



Neighbourhood Watch

**HUGHES**

July–August 2018

[www.nhwact.com.au](http://www.nhwact.com.au)

**A/g Area Coordinator**

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### Unclaimed stolen property

ACT Policing is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the owners of unclaimed stolen property seized from a search warrant in Curtin. The unclaimed property consists of collector coins, collector stamps, memorabilia, paintings and power tools.

### Scams

The ACCC again is warning people to be on the lookout for scammers who are trying to con their victims into paying for scams with Apple iTunes gift cards. Reports to Scamwatch show there are three common examples where scammers are demanding iTunes gift cards as payment, namely:

- Tax scams – the scammer pretends to be from the Australian Taxation Office and claims there is a warrant out for their victim's arrest.
- Catch-a-hacker scam – scammers pretending to be Telstra will ask their victim to help them catch a "hacker" who is trying to get into their PC or smart devices.

- Centrelink scams – the scammer pretends to be from Centrelink and tells their victim they are entitled to an additional payment, such as for their pension, and that they need to pay a "release fee" in iTunes gift cards to receive the payment.

There are never any circumstances where a legitimate business or government department will ask for payment this way.

### Safety of children around strangers

Following reports of a man approaching children across Canberra, ACT Policing is working closely with the Education Directorate to reinforce messages around stranger safety in schools. More information on ways to stay safe is available at [www.constablekenny.org.au](http://www.constablekenny.org.au).

### Secure September

Bunnings Tuggeranong will offer advice on how you can improve home security and personal safety in a Secure September D.I.Y presentation at 11am on Saturday 8 September. See p. 4 for more home security and personal safety tips.



**cream** are proud to sponsor the  
RESIDENTIAL *Hughes Neighbourhood Watch*

Cream Residential have been a part of the Hughes community for over 18 years.  
We understand Hughes and are proud to be actively involved in our local community.

*If you are thinking of selling or renting out your property,  
talk first to Cream Residential – the Hughes Real estate specialists!*

*contact the real estate specialists* P 02 6281 0822 E [info@creamresidential.com.au](mailto:info@creamresidential.com.au)



## **From ACT Policing**

June has been another productive month in ACT Policing with members working hard to provide a safe and secure city for Canberrans to live.

ACT Policing's Traffic Operations team was once again busy on our roads. At the beginning of the month, a traffic stop yielded 18 kilograms of cannabis after members conducted a search of a utility in Belconnen.

After being given consent to search the vehicle, three large bags of cannabis were found in a compartment in the back tray. The 41-year-old driver was charged with possession of a trafficable quantity of a prohibited substance.

Team members also conducted high visibility and unmarked patrols over the June long weekend. While police were pleased there were no road fatalities, they were still disappointed in drivers who continue to drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Between Saturday 9 June and Monday 11 June, over 990 random breath tests and more than 30 random drug tests were conducted on ACT Roads. Seven people were found to be driving under the influence of alcohol, and 18 people were driving under the influence of illicit drugs. Officers issued a further 43 traffic infringement notices, for excessive speed, mobile phone use and other offences.

One incident of note occurred on Saturday 10 June, when a 23-year-old learner driver was charged with drink driving and driving unaccompanied, following a collision in Casey. The female driver's breath analysis result was 0.147, which is nearly three times over the legal limit.

ACT Policing continues to target and disrupt criminal activity within the Canberra community, with three significant operational successes during June.

Proving ACT Policing detectives are in for the "long haul", a 31-year-old Latham man was summonsed to court to face charges arising from the alleged theft of more than \$100 000 worth of fishing equipment.

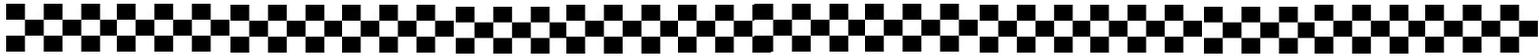
ACT Policing commenced the investigation in May 2018 after receiving a report that a former employee had stolen over \$25 000 worth of fishing equipment and a large amount of cash from a fishing store. Police believe a large amount of the property was stolen from another fishing store where the alleged offender had also worked.

Officer-in-Charge City Police Station, Station Sergeant Adrian Craft announced that ACT Policing charged a man and a woman following 16 aggravated burglaries across building sites in the ACT in recent months.

Members from Woden Police Station continued these investigations by executing a search warrant at an address in Rivett. Police seized a sum of money, suspected illicit drugs, suspected steroids, two illegal firearms and ammunition.

On Thursday 14 June 2018, a 42-year-old Melba man faced court on drug and trafficking charges, including cultivating a commercial quantity of a controlled plant.

A targeted operation in consultation with NSW Police Force led to the arrest of Mr Ted Wymarra on 25 June 2018. The arrest was a strong result for investigators who were involved in concentrated



**Please assist our police. Report all suspicious activity to CRIME STOPPERS on 1800 333 000.**

**For police attendance call 131 444. For all life-threatening emergencies and crimes in progress call 000.**



efforts which spanned over a number of weeks and two jurisdictions.

In other news, investigations continued into recent reports of incidents in Canberra suburbs where children have been approached by a man attempting to entice them into a vehicle before and after school, and on weekends.

A face-fit of a man was shared on social media on Tuesday 19 June 2018, seeking the public's assistance to identify him or to come forward with any information or dash-cam footage.

ACT Policing is working closely with the Education Directorate to reinforce messages around stranger safety in schools and Constable Kenny Koala also continues to provide important safety messages to kids.

ACT Policing has urged members of the Chinese community to be aware of an increase in scams targeting Chinese nationals, involving a caller claiming to be a Chinese official who threatens the arrest of the victim or their family unless a sum of money is electronically transferred.

In some cases, the victim is transferred to someone who claims to be a more senior official who then extorts more money, and in extreme cases the scams have escalated to involve further ransom demands from the victim's family. The scam has been reported across Australia and has now been reported in the ACT.

In other news, Friday 15 June 2018 was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Sadly, elder abuse in Australia is increasing. Abuse can present in various forms including physical, social, financial, psychological, sexual, or neglect. A concerning factor is that the majority of alleged abusers are trusted people to their victims.

If you suspect that someone elderly is being mistreated, please report it to police immediately. For more information on elder abuse see [www.elderabuseawarenessday.org.au](http://www.elderabuseawarenessday.org.au).

Lastly, on Thursday 21 June 2018, Deputy Police Officer Response (DCPO-R) John Bourke joined Chief Police Officer for the ACT (CPO) Justine Saunders at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, braving Canberra's sub-zero temperatures to raise awareness and experience the harsh realities of homelessness. It was DCPO Bourke's first CEO Sleepout and he talked about the importance of being involved and participating.

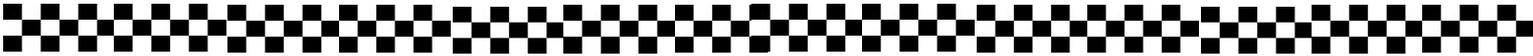
"Every single day, we've got people who don't have the luxury that we do of being safe at night, sleeping in a warm place within four walls and a roof. For me, it's contributing to those people who aren't as lucky as us, and to try to do something to help them," DCPO Bourke said.

CPO Saunders, who has participated in previous Sleepouts, shared why she continues to participate in the event.

"I continue to be really concerned about homelessness in Canberra. If you look at the primary causes for homelessness, family violence continues to be a growing risk, as is mental health. Both of those issues are matters that police are dealing with every day," CPO Saunders said.

"It's critically important that we understand the root causes of homelessness and as a community work together to address that problem".

After making it through a rough night, CPO Saunders left us with an important message: "I encourage everyone as part of the community to get behind this issue and do what they can to help those who are in need".



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Here are some ways you can keep yourself, your home and your community safe:

**Home**

- Lock doors and windows even when you are at home
- Put a lock on side/back gate and letterbox
- Install sensor lights
- Install a peephole in your door and a light outside so you can see who is there without opening the door
- Get to know your neighbours and look out for each other

**Vehicle**

- Always lock your car
- Do not leave items of any value in the open
- Secure your number plate with safe plate screws

**Personal**

- Know what’s going on around you
- Stay secure outdoors by walking in safe areas
- Carry a personal alarm when out at night and practice using it

**Property**

- Identify all items of value by marking them with your licence number and/or taking photos
- Keep an inventory of all items of value, inside and outside of the house

**Business**

- Put in place measures so you don’t become a victim of burglary
- Be aware of all aspects of fraud including credit card fraud
- Train staff on emergency procedures and legal requirements eg bag searching, refusing entry, power of arrest etc.

- Register your business with ACT Policing ACT Keyholder Register

ACT Neighbourhood Watch has invisible marking pens for identifying property. Contact your local area coordinator to obtain one – and share it with your family, friends or neighbour.

**Crime Statistics – May 2018**

MCNICOLL	Assault other	04/05/2018
HUGHES	Motor vehicle theft	07/05/2018

**Crime Statistics – June 2018**

LYNCH	Assault other	02/06/2018
YAMBA	Other theft	22/06/2018
WHITTLE	Other property damage	25/06/2018

**Report it**

Report all suspicious activity, people or vehicles to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000, or via [www.act.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.act.crimestoppers.com.au) and if police attendance is required to ACT Policing on 131 444.



<https://www.facebook.com/NHWACT/>

[www.nhwact.com.au](http://www.nhwact.com.au)



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