



# NHWA

Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia  
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



Date Claimer - 21 and 22 May 2021  
Neighbourhood Watch  
International Conference  
see pages 2, 6-9 for more details



**15**  
Crime Prevention  
Week in ACT



**19**  
Rural Crime has  
No Borders



**40**  
Innovating Community  
Engagement



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13



# CONTENTS

## EVERY ISSUE

- 2 From the CEO
- 4 Patron, Board Directors & Staff

## FEATURES

- 6 NHW International Conference
- 10 Latest information from the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation
- 11 Helping People to Stay Safe by Finding Reliable Health Information Online
- 12 Safe Online and at Home

## REPORTS

- 13 Australian Capital Territory
- 16 New Zealand
- 18 New South Wales
- 20 Queensland
- 30 South Australia
- 32 Tasmania
- 35 Victoria
- 37 Western Australia
- 40 Australian Federal Police

Cover photo: Deputy Commissioner Rick Nugent presenting Leading Senior Constable Joseph Clarke with the NHWA Police Commissioner's Award for 2019 with NHW Mildura Coordinator Helen Worcester and NHWA CEO Maria Bennett



20



32



38

### Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

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# FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

## Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

If the last twelve months has shown us anything, it's how we can all work together to create safer communities. Everyone has worked together to bring down the C-19 numbers. A big pat on the back Australia and New Zealand!



## NHWA is DGR Approved!



**DGR Approved** 

NHWA is pleased to announce it has been listed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisation on the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. This is fabulous news for our organisation and is recognition of our ongoing commitment to public safety and crime prevention.

We were thrilled to receive the official notification letter from Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters, and appreciate the support of the Australian Government and Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Home Affairs.

Thank you to Stephen Barnes from Byronvale Advisors for assisting all the way through this process, from concept to successful outcome. This has been part of the NHWA Strategic Plan for the last three years and has now come to fruition. A great way to start 2021!

**Donations to NHWA are now tax deductible, with donors able to claim tax deductions for gifts of \$2 or more in their tax returns.**

## NHW International Conference

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
21 - 22 MAY 2021  
Sea World Resort, Gold Coast  
[www.nhw2021.com.au](http://www.nhw2021.com.au)



The NHW International Conference is an event not to be missed, with great speakers at a fabulous venue. With options to attend either in person or by video conference. More details on pages 6-9. **Would you like to attend, however, the funding is tight? Then reach out and talk to Melissa at [info@nhwa.com.au](mailto:info@nhwa.com.au)**

## \$1 Million for NHWQ



**Hon Mark Ryan Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Jordan Vollmer NHWQ Community Advisory Committee member, Neil MacMillan A/Snr Sgt, Maria Bennett CEO NHWA**

It was a great pleasure to be invited to attend the auspicious occasion and presentation of the **1 Million Dollar cheque** from the Queensland Government to Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ). NHWQ representative Jordan Vollmer said "Neighbourhood Watch Queensland is very pleased to receive the giant one million dollar cheque. This will provide ongoing funding for more than 400 groups and over 11,000 members and volunteers. It shows the ongoing commitment to crime prevention, with police and communities working together". Congratulations NHWQ!

## Thumbs up for Community Engagement



PCYC Branch Manager Sgt Frank Lawler, Selina Otto NHTA Project Manager, Maria Bennett CEO NHTA, Dr Tarah Hodgkinson Griffith Uni, Snr Sgt David Rutherford

In consultation with the Palm Island community a pilot program is being developed that is working in conjunction with Police, Justice Group, Diversionary Group, Youth Justice, Corrective Services, Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC), and most importantly the local community and Indigenous families.

The Community Engagement program works with the families and children of incarcerated Indigenous people. The objective is to engage with communities and discuss how to break the cycle of children following in their parent's footsteps and into the justice system.

We believe that it is important for the Palm Island community to have their say and be a part of this important conversation and program development, especially in the current times with the focus on youth.

Griffith University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice has been engaged to assist with the facilitation and development around the program.

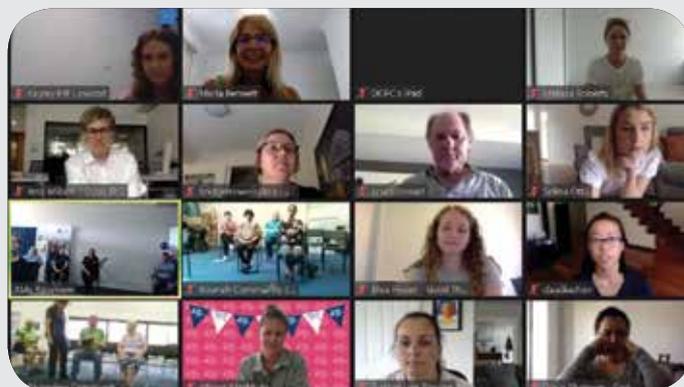
## Video training series



Professor Lorraine Mazerolle during the video training filming

Get ready for the launch of the NHTA video training series. We are in the process of finalising short training videos for NHTA groups. The topics for the training have been identified through a survey of over 800 NHTA members. Topics will include: grant writing, leadership, reporting and more.

## Guinness World Records attempt for online Hokey Pokey



As part of Get Online Week 2020, hundreds of people of all ages, across Australia and New Zealand, gathered to attempt the world's largest online Hokey Pokey.

The world record attempt was organised by Sergeant Nadine Webster and the team from Neighbourhood Watch Ipswich District in conjunction with NHTA, Queensland Police, Able Australia and the Ipswich Hospital Foundation. A fabulous initiative, at a time when a bit of fun and frivolity was definitely appreciated ... and everyone got to put their best foot forward 😊

Stay safe! Looking forward to seeing you at the conference.

**Together we achieve great things**  
**Neighbourhood Watch - the Power of Many**

*Maria Bennett*

**Maria Bennett**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NHTA Australasia  
maria.bennett@nhta.com.au

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



# PATRON, BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



## **Joint-Patron Commissioner Michael Fuller APM**

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



## **Bernie Durkin - Chairman, Western Australia**

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



## **Margaret Pearson - Company Secretary**

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



## **Clare McGrath - Australian Capital Territory**

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

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



## **Assistant Commissioner Lesa Gale - AFP**

Assistant Commissioner Gale's passion for combatting all forms of human exploitation and maintaining community safety has been admirably demonstrated throughout her entire 33 year career and in 2019 was appointed head of AFP Northern Command and the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. During her career in the AFP, Assistant Commissioner Gale has combined significant leadership expertise across serious and organised crime and national security portfolios, leading the delivery of business outcomes across AFP Commands in Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane. Assistant Commissioner Gale holds a Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management and was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2019.



### **Cr Pat Daley OAM – Independent Director**

Pat is a former NSW Police Crime Prevention Officer. He co-founded Neighbourhood Watch in NSW in the 1980's. In 1986 Pat left the Police to establish his own security and public relations consultancy. He is the author of bestselling Neighbourhood and Small Business Crime Prevention Handbook published by Angus and Robertson. For 15 years Pat served as Media Director for The Salvation Army. Since 2004 Pat has served in local government on Sydney's Northern Beaches as an elected Councillor.



### **Eric Tibbott – New Zealand**

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

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



### **Les Bulluss – Queensland**

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



### **Peter Edwards BM APM – Tasmania**

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



### **Maria Bennett – Chief Executive Officer**

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



### **Selina Otto – Executive Assistant**

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



**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**  
21 - 22 MAY 2021  
Sea World Resort, Gold Coast  
[www.nhw2021.com.au](http://www.nhw2021.com.au)



**Neighbourhood Watch Australasia is delighted to announce the inaugural  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
to be held at Sea World Resort and Conference Centre, Gold Coast, Qld  
Friday 21 and Saturday 22 May 2021**

The conference provides a wonderful opportunity for members of the Neighbourhood Watch community across Australasia to network and meet leaders in law enforcement, community engagement and research.

To be held at Sea World Resort on Queensland's Gold Coast, the venue offers excellent conference facilities - and the amenities and leisure opportunities of a superior resort - all located against the stunning Broadwater.

**In-person and virtual registration options are available, making it possible for everyone to attend and make the most of what the conference has to offer, including delegates who are unable to travel to the Gold Coast!**

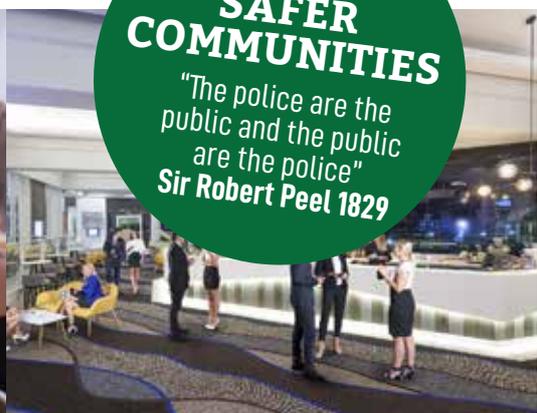
Prominent speakers will address key subjects on **Creating Safer Communities**, including:

- Neighbouring in Times of Crisis: What Works for Neighbourhood Watch?
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Strategies to prevent crime and victimisation
- Policing with influence
- Human exploitation
- ThinkUKnow online child safety program
- Safety programs for seniors

**The latest program updates and conference information is available at: [www.nhw2021.com.au](http://www.nhw2021.com.au)**

**Register to attend the conference by 30 April 2021  
to secure a 15% early booking discount!**

Participation in the conference will be exceptionally beneficial to Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Support New Zealand groups - their members and volunteers, police, specialist organisations, local government, and members of the general public.



**CREATING  
SAFER  
COMMUNITIES**

*"The police are the  
public and the public  
are the police"*

**Sir Robert Peel 1829**



## SPEAKERS

The following speakers have confirmed their participation in the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference (correct at time of printing, subject to change). These leading speakers from government, police, academia and community will address the important topics in crime prevention and community safety, and opportunities, strategies and challenges for the future. The latest speaker and program details are available at the official website: [www.nhw2021.com.au](http://www.nhw2021.com.au)



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**LORRAINE MAZEROLLE**  
Professor of Criminology,  
School of Social Science,  
The University of Queensland



**Commissioner**  
**KATARINA CARROLL**  
Queensland Police  
Service



**DR MELISSA SMITH**  
Manager of Prevention  
Development, Community  
Partnerships and Prevention,  
New Zealand Police



**JOHN GOLDSWORTHY**  
Director & Board Member,  
International CPTED  
Association

**Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM**, Chief Police Officer, Australian Capital Territory  
**Dr Renee Zahnow**, Lecturer in Criminology, School of Social Science, The University of Queensland  
**Bob Atkinson, AO, APM**, Special Advisor for Youth Justice Report  
**Leading Senior Constable Joe Clarke**, Victoria Police  
**Inspector Corey Allen APM**, Queensland Police Service  
**Deputy Commissioner Brett Pointing/Commander Hilda Sirec** , ACCCE, Child Protection Operations and Human Trafficking, Australian Federal Police  
**Sergeant Nadine Webster**, Ipswich District Crime Prevention Coordinator, Queensland Police Service  
**Sergeant Phil Gurr**, Public Engagement Unit Supervisor, South Australia Police  
**David Harding**, Director, Anshin Consulting  
**Alissa Bermingham**, Client Relations and Training Coordinator, Strategic Grants  
**Matt Peskin**, Executive Director, National Association of Town Watch/National Night Out, USA  
**Maria Bennett**, Chief Executive Officer, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia  
Plus others...

### WITH A SPECIAL ADDRESS BY



**HON PETER DUTTON MP**  
Minister for Home Affairs,  
Australia



**MAYOR TOM TATE**  
City of Gold Coast

### MASTER OF CEREMONIES NHWA CHAIR



**SUPERINTENDENT**  
**MARK PLATH**  
Director, Queensland  
Corrective Services



**BERNIE DURKIN**  
Executive Manager,  
Western Australia  
Police



**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**  
21-22 MAY 2021  
Sea World Resort, Gold Coast  
[www.nhw2021.com.au](http://www.nhw2021.com.au)



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Don't miss out on the opportunity to attend this worthwhile event!

**Register by 30 April 2021 to save 15% on registration!\***

Be sure to **quote discount code EARLY** when prompted to save on any of the below registration types.

Register online here: [www.nhw2021.com.au/register](http://www.nhw2021.com.au/register)

Registration type	Cost (incl. GST)
In-person Full Conference - with Welcome Reception and Dinner	\$550
In-person Single Day - Friday	\$195
In-person Single Day - Saturday	\$295
Virtual - Full conference	\$175

\*Please note the 15% early booking discount is only applicable to the above registration options. The discount is not applicable to additional Welcome Reception and Dinner tickets purchased.

**Please refer to the official website [www.nhw2021.com.au](http://www.nhw2021.com.au) for full details on inclusions with each registration type.**

## WELCOME RECEPTION & DINNER

On the evening of Friday 21 May 2021, a Welcome Reception and Dinner will be held at Sea World Resort.

Delegates purchasing an 'In-person Full Conference' registration will receive one ticket to this special event.

Additional tickets are available for purchase via the conference website, should single day delegates, or colleagues and partners wish to attend.





## SEA WORLD RESORT, GOLD COAST QLD

### Discount accommodation and park entry for delegates

Sea World Resort is an excellent accommodation choice during the conference and you may wish to extend your stay. Discounted room rates are available to conference delegates across a variety of room types at Sea World resort. These range from \$211 to \$264 per night. A special discounted breakfast rate of \$18 (per person/day) is also available if you book breakfast when you book accommodation. Visit the conference website for full details on room types, rates and how to book [www.nhw2021.com.au](http://www.nhw2021.com.au)

Delegates staying at Sea World Resort can also take advantage of a fabulous discount offer for entry to the Sea World Amusement Park, located right next door to the resort. For just \$35 per person (3 years of age and over) you can have unlimited entry to Sea World for the duration of your stay at Sea World Resort. Full details on this special offer are available on the Destination page of the official conference website.

## SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

The Neighbourhood Watch International Conference is an excellent promotional opportunity for any company or organisation needing to reach communities and organisations involved in community safety and crime prevention.

A range of sponsorship and display opportunities are available, for additional information please contact [KateR@ccm.com.au](mailto:KateR@ccm.com.au) or call 07 3368 2644.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### For general enquiries regarding registration, sponsorship and exhibition:

Carillon Conference Management Pty Limited  
Tel: 07 3368 2655  
(International: +61 7 3368 2655)  
Email: [admin@ccm.com.au](mailto:admin@ccm.com.au)

### For other enquiries please contact:

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia  
Tel: 0428 377 901  
(International: +61 428 377 901)  
Email: [info@nhwa.com.au](mailto:info@nhwa.com.au)



Register by  
30 April 2021 to  
**save 15%**

Visit the website at:  
[www.nhw2021.com.au](http://www.nhw2021.com.au)



Commander ACCCE, Child Protection Operations and Human Trafficking, Hilda Sirec meets with students and academic supervisors from UQ

# University of Queensland students showcase child protection research

In December 2020, the ACCCE and the University of Queensland (UQ) showcased child exploitation prevention research by Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Honours program students, Bec Dunne and Rebecca Gavin.

The students undertook their honours thesis research on 'Risk factors and cognitive distortions in online child sexual exploitation offenders'; and 'Australian community perceptions of child sex offender interventions'.

Commander ACCCE, Child Protection Operations and Human Trafficking Hilda Sirec APM commended the students, highlighting the importance of partnerships in combatting child sexual exploitation.

"I am thrilled to celebrate the achievements of these two dedicated students and the continued

partnership between the ACCCE and UQ," Commander Sirec said.

"Research relating to child sexual exploitation prevention is vital to inform our disruption strategies and initiatives."

"Given the success of this academic pilot program, I am proud to announce that we will welcome two new UQ students to work with the ACCCE again next year."

"We are looking forward to meeting the 2021 students and are excited to continue our collaboration."

Please email **ACCCE-Prevention-Engagement@afp.gov.au** if you would like read this research.



If you see child abuse material online, report it, don't share it

# Helping People to Stay Safe by Finding Reliable Health Information Online

Now more than ever, people are relying on the internet to support their health and wellbeing. But how do you know if the information you find online is reliable?

With the impact of the pandemic, many people are using the internet more often. This includes using the internet to attend telehealth appointments, find the latest government advice on COVID-19 or to support them to keep fit and healthy. Through video conferencing and social media, we have been able to keep connected with loved ones, and nowadays it's common practice to check-in at venues using QR codes.

However, not everyone is confident getting online. Jess Wilson, National Director of Good Things Foundation Australia says, "2.5 million Australians are not online, and many more would not feel confident accessing reliable health information online."

Throughout the pandemic, Good Things Foundation has been working with community



organisations and developing resources to support people who do not have the skills or knowledge to find reliable health information and services online.

"There is a lot of health and wellbeing information and resources available online, but not all of it is trustworthy. It is important to know how to check if the information is reliable," says Jess.

"These skills are important in

keeping people safe when they're using online information, services and apps to help manage their health."

Above all, it's important to know that information you find online should never replace getting medical advice from your doctor or medical practitioner. Do not use the internet to diagnose yourself or others and if you are unwell, seek professional medical advice from your GP or healthcare professional. If it is an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).

Free resources are now available to support people to learn how to find reliable and relevant health information online. Good Things Foundation has recently developed three online learning courses designed to improve learners skills and confidence in using the internet safely to manage their health and wellbeing.

## The online courses include handy tips on finding trustworthy health information online such as:

1. Look for websites run by the Australian Government or your State Government, such as HealthDirect. You will know if it is an Australian Government website because it will have .gov.au in the website's URL address.
2. Check if the website is trying to sell you something. If a website is made by a company that is selling a product, the information contained may not be reliable. They may be trying to convince you to buy their product by providing vague or false information, or advertising.
3. Look at how current the website is. The information on websites has to be checked and updated regularly to remain reliable. Most websites providing health information will have a date somewhere on the page where it was last updated, so you know it's current and accurate.
4. Check if the website is asking you to create an account or provide personal information before they give you health information. Websites offering genuine health and wellbeing information will not ask you to do this.

# Safe Online and at Home: How Older Australians can Protect Themselves in the Digital World

Just as many older Australians think about the safety of their home and community – many are concerned about their safety and privacy online. This can actually prevent some from enjoying all the benefits the web has to offer.

But how can older Australians learn the skills they need to stay safe? The Be Connected program is an Australian government initiative committed to improving the online confidence, skills and safety of older Australians. The Be Connected website, managed by eSafety, has information, learning modules and online presentations designed to provide the skills and knowledge to safely use the internet and digital technology. It's a one-stop shop with more than 150 online learning modules and 350 learning activities – and it's all free. Take a look at [beconnected.esafety.gov.au](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au)

Many older Australians prefer to learn face-to-face but have chosen not to as physical distancing has been a priority. This is where the engaging Be Connected online presentations make a big difference. Our very knowledgeable instructor, Greg, takes learners through a selection of topics from protecting yourself against scams, safer online banking and shopping, and staying safe on Facebook.

Greg said people 'tune in' to the Be Connected online presentations because it's the closest thing to the classroom, without actually being there. People can simply listen in or join the conversation.

"Taking away a tip, an idea, a concept or a new skill is something I try to provide everyone who joins my webinars," he said. "I like them to feel good about being able to achieve something new."



To view the range of webinars offered by Be Connected, visit <https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/bookings>

With so many activities on the internet, there's a broad range of online presentations with great safety tips. Take a look below at eSafety's upcoming presentations. Register at [beconnected.esafety.gov.au/bookings](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/bookings)

## Safer online shopping and banking (12 April)

For many Australians, a connected lifestyle includes the convenience of online shopping and banking. However, privacy and security concerns can stop those who aren't as confident online from enjoying the same experience.

## Selling safely online (13 April)

With more and more people seeing the benefits of online shopping, now is a great time to begin selling online. Before you get started, learn

some simple tips and tricks to help you confidently sell on the internet and, most importantly, learn how to keep yourself safe while enjoying the benefits selling online can bring.

## Protect yourself against scams (29 April)

With the world becoming more connected through the internet, online scams have increased. It therefore pays to be cautious and follow a few simple steps.

## Background information

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner promotes online safety education for young people, educators and parents. It also provides a complaints mechanism for young people who experience serious cyberbullying, and for Australians to report illegal or offensive online content.

# NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Sgt. David Reis and Constable Nugent chatting over coffee with Lyn Jenkins and Elias Hallaj from NHW ACT

## We're Ready For Our Close-Up!

If the couple in Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) t-shirts having coffee with two uniformed ACT Policing officers did not catch the attention of patrons at Café Birrigai overlooking Lake Ginninderra, the dozen or more members of the production team filming them certainly did.

This was just one of the locations around Canberra included in a film shoot that will be used for ACT Policing and AFP brand and recruitment campaigns.

“The film may be used in videos for social media, TV and the like in Canberra and across the country,” explained Jo Hawke, Team Leader Strategic Communications, ACT Policing.

“We will be shooting scenes of ACT Policing engaging with the community.”

NHW ACT's new Macgregor-Holt Branch Coordinator Elias Hallaj and member Lyn Jenkins were so engaged in chatting over coffee with Sergeant David Reis and Constable Nugent that they barely noticed the director telling them to “look like you are having a happy conversation.”



The production team filming the ACT Policing and NHW ‘actors’

# ACT Police Chief Presents Neighbourhood Watch ACT 2020 Awards

ACT Chief Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM, has finally been able to present two major Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT awards to their deserving recipients, after COVID-19 restrictions in the Territory were eased.



Lina Webber reacts happily after receiving her award from Deputy Commissioner Gaughan and NHW President Laurie Blackall



Yvonne Lipscomb flanked by Deputy Commissioner Gaughan and NHW President Laurie Blackall



Deputy Commissioner Gaughan presents Margaret Pearson with an AFP Certificate of Appreciation

The winner of the NHW ‘ACT Policing Recognition Award’ and the ‘NHW Member of the Year Award’ were presented with their trophies. Further, the former NHW President Margaret Pearson and outgoing members of the NHW ACT Board, Sanjay Patel, Robin Millar and John Warouw were recognised for their efforts.

The ACT Policing Recognition Award was presented by Deputy Commissioner Gaughan to Lina Webber and recognises outstanding service by an ACT Police officer or ACT Policing employee who has consistently contributed to NHW and the concept of community policing in the ACT.

Reading from the citation accompanying the award, NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall noted, “Lina has supported our community and NHW over the past 15 years. She joined ACT Policing in 2005 working in the Communications Branch, where her duties included answering radio-dispatch, Triple Zero and 131 444 calls.

In 2013 Lina transferred to the Crime Reduction Unit which later became Community Safety, as the Seniors Liaison Officer providing support and advice to Seniors and their carers across the ACT. She has worked closely with NHW ACT in assessing our membership applications since August 2013.

Her ‘straight forward and reasonable approach’ has made her a favourite with the local community.

Lina is always available to provide expert and timely advice and support to our Area Coordinators on local issues, in particular those that relate to supporting and educating seniors on crime prevention and to allay fears regarding their safety and security. She has also provided advice and guidance on community concerns impacting on the wider community,” Mr Blackall added.

The recipient of the NHW Member of the Year Award, Yvonne Lipscombe, was recognised as an individual

who has volunteered her time as a member of NHW ACT to empower people and communities through the development of strong and effective partnerships that promote the safety, security and wellbeing of the local community.

The citation on the award presented by Deputy Commissioner Gaughan reads “Ms Lipscombe has been a true champion of the ACT NHW community. She has been a member of ACT NHW since 2010, has served as a Board Member and, most recently, as Area Coordinator for Charnwood NHW.

Yvonne embodies the qualities of the organisation. She is committed to the wellbeing of the communities in which we live and has demonstrated this through the interest she takes in the people in these communities. In her role as Area Coordinator her cheerful, generous personality made all volunteers feel valued and appreciated,” Deputy Commissioner Gaughan said.

# Crime Prevention Week Sizzles in the ACT

With Neighbourhood Watch Week and Crime Prevention Week 2020 kicking off simultaneously across Australia in mid-November, in the ACT it was a chance for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and Crime Stoppers to build on their symbiotic relationship.

Funds raised from the sausage sizzle will go towards programs that will enable Crime Stoppers to continue to help the ACT community.

Crime Stoppers and NHW volunteers - under the watchful eye of Bunnings' COVID-19 marshal Liesje - ensured hands were sanitised, social distancing maintained, and sausages hygienically dispensed to patrons throughout the day.



Crime Stoppers' Shelley Thomson and Iain Duncan with NHW ACT Vice President-North Clare McGrath, before the onslaught of hungry Bunnings shoppers



NHW ACT Vice President-South Albert Orszaczk manning the stand



Crime Stoppers ACT Secretary Lisa Murphy and NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall on the front line at the sausage sizzle



NHW ACT Vice President-North Clare McGrath and Bunnings' staff member Liesje

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

## What's New with Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

The latest highlights from our National Office, members and supporters.



Fire and Emergency NZ - Chief Executive, Rhys Jones, with Neighbourhood Support NZ - Board Chair, Louise Grevel

### Neighbourhood Support New Zealand signs Relationship Agreement with Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Our communities were made even safer last year with the signing of a Relationship Agreement between Neighbourhood Support New Zealand and Fire and Emergency New Zealand. The agreement sets out guiding principles and shared goals on future collaborations.



Attendees had the chance to network with WEconnect participants, volunteers, community partners, and neighbours in between trips to the banquet table to sample the amazing dishes on offer

### A culinary trip around the world

On 18 November 2020, Masterton Neighbourhood Support hosted their annual WEconnect awards night and international potluck. About 60 people including the Mayor gathered to recognise some of the kind volunteers who make the program possible. The purpose of the program is to pair newly arrived immigrants and refugees with a local buddy. The highlight of the evening was the amazing spread of food representing the diverse cultures and taste buds of attendees, who were asked to bring a dish representing their home country or heritage.



TSNS Street Contact receiving neighbourhood resilience planning training

### One of the best ways we can be prepared for anything is by learning

Top of the South Neighbourhood Support are now delivering neighbourhood resilience planning training to their street contacts, jointly presented with Fire and Emergency New Zealand and New Zealand Police. More sessions are already underway.



**Neighbourhood Supporters across the country embraced the joy of giving over the holidays**

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand's December National Campaign challenged members to come together and give generously from the heart over the holiday season. For Manawatu Neighbourhood Support that meant hosting a Christmas Sing-Along for residents of rest homes, while the elves at Neighbourhood Support North Shore were busy giving out 'Blessing Bags', which included food and personal hygiene essentials to members of their community. Otago Neighbourhood Support took part by volunteering at a local foodbank drive, which turned out to be the largest one ever hosted. They have also set up a 'Kai Cupboard' near the South Dunedin Police Station, which will provide free pantry essentials to the community.





NHWA board member Cr Pat Daley, Libby Paulsen, David Loomes and NHW NSW State Secretary David Watmore at Glenrose Shopping Village

## Reviving Northern Beaches Neighbourhood Watch

In recent months, several Northern Beaches residents have expressed their concern regarding the impact of antisocial behaviour in their community. Some of their concerns included litter, kicked in fences, cut garden hoses, broken glass and loitering youths consuming alcohol and illicit substances.

Local school teacher and resident Libby Paulsen was quick to act and encouraged the revitalisation of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) to help restore order and create a sense of unity amongst residents. Libby said, “Properties that back Wingara Reserve are continuously subjected to antisocial behaviour by large groups of teenagers who like to gather and use illicit substances. The residents feel powerless to even call police, for fear of retribution.”

On 13 February, representatives from the newly formed group manned a stall

at Glenrose Shopping Village, to share useful crime prevention information and to register interested community members. State Secretary of NHW New South Wales, David Watmore and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia board member, Cr Pat Daley, were also in attendance to lend a helping hand. If this group proves to be a success, they hope to form other NHW groups across the rest of the Northern Beaches.

In 1984, Neighbourhood Watch was established in New South Wales to combat an increase in crime, specifically the use of illicit drugs.

An immediate impact was seen as home break and enters dropped by nearly 50 percent in three years, according to Cr Pat Daley. During this time, Pat was the former face of Neighbourhood Watch, whilst he was serving as an NSW police officer.

Locals around Belrose and Davidson are encouraged to watch, record and report criminal and antisocial behaviour, including vandalism, graffiti, drug taking and underage drinking. In an emergency call Triple Zero (000), or to report a non-urgent matter call Policelink on 131 444.

# Rural Crime has No Borders

The Rural Crime Prevention Team was created in 2018 to increase the ability of the NSW Police Force to prevent, disrupt and respond to rural crime. This team has 52 members stationed at 26 regional locations across NSW.

During 2020, the NSW Police Force launched Operation Stock Check. This operation is a high visibility operation targeting stock theft. The concept is that any officer, any time, any location can stop a vehicle transporting livestock and ensure correct documentation has been completed and the animals are not stolen. The Rural Crime Prevention Team are systematically training all regional officers to ensure they are aware of the requirements when transporting livestock.

This operation has now been adopted as a national operation by several states and territories across Australia. This operation highlights the joint law enforcement focus on targeting rural crime offenders.

Detective Chief Inspector Cameron Whiteside, State Rural Crime Coordinator, Rural Crime Prevention Team states, "Our farmers have suffered from drought, bushfires and the current pandemic, we will not tolerate people stealing from them. Law enforcement agencies are working together to ensure there are no borders when it comes to targeting rural crime".

As with all crime, police rely on the community to provide information regarding offenders, incidents and to report crime if they are a victim. This is even more important when it comes to rural crime.

Rural crime often occurs in remote locations and offenders take advantage of this believing they are targeting an easy victim. We want to work with rural communities and rural industries and come down hard on these offenders and show them our farmers are not easy targets.



**Livestock transport inspection**



**Rural Crime Prevention Team mustering**

Assistant Commissioner Geoff McKechnie, Corporate Sponsor for Rural Crime, is asking the community for help. "Anyone who is a victim of rural crime, please report the crime. This can be done in many ways: walk into a police station, call a police station, report online via the NSW Police Force Community Portal, call the Police Assistance Line (PAL) or call Crime Stoppers if you want to remain anonymous. If you see anything suspicious, report it to the police".

If your rural community group is holding a meeting and would like to discuss strategies to improve



**Rural Crime Prevention Team**

security on your farm, contact the Rural Crime Prevention Team. Our officers can attend your meetings and sit down and talk to you about various methods you could use to decrease the risk of becoming a victim of rural crime.

If you would like a member of our team to talk to your group, please send an email to **RCPT@police.nsw.gov.au**

Facebook: RuralCrimeNSWPF

Website: **[www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety\\_and\\_prevention/safe\\_and\\_secure/rural\\_crime](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/safe_and_secure/rural_crime)**



Members of Riverview NHW: Greg, Amanda, Jocelyne and Duchense proudly displaying their award

## Riverview Neighbourhood Watch Receives Council Recognition

The Riverview Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Committee were delighted to be recognised as finalists in the Community Event of the Year category at the Ipswich City Council Australia Day Awards on Wednesday 20 January 2021.

The Riverview NHW newsletter is an invaluable source of information and source of truth for the local community and is distributed monthly by the committee. Included in the newsletter is information on local events, support services, community activities, functions and crime prevention information.

To produce the newsletter, we rely on the community and our NHW volunteers to source information for the publication. Riverview NHW member Amanda then prepares and publishes the newsletter.



Newsletter editor Amanda with her certificate



Committee Members with Ipswich Mayor Theresa Harding

# The Safety Bag Tag Initiative: “Your Best Mate, to Help Keep you Safe”

In 2019, after a successful transition to a new team, the Safety Bag Tag Initiative was founded by NHW The Gap.

This initiative is designed to keep children safer when they aren't in the care of their parent or guardian, as well as keeping them safer if there are issues which they might be dealing with at home.

The key premise of the initiative is to ensure that children know:

***They are NEVER alone, no matter what they are experiencing in their life.***

## What is a Safety Bag Mate?

- A PVC tag with an insert pocket and a sticker on the reverse for quick access in case of an emergency
- It attaches onto any school bag
- 2 versions; primary and high school containing age appropriate hotline numbers and 000
- Insert artwork can be tailored to any school
- For continuity the initiative works with “tagged” schools annually to provide tags for new enrolments
- Community groups such as your NHW group who support this initiative in their local area, can also have their logos included on the tags



We welcome your NHW group to join us in the Safety Bag Tag Initiative



Visit <https://safetybagtags.org.au/brochure/> to see the detailed inserts for both primary and high school tags



Testimonial from a child who had their school bag “tagged”

Throughout 2020, 3 local schools in The Gap were “Tagged” and 1494 of these Safety Bag Mates were placed onto children’s school bags.

In late 2020, we partnered with our local Rotary Club of Ashgrove / The Gap to further this initiative.



Testimonial from Principal Margo Carwardine, St Peter Chanel, The Gap



A shot from our campaign video

## How your group can get involved

Our plan is to roll out throughout QLD first (due to proximity), however we welcome your groups across all states to support the roll out in your local area, which can happen concurrently and immediately.

We are looking for more supporters to donate and groups to help us fundraise so together we can “tag” more school bags.

Website: [www.safetybagtags.org.au](http://www.safetybagtags.org.au)

Facebook: [www.fb.com/safetybagtags](https://www.facebook.com/safetybagtags)

Video link demonstrating the tags: <https://fb.watch/39TNp8G4EZ/>

If your group has a Facebook page, we'd love you to please help us spread the word by sharing this video.

If you'd like to work with us and get a school local to you “tagged”, please contact us on [safetybagtags@gmail.com](mailto:safetybagtags@gmail.com).

### Contact:

[www.nhwq4061.com](http://www.nhwq4061.com)

[www.fb.com/neighbourhoodwatchthegap](https://www.facebook.com/neighbourhoodwatchthegap)

[neighbourhoodwatchthegap@yahoo.com.au](mailto:neighbourhoodwatchthegap@yahoo.com.au)



Max Hayton, Nerang 8, with Gold Coast NHW District President Peter Barrett being presented with his Certificate of Appreciation

## The Joys of Learning to Be Connected

In early 2020, Nerang 8 applied for and received a grant to roll out the federally funded Be Connected program.

Be Connected is an Australian Government initiative aimed at increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians in using digital technology.

After undertaking the Digital Mentor training course provided by NHTA, the program was successfully facilitated by Max Hayton.

On a weekly basis for 2 hours, Max guided participants through a variety of topics including online shopping, connecting with family and friends, games, hobbies, organising photographs, watching movies, reading books, online banking and Government services.

Throughout the program, information is provided to help learners avoid scams and viruses, a topic many older Australians are fearful of.



Max Hayton, Nerang 8 with Seymour the Owl at the Gold Coast NHW Connection Day, November 2020

According to Be Connected, 2.5 million Australians are not online and a further 4 million who have limited digital skills.

Lockdowns certainly highlighted the need for people to stay connected with friends and family interstate and overseas, so this was the ideal opportunity to teach our community how to do so in a safe environment.

When numbers dropped off, we approached the Men's Shed in Nerang, who provided an excellent venue and some very keen learners from both the men's and women's sheds. While numbers were small, they were enthusiastic, and we hope to continue the program throughout 2021.

To acknowledge the commitment and time that Max put into the program and our community, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to him at the annual Gold Coast District Connection Day in November 2020.

# Kumbia NHW Recognises the Work of Zone Coordinators

Kumbia is a quiet rural town part way between the Bunya Mountains and Kingaroy, in the South Burnett area of South East Queensland.

Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) consists of a small dedicated group of members who have consistently promoted NHW at local events and activities since its inception in August 1991. In 2021, they will be celebrating 30 years of operation.

From very early on, quarterly newsletters were printed and hand delivered to over 500 residents by the groups zone coordinators, some of whom have held this position the entire time.

With the switch to online newsletters and therefore the cessation of this part of the coordinator's role, it was decided to recognise their contribution with a special night in their honour.

Appreciation Certificates were presented to the Kumbia NHW Zone Coordinators in appreciation for the dedication to the roles.



Kumbia NHW Zone Coordinators at their presentation with Senior Constable Todd Armstrong (Kumbia), Senior Sergeant Dan O'Hara (Dalby) and special guest speaker Detective Senior Sergeant Jim Lacey (Toowoomba)

## Caring for the Community at Christmas

For the past 3 years, The Vistas community at Carrara have donated to those who are doing it tough at Christmas.

For many 2020 was a particularly challenging year however, the community were able to fill nearly two car boots with non-perishable goodies and treats.

A list of suggested items was distributed via a letterbox drop and regular social media posts were made during the six weeks leading up to Christmas. Residents were encouraged to add an extra item or two into their regular grocery shop to donate to the cause. Locals were able to drop off their contributions

at a central location or have their donations picked up to make it easier for them to contribute.

The Nerang 8 Neighbourhood Watch group were pleased to see that their initiative was a great success. A simple idea that can be easily adapted to most NHW groups.

This was one of the ways that they were able to give back to the less fortunate in their community. Making Christmas a little more special for everyone.



A boot full of Christmas goodies collected by Nerang 8 NHW and donated to Vinnies



NHW and Shed Happens team: Bill, Brett, Gary, Frank, Sgt Dalton, Tony, Gerri, John, Les, Linda, Karen, Jason, Uros, Paul and Jamie

# Family Day in the Park to Celebrate Australia Day

Neighbourhood Watch Mackay partnered with the Men’s group “Shed Happens”, to provide a family fun day to celebrate Australia Day.

Pancakes were handed out to families keen to take part in the family orientated games. While others settled down to listen to some wise words from men who have been through a lot. Nobody expects to get through all that life throws at us alone however, as we struggle we can learn. Passing these experiences onto our family and friends is important, as they can learn from our successes and mistakes.

There was not a face without a smile, as children took part in the games. Many retreated to the shade to watch the giant Jenga crash. Some of the younger children enjoyed inspecting the police vehicle with Sergeant Nigel Dalton.

Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteers who helped; from the men who raked the field of the freshly mown grass, to the organisers of the games,



Police vehicle inspection

and the photographer Liz Andrews. Thanks also to the Mackay Regional Council who assisted with funding, special thanks to Councillor Fran Mann, Deputy Mayor Karen May and Mayor Greg Williamson for attending.

Days like these don’t happen by chance and the leadership team of Mackay “Shed Happens” led by Frank Cowell should also be congratulated along with the NHW team led by Gerri Kissner, who set up and cooked pancakes all day.



Gold Coast District NHW Committee with Seymour the Owl

## NHW Gold Coast District Connection Day

The Gold Coast District Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) annual Connection Day and AGM, held on the 21 November 2020.

Normally scheduled for May but delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Saturday event was a hit! We had 35 participants from twenty of the 50 NHW groups across the Gold Coast, and the day was informative, social and productive.

The first session addressed ways the District could assist local groups. The provision of speakers for meetings, articles for newsletters and technical help for e-groups were some of the matters identified in which the District can help.

**A key focus of the next session was to discuss how local NHW groups could address the current issues of domestic violence, elder abuse and child exploitation.** In past years, we have looked at community problems such as hooning, illegal dumping, graffiti and drugs. The issues we face today, due to their nature, are more difficult to observe and report. Yet, if we do not address these important matters, our communities will deteriorate. Many good points were raised and the Gold Coast District will consider how to address them and will advise local groups during the year.

We had great guest speakers from the Queensland Police Service, who came along to advise us on how to deal with these community concerns. Following the session, we all left with a greater knowledge about these difficult matters, and an understanding that **neighbourliness is the essence of maintaining a real community. Be neighbourly, if you haven't already, introduce yourself to your neighbour, get to know them, provide friendship, advice if required, and help when needed or requested.**



# Northern Beaches Police and NHW Community Barbeque

A new exciting chapter in community policing was launched by OIC Senior Sergeant Anthony Cowan of Northern Beaches Police, at a NHW community barbeque on 15 October 2020.

Anthony's objective was to create a coordinated system of communication between the QPS, NHW, Crime Watch, and Community Facebook groups within the Northern Beaches area. Invitations were sent to editors, administrators and moderators of the various groups asking them to attend the event. A good response was forthcoming from the community, with approximately 40 people attending.

A number of speakers addressed the group, Ken Rehbein, CAC Member NHWQ, Gerri Kissner, Area Coordinator for the Northern Beaches NHW, Anthony Cowan, OIC Northern Beaches Police, Viccki Blackburn, Community Safety and Jules Thompson, Broken Ballerina Foundation.

## From 21 September to 18 October our statistics were:

People reached	25,579	increase of 1689%
Post engagements	20,509	increase of 1844%
Page likes	320	increase of 3456%

Anthony gave a full report on the objectives of the group meeting, as well as an update on crime activities within the Northern Beaches.

A number of favourable comments came from attendees, with a very positive response on the "Working Together" concept. Rueben Buchannan from Andergrove Lakes Community Group spoke very highly of the QPS performance.

A major benefit of this approach is that it opens up

communication between thousands of likeminded individuals within the region.

The after effect on the Neighbourhood Watch Mackay Facebook Page has been outstanding.

When we have all groups coordinated the effects will be even more outstanding with communications between Northern Beaches Police and the Community lifted to new heights.



Get Online Week event hosted by Carlyle Gardens Neighbourhood Watch

## Carlyle Gardens NHW Hosts Get Online Week Event During Neighbourhood Watch Week

Carlyle Gardens Neighbourhood Watch group held a Get Online Week fun day during Neighbourhood Watch Week 2020.

The Townsville District Crime Prevention Unit and NBN partnered together to educate the audience about scams and staying safe online.

Melissa Mallet from NBN, spoke about scams where people are being told that their phone line will be disconnected if they do not provide their financial information. Acting Senior Sergeant Julie Cooke spoke about passwords, social media accounts and privacy settings and a recent scam circulating the Townsville policing district.

After the serious business was done, a digital scavenger hunt and trivia quiz were some fun activities to engage participants around online safety.

Morning tea was served and guests had the opportunity to bid on the



Melissa Mallet from NBN talking about scams

cent sale prizes. It was pleasing to hear that a Carlyle Gardens resident who had been saving for a tablet won the cent sale prize.

“Working together with local Neighbourhood Watch groups to improve the safety of their families

and the broader community is a key philosophy of Neighbourhood Watch,” said Acting Senior Sergeant Julie Cooke.

“I applaud the strong and committed volunteers in our local Neighbourhood Watch groups.”



Volunteers-in-Policing Rosalie Winter and Peter Verbakel, District Crime Prevention Coordinator Senior Constable Dan O'Hara, and Kingaroy Officers Constable Jenny Bridge and Senior Constable Dan Walters

# Turning the Screws on Crime

Losing your number plates to theft can be both a frustrating and expensive exercise.

Thieves target number plates to commit a wide range of offences, including fuel drive-offs and to avoid tolls. Kingaroy Police now have an eye-catching display to promote their "Turning the Screws on Crime" initiative, to encourage the community to fit one-way security screws to their vehicles number plates.

Designed and built by Kingaroy Police Volunteer-in-Policing Peter Verbakel, the unit will be deployed at community displays and presentations, as well as at the "Turning the Screws on Crime" events.

"We have needed such a display unit for some time now and working from home during COVID-19 provided the

ideal opportunity to construct the unit" Peter Verbakel said.

The display unit will increase awareness and provide the community with a focus and means to participate in this initiative. It also caught the attention of

passer-by's when on display at a recent "Turning the Screws on Crime" event in Kingaroy.

The display will be made available to other Police Stations in the district when "Turning the Screws on Crime" events are held.

## How can you protect yourself from number plate theft? Here are some easy steps:

1. Check out the display unit when you see it
2. Obtain some one-way screws from your local car accessory shop or from your local Police Station (available for a small donation to NHW)
3. Simply fit the screws to your number plates
4. Congratulations! You have made it significantly more difficult for thieves to remove your plates
5. Tell your neighbours and friends

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## Focus on Caravan and Recreational Vehicle Security

South Australia Police (SAPOL) have published a 'Caravan and Recreational Vehicle Security' booklet, in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch SA and the Caravan and Camping Industries Association of SA (CCIASA), that is packed with simple and easy to understand security and crime prevention tips.

The booklet has been designed to be used as a checklist and includes useful information such as security and safety tips to consider before departure. Some of the tips include securing the number plates on your car, caravan and RV with tamper-resistant screws to prevent number plate theft, installing alarms, immobilisers and GPS tracking devices, and letting neighbours know when you will be away and when you will return.

The booklet also contains security tips for your trip, including information about securing valuables, tips for taking rest breaks during long drives and securing your caravan or RV on your return home.

Included in the booklet is a property record, to keep track of valuables stored in your car, caravan, or RV.

Senior Sergeant Neil Hodgson of SAPOL's Community Engagement Section said that by filling the record out and taking photos of your property, you are prepared if the worst-case scenario does happen and you need to make an insurance claim.

"We suggest scanning or taking a photo of the property record



**Alarm trailer lock**

and keeping it somewhere safe so it is easily accessible while you're travelling," Senior Sergeant Hodgson said.

The booklet also contains valuable bushfire and emergency safety information about fire danger season and how to keep up to date with constantly changing conditions in the great outdoors.

"The booklet came about due to a request from a general duties police officer in Coober Pedy, who identified an opportunity to provide greater community awareness and education in an effort to reduce theft from caravans and vehicles in the Far North Local Service Area," Senior Sergeant Hodgson said.

"An initial print of 10,000 booklets was produced and due to high



Enjoying the great outdoors



Petrol tin lock

demand, a further 10,000 booklets have been printed.”

“There are in excess of 50,000 registered caravan owners in South Australia and clearly the booklet has proved a popular resource for this sector of the community.”

The booklet has been widely distributed to all Districts and Local Service Area Crime Prevention

Sections and through caravan parks, caravan clubs and other travel industry members.

The partnership between SAPOL, NHW SA and the CCIASA was a logical choice, as the CCIASA have a membership which is made up of retailers, manufacturers, hirers and suppliers in the outdoor leisure industry. They also support the 20

caravan clubs that exist in South Australia. This provides a vast network of caravan and camping enthusiasts who now have access to this resource.

As part of the partnership with the CCIASA, they offered SAPOL and Neighbourhood Watch SA the opportunity to promote caravan safety and security at the 2020 Caravan and Camping Show held at the Adelaide Showgrounds in February 2020. SAPOL and Neighbourhood Watch SA jointly staffed the display and distributed the Caravan and Recreational Vehicle Security booklets along with other home security and motor vehicle security information and Neighbourhood Watch promotional material.

The booklet has also been promoted on the SAPOL website, social media and the Neighbourhood Watch website and Facebook page.

**To obtain a downloadable version of the booklet, visit the crime prevention page on the SAPOL website ([www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au)) go to the safety and security tips section and click on caravan and holiday security and safety.**

Visit the SAPOL website to find out more.

# NHW TAS

TASMANIA



NHW Ambleside Christmas event

## A Great Finish to 2020 for Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania

Although the year 2020 had its ups and downs, Tasmania is proud to finish it off in style and be well set up for an even better 2021.

The central platform for Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania (NHW) activities during the last quarter of 2020 was Neighbourhood Watch Week in partnership with Bunnings Crime Prevention Week, which ran from 14 November to 22 November 2020. A pre-cursor to this event was the 25 Year Anniversary celebration for Wynyard Neighbourhood Watch (NHW).

Wynyard is a picturesque town on the north west coast of Tasmania, about 20 kilometers from the city of Burnie. It serves as the regional hub for the local government area with a population in excess of 14,000 people. The Wynyard Neighbourhood Watch group started in 1995 and has had a continuous presence and influence in improving the wellbeing of that community since its inception.

Longstanding Convenor, and revered local identity, Roxley Snare, ensured the occasion did not go unnoticed and coordinated a celebration which was attended by Deputy Mayor, Dr Mary Duniam and NHW State President, Peter Edwards.

As was appropriate, a birthday cake was enjoyed by the guests after being cut by 25-year members, Crosby Grieve and Janine Cranney.

On 13 November, Commissioner Darren Hine and other senior officers attended a *Cuppa With a Cop* (CWAC) event at the ABC Complex in Hobart to officially launch the week for Tasmania. CWACs have become a popular event hosted by NHW to provide opportunities for community members to meet and interact informally with police officers and perhaps ask those questions that you have never had the opportunity

to in the past. As NHW Vice President Frank Pearce said, "Cuppa with a Cop is about building good community and police relations, one cup at a time".

Although COVID-19 caused a suspension of the Bunnings Sausage Sizzles for a significant period during 2020, a well-regulated model was in place for NHW Week and we are happy to report that the Bunnings customers were ever so grateful to see us there once again. Our NHW volunteers come from all backgrounds (but they all know how to cook and sell a snag) and as usual, a great day was had at Bunnings Mornington and Kingston to promote NHW and good community relations.

The NHWT State Board Annual General Meeting was also held during NHW Week and Parliamentarian, Rosemary



Crosby Grieve and Janine Cranney cut the cake



Commissioner Darren Hine and guests enjoying a cuppa and a chat at the launch of Neighbourhood Watch Week in Tasmania



NHWT volunteers at Bunnings during NHW Week



NHWT volunteers during NHW Week

Armitage MLC, was on hand as the guest speaker and to assist with the presentation of awards to Ian Peck of Riverside and Jill Straus from Mowbray. Both these members have been committed and effective executive members of their groups and it was a proud moment to see them recognised for their contribution both locally and ultimately to the NHW movement.

In Tasmania, we were fortunate that we could finish our year off with some social events, as we prepared for Christmas and the holiday period. The Ambleside NHW group which operates on the eastern banks of the Mersey River at Devonport, celebrated with a Christmas function. The Tasmania NHW volunteers are all looking forward to a more normal year, as we celebrate our 35th anniversary in our state.



Ian Peck being presented with his certificate by NHWT President Peter Edwards



Jill Strauss receiving her certificate from NHWT President Peter Edwards



Tasmania Police officers overseeing the awarding of life membership to the immediate past President of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania, Jan Dunsby, by Peter Edwards in the presence of Minister for Police Mark Shelton

## Tasmania 35 Years On, it all Started Here

Risdon Vale, an eastern shore suburb of Greater Hobart in the City of Clarence, was where the first Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania (NHWT) group was established in 1986.

Tasmania was hot on the heels of Victoria and Western Australia to get up and running, and it is now in 2021 that NHWT has started its 35-year celebrations in the place where it first commenced.

The home for NHWT in Risdon Vale is at the local Neighbourhood Centre (NHC), which is a hive of daily activity for local community members and groups. People in Risdon Vale are down to earth, practical and proud of where they live. They also have a good relationship with police officers who live in their area and who are active members of NHWT.

Hence, to have an anniversary celebration at the NHC was an obvious and easy decision for their manager, Ann Harrison, to make. The Tasmania Police Acting Divisional Inspector, Michael Foster, was enthusiastic to come-on-board and support the proposal, which was scheduled during a shift overlap to maximise the number of officers that could attend. In the true spirit of partnership, a City of Clarence Community Recovery Grant made the event a momentous occasion, which was well represented by members of the Risdon Vale community, Aldermen and state politicians representing the three major parties in Tasmania.

A highlight of the event was the awarding of Life Membership to the immediate past president of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania Jan Dunsby. The citation read “For outstanding service as a member of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania since 2001, but particularly for her dedicated and exceptional leadership as our President for a continuous period of 12 years to 2019.” It was a fitting event for this recognition to occur in the suburb where Neighbourhood Watch started in Tasmania during the celebration for 35 continuous years of operation – and still going strong and making a difference in Tasmanian communities.



Deputy Commissioner Rick Nugent, NHW Mildura Area Coordinator Helen Worcester and Leading Snr Constable Joseph Clarke at the award presentation

## 2019 Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Police Commissioner's Award

On the 26 November 2019, Minister Dutton announced Leading Senior Constable Joseph (Joe) Clarke as the recipient of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) Police Commissioner's Award.

Each year, this award is given to a police officer or employee who has worked with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) to empower people and communities through the development of strong and effective partnerships that

promotes safer communities, engagement and social inclusion. Leading Senior Constable Clarke is stationed at Mildura Police Complex and is the recipient of the National Police Service Medal. He has been involved with Neighbourhood Watch

since 2009, when he was appointed the role of Neighbourhood Watch Police Co-ordinator. Since then, he has revitalised the program and has introduced new initiatives, some of which has been adopted across the country.

Joe upholds and demonstrates the key values of this award through the many community initiatives which he is involved in. These include the Walk and Ride to School Pedestrian Bus for primary school students, building long-term relationships with the local Indigenous community and talking to the aged care residents and staff about crime prevention measures and systems.

He is also involved in running regular property identification marking days and assists in replacing community members number plate screws with one-way security screws. Further, Joe has revitalised the Crime Beat media program, which he co-ordinates by gathering relevant promotional material on crime prevention and releasing this material through different media channels including printed news, radio and social media. Joseph's involvement in Field Days is one of the ways that he interacts with rural residents and does so by manning a display stall to educate them on the importance of crime prevention.

Joe is also the creator of Junior Neighbourhood Watch, which first came about after he engaged primary school students in Neighbourhood Watch activities. The program started at Mildura West School and Mildura South School and is now being introduced across Victoria and the other states and territories of Australia. The program is delivered in conjunction with Helen Worcester, Area Coordinator of NHW Mildura, who assist with the delivery of the program. The aim is to raise the children's level of awareness and to take the message home to parents, which could possibly change outdated behaviours in relation to crime prevention and road safety.

In December 2020, Deputy Commissioner Rick Nugent presented Joe with his award in the presence of NHWA Chief Executive Officer Maria Bennett, NHW Mildura volunteers and police officers. During his speech,



**Leading Senior Constable Gary Pearse, Gillian Gaynor, Mark Beasy, Robert Hillier, Sergeant Andrew Kilroy, Liz Worcester, NHW Mildura Area Coordinator Helen Worcester, NHWA CEO Maria Bennett and Leading Senior Constable Joseph Clarke**



**Joe conducting a Junior NHW lesson for school students**

Deputy Commissioner Nugent said that “Joe epitomises the critical link between community and police working together to achieve better outcomes”. Maria Bennett, CEO of NHWA said “Joe makes the Junior Neighbourhood Watch program come alive and he has the children enthralled with each lesson, from

fingerprinting, forensic art, how to be a good witness, to name a few. It's great to see Neighbourhood Watch being embraced by the younger generation with such enthusiasm. On behalf of the NHWA board and staff, we congratulate Joe for receiving this award.

## What's New with NHW Landsdale and Surrounds

To say that we have been blessed in Western Australia during 2020 is an understatement. For ten months we have had no community spread of COVID-19, so once allowed we joined with the local police station and hosted a crime prevention event.

The Wanneroo Police Officer in Charge, Senior Sergeant Mo Livingstone, was keen to link with our group and do an anti-theft number plate screw event. Unfortunately, the stealing of number plates in our area continues and quite a few residents have the "it will never happen to me" attitude. As we often post, "be proactive, not reactive." At our most recent event we secured 110 anti-theft number plate screws into resident's vehicles.

The Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Landsdale and Surrounds Facebook page is flourishing and we reach a large online community. Being an administrator of a page comes with its challenges, but it is all for the greater good. We spread the NHW philosophy and encourage people to report crime to police.

We have just received three new active volunteers to add to our existing seven. As we are all volunteers, not everyone is able to assist with every event and this is respected due to having a home and work life outside of volunteering.

In December, NHW WA organised a workshop for active groups in relation to volunteering, recruitment and retention. It was a great opportunity to connect with other WA groups, which have diminished with the new framework in WA. A representative from our group has been invited to attend the NHW WA working group meeting, which is another way to connect and share information to assist volunteers in their work to help WA Police in their fight against crime.



**NHW Landsdale volunteers assisting Wanneroo Police with crime prevention initiatives**



**NHW Landsdale volunteers providing information on security measures to their community**



**NHW Landsdale partnering with Wanneroo Police & Bunnings Wangara in securing vehicle number plates**



NHWA Chairman Bernie Durkin and Superintendent Dominic Wood posing with traditional Mongolian dance performers

# NHW Chinese Group

## The Year in Review and the Road Ahead

The Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Chinese Group was established in 2018 and is focused on promoting the objectives of Neighbourhood Watch to reduce crime, promote awareness of the Australian legal system and encourage the reporting of crime.

Most of our members are from the Asian speaking community, which is a truly diverse group encompassing migrants from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

Because of our multicultural membership, NHW Chinese Group is at its core a diverse organisation and works hard to promote social cohesion,

multiculturalism and helps newly arrived migrants settle into Australia.

For many around the world, 2020 was a difficult year and while there were many challenges and setbacks, it is important to remember to celebrate the wins as well.

In 2020, our team successfully hosted our first outdoor event at the Riverside Gardens, helped over 40 families find

support for domestic violence issues, moved office and assisted in the very first Chinese language survey through the City of Bayswater.

For 2021, the NHW Chinese Group is excited to be involved in a series of initiatives to encourage healthy eating, regular exercise and staying mentally active. This forms part of our strategy to alleviate the



Volunteers of the NHWCG posing for a group picture, we thank each and every one of them for their special contribution to building a safer and closer community



NHW Chinese Group awards presented by Lisa Li and Nelson Wu from NHW Chinese Group, NHWA Chairman Bernie Durkin and Superintendent Dominic Wood from the WA Police



Lisa Li from NHW Chinese Group and Minister for Child Protection and Women's Interests Simone McGurk, with the cutest little ballet performers



Volunteers hoisting Australia and Neighbourhood Watch Flags



WA Pipe Band and performers of the Chinese traditional umbrella dance

impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of the community through being socially, mentally, and physically active.

There has been extensive research on the benefits of exercise and healthy eating in alleviating mental health issues and because of this, our team is rolling out subsidised fitness classes to those in the

community who are looking to lose weight, get fit or just stay healthy and active.

Our team has partnered with a number of qualified fitness instructors to deliver a variety of fitness classes including, dance workouts for children, circuit training, yoga, basketball, and ping pong activities.

We are always open to collaboration and welcome those reading this to reach out if you or your organisation is looking to get involved in making the community a safer, healthier, and happier place to live.

From everyone at the NHW Chinese Group, we wish you a great year to come and remind everyone to stay safe, healthy and COVID aware.

## Innovating Community Engagement in the Australian Capital Territory



ACT Policing's Proactive Intervention and Diversion team



Detective Inspector Mark Rowswell and Detective Sergeant Jason Dziubinski lead the Proactive Intervention and Diversion Team

You might be surprised to learn that in the ACT around 80 percent of incidents that police attend do not result in an offence, but often cause repeat calls for service if they are not resolved properly. On top of this, the Territory has seen a 30% increase in time critical incidents over the last 5 years, and the average time required to deal with incidents has increased due to their complex nature. As a result, there is a strong demand placed on frontline officers.

To place downward pressure on the drivers of demand and reduce the burden on ACT Policing's (ACTP) frontline, a new community focused Police Service Model has been developed. A select few ACTP officers will work in collaboration with partners to problem-solve and reduce repeat calls for service and try to answer the question: why do we keep dealing with this person?

To assist with this plan, ACTP have created a new Proactive Intervention and Diversion Team to specifically target repeat calls for service by undertaking a range of activities,

including prevention, disruption, engagement, education and diversion activities.

This team is led by Detective Inspector Mark Rowswell, who explains that the new team is all about joining with our partners to look at a problem in its entirety and discover the underlying cause to address issues before they escalate.

"The intent of the Proactive Intervention and Diversion Team is to engage with the community and our partners to holistically determine the root cause of a problem, to identify a solution before it worsens and leads to a point where prosecution is inevitable," he said.

The Proactive Intervention and Diversion Team undertake their duties in both uniform and plain-clothes, depending on the activity they are undertaking at the time. Their remit is broad, but there are five criteria that they look at:

1. The problem is causing a repeat call for service, which is impacting on policing resources

2. The problem focuses on vulnerable or young people
3. The problem aligns with ACT Policing, AFP and ACT Government's strategic priorities
4. The problem helps build relationships with the community and other agencies
5. The problem can be a crime or non-crime related matter

The team are currently working on addressing youth violence, vulnerable missing people, fail to stop incidents as well as other identified repeat calls for service. By utilising the strength of partnerships, the team will also have technological improvements at their disposal including real-time intelligence tools, body-worn cameras and mobile devices.

"Now is an exciting time for ACTP as our police force enters a new era of innovative community engagement, as we provide improved services to the Canberra community now and into the future," Detective Inspector Rowswell said.



Australian Government

OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

# Coronavirus:

# Thanks to you, we are saving lives and stopping the spread.

## But it's important we continue to keep all Australians safe.

**Stay at home unless necessary and avoid non-essential travel.**

Banks, supermarkets, petrol stations, medical services and suppliers remain open.



**If you can, you should work from home.**

Use phones for meetings, stop handshaking, tap to pay where possible instead of using cash.



**Maintain physical distancing and hygiene practices.**

Keep 1.5 metres of physical distance, exercise away from others, and wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds.



**Visit [australia.gov.au](https://australia.gov.au) to find restrictions specific to your State or Territory.**



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