and requirements governing the ownership of pets, specifically cats and dogs in the territory.

Registration. All dogs must be registered by the time they are eight weeks old. If you are bringing a dog in from interstate you have 28 days to register it. Registration must be renewed annually.

Identification. It is compulsory for all dogs to wear their yellow registration tags and from 1 May 2008 Microchipping also became compulsory at point of sale for all dogs purchased in the ACT. From 30 April 2011 all dogs in the ACT are to be Microchipped . Cats also need to wear identification which can be identified by a collar and tag that identifies the owners contact number or address. From 1 May 2008 all cats in the ACT were also required to be Microchipped.

Desexing. It is compulsory for all dogs and cats born on or after the 21 June 2001 to be de-sexed unless you obtain a 'Permit to Keep a Sexually Entire Animal' from Domestic Animal Services. There is a one of charge for this.

Number of Animals Kept. To keep more than four dogs or cats you will need to apply for a Multiple Dog Licence or a Multiple Cat Licence from Domestic Animal Services. The approval for these licences requires an inspection to assess, the size of the premises, the adequacy of the facilities, the security of the premises (for containment areas); and the likelihood of any nuisance to the neighbours.

Cat Confinement. The only time you are required to confine your cat is during a cat curfew. This only happens if there is a particular and serious nature conservation threat that has been caused by cats. However, it is recommended that you take steps to confine your cat to your property whenever possible. Your neighbours are entitled to lodge a complaint if your cat causes an animal nuisance that affects them or their property.

Dog Exercise. In public, dogs must be walked on-lead, they may only be exercised of-leash, under the control of a competent person, in designated dog exercise areas. On cycle paths even in a dog exercise area, they must always be walked on-lead. They must not be taken into dogs prohibited areas, however, may be walked on lead, on cycle paths, through those areas.

Cleaning Up. It is an offence for dog owners not to clean up their dogs droppings in public places. It is also an offence to not carry appropriate equipment to pick up your dogs droppings.

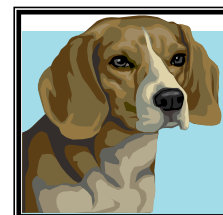
Dangerous Dogs. A dog, which has been declared dangerous may only be kept if the owner obtains a Dangerous Dog Licence and passes an assessment carried out by Domestic Animal Services. Any attacks by dogs, on either a person or another dog, should be reported to the Domestic Animal Services.

Animal Nuisance. All animal nuisances, such as those causing damage to property or being excessively noisy, may be reported to Domestic Animal Services. If you are issued with a Nuisance Abatement Notice,

you must follow the suggested steps to reduce or stop the nuisance referred to in the notice or you may be fined.

Domestic Animal Service Contact Details.

Contact Numbers
 Business Hours (02) 6207 2424
 Emergency (AH) 13 22 81
 Email dog.control@act.gov.au



Your Local Agent

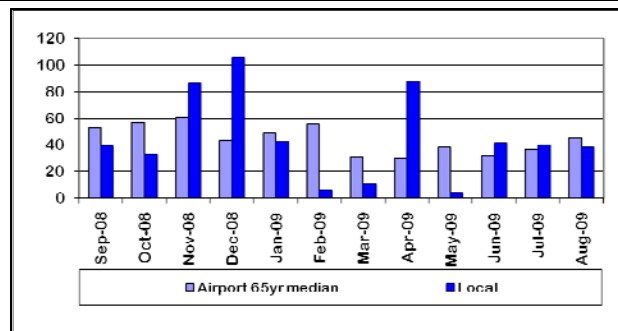
If you are thinking of selling or would just like an update on the Market situation, please contact me for an obligation free appraisal - I am only five minutes away.

Marie King
 Tel: 6251 9111
 Mob: 0411 793 937
mk@bel.peterblackshaw.com.au



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Water Matters



Although our rainfall recorders submitted quite different figures this month it was apparent that it was another dry month for the ACT with airport rainfall being about eight points lower than the average. Our rainfall total for the calendar year 2009 is now 275.9 mm over 57 days. Only 2004 delivered less than this.

Our recorders collected the following:

- Dexter St, Cook - 34.8 and 46mm;
- Mirning Cr, Aranda - 37mm; and
- Bindaga St, Aranda - 33.8mm.

Previous **August** totals were :

- 39.8 mm over 8 days in 2008,
- 15.4 mm over 7 days in 2007,
- 21.0 mm over 4 days in 2006,
- 56.7 mm over 12 days in 2005, and
- 76.2 mm over 9 days in 2004.

Water usage rates appear to be down and once again dam levels rose slightly this month to 45.65%.

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**Canberra Southern Cross Club
Community Support**



Earlier in the year Aranda Cook Neighbourhood Watch applied to the Canberra Southern Cross Club for a Community Support Grant. In the last financial year the Southern Cross Club provided a total of \$1.6M in community support,

including grants to charities and local organisations. At this year's Canberra Southern Cross Club Community Grants presentation, the Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, MLA, handed out 99 cheques with a value in excess of \$180K. We were fortunate to receive a grant of \$1,000 to help with the costs of producing this newsletter. **THANK YOU** Southern Cross Club we appreciate your support.

Shredder Available for Loan

So you've gotten out those tax records, or are at least thinking of it, and have found a heap of paperwork that you no longer need to keep. Don't just throw out all those receipts and old records you no longer need; remember they may be an excellent source of information on you for potential identity thieves. The Neighbourhood Watch shredder is available for loan to all residents to help you safely dispose of confidential personal information, please either phone NHW newsletter editor, Boerge Alexander on 6154 4146 or send an email to aranda.cook.nhw@gmail.com. A small donation is requested.



Light the Night

"Light the Night" is the Leukaemia Foundation's inspiring night to remember, celebrate, and give hope to leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma patients and their families.

On Friday 18th September from 5.30-8.30pm, **Light the Night** will be held within Floriade, the largest spring festival in the southern hemisphere, set in Canberra's Commonwealth Park.

Canberra residents who have been impacted by leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders will be there carrying coloured balloons with a tiny light inside:

- Gold to remember a loved one lost to blood cancer
- White to celebrate being a cancer survivor
- Blue to give hope and show support

Aranda Cook residents are invited neighbours to attend the event and/or sponsor Aranda's Catherine Tuckwell and her team the 'Cats Crusaders'. You can sponsor Catherine via the internet by visiting www.lightthenight.org.au. Just click on "Sponsor" in top left corner and in the Individual Search tab, enter 'Tuckwell' as last name and select Floriade in the Location drop down menu. Choose Catherine (or one of the other Tuckwell's) and click 'sponsor me' and enter your details.

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