Hackett residents prepare to celebrate the suburb's 40th birthday, where jugglers mixed with belly dancers.

THE suburb of Hackett celebrated its birthday in style with a party on Saturday, attended by more than 500 current and past residents ranging in age from pre-schoolers to the over 90s.

Many people were there in the square for the flag-raising ceremony by Majura Mountain Scout Group introduced by Scout Master John Hood.

This was followed by an ecumenical church service led by Ministers Reverend John Stead, Reverend John Wakefield and Reverend Lyn Thow where celebrants reflected on the places of significance for the people who have lived in the suburb since the first residents occupied their new homes in 1963.

At noon, 2CN presenter Leanne Scott, who was born and educated in Hackett, gave an address as a huge cake donated by Early Bird Bakery was cut by 95-year-old Eileen Pateman and 10-year-old Ara Steel.

The children of the pre-school led a rendition of *Happy Birthday* to the accompaniment of the Canberra City Band.

Senior citizens enjoyed an exercise program led by Louise Goodwin, while Dance Australia, introduced by Christine Battison, invited audience participation.

A local Egyptian belly dancing troupe and the North Ainslie Primary School woodwind band also entertained the crowd.

Another popular feature was a juggler sponsored by the Northside Community Service.

Greg Cornwell MLA and his wife Margaret, Kerry Tucker MLA and Senator Gary Humphries called in briefly to give their best wishes, as did Steve Blume, Bob McMullan's secretary.

A display of materials featuring memorabilia from Hackett Primary School, which closed in 1989, as well as maps of the Mount Majura area drew people into the Time Warp Gallery.