

December 2018



# NHWA

**Official journal** of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia  
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand





# BE SAFE AND SECURE THIS FESTIVE SEASON

## AVOID BEING AN EASY TARGET

Place house  
lights on a  
timer

Arrange for your  
mail to be collected  
or redirected

Ensure  
valuables  
are not visible  
through car  
windows

Make sure all  
windows and doors are  
securely locked







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# FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA



NHWQ launches NHW Week, pictured back row: Qld Police Minister Mark Ryan, NHWA CEO Maria Bennett, Inspector Les Bulluss, Acting Superintendent Marc Hogan, Superintendent Mark Plath, second back row: Qld Police Commissioner Ian Stewart, local Aboriginal elder Aunty Joyce Summers and Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate with the enthusiastic crowd.

## Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia!

Now is the perfect time to think about the holiday season and how you can stay safe in your homes, businesses, vehicles and when you are on holidays. The message for this holiday season is 'Stay safe and avoid being an easy target'. We've got some tips for you on the inside front cover.

## Neighbourhood Watch Week a success!

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Week 2018 officially launched on Saturday 6 October, at the NHW Queensland (NHWQ) 30th anniversary conference at the Gold Coast. This major event was opened by Queensland Police Minister Mark Ryan, Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart, Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate and local Aboriginal elder Aunty Joyce Summers. Over 200 enthusiastic Volunteers, Members and Police celebrated 30 years of creating safer communities. Congratulations NHW Queensland and Queensland Police Service.

*Thank you to the hundreds of NHW Volunteers, Members and Police who celebrated NHW Week by organising a community event in their local area.*

## Federal Government funding project update

All five Federally funded projects have now been completed. The final two were:

- Remote and Vulnerable Communities Program
- Diagrammatic Brochures

### "Children Come to School" launch

As part of the Remote and Vulnerable Communities program, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) hosted the 'Children Come to School' launch at Parliament House in Darwin and also at the Gunbalanya School in late August. We have been working in conjunction with key stakeholders in the Gunbalanya Community and Northern Territory Police to develop the 'Children Come to School' books and support materials that focus on one important message - getting more children to school. The books and resources will be available for use in Gunbalanya and other communities within Arnhem Land.

Education is the golden key to opening opportunities for all types of positive future prospects such as employment, increased self-esteem, breaking down antisocial behaviours and keeping children out of the justice system.

## New Diagrammatic Brochures released

NHWA has been working in conjunction with Australia's State and Territory multicultural associations,





Gunbalanya primary school children get involved in the Children Come to School launch with NHTW CEO Maria Bennett.



Diagrammatic Brochures.

Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australian Police multicultural units, as well as Brisbane and Logan local governments to bring together the updated versions of the diagrammatic brochures.

The brochures are designed to assist people who do not speak English as their first language, with easy to understand crime prevention and safety messages. One of our stakeholders commented "The diversity in terms of the representation of the "characters" is improved and more aligned with Australia's reality."

There are six diagrammatic brochures available:

1. Be Safe and Secure
2. Protect Your Home
3. Protect Your Vehicle
4. Protect Yourself
5. Behind Closed Doors
6. Be a Good Neighbour

#### Are you on the mailing list?

Would you like to receive information from NHTW? Then why not join our mailing list. Receive emails with copies of the



Northern Territory Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw, Community Engagement Police Officer Paul Keightley, NHTW CEO Maria Bennett.

journals, newsletters and more. Go to the NHTW website and click on the NEWS/MEDIA tab, then select NHTW Newsletter.

<https://nhwa.com.au/newsmedia/nhwa-enewsletter/>  
Or email us at [admin@nhwa.com.au](mailto:admin@nhwa.com.au)

I wish you safe travel and happy holidays.

Looking forward to working with you to create safer communities in 2019.

Best wishes and stay safe!

*Maria Bennett*

Maria Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer  
NHTW Australasia

**Let's take action.  
Let's take ownership.  
And number 1  
Let's Stay Safe.**



# BOARD MEMBERS



## **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.

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## **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.

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## **Margaret Pearson – Secretary**

Throughout Margaret's career she has made a significant contribution to the voluntary sector by being involved with numerous community organisations and is currently the President of ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc.

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## **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.

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## **Anne Collishaw – Executive Assistant**

Anne is a highly experienced, energetic and motivated finance and administration professional, with 19 years proven success in diverse administration, accounts, bookkeeping and customer service, across the Building and Construction, Engineering, Transport and Banking sectors. For six of those years Anne effectively completed PA duties for a CEO and Company Directors. Anne holds a Certificate Level 4 in Bookkeeping and Financial Services.



### Jeff Knight – Australian Federal Police

Station Sergeant Jeff Knight joined the Australian Federal Police in 1986, and currently serves as the Officer In Charge of Community Safety within ACT Policing. Throughout his career he has served in many areas including General Duties, Traffic Operations and Diversionary Conferencing Team, prior to being promoted to Station Sergeant in 2003. Since that time Jeff has served as the Officer In Charge of most ACT Police Stations, prior to his appointment to Community Safety.



### 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 – Tasmania

Peter Edwards is a Commander in the Tasmania 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 now the Officer in Charge of the Operations Support Command which includes responsibility for State Community Policing Services.



# NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Clean Up Florey Day participants with some of the rubbish collected.

## Clean Up Florey Day strikes a chord Florey Neighbourhood Watch keeping it clean

With the aim of getting to know our neighbours and creating a cleaner and safer place to live, **Florey Neighbourhood Watch hosted the inaugural Clean Up Florey Day on 1 September 2018.**

Despite a bit of wind the day was perfect. Fifty-three registered adults plus children collected rubbish in various areas around Florey including the shops, green spaces and laneways. Bags of rubbish and recycling was collected and also some large items like parts of a car and a bed. We were concerned about the used syringes also found.

Over 20 NHW members helped on the day, setting up, cooking and preparing sausage sandwiches for registrants. The NHW members



Cooking up a storm for the participants.

provided information to the community about NHW, accepting membership applications and selling raffle tickets. The NHW members

distributed garbage bags and gloves to registrants. All this was made possible by the generous support of our local businesses.



# Secure September in the ACT

Secure September was launched by Margaret Pearson, President of NHW ACT accompanied by Clare McGrath, Vice President Northside, NHW ACT and Carol Vincent, Tuggeranong South Coordinator and ACT Policing. Secure September is a joint Neighbourhood Watch ACT and ACT Policing initiative that highlights the importance of us all taking responsibility to keep our belongings and ourselves safe and secure. **The theft of registration plates is a serious issue and Florey NHW provided a tamper proof registration plate service by fitting one way screws provided by ACT Policing to registration plates.**

Three of our local members of the ACT Legislative Assembly - Gordon Ramsay, Tara Cheyne and Elizabeth Kikkert - came along to participate and also listen to some issues. One issue in particular that was raised by Florey residents is the condition



An officer from ACT Policing instructing the fitting of tamper proof screws.

of the oval and the surrounding trees that concealed a lot of rubbish and used syringes. It was pointed out by NHW members that pruning the trees so that the grass could be mowed underneath would improve the safety of the surrounding area for adults and children using the oval. The community was delighted when only two weeks later the ACT government responded by pruning the trees around the oval.

As Elizabeth Kikkert said in the Assembly: **"It is my sincere hope that many other volunteer community organisations will follow the example set by Florey Neighbourhood Watch and draw local residents together to do good things in their suburbs. This is what a strong, vibrant community looks like". We are now planning our next clean up in March 2019.**

## NHW ACT out and about during Neighbourhood Watch Week

Neighbourhood Watch ACT was active during Neighbourhood Watch Week in several areas around Canberra. NHW ACT set up stalls at two locations - Erindale shopping centre on the Southside and Kippax Fair on the Northside. Officers from the AFP attended both stalls which was appreciated by NHW volunteers and the public who took the opportunity to meet the officers. Florey Neighbourhood Watch, a suburb in Belconnen, also held its monthly catch-up at Florey's Café Bolivar. The Sergeant in charge of Belconnen area, Sergeant Matt Craft and one of



Café Catchup at Florey, ACT with NHW members, Sergeant Matt Craft and Tara Cheyne, MLA (on the right).

the local members, Tara Cheyne, also came to listen and discuss issues raised by residents of Florey.

All are great examples of NHW ACT partnerships with the police and local members.

## Cabramatta West Neighbourhood Watch



The Cabramatta West Neighbourhood Watch Group, over a period of 31 years, has been working with our police, council and community to establish a safer environment by reducing crime, domestic violence and fear within our community. It has been a huge success.

Today, at its Annual General Meeting, the group's Area Coordinator Ken Chapman, Treasurer Geoff Davis and Secretary Julie Tagg were unanimously re-elected. Congratulations to all of them. They have been doing a great job. **The group also celebrated 31 years of service and its 330th meeting; an extraordinary achievement.** Among items on the agenda

*"The group also celebrated 31 years of service and its 330th meeting; an extraordinary achievement."*

was an informative briefing by a representative of Fairfield City Police Area Command on local crime matters as well as those relating to the wider Fairfield area. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information please contact our Area Coordinator Mr Ken Chapman on 02 9727 8828, all newcomers are welcome. We can all make a difference.



Article published in the Fairfield Advance 10 October.



# NHW Week Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai



For NHW Week Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) members were present at a local church event called 'Day4You' was held on Saturday 13 October 2018. It's a day of practical workshops brought by local practitioners and hosted by Warrawee Anglican Church. Informative displays are held throughout the day. Ku-ring-gai/Hornsby NHW will have a Crime Prevention stall running all day at this event. NHW volunteers from around Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai will be able to put together personalised goodie bags, filled with advice Just4You. We offer:

- FREE Little Black Book of Scams, "Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips to Protect Your Identity", "... for Garage Sales", "... Homes", etc.
- FREE 'Do Not Knock' and NHW window stickers.
- BORROW an engraver to mark your valuables,
- BORROW a stencil for marking your driveway white lines,
- BORROW a shredder to dispose of personal papers.
- FREE Balloons, Colouring-in, FUN police dress-ups and FUN photo booth for the kids.
- FREE car rego plate locking screws to prevent car rego plate theft.



## Hornsby Markets

On the 2nd May earlier this year, the Hornsby & Ku-ring-gai Councils held an expo for non-profit organisations to hold a stall in the local shopping mall. It was called a Volunteer Expo, but as well as attempting to recruit volunteers, Ku-ring-gai/Hornsby

Neighbourhood Watch also had crime prevention literature, advice and goodie-bags to give away to interested residents.

The goodie-bags, number plate locking screws and pull-up banner have all been funded with NHWA Community Funding.



In the photo Ralph Stein on the left and Wal Knowles on the right.

# NHW Hunter News

## Hunter Welcomes Assistance from Council



MCC Deputy Mayor Cr Mitchell Griffin & Hunter Region Coordinator Bill Hackney.

**Maitland City Council (MCC) has given NHW in the LGA (Local Government Area) a boost with the approval of a \$1000 per group annually offered to all registered NHW groups.**

In a move to support crime prevention the council were unanimous in approving the financial assistance to our groups.

This will not only be a great boost to our existing groups but a healthy kick start to our new groups that are restricted with initial funds. The grants will assist in various projects and activities within the community. This incentive proves the importance of a bond between NHW and Council.

Council and NHW are very proactively working together not only on crime

prevention & reporting procedures but as a community group caring for its suburbs and Councils assets.

I encourage all NHW groups to work closely with their local Council as the community and NHW can benefit from a great working relationship.

**Cr. Philip Penfold was very proud to move a motion in April 2018 to donate annually to all Maitland area Neighbourhood Watch groups. It is clear that the role they play in our community is of great benefit,** not only to the safety within each neighbourhood, but also to help bring together members of each neighbourhood. I'd urge all local councils to provide similar support to Neighbourhood Watch groups in their

council areas to aid groups fulfil their aim of making their community safer.

Deputy Mayor Cr. Mitchell Griffin says **"It has been great to see the affect Neighbourhood Watch has on the community of Maitland.**

We have seen it grow considerably over the last few years, and provide our residents with education on preventing crime, as well as how to report it. We have seen our city councillors come on board this year to support this great initiative with grants of \$1000 per NHW group across our local government area. This will enable our local groups to be better resourced and provide information for residents on how they can contribute to making our communities safer places to live."



# NHW Week in the Ryde District NSW



WOW! What a week it was for our NHW Ryde District team. We have been out and about in our community promoting NHW and endeavouring to educate our residents on crime prevention and personal safety, on the ground and on the local 2RRR radio.

Our first endeavour was a NHW BBQ on Sunday 7 October and although the weather turned foul we still went through plenty of sausages and presented NHW community safety information at our adjoining stall. The NHW marquee stood out well in the plaza and attracted many inquisitive residents along with the attractive aroma of the sausage sizzle outside the Coles store who donated the sausages and the use of the BBQ equipment.

**From Monday to Thursday our NHW teams descended on one of each of our local train stations at Denistone, Eastwood, West Ryde and Meadowbank over four days from 0:630am - 9:00am peak commuter travel time and handed out thousands of our 2 freshly printed NHW business cards. We ran out and had to have an urgent reprint. The messages conveyed were 'Tips on Cybersecurity' and 'Fraud & Scam Alert'. These were well received by the public.**

From Thursday to Saturday our local NHW teams working in shifts conducted an information stall at the West Ryde Market Place outside Woolworths setting up our emerald green NHW mini marquee which attracted a lot of attention and interest from the constant stream of daily shoppers. Our team were kitted out in our new green polo shirts and caps which provided an "in your face" presence within the Marketplace.

**We emphasised the Cybersecurity and Fraud & Scam Alert messages and many people related stories of hackers and scammers trying to trick them into replying to their "scam".**

Woolworths kindly provided space directly in front of their main entrance where we observed the "antics" of a con artist trying to exchange a gift card for money from unsuspecting shoppers. He ran off before being able to be detained by security staff. At the Supermarket it appears that on a daily basis some shoppers try to 'cheat' the self-help check-out system by recording some items and omitting others for payment.

Our information stall was well received by the members of the community and NHW in our area is truly thriving.

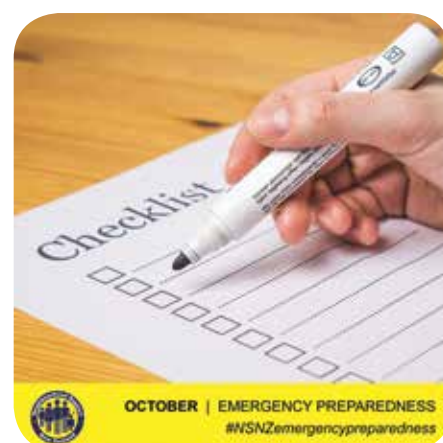
Over the few days we recruited over 18 new distributors for our bimonthly newsletter as well as inquiries to have NHW start up in adjacent suburbs across the greater Ryde district. We also ran out of the NHWA brochures, pens and rulers provided for the day as well as giving out plenty of green NHWA bags for shoppers. They were snapped up like hot cakes as NHW Ryde provided them free accompanied by NHW literature. Shoppers are still coming to terms with having to bring or buy their own bags for their groceries. Overall it was a rewarding experience and our team enjoyed intermixing with the residents and shoppers promoting the NHW community spirit. Residents and NHW team members were also interviewed for our regular local radio programme on their involvement with NHW.

**Ryde NHW also promoted "Creating Safer Communities" at the Granny Smith Festival at Eastwood on Saturday 20 October, emphasising "Lock it or lose it" as the theme. A crowd of over 85,000 people attended throughout the day so our NHW team was very busy "as usual".**

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

## Raising Awareness For What Matters Most!



Neighbourhood Support NZ has launched a fresh initiative aimed at raising awareness about our work.

Each month we will run a new National Campaign where we focus on a theme or topic relevant to the time of year or which ties in with another extensive campaign in the community. The idea behind this is that by having one common mission, our members and supporters can come together at a national-level and focus on a single cause, allowing us to maximise our impact.

How members and supporters take part is completely up to the individual or group! They may want to simply share our posts on Facebook or organise an event or project that ties in with the theme. These campaigns are not meant to replace the work our organisations already perform, but rather provide another opportunity to raise

awareness and show others what Neighbourhood Support is all about.

In August, we focused on Organised Acts of Kindness which encouraged our members and supporters to come together and do something nice for others 'just because' - such as sharing surplus homegrown fruit and veg with neighbours or collecting donations for a local charity.

**In September the focus was on Mental Health Awareness which encouraged greater support and understanding for those suffering from depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges or distress.** One of our social media posts which shared information about a recently launched and completely free mental health number people can call or text in New Zealand called 1737 was able to reach over 7,500 Kiwis, including

90 shares on Facebook alone! We're proud this lifesaving information was able to reach so many people, and hopefully made a difference to someone who truly needed it.

In October our campaigning centred around Emergency Preparedness. Here at NSNZ we joined over 700,000 Kiwis taking part in New Zealand ShakeOut, our national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi which took place on Thursday 18 October 2018 at 9:30 am. ShakeOut is held across the world to remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake - Drop, Cover and Hold - and to practise a tsunami hīkoi (evacuation) if in a coastal area.

**We know that communities that stay connected and prepared fare better in emergencies than those without a plan.** From getting first aid training to putting together a kit with survival essentials, we wanted to remind





everyone that a little bit of planning goes a long way to make sure you can get through any situation.

To keep up-to-date with our latest campaigns, make sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. You can also request to join our quarterly email newsletter 'Hapori' (which means family, society, or community in te reo Māori) by emailing: [alivia@neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz](mailto:alivia@neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz)

### Latest News From Our Members Across The Country

- Welcome to our two newest member organisations Tairua and Flat Bush Neighbourhood Support who's applications to join NSNZ were accepted by the National Board in August. They join a network of now 62 NSNZ Member Organisations connecting to over 190,600 households across the country.
- A warm welcome also to the over 500 households in the Kaikoura and Hurunui districts who have signed up to Neighbourhood Support in recent months. This is the result of an initiative led by North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support, with support from NZ Police, local Councils, and Civil Defence teams. Households who sign up are able to connect through the Gets Ready software programme, which ensures that they receive emergency and
- community information which can be localised for their street and neighbourhood. To find out more about the project contact Tracy Doe, North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support Area Coordinator, by emailing: [coordinator@ncns.org.nz](mailto:coordinator@ncns.org.nz)
- Congratulations to Alexandra-Clyde Neighbourhood Support whose 'despicable' parade florry won two top prizes - 'Best Community' and 'Best Overall' at this year's Alexandra Blossom Festival. This provided a fantastic community building opportunity for Neighbourhood Support members to connect with new members and educate the public about the benefits of joining a Neighbourhood Support group. Over 200 hours of hard work went into transforming their shopping cart into an amazing work of art on wheels.
- Neighbourhood Support Masterton to launch new initiative that connects newly landed residents from diverse backgrounds with a local neighbourhood buddy.

*"Each month we will run a new National Campaign where we focus on a theme or topic relevant to the time of year or which ties in with another extensive campaign in the community."*

Its purpose is to provide support to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Residents and inform them where to go locally for information and advice, support with immigration processes, English exams, government paperwork, and to deliver important messages around emergency preparedness, community resilience, and crime prevention.

- Waipa District Council to install \$240,000 video monitoring system to help keep its community safe. The decision approved 13 cameras to be installed as early as November at key intersections in Te Awamutu and Cambridge. Council's roading manager Bryan Hudson said the project, initially driven by CommSafe (a Neighbourhood Support Member Organisation), is an example of community and Council working together.
- Neighbourhood Support is proud to be an official partner of Neighbours Day Aotearoa. Next year's event will take place from March 22nd - 31st 2019.

# Volunteers, Members, and Partners Honoured in National Awards Ceremony in Wellington

Hard-working volunteers, members, and partners from around the country have been honoured at the Neighbourhood Support New Zealand 2018 AGM, Awards and Forum.

More than 30 members, Police staff, partners and community supporters attended the event at the West Plaza Hotel in Wellington.

At the AGM, Louise Grevel of Neighbourhood Support Waitakere was voted in as their new Chair.

Then followed the Awards Ceremony hosted by outgoing NSNZ Chair Sharla Arnold, alongside Inspector Paula Holt of the National Prevention Centre who presented the awards.

The latter part of the day comprised round-table discussions based around the topics of the development of Junior Neighbourhood Support; community resilience around a pandemic, hosted by Felicity McLeod of the Ministry of Health; and marketing and resources.

NSNZ Communications Advisor Alivia Prattas says the day was a great success. "Overall, it was a fantastic way to celebrate NSNZ's successes as a national network and discuss how the organisation can continue to evolve and adapt to better meet their members' and communities' needs," says Alivia.

And the winners were...

## **Coordinator of the Year - Christine Christie (Western Bay of Plenty)**

Christine has been a volunteer coordinator with WBOP Neighbourhood Support for about eight years. She built membership in Otumoetai, Tauranga, early on, but her work in the suburb of Matua over the past three years has impressed the most.



## **Volunteer of the Year - Luke Ryan-Henderson (South Taranaki)**

At the age of seven, Luke and his twin brother were informed that they would be legally blind by the time the age of 15. He has become an IT wizard and became involved with South Taranaki Neighbourhood Support (STNS) in its early planning stages. Luke set up and monitors the STNS Facebook page.

## **Project of the Year - Auckland Storm Response (Waitakere)**

After a severe storm that hit West Auckland on the night of April 10, causing widespread flooding and property damage. The community came together to help each other via Neighbourhood Support. Working locally to support communities with vital information and liaison between emergency services where assistance was needed.

## **Partner of the Year - Fire and Emergency NZ, Andrew Cotter (South Taranaki)**

When Neighbourhood Support launched in Hawera in 2016, Andrew dived in and took part in five Safety Days, managing communications for the day as MC and coordinating with a host of area partners.



Andrew goes above and beyond because he believes in helping to create safer communities for all and has always made himself easily available.

## **Champion of the Year - Tua Browne and the Orion Street Neighbourhood Support Group in Papakura**

Orion Street Neighbourhood Support was established by concerned residents who were seeing their road become a magnet for antisocial behaviour. The group has been working together for three years, using initiatives promoted by NSNZ, and the area has seen a marked reduction in crime. Police statistics show that in the first two years, crime in the area fell by a third.

District representatives accepted awards on behalf of winners who were unable to attend.



## Neighbourhood Watch Week 2018 – Bigger than ever



Gray Shops, Mani and daughter.



CIC Glenn Warrior at Malak Shops.



Bob Watt with Luke Gosling OAM MP, Federal Member for Solomon.



Mani and support team at Malak Community Centre.



Jenny Malone, Jenny Duggan, AUX1st class Amber Woodbury.

In the NT Neighbourhood Watch Week was bigger and better than ever.

**NHWNT aims for all Territorians to feel connected in their community.**

This year there were a number of ways to get involved.

Neighbourhood Watch NT and NT Police conducted community engagement activities in targeted areas throughout the week. One of the desired outcomes was to gain community feedback to help understand local issues and concerns. Whilst the survey

was made available online for all Territorians, it was also used as an effective community engagement tool when door knocking. The survey has received over 150 responses to date and will remain open until the end of October.

Neighbourhood Watch NT members also hosted their own Neighbourhood Watch Week events throughout the Territory. There was a wide range of events registered from Neighbourhood get-togethers to large scale remote community events.

A Facebook competition also run throughout the week. The prize was a four camera smart surveillance system worth \$500. The competition aimed to raise public awareness and engagement with Neighbourhood Watch NT within the Territory. On reviewing the preliminary statistics, the competition was successful in achieving this.

Neighbourhood Watch Week also coincided with the start of a new membership structure for Neighbourhood Watch NT. This new restructure will make it easier to join.

## Inner West celebrates 30 years of Neighbourhood Watch Queensland

2018 marks 30 Years of Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ), an organisation which plays a vital role in linking the police and the community together, and contributing to keeping Queensland safe.

The Inner West Police District currently has 16 active Neighbourhood Watch groups established throughout the Ferny Grove, The Gap and Indooroopilly Police Divisions.

**On Saturday 15 September, Police Officers from the Inner West Crime Prevention Unit along with members from their respective Inner West NHWQ groups gathered together to celebrate the 30th**

### **anniversary of NHWQ at the Walton Bridge Reserve, The Gap.**

The gathering provided the opportunity for Inner West Police to acknowledge and thank their respective Neighbourhood Watch group members for their continual enthusiasm, dedication and contribution to the program.

The gathering also provided an opportunity for those attending to personally meet other Inner West NHWQ members, share ideas and establish networks.

The events also provide a platform for passing members of the public to speak to police about the NHWQ program and other crime prevention initiatives.



Inner West Police look forward to continuing with their relationship and supporting the NHWQ program and their respective Inner West NHWQ Groups.

## It's off to market for Woree and Redlynch NHW groups

Who doesn't love a local market? Woree and Redlynch NHW groups have seized on the love of a good market and are now running their own NHW markets in the suburbs of Woree and Redlynch.

Going solo, Woree NHW markets have recently moved to a new location. The open space, better parking and prime location is drawing a crowd with over 60 stall holders now attending the Woree Markets.



### **Bigger each time, Woree Markets**

Redlynch NHW have joined forces with the Redlynch Residents Group and now participate in the Redlynch Valley Markets. With a huge variety of food, craft and bric-a-brac on sale, the markets

draw a big crowd from all over Cairns. We hear that coffee is sensational!

Both NHW groups have a NHW

display at the markets and seek to provide crime prevention and safety information to the community along with encouraging locals to join their NHW group.





Marie Pierce E-Watch and Senior Constable Heidi Marek at the Freshwater State School fete.



Marie and retired police dog Xander with handler Adrian.



NHWQ Wheelie bin stickers in Brinsmead.

# Online and out and about

Despite being an online E-Watch group, Administrator Marie Pierce never misses an opportunity to get out and about in her community. Marie recently represented Brinsmead NHW at the Freshwater State School fete and did well vying for attention against retired police dog Xander.

Marie and Brinsmead NHW volunteer Jo regularly set up a NHW display at their local IGA which provides a great opportunity to chat with

local residents about the benefits of NHW in their area. It's pleasing to see that the group always has an increase in online followers after a community display.

The local IGA has kindly agreed to allow Brinsmead NHW to set up a stand at the front of their store. Each month a NHW newsletter is placed in the stand along with NHW giveaways. It's great to see that the NHW wheelie bin stickers feature heavily in the Brinsmead area.



Brinsmead volunteer Jo signs up local residents.





# Bli Bli NHW Fun Run

The Bli Bli Fun Run was held on Sunday 23 September in Bli Bli on the beautiful Sunshine Coast.

Organised by Bli Bli NHW the event attracted people of all ages and abilities who ran and walked through the Parklakes Estate. There was record numbers of over 360 participants.

Organiser and local NHW area coordinator Edith Blanck said she was stunned with raising over \$17,800 by the event an 80% increase on last year's event.

The main beneficiary was the White Ribbon charity for domestic violence receiving a cheque for \$10,000

Lilly House and Sonshine Sanctuary were also presented with \$5,000 worth of IGA Food Vouchers and cash to be given to Domestic Violence Victims.



Superintendent Darryl Johnson Chair of the White Ribbon Ambassadorial Committee Sunshine Coast being given a cheque for \$10,000.00 by Edith Blanck.





Left to right: Edith Blanck (NHW Bli Bli) and Roz White (Supa IGA Bli Bli) presented cheques for \$1000 to Linda representing Lilly House and Jenny representing Sonshine Sanctuary. They were also presented with \$1500 worth of IGA Food Vouchers to be given to Domestic Violence Victims staying in refuge homes.



Cake Stall run by Debbie Thomson and Carol Goblin Bli Bli NHW members.



NHW Bli Bli members.



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# Forestdale NHW Motor Show & Country Markets



Nearly 100 vehicles packed Lincoln Green Park, ranging from the early 1900s to modern day specials.



The Forestdale NHW Committee with Maria Bennett, CEO of NHW Australasia (L-R: Angela Arkadieff, Greg Broad, Ted Maynard, Maria Bennett and Jocelyn Marentis).



Forestdale NHW Area Coordinator, Jocelyn Marentis with Senior Sergeant Michael Leafe and Volunteer in Policing Vyvyan Dance OAM.

On Sunday 9 September 2018, Forestdale NHW hosted its Bi-Annual Motor Show and Country Markets in Lincoln Green Park, Forestdale, which was a great success. It was a bit touch and go in the days leading up to the event, with rainy days and stormy skies the entire week before. Some of the organisation committee had no fingernails left. But on the day the sun came out and stayed out which was fantastic!

**The event attracted nearly 100 car entries, 30 stalls, with 45 kg of sausages consumed (the egg & bacon rolls selling out by 9.30am) and well over 1,000 visitors enjoying the cars and market through the morning.**

**We were assisted by a bevy of enthusiastic volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and lent a hand** with directing motor show entries and stall holders on their arrival, and our team of gallant cooks manning

the BBQ. We are also very grateful to our generous sponsors, the businesses who donated prizes for the motor show winners and the raffle, and to the Lommerse family who donated all the proceeds of the sales of Poffertjes (Dutch pancakes) to Forestdale NHW. For a list of the winning vehicles, new to old, and to view all the official photographs of the event taken by Amanda Creighton Photography, go to [www.forestdale.com.au/gallery](http://www.forestdale.com.au/gallery)



# Nerang 8 NHW Event



Nerang 8 past volunteers with Senior Sergeant Peter Gordon.



Handouts for residents.

**Nerang 8 Neighbourhood Watch held a joint Neighbour Day/ 10th Birthday celebration in March 2018 for their local residents.**

Area co-ordinator Kate Von Zeppelin advised that the event was a great

success in bringing the community together.

Long serving members along with past volunteers were acknowledged during the celebration.



Long serving member George James with Seymour Owl.



# Ipswich District Community Safety Crime Prevention Awards and NHW 30 Year Celebrations



Volunteer Neighbourhood Watch members from the Riverview Neighbourhood Watch who have been Volunteering for 30 years since the area started were provided with Certificates of Acknowledgement by Senior Sergeant Greg Shaw.

**On Friday 26 October at the Frank McGreevy, Goodna RSL Function Centre the Community Safety Crime Prevention Award winners were announced and the Ipswich District Neighbourhood Watch Lapel Badge Awards and 30 years of Riverview Neighbourhood Watch celebrated.**

The Award Categories include;

- Community Engagement
- Designing for a Safe and Healthy Environment
- Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction
- Youth Engagement
- Family Violence Prevention

After the official cake cutting to celebrate Riverview Neighbourhood Watch's Birthday one of the first areas to start NHW in Queensland, we then recognised those Neighbourhood Watch members who have attained their Lapel

Badge Awards. These Awards were presented to members by Ms Maria Bennett the CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

**A number of Volunteer Neighbourhood Watch members from the Riverview Neighbourhood Watch who have been Volunteering for 30 years since the area started were provided with Certificates of Acknowledgement by Senior Sergeant Greg Shaw.**

Thank you to the organising Committee for their time and efforts in putting these awards and NHW celebrations together and also to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia for the support of the event through funding obtained to purchase the coffee cups that were provided to all of the award recipients and Neighbourhood Watch members as well as the celebratory chocolates that were provided on each table setting.



Riverview NHW 30th Birthday cake.



Organising committee members Duchense Broad, Pam Lobwein, Amanda Draheim, Pat Carpenter and Sergeant Nadine Webster.

# Pioneer Valley Neighbourhood Watch Personal Location Beacon Launch, Mackay



The locals came from far and wide to support the launch with police and Neighbourhood Watch members at the Eungella Hub – media interest was significant.

Senior Constable James Dolby of Mirani police station (previously Finch Hatton police station -> both from the Pioneer Valley) has worked hand in hand with the Pioneer Valley Neighbourhood Watch over a 5 year period to bring the Personal Location Beacon program to life.

Under the heading **“Get Lost – But make sure that you can be found”** they launched the project on Sunday 30 September at Eungella. **It is the very first program of its type in Queensland and we believe only the second of its type in all of Australia.**

The problem is that the Pioneer Valley is so very gorgeous – it attracts tourists from all over the country and even overseas as a “trekking” destination. There are countless bushwalking trails riddled through the area. Sometimes the bushwalkers have gotten lost, fallen injured or encountered dangerous wildlife and needed to be found.



A display table with Neighbourhood Watch and also Personal Location Beacon launch promotional material.

Police have worked hard with other agencies in many search and rescue styled missions in the Pioneer Valley over the last 5 years, many of the searches lasting for days. Some unfortunately ending tragically.

**The Personal Locating Beacons literally takes the “search” out of the search and rescue process. Bushwalkers and explorers are able to sign out a beacon from one of 5 Pioneer Valley locations and**

**carry it with them as they explore. If the worst of situations actually occurs – they activate the beacon and rescuers can identify the exact location of the area the beacon was activated to within 5 metres!**

The road to this launch has not been easy – it has tested the resolve of police and the Pioneer Valley Neighbourhood Watch group. Their determination to see it through to the end is admirable.





Manunda NHW Councillor Max O'Halloran and volunteer Graham O'Byrne.

# Manunda NHW lifts community profile

**Operating since February 2017, Manunda NHW in the Cairns area is certainly finding its feet and becoming a well-known volunteer group within their community.**

**Community attendance at meetings continues to grow with over 40 people attending each meeting.**

The committee has engaged the support of the Cairns Regional Council, local police, The Safer Streets taskforce, Crime Stoppers and access housing to work together on a range of issues affecting their community.

Aside from productive meetings, the committee and their team of volunteers have been regularly getting out and about holding

*"Community attendance at meetings continues to grow with over 40 people attending each meeting."*

sausage sizzles and cake stalls. Food, the perfect way to create an opportunity to chat to your local community!



Manunda NHW give-aways at local IGA.

# 2018 Neighbourhood Watch Queensland State Conference

**This year's Neighbourhood Watch Queensland State Conference returned to the Gold Coast to 'Celebrate 30 years of Community Partnerships'. The first Queensland trials of Neighbourhood Watch took place on the Isle of Capri and Sorrento in 1988 and has now grown to over 420 groups state wide.**



Congratulations to all the NHWQ Award winners.

The conference was held at the Southport Sharks event centre and MC'd by the extremely suave and debonair Superintendent Mark Plath. Official guests included the Honourable Mark Ryan - Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Cr Tom Tate - Mayor of the City of the Gold Coast, and Police Commissioner Ian Stewart.

The highlight of the conference was the awards ceremony, where our community members and police liaison officers were recognised for their commitment to their local communities. Congratulations to all our district award winners.

**The State Awards for 'Community Member of the Year 2018' went to Carol Clare from the Moreton District, and the police 'Liaison Officer of the Year 2018' went to Senior Constable Ben Harm from South Brisbane District.**

*"The highlight of the conference was the awards ceremony, where our community members and police liaison officers were recognised for their commitment to their local communities."*

Again, congratulations to these two outstanding members.

Over 200 delegates enjoyed a great range of presenters who covered some interesting and well received topics. For the first time ever, the event was Live Streamed with the videos now available for viewing at <http://www.webevent.com.au/nwq/>.

As part of the celebrations, the 'Gold Coast Branch of the Queensland Cake Decorators Association' created a Neighbourhood Watch themed cake, with the cake cutting honours going to our State Award Winners (and Seymore the All-

Seeing Owl). A big thank you goes out to them for this fabulous cake.

All in all, it was a great day with overwhelming positive feedback from the attendees. Any suggestions for presenters in 2019, please contact your local Community Advisory Committee (CAC) member.

Lastly, on behalf of all the groups of NHWQ, a warm and sincere thank you is extended to the Gold Coast Neighbourhood Watch Team who not only secured funding from the Premier to host the 2018 Conference but were also instrumental to its success.

Bring on the 2019 conference!





Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart presenting Carol Clare her award for NHWQ Member of the Year.



Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart presenting Senior Constable Ben Harm his award for NHWQ Police Liaison Officer of the Year.



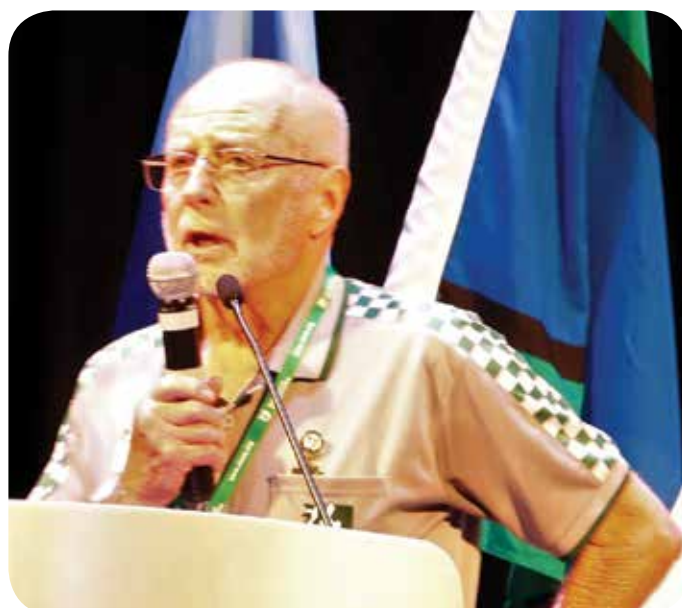
NHWQ cake generously donated by the Gold Coast Branch of the Queensland Cake Decorators Association.



QPS Pipes and Drums and Commissioner Ian Stewart.



Key note speaker Professor Lorraine Mazerolle from University of Queensland.



Mr Peter Barrett President NHW Gold Coast.

## Around the State



Costa Georgiadis showed interest in the Neighbourhood Watch briefing!



Volunteers hard at work.

### Busy Watch Group

Recently George Town Neighbourhood Watch collaborated with the local Council to remove graffiti from the toilet block at East Beach. The desecration really lowered the tone of a great place in the George Town community. Then someone stole the gates off the dog park, effectively making it unusable.

Council's Works Depot were quick to remove the bulk of the paint on Tuesday, and the awesome crew pictured

gave up their Saturday morning to completely clean the residue and the surrounds. Well done everyone.

The volunteers also held a sausage sizzle at the same time, with money raised going towards a reward for information that leads to conviction (or other lawful consequence) regarding the graffitied toilet block, and the stolen dog park gates.

### Cygnnet Information Session

The Cygnnet community came together recently to consider options around

starting up a Watch group in the area. During the meeting the group became distracted when a gentleman dropped into the Community Hub, where the meeting was being held. It was none other than Costa Georgiadis, of Gardening Australia fame. He happily engaged with the group and even took time out for photos.

We continue to receive requests for new Watch groups and look forward to working with those local communities to get the groups up and running.

## Mini Recruits in the making

Children from the Sandford Joey and Cub Scout groups visited the Police Academy last month to get a taste of being a police officer for a day. The Scout groups were shown the ropes by three Trainee Constables from Recruit Course 1/2018. Trainee Officers Tom Bester, Sophie Banks and Patrick Roberts took the kids through a parade and drill, showed them the police

van and where they live and study while at the Academy. But tracking down a diamond robber (played by Trainee Constable James Lambert) was what got the kids most excited. They locked him up in the police van to be sent to jail and recovered all the diamonds. What a great way to introduce them to a career in policing! Well done Trainee Constables for making an enjoyable day for the kids.



Mini Recruits in the making.



# Neighbourhood Watch Week Cuppa with a Cop

As part of Neighbourhood Watch Week a Cuppa with a Cop event was held at Eastlands Shopping Centre in Southern Tasmania. This event was well received by passing shoppers who stopped to engage with their local officers.

This was preceded by a second successful event held in August in Launceston, as part of the Tamar Peace Festival. Neighbourhood Watch partnered with The Examiner Newspaper to provide warm beverages from The Coffee Buzz van to members of the Launceston community who stopped to chat.

**NHWT State President, Jan Dunsby, commented that this event attracted quite a few younger members of the community and they seemed to enjoy conversations with Commander Brett Smith and his team.**



Neighbourhood Watch Week – Cuppa with a Cop, engaging with the community.



## Donated Trauma Teddies to comfort children

We all need a bit of comfort in times of need, especially when you're young – which is where these teddies come in handy. Knitted by members of the local community and donated by the Australian Red Cross, the colourful Trauma Teddies were handed to the North-West emergency

services crews last month. Members from Burnie Uniform were on hand to receive their bunch. "We're grateful to receive the wonderful donation as they help us to provide comfort and assurance to children during traumatic situations," said Sergeant Adrian Mollon. "By giving the child one of these colourful



Donated Trauma Teddies to Comfort Children.

Trauma Teddies they can keep, we hope to engage with them to make their experience less stressful".

## It's raining grants at South Mitchell!



Presentation night at Kilmore Trackside.

**With the generous support of the Wallan Kilmore Community branch of Bendigo Bank we have been able to purchase much needed equipment. 2 marquees, full printed wall kits for each, printed valances, several pull up banners, and several tear drop banners.**

These will help our volunteers stand out more at events and be of more assistance than ever to our communities ESPECIALLY while we hand out free the 13,000 anti-theft number plate screws (enough for 3,000+ vehicles) that we have been able to purchase with yet another

grant! We have been successful in getting a grant from the Dept of Justice Victoria through their Community Safety Fund program.

We are extremely grateful to both Bendigo Bank and the Dept. Of Justice for their ongoing support and our local communities will be the winners!



Equipment purchased through the Bendigo Bank grant.



# Proudly supporting Neighbourhood Watch



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Let's work together to help  
prevent crime and keep  
our communities safe.



## Sign me up!



The remote Kimberley community of Bidyadanga have once again been working hard on their commitment to make their community safer. Bidyadanga is the largest remote Aboriginal community in Western Australia and is home to the Karajarri, Juwalinny, Mangala, Nyungamarta and Yulpartja language groups.

With the support of WA Police and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) the community NHW committee designed and installed community entry and exit road signs to promote the priorities identified at a community meeting in support of their Community Safety Charter.

**The Community Safety Charter is a commitment by community members to improve the living standards in the community and to**

**assist with the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour.**

The welcome sign is designed to have individual interchangeable messages targeting the priority issues as identified by the NHW Committee. It reads "Bidyadanga Community is a Safe Community, we say NO to:"

- Illegal Drugs
- Alcohol Abuse
- Violence
- Kids Gambling
- Dangerous Driving

Each of the issues are to be focused on for around a month at a time.

Extremely proud of their efforts, community members installed the signs as soon as they arrived in the community.



The community sign installation.



# Creating a connection



Senior Constable Sam Lim and NHW WA State President Bernie Durkin.

Applying a tried-and-true formula to address an entirely new type of problem has proven extremely successful for Community Engagement Division (CED) Community Liaison Coordinator Acting Sergeant Sam Lim.

A/Sgt Lim was looking for a way that police could better connect with the Chinese community and enlisted the help of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) State Coordinator Jenny O'Brien to achieve this.

"There's a large Chinese community in Perth, but generally they are reluctant to engage with police and as a result, much of the crime committed against them has tended to go unreported," he said. "Many Chinese community members do not speak a great deal of English and so they've instead tended to look to each other for support.

**The underpinning idea of NHW is to bring community members together** so they can re-establish control of their neighbourhoods. What we've done is apply this principle to the Chinese community – irrespective of where they live – to create a safer, more connected and inclusive mindset."

"In addition to neighbourhoods, it's where people work, shop and play – or the social networks they develop – which also have the potential to assist police through the collective eyes and ears made available, and



when the focus turns to safety, security and crime prevention, that's a valuable resource," Sgt Lim said.

CED Crime Prevention and Community Liaison Executive Manager Bernie Durkin said the NHW model has been used to good effect in this instance. "We were able to build trust between the Chinese community and police, and also confidence and empowerment in the group's ability to enlist police assistance when they need it," he said.

"A/Sgt Lim initially set up a meeting with around 30 interested members of the Chinese community to introduce NHW as a way of encouraging their participation with police. Last weekend, more than 400 attended a follow-up meeting and the word is still spreading.

"A/Sgt Lim and Ms O'Brien have together used NHW as a powerful tool for positive interaction within

the Chinese community, and the potential for a similar approach to be replicated with other non-English speaking sections of the community is an exciting future possibility," Mr Durkin added. Another outcome of the current work has connection of the wider Chinese community through a social-media app which is in Mandarin. A/Sgt Lim explained the app has been used to seek information and to also answer law enforcement-related questions.

A/Sgt Lim said "A recent example of the power which comes from being connected involved a missing Chinese student, the parents flew to Perth from China after contact was lost with their son, and he was reported a missing person. In the end it was the newly-established networks which funnelled information back to me and saw the family reunited."



As part of the week eight human interest stories were created, providing insight into the personalities of those missing.

## 30 Years of National Missing Persons Week

For more than 30 years National Missing Persons Week (NMPW) has provided hope to those most affected by the disappearance of a loved one.

NMPW is an annual event, which raises awareness about the significant issues associated with missing persons, as well as helping to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons in Australia. **The initiative began in Townsville in 1988, as a way to raise awareness about the disappearance of local resident Tony Jones six years earlier.** He had gone missing while hitch-hiking, and his family wanted to do something to remember him, as well as try to find out what had happened.

Mark Jones, Tony's brother, said their family also wanted to give hope and support to other families waiting for a loved one to come home.



The Jones family founded NMPW in 1988 after the disappearance of 20-year-old Tony Jones.

"In creating the first National Missing Persons Week in 1988, my family wanted to keep hopes of a breakthrough alive – not just for our family, but for all families with a missing loved one," he said. The

inaugural week took place with a memorial service, where the Mayor of Townsville planted a tree in commemoration of Mr Jones.

From this small gathering, NMPW became an annual event





The NMPCC worked with creative company 'Common Ventures' to create an emotive short film and television commercial for NMPW2018.

to help families create public awareness about their loved-one's disappearance, to try to find out what happened, even if the initial interest in the person's disappearance had subsided over the years.

Mark Jones said the week is a source of great pride for him and his family.

"It's a silver lining after all we've been through with Tony," he said.

Some 30 years on, NMPW is proudly supported by Government, Law Enforcement, not-for-profit organisations, and community groups around Australia.

**The AFP, through the National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (NMPCC), has taken the lead in driving the national campaign.**

It regularly meets with families and coordinates an array of different initiatives, which all contribute to the success NMPW is now.

To acknowledge the 30 year anniversary this year, the NMPCC has produced its first national digital campaign. The aim of which is to reach a broader audience such as those who have perhaps never thought about a missing person, or who believe the impact of a missing person will never affect them. The

digital campaign comprised two components, '30 for 30' social media campaign, and 'Hold onto Hope' short film.

**'30 for 30' Social media campaign**

Titled '30 for 30,' this year's social media campaign profiles 30 faces of long term missing persons cases for the 30 years of NMPW. The campaign also highlights one feature profile from each State and Territory, to create eight stories about the missing person and their families. This approach helps to provide different perspectives on the issues relating to missing persons, highlighting there is more to every case than an individual 'profile.' The profiles selected and the stories created focus on the reasons why people go missing, including things like dementia, mental health and suicide; as well as the financial and other burdens, such as ongoing psychological care, that may fall on those who are left behind.

**'Hold onto Hope' short film**

The 'Hold onto Hope' short film was inspired by the ongoing impacts on families of having a loved one go missing. This includes dealing with the challenges of ambiguous loss, the need to hold onto hope, and for some people, the need to retain

physical items associated with the missing person. The theme resonates with Eileen Fahey, whose son Anthony went missing in 2013.

"We are endeavouring to sell our house, however, this is upsetting because what if Anthony comes home and someone else is living here, how will he find us, how will he feel, what will he do?" She said.

"I also feel that if we sell I won't have the memories of him being in the house, and I'm afraid I'll forget the image of him sitting at the end of the bench and the sound of his voice. It's all tied up in the house; how can I leave it?" She asks.

NMPCC works tirelessly with many families, case officers, and support services each year to provide support for people like Eileen, as well as trying to help families and police find out what happened. Prolific profiling, engaging with the media, and thought-provoking messaging to engage the community are just some of the strategies the team uses. **However, it is only by working in partnership with the community we can truly make a difference.**

Further information on National Missing Persons Week, as well as the NMPCC can be found at 'missingpersons.gov.au'.

# Child exploitation is everyone's business



The AFP Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Karl Kent stand with key stakeholders and the ACCCE Implementation Team.



AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin and Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton at the launch of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation in Brisbane.

Australian law enforcement, including the Australian Federal Police (AFP) is seeing an exponential increase of reports of the exploitation of children involving Australians committing these crimes within our country, as well as increasingly travelling offshore to offend. No region is untouched and no country is immune from this crime. **Despite decades of effort, the sexual exploitation of children has expanded across the globe and out-paced every attempt to respond at the national and international level.** As well as increasing in volume, the material detected by law enforcement is becoming more extreme.

In response, the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) was launched on 3 September 2018 in Brisbane by the Minister for Home Affairs, Peter Dutton. AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin was in attendance along with government agencies, state and territory police, industry partners and NGOs. The launch coincided with National Child Protection Week. The Centre is a significant reminder

to everyone that “protecting children is everyone’s business” always.

*The Centre was established and designed to deliver a consistent, holistic and coordinated response to combat the exploitation of children and vulnerable people.* It is based on four pillars to fight the exploitation of children: Prevent, Prepare, Pursue and Protect. The Centre will incorporate key stakeholders and partners to build a comprehensive and combined capability to combat exploitation, domestically and offshore.

The Centre draws upon the expertise of Federal, State and Territory law enforcement, government agencies, non-government agencies and private industry, academia, international partners and a cross-pollination of resources, knowledge and skillsets. The Centre will also be underpinned by prevention and education initiatives to avert future victimisation, with a continued investment in national technology design solutions to provide centralised databases with real-time information sharing capabilities.

The launch was followed by the inaugural ACCCE stakeholder

engagement meeting with non-government organisations, hosted by AFP Assistant Commissioner Debbie Platz. AFP Commissioner Colvin opened the event by acknowledging the commitment of all the organisations in the room, commenting “We talk about partnerships a lot in the AFP. Over the next two days, we want to gain an understanding from you all on how we can coordinate all of our effort.”

“I am proud of this Centre. I want you to be and I want the community to be.”

At the conclusion of the two days, Assistant Commissioner Debbie Platz was impressed with the outcomes. “Stakeholders came with innovation and creativity to set the ACCCE up for the future. The two days were an amazing opportunity for us to work together collaboratively.

“I can see the value in these partnerships individually and combined - we cross over the four pillars of the ACCCE to work towards the vision to free children from child exploitation.”

Further details on the important work of the ACCCE, can be accessed at [www.accce.gov.au](http://www.accce.gov.au)



# INTERNATIONAL FEATURE

NHW ESTONIA

## Neighbourhood Watch Estonia



Police, local government, NHW sector and NHW NGO representatives.

Estonia is a small (with the population of 1.3 million people) Nordic country, located by the Baltic Sea.

In 1999 the Estonian Police implemented a reform, which among other changes also reduced dramatically the number of police officers. The people's fear of crime and desire to protect themselves was very high, so they started to search for options on how to deal with the situation. There was a small initiators group consisting of citizens, officials from the local governments, police and Ministry of Justice, who had heard about the neighbourhood watch success and decided that it

*"The people's fear of crime and desire to protect themselves was very high, so they started to search for options on how to deal with the situation."*

was worth a try in Estonia. Estonian Neighbourhood Watch Association (ENHWA) was founded on 5th of May 2000.

The Estonian Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) model was developed following the UK's example. Over the time and influenced by local conditions the model has changed

and achieved the necessary essence which works well in Estonia.

### **Estonian neighbourhood watch special features**

NHW main principle is **"if you see something special - you react!"**

There are several ways how one can react to a suspicious situation, also there are some assumptions,



NHW Estonia meeting.

which are important for action. Main preconditions of the NHW activities are that people know each other and also have the contact data of their neighbours. It gives the possibility to notice suspicious activity and contact the neighbour(s) if necessary. So every NHW district starts with collecting the neighbours contact data (name, address, phone numbers, e-mail, car information), usually it is done in the first meeting, where neighbours get to know each other. Each participant confirms with his/her signature that they agree to use this data in the NHW activities. Later this data will be updated at least once a year, but usually after a new member joins or when somebody leaves the NHW sector. The members of NHW district choose a leader, who will represent them in the co-operation agreement, in NHW meetings and will be a

*"As mentioned before, the main principle of NHW is that if you see something suspicious, you do react. But how does one know, how to react?"*

contact person for other institutions. One obligation of NHW district leader is also to keep the data of NHW members up to date.

### Neighbourhood watch co-operation agreement

After the contact data of the NHW members is gathered, the next step will be signing the contract. It is co-operation contract between four parties - NHW district, the police, the local government and the ENHWA. The contract is a joint agreement stating that all parties make an effort to create more safety

in this area, working in close co-operation. The contract is signed by the highest positions of the parties - NHW district leader (elected by the members of the NHW district), the mayor, head of the police in the district and the managing director of the ENHWA.

The process of contract signing has great importance to people who start with NHW. They will see that their activity is noticed and recognised at the highest level of authorities and of course it is a good opportunity to discuss the possible solutions to the problems, which the NHW district might have.

### After the agreement

After the contract signing the members of NHW district will receive a folder, where we put different kind of advice-leaflets and information booklets about safety, of course there is contact data of their neighbours (the document with important numbers) and



Signing the NHW contract.



some information about our co-operation partners in the field of safety business. All the information will be forwarded to the NHW district members digitally as well. The neighbourhood watch district receives signs from the ENHWA, those are signs for strangers that people living in this area are observant and will react, if they see anything suspicious. There is a symbolic fee for joining NHW in Estonia. Every household has to pay 1,00 € membership fee per year.

### Everyday life in one neighbourhood district

As mentioned before, the main principle of NHW is that if you see something suspicious, you do react. But how does one know, how to react? How does one know, when one should do something – call the neighbour, police or local government? These are the typical questions from new members of NHW.

To answer those questions and give basic information about safety, a training is organised in every new NHW district. This meeting, where all the members of the NHW sector are invited, is usually held shortly after the agreement signing. ENHWA, the police and local government are sending their representatives to the meeting to share information and answer the questions. If the neighbours weren't familiar with each other earlier, this meeting gives everyone a good opportunity to get to know each other. Being a neighbourhood watch member should be integrated in one's everyday life. Actually there are not many extra duties or obligations for NHW member. The NHW district leader is a contact person for other co-operation agreement parties and if there are some meetings or roundtables, this person is invited to represent the NHW sector. Once a year the ENHWA organises a general meeting, where all the NHW sector leaders are invited. This is a meeting to develop the Association and to discuss the future activities.

### Neighbourhood watch impact

Neighbourhood watch has been practiced in Estonia already 18 years. The members usually feel and notice the results of their activity but what is the overall impact? Is NHW an effective method in reducing fear of crime and preventing crimes? Over the years we have had several different methods to measure the impact of NHW. We have had surveys implemented by the Estonian biggest university – University of Tartu. Since receiving funding from the state budget, our activities are measured also by the neutral research enterprise. Police have made statistics and compared different areas and also many students have chosen NHW as their research topic at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences. There are controversial research results about the effectiveness of NHW from different countries worldwide: there are studies, which show that this method is effective and then there are studies which prove the opposite. The different sources in Estonia show that NHW:

- Increases the feeling of safety;
- Reduces fear of crime;
- Improves the co-operation with the police;
- Improves the relations between neighbours;
- Increases the knowledge about how to increase safety.

### Difficulties in implementing the neighbourhood watch.

The text above can lead to an impression that NHW is the magical key and solution for every problem. But the crime still exists, people become victims and that happens also in NHW sectors. To talk about the difficulties in implementing NHW in Estonia, we should start with Estonians' values, attitudes, history, traditions and nature. We are coming from a society, where everything was organised and people should not or actually were not allowed to



NHW sign.

intervene into the functioning of society. Now there are already decades of different society organisation in Estonia, but still there are many, who think that somebody else is responsible for arranging the person's life, actions and safety. They say that we have police why is there any need for Neighbourhood Watch? One problem, that we have noticed, is passiveness and ignorance. It is hard to break this attitude and it can also break the positive enthusiasm of others so the solution would be to create more positive examples to follow.

### The NGO

In many countries police are helping citizens to start with NHW. In Estonia we have a neutral organisation, responsible for developing and implementing NHW. There are several reasons for that, mostly there was a need of an independent organisation, which was not closely related to police system. The main task of the NGO is of course promoting NHW, but over the years we have grown and developed to an influential organisation, having its role in developing the strategic documents in the field of community policing and other internal security matters. Our activities are partially financed from the state budget.



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