



WANNIASSA NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER – June 2019

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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 resulting in safe and active neighbourhoods. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on their neighbours' properties, particularly if no one is home, and to report any suspicious behaviour to police.

You can show your support for this worthwhile organisation by becoming a member, with no fee involved. The application form can be accessed via the following website link: www.nhwact.com.au.

Anyone willing to assist with delivery of newsletters in their nearby streets, or with any other NHW activities, should contact the Area Coordinator, either by phone or (preferably) email. The relevant details are shown in the banner heading above.

Report it

Report any suspicious activity, person or vehicle to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at <https://act.crimestoppers.com.au>. If a crime is in progress or police attendance is required, it should be reported promptly to the police on 131 444.

It is important to report all suspicious activity no matter how trivial it may appear. A particular incident may be one part of other related incidents and this report may lead police to apprehend offenders.

Crimes can be reported online (preferably) at either the 'report a crime' tab at www.police.act.gov.au or the 'report crime online' link at <https://act.crimestoppers.com.au> or direct to a police station. For record purposes, we encourage you to also indicate that you are a Neighbourhood Watch member when reporting incidents or providing information.

What do I report?

It is important to notice and report any identifying features of suspicious people or vehicles. The more distinguishing features noticed the better to assist patrolling police with their enquiries.

These can include such things as gender, height, shape, hair, clothing, any particular traits or characteristics such as walking with a limp, stooped, etc.

Similarly for vehicles, any additional details including number plate, size of vehicle, SUV 4-wheel drive, sedan, station wagon, hatchback, colour, any damage or conspicuous features in the paintwork, significant wheels, etc.

Also, if you notice a child or animal trapped in a hot vehicle, please call 000 to ensure prompt attention from both ACT Policing and ACT Ambulance.

ACT Policing Information

ACT Policing is targeting driver distraction during June as part of the 2018-19 Road Safety Calendar.

Throughout the year, the multi-agency road safety strategy targets specific issues and behaviours which contribute to death and serious injuries on Canberra's roads, with driver distraction among those concerns.

Driver distraction is any action that takes a driver's attention away from the road or impacts their driving ability. This includes using a mobile phone, driving with headphones, tuning your radio, managing children or pets on board, or even applying make-up.

The most common offence related to driver distraction in the ACT is again driving while using a handheld mobile phone. Police have issued 316 traffic infringement notices so far this year (January – May) each carrying a penalty of \$470 and three demerit points.

Acting Officer in Charge of Traffic Operations, Sergeant David Wills said it is disappointing some Canberrans continue to drive distracted.

"There's no excuse for handling your phone while you are driving. It is a practice that is very dangerous and unnecessary. Hands free technology is readily available but the best option is to turn your mobile phone off or put it out of reach while you are driving" said Acting Station Sergeant Wills.

"Missing or not taking a call is a significantly better option than a serious collision that could have serious life altering or fatal consequences."

Facebook Presence

ACT Neighbourhood Watch has an active Facebook page where you will find some useful information regarding various local activities and events. There is also some helpful advice relating to community safety and instruction on crime prevention and reporting in the ACT.

You can find us at www.facebook.com/NHWACT/, or can connect via our website at www.nhwact.com.au



Monthly Crime Statistics

The following criminal offences have been reported in Wanniasa since the previous Newsletter.

Offence type	Mar.	Apr.	May
Assault (ABH & Other)	5	1	4
Motor vehicle theft			
- Nimmo Place	1	-	-
- Whiteman Street	1	-	-
- Orkney Place	1	-	-
- Langdon Avenue	-	1	1
- Langridge Street	-	-	2
- Wheeler Crescent	-	-	1
Number plates theft			
- McWhae Circuit	2	-	-
- Guthridge Crescent	-	1	-
- Wheeler Crescent	-	1	-
- Ashley Drive	-	-	1
- Cremean Close	-	-	1
- Maltby Circuit	-	-	1
- Illingworth Street	-	-	1
- Embling Street	-	-	1
Bicycle theft			
- Denigan Street	-	-	2
Burglary dwellings			
- McWhae Circuit	1	-	-
- Sullivan Crescent	-	1	-
- Holden Crescent	-	1	-
- Fincham Crescent	-	-	1
- Ashley Drive	-	-	1
Shop stealing			
- Sangster Place	1	1	3
- Denigan Street	2	-	2
Other theft			
- McBryde Crescent	1	-	1
- Rylah Crescent	1	-	-
- Denigan Street	1	1	1
- Cuthbert Circuit	-	1	-
- Guthridge Crescent	-	1	-
- Sangster Place	-	2	-
- Ashley Drive	-	-	1
Other property damage			
- Holden Crescent	1	-	-
- Wheeler Crescent	-	1	-
- Ricardo Street	-	1	-
- Langdon Avenue	-	1	-
- Gartside Street	-	1	-
- McBryde Crescent	-	1	-
- Houston Street	-	-	1
- Keys Crescent	-	-	1
- Denigan Street	-	-	2
Total	18	17	29

It is most disappointing to see the continuing frequency of number plate thefts in the area. Motorists are again reminded of the availability of tamper proof screws on request at all local Police Stations.



Dogs in the ACT

Being a dog owner brings with it certain responsibilities. The community expects to be able to enjoy public places without fear or threat of being attacked by dogs or walking on dog excrements. Residents are entitled to enjoy their garden without dogs roaming onto their property or being disturbed by excessive or constant barking noise.

Dogs in the ACT must be on a leash in public places, except in designated off-leash areas and enclosed dog parks. If you require assistance regarding roaming dogs, dog attacks, etc at any time call Domestic Animal Services on 13 22 81.

Dog registration is compulsory in the ACT, although they are no longer required to wear a yellow registration tag. However, owners are encouraged to always have an identification tag on their pet: In particular, to have the name of the pet and a contact number included, so the pet can be quickly reunited with its family if it becomes lost.

Additional relevant information on keeping dogs in the ACT can be found on the ACT Government's City Services website at: <https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/pets/dogs/about-das>. Also, further useful details are available through the following Access Canberra 'Pets and wildlife' link: <https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/list/p/4852>

What's in a Name?

The theme used for local street names throughout Wanniasa was Victorian State Politicians.

Gaunson Crescent: *David Gaunson* (1846-1909) solicitor and Victorian politician; MLA for Ararat 1875-81; for Emerald Hill 1883-89; President Board of Land and Works and Commissioner Crown Lands and Survey 1881.

Comment

I am always quite surprised during my daily walks with our dog at the number of households that do not bother to collect their copy of the weekly Chronicle from the footpath or nature strip.

In many cases, several copies are allowed to accumulate, which is certainly not a good image. **Surely, we can do better!**

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
Conflict Resolution Service	6162 4050
Home Safety Program	6163 9084
Citizens Advice Bureau	6257 1687
Access Canberra	132 281
Water/sewer emergency	131 193

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Proudly supporting Wanniasa Neighbourhood Watch