



Area 98 Aranda – Cook Newsletter December 2009

Neighbourhood Watch

“Neighbours working together to promote a sense of well being, safety and security”

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Coming Events

Friends of Aranda Bushland

FoAB send the Season's Greetings to members and everyone who has helped us during 2009. December and January are critical months for the control of St. John's wort on the Aranda Snow Gums site. Our goal is remove all weeds before they set seed!

We will have a work party on December 12th from 8.00am to 11.30am and on January 17th from 8.00am to 11.30am. There will be numerous small work parties during January.

If you are able to help please ring Mary for details on 6251 1345.

Friends of Mt Painter

Friends of Mt Painter hold their work parties on the second Saturday of the month. For details contact Sarah at hnatiuk1@cyberone.com.au ;or phone 6251 2228 or 0424 263 565. Or look at the new noticeboard near the entrance to the reserve off Booth Crescent.

Aranda Cook Neighbourhood Watch

Aranda Cook Neighbourhood Watch does not meet again until next year. The first meeting will be held at the Southern Cross Club Jamison, **7:30pm on Wed 3 Feb 2010**. All members of the community are invited to attend. New members are most 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:	17 December 31 December 14 January
Cook:	24 December 7 January

Bins should be placed out 7am.

Inquiries phone Cleanaway on 6260 1472 for recycling or 6260 1547 for garbage.

Aranda Cook Neighbourhood Watch AGM



This year's AGM was attended by 24 Neighbourhood Watch and community members. Amongst the matters discussed were:

- Involvement in the 2009 Clean Up Australia Activities – Yes we will be holding one in the

Aranda Cook area again, with a sponsored barbeque to follow.

- Possible topics for guest speakers – suggestions were the community gardens on Bindubi Street, the role of Conflict Resolution Service and cyber crimes. If you can think of something else the new coordinator would be happy to hear from you.
- The work done by various members of neighbourhood watch and the support received from the community.
- The need to encourage younger members of the community to get involved.

A new committee was also elected and while most people were happy to remain in their present positions there was a requirement for a new treasurer, the coordinators position was finally filled and a new West Aranda Coordinator was elected. The Aranda Cook Neighbourhood Watch Committee for 2010 is:

Area Coordinator: Keith Alexander

Minutes Secretary: Patricia Moth

Treasurer: Andrew Coombe

Newsletter Editor: Boerge Alexander

Newsletter Distributor: John Dowse

Cook Co-ordinator: Shirley Kaye

Aranda East Co-ordinator: Eric Leape

Aranda West Co-ordinator: Peter Phillips

A special thanks to our departing treasurer Jens von Brasch for his work over the past five years.

Thanks also go to all of those members for their contributions, whether this has been in organising the clean up, barbeques, sponsors, guest speakers or delivering newsletter. Well Done.

As the newsletter editor I would also like to thank the advertisers and the Southern Cross Club, without their financial support and the work of Instant Colour Press Belconnen we would not be able to produce this newsletter.



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Repeat Drink Drivers a Problem on ACT Roads

The issue of repeat drink-drive offenders persists in the ACT, with 27 per cent of all drink drivers apprehended during a recent four-week period found to have at least one previous conviction for the offence.

In an analysis of the licence status and previous convictions of drink drivers apprehended in the ACT from October 6 to November 2, police found that 30 of the 109 were drivers with previous convictions for drink-driving.

Conditional, probationary or provisional drivers whose licence conditions prohibit them from exceeding a Blood Alcohol Level (BAC) of 0.02 were almost as highly represented in the results as those who exceeded their stipulated BAC of 0.05.

Of the 44 drivers who exceeded their 0.02 BAC limit, there were 13 (29 per cent) with previous convictions. Of the 65 drivers who exceeded their 0.05 BAC limit, there were 17 (26 per cent) with previous convictions.

Nine of the drivers apprehended during the four-week sample period had high-level BAC readings in excess of 0.20. These included a 52-year-old male with five previous convictions who, when apprehended again on October 21, recorded 0.202. As a probationary driver, his stipulated limit was 0.02.

On October 28, police apprehended a 63-year-old male driver who recorded a BAC of 0.203. This driver was later found to have seven previous convictions for drink-driving offences.

Weekends were when drivers were more likely to offend. Of the 109 apprehended, 68 were caught drink-driving on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

Traffic Operations Superintendent Mark Colbran said police were continually frustrated and disappointed at the number of repeat drink-drive offenders who treat the law and the safety of other road users with such indifference and contempt.

"The community needs to be aware of the huge risk these offenders present to all road users. Recidivist drink-driving is a community issue. If someone knows of a person who is a repeat drink-drive offender, they should say something or contact police and we will take action," Supt Colbran said.

Christmas Road Safety

The Christmas period is the time of the year when more of us are out on the road, shopping, visiting, taking holiday trips. Here are a few tips and reminders to help you drive safely and avoid becoming another statistic this Christmas and New Year.

- Slow down, drive within the speed limits.

- Don't drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol. Remember, every police vehicle is a mobile RBT. Police also know the back streets and in and around licensed premises so if you plan to have a drink over the festive season, ensure you have adequate transport arrangements.
- During Christmas and the school holiday period you can expect foot traffic to increase, so watch out for pedestrians.
- If taking a long trip, plan to take a break every two hours to avoid fatigue, and if possible swap drivers.
- Wear a seatbelt and ensure your passengers are wearing theirs too. Don't take off until everyone is buckled up.
- Don't use your mobile phone while driving.
- Obey all traffic signals.
- Pay extra attention to other road users and keep a safe distance between vehicles.
- Drive to the conditions. It is a good idea to have an extra pair of sun glasses in the car for road glare conditions at this time of year

- Someone to collect your mail and clear the junk mail from the letterbox.
- Newspaper cancellation.
- Arrange pet care.
- Consider timer switches for your lights.
- Give the garden a tidy up and clear leaves from gutters to minimise fire risks.
- If you have lawn, organise mowing.
- If you are driving, do a car safety check well beforehand, making sure brakes and lights are all working properly, restraints are fitted and tyres are in good condition. Remember to do the same for caravans, trailers and bikes.
- Collect material to entertain the children on long journeys and terminal waits.
- Snacks and water to keep everyone going, including pets if you are taking them (don't forget to pack their bowl).
- Pack a supply of motion sickness remedies, medication, sunscreen, burn and bite lotions and other first aid items in an easy to get at place. A pack of moist towelettes is also useful.

Have a great time.

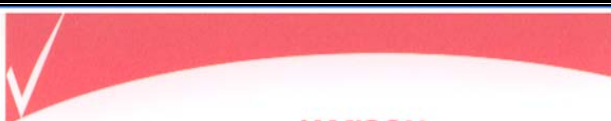
Your Local Agent

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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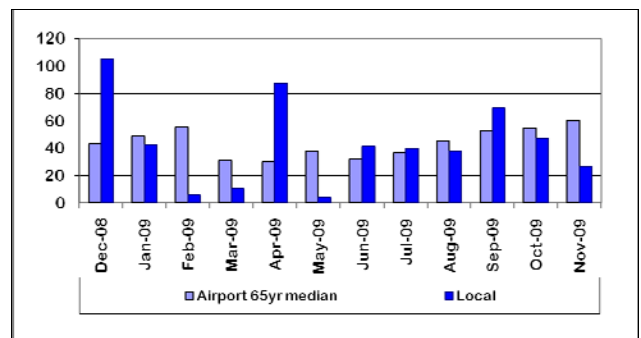
Going Away for the Holidays?



Heading off for a holiday away from home this year? There are lots of things you need to do and in the lead up to Christmas it is easy to forget something. Here is a quick check list to help you with your planning.

- A neighbour or friends to check the house regularly – or have someone housesit.
- Leave your contact details with your neighbours (and don't forget to get theirs);
- Have a neighbour park their car in your drive.
- Someone to put out your bins.

Water Matters



It was a disappointing month for rainfall. Our total for the calendar year 2009 is now 422mm over 89 days: which is less than the previous two years, however more than the totals for 2006 and 2004. We will have to hope for good December rains like last year to boost our water supplies.

Our recorders collected the following:

- Dexter St, Cook - 27.3 and 30mm;
- Mirning Cr, Aranda – 30.5mm;
- Noala St, Aranda - 24mm; and
- Bindaga St, Aranda – 21.4mm.

Dam levels are at 53.56% thanks to some rain at the very end of the month.

Investigation Into Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo River Corridor and the Googong Foreshore

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the environment, Dr Maxine Cooper, is inviting public submissions to an investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); the Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores. People who would like to make submissions should look at the Terms of Reference on the Commissioner's website at www.envcomm.act.gov.au. Submissions need to be lodged by close of business on Tuesday 22 December 2009. All submissions will be made public unless otherwise requested in writing. Please send your submission to: The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, PO Box 356, Dickson ACT 2602, or email: envcomm@act.gov.au

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Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
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NHW Area 98 Coordinator: Keith Alexander
E-mail: aranda.cook.nhw@gmail.com
Newspaper Editor: Boerge Alexander tel 6154 4146

Merry Christmas from Aranda Cook Neighbourhood Watch



*Take care and make sure your visitors are all invited in
and delivering presents rather than taking yours.*