



NEWSLETTER NO.4: MAY-JUNE 2018

About NHW

NHW is a community crime prevention program aimed at promoting a sense of safety, security and wellbeing. It seeks to reduce crime, particularly property crime and offences against the person, and it aims to promote a secure environment. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on their neighbours' properties, particularly if no one is home, and to report any suspicious behavior to the police.

You can show your support for Neighbourhood Watch by becoming a member with no fee involved.

The application form can be accessed on the following website link: www.nhwact.com.au. If you do not have access to the internet please call me on the above phone number, leave your name and address and we will deliver a hardcopy application form to your home.

Signposting Neighbourhood Watch in Coombs

Since Newsletter No.3 we have had many requests for (and have delivered) NHWatch stickers for attachment to rubbish bins. **If anyone would still like NHWatch stickers to attach to their bins please contact me via email or phone as shown on this newsletter banner.**

We have requested metal NHWatch signs for Coombs to be installed primarily at the five main street entrances to Coombs from John Gorton Drive. These should be installed before long.

An informal neighbourhood watch

Coombs has a high proportion of apartment units and townhouses compared to the Canberra average. But if you live in an apartment or townhouse complex you can still help keep an eye on your neighbours' property and report suspected crime in your complex. Following is an example from one townhouse complex in Coombs as to how this can be done.

“Our group of houses operate a form of informal neighbourhood watch using a private Facebook group.

The Facebook group has frequently taken on an informal neighbourhood watch role when we use it to share notes about unusual or suspicious activity.

For example, if we notice a vehicle that has been parked in one of our Visitor Parking spaces (or a nearby street) for an extended period of time, we can try to work out who knows what about the vehicle before reporting it as abandoned. Several abandoned and/or unregistered vehicles have been reported to date.

When a parcel delivery was pinched from a front doorstep, in addition to notifying police, the owner shared a video of the incident from their security camera.

On one occasion, the police were informed about unusual activity at one property (where the residents were transitory and not members of our Facebook group). In due course there was a police raid on the property and charges laid. The pattern of unusual activity at that property was only able to be described because small pieces of information via the Facebook group were compiled.

The Facebook group is private, by invitation only, for the owners and residents of properties in the same property development. The Facebook group has social uses as well such as helping us to organise social events, share photographs and just keep in touch.”

This is a great initiative. If anybody else would like to start a similar Facebook group for their housing complex we can put you in touch with the organisers of the group described here for help.

Child stalking alert!

We received reports in May of a male stalking children near Charles Weston Primary School and the police were advised of this. Shortly afterwards reports were received of similar incidents in Curtin and it seems probable the incidents were linked. The male has been described as Caucasian, in his late 30s or early 40s, about 170cm tall and of slim build. He has dark hair and a deep voice. On at least one occasion he was reported to be driving a dark grey or silver sedan car. He has attempted to entice children into his car.

ACT Police are working to identify the man. Police and Neighbourhood Watch encourage people to remind children to keep safe around strangers and to report any unusual approaches immediately using the useful numbers opposite. If any Coombs residents have further information to assist the police in relation to these recent incidents please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 quoting reference number 6268964. Information can be provided anonymously.

Get your letter boxes emptied

In delivering Newsletter No.3 in Coombs it was striking how many letterboxes were a complete giveaway for a temporarily or longer-term vacant property because they hadn't been emptied. They were an invitation to vandalism or burglary of the property. Clear your mail every day (including junk mail) or get a neighbour to do this if you will be away. Consider installing a 'No Junk Mail' sticker on your letterbox. If you live in an apartment ask the body corporate/manager to fit secure letterboxes where possible and notify appropriate people if any damage is noticed to the letterboxes.

Monthly Crime Statistics Coombs

(as reported to the ACT Police)

Offence Type	Mar.	Apr.	May
Assault (ABH & Other)			
- Cornelius	1		
- Harold White		1	
- Colbung			1
Motor Vehicle theft			
- Castan		1	
- Harold White		1	
- Pearlman			1
- Edgeworth			1
Number plates theft			
- Gifford			2
- Ken Tribe	1		
- Colbung	1		
Burglary – dwellings			
- John Gorton	1		
- Annabelle		1	
- Taggart			1
Other theft			
- Blackwood	1		
- Kilgariff	1		
- Harold White	1		
- Chanter		1	
- Annabelle		1	
- Janine Haines		1	
- Blackmore		1	
- Cornelius		1	
- Willesee			1
- Pearlman			2
- Fairhall			1
- Ken Tribe			1
Other property damage			
- Pearlman	1		
Total	8	9	11

Useful Numbers

Emergencies

(serious/life threatening)	000
Police Attendance (minor crimes)	131 444
Crime Stoppers (provide info)	1800 333 000
State Emergency Service	132 500



As local as...

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