

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

HCA is about **community**, not just the residents, but everyone who is, or should be, a part of the Hackett community. The more Hackett is a community, the safer, more comfortable and more pleasant it is to live and/or work here, and the more it is a community the more it can achieve! Communities are often built around schools and shops and for a while Hackett was handicapped in this respect. This report is an even more positive one than that of 2010. A great deal has been achieved, in part because we are, by and large, pulling together. HCA is not the only organization working in Hackett's interests, and a close liaison has been kept with other local community organisations.

Shops

This situation has continued to improve and the ambience of the shopping precinct is now much more lively. We extend a very warm welcome to Naturopath Michael Beacher, to Dr and Devo (gift shop) and to the soon to be opening LITTLE BEAN coffee shop and the Hackett Pharmacy. Weekends at the shops have changed considerably over the past year.

Traffic

There has been considerable progress here! In response to a lengthy campaign by HCA, the ACT Government is undertaking a large construction programme. Raised pedestrian crossings are being completed on Madigan Street at the shops and on Knox Street at Majura Public School. Pedestrian lights are being installed on Antill Street near Knox Street and at Rosary School. It is to be hoped that people will use these new facilities. Work on the reconstruction of the intersection of Majura and Phillip Avenues, and the installation of traffic lights there, is well underway and will be completed in a few months. It must, however, be emphasised that this does not mean that the problem will go away. It is hoped that the continued increase in traffic through the suburb will be slowed, and that increased traffic will find it less convenient to "rat run".

2013 Birthday Bash

This will be held in September 2013. That year will be Hackett's fiftieth and Canberra's hundredth birthdays. Part of the celebration will include "Back to Hackett" and residents still in contact with past neighbours are being urged to invite them to join us. We also hope to have representatives of the families descended from the people after whom Hackett's streets were named. With such things as an old bus, and/or fire engine, school bands, Canberra City Band, Folk Dance Canberra, displays etc, we hope to do even better than the previous bashes. It is possible that we will need a full weekend rather than just a Saturday.

Hackett History

HCA is still hunting for copies of photos of the suburb over the last 50 years and asking residents, past and present, to record their memories of life in Hackett. This is getting urgent as 2013 approaches. We would also welcome volunteers who would be interested in bringing together the materials we gather.

Hackett Primary School Memorabilia

We are still searching for the memorabilia of Hackett Primary School. These objects (cups, shields, books of photographs etc) were last seen at the 2003 Birthday Bash. If anyone is aware of their possible whereabouts we would be grateful for the information.

HCA

On 30 June 2011, the end of the financial year, HCA had 151 financial members. Eight new members have since joined.

The Committee has held a number of tables at the shops on Saturday mornings and one on a Saturday afternoon. Contact with the needs, problems and wishes of the community has been maintained, current projects and activities have been explained and comments received, people have been able to join HCA and our members have been able to pay their annual dues without having to attend evening meetings, which for many can be difficult.

An opinion survey on a number of questions was carried out this year. Responses showed that the four issues of most concern were: public toilets at the shops, tables and seating under the trees at the shops, surfaced footpaths and bus shelters. Also of concern were bike racks at the shops and bus services. A polling place for Hackett came last. An average of seven and a bit Committee members and two and a bit HCA members spent some time staffing each table. Most tables, due to demand, closed late. Our thanks to all those who helped (especially the bits). Our thanks also to the representatives, and HCA members, Caroline and Andrew, who visited so many of the tables.

HCA was invited to have a table at the Majura School Spring Fair on 10 September 2011.

Eight Committee Meetings have been held since the last Annual General Meeting. Average attendance has been seven Committee members and two other HCA members. Traffic and the shops have been ongoing topics. Other items have included preparation for the tables at the shops and discussion of the results. Some time has been devoted to the 2013 Birthday Bash and the April meeting was addressed by Mr Dan Watters, Centenary of Canberra.

Future Tasks

Public toilets, bus shelters and services, footpaths, tables and seats under the trees were identified in our survey. Hackett history and the 2013 Birthday Bash are

becoming more urgent. Warmer lighting at the shops is desirable. Traffic will continue to be a problem due to the increasing spread of the northern suburbs. No doubt priorities will change and new problems and priorities will arise.

Thanks

The HCA Committee would like to express its appreciation to the North Canberra Community Council and thank it for its support, moral and financial (including for the purchase of equipment), throughout the year. Our thanks also go to Hackett Neighbourhood Watch for their use of the Newsletter, to Friends of Mt Majura, and to Wilbur's for all their support. The Chair would also like to express his gratitude to his fellow Committee members for their support and hard work, and expressly to the Secretary, Bruce Smith and also to the Assistant Secretary, Greg Haughey, who took on a large number of special tasks. The work involved in running a group as active as HCA is enormous, and much of it falls on the secretarial team. Thank you.

This has been a very successful year! I am confident that the incoming committee will keep the ball rolling.

James Walker
Retiring Chair
Hackett Community Association

18 September 2011