



Neighbourhood Watch 25th Anniversary

A dinner to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch in the ACT is to be held in the Olympus Room, Hellenic Club, Phillip on Wednesday **23 September 2009 7pm for 7.30pm start.**

There will be a 2 course dinner with VIP guests attending. Drinks will be available from the bar.

Dress is strictly lounge suit for men and after 5 for women.

The community and all members and past members of ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc (Association) are invited to celebrate the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch in Canberra.

The cost is \$30 per person and is to be paid upon booking. Bookings and payment by cheque or money order payable to ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc (Association) can be made to Brian Schiller 62861138 or Ursula Macdermott 62810673.

A note from the Organising Committee:

We have had contact from people assuming that bookings and payment for the dinner on 23 September have closed. Bookings and payment can be made until **Thursday 17 September** and these should be made soon so that we can confirm numbers reasonably accurately to the Hellenic Club. This event is a celebration of 25 years of Neighbourhood Watch in the ACT and it is the opportunity to reflect on and recognise those who have contributed to the organisation over that time.

The case never closes

11 August 2009

“The case never closes” might seem like a line out of a movie, but this week ACT Policing showed once again we are always reviewing and revisiting our so called ‘cold’ cases.

A new taskforce dubbed Operation Tondo has been created to investigate a number of robberies at licensed premises around Canberra. Part of their scope will include reviewing unsolved robberies in our community.

Our most serious robbery in recent times occurred in Mawson in May 2004, which resulted in a then 56-year-old security guard being shot by the offenders. Luckily he survived and we still view this serious case as an attempted murder.

This week we released a facefit of one of the offenders in the Mawson investigation after new information was received by Detectives of the Territory Investigations Group.

We are encouraging anyone who may recognise this man or may have witnessed the incident and have not yet spoken to police to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via the website www.act.crimestoppers.com.au.

It is never too late to provide information to police on any crime and remember you can remain anonymous.

Source: ACT Policing “On The Beat”
http://afp.gov.au/act/on_the_beat/on_the_beat_archives/2009/11_august_2009.html

Alert neighbours

25 August 2009

As members of the community, you are a very valuable tool available to police to assist in the early identification of offenders and I want to use this week’s column to commend the awareness and diligence of the members of the public who contacted police last week to report suspicious activity occurring in their neighbourhoods, ultimately leading to the arrests of three alleged property offenders.

Residents in both Griffith and Lyneham were savvy enough to contact police last Tuesday, immediately after observing suspicious males loitering in neighbouring properties. In the two separate incidents, police were in attendance within minutes of the reports, arresting the alleged offenders shortly after arriving at the scene.

In this day and age, with people being busier than ever, it is refreshing to know that neighbours still look out for one and other. With new policing technology such as in-car computing allowing for police to spend more time on the road patrolling your suburbs, our officers are able to respond to reports for assistance quicker than ever. This gives us a much better chance of identifying and apprehending offenders, and means that when we work with the community, we can make our neighbourhoods safer and more secure, as demonstrated last week.

If you are witnessing suspicious activity or behaviour that appears to be out of the ordinary, please contact ACT Policing Operations on 131 444 immediately. Your report will be taken seriously, and could lead to the successful apprehension of a serial property offender.

Source: ACT Policing “On the Beat” http://afp.gov.au/act/on_the_beat/on_the_beat_archives/2009/25_august_2009.html

Comment – the information in the article above has been reinforced by information from Brian Schiller, Vice President, South, and from individual residents. You are encouraged to report all incidents. *Ed.*

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: “0 0 0”**



Vale - Philippa Crossley

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Philippa Crossley on 9 August 2009. Apart from the very active role she played in Farrer Neighbourhood Watch as secretary and then Area Coordinator and committee member, she would be known to many of you as the editor for over two years of the Woden District Neighbourhood Watch newsletters through which she contributed significantly to the Woden community.

We extend our sympathy to her husband Geoff who was a great support to Philippa in her Neighbourhood Watch activities, and to all members of her family.

She will be greatly missed by so many

To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die.

Thomas Campbell

Project Safe Plate a resounding success

More than 650 vehicles in Canberra are better protected against registration plate theft following the success of a community partnership project involving ACT Policing and Westfield Woden yesterday (Sunday, August 23).

Project Safe Plate was held in the Neptune St car park, almost directly across from the Woden Police Station, for four hours from 11am yesterday.

The program involved the removal of conventional screws which retain vehicle registration plates and their free replacement with tamper-proof screws. The safety screws are a "one-way" design which requires a special tool for removal. The tool is held at all ACT police stations.

Westfield purchased the tamper-proof screws and provided the venue while ACT Policing provided the "manpower" and also used the occasion to engage with the community and present its latest crime prevention and road safety awareness materials and programs.

More than 50 ACTP officers, recruits and volunteers were kept busy over the four hours, with the queue of cars at one period stretching to Corinna Street in Phillip.

South District Superintendent Lesa Gale, whose General Duties officers at Woden Station developed and organised Project Safe Plate, said the outcome was excellent and extended her thanks to staff and volunteers who assisted, as well as all those motorists who took advantage of the opportunity to assist police in preventing crime.

Source: Australian Federal Police

From the President:

Dear Members of ACT Neighbourhood Watch

As you are aware the Annual General Meeting of ACT Neighbourhood Watch was held last Thursday and for your information I have set out below details of the newly elected Board of Management. A copy of this including contact details will be posted on the website in the near future.

Unfortunately Ursula Macdermott was unable to attend the AGM due to ill health but our appreciation for her outstanding contribution to Neighbourhood Watch over the last 25 years and in particular for the last six years as President of the Association was recorded with acclamation.

It was gratifying to see so many of you at the meeting as well as nine police officers. The guest speaker, Commander Bruce Hill Deputy CPO - Response, outlined some of his work history and spoke about various aspects of ACT Policing; the need for ACT Police to engage and work with the community and the close working relationship with Neighbourhood Watch which ACT Policing believes in and continues to support whole heartedly.

The Board of Management is looking forward to the various challenges an Association such as ours must meet and to an interesting couple of years. We also look forward to better communication with our members and if you have anything you would like us to consider or any ideas for the betterment of the Association, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My best wishes to you all - Margaret

Margaret Pearson
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President	Margaret Pearson
Deputy President	Graeme Hush
Vice President – North	Clare McGrath
Vice President – South	Brian Schiller
Secretary	Ruth Oldfield
Public Officer	Christine Coulthard

District Officers

Belconnen (David Ault, Matthew Watts); Canberra North (Mick Motion-wise); Gunghalin (Christine Coulthard); Tuggeranong (Nick Tsoulis); Weston Creek (Lex Clark); Woden (Shirley Lithgow)