



Neighbourhood Watch

**HUGHES**

Sept–Oct 2018

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

**A/g Area Coordinator**

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### From the Acting Area Coordinator

The Canberra Times reports that a new sculpture will be created to take pride of place at the Hughes shops following the theft of the much-loved *Stepping Out (The Lady in Pearls)* from the shops in 2016.

South Coast sculptors Suzie Bleach and Andy Townsend have been chosen to create the new sculpture: a female figure whimsically cradling a large bird. Ms Bleach and Mr Townsend were keen to give women more of a presence in the community and reflect the “harmony between nature and humans”.

“We both feel very strongly that if humans had a more tender approach to nature, then things would be better for both nature and us,” Mr Townsend said.

The sculpture is expected to be installed in early 2019.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/new-lady-in-town-at-the-hughes-shops-20180905-p501wz.html>

### Neighbourhood Watch Week – 6 to 12 October

Neighbourhood Watch Week is celebrated Australia-wide with the aim of raising public



awareness of local Neighbourhood Watch programs and the benefits of belonging to a local Neighbourhood Watch group.

Once again there will be three key messages throughout NHW Week:

- Become part of Neighbourhood Watch today
- Feel more connected in your neighbourhood
- You can prevent crime in your neighbourhood

You are encouraged to think about what you could do during NHW Week in your community. Do you have some new residents in your street who may like to join? Promote being connected to your community and the benefits this brings - belonging is worth celebrating!



**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)



## **A dam and watercourses in Chifley**

**By Neville Bleakley**

Most long-term residents of Chifley would have observed that Chifley Oval is quite low-lying, and can get very soggy underfoot in periods of heavy rain. I remember when I was coaching local junior cricket teams in the 1980s; our practice wickets at the north end of the oval could not be used for several days after periods of rain. There is a very good reason for this.

Before the development of Woden Valley, the north-west part of Chifley was part of Oakey Hill Paddock, farmed by the Maguire family of Melrose. The area near the present-day oval would collect run-off from that catchment area. A dam was built to catch the run-off. A small paddock – called Cow Paddock - was built below the dam. It probably was a holding paddock for cattle who could then drink from the dam.

There were two watercourses that fed into the dam. However, they were dry watercourses that held water only for a short time after rain. The water that filled the dam came mostly from underground seepage. Long-term locals know that there are many springs around Mt Taylor (known to the Woden Valley farmers as Taylor's Hill).

Curtis Campbell was raised at Yarra Glen, a soldier-settler farm in the Woden Valley that his father George bought from one of the original soldier-settlers (a Mr Gifford) who could not make a living from it. Curtis and his wife Ann now live in Torrens. Curtis says that he cannot remember the dam ever being empty, such was the extent of the seepage from the catchment area.

Nowadays the cycle path that runs past Chifley Oval goes right through where the dam was sited.

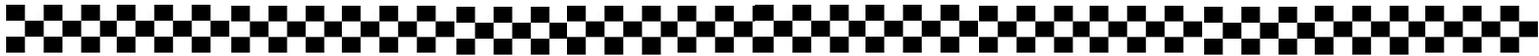
Its location was on the Chifley side of the cycle-path tunnel under Hindmarsh Drive. Anyone who has taken that route will see that the land at that site is a natural low point.

The first dry watercourse that fed into the dam started near the intersection of Macfarland Crescent and Wilsmore Crescent: at the top of the hill. The watercourse – it had no name – ran down present-day Macfarland Crescent, under Eggleston Crescent, through the Chifley Community Park, alongside the cycle-path, under Plunkett St and thence into the dam.

Walk up the slope between Chifley shops and the old Chifley Primary School. From that vantage point you will be able to see the shape of the land. Ignore the buildings, structures and roads that are now present. You can clearly discern the route of the watercourse, all the way into the dam.

There is a second, smaller watercourse that ran into the dam. It's to the west of the first watercourse. Part of it is still there, in its original state, in what is designated officially as Section 8 of Chifley. You can find it by walking up Waldock St, then turning onto the cycle-path to Lyons. 'Bush-bash' below the cycle-path and you will find the remains of that second water course. It disappears near D'Arcy Place. Its lower part was covered during development, which explains the need for the long monsoon drain that protects houses in West Chifley from flooding during rainy seasons.

Protect them it probably does, but underground water will still find its route to a low point. It's no wonder that the good folk at Calvary Chapel, Chifley (at the corner of Maclaurin and Plunkett Sts) have had problems with the foundations of their church. It was built close to the natural low point of the area: the site of the old Chifley dam.



**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.**



**From ACT Policing** (An extract of ACT Policing's report for August)

### **National Missing Persons Week 2018**

August marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Missing Persons Week and police appealed to the public to come forward with any information they may have about the ACT's long term missing persons.

Last year in Canberra, there were 652 reports of people reported as missing. Thankfully, most cases of missing people are solved within a week. Members of ACT Policing's Missing Persons Unit were out in the community with stalls at Bunnings appealing for information.

Missing person Jean Policarpio (missing since 26 September 2017) was also profiled on the side of Canberra Milk cartons, and ACTION buses showed images of missing persons in the hopes that people with information would call Crime Stoppers.

Police thanked the ACT community on Monday 30 July, for an outstanding response after a public appeal for information was made regarding the disappearance of Canberran Megan Mulquiney.

On what was the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when Miss Mulquiney went missing from Woden Plaza, investigators set up at the shopping centre on Saturday 28 July to take new information from the public. Detective Senior Constable Emma Beere said that when it comes to any investigation, it can be something a person may not think is relevant that might prove to be the vital clue to solve a case.

### **Protecting vulnerable road users in August**

The joint road safety campaign between ACT Policing and the Justice and Community Safety

Directorate focused on awareness and protection of vulnerable road users during the month of August. Vulnerable road users include children, pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists.

Officer-in-Charge Traffic Operations, Acting Station Sergeant David Wills said drivers should always be mindful of sharing the road, and take extra care around vulnerable road users.

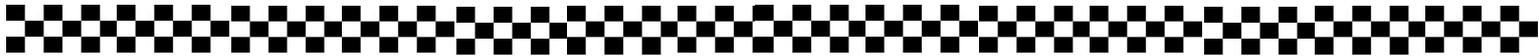
Another message police have been trying to promote in August as part of protecting vulnerable road users' month is how to safely overtake a cyclist on the road. Police advised motorists to be patient and leave at least one metre's distance between themselves and the cyclist when passing at 60km/h or less, and 1.5 meters for speeds over 60km/h. Remember if you're unsure, leave more.

### **THANK YOU CANBERRA! Missing six-year-old Phoenix found after a week**

To finish off the month on a high, after a week of tireless investigations and searching, public appeals and ACT's first ever AMBER alert, missing six-year-old Phoenix was reunited with his dad just in time for Father's Day.

During the week-long search to find Phoenix, ACT Policing issued its first ever AMBER alert. An AMBER Alert is an urgent broadcasting alert system utilised by police to seek assistance from the community to safely locate a child in either a child abduction or high risk missing child case.

Phoenix's mother, Tessa Woodcock, was arrested and taken to Queanbeyan Police Station and will face charges relating to the unlawful taking of Phoenix. ACT Detectives have sought to have her extradited from NSW to the ACT.



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**Are you bushfire ready?**

The bushfire season started a month early on 1 September 2018 due to forecast dry conditions; normally the bushfire season runs from 1 October to 31 March.

It's important not to be complacent about the risks of bushfire in the bush capital. Because of the forecast El Nino, there are elevated risks to the ACT in the form of heatwaves, dust storms and bushfires.

The ESA advises everyone in the ACT to prepare for the possibility of bushfires by understanding the Fire Danger Ratings and ensuring that if they live in a Bushfire Prone Area that they download a bushfire survival plan from the ESA website: <http://cdn.esa.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/GET-READY-FOR-A-BUSH-FIRE-2018.pdf>

To see if you are in a Bushfire Prone Area, see <http://app.actmapi.act.gov.au/actmapi/index.html?viewer=esa>.

**Prepare:**

- months and weeks before the bushfire season
- by knowing and understanding your risk
- your Bushfire Survival Plan
- your household by practicing your plan
- you and your family (including your pets)
- your garden
- your property
- your bushfire emergency kit
- your computer by listing the ESA website as a 'favourite'

**Act:**

- days before and the day of predicted bad fire weather
- seek and act on the fire danger ratings
- on your bushfire survival plan and put preparations into action – don't wait and see
- seek updates so you know if a bushfire has started
- monitor the ESA website, local radio and media
- to save your life
- to save your family, including pets
- to prepare your property so that it can help to protect you should a bushfire start and take hold in your area

**Survive:**

- during a bushfire. The safest place is away from the fire – your life and survival is the highest priority

Source: Emergency Services Agency - <http://esa.act.gov.au/community-information/bushfires/>

**Crime Statistics – July 2018**

KENT	Burglary dwellings	13/07/2018
WISDOM	Burglary dwellings	29/07/2018
BAMFORD	Other theft	06/07/2018
KITCHENER	Other theft	12/07/2018

**Crime Statistics – August 2018**

CONYERS	Assault other	08/08/2018
GROOM	Assault other	14/08/2018
CARROLL	Theft of Vehicle Number Plates	20/08/2018
GROOM	Theft of Vehicle Number Plates	26/08/2018
KITCHENER	Other theft	31/08/2018



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