

# NHWA

Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand





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# FROM THE VCEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA



Inspector Les Bullus from NHWQ and Maria Bennett CEO NHWA attending the Queensland NHW conference.

#### Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia!

My name is Maria Bennett and I am the new CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA).

# What an absolute pleasure it is to be working with such a great organisation.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank Ingrid Stonhill the former CEO NHWA for her commitment, enthusiasm and countless hours of service during her years of involvement, across a wide range of roles and activities.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend the Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ) conference a few weeks ago. It was inspiring to watch the NHWQ Awards presented to so many dedicated Police Officers who work with NHW, often in their own time, putting great initiatives in place with their local NHW groups.

Then watching as the Volunteers, yes you have definitely earned a capital 'V', came forward to accept your NHWQ Awards. Your countless hours of commitment being recognised. Of course there are literally thousands of NHW Volunteers who should be recognised for the incredible work you do, often unseen. But your commitment stays strong.

"Diversity Is Our Strength" was the theme for the NHWQ conference and what a great theme it is for all of NHW. Diversity - the power of many.

Many people, many cultures, many languages, many ideas! A diverse group of people with a common belief in the good that being involved in NHW brings.

There are so many great opportunities ahead for us.

The 5 main Federal Government funded projects that NHWA is working on this year are:

## 1. Continuation of the Community Funding Program

We are in the process of commencing the acquittals and reconciliation for the current round of the Community Funding Program, so it's important that everyone who has received funding sends their documentation to



Graph of Community Funding Program projects by State/Territory 2016 and 2017.

NHWA by Thursday 30 November - thanks in advance.

#### 2. Expansion of the Diagrammatic Program

There are currently 4 diagrammatic brochures that have been produced.

- 1. Personal Safety
- 2. Vehicle Safety
- 3. Home Security
- 4. Family Violence

There are 2 additional brochures planned to be developed in this series with a focus on culturally and linguistically diverse members of our community.

# 3. Expansion of the Remote and Vulnerable Communities Program

This program has been a success, with communities accepting the call to action. With signage now being placed at the front of homes where owners are seeking to change behaviour. Let's break the cycle and create different behaviour with one person at a time taking personal action and leading community initiatives.

### 4. Expansion of the Repository of Information Project

We need your help to build this resource and apply the ideas and

lessons learned from across all sectors. This is a dynamic project with the potential to bring together valuable resources and countless hours of work. The Repository of Information Project Library is available to all jurisdictions and provides instant access to ideas and problem solving that have been found to be effective in other locations.

#### 5. Continuation of the Community Safety Training Days Program

Community Training days have been held in Darwin, Sydney, Canberra, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. We are in the process of planning a further 2 Community Training Days to be held within the next 6 months. So put up your hand and let me know if you would like one held in your Jurisdiction.

We have a commitment to complete these 5 main projects funded by the Federal government and exceed each project goal.

I also have a personal commitment to support each NHW group and help you to be as successful as possible. Each jurisdiction can achieve so much in its own right, while across Australasia, working together, we can be a much stronger united front and achieve even greater things.

My goal is to have a minimum of 1% of the population involved with NHW in some way. Imagine the impact we could have in our communities.

One of the aims of NHW is to build better and more inclusive relationships with the people who live around us, especially the elderly and vulnerable. Neighbours are important, because good relationships with others can and does change communities.

Social connection also makes us feel better as it not only helps prevent loneliness, isolation and depression but can positively build safety, security and personal happiness.

NHW does this by bringing together like-minded people, resources and organisations to grow stronger, well connected, resilient communities.

# Responsibility for NHW is about everyone. Every person, in every community.

Working with individuals, families, neighbourhoods, communities and businesses.

I see this communication and cooperation between all of us as the key to our joint success.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of your NHW community.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next 12 months.

Mana Benneli

Maria Bennett CEO NHW Australasia

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

# **BOARD MEMBERS**



#### Bernie Durkin - President, 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 President of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



#### Clare McGrath - Vice President, ACT

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 employed with the Australian Electoral Commission and this is a busy role. Clare is a self-professed sports lover and a one eyed Hawthorn supporter.



#### **Margaret Pearson - Secretary/Treasurer**

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 including 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 secretary/treasurer of NHWA.



#### Maria Bennett - Chief Executive Officer

Maria has extensive knowledge, management skills and leadership experience in both the public and private sectors, working closely with many prominent charities and not for profit organisations. Prior to joining NHWA Maria was Director of a promotions company for 9 years and has had a successful career in corporate sales and marketing roles. Previous management roles in medical and health industries in Australia, New Zealand and Asia, 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.



#### **Jeff Knight - ACT**

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. He is proud to have been able to serve in a Community Policing role for the most part of his career and enjoys working with people at the grass roots level. Jeff is keen to maintain the good relationship that ACT Policing has with the ACT Neighbourhood Watch, and is looking forward to his appointment as a Board Member of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



#### **Brad Shepherd - New South Wales**

Chief Superintendent Brad Shepherd joined NSW Police Force in 1980. He currently serves as the Commander of Operational Programs and is the Corporate Sponsor for Crime Prevention and Chair of the Australia New Zealand Police Advisory Agency Crime Prevention Senior Officers Group. A 33 year career in law enforcement has spanned several roles including General Duties, Radio Technical, Covert Technical Surveillance, Staff Officer, Counter Terrorism, Operational Communications and Local Area Commander. Brad holds a Bachelor of Business (BBus) and a Master of Business Management (MBA).



#### **Bambi Gordon - Victoria**

Bambi Gordon's career has been in media marketing, particularly with senior roles at Fairfax Media – BRW Group of Publications, FOX FM, and the Ten Network; followed by some 15+ years in her own business providing business development, event management and marketing consulting to small business.

As CEO of NHW Victoria, Bambi is focused upon renewing and reinvigorating the organisation through enhancements in administration, communication, marketing, and generating financial sustainability.



#### 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. In recent years Peter has led the emergency management response to the bushfire disaster in south east Tasmania in 2013 and the state-wide recovery to the 2016 floods which severely impacted across the state. Peter is now the Officer in Charge of the Operations Support Command which includes responsibility for State Community Policing Services, the section which provides the police link to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia. Peter holds tertiary qualifications in management and policing. He has an interest in personal fitness and well-being through regular walking and swimming. He was awarded the Bravery Medal in 1989 and the Australian Police Medal in 2004.



#### Les Bulluss - Queensland

Les joined the Queensland Police Service (QPS) 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 2010 Les was awarded a Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to travel to Canada and USA to research 'Culturally Appropriate Indigenous Community Policing Models'. Following the fellowship, Les made several recommendations to the QPS which were adopted into remote community policing models. 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. his portfolio includes the Crime Prevention, Cultural Support, Crime Stoppers, Victims Assist, Queensland Police Pipes and Drums, and Queensland Police Museum Units. Les has a Graduate Diploma in Management from Central Queensland University and Graduate Certificate in Applied Management (Policing and Emergency Services) from Australian Institute of Police Management.



#### **Virginia Read - Northern Territory**

Superintendent Virginia Read has recently been transferred to the Northern Operations Division which encompasses Community Safety and Engagement for the Northern Territory Police Force. A police officer in the Northern Territory for thirty years, Virginia has served in a number of locations, her most recent move was from Alice Springs where she was stationed for the last three years.

With a long-term commitment to the Northern Territory, her new role provides the opportunity for Virginia to further promote community collaboration to address crime and antisocial behaviour 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.

Business process owner for the Police Deployment Model (Command and Coordination Centres & Tasking and Coordination), Harm Reduction (Family Violence, Victims & Youth) and Community (Neighbourhood Policing, Schools & Alcohol Harm Reduction)



#### **Bek Nguyen - Executive Assistant**

Bek has extensive professional and administration experience from Queensland Health and the Mater Hospital. As a Nutrition Assistant, her objective was to ensure patients received correct meals whilst assisting Dietitians, Doctors and Speech Pathologists achieve their goals. Her knowledge in media and technology, gained from her Media and Communications bachelor degree, has allowed her to successfully support non-profit organisations in the past. A dual degree in science and creative arts has enabled Bek to utilise broader skills and knowledge which she incorporates into her work. Bek is known for her positive attitude and passion for working in a role dedicated to supporting others.

# NHW CONNECT Starting Your Own Group Is Easy

With NHWConnect you can easily find some neighbours who would support living in a safer community and becoming a part of a Neighbourhood Watch program with you. Often, people are willing; it just takes one neighbour to make the first contact in asking if others would like to be involved.

It's easy to create a group online! Go to http://www.nhwconnect. com.au and fill out the information requests to create a log in.

#### 1. Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions

Please ensure you have read and agree to the NHWA privacy policy and terms and conditions in order to register.

#### 2. Your details

This information is for identification

purposes only and WILL NOT be shared or published.

#### 3. Identify your community area

Your community area could be a cluster of homes around you, your street or a larger block area.

#### For example:

- · A cluster of houses
- A block of units, a housing estate or complex
- A street/streets

- · A larger block area
- Other

#### 4. Register your community interest with your NHW State Office

Sign up to stay informed. Your NHW State Office will assist you in establishing your NHW Group and provide you with all the information you need to get started.

#### Register at

http://www.nhwconnect.com.au







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CodeSafe

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Motor vehicle theft is becoming a major issue in Australia. The newspapers are filled with instances of joy riding and carjackings. Many of us have either experienced car theft or know someone who has.

It has become a significant problem, especially here in Victoria. Total passenger light commercial vehicle theft in Victoria shot up 16.3% last year (source: article HeraldSun 10/5016: NMVTRC). Our insurance companies are feeling the major effects and adding pressure on premiums. In 2015, RACV Insurance paid out more than \$12 million dollars in claims in Victoria alone and there has been a significant increase now in 2016- 2017. (Source: RACV Insurance: racv.com.au)

While living abroad in Israel, I was shocked to find out that insurance companies require *mandatory installation* of a CODE SAFE key pad immobiliser for every 12V vehicle. I could not start my car even when I had my keys. I had to first put in my personal code, before turning my key to start my car. It was at that moment I thought to myself: why don't we have this in Australia? LC Distributors is now launching an industry-changing product that will STOP car theft and give every owner peace of mind when parking on our ever more dangerous city and suburban streets.

CODE SAFE is an anti-theft device sold in Israel, South America, Uganda, Kenya, Slovakia, Mexico, Costa Rica and many other countries around the world that have the same issues that Australia is now facing.

In Israel, no insurance company will insure your 12V vehicle without a CODE SAFE key pad immobiliser. The insurance companies provide a list of registered installers to their members who will fit their personal CODE SAFE. (Please see our list here in Australia: Car Audio Masters www.cam.net.au) In return, the insurance companies reduce the cost of premiums and save millions of dollars in claims.

CODE SAFE is a simple keypad immobiliser, fitted to your car by our registered installers who provide a lifetime warranty on installation (when installed by a member of Car Audio Masters www.cam.net.au). It fits all models of vehicles including new cars, old cars, tractors and buses and can be installed across a managed fleet. There is also a 24V unit for agricultural and larger machinery.

It is an affordable, sophisticated and reliable system that sits on your dashboard and will illuminate at night to deter thieves from breaking into your car.

CODE SAFE key pad immobiliser will secure and safeguard your valued asset and will reduce vehicle theft as has been shown throughout its worldwide use.





Pictured with the ACVP Bronze Award are Bernie Durkin NHWA President, Ingrid Stonhill former NHWA CEO, Clare McGrath NHWA Vice President and Brad Shepherd Chief Superintendent NSW Police and NHWA Board member.

# Speak Up Award

The 2017 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards (ACVPA) where held in Canberra in October. The AVCPAs recognise best practice in the prevention or reduction of violence and other types of crime in Australia.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia's (NHWA) Remote and Vulnerable Communities Project received a bronze award in the community-led category. A print-based, highly visual, and culturally relevant educational resource called 'Speak Up' has been designed by NHWA

to educate people who don't hold English as a first language, on the best way to seek help.

NHWA President, Bernie Durkin, said educating people on how to ask for help also encourages reporting, and ensures police are aware of community safety issues they might not otherwise have been alerted to.

"To now have an ACVPA winning resource is a wonderful testament to the significant contribution being made to creating safe, connected and inclusive communities," he said.





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Check it out on www.IntruderShield.com.au and read the testimonials.

# A BREAKTHROUGH IN BURGLAR ALARM TECHNOLOGY DETERS BURGLARS BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY BREAK INTO A HOUSE

Until now, burglar alarms, and every other security system have had a serious drawback — before any type of burglar alarm could react, and issue a warning that the house was about to be burgled, the house would have to be broken into first. No home alarms, or any other type of burglar alarm for that matter, was able to give any pre-burglary warning. But now IntruderShield, a new type of radar operated home alarm is available in Australia and New Zealand to keep the house burglar free.

These alarms operate quite differently from all other traditional home alarm systems. The method by which these IntruderShield alarms keep the burglars away is that they simulate the loud bark of a large, angry guard dog. As the burglar approaches the front door he hears what sounds exactly like a large German Shepherd or Rottweiler starting to bark. The closer he moves to the front door, the more frequent and frenetic the barks. No burglar, even if drunk or drugged, would be stupid enough to break into a house with a fierce guard dog ready to attack him the moment he breaks in. The result is that burglars who approach houses with this alarm switched on and set to operate correctly, will leave that house well alone and look for one that is less likely to make the burglary a disaster for the burglar. IntruderShield alarms only cost \$159 with \$10 postage to any address in Australia, a very tiny price to keep a house burglar free!

Burglar alarms sold by IntruderShield operate with high-tech radar technology developed during World War II. The small-box format

of this house alarm means that it can be placed near the front door and hidden by a pot plant, family photo, or even be located in a cupboard. No professional installation is needed — the alarm works immediately once it is plugged in to a normal Australian power point. The IntruderShield company selling these units also offers a wireless-operated remote control so that the alarm can be switched on and off without actually having to touch the alarm itself. IntruderShield also has many more special-purpose features which you can see on their website (www.IntruderShield.com.au). On these home alarms, you find two small knobs on the back. One controls the volume of the bark, while the other controls the sensitivity, enabling this burglar alarm to be set to pick up the approaching intruder to approximately 21 feet — 7m — away from the home alarm unit, or alternately not start operating until the person approaching is only 1 or 2 meters away.

These house alarms from IntruderShield are the only ones specially made for Australian and New Zealand 240V conditions, have AU/NZ plugs and are so efficient and robust that there is also a full 12 months replacement warranty on these units if they develop a fault.

For more details look at the IntruderShield website – www.IntruderShield.com.au

You will find video and audio demonstrations, full operating instructions and testimonials from happy Australian and New Zealand alarm owners by clicking the panels on the homepage.

# **FAREWELL INGRID**

At the November NHWA Board Meeting and AGM in Sydney, we honoured our inaugural CEO Ingrid Stonhill with a farewell function.



Ingrid Stonhill pictured with the current Board and jurisdictional representatives of NHWA.

Ingrid has been a central figurehead within the organisation since its inception in 2005. We credit her for reinvigorating Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand, Neighbourhood Watch in Australia and for making NHWA the professional organisation that it is today. Under Ingrid's stewardship NHWA has become Australasia's largest community-based crime prevention organisation of its kind.

One of Ingrid's greatest legacies to our organisation was her instrumental role in obtaining Federal Government funding. This has been a significant achievement and has enabled NHWA to become the successful organisation that it is today.

In his speech, NHWA Board Member representing Queensland Les Bulluss said "Ingrid's legacy leaves NHWA in a strong and vibrant position, ready and able to meet challenges of what's to come with confidence."

Ingrid leaves NHWA to take on her new role as deputy CEO of the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation in Maningrida, Northern Territory. Anyone who has been involved with the affairs of events with NHWA of recent years will be well aware of our significant work with Remote Aboriginal Communities and will find it no surprise that Ingrid has chosen to make such an intrepid move.

At the farewell function, NHWA
President Bernie Durkin delivered
a poignant and heartfelt speech
acknowledging Ingrid's wonderful
contribution. His sentiment will be
shared by the many connections
and friendships she has formed
along the way. "I consider it a
privilege and an honour to have
worked beside Ingrid as our CEO,
but more so, to walk beside you as a
friend. Thank you for our journey."





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# NHW ACT

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY** 

## NHW Member of the Year Award 2017

NHW Member of the Year Award 2017 was recently presented to Ugo Bayada. Ugo, 83, has been involved with Gordon NHW since inception in 2011 and has devoted hundreds of hours to help develop and promote ACT NHW. He has significantly contributed to the residents of Gordon and Tuggeranong.

The Chief Police Officer's Award was presented to Detective Sergeant Tony Edmondson for his outstanding contribution to NHW and ACT community policing. He has worked closely with NHW on local issues and engaged with the public to address issues of concern.



Detective Superintendent Rob Wilson, Detective Sergeant Tony Edmondson, Mark Lynch, ACT NHW Board Member.



From left to right: Detective Superintendent Rob Wilson, Ugo Bayada his daughter Jenny and grandson, Phillip.

# **Update from ACT**

ACTNHW, which is completely run by Volunteers, continues to work very closely with ACT Policing to ensure safety and reduce crime in our Community.

At the recent AGM of the Board, 2 Awards were presented to the Volunteer of the Year and the Chief Police Officer's Award.

Our last Board Meeting was devoted to "where we are going"

and many ideas were put forward for consideration.

With many new suburbs now in the ACT we are looking to establishing NHW Groups in these areas.

NHW Week involved Stalls at local Shopping Centres and Radio Interviews. All Information Stalls had ACT Policing and Crimestoppers in attendance, this shows the Community how we all work together to ensure the safety of our residents.

Also partnered with ACT policing at the recent Grandparents Day Information Stall. The Family Violence Unit was also in attendance.

We receive many request to speak about NHW to community groups

# **NHW NSW**

**NEW SOUTH WALES** 

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK AT THE TWEED TOP OF THE STATE





We chose Tweed City Shopping Centre Located at South Tweed Heads to present to the public Neighbourhood Watch Week. Reason being, this centre is the largest shopping precinct in Tweed Shire. It was huge last year and was no different in October 2017. Our NHW Volunteers were over run by interested public, our team found it difficult to set up our stall due to the rush. The result being great exposure to the masses with lots of information handed out to the shoppers.

"NHW Volunteers were over run by interested public, our team found it difficult to set up our stall due to the rush. The result being great exposure to the masses."

As well as our NHW Volunteers our local State MP Geoff Provest worked with our members as well as S/C Brad Foster (Crime Prevention Officer) from Tweed Byron Police. We thank both of these gentlemen for supporting this important event.

We believe NHW Week is a very important date on the NHW calender and should continue. The product support was very good without these products it could not be as effective. I might add that we have very little stock left over.









## NHW Newcastle/Hunter regions

Neighbourhood Watch Week 2017 has revisited yet another year in the Hunter Region. It is always a busy time here as the NHW groups in Newcastle have grown by 450% in the last 2 years.

NHW Week is a great launching platform for raising crime prevention awareness not only to the community but also for growing the number of active NHW groups family.

Proudly introducing a new NHW group into the family tree was one of the highlights during NHW Week 2017.

Cameron Park NSW 2285 (15kms west of Newcastle) is a vibrant and fast growing suburb with a promising future.

With our usual pop up marquee stands throughout the regions shopping centres, NHW Week was definitely very strong in the Hunter Region.

Much appreciation to Fairfax Media as they provided exposure to the NHW Week 2017.

Some groups took part in the Mattara Festival (over 56 years young and still the regions premier event) and in local shopping centres, where there is always an extremely warm reception.

NHW is easy to market, it is such an established brand that the locals can easily distinguish based off the 4 faces logo. Community members responding to the logo with "I remember this," as they go on about their or someone else's involvement with the NHW at some stage.

The assistance of NHWA's handout material is invaluable and the support of the NSW Police sees the week only growing stronger every year.

# Community Funding Program - Home Starter Kit Forums



From left to right: Wayne Deaner - President of Neighbourhood Watch, Sarah Lehman-Youth development co-ordinator at Wagga City Council, Chantelle Hitchenor - Tenancy Action worker at Argyle Community Housing and Sue McMahon - Estate Management Unit at Family and Community Services.

In collaboration with Wagga City Council, Wagga Police LAC and Neighbourhood Watch, Argyle organised two very successful Home Starter Kit Forums for tenants and community members in Wagga Wagga during October 2017.

Funded by a grant from Neighbourhood Watch, the initiative was a response to the growing number of break and enter incidents which have occurred in the Tolland and Ashmont areas over the last five years. During the 2016 round of tenant forums facilitated by Argyle Housing, our Wagga Wagga tenants were clear in expressing their concern for the safety of their properties and themselves within their community.

All attendees received valuable information about keeping their home safe and had the opportunity to chat to the Police Liaison Officer, Neighbourhood Watch representatives and Wagga City Council staff about any concerns they may have had.

The project recognised factors that could contribute to situations that make a break and enter offence easier. The forum brought the community together to provide awareness and education to homeowners and neighbours, enabling greater community participation in preventative actions that they may previously have been unaware of.

Held at the Tolland and Ashmont Community Hubs, the forums were a great success with 60 people attending the two sessions. To reinforce the safety message, all participants were given a free Home Security Starter kit to take home. The kit comprises a Neighbourhood Watch door stop alarm, door and window alarm and police contact number magnet and can be installed with minimum fuss and cost by the home occupier. Organisers are hopeful that these security items will help to ensure safety in the home and reduce the instances of crime in Wagga.

Creating a platform for tenants to discuss their concerns with the

Neighbourhood Watch President provided an opportunity for tenants to feel empowered to:

- Take action in their own communities
- Learn tips and strategies to protect their homes from a possible break and enter
- Know what groups are out there to support them
- Learn correct numbers to contact for suspicious behaviour in the community and emergencies

Working with some of the most vulnerable community members, Argyle, Neighbourhood Watch, Police and the Council are providing ongoing information and community awareness advice about measures to prevent residential break-ins.

# Neighbourhood Watch Week for NHW Ryde





A great day in West Ryde for our successful information stall and community BBQ, capping off another successful Neighbourhood Watch Week for NHW Ryde.

"We were able to meet many of the recently elected City of Ryde Councillors who received first hand information on NHW aims and purpose within our community. All were open to suggestions and we look forward to working with the new council, our local State and Federal representatives and our community partners West Ryde Chamber of Commerce and Meadowbank West

Ryde Progress Association on improved community safety and parking outcomes in the local area.

"We would also like to thank West Ryde businesses Coles, Woolworths and Alexander Jewellery for their sponsoring of the BBQ.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND

**NEW ZEALAND** 



## **Get Ready Week**

During October, Neighbourhood Support groups from around New Zealand were encouraged to be involved in the annual 'Get Ready Week' run by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management. The aim is to educate and encourage households and communities to be better prepared for emergencies such as floods, storms, and earthquakes which can happen at any time.

Neighbourhood Support Groups bring local people together to create safe, supportive and connected communities. Therefore being involved in Get Ready Week is the perfect opportunity to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Support and help encourage resilience amongst neighbours. Bunnings partnered with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management to support the Get Ready week again this year by providing information and DIY advice on emergency preparation in stores across New Zealand. They extended the opportunity to Neighbourhood Support groups to

be in store and take part in activities, and speak to customers about getting to know their neighbours and preparing for emergencies.

Otago Neighbourhood Support and Bunnings Dunedin joined forces to promote 'Get Ready Week' by providing a stall in a



Lois Scott handing out advice to Bunnings Warehouse Dunedin customers during Get Ready Week.

prominent area, which enabled Otago Neighbourhood Support to display emergency preparedness information, and gave them the opportunity to talk to customers about Neighbourhood Support and preparing for an emergency. Lois Scott, Regional Coordinator for Otago Neighbourhood Support said "Bunnings management and staff were really welcoming and supportive of our organisation having a presence throughout Get Ready Week. Various in-store activities were planned for children over the weekend which created plenty of interest and thanks to this promotion, Bunnings have asked Otago Neighbourhood Support to

come back prior to Christmas to be involved in another promotion".

In Waitakere the Neighbourhood Support group made the most of the Bunnings 'Get Ready Week' campaign by not only taking the opportunity to have a stall instore, but by also combining it with their local Safer Plates initiative. Bunnings New Lynn were very accommodating by allocating extra carpark space for their trailer and information. Safer Plates is a 'prevention' initiative that replaces number plate screws with tamper proof screws in an effort to reduce the risk of number plate thefts. Stolen number plates can be used for petrol drive offs and to



Lois Scott handing out advice to Bunnings Warehouse Dunedin customers during Get Ready Week.

disguise stolen vehicles etc., so the initiative reduces the risk of that happening.

Neighbourhood Support Waitakere had the support of their local Waitakere Community and Neighbourhood Policing Teams who enthusiastically assist with the initiative, along with their local Community Patrols who endeavour to join and work alongside them wherever possible.

Louise Grevel, Waitakere Coordinator, said they had "fantastic feedback and engagement from this event and (we) look forward to rolling up our sleeves, getting out and about, doing what we do well as the summer season approaches! All in all a great turnout!".

In Nelson the local Neighbourhood Support group teamed up with Nelson Tasman Emergency Management to set up an information stand at their Bunnings store. The stand was in store for the whole week and Neighbourhood Support Nelson coordinator Karen Clark and Emergency Management Officer Michelle Griffiths also spent time talking with customers. The people they spoke to included a group of pre-schoolers who did a 'turtle' to show everyone what to do in an earthquake. Karen and Michelle said they were very impressed with the youngsters, who knew exactly what to do.



# **NHW NT**

**NORTHERN TERRITORY** 

## **NHW Week**

Neighbourhood Watch Week was held nationally between 2 - 8 October 2017. In the Northern Territory, Neighbourhood Watch NT (NHWNT) used the opportunity to encourage our members to reconnect with their neighbours and host events to discuss location issues whilst promoting NHW community safety initiatives. Hosts were assisted with catering costs and NHW Week merchandise provided by NHWA were given out. Blythe Stafford, a NHWNT member based near Alice Springs, who hosted a NHW Week event reported "The merchandise was a hit and most people were directly interested in becoming members of NHWNT."

The initiative was very successful and welcomed by those members of the community who attended. The relevance for local people aided in increasing people's interest in attending such events and participating in NHWNT. We will continue to support local NHWNT volunteers and are currently developing a 'volunteer



Neighbourhood Watch Week host and NHWNT member, Ann Flynn.

induction toolkit' to assist and welcome new members. The toolkit is designed to ensure that our messaging is consistent throughout the vast expanse that is the Northern Territory.

## **NHWNT AGM**

The Neighbourhood Watch NT Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 19 October 2017 at The Rydges Hotel in Palmerston. The meeting was well attended with both NHWNT members and invited guests. It was also great to see representation from several of our regional and remote areas.

Our Patron, former Chief Justice Trevor Riley officially opened the evening, followed by some words from Acting Assistant Commissioner Matthew Hollamby who spoke on behalf of the Northern Territory Police. He reflected that Police and NHWNT had worked in partnership in the NT for nearly 30 years and in that time, the relationships between the two had grown, particularly in an era where it is recognised that preventing crime is preferable than responding to it. Mr Hollamby said "Crime prevention is not just a police concern and without the aid of the community, our job would be very difficult indeed." He went on to say





Neighbourhood Watch NT President, Jenny Malone (middle) with Acting Assistant Commissioner Matt Hollamby and NHWNT Patron Mr Trevor Riley at the AGM.

that property crime, overall had decreased in the last twelve months.

The AGM was also an opportunity to reflect upon our organisation, to celebrate our successes and highlight our plans for the future. On a day to day basis it is often hard to remember that a number of small achievements lead to big impacts. With this in mind we were excited to present our annual report to our members and guests which revealed a strong year with large increases in membership over the last five

years. We have participated in 110 community events and presentations throughout the last year, which, for our small team is a significant effort. These events have been fundamental in increasing public awareness and have also contributed to membership growth. Trevor Riley, reflected that the increase in membership was recognition that NHW is a "dynamic and vital organisation", attracting people who want to put something back into the community.

Jenny Malone, President of NHWNT highlighted that "our key programs, including Mark Your Territory and Safety House, remain popular and relevant to our community." She also emphasized that in addition to delivering and developing programs that meet the needs of our members and the community over the next 12 months we will be looking at how we can better support our volunteers, build on our brand awareness and attract new partners.

Jenny Malone and Mr Gary Haslett continue as our President and Vice-President. Two of our regional NHWNT Members and our exofficio president were re-elected and we welcomed a new member onto the Management Committee. Jenny Malone stated that "I am confident that the elected NHWNT Management Committee will drive the strategic success of our organisation and am honoured to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate team of people".

Ms Emma Godfrey, an investigator with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) addressed the AGM as our guest speaker. She presented on current scamming trends, methods on how to identify a scam and what the best practice is to protect yourself against scams.

The NHWNT team are looking forward to an exciting 2018 and would like to take this opportunity to wish the NHW Community best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

# NHW QLD

**QUEENSLAND** 

# 2017 Neighbourhood Watch Queensland State Conference Report

The 2017 Neighbourhood Watch Queensland State Conference was held at the Logan Events Centre, Beenleigh on 7th October 2017 and was once again MC'd by the engaging and popular Logan Councillor, Mr Steven Swenson.



It was an action packed day and one of the many highlights of the conference was the opportunity for Liaison Officers and Community Members to be recognised for their commitment to their local community. The State Award winners for 2017 were Sergeant Nigel Dalton (Max Heeps Memorial Award) of

Mackay District and Mr Alwin Koo of Far North District. Congratulations!

The overarching theme of this year's conference was "Diversity is our strength" which was explored and discussed by a number of speakers including Queensland Police Service members. The speakers also covered a wide range of other topics such

as the implications of Social Media, the dangers of Illicit Drug Labs and Financial and Cyber Safety issues which affect the community at large every day.

Delegates also had the opportunity to meet and have their photo taken with North Brisbane District Dogs On Patrol mascot PD Sarge,







NHWQ mascot Seymour the Owl and the newly introduced NHWQ Goodwill Ambassador Ranger Stacey Entertained the crowd with her views on the NHW philosophy and how it equates to elements of the animal world and even included an amusing anecdote of being bitten

by a snake in front of horrified schoolchildren!

The conference was a great success with over 200 delegates in attendance and many people stating that they enjoyed the opportunity to meet with other delegates to build on and establish new networks, share success

stories and learn about what other NHW groups are achieving around Queensland.

Everyone is already talking about next year's celebration of the 30-year anniversary of NHW which is set to take place on the Gold Coast with a date and venue to be confirmed.



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**Joanne** Registered Nurse

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## Logan

#### **Browns Plains Police Supporting Forestdale Neighbourhood Watch**

On Monday September 4, officers from Browns Plains Police Station attended the monthly Forestdale Neighbourhood Watch meeting. Community members attend the monthly meetings in Abbey Street, Forestdale as well as representatives from State and local government, Minister Leanne Enoch (State Member for Algester) and Councillor Laurie Smith (Logan City Council). Forestdale NHW Police Liaison Officers, Senior Constables Ella Briscoe and Leanne Cole (Browns Plains Police Station), also regularly attend the meetings to provide a monthly policing wrap-up of the area. The meeting is an excellent forum for community members to meet socially as well as to discuss local matters affecting their neighbourhood. The meetings also discuss and plan many community events held throughout the year within Forestdale, including



Halloween in the Park, Christmas
Carols, Easter Parade, Santa Float
and other community events.
Monday's meeting was also the
Forestdale NHW AGM. Local resident
Jocelyn Marentis was nominated
for, and accepted the important
role of Area Coordinator. The
Forestdale NHW has been operating

for approximately 27 years with the continued support of police from Browns Plains Police Station. Local residents are encouraged to attend the monthly Forestdale NHW meetings to provide input into their community Browns Plains Police congratulate Jocelyn on her new role as Forestdale NHW Area Coordinator.

## **Townsville**

#### Kirwan police support Mental Health Week

Police from Kirwan Station attended the Mental Health Week Family Fun Day on Friday, October 13 at Heatley Park.

Police took the beer goggles and set up an obstacle course. Both adults and children were fascinated with the effect that the beer goggles had on their coordination and ability to traverse the obstacle course.

Whilst the activity was a fun way to engage with community members, there was also a serious side to educating people about the effects of alcohol and drugs.

The activity was very well received by all and police took the opportunity to educate people about alcohol, drugs and the law.





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Jacqui Whiteford is a Professional Leadership and Culture Change Coach and Mentor, a speaker, a wife and a mother of two young girls.

Jacqui has spent her life being intrigued by human behaviour, and being able to understand our behaviours and the What, Why and How we do things is one of her biggest passions. To assist individuals, businesses, companies and teams to work more efficiently, be more productive and get greater results both in their personal and professional lives is where Jacqui performs at her best.

**FOLLOW JACQUI** 













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## Mackay

## Clermont police hitting the road

Recently police right across
the Mackay police district were
forwarded **LOCK YOUR** corflute
signs to promote home and car
security. The aim was to display these
signs at multiple different locations
around police divisions. Clermont
is the Mackay police district's
furthest western police division - a
small town and the efforts of the
local officers did not go unnoticed.
Many residents responding to the



messaging positively. Everyone knows that police work hard to investigate reported offences and look to prosecute offenders - many officers also put in the extra effort



to ensure their local residents are kept well aware of the crime issues and educated about how they can protect themselves. We are always looking for new ways to do so.

## **Cairns and Far North**

Prawns, paws, bikes and rubbish - NHW Week in the Far North













Far Northern NHW groups were hard at work over NHW Week spreading the word about NHW and doing the greater good for their community.

A huge thank you is extended to our hard working volunteers who gave up their time to cook, clean walk and talk. Lots or great giveaways were given to members of the community who stopped by to chat to our wonderful NEW volunteers.

Here are a couple of highlights of what some of our NHW groups got up to:

Palm Cove NHW set up their annual tent at the Palm Cove Reef Feast Festival. The NHW group manned the prawns stall and sold in excess of 75kgs of prawns, we love our prawns in the Far North! The NHW volunteers worked shifts to ensure that the community was well fed along with spreading the good news about Palm Cove NHW to residents.

Brinsmead NHW took part in the Brinsmead YAPS Dog Walk fundraiser and a NHW display outside the local Bella Vista Friendly Grocer. A big thanks to Marie and Jo for giving up their time to encourage residents to sign up to Brinsmead NHW.

**Weipa E-Watch** is normally an online group however police and volunteers from the group kindly donated their



time to run a bike engraving day in conjunction with a free sausage sizzle put on by the Weipa Community Care team. Around 20 residents had their bikes engraved.

# Neighbourhood Watch Bli Bli Fun Run/Walk and Skate Park Comp













Both of these events were organised by people who had never been involved in events management but there help from local Sunshine Coast Council Staff and QPS. We just had to be organized and resourceful. We worked together as a team even though we only knew each other for just a few months. It was a great learning curve for us all, and we love being part of a 'get in get it done' successful NHW team.

The Skate Park Comp is funded by Bli Bli Neighbourhood Watch Nambour 6 and supported by the business community now an annual event, it is a free event for the youth in our community, to keep them off the streets and giving them an awareness of the work that NHW does within our community, It is held on the last Sunday in May annually.

The inaugural Bli Bli Unite Fun Run/Walk held this year on Sun

24th Sept creating awareness of White Ribbon and providing support for victims of Family and domestic violence was such a successful event with 330 entrants and raised \$10,100 will now be an annual event held in September. Brought to our Community by Bli Bli Neighbourhood Watch Nambour 6 and supported by the Bli Bli Business Community.



# **NHW TAS**

**TASMANIA** 

# Bridgewater PCYC hosts White Ribbon Community BBQ

Police Commissioner Darren Hine joined Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman recently in hosting a White Ribbon community bbq event at the Bridgewater PCYC, to help spread the message that family violence is not okay.



Students from Jordan River Learning Federation, PCYC staff and Tasmania Police recruits have an impromptu basketball game.



Inspector George Cretu, "Mack" and Commissioner Darren Hine.

The event was an opportunity for community leaders, government and students to get talking about how they can stand up, speak out and act against family violence - over a tasty snag or two, kindly provided by the Lions Club of Brighton Inc.

Tasmania Police recruits got the ball rolling in an impromptu basketball session with Jordan River Learning Federation students and PCYC staff.

White Ribbon events are being held

# "White Ribbon events are being held around Australia to raise awareness and funds towards the White Ribbon campaign."

around Australia to raise awareness and funds towards the White Ribbon campaign. For more information go to www.whiteribbon.org.au/night

If you or someone you know is impacted by family violence, call

the Safe At Home Family Violence Response and Referral Line on 1800 633 937 or visit 1800 respect. org.au. In an emergency, always call 000.

#whiteribbon #noexcuseforabuse

# **Continuing Support for the Community**

The Country Women's Association (CWA) in Lindisfarne recently donated a defibrillator to the Dunalley Police Station. Constables Mick Boucher and Tim Keenan went to lunch with the ladies to receive the donation.



Constable Keenan told the ladies, "It would be a perfect world where we did not need to use these items. However having them at hand when required, can certainly save lives."

Police in rural areas are often the first to arrive at incidents of medical distress, whether it be a vehicle

crash or other emergency. In these situations the ability to give CPR in a timely manner can make a considerable difference.

The new equipment will be stored permanently in one of their vehicles.

Constable Boucher stated that it was great to see the CWA continuing

to support the rural community through their donation to Tasmania Police. Mick and Tim were also appreciative of the sandwiches and cake supplied for lunch. (They also found out that the best baked goodies are available for purchase from the CWA Lindisfarne Branch of a Saturday morning.)

# Department of Primary Industry, Water and the Environment (DPIPWE) Collaboration with Tasmania Police, Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch

Information received from the Tasmanian public plays a key role in the prevention, detection and apprehension of offenders for many crimes in Tasmania, including wildlife and related offences. Each year there are approximately 200 reports investigated by DPIPWE relating to these crime types.

Enforcement work undertaken by the DPIPWE, Wildlife Operations Section, headed by Luke Bond, includes a focus on wildlife offences where there is often a convergence of crime – with the detection of offences relating to drugs, firearms, theft, trespass, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and damage to property.

As a result, DPIPWE and Tasmania Police (TasPol) have worked collaboratively on a number of occasions to investigate reports of this nature which recently have resulted in the successful arrest and prosecution of a number of high profile offenders attracting heavy penalties.

Fostering rural community support is critical to enhancing Tasmania's brand, ensuring rural community resources are protected whilst supporting the rule of law across the state. Wildlife crime and poaching are theft and due to the associated criminal activities pose both a safety and bio-security risk to the community and the economy.

The building of a strong strategic and operational relationship between DPIPWE, TasPol, Crime Stoppers Tasmania (CST) and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) provides an opportunity for enhanced collaboration between the rural community and government



examineronline Head wildlife ranger Luke Bond and Sergeant Lee Taylor with guns handed in at mobile gun amnesty held at Churchill Park.... agencies to manage, contain and control the threat posed by wildlife and associated crimes.

To increase the profile of wildlifeoffences and related crimes in Tasmania, particularly within rural communities, DPIPWE routinely collaborate with Police, and Crime Stoppers have offered the use of their anonymous reporting capabilities.

Community support is the key to successful law enforcement programs and DPIPWE will be looking to raise awareness by working closely with Neighbourhood Watch to facilitate enhanced community engagement

The Tasmanian 'Game' season annually attracts approximately 9000 hunters who are provided with game "The building of a strong strategic and operational relationship between DPIPWE, TasPol, Crime Stoppers Tasmania (CST) and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) provides an opportunity for enhanced collaboration between the rural community and government agencies to manage, contain and control the threat posed by wildlife and associated crimes."

licences. Compliance and enforcement operations around these seasons is seen as a priority by DPIPWE who are supported by TasPol.

It is recognised that this engagement may provide a further opportunity for rural communities to report wildlife and associated offences/ crime anonymously. This will be further advanced by targeted campaigns supported by CST, NHW and TasPol in rural areas and provide much needed information and education on rural crime reporting and prevention initiatives.





# **NHW VIC**

**VICTORIA** 

# **Crime Stats: New** improvements to reporting



One of the major contributors to preventing crime in Victoria is the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) that was established in 2014 (operational January 1, 2015).

The CSA's role is to improve the quality of and accessibility to crime data, research current and emerging crime and criminal justice trends and strengthen the integrity and public confidence of Victoria's crime statistics, whilst informing policy makers, researchers, media and the community. Offences/ Charges

Any offence At present the CSA recorded or charge produces crime laid by police statistics

Criminal Incident

A criminal event recorded at the same time and the same location

Any crime reported

**Victim Reports** 

quarterly

based

on an

to Victoria Police by a victim

extract of data from the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP). Each quarter the CSA provides information about crimes occurring across the state including counts and rates of recorded offences. alleged offender incidents, victim reports and family

incidents.

While the current headline measure is useful in showing the

Alleged offender incidents

A count of offenders for each incident they are involved in

number of detected and reported offences, it is not necessarily an accurate representation of how people experience crime in the community. This is because a single criminal incident can involve one or many offence types.

As an example, let's say Victoria Police conduct an operation on a property known to be a house used for the cultivation of cannabis. When police officers enter the property they find five cannabis plants being housed in a room at the back of the property. Whilst searching the rest of the property they find three unregistered weapons. When the alleged offender is apprehended a scuffle occurs resulting in an officer sustaining injuries.

Currently this scenario would result in multiple counts of different offences being recorded from the one criminal event

Therefore, the CSA have developed a new, complementary measure of crime: a count of incidents.

Under the new incident measure, any criminal event recorded on the LEAP system at the same time where the offences all occurred in the same place, will result in an incident count

of 1, with the most serious offence representing the offence. In the incident described above, this would be the cultivate drugs offence.

Incident-based statistics will provide a more realistic view of how the community experiences crime; it will produce more accurate information about crime trends; it will increase comparability across states and provide access to more information.

Importantly, the CSA will still report on offences and all the other existing crime statistics as they have always done so the new incident measure will not cause any loss of services to the Victorian public.

Further enhancements will be achieved by introducing this new measure. For example, the CSA regularly receives requests for information about the types and

numbers of charges laid by police. The CSA has incorporated this information as part of the new criminal incident count, providing the community with a better understanding of recorded crime and the carriage of an offence through the criminal justice system.

Another area of improved data is in regards to the geographic location that the crime occurred. The CSA has used a combination of location variables received from VicPol to improve the quality of location data.

Further, the CSA has developed a set of rules that will ensure that any incident that occurs within justice or immigration facilities are not included in a geographic based count such as LGA, postcode or suburb. Recording offences in these facilities can skew the view of actual

crime occurring in the community within these areas.

Another enhancement CSA are making to Victoria's crime statistics is redesigning the way statistics are published, so they will now make it easier to see which property offences are residential and non-residential, and which crimes against the person are family violence-related.

When CSA introduces the new incident count, data will be available on this basis going back to 2004-5, allowing the community to understand trends over time.

There is a wealth of information available at: https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au including the ability to generate your own localised reports.

Watch out for the new Incident stats in December 2017.

# Facebook is our letterbox drop of the future

Neighbourhood Watch has been built on the millions of steps our volunteers have taken over the decades to deliver information to our local communities – primarily through letterbox drops.

This has been an invaluable service and in the early days was the only way we could effectively reach out to each other. It is still vitally important and we hope that newsletters will remain a core

Social Media has replicated how we already communicate face to face and provided a new opportunity to reach more people, more often.

If you haven't yet embraced Facebook as a tool to converse

with your community do consider the opportunity it delivers.

It is close to real time and means that people can act more effectively in protecting their homes and valuables. It is conversational and delivers two way (even hundredway) communication so that people can ask questions, express opinions, become informed. And it is free.

A recent count of 'followers' of the many Facebook Pages that our NHW Vic Groups have established is 70,000. Many groups have over 1,000 followers and one has even surpassed 10,000.

That is an incredible reach direct to the householders in those areas.

If you haven't yet delved into Facebook or are not sure how to do it, please visit this simple tutorial:

http://www.wikihow.com/Use-Facebook

Dive in - You never know who you will meet.

# **Exciting new safety initiative** is Australian first

Safety Alliance Victoria is a dynamic group of community, government and business stakeholders working together to improve the safety of all Victorians in particular in the area of residential burglary.

Residential burglary is a high volume crime that affects the whole community and Safety Alliance Victoria recognises that in order to succeed in prevention and harm reduction a closer collaboration with community, government and business stakeholders is required.

- There were more than 36,000 cases of residential burglary reported to police between April 2016 and March 2017.
- This equates to about one residential burglary every 15 minutes occurring across the state
- Almost \$120 million worth of property and items were stolen.
- The most common types of entry in residential burglaries were:
- Forced/broken door or window (50%)
- Unlocked/open door or window (21%)
- Therefore, an offender gained entry to a home to commit a residential burglary through an unlocked/open door or window to about 20 times per day.

The Alliance formally consists of Victoria Police, RACV, Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Stoppers Victoria and Federation University and over the next few years the Alliance members will work together to deliver a range of innovative crime prevention and detection campaigns.

The first pilot is Protect | Prevent which utilises innovative technology in traceable liquid property marketing.



For this first pilot, local police and Neighbourhood Watch volunteers will deliver synthetic DNA kits to 1000 homes in Geelong and Whittlesea in August. Each kit contains a clear liquid that can be applied to up to 50 valuable items including tablets, jewellery and appliances, and is registered on a secure database to the people occupying the home.

If a marked item is stolen and recovered then police can use a UV lamp to identity the presence of the liquid, which is then tested to determine the unique DNA code and therefore its registered owner.

The technology will be supported by visual saturation of the Protect | Prevent campaign at a local level through street and house signage.

Similar technology has been successfully rolled out by police in United Kingdom and New Zealand. The UK pilot achieved a 91% reduction in residential burglaries in its pilot area, while New Zealand achieved a 61% reduction.

A key finding from these pilots was that largely the technology was a deterrent to thieves, which is what we hope to see in Victoria.

This is the first time Victorian community, government and business stakeholders have formed an alliance for the purpose of providing a targeted and collaborative approach to crime prevention and intervention, and an Australian first for our first pilot program.

NHW Vic. is proud to be a valued member and thanks our volunteers on the ground who are participating.



# **NHW WA**

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA** 

# Case Study Building Safer Communities

Carlisle Residents encourage participation in NHW by encouraging neighbours to connect and share information in their community.



In November 2016, local Town of Victoria Park residents, Andrew and Kate both received flyers in the mail, distributed by a frustrated resident in response to community safety and crime concerns. In response, both got in contact with the Safer Neighbourhoods team at the Town of Victoria Park to discuss what was happening in the area. Following advice from town officer Mathew, within several days Andrew had set up a Carlisle West NHW Facebook group and distributed flyers to the neighbourhood with details of how to join, as well as information on

security rebate incentives offered by the Town.

As Kate works in the Community Safety sector, she got in touch with Andrew to share ideas on how the network could operate effectively and to offer assistance - they soon agreed to co-administrate the group and began working on strategies to address the community's safety concerns.

The response to the group was immediate – within 3 months, there were over 300 residents on the page and the group had expanded from

"Residents were keen not only to share warnings and tips relating to crime but also to connect with their community."

iust a few streets, to cover more than 900 residences. Residents were keen not only to share warnings and tips relating to crime but also to connect with their community. Many people of the group had been living in the area for some time and knew either none, or few, of their neighbours, but wanted to build a closer community. What seemed at the time a minor gesture, Andrew contacted Neighbourhood Watch WA and was sent 100 wheelie bin stickers. The stickers were offered to residents as a small incentive to get involved and be a part of the group. Another major factor in building the sense of community was engaging local business. The local butcher in the neighbourhood jumped on board from the start, allowing residents to utilise their cctv footage following crime incidents and later acting as a pickup point for neighbourhood watch stickers and magnets.

In December, planning began for a neighbourhood BBQ to be held in



"The event was held in February and was hugely successful with nearly 100 locals attending to enjoy a free BBQ lunch, meeting their neighbours and picking up NHW and other safety resources."

a local park with funding from the Town of Victoria Park 'Street Meet n Greet' program. The event was held in February and was hugely successful with nearly 100 locals attending to enjoy a free BBQ lunch, meeting their neighbours and picking up NHW and other safety resources. Police from Kensington Station, as well as representatives from the Town of Victoria Park also attended to meet the locals and answer any questions. Carlisle residents outside of the group boundaries were keen for their own groups, and the two soon found volunteers to set up Carlisle South and Carlisle North pages. The group administrators keep in close contact to share information and advice and Carlisle South is now planning it's own BBQ.

Although it is still early days, it feels as though the group has already made an impact on the amenity of the local area. Residents and local businesses have been enthusiastic about getting involved and helping each other with advice and support. There are now more eyes of the street, looking out for each other, or able to recognise

when something is out of place and new friendships have been formed between neighbours. Residents are encouraged to share reports of incidents or suspicious activity (that meets the posting guidelines) and that have been reported to police, strategies for preventing crime, information on lost/ found property and articles relating to crime prevention or community building.

Ideas to come out of the group have included community dog walking – for dog lovers to connect with busy pet owners who are struggling to find time for walks, as well as a 'Gardening and Growers' post – where neighbours can share any extra produce, plants or gardening materials.

Future events are being planned and in the meanwhile, neighbours are being encouraged to meet face to face over a cup of coffee to get to know each other better.





National Missing Persons Coordination Centre members with emcee Michael Usher.

The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (NMPCC) is a non-operational arm of the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The NMPCC was established in 2006 to drive national coordination in response to missing persons in Australia, and to complement the investigative role of State and Territory police. Its mandate is to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons in Australia and as a function of the AFP, the NMPCC is funded by the Federal Government.

The NMPCC is the host of the national register of long-term missing persons. As part of its mandate, the NMPCC also works to educate the Australian community and raise awareness of the issues and impacts of missing persons in Australia. This is done through programs such as National Missing Persons Week and International Missing Children's Day, national bi-annual posters

profiling long-term missing persons, proactive media engagement, and education initiatives such as Day for Daniel (Morcombe).

You can view the national register of long-term missing persons and find out more at missingpersons.gov.au.

You can contact the NMPCC via;

- Phone: 1800 000 634
- Email: missing@afp.gov.au

#### What is a missing person?

In Australia a missing persons is defined as anyone who is reported missing to the police, whose whereabouts is unknown and there are fears for the safety or welfare of that person.

#### Common questions about missing persons in Australia

#### Do you have to wait 24 hours before reporting someone as missing?

- Don't believe what you see at the movies or on television as you don't have to wait 24 hours before reporting someone as missing. If you have concerns of someone's safety or welfare and their whereabouts are unknown contact your local police immediately.
- The first 24 hours following a person's disappearance are the most crucial. This is because the sooner police are able to follow-up leads, such as the availability of CCTV footage, the more likely the person will be found safe and well.

#### "Don't believe what you see at the movies or on television as you don't have to wait 24 hours before reporting someone as missing."

#### Can anyone be reported as missing?

- Regardless of age, gender, religion or race, anybody can be reported missing to police.
- · How many people are reported missing in Australia?
- 38,000 missing persons reports are submitted to Australian Police each year. That is one person every 14 minutes and more than 100 a day. Two thirds of these relate to those aged less than 18 years.

#### When children go missing, is it likely to have been an abduction?

 Most children that are reported missing are located safe and well within 24 hours, with the most common reasons for children to go missing, include miscommunication and disciplinary issues.
 Comparatively around the world, child abductions in Australia are very low.

#### Are details about a missing person kept confidential?

 All details about missing persons are kept confidential and are not made available to the public unless "38,000 missing persons reports are submitted to Australian Police each year. That is one person every 14 minutes and more than 100 a day. Two thirds of these relate to those aged less than 18 years."

permission has been granted by the family and investigating officers

# If someone has been reported missing and they are then located, can you report them if they go missing again?

• Each time a person goes missing, even if they have gone missing before, it is treated as an individual report.

# When a missing person is located will their address will be provided to the person who reported them missing?

 When located, a missing person must give permission before their whereabouts are released. A decision to release a missing child's details will be determined by the circumstances surrounding the reasons the child went missing.

#### "Most children that are reported missing are located safe and well within 24 hours."

## If Australians are missing overseas, is there anything that can be done?

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade work with Australian Police, INTERPOL and agencies overseas in investigating such cases where Australians are missing overseas. To report an Australian missing overseas contact your local police.
- Tracing agencies such as the Australian Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the International Social Service Australia also work to reunite people who have lost contact with family or friends overseas.

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