



NHWA

Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



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Canberra Show



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Cover photo: Joint Patron Commissioner Michael Fuller APM

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

PO Box 64, Spring Hill QLD 4004 | Ph: 0428 377 901 | Email: admin@nhwa.com.au | Website: nhwa.com.au

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FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Hello Neighbourhood Watch

Australasia. I hope you are well, in these bizarre times.

No one could have predicted how 2020 was going to eventuate. In a few short months seeing the world, our country, culture and lifestyle come to a complete halt.



Since going into lockdown in March we've been challenged as a nation to work together to achieve a remarkable outcome. We've checked-in on our neighbours, learned to protect our bubbles, and proven once again how resilient we can be when faced with a crisis.

Few sectors have escaped COVID-19 havoc, but the clear winner is the technology sector. We've adapted to digitising our economy and lifestyles very quickly.

Now is the time to connect, find alternative ways to stay close to family, friends and neighbours and help others, as we all embrace this new path together.

It's wonderful to see the kindness pandemic catch on across all walks of life, and our gratitude for those on the front-line.

We love our community. Be a voice of hope. This too shall pass.

Joint-Patron Commissioner Michael Fuller APM

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Commissioner Fuller from the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF), to the role of Joint-Patron for NHWA.

Commissioner Fuller joined the NSWPF in 1987 and is the recipient of the 2009 Australian Police Medal.



Commissioner Michael Fuller

He has been involved in a variety of programs within the community; including an initiative that he developed called RISEUP.

On behalf of NHWA, I would like to formally welcome Commissioner Fuller and look forward to supporting the RISEUP initiatives.

For more information on RISEUP, go to: www.riseup.org.au/get_involved



Murgon NHW 2019 Get Online Week event

Get Online Week 19-25 October 2020



Last year 36 NHW groups got onboard to promote Get Online Week, each NHW group received funding to host an event that showcased online technology.

If the last few weeks have taught us anything, it's how vitally important digital skills are to our wellbeing, safety and connectedness. Yet 2.5 million people in Australia are not online.

We know that many of you are adapting and finding creative ways to continue to support local communities. It is difficult to predict what our "new normal" will look like, but one thing we know for sure is that everyone deserves the opportunity to learn digital skills and no one should be left behind.

That's why - whether it's an online campaign or held in physical spaces, Get Online Week 2020 will be taking place from 19-25 October, more page 8.

Find out how your NHW group can be part of Get Online Week 2020, contact admin@nhwa.com.au or phone 0428 377 901.

Neighbourhood Watch WEEK 14-22 November 2020

NHW WEEK 2020 will be bigger and better than ever!

NHW Week 2020 covers 2 weekends, 9 days in total, from Sat/Sun 14/15 to Sat/Sun 21/22, giving NHW Volunteers the maximum opportunity to run events with the public over two weekends.

Discuss with your NHW group what would work best in your area and lock it in!

For additional information go to www.nhwa.com.au/newsmedia/nhw-week/ or email admin@nhwa.com.au



Maria Bennett NHA CEO and Selina Otto NHA Executive Assistant

Be Connected Grant For 5 New iPads

Connecting the community with loan devices.

NHA was recently awarded a \$5000 grant from the Be Connected Network, which allows us to loan 5 brand new iPads with data connectivity, to socially isolated Australian's over the age of 50.

Given current circumstances, there isn't a better time to get online than the present!

NHA Volunteer and Policing Awards

2020 NHA Award Nominations Now Open!

The NHA annual awards recognise the great work and commitment of our Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Support Volunteers and Police across Australia and New Zealand.

This year more than ever, we are seeking award nominations to acknowledge the outstanding individuals in your community for their work and dedication in making your neighbourhood a safer, connected and inclusive place to live.

The awards are:

- **'NHA 2020 Malcolm Grant OAM - Volunteer of the Year Award'** - nominate an outstanding NHA Volunteer community member
- **'NHA 2020 Police Commissioner's Award'** - nominate a Police employee who has made a significant contribution to NHA

More information and to download the nomination forms go to: www.nha.com.au/newsmedia/awards/

Neighbourhood Watch International Conference 2021

The NHA International Conference was planned for later this year, however, this has now been postponed until early 2021.

The conference committee are working around the COVID-19 restrictions and planning on making the event accessible to as many people as possible either online or in person.

For more updates go to the conference website at nhw2021.com.au



COVID-19 Good News Stories

Check out this great initiative. It's often the simple things that are the most effective. Want to help out during COVID-19? We can all do this.

Letterboxing has once again proven to be a great way to keep in contact with neighbours. Drop one of these notes to a neighbour in need and make a difference! More COVID-19 Good News stories on pages 38-41.

On behalf of everyone at the NHA, I would like to thank you for your support, dedication and resilience.

Stay safe!

Together we achieve great things

Neighbourhood Watch - the Power of Many

Maria Bennett

Maria Bennett
Chief Executive Officer
NHA Australasia

**Let's take action.
Let's take ownership.
Number 1 Let's Stay Safe.**



PATRON, BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



Joint-Patron Commissioner Michael Fuller APM

Commissioner Michael Fuller joined the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) in 1987. Throughout his career he has served in a variety of areas including General Duties, Detective, Criminal Investigation, Inspector Duty Officer, Target Action Group, Superintendent Operations Manager, Field Operations and Local Area Commander before being promoted to Assistant Commissioner, Commander Southern Region in 2010. Since then, he has served as the Assistant Commissioner, Commander Professional Standards and Assistant Commissioner, Commander Central Metropolitan Region. Commissioner Fuller received the Australian Police Medal in 2009 and currently holds a Graduate Diploma of Executive Leadership, a Diploma of Applied Policing and a number of Diplomas and Certificates in Leadership and Management.

The NSWPF has worked closely with Neighbourhood Watch in NSW for over 30 years as well as supported Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW). The Commissioner's objective is to continue achieving positive outcomes for communities through the implementation of programs and awareness-raising activities in collaboration with NHW. He is also involved in a variety of programs and activities within the community including a program he developed called RISEUP.



Bernie Durkin – Chairman, Western Australia

Bernie is the Executive Manager for the Community Engagement Division of the Western Australia Police. Part of this role encompasses the position of WA State Director for NHW. In 1988 Bernie joined WA Police as a sworn Police Officer then switching to a Public Servant in 2008. In his current role Bernie manages a team of crime prevention community engagement staff and is extensively involved with NHW at both a State and National level. Bernie is currently the Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



Margaret Pearson – Company Secretary

Throughout Margaret's career she has made a significant contribution to the voluntary sector by being involved with numerous community organisations including ACT Neighbourhood Watch Association Inc. where she held a number of positions within that organisation and has recently retired from the role of President. Having lived overseas for a number of years Margaret returned, with her family, to Canberra where she continues to follow her great interest in local and international politics. Margaret is currently the Company Secretary of NHWA.



Clare McGrath – Australian Capital Territory

Clare is currently the Vice-President and Board Member of the ACT Neighbourhood Watch Association. Clare has been an active member of NHW since 1985, primarily in the Ainslie Suburb of Canberra where she has lived since 1962 after moving from Melbourne.

Clare is a self-professed sports lover and a one eyed Hawthorn supporter.



Dr Carlene Mahoney – New South Wales

Dr Carlene Mahoney is a Detective Chief Inspector within the NSW Police Force with over 20 years experience, working in organised crime, child protection and is currently managing the social media presence for online community engagement. Carlene also holds the position as an adjunct lecturer with the Terrorism and Security Studies, Charles Sturt University in Canberra. Carlene is currently undertaking a Masters in Terrorism, researching the complex social, political and international context of terrorism and contemporary security related issues.



Eric Tibbott – New Zealand

Superintendent Eric Tibbott assists the Commissioner of Police in driving the development and implementation of New Zealand Police's Prevention First Strategy in accordance with Our Business.

Eric fosters a "whole of government" approach to prevention by actively supporting and contributing to the inter-agency development of policies and strategies for community based crime prevention.



Les Bulluss – Queensland

Les joined the Queensland Police Service in June 2000 after 13 years with the New South Wales Police. In 2008 Les was promoted to Senior Sergeant, Officer in Charge Thursday Island; the only police division in Australia with an international border. In 2011 Les was promoted to Inspector and in 2013 was appointed to his current role as Manager, Community Programs and Engagement, Community Contact Command.



Peter Edwards BM APM – Tasmania

Peter Edwards is a former Commander in the Tasmanian Police Service. He has extensive experience across diverse policing portfolios within his home State, as well as national and international law enforcement representation. He has served as a Detective, Prosecutor, Intelligence Officer and Head of Training. Peter is currently the President of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania.



Maria Bennett – Chief Executive Officer

Maria has extensive knowledge, management skills and leadership experience in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining NHWA Maria had a successful career in corporate sales and marketing roles. Previous management roles have provided experience in coordination of major projects and exposure to the differing legislative and regulatory environments involved as well as an awareness of the unique physical and social challenges each location brings.



Selina Otto – Executive Assistant

Selina has a breadth of experience in numerous roles including administration, sales and customer relations. Having recently completed a Bachelor of Justice specialising in Policing and a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology), she is passionate about crime prevention within the community. Some of her goals include furthering the organisations reach to engage members of all ages, as well as offering services which educate its members on community safety. Selina is an energetic and motivated young individual who looks forward to helping you with your Neighbourhood Watch journey.

Keeping Our Kids Safer Online

By Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner

Whether we like it or not, the internet has become an intrinsic part of our lives, and the lives of our children. This was particularly apparent during the COVID-19 “lockdown”, when so much of our work and our children’s learning shifted online.

The COVID crisis will pass, but its legacy, as far as the role of technology in our lives is concerned, will be permanent.

Through our increased reliance on the internet, our work, our study and our socialising have become blended and configured in new ways.

While the internet helps our children learn, play and explore the world, it also carries risks. In particular, there is the risk that those with ill intent can use the internet to make unwanted and unwelcome contact with our children.

I often say that giving a child a connected device is like inviting a total stranger into our living-room – unless we take the right precautions.

These simple precautions are all the more important as our children enter the online world earlier in their lives. According to eSafety research, about four out of five parents report their pre-schooler already uses the internet.

The risks are real, but there is no reason to panic. Here are some tips to help parents manage their children’s increasing use of technology at home and keep them safe online.

Use Parental Controls

Parental controls are software tools that allow you to monitor and limit what your child sees and does online.



Julie Inman Grant – eSafety Commissioner

I often say that giving a child a connected device is like inviting a total stranger into our living-room – unless we take the right precautions.

They can be set up to:

- block your child from accessing specific websites, apps or functions (such as a device’s camera);
- filter different kinds of content, such as ‘adult’ or sexual content;
- monitor your child’s use of connected devices, with reports on the sites they visit and the apps they use; and
- set time limits, blocking access after a set time.

While parental controls can be effective tools to help control and

limit what your child does online, it is important to remember they are not foolproof – there is no substitute for active parental engagement and oversight of a child’s online activities.

No parental control is as good as a parental presence!

More information on using parental controls is available at: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/taming-technology>

Set Time Limits

With most school-aged children using online platforms or programs for schoolwork, ensuring a healthy

balance between non-school related online activities and offline time is more important than ever.

During non-school hours at home, it's a good idea to establish time limits around when and for how long your child can be online. For example, your child can play their favourite online game for one hour per night, once schoolwork is complete and dinner is finished. Rather than simply imposing these rules, talk to your children about them first and why they are important.

Depending on your child's age, you can also look at establishing a family technology agreement, or family plan, that balances time spent in front of screens with offline activities.

Look to include 'offline' activities in your routine at home – this can include family exercise, reading time or a fun activity like a board game.

Also, don't forget to reduce your own time online to model positive behaviour!

Stay in Open Areas of the Home

Device-free zones in the home can help you monitor and manage whom your child interacts with online.

For example, you can establish rules like:

- no devices in the bedroom or bathroom;
- all screens off at least one hour before planned bedtime;
- all family members switch off at dinner time; and
- devices charged overnight in a place your child cannot access.

While we know you can't physically monitor your child's online activities 24/7, establishing rules around using technology and devices in common areas of the home, like the kitchen or family room, helps limit the risk of them being groomed into taking or sharing sexual images or videos with predators.

Talk to your child about accepting friend requests from people they may not know but have friends in common with.

Know the Apps and Games Your Kids are Using

Check that apps, games and social media sites are age-appropriate for your child.

Look out for messaging or online chat, as well as location-sharing within apps, games or social media accounts. These can expose your child to unwanted contact and reveal their physical location. There may be an option to switch these features off or limit chats to friends-only.

The eSafety Guide includes information to help parents and carers choose safer apps, report and block unwanted contact and sexual approaches.

Turn on Privacy Settings

Check the privacy settings on the games and apps your child is using and make sure their profiles are turned on to the strictest privacy setting. Restricting who can contact your child, or making it friends-only, helps to limit unwanted contact.

Talk to your child about accepting friend requests from people they may not know but have friends in common with. People are not always who they say they are online – a determined predator will befriend several children from the same school to gain the group's trust.

Co-View and Co-Play

Most importantly, remember to take time to co-view and co-play with your children online.



Engaging in their online lives is the best way to understand what they are doing online and why they enjoy an app or game. It also provides the perfect opportunity to start conversations about online safety.

In other words: try to be as involved in your kids' online lives as you are in their everyday lives. I know modern parents are time-deprived – I am one of them – but you might even enjoy it and learn a thing or two!

Finally, I invite you to head to eSafety Parents for more strategies and advice to help keep children safer online <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>.

The internet will be an important part of our children's lives as they grow up. Just as it is an incredible tool now, helping them to learn and play and one day it will be an essential tool for their work. There are risks for sure, but with a few simple expedients such as the ones I've outlined, they can be managed. In doing so, children can have an online experience that is safe, exciting and empowering.

Get Online Week

19-25 October 2020



The internet has the power to increase employability, reduce isolation and improve health and wellbeing, but too many people are still missing out.



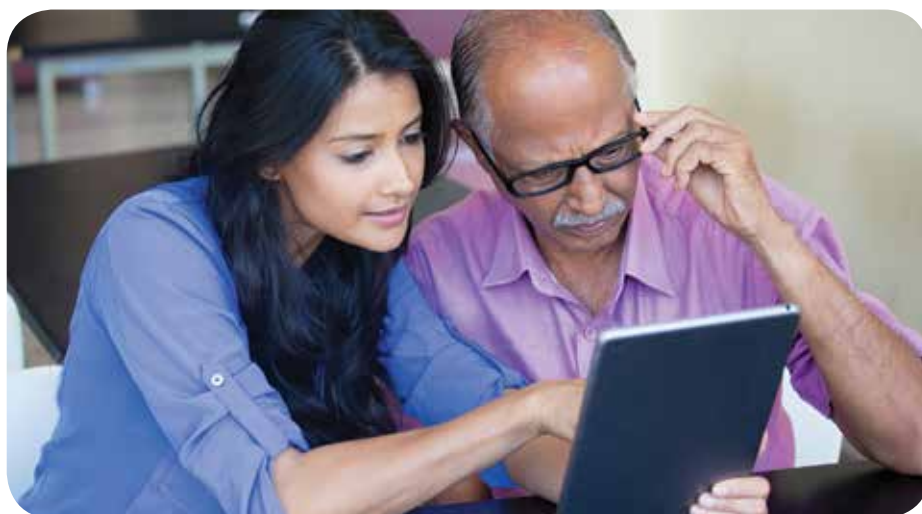
Currently there are 2.5 million Australian's who are not online, and 4 million people have limited digital skills.

Get Online Week is an annual campaign that brings digital inclusion to national attention. Every October, thousands of events take place across Australia and the UK supporting people to learn essential digital skills.

In 2019, Get Online Week events were held in every state and territory across Australia. From Shark Bay in WA to Ceduna in SA, up to Cloncurry in QLD and down to Bruny Island in TAS. 26,000 people attended a local Get Online Week event to learn a new skill in a friendly, supported and trusted environment.

This year, whether it's an online campaign or held in physical spaces, Get Online Week will take place from the 19-25 of October 2020.

We'll have more information soon about how you can get involved and help ensure no one in Australia is left behind. If you'd like to find out more, contact admin@nhwa.com.au.



NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

NHW ACT 2020 'Good Neighbour' Award

With the various restrictions placed on us due to COVID-19, it is almost as if the Neighbour Day 2020 campaign's crystal ball had been given a brisk polishing when they declared that this year we would be encouraging Australians to realise the social, emotional and mental benefits of connecting with others by joining and taking part in social groups.

Of course, the latter has to be undertaken while adhering to the "social distancing" requirements.

Instead of the usual formal presentation to the recipient of the NHW ACT Good Neighbour Award, the 2020 winner, John Perrett of Deakin, was presented with his award by outgoing NHW ACT President, Margaret Pearson, with his nominator Mrs Mary Anne Rosier and then NHW ACT Treasurer Laurie Blackall, all standing the requisite safe distance apart.

It has been proposed that there be another occasion when NHW could recognise John properly and perhaps invite others who have received the Good Neighbour Award over the years.

The following is the Citation which NHW ACT Vice President (South) Albert Orszaczky prepared and which was part of the presentation by Margaret Pearson:

This Award recognises a resident of the ACT who has made a positive difference to their neighbourhood by making a special effort towards people around them; by offering to



Margaret Pearson, awardee John Perrett, and nominator Mary Rosier

assist in practical or special ways or for volunteering or supporting the local community.

This year the Good Neighbour Award was presented to John Perrett from Deakin. He was nominated by his close neighbour, Mary Anne Rosier.

Mr Perrett has been an exemplary neighbour to fellow Robe Street residents for more than 40 years. His kind actions have included many welcome gestures for his neighbours such as walking/minding pets, putting out bins, collecting mail/newspapers and raking leaves.

In addition, John has also offered them a genuine, intelligent friendship, filled with wisdom and humour. He actively promotes community spirit and has displayed a sincere interest in the residents of the street and other nearby streets. As a result, the local community gather together twice a year to celebrate.

Mrs Rosier's nomination concluded with the following lovely statement:

"If every street in the world had a neighbour like John Perrett, the world would be a better place!"

It is evident that John Perrett represents the true values of a Good Neighbour in our community.



NHW ACT 2020 Good Neighbour Award recipient John Perrett

ACT Hearing and Health Expo

Neighbourhood Watch was among the 40 plus exhibitors and sponsors at the 2020 Hearing & Health Expo held in Canberra, just before the COVID-19 lock-down was implemented.



Nicole Lawder (MLA) with Albert Orszaczky

Seeing it as a chance for NHW to reach out to hearing impaired members of the local community, NHW ACT Vice President (North), Clare McGrath, spearheaded our participation at what CEO of ACT Deafness Resource Centre, Glenn Vermeulen, called a “unique event.”

In his address at the opening of the Expo, Mr Vermeulen said he was “not aware of any other such event in the country.”

He also complemented the hearing industry exhibitor’s and community organisations at the event. He added, “This enables our visitors to

holistically manage their personal well-being in one place.”

NHW ACT Vice President (South), Albert Orszaczky, was also on hand at the booth to help in handing out relevant NHW brochures and answering visitors’ questions.

NHW ACT at the Canberra Show



AFP stand coordinator Adrienne, takes a photo of a couple of extremely young police “recruits” at the Canberra Show

At the 2020 Canberra Show, NHW ACT and Crime Stoppers combined efforts to help out at the ACT Policing stand. There was considerable interest in the NHW home security and other brochures that were given away over the long weekend.

New President at the Helm of NHW ACT

After two periods as President and 15 years with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT, Margaret Pearson is stepping back to concentrate on her role as Company Secretary for the Board of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



New Neighbourhood Watch ACT President Laurie Blackall

Long-time Canberra resident Laurence Blackall, has been appointed by the NHW ACT Board of Management to take on the role of President and continue the development of the 4,000 member, all-volunteer ACT arm of the NHW organisation.

Laurence was first involved in NHW in 1989 when he established NHW in the Canberra suburb of Florey, taking a break to focus on his career in 1991.

He re-established his connection with NHW after he retired, joining NHW in Casey – a relatively new

suburb – and taking on the Area Coordinator responsibilities.

He was soon approached to become a member of the NHW Board where he has served as Treasurer for the past year.

His parents moved the family to ACT in 1968, so he has witnessed Canberra develop from a large country town to the city of 400,000 plus residents it is today.

He grew up in Ainslie and Rivett before joining the Navy in 1977, where he enjoyed a number of postings to HMA Ships before returning to Canberra on a posting in 1985.

He developed an interest in project and programme management and enhanced his leadership and management skills in several challenging roles before retiring from the Royal Australian Navy and joining the Public Service in 1998, where he remained until retirement in 2013.

Now settled in Casey, he has two adult children and four grandchildren living locally. Laurie sees a great future for NHW in the ACT and said “I look forward to the challenges of building capability to remain relevant in an increasingly connected and informed community”.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

Neighbourhood Support 'Good Neighbour Awards'

From Tuesday 7 April 2020 to 3 May 2020, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand ran a national Good Neighbours Awards contest to recognise standout neighbours who were making a difference in local communities during New Zealand's COVID-19 Level 4 Lockdown.

236 nominations were received from residents of New Zealand who resided in the country during lockdown.

Each week one nomination was chosen as our Good Neighbour of the week. Both the nominator and nominee received a \$50 Prezzy Card and a dedicated announcement was put out on social media and in a press release. This was a small way of saying thanks to the winners for making our neighbourhoods a better place to live.

Each week's winner also reflected a reoccurring theme in nominations received. These themes were:

- 1. Those who helped vulnerable neighbours with shopping / errands**
- 2. Essential workers who went above and beyond for those in their community**
- 3. Neighbours who looked after the homes of others and/or setup neighbourhood initiatives**
- 4. Neighbours who brightened lockdown for others through creativity (music, art, teddy bear hunts)**

7-12 April Good Neighbour: Tom from Warkworth

Tom is a young man who has been helping his 79 year old neighbour since his wife passed away suddenly last year.

For the family of Tom's neighbour who live some distance away, his support means so much to them knowing their dad has such a kind neighbour and now mate, regularly looking out for him and helping with his weekly shopping.

13-19 April Good Neighbour: Pawik Patel from Whakatane

Pawik Patel, a regional dairy owner based in Whakatane whose kindness, positivity and professionalism during the lockdown has won over the hearts of locals.

Pawik, who runs the Allendale Superette alongside his wife, was chosen as this week's winner as his efforts echo other touching stories and nominations received from across the country. His story highlights the lengths our essential workers are going to during lockdown. In the case of Pawik, even going as far as selling some items at cost.



Kauri and Brooke from Hamilton

He has also been delivering shopping to people who need it and sending positive COVID-19 updates. According to his nominator, Pawik has been a shining light in their community who never fails to check in with his customers to see how they are doing during isolation.

20-26 April Good Neighbour: Brooke and Kauri from Hamilton

Kauri Harry and Brooke Thompson are a young Hamilton couple looking after their end of the street. Kauri and Brooke are described as exemplifying what Neighbourhood Support is all about. In fact, Kauri was nominated three times by his grateful neighbours.

Together Kauri and Brooke have been looking after a neighbour's property, after they were caught on the wrong side of the Tasman when lockdown began. For the past five weeks they have been doing everything from watering gardens, feeding fish (and a chook), mowing lawns, and ensuring that the house is safe and sound. Nothing has been too much trouble and they have even helped to retrieve much needed work equipment from the house, so that their neighbour can continue to work from his temporary home in Australia.

In addition, Kauri mows the front verge for other neighbours and has started a Free Box to share excess fruit and vegetables with anyone who needs it.

27 April-3 May Good Neighbour: Philip and Sue from Auckland

The couple, who were nominated by two grateful neighbours, have been creating new window and garden displays. The toys they feature are for their grandchildren who haven't been able to visit since lockdown began.

Starting off with a lone tiger on the first day, they gradually introduced what grew to be 10 animal characters, each with a relevant scene and poem which formed part of a bigger storyline.

The project kept expanding as local kids got to know the characters and started to come back each day to follow the happenings at Sue and Philip's.

As funny comments, quirky questions and magic moments were overheard while eavesdropping from inside, these were used as sparks of inspiration for future displays.

One such display celebrated the 4th birthday of a neighbour who was overjoyed to see a special party scene created just for her.

In addition to bringing smiles to all who walk past their home each day, they have also set up a WhatsApp group for their local Neighbourhood Support. Additionally, they coordinated a street effort when they became aware a 90-year-old couple nearby needed a few grocery items urgently.



Auckland residents Philip and Sue's window display



Philip and Sue getting creative to wish Gabriella a Happy Birthday

To learn more about the Neighbourhood Support Good Neighbour awards, visit:

www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz/good-neighbour-awards



Manawatu Neighbourhood Support's Inter-generational Reading Buddy Programme is already a hit!

Building better readers together

Manawatu Neighbourhood Support has started a new Inter-generational Reading Buddy Programme this year, which pairs adults with 7 to 8 year-olds from a local school. A great way for young ones to work on their reading skills, while connecting with role models in our communities.

Supt. Eric Tibbott, New Zealand Police National Manager: Prevention and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Board Director for New Zealand, presented our Board Member and long-time Neighbourhood Supporter, Colleen Brown, with a NHWA Certificate of Appreciation for her volunteerism via a video conference!



Supt. Eric Tibbott presenting the award to Colleen Brown



NSNZ CEO, Tess Casey (second from right), with her fellow judges during the 2020 EBPOP Awards in Wellington

In March our very own Chief Executive, Tess Casey, was selected to be a judge for the New Zealand Police's Evidence Based Problem Oriented Policing Awards. What an honour!



Rose with her colouring sheet

Safe to say we have some of the cutest supporters in the country

Here is 3 year old Rose from Tauranga showing off her completed NSNZ Anzac Day colouring sheet. Her mother Lauren said she was so proud placing it on their gate for all to see.

NSNZ gifted two te reo Māori translations

Dr. James Graham from Hastings District Council kindly volunteered his services to translate our organisational name and tagline.

These taonga (treasures) will allow us to strengthen our connections to our neighbours, our past, and our whenua (land / nation) for years to come.

Local responses looked different in each area to cater to regional needs. For example, Toni Helleur from Mangere Neighbourhood Support on the North Island created a Community COVID-19 Admin Team which oversaw volunteer schedules, rosters and planning for communications.

They also created a dedicated Community COVID-19 Communications Team which consisted of multiple community groups that sent out coordinated pandemic comms on a regular basis.

They even started a database of local businesses / NGOs / community groups / volunteers who could help and what they could offer.

With the support of local Police, Mangere Neighbourhood Support also started a mobile phone collection drive to gather unused but working cell phones. These were given to vulnerable community members who needed a lifeline to family and essential services. One such recipient was an Auckland grandmother of 4 who had her phone stolen in lockdown.

Embracing te reo Māori to strengthen our connections...

**Te Kōpuni Kāinga
o Aotearoa**
Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

**Kia haumaru, kia kaha, kia
kotahi hoki ngā hapori**
Creating safe, resilient and
connected communities



Thank you Dr. James Graham!
Hastings District Council - Pou Ahurea Matua

NSNZ's new te reo Māori translations

Meanwhile on the South Island, Neighbourhood Support Nelson worked with local partners on a coordinated pandemic response. They were approached by Nelson City Council to develop a coordinated approach between Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and community organisations working with vulnerable clients.

Funding was approved allowing them to become the conduit for EOC messages. All information

gathered was then fed back to EOC, where they accessed the needs of the organisation and its clients.

For Otago Neighbourhood Support in Mosgiel, their local pandemic response meant assisting over 70's with grocery deliveries.

In partnership with New World, The Saddle Hill Foundation Trust, Chatsford Retirement Village and the local Food Bank, they set up a special grocery delivery service for over 70's and those unable to go out.

Neighbourhood Supporter, Mary S. from Nelson, sent us this awesome photo of her neighbours giving each other a wave from the end of their driveways. One of many creative ways that neighbours kept in contact during the lockdown.



Mary S. and her neighbours didn't let lockdown get in the way of keeping in contact

Emergency Management Marathon

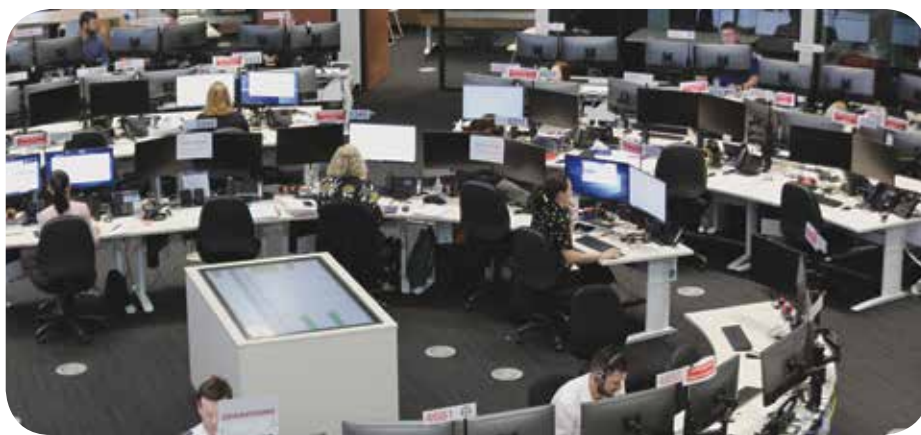
In late February, the NSW Government warned everyone to prepare for a possible pandemic converging with this years winter flu. The risk to public health in NSW reached new thresholds within days.

The first of the mandatory self-isolation restrictions was announced on St Patrick's Day, when the NSW Health Minister directed that all overseas passengers were to self-isolate for 14 days and mass gatherings were restricted.

The total number of new cases in Australia levelled out at about 350 per day by late March, with the highest number of cases in NSW. By then public gatherings were reduced to just two people, and thousands of officers were deployed on the streets to enforce the new rules. Throughout the entire emergency, commanders across the state have gone to extraordinary lengths to make sure regular policing continues.

Managing Emergencies

Under the NSW State Emergency Management Plan, the NSW Police Force's designated the role of coordinating interaction between emergency services and other functional areas. In addition, they are responsible for coordinating the Public Information Functional Area. Just weeks after supporting the RFS during the bushfire and wild weather emergencies, the SEOCON (State Emergency Operations Controller) and the PIFAC (Public Information



State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOC) at Homebush

Functional Area Coordinator) swung back into action, with constant support from the Emergency Management Unit.

In February Deputy Commissioner Gary Warboys – in his role as SEOCON – activated the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) at the Sydney Police Centre in Surry Hills.

Within a few weeks the SEOC was moved to Rural Fire Service (RFS)

headquarters at Homebush, which is large enough to allow staff from all response agencies and functional areas to work side by-side. They also had access to advanced technology at the site which allowed for live information updates, intelligence sharing, digital mapping as well as public information and media broadcasting.

In a marathon communications campaign, the SEOCON has stood



Homebush Police Officers

side by side with the NSW Premier and Health officials in daily media briefings to the state throughout the pandemic.

The Police Operations Centre (POC) was stood up at the Sydney Police Centre on 17 March under acting Assistant Commissioner Tony Cooke, to manage the state wide police response under Operation Coronavirus 2020.

Within weeks, the POC was operating almost 24/7 under Assistant Commissioners Mark Walton, Mick Fitzgerald and Kyle Stewart, while Assistant Commissioner Peter Thurtell began managing the hotel quarantining and repatriation operations. The COVID-19 pandemic requires an extraordinary response and they were supported by teams who managed the planning, intelligence, logistics, investigations, legal, HR, safety and communications.

After discussions with NSW Health, Commissioner Fuller was satisfied it was necessary in the circumstances for the State Emergency Operations Controller to assume responsibility for controlling the response to the pandemic. This would enable NSW Health to continue to focus on the health response and for the SEOCON to coordinate the larger, whole of government response – beyond consequence management alone.

Due to the increased NSW response Commissioner Mick Fuller resumed the role of State Emergency Operations Controller and Deputy Commissioner Gary Warboys took up the role of Deputy SEOCON.



Pictured is NSW Police Commissioner Michael Fuller delivering his daily media update

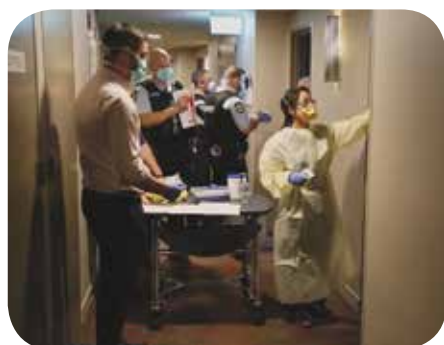
These whole of government tasks included repatriating almost a dozen cruise ships that were sitting in NSW waters. In response the Marine Operations Centre was stood up at the Marine Area Command base in Balmain on 26 March.

Leading Public Information

All operations were supported by the whole team at Public Affairs Branch including the Police Media Unit, which manages the PIFAC role. Public Affairs staff were rostered at

all locations specifically to lead the public information campaign. Once again, our social media reach proved critical throughout these extraordinary events. In just over a month police messages reached 1.69 million people – that's an increase of 50%.

The team also designed posters and advertisements that were seen at all airports and shipping terminals in NSW, on social media, at backpacker hostels (in nine languages) and at the hotels used for quarantining.



NSW Hotel Quarantine



Go Kart Reward and FitforWork Graduation Day

Campbelltown Police and Community Youth Clubs (PCYC) FitforWork term 4 class enjoyed a fast-paced, action-packed reward day out on the track at Indy 800 Go Karts Wilberforce.

The focus of the day was to reward the students for all their hard work and commitment during the FitforWork's 10-week program.

The day was set out to give the students maximum time on the track and started with a 15 minute practice session to help warm up their driving skills and get a feel for the track.

This session was dominated by students who all were able to produce sub one minute laps. Then it was down to business with a 15 minute time trial.

The top three fastest times from both groups were then placed into a winner-takes-all grand finale. The true petrol-heads set the times to beat as they sped around the track. The fastest lap time achieved was 53 seconds.

The day helped to break down any barriers that remained between the students and the police officers. Enjoying an activity like go karting gave an opportunity for the students to see another side to police. Some did get to see them as normal people. **In addition to the go karting day, the class also celebrated their graduation day with family members, police and PCYC staff.**

Students gained a variety of skills and knowledge across many areas including first aid, communication, following rules and instructions, and practical based experience like attending an interview.

Sgt Mark Jones said the graduation day was not just about the students



Campbelltown PCYC students vied for the fastest time around the track



Graduation Day for FitforWork students

but also their families, because for some, they started to see the true ability that their child had always held but they did not know how to ignite this passion. "The smiles

and the number of photos that the parents took on the day is what this program is all about. It not only changes the students' lives but their families lives as well," he said.

Rise to the Cup Challenge

This year the RISEUP team at Parramatta Police and Community Youth Clubs (PCYC) will defend the RISEUP Trophy, against Campbelltown, Blacktown and Marrickville PCYCs.



The teams ready to compete

Last year Parramatta's FitforWork participants challenged other clubs to a sports day, which was hosted by Marrickville PCYC and involved a few fun games and sporting matches, followed by a big feed for everyone.

Youth worker Jessica Brough helped run FitforWork at Parramatta PCYC last year and came up with the idea of friendly challenge to boost a sense of club pride among the young participants.



RISEUP FitforWork team signing on

Care Delivered Door to Door



Police deliver welfare packs to young people after PCYC services suspended

The NSW Police Force is continuing its commitment to vulnerable and at-risk youth by preparing and delivering welfare packages to young people and their families.

Following the direction to self-isolate and the shutdown of all non-essential services – including the suspension of PCYC NSW clubs and facilities – officers from the Youth & Crime Prevention Command are reaching out to young people in the community who frequently use their services. Each package is put together by youth case managers (YCM) and school liaison police (SLP) and contains a combination of food items and hygiene products.

Commander of Capability, Performance & Youth, Assistant Commissioner Paul Pisanos said the initiative demonstrates the positive bond between police and young people across the state. “I appreciate those police who work tirelessly to build strong relationships with young people in the community and provide them with the guidance, support and skills to make positive

life choices,” he said. “We all know that this is a very difficult time for all Australians – and this includes our at-risk youth who rely on the services and support that police and PCYC provide.

“The welfare packages, which have so far been delivered in Woolloomooloo, Lithgow and Bathurst, are just one way for us to remind these kids that police are always here to help, no matter what,” Assistant Commissioner Pisanos said.

PCYC NSW CEO, Dominic Teakle said all 64 PCYC clubs across the state have been closed for the community’s safety under the current COVID-19 restrictions. “We’re absolutely devastated to have closed our doors because we know how much joy and purpose they give to young people, some of whom rely on us for basics like food and shelter,” he said. “And we are grateful to have the continued support of local police across the state during these exceptionally difficult times. What these police are doing during this time is important and we thank you.”

Commander of Youth & Crime Prevention, Supt Mark Wall said police across the state are adapting in every way possible to ensure the community continues to feel safe. “As a community we need to help one another through this uncertain time, and our officers have been looking for new ways to serve and support young people and their families,” he said. “We hope these welfare packages bring some relief to those young people who regularly attend these facilities, whether it be for an education program, fitness class, or friendly catch up.

“The implementation of the Commissioner’s RISEUP strategy almost two years ago has been a game-changer in youth engagement. “While those programs have been suspended, we want everyone to know we’re also planning for when the restrictions are lifted to help our young people get back on their feet. “And we thank everyone, companies and individuals, who donated items to include in these packages”, Supt Mark Wall said.

FitforHome Out West

Connecting at-risk young people with mentors and vocational training is key to getting them back into education, getting them ready for employment opportunities and for living well in a community.

In a first for Western Region, FitforHome was run at Brewarrina Police and Community Youth Clubs (PCYC) as part of their RISEUP program. Central North police, PCYC, region domestic violence (DV) coordinators and many local service providers worked in partnership with 10 young local women. They started with coaching around emotional regulation and strengths, setting personal goals and improving their awareness of their own personal development.

District Commander, Supt Andrew Hurst said this is a great example of crime prevention in Aboriginal communities. “Local police worked hand-in hand with service providers for targeted engagement,” he said. The young women gave a commitment to attend every Thursday for eight weeks. Each week they learned about different issues including violence, alcohol, wellbeing and mental health, alcohol fetal syndrome and the impact of violence on children.

They also enjoyed several pampering sessions including facials, make-up, waxing and nail art as well as making hand scrubs, bath bombs and art.

“I’d like to acknowledge the support provided by Western Region DV Coordinators Rebecca Camilleri and Kerry Seaton, PCYC School Liaison Officer Cst Ebony Mackey, and local police from Brewarrina who worked closely with these young women.”

With funding assistance from Mission Australia, eight participants completed a two-day espresso coffee operation as part of the program and gained a statement of



Participant learning how to make a barista coffee

“I look forward to seeing what we can achieve as an organisation this year.”

attainment. A presentation day was held recognising the achievements of the girls and the contributions made to provide this development opportunity in Brewarrina.

Corporate Spokesperson for Aboriginal Engagement, Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar said the program ultimately aims to provide support and opportunities for young Aboriginal people. “The partnership between police and PCYC is instrumental in building positive relationships between police and young Aboriginal people,” he said. “We are very privileged to have enthusiastic officers who really feel passionate about engaging with

these young people. “I look forward to seeing what we can achieve as an organisation this year.”



Participant of the two-day espresso operation

ANZAC Day Light up the Dawn

Asking residents to stand in respect of our ANZACs is not a new concept. Australians have been putting on all kinds of uniforms and doing this very thing for the past 104 years. It was this sense of connectivity that inspired Riverview Neighbourhood Watch to ask their community to come together and pay their respect to the fallen.

Riverview Neighbourhood Watch used their online newsletter, as well as their Facebook page to promote the event and encouraged residents to share their experiences.

Community members decorated their footpaths and front yards with homemade wreaths, flags, candles and displays. At dawn they listened to the Last Post via their radios and smart devices which followed by a minutes silence. A member said "standing at dawn, observing a minutes silence was a feeling those residents will never forget."

The members of the Riverview NHW have attended many ANZAC Day services but never one in their own driveways. During this time of social distancing and isolation it was a wonderful way to bring the community together and connect with residents in a new way.



Members of Riverview NHW at Light up the Dawn



Driveway ceremonies during COVID-19

Woree NHW Light Up ANZAC Day

The morning was crisp and clear as residents prepared early to honour the fallen ANZAC's in a very different way this year.

Woree NHW Area Coordinator Alwin Koo was well and truly up before the sun doing his best to bring a real touch of remembrance to his suburb this year.

At 5am Alwin lined the street with tea light candles sending a lovely glow down the road for all residents to see. Each tea light candle was placed in a beer glass as a symbol of 'raising the glass' to our diggers who made the sacrifice for a better tomorrow.

As the residents of Lenora Close awoke and made their way to their driveways, a minute's silence fell on the candlelit street followed by a chorus of the national anthem.

Alwin was delighted with the turnout and show of community spirit for an ANZAC day of a different kind.

"Everyone was in a great mood after the service and we all settled down to bacon and egg rolls. Conscious of the need for social distancing, residents came forward a household at a time to collect their breakfast," said Alwin.

Residents in Brinsmead and Kanimbla NHW areas also participated in driveways vigils arranged by their NHW groups.

Whether they were part of a NHW group or not, residents from across Cairns took to their driveways to honour our ANZACs in an ANZAC day unlike any other before.



Candles line the streets in Woree to honour the fallen on ANZAC Day



Area Coordinator Alwin Koo cooks up a storm for residents to enjoy in their driveways on ANZAC Day

Letter Box Dropping a Success at Cashmere

Late last year, Natalie Johnston took over the role of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Representative for Greenwoods at Cashmere. Here is what Natalie had to say, "In May, a letterbox drop was conducted to formally introduce myself and to inform the community that there is an online Neighbourhood Watch group in the Greenwoods Estate. The letter was also useful as a reminder to current NHW members to stay vigilant, use basic security measures such as locking front doors even when at home and ensuring that garage doors are closed at all times.

We also offered NHW resources, for instance the in-home audit sheet and bin stickers. Within the first few days we had seven new members join our online group.

We had never done a letterbox drop before and felt that it was well received from both new and existing members. The response resulted in members wanting NHW resources to showcase and to discuss home security tips and tricks. I believe that it was worth taking the time and effort to inform the community of our NHW group and encourage other groups to do so."



Natalie Johnston conducting the letterbox drop



Hi Neighbour

For those of you that know me yes, I am your resident Real Estate Agent Natalie Johnston but those who don't I am your local Neighbourhood Watch Representative for Greenwoods.

We are a Facebook Neighbourhood Watch Group so please if you are not a part of the group already I strongly suggest you join, the QR Code is at the bottom of this letter simply answer the questions and admin will approve your request, it is a closed group and can only be accessed by Greenwoods residents.

Facebook: NeighbourhoodWatch-Greenwoods

I will keep you up to date with any information/events that relate to us as a community in relation to crime and crime prevention. In saying that if you have any concerns please call POLICELINK on 131 444.

There will be an annual meeting which I would love to see your support in attending, they are super informative and it's a great opportunity to hear first hand from the Police what is happening in the area and what we can do to avoid incidents in our own homes, not to mention meeting some of your fellow neighbours.

I have a range of items that I'm happy to deliver should you be interested... there is wheelie bin stickers, letterbox plaques, (which if you are one of the homes at either the Ken Duncombe or Corvus Drive entry points would be great to display on your letterboxes) and Home Security Audit sheets just to name a few. If you would like me to pop over for a chat, I'm more than happy to do so, otherwise I look forward to meeting more friendly faces at the next mid year meeting.



Stay safe :)
Natalie Johnston
0419689309

Letter contents

Edmonton NHW Extend Their Reach Online

Now more than ever it's important that we keep in contact online and Edmonton NHW has been doing just that.

With over 2080 followers, the Edmonton Facebook page continues to entice more and more members of the community to join with their fun articles and wealth of valuable information for the community.

The Edmonton NHW Facebook administrators and Senior Constable Naomi Townsend from Edmonton Police Station have joined forces to keep residents up-to-date with what's happening in their area.

If you need some ideas on how to keep your community engaged online, make sure you take a few minutes to browse the Edmonton NHW page.

Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Edmonton.NHWQ>



Edmonton Police recognise DV month



S/Sgt Glen De Lai from Edmonton Police Station leads by example, encouraging others to donate blood



A friendly reminder to the community about the next Edmonton NHW meeting



An Easter message from the Edmonton NHW and Police

Murgon Neighbourhood Watch



Australia Day Certificate of Appreciation (South Burnett Community Organisation 2020)

On Friday 24 January 2020, the Murgon Neighbourhood Watch attended an award ceremony at the South Burnett Regional Council. At the ceremony, Mayor Keith Campbell presented the Australia Day Certificate of Appreciation to the group, as recognition for their continual efforts in keeping the community safe.

The group was nominated by fellow NHW Murgon member Kitty Robertson. Murgon Neighbourhood Watch said "It was a thrill and an honour for our group to be recognised and nominated in the Community Organisation of the Year section."



NHW Murgon members Janet Mergler, Kitty Robertson, Stan Munday, Darryl Koy, Pauline Wallace, Ivan Fels, James Sinquefield, June Birch, Patricia Seiler and Clair Venez. In front are Josiah Robertson, Brett Sander and Phenella Hiron

Seniors Road Trip to Road Safety

The Seniors Road Trip to Road Safety project is funded by the 2019-2020 Advancing Queensland - An Age-Friendly Community Grants Program which is an initiative of the Department of Communities, Disabilities and Seniors.

The program will be conducted at three sites; Boonah, Ipswich and Lowood. Fortunately, the Boonah program was completed prior to the COVID-19 restriction; however the other two locations have now been rescheduled for October.

The purpose of the project is to deliver strategies and information to mature drivers, to keep them safe on Queensland roads. It also provides information from a variety of stakeholders to make informed decisions about when they should consider handing in their driver's licence and provide support networks and services if and when they make this choice. Presentations are also facilitated on topics such as the Fatal Five, age, dementia, medications, alcohol and drugs, standard drinks, Jet's Law, vehicle safety and security, safe towing, PCYC Braking the Cycle program and mentors, as well as Road Rules and Roundabouts.

Each location has three training days over the course of three weeks, which lasts for three hours at a time. At the conclusion of the nine hour program, participants receive a complimentary Road Safety Kit valued at \$35 and a 1 hour practical driving refresher lesson through Pro Drive.

Sergeant Nadine Webster said "the feedback from all of the participants at Boonah has not only been positive but also appreciative. The laughter and smiles on their faces when they were doing the practical roundabouts with the cardboard cars was priceless. The team can't wait to deliver the next three sessions at Ipswich and Lowood."

NHWA is pleased to be able to support the project as the auspice organisation for the grant application.



Project partners Senior Constable Catriona Burnett PCYC Ipswich, Maria Bennett NHW Australasia, Meryl Tress PCYC Boonah Braking the Cycle Program, Dave Cullen Pro Drive, Maree Porter PCYC Ipswich Braking the Cycle Program, Jessie Byrne Able Australia, Pamela Lobwein Chairperson Ipswich District Neighbourhood Watch Program, Sergeant Nadine Webster Ipswich District Crime Prevention Coordinator, Rebecca Roberts Department of Transport and Main Roads



Sergeant Nadine Webster, Graham Smith from the Department of Transport and Main Roads and two Boonah participants completing the Standard Drinks Demonstration



Launch photo with Acting Inspector Brett Hampson, Jessy Byrne Able Australia, Rebecca Roberts Department of Transport and Main Roads, Meryl Tress PCYC, Maree Porter PCYC Ipswich, Senior Constable Catriona Burnett PCYC Ipswich, Maria Bennett CEO of NHWA, Pam Lobwein Chairperson Ipswich NHW, Dave Cullen Pro Drive and Sergeant Nadine Webster



Pro Drive instructor with participant in car simulator



Participants showing off the cardboard cars used for the roundabout practical demonstration



Graham Smith Department of Transport and Main Roads facilitating to Boonah attendees

Focus on Spring Bay Neighbourhood Watch

The original and fundamental purpose of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is to help prevent crime. Although community-led, its ongoing strength and validity is through the partnership it enjoys with every Police Service in Australasia.

Being a volunteer movement, NHW often needs to be strategic in the activities it undertakes. This article is about the benefits of those partnerships at the local and individual level and how public safety and connectedness are combined with crime prevention to form the three platforms on which we stand today. This focus on Spring Bay is intended to reinforce those values from a grass roots example.

Triabunna and Orford are twin towns on the east coast of Tasmania about eight kilometres apart and one hour's drive from Hobart. In 1999 each town had its own one officer police station to service a combined, permanent population of 2,000 people. This number tripled during the holiday seasons, thanks to the excellent fishing and beaches on offer in that part of the world. Although the area had a low crime rate, the newly transferred officer to Triabunna, Senior Constable Michael Fama brought with him some prior knowledge and experience of the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch.

Not long after arriving in the town, Michael was approached by some youths asking when their skate park would be built.



Members of the Spring Bay NHWT group in 2006

Subsequent enquiries revealed that the local council would finance the park if an organisation would take responsibility for building it.

The history record shows that one hot Saturday morning, local men and women screened some thirty metres of sloppy cement to complete the build which is still in use today. As a result, Spring Bay Neighbourhood Watch was up and away and is still going strong in 2020.

NHW Spring Bay pride themselves on seeing a problem and doing something about it. The following

examples have proven to be simple but extremely worthwhile initiatives for their communities:

- The tried and true fridge magnet is often a good way to start broadcasting a message. The NHW Spring Bay fridge magnet was an early project with a very specific message, to supply every home, holiday residence and business in both towns with all emergency phone numbers of their areas 'first responders'. 2,000 were produced and given out free of charge.

- Because of the rubbish strewn along their local highway, the group became a part of the Tasmanian 'Adopt a Highway' project. In their first clean-up they collected 90 bags of rubbish for the local council to cart away.
- A serious problem for country areas was identified by the local ambulance officers who were having difficulty locating homes, particularly at night. Many addresses did not have reflective house numbers – some houses had no numbers at all. The group took up this challenge and garnered some generous assistance to provide 270 homes with new standardised reflective numbers at no cost.
- More recently the Spring Bay group supported a project to provide security cameras at the main intersection in Triabunna. With generous assistance from local businesses and organisations, two high quality colour cameras were installed at the main intersection to deter anti-social behaviour and improve town security by linking to the existing camera network.
- Perhaps the pièce de résistance was their latest project to purchase and install a defibrillator in the local hall. This acquisition supports the Ambulance Tasmania (AT) 'Early Access to Defibrillation' Program. Research indicates that when a defibrillator is available (and they are shockingly easy to use) the cardiac arrest survival

rate can be as high as 80%. What a great contribution to the Spring Bay community.

In 2008 Michael Fama retired from the Tasmania Police Force, but stayed on in the Spring Bay Community where he is still an active member of Neighbourhood Watch. The reality is that volunteering is rewarding and as NHW members know it is great to reflect on the projects you have been involved in, the friendships you have made and the benefits your contributions have made to society.

There are always projects that can make a difference in communities and NHW is a realistic vehicle for doing just that. The Spring Bay experience is but another example of things we can do if we want to.

Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania – 35 Years On

In 2021, Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania (NHWT) will celebrate 35 years of supporting Tasmanian Police and local communities with crime prevention initiatives; public safety projects and promoting neighbourliness (connectedness) by building community relationships.

This article provides a snapshot of how NHWT came into existence and how it is doing business now compared to when it started in the previous century.

It was in 1985 that Dr Michael Readett, a Hobart dermatologist and local government councillor, teamed up with ABC personality Sue Becker to promote the value of establishing Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Tasmania. Dr Readett had been so impressed by the success of NHW in combatting neighbourhood crime, particularly housebreaking in

Victoria, that he was determined to introduce the concept into Tasmania.

As a result, a public meeting was arranged to be held in the Lindisfarne Masonic Hall and according to people present at the time, the venue was packed; and those present were suitably impressed with the eloquent presentation from Dr Readett and the dynamic, dramatic and entertaining enthusiasm of Sue Becker.

The audience on this evening also included the then Commissioner of

Tasmania Police, Mr Max Robinson, who spoke on the proposal; the Divisional Police Inspector (later to become Assistant Commissioner), John Woolley; and Senior Constable Ray Curran who at that time was the Officer in Charge of the Crime Prevention Bureau.

The public were unanimous in their support for the concept and this persuaded Commissioner Robinson to both authorise and support the establishment of NHW in Tasmania (NHWT).

John Woolley recalls that he was duly anointed that very same evening as, for want of a better title, the initial Tasmania Police NHWT project manager.

Of course, the process of moving a concept to a practical and workable reality, does not happen overnight and not without significant consultation and planning. It was not until 1986 that the first official Neighbourhood Watch Area at Risdon Vale was established.

The photo of Dr Readett, Inspector Woolley and local NHW Coordinator Mrs Edith Guy, which was provided courtesy of The Mercury Newspaper, is an important historical record of the first NHW sign being erected in Tasmania.

It is a credit to those NHWT pioneers that the organisation grew progressively and with a sound governance structure, that has ensured its value and continuing contribution to local communities across the state to this day.

During the 1980s and 1990s NHW exploded across Tasmania with each Watch having its own local committee, which fed into an area committee, district committees and then a state committee. The records of those early days indicate that it received generous financial support from Commercial Union Insurance and by 1993 Sergeant Scott Brooks had been appointed as the first Tasmanian Police State Coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch.

At its peak, long-term members report there were in excess of 160 Watches spread throughout the state. The proliferation of Neighbourhood Watch signs across Tasmania are a testament to its spread and a potential project for the future could be to geo-locate them all.

With the benefit of technological advances NHWT has evolved and adapted over time. Although we still boast 30 traditional Watches in Tasmania, we now



Dr Readett, Inspector Woolley and local NHW Coordinator Mrs Edith Guy erecting the first NHWT sign in Tasmania

At its peak, long-term members report there were in excess of 160 Watches spread throughout the state.

also accommodate individual members and virtual groups that use social media as the preferred method for communicating and sharing information across their communities.

An important aspect of the NHWT evolution has been the increasing emphasis on community connectedness. Partnerships have been forged with many service organisations and community groups as these relationships only improve coordination and increase the number of workers for functions and events designed to support the communities in which we live and work.

These relationships and the increased use of technology are examples of how NHWT is moving with the times and continuing to make a meaningful contribution to community safety and wellbeing. Of course, the cornerstone partnership for NHWT continues to be with Tasmanian Police and the importance of this relationship is enshrined in a Memorandum of Understanding between our two organisations.

Planning is now underway to celebrate the 35th anniversary of NHWT in 2021 and will be used as a springboard for enhancing community safety and connectedness well into the future.

Developing an e-Hub for the Derwent Valley

The New Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch (NNNHW) is located in the Derwent Valley and having been established in 2018, is one of the newer groups in Tasmania.

To make sure that any projects or activities were designed to meet the needs of their community, the group undertook a structured approach to informing themselves.

They achieved this through community consultation, which culminated in a planning workshop in March 2019. The strongest theme to emerge in that process was the need for increased collaboration, co-ordination and sharing of information between support services and the Derwent Valley community.

With this information and some tech savvy members on the team, the concept of the Derwent Valley Community e-Hub started to take shape. The idea was that the e-Hub would be a one-stop, comprehensive and multi-layered database for the Derwent Valley community. Here they can access the support they need in a timely and efficient manner.

A number of service organisations quickly gave their support to the proposal which envisions a presence on the e-Hub for information providers and community service-focused programs, emergency services, volunteer groups, clubs, special interest groups and other event organisers.

A major benefit of the e-Hub is that it will reduce the duplication of services and facilitates better



New Norfolk NHW Workshop, March 2019

collaboration between the support networks already operating within that community.

Of course, projects like this must have vision and leadership, but more specifically – money! NNNHW have been successful in raising some funds of their own – but a project like this cannot be brought to fruition on only passion and good-will.

Some grant applications were unsuccessful but the group were not deterred, as their proposal was based on sound research and a desire to make a real difference in

their community. Hardware support has been provided by the Derwent Valley Council, and the Online Access Centre will provide facilities for future training purposes.

Yes, the group has had disappointments and knock-backs along the way, however, with the help of web-designer Andrew Lockman & Associates providing significant in-kind contributions to the build; and a recently awarded funding grant from Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania, the project is well on the way to delivery.

Visit the website <http://nnnw.org.au/>



New Norfolk NHW members

Neighbourhood Driveway Dinners – Bayswater

Bayswater Community Group Facebook member Nikki Mauri wanted to think of an initiative to address loneliness and connectivity during COVID-19.

Reaching out through social media, Nikki organised a dinner in her street on Friday 3 April, where neighbours came together without breaching the social distancing guidelines. Tables and chairs or picnic rugs were set up in respective driveways and neighbours cooked or ordered dinner to be delivered and ate together.

The administrator of the Facebook page, Michelle Slater, embraced the idea and shared a Spotify playlist that residents could add to and play on their streets. There were roughly 60 neighbours involved in the driveway dinners on the first night. The event was so popular that they have been meeting once a week

on a regular basis and the event is promoted across the Bayswater community through Facebook.

To celebrate people doing good things for others, Nikki was nominated by Michelle for radio station 94.5fm's "Got Your Back" award, which celebrates people doing good things for others during COVID-19. Both Nikki and Michelle's street won free pizzas from the restaurant Rossonero's. The radio station also made a playlist to coincide with the dinners.

Due to the change in restrictions in WA, the last event was on 18 May and neighbours were allowed to invite a few friends to participate as well.



Driveway dinners Hamilton Street



Local residents enjoying the free pizza from Rossonero's



Local Bayswater residents



Bayswater driveway dinners

City of Canning

‘Connect in Canning’ Program



‘Connect in Canning’, is a cross-organisational project which has been developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Created with very similar building blocks as Neighbourhood Watch, the project’s ethos is centred on building strong, connected communities and seeks to strengthen community resilience through supporting the development of community led initiatives and networks.

The City is working collaboratively with the community services sector to keep our community informed and develop solutions to address the needs of Canning residents and businesses.

The initiative involves the following sub-projects:

- **CanningKindness (social media) campaign**

Encouraging the community to share the ways in which they are connecting with and supporting their neighbours. This platform allows us to engage with the community and for them to engage with each other as the project roles out.

- **Community Connectors Network**

A call for Canning residents to register to be a part of a Community Connectors network is currently in place. Community Connectors are provided with a resource pack and linked with a Neighbourhood Officer who provides information, support and practical assistance. Resources included in the Community

Connector packs are bin stickers to write messages for neighbours and corflute signs for their front verge with details on how to contact them should they need assistance.

- **Neighbourhood Liaison & Community Stakeholder Engagement**

Staff have taken on the roles of Neighbourhood Liaison Officers for separate areas of the district. These roles are responsible for:

- Mapping local networks and other community support services/assets.
- Responding to requests for information or support from vulnerable members of the community and connecting them with local networks and supports.
- Providing information, support and practical assistance to Community Connectors in each ward.

- **The Community Stakeholder Engagement**

Team focus on coordinating our support with community groups and community service organisations, ensuring they are equipped with up to date and accurate information on services available for vulnerable members of our community; identifying

gaps and; supporting community led projects and initiatives.

- **Events & programming**

City staff have developed exciting new ways for our residents to connect with each other through events. One such example was the call for Australians to honour Australia’s servicemen and women on ANZAC Day, by stepping out onto their driveways or balconies for this year’s Dawn Service via live Radio broadcast.

- **Community Funding Support**

Staff are now working together to support businesses and community groups in accessing external stimulus funding. In addition, Council will be asked to approve the repurposing of the City’s Grants budget to support community groups and businesses in dealing with the impacts of COVID-19.

Further work is being done to develop an interactive web presence that supports our community to remain physically distant but still connected. This includes heart-warming local stories, local online events, opportunities to explore what’s happening across the globe, and much more.

Neighbourhood Watch Leader Coordinates COVID-19 Response Teams

Atul Garg has been a member of the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program for the past 27 years. Starting as a NHW Street Representative in 1993, Atul was the NHW Suburb Manager of Winthrop for 8 years from the year 2001 up until 2008. Since 2008, Atul has been the Chairperson for the City of Melville's NHW Committee.

The NHW team regularly contributes towards crime prevention and participates in almost every major event in Melville. The team's efforts have been widely recognised at city, state and national levels.

In 2011 the City of Melville NHW team was awarded the Premier's Community Group of the Year award on Australia Day and in 2016 the City of Melville NHW team was awarded a Merit Certificate of Recognition by the President and CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA).

Atul's efforts have been recognised in awards including Mayor's Valued Citizen, Citizen of the Year, and by NHWA as the OAM Volunteer of the Year.

Atul joined the WA NHW Board in 2017 and contributes to the development of the organisation's strategy. Commencing from March 2020, all NHW activities were placed on hold due to safety reasons but that did not mean any rest for Atul Garg, as he also plays an important role in several other community service organisations. He is currently the Chairperson of the Federation of Indian Associations of WA (FIAWA), which has 59 member organisations of Indian heritage representing over 100,000 people.



Atul Garg with Chef Anil at a free food outlet

During the last 10 weeks, commencing from early March 2020, Atul and his FIAWA have been running a well organised COVID-19 support response through multiple teams, for the helpless International students, jobless, elderly and the homeless people.

Atul says, "We provided free food and groceries through our 7 outlets, engaged with elderly community members, assisted with transportation and shelter". "For helping students in distress we first conducted an Australia wide survey to understand their problems and then lobbied with Governments and Universities to help them" he says. Details of the survey can be seen at <https://fiawa.org.au/covid19/f/covid-19-international-student-survey>.

Almost all organisations, including Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan and Leader of Opposition Anthony Albanese, appreciated the

survey and responded with positive actions. Some details of their COVID-19 response summary are at <https://fiawa.org.au/covid19/f/covid-19-fiawa-response>. "Our Free Food program is into its 8th Week now, some details are at <https://fiawa.org.au/covid19/f/covid19-free-food-program>". "We opened the 5th free food outlet 2 weeks ago in the presence of Federal Minister Steve Irons and MP John McGrath. During this time, we have collaborated to offer Free Migration Consultation to needy students via one of our sponsors" Atul said. Details are at <https://fiawa.org.au/covid19/f/covid-19-free-migration-consultation>.

Community volunteers like Atul are always busy. Prior to COVID-19 Atul and team FIAWA were busy with managing other social problems e.g. domestic violence, suicide prevention, elder engagement, abuse prevention and migrant assistance.

Story Time with AFP Assistant Commissioner ACCCE and Child Protection Operations Lesa Gale

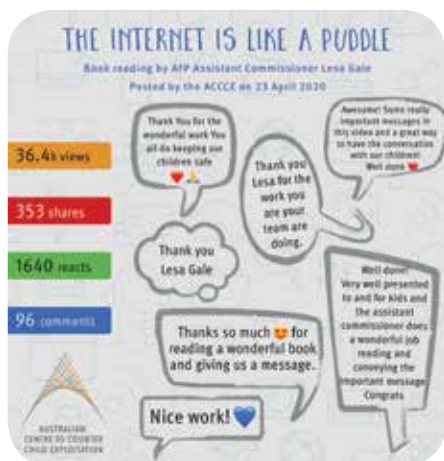
Australian Federal police (AFP) Assistant Commissioner Gale reads one of her favourite books 'The Internet is Like a Puddle' to raise awareness of the importance of online safety.

With many schools having to move to online learning during COVID-19, children and young people were and continue to spend more time online. Children of all ages need the support, guidance and education of adults to stay safe online and prevent online child sexual exploitation.

To help raise awareness of the challenges of internet use and ways to stay safe online, AFP Assistant Commissioner Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) and Child Protection Operations Lesa Gale read out one of her favourite books from the ACCCE facility in Brisbane. 'The Internet is Like a Puddle' by Shona Innes is a gentle exploration of how the internet helps us, but also delves into the challenges of online safety that children may face.



AFP AC Lesa Gale behind the screen reading of 'The Internet is Like a Puddle' at the ACCCE building in Brisbane



Assistant Commissioner Gale said, "The most important thing that families and carers can do is to start the conversation about online safety with children from an early age".

"I want to help parents and carers to understand the importance of educating their child about online safety and who to talk to when they need help," said Assistant Commissioner Gale.

"This book helps them explain the issue to their children in a simple and engaging way."

The ACCCE brings together resources from Government and Commonwealth agencies, law enforcement agencies, non-government organisations, and other partners to prevent and disrupt online sexual exploitation of children.

To view the recording or to find out more about online safety visit the ACCCE social media channels or visit accce.gov.au.

Facebook: ACCCEaus
Twitter: ACCCE_AUS

New Online Safety Resources to Support Parents and Carers During COVID-19

Protecting children online continues to be a priority for law enforcement throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian Federal Police-led ThinkUKnow program and the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) have developed a range of initiatives and resources to address the challenges associated with children spending more time online.

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a number of online safety challenges for children and young people.

Prevention is critical in countering the exploitation of children online, yet ACCCE research published earlier this year revealed that information seeking and discussion about online children sexual exploitation is generally only undertaken in response to a specific event.

ThinkUKnow at home learning packs

New home learning activity packs have been created for parents, carers and children to undertake and learn about online safety together.

Supported by case studies from the ACCCE Child Protection Triage Unit, the age-appropriate activities address online supervision, personal information and unwanted contact, safer gaming and smart usernames, and safer online interactions.

ThinkUKnow is Australia's only nationally delivered law enforcement-led online child safety program that provides education for parents, carers, teachers, children and young people, to address the issue of online child sexual exploitation.

HOME LEARNING ACTIVITY FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND CHILDREN

LEARNING ABOUT ONLINE SUPERVISION

K (PREP) – YEAR 2 (AGES 5–8)

THINK UKNOW

QUIZ

This quiz accompanies online learning activity: Learning about online supervision and is designed for children aged 5-8 years old. Younger children may need additional guidance to complete this task. The quiz is to test learning from the James Playing a Game video. Circle or colour in the correct answer to the questions below.

1. What does James like to do when he's playing online?

a. Make sure his mum knows he's online and is nearby
b. Hide from his mum

2. What animal did James play in the video game?

a. Tiger
b. Kangaroo

3. Did James tell the Kookaburra where he lives?

a. No! He doesn't know who the Kookaburra really is
b. Yes! He thought the Kookaburra was a friend

One of the new ThinkUKnow at home learning resources for parents and carers

It is a partnership between the AFP and industry (Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Datacom and Microsoft) and delivered in collaboration with all State and Territory police and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The ACCCE brings together resources from Government and Commonwealth agencies, law enforcement agencies, non-government organisations, and other partners to prevent and disrupt online sexual exploitation of children.

You can find out more about online safety by following ThinkUKnow and the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation on social media.

Facebook: @ThinkUKnowAustralia

Twitter: @ThinkUKnow_Aus

Facebook: ACCCEaus

Twitter: ACCCE_AUS

Family Bingo

To support families find new activities to do together, the ACCCE and ThinkUKnow created Family Bingo. It is a series of fun online and offline activities the whole family can enjoy, and includes some blank spaces to create your own activities. They range from watching a livestream of a zoo or aquarium, to playing an online game and taking a break from technology by reading a book or trying some arts and crafts.



7 Day Family Online Safety Challenge

The 7 Day Online Safety Challenge aims to provide simple daily online safety tasks for parents and carers to complete over a week, to help keep their children safe online.

The daily tasks include reviewing privacy settings, creating a Family Online Safety Contract and helping children identify a support network.



For further information, or to download the resources, visit thinkuknow.org.au/for-parents-and-carers and accce.gov.au/covid19

GOOD NEWS STORIES FROM COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Easter COVID-19 Surprise

What a heart-warming moment.

Senior Constable Pezzullo from the Police Transport Command, who is currently stationed at a hotel in Circular Quay, recently attended an enquiry from a young family relating to their departure date.

After a short conversation, and knowing that Easter is right around the corner, S/C Pezzullo took it upon himself to return with a small gift of Easter eggs for the family.



Senior Constable Pezzullo with a quarantined family



A note from the young boy

Bundaberg Police Help Celebrate Local Residents 100th Birthday

Bundaberg Police attended a 100th birthday get-together to celebrate with local resident Mary Mills and to ensure social distancing regulations were adhered to.

Mary welcomed the milestone with two of her closest friends at home in the front yard. Police Dog Uzi also attended the party, thankfully as a guest and not for backup. Even at 100 years young, Mary is still enjoying her passion for dancing and is currently learning new vogue.

Senior Constable Karen McNish said, "I'm pleased to see everyone complying with the social distancing regulations on such a beautiful occasion. A few of the neighbours heard about Mary's birthday, so they stayed in their yards, but made sure Mary knew they were celebrating with her. Some of Mary's dance



Mary Mills (centre), accompanied by local Police and two of her closest friends

group friends also drove past her house and gave her a beep of the horn for her birthday."

Bundaberg Police would like to wish Mary a very Happy Birthday and a big thank you for celebrating the right way during these difficult times.

Virtual Story Time

Sergeant Nadine Webster launched the Ipswich Libraries Children Community Champions Story time and read 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' as told by Alexander T Wolf.

This was a part of the virtual story time program during COVID-19.



Sergeant Nadine Webster presenting for virtual story time

Police Help Celebrate Community Members Birthday

Last week Bundaberg Police and members of the community helped Bundaberg local Tori, celebrate her 18th birthday by doing a drive-by.

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place, Tori sadly missed out on her dream party; however her parents planned a different surprise for her. Community members from all around Bundaberg banded together to do a drive by Tori's house for her special day. Senior Constable Julie Jones and Constable Rebecca Ferguson drove past with their lights and sirens on and popped in for a quick photo with Tori to help her celebrate.

Tori's mother Wendy was speechless by the support received from the Bundaberg community and members of emergency services.

On behalf of Bundaberg Police, we would like to wish Tori a big happy birthday!



Constable Ferguson and Senior Constable Jones with the birthday girl Tori

Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer Finds New Opportunity During COVID-19

Long term Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteer Ben Boekholt assists many organisations and committees including Armadale Police Rangers, The Lions Club, Rotary, Foodbank and also the Salvation Army.

With all NHW activities suspended due to government restrictions, Ben continued to assist his community with the Salvation Army providing meals to front-line WA Police Force personnel at regional checkpoints.

Stationed on the Forest Highway near Lake Clifton, 115km south of



Ben Boekholt hard at work preparing meals for COVID-19 workers

Perth, they prepared two sessions of breakfast for up to 40 people, lunch for 25, dinner for their two checkpoints and midnight meals for

40 others. All meals were takeaway under COVID-19 restrictions and only two volunteers were allowed on shift at one time.

Thanks to the volunteers with the Salvation Army, the team provided meals to the Police, Australian Defence Force personnel and small teams from the Department of Main Roads, including traffic management.

Thanks Ben, your hard work has allowed everyone involved on the front-line to continue their work so we can live safely in our communities.

Shire Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers Step Up to Answer the Call

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale's Neighbourhood Watch volunteers are one group who have stepped up during the current situation to offer assistance to those in their local community needing an extra hand.

When members of the group were unable to conduct their usual monthly meetings, they were keen to find out how they could continue to help others within their local area.

As a result, during the past two months, members of the Serpentine Jarrahdale Neighbourhood Watch group have been collecting post, doing shopping and calling residents identified in the local community as being isolated. The service has been well received within the community with many volunteers willing to continue to assist local residents for the foreseeable future.

Dalys Gillett is one resident who had received assistance in collecting essential food items during the outbreak of COVID-19 from Neighbourhood Watch volunteer Rosie Moszczynski.



Dalys Gillett with Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer Rosie Moszczynski

Mrs Gillett thanked the volunteers and said it was reassuring to know that there was someone there to offer assistance when needed.

For more information on the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale's Neighbourhood Watch program go to www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/NeighbourhoodWatch

Good Neighbours Create Safer Communities

Bellerive is a suburb on the Derwent River on the Eastern Shore of Hobart, Tasmania.

It is also the home of Neighbourhood Watch member and Youth and Family Support Worker, Mark Watterson. You can see by Mark's photo why he has inherited the nickname of Rastaman.

A shared pedestrian and bike path runs beside the beach providing a ready facility for the increased number of bike riders, runners and walkers that have abounded since the COVID-19 lockdown began. The path and the beach have provided a healthy environment for people to exercise and engage (always from a distance of 1.5 metres), whilst so many other parts of their lives have been constrained.

Since early March 2020, from the time the lockdown started in earnest, Mark has made the most of the seasonal low tides on the beach and



Mark Watterson and his trusty message stick

every day he has provided a drawing in the sand with some uplifting words.

Because of the regularity of the drawing it provided something for the passers-by to look forward to each morning.

Even the local police have been attracted to his positive messages. He even used some of our Neighbourhood Watch



Tasmania Police endorsing Good Neighbours Create Safer Communities

Tasmania catchwords recently, 'Good Neighbours Create Safer Communities'.

Yes, dealing with the impact of the restrictions, that we quickly accepted to overcome the threat of the coronavirus, has been challenging and in many cases debilitating. But the Rastaman sand art has made a difference to everyone who took the time to stop, look and reflect.

Officers Check Out a Crowd

Police were out on patrol over the weekend when they 'herd' about a crowd.

Concerned that this might be a social distancing issue, they paid a visit to the property.

Turns out it was a herd of alpacas and not a group of people!

The owners were keen to showcase their alpacas and the officers were happy to oblige.



Senior Constable Drinnen and Constable Ferguson facing a herd of alpacas

Will you help them?

Everyday Australian businesses are looking for ways to enhance their employment offering to their staff or membership base. With the growing trend towards providing a positive Lifestyle of Health and Sustainability (LOHAS) platform both in the work place and at home, employee wellness is now more of a priority than ever before.

Introducing Your Wills: an Australian first: a fast, hassle free online Will platform that allows you to create a simple, straightforward, legally binding Will online, anywhere, anytime.

Your Wills believes you should be looking holistically at all forms of wellness - including financial wellness - to deepen the engagement with your staff, customers and members now and into the future.

Interested to find out more?
Contact Tony: tony@yourwills.com.au


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WELLNESS OFFER**

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