



# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

*Harrison*

Summer Edition 2017

Police Assistance 131 444    Emergency 000

Email: [Harrison@nhwact.com.au](mailto:Harrison@nhwact.com.au)



## Bushfire Awareness

At the November Board Meeting of Neighbourhood Watch ACT, a presentation was made by Fiona Amundson of ACT Emergency Services on bushfire awareness. Now that summer is here, residents should put some thought into potential challenges and threats posed by bushfires in our area. While Harrison is not a heavily-wooded suburb, there is still the potential for burning embers to be carried by the wind from, say, fires in Mulligans Flat or Goorooyaroo Nature Reserves. As well as that, grass areas within Harrison may be susceptible if they were accidentally or deliberately lit. Following recent rain, the growth of grasses will pose a threat when the hotter weather arrives, and the grasses dry.

Four steps were set out to prepare your home for a fire emergency:

1. Discuss with your family or other residents what to do in the case of a bushfire near your home. Work out a plan.
2. Prepare your home and get it ready in the event of a fire. This includes trimming overhanging trees and shrubs, so that a fire doesn't spread to your home, also mowing lawns and grass from around your home, particularly if these are dry. Also remove any material that can burn, such as wood piles, mulch and leaves, and clear and remove debris and leaves from gutters. This is a common source of house fires. Also make sure you have a reliable supply of water available, and hoses that will reach all around your home.
3. Know the bush fire alert levels. These are found on the ACT Emergency Services Website [[www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)] as well as on the radio. They are a) Advice: a fire has started, but there is no immediate danger; b) Watch and act: there is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing, and you need to start taking action to protect you and your family. c) Emergency Warning: You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. There are also the six Fire Danger Ratings, ranging

from Low-Moderate to Catastrophic. Under catastrophic, the only safe option is leaving your residence early.

4. Keep key Information handy. As well as the Emergency number (000), you can get information from Access Canberra Centre on 13 22 81. There is also a free smartphone app, called "Fires Near Me".

Some of the preparatory actions you can take before the arrival of a fire in your vicinity include:

- a. Turn off gas mains and/or bottle
- b. Move flammable items away from the house
- c. Block drain pipes with socks full of sand, and fill gutters with water
- d. Move animals to a well-grazed or ploughed area away from the house and wind.
- e. Patrol the house well before the fire arrives, to put out embers and spot fires.
- f. As the fire approaches, wet the side of the house and garden that faces the fire.
- g. Move your firefighting equipment to a place where it won't burn.

## From the Harrison Area Coordinator:

Well Summer has arrived, though it makes you wonder sometimes, with the recent wet and cool conditions. However, no doubt it will come, and that brings different considerations for our home safety and security. As well as bushfire awareness mentioned above, make sure windows and doors are closed and locked when you are not nearby. Many burglaries are carried out by opportunistic thieves who take advantage of poor security measures.

The Annual General Meeting of Neighbourhood Watch ACT was held on 18 September, at the Canberra Southern Cross Club, Jamison. The President, Margaret Pearson, presented her Report to the meeting on activities of Neighbourhood Watch in the ACT over the last 12 months. A guest speaker from ACT Policing also spoke, and the Neighbourhood Watch Member of the Year Award for 2017 was made. This was awarded to Ugo Bayada for his significant contribution to residents of Gordon and

the Tuggeranong Valley in development and promotion of Neighbourhood Watch

As the year slowly slips away, we would also gratefully like to acknowledge the financial assistance given to us by Naish Stormon of LJ Hooker, Gungahlin, who continues to support Neighbourhood Watch in Harrison. He is our major contributor, and we would find it difficult to cover most of our costs without his generous support.

-Sep

Harrison Crime Statistics	Sep	Oct	Nov
Motor Vehicle theft	1	2	1
Bicycle theft	-	-	-
Number plate theft	-	-	-
Other theft	3	3	12
Shop stealing	-	-	-
Burglary- dwellings	1	3	-
Assaults	2	-	2
Other property damage	3	3	2
Arson	-	-	-

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**More Street Names in Harrison:**

**Casilda Street.** Named after Casilda Cove, Tasmania. It is a cove in Bathurst Channel at the entrance to Horseshoe Inlet in southwest Tasmania. Named by the Governor of Tasmania after the fishing vessel he boarded during a recreational expedition. Originally spelt Cassilda and amended to Casilda in 1994.

**Hazelgrove Street.** Named after Hazelgrove Creek NSW. It is a watercourse about 4 kms long. It rises about 5 kms NNW of Doctors Hill and flows generally ENE into Slippery Creek, and North of Wauchope in the New England area.

**Turtle Rock Street.** Named after Turtle Rock in Queensland. It is located in the Girraween National Park 260km South-West of Brisbane. Turtle Rock is a large granite monolith resembling a turtle's back.

**Ebor Lane.** Named after a NSW natural feature - Ebor Falls are situated in the North-East of the State, near Ebor in the New England region. These spectacular falls drop a total of 152 metres in a series of three horseshoe-shaped tiers.

**Orara Lane.** Named after a valley through which the Orara River, NSW, flows, extending from the vicinity of Coramba to that of Glenreagh. The Orara River provides water to the city of Coffs Harbour. The Orara Valley is a picturesque setting with charming villages and beautiful rural scenery.

**Nullarbor Avenue.** Named after the famous Nullarbor Plain, which is an arid limestone plateau, almost treeless, to the North of the Great Australian Bight. It spans two states, WA and SA, and is crossed by motor vehicle along the Eyre Highway, which is 1675 Kms long.