



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: 1,775 copies of this newsletter are delivered to letterboxes in O'Malley and Garran by your local Neighbourhood Watch volunteers.



Edition #71

Your Zone Representative is:

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NOV-DECEMBER 2009

DOMESTIC CATS: There have been some complaints and long stories about roaming cats in the district. In the main these are pets which are straying from adjacent houses, and they are causing problems for other pet owners.

Cat owners do have responsibilities:

In ACT, it is now required by law that **all cats** born after 21 June 2001 and older than 3 months of age must be de-sexed or their owner must apply for a permit to keep a Sexually Entire Animal (SEA).

As well, it is the responsibility of the keeper or owner of the cat to ensure that the cat is de-sexed, or that an appropriate permit is obtained to keep it.

The owners are expected to maintain reasonable control of their cats at all times so that they are at less risk of harm and do not create a **nuisance or danger** within the community. At present, the Registrar of Domestic Animals Services must investigate all written animal nuisance complaints unless satisfied

that the complaint is frivolous or vexatious. If you have any problems understanding the animal nuisance complaint process, please call one of the Customer Service Officers, Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, Saturday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, on **6207 2424** or contact Domestic Animal Services via their web site:

www.tams.act.gov.au

Next Garran NHWatch Group's Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on

Tuesday 9 February 2010

at the Garran Primary School's hall.

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.

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

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Seasons Greetings to all...



Garran NHWatch donates to Garran Primary School:

At the meeting held on Tuesday 10 November, Garran Neighbourhood Watch Group voted to donate \$250.⁰⁰ to the Garran Primary School to assist with the development of the students' education. This is an annual donation made from funds donated to the group by the community during past years. As well, Garran Primary School has been very generous to the Group in allowing our meetings to take place in their facilities as and when required. From time to time the school provides the group with other generous assistance.

Garran NHW New 2010 Operation Cycle: *Garran NHWatch considers changing their monthly operation cycle:*

At the meeting held on Tuesday 10 November, Garran NHWatch considered changing its operation cycle from a monthly basis to a bi-monthly basis for meetings as well as newsletter production and distribution. This matter gained general support from those attending, and it will be given detailed consideration at the next meeting to be held on 9 February 2010.

New Garran Neighbourhood Watch members:

At the meeting held on 10 November 2009, Garran's Secretary Bob Hunt reported that there were more members moving away from Garran. However, Bob also indicated that he was in a position to be able to replace all those members with new volunteers that have come forward over recent months. The down-side is that Bob's reserve list is now again very short.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who have been faithfully and regularly delivering the Group's newsletters, and also a big welcome those new volunteers who have expressed a willingness to assist us in delivering the newsletters.

Garran NHWatch agreed to have a Christmas meeting of the volunteers during December, and Bob Hunt would contact those volunteers directly about the details of this meeting.

Repeat drink-drivers a problem:

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.

Conditional, probationary or provisional drivers whose licence conditions prohibit them from exceeding a Blood Alcohol Level of **0.020** were

almost as highly represented in the results as those who exceeded their BAC of **0.050**.

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-drinking 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.

Buy your Christmas Cards to support Charities:

Buying Christmas Cards produced by charities is a great way to encourage the Christmas spirit of giving. Your card-buying dollar then goes to your favourite charity, as well, these cards are often bargain priced!

A wide range of charity cards is now on sale at the Tuggeranong Charity Card stall, located outside the Good Guys store at the Tuggeranong Hyperdome's Homeworld. It opens from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday through Saturday, from now until close to Christmas. Please plan a visit as part of your Christmas shopping.



*... don't forget that my species has 97% the same genes as you....
Facing extinction by 2015, orangutans are being driven from their forest homes and killed or starved to death due to deforestation.*

Tasteful Christmas Cards to support a local group, the **ACT Division of the Australian Orangutan Project** are now on sale. Funds raised will support orangutan care centres in Indonesia and Malaysia, where orphaned or injured animals are supported and rehabilitated until they can be safely released into national parks and the designated sanctuaries.

**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".**





Going away this summer?

Tips for home-security during holiday periods:

Our personal safety is strongly connected with the confidence we have in our home's security. Increase in home burglaries is one of our most prevalent of crimes over the holiday period. What many people don't realise is that there is so much more we can do as individuals to protect ourselves, our homes, our families and our neighbours.

Some 'tips' and 'traps' to keep in mind include:

Keys:

- Never leave spare keys outside your home such as under door mats, letterbox or plant-pots.
- Don't have personal details such as your name and address on your key-rings, or in your car.
- Don't leave spare house and car keys in visible areas inside your home, if an intruder takes them it can be costly to change all those locks.
- Don't leave spare remote control units for your garage in visible areas inside your home.

Windows:

- Install key operated locks on all windows and ensure they are locked when you leave your house.
- Use laminated glass or shatter resistant window film to prevent windows being broken.
- Don't leave windows open when you are not home, or alternatively windows can be partially locked open with some types of window locks.

Ensure that they are all locked prior to your departure.

Doors:

- Install quality deadlocks on all external doors and lock them when you leave your home.
- Secure garage doors and sheds with deadlocks or strong padlocks. Know how to operate those deadlocks quickly and safely in an emergency.
- Install quality security doors and ensure that they are fitted with locks.

Ensure that they are all locked prior to your departure.

Yards:

- Make sure you keep all gates locked. Rear and side gates of homes are often access and egress targets for thieves and intruders.
- Install movement activated security lights at the front and back of your home.

- Dogs in the backyard can be a deterrent for would-be burglars, but remember you need to have a friendly and reliable neighbour feed and water them daily when you are away.

Alarms:

- Visible alarm equipment can be an effective deterrent for thieves and intruders.
- **Deliveries:** A build-up of unwanted milk and newspaper deliveries are a dead-set giveaway to advise burglars that you are on holidays. Ensure that home deliveries are 'stopped', a good way to ensure this is to stop them the day before, and then ensure they do stop.
- **Mail:** As for home deliveries (above) ensure the postman and postal service is advised that you want your mail halted for a period. Alternatively, have a reliable neighbour collect your mail daily and save it for your return. As well, clear the mail box of all junk mail.

Most post-men are approachable to discuss the best way to halt your mail for a holiday period.

- **Big bins:** Leaving your bins on the street is another give-away to your absence from your home. Have a neighbour take yours to the rear of your property after clearance by the garbage contractors.
- **Identify your valuables:** Keep in mind that one of the most important things you can do is to identify your property. Thieves generally don't like stealing property that is clearly identified as marked property is harder to dispose of. Engrave your electrical equipment and other property with your driver's licence number. Engraving machines are available from your local Neighbourhood Watch Group.
- **Photograph and date your valuables:** To make insurance claims a smoother process, it is suggested that you photograph your valuables, and keep a duplicate set in different places in the home, or with a relative.

If you would like more information about home security, see ACT Policing's website at

www.afp.gov.au/act .

Then, the most important thing to do is have a great holiday, free from worry....

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