



NHWA

Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a black tactical vest over a dark shirt. The vest has a yellow name tag that reads "AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE" and a police badge hanging from a chain. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

ARE THEY TRIPLE OK?

We're always there to help.

Let's make sure we help each other and ask R U OK?

ruok.org.au/triple-ok

RUOK?TM

A conversation could change a life.



18



25



33



35



CONTENTS

EVERY ISSUE

- 2 From the CEO
- 4 Board Directors & Staff

FEATURES

- 6 NHW International Conference
- 10 ACCCE Stakeholder and Community Engagement Events
- 11 ThinkUKnow attends National Education Summit
- 12 Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation and Australian Federal Police Podcast Series
- 14 Australian Federal Police ThinkUKnow Program and Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation Launch Updated Websites
- 15 eSafety Leads Australia's Push for a Safer Internet
- 16 Are you a fan of our Facebook page?

REPORTS

- 17 Australian Capital Territory
- 19 New South Wales
- 20 New Zealand
- 24 Queensland
- 30 South Australia
- 33 Tasmania
- 34 Victoria
- 35 Western Australia

Cover photo: Neighbourhood Watch International Conference attendees

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

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

Contributions to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia: Photography should only be supplied digitally via email or posted as original prints (please supply a stamped, self-addressed envelope for returning). Please avoid scanning of any type. Text should be supplied as a Microsoft Word document.

Advertisers Alert: Neighbourhood Watch Australasia appoints Countrywide Austral as the authorised publisher. For enquiries regarding advertising in this magazine, please contact the publishers:

Countrywide Austral Pty Ltd

Level 2, 310 King Street, Melbourne 3000 | Postal: GPO Box 2466, Melbourne 3001
Ph: (03) 9937 0200 | Fax: (03) 9937 0201 | Email: admin@cwaustral.com.au

countrywideaustral

Disclaimer: Countrywide Austral ("Publisher") advises that the contents of this publication are at the sole discretion of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, and the publication is offered for information purposes only. The publication has been formulated in good faith and the Publisher believes its contents to be accurate. However, the contents do not amount to a recommendation (either expressly or by implication) and should not be relied upon in lieu of specific professional advice. Neighbourhood Watch Australasia makes no representation, nor gives any warranty or guarantee concerning the information provided. The Publisher disclaims all responsibility for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any reader relying upon the information contained in the publication whether that loss or damage is caused by any fault or negligence on the part of the publisher, its directors and employees. Copyright: All advertisements appearing in this publication are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced except with the consent of the owner of the copyright. Advertising: Advertisements in this journal are solicited from organisations and businesses on the understanding that no special considerations, other than those normally accepted in respect of commercial dealings, will be given to any advertiser.

FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia!

I hope you are doing well and staying safe. It has been a full on and exciting year for the team at Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW). We hosted our very first hybrid conference, launched a series of online training videos, a new website and will soon unveil several TV commercials.



Neighbourhood Watch International Conference 2021



On the 21 and 22 May 2021, the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference took place at the Gold Coast in Queensland.

Over the two days, delegates from around the globe came together (in person and online) to hear the latest information on best practice crime prevention and community safety initiatives. The theme for the conference was 'Creating Safer Communities', a mission that our organisation believes in and is committed to achieving.

The conference was a tremendous success and we are delighted by the wonderful feedback received from delegates, speakers and dignitaries. If you were unable to attend the conference and still interested in participating, we have a special offer available until the 20 August, to find out more visit the conference website: www.nhw2021.com.au/registration

Thank you to everyone who participated, we loved having you as part of this great event.

Neighbourhood Watch Week

8 - 14 November 2021



Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) and Bunnings Warehouse are partnering again this year to combine Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) WEEK and Crime Prevention Week.

Book a spot at your local Bunnings store to hold a sausage sizzle during NHW WEEK. For additional information, go to www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/nhw-week/ or email admin@nhwa.com.au

Let us know what you are planning to do for your NHW Week event!

NHWA Volunteer and Policing Awards

2021 NHWA Award Nominations Now Open!



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

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

The awards are:

- **'NHWA 2021 Malcolm Grant OAM - Volunteer of the Year Award'**
 - nominate an outstanding NHW Volunteer community member
- **'NHWA 2021 Police Commissioner's Award'**
 - nominate a Police employee who has made a significant contribution to NHW

To download the nomination forms, go to <https://www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards/>

Get Online, Get Connected

Get Online Week 18-24 October 2021

This year's theme is "Get Online, Get Connected" because digital inclusion is more than just getting on the internet, it's about connecting with others, accessing services, finding support and much much more.



All NHW groups are invited to get involved in the national campaign by hosting a COVID-safe event, to encourage people to get online and to improve their digital skills so that they can feel confident and safe while being connected.

To support the cost of your event, there is a \$1,000 grant available for eligible organisations. Funds can be used to hire a venue, pay for catering, bring in interesting guest speakers, run a raffle or whatever it takes to make your event idea happen!

The \$1,000 Get Online Week event grant is open until Friday, 6 August 2021. If you would like to find out more, contact admin@nhwa.com.au

Kangaroo Point NHW 20 Year Celebration



Austin Adams discussing the Heritage Walk booklet with NHWA CEO Maria Bennett

It was a great pleasure to be invited to speak at Kangaroo Point (KP) NHW's 20-year celebration. This group is one of Brisbane's longest operating groups and embodies the mission of NHW, to create safer, more connected, and inclusive communities. Well done NHWKP and keep up the great work!

ACCCE Prevention Stakeholder Workshop



NHWA CEO Maria Bennett with AFP ACCCE Commander Hilda Sirec signing the Letter of Exchange

On the 28 April, NHWA attended the second Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) Prevention Stakeholder Workshop. The purpose of the event was to network with other likeminded organisations and to share information and ideas on current issues and to hear about new projects in the child protection space. The highlight of the day was the interactive walkthrough of a fictional child protection case. During the day, to formalise the ongoing strategic partnership between NHWA and the ACCCE, a Letter of Exchange was signed.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Online Store

After receiving great feedback on our conference t-shirt, NHWA have decided to launch an online shop. We are currently offering polo shirts for men and women and will be expanding with more items in the months to come. To view the shop, head to: <https://www.nhwa.com.au/shop/>



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

Stay safe!

Together we achieve great things

Neighbourhood Watch - the Power of Many

Maria Bennett

Maria Bennett
Chief Executive Officer
NHW Australasia
maria.bennett@nhwa.com.au

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



BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



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.



Superintendent Eric Tibbott – New Zealand

Superintendent Tibbott is currently the Director of Community, Partnerships and Prevention for New Zealand Police. His role is to support the Assistant Commissioner and to foster and enable Iwi and community partnerships and prevention outcomes. Eric fosters a whole government approach to prevention by actively supporting and contributing to the inter-agency development of policies and strategies for community based crime prevention.



Acting Superintendent Steve Collins – Queensland

Acting Superintendent Steve Collins is a career police officer with over 37 years with the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Steve's current position is the Commander overseeing the QPS Community Engagement and Internal Support portfolio within the Communication, Culture and Engagement Division. This latest posting is a challenging area focusing on building effective relationships to adopt prevention strategies to address complex social issues associated with crime in our communities.



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 – Project Manager & 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 2021

On Friday 21 and Saturday 22 May 2021, the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) International Conference was held at Sea World Resort Conference Centre, on the spectacular Gold Coast, Queensland.

Planning an international conference amidst the uncertainty of current Covid-affected times (with restrictions, social distancing, and border lockdowns) was no simple task. Numerous contingency plans were in place and several elements adapted and changed right up until the event – with special considerations and planning to cater for our interstate and international speakers and delegates. It was a huge relief for the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) team when 21 May 2021 finally arrived, and those first delegates walked through the doors of the conference centre.

The conference comprised of a physical and online (hybrid) format – enabling delegates to congregate and socialise in-person at the Gold Coast venue, as well as view and participate in real-time via the virtual conference portal. We welcomed delegates from

across Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Additionally, ‘Viewing Hubs’ were held in Western Australia and New Zealand – enabling more than 50 delegates to come together and enjoy the conference broadcast in a group setting.

Across the two days, over 180 dignitaries, special guests, law enforcement, NHW groups, and members of the public (in-person and virtual) came together to listen, discuss, and share in all-things community safety and crime prevention. We heard from leading figures in law enforcement, academia, and community groups – presenting on compelling subjects, and addressing current key issues in communities today. **The ‘Creating Safer Communities’ theme was at the core of the insightful and thought-provoking presentations that were**

given – reiterating the importance of Neighbourhood Watch’s role in the community, and how successful crime prevention can be when we have a collaboration between community and police. “The police are the public and the public are the police” – Sir Robert Peel 1829

On day one, our Master of Ceremonies (MC), Superintendent Mark Plath – Qld Corrective Services, officially opened the conference and welcomed all guests – and did a fantastic job across the two days. We could not have asked for a better MC! We experienced a very special and memorable Welcome To Country (on both days) by Luther Cora of the Kombumerri People of The Yugambeh Language Region, and fortunate to have special guest addresses by Cr Mayor Tom Tate, City of Gold Coast, a pre-recorded message from the Minister of Home

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

21-22 MAY 2021

Sea World Resort, Gold Coast
www.nhw2021.com.au

NHW INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Affairs, Hon. Karen Andrews MP, and a letter from the Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison MP which was read out by Maria Bennett, NHWA Chief Executive Officer.

A highlight of the day was Professor Lorraine Mazerolle, Program Director of the School of Social Science at The University of Queensland, and her Keynote address on 'Neighbouring in Times of Crises: What Works for Neighbourhood Watch'. We also had fantastic insights from the Crime Prevention Forum, where Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Queensland Police Service, together with esteemed panel members - Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer for ACT Police; Professor Lorraine Mazerolle of The University of Queensland; and Bernie Durkin, NHWA Chair - discussed the latest in crime prevention initiatives, and the relationship and important connection between community and police.

To conclude day one, delegates and guests were treated to a pre-dinner reception at Sea World's Shark Bay - with drinks and canapés, and an exclusive night-time viewing experience of some of Sea World's amazing marine life. Returning to the conference centre, a three-course dinner was served, during which - the entertaining and inspiring Travis

Bell, aka 'The Bucket List Guy', got us all thinking about our attitude towards life. The evening provided a perfect end to a fantastic day.

On day two, we had the pleasure of welcoming special guest speaker, the Hon. Mark Ryan MP, Queensland Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. A long list of esteemed speakers from local and international organisations, presented throughout the day on some compelling topics. Two standouts from the day were Bob Atkinson AO APM and his presentation on the Youth Justice Report 2018, together with Jess Wilson, National Director of Good Things Foundation and an engaging and inspiring discussion on 'Bridging the digital divide - a community-based approach'.

The two-day conference was ultimately a great success - with an abundance of knowledge, insights and ideas shared between speakers, organisations, and individuals - and feedback following the event has been nothing but positive. Much planning went into organising this huge event and we appreciate the time and efforts of all involved. A special thanks to the NHW International Conference Committee, NHWA Board for their support, presenters, special guests, and all

delegates (in-person and virtual). The event would not have come together and been such a success without the contribution and commitment of all!

If you missed the conference or would like to re-watch any presentations, there is still time to view the full conference online. Registered delegates can access the online portal at any time (until 20 August 2021).

For anyone who is not yet registered but is interested in viewing the conference online, there is still an opportunity to do so. A special discounted offer is available via the conference website at www.nhw2021.com.au/registration

To view more of the fantastic photos captured at the conference please visit the official gallery at www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/nhwic

For any groups or individuals interested in purchasing one of the fantastic green polo shirts as seen at the conference, these are now available through our online shop at www.nhwa.com.au/shop

A big thank you once again to everyone who was a part of this important event - and here's to 'Creating Safer Communities' together!



NHWA CEO Maria Bennett, Bob Atkinson AO APM, NHWA Chair Bernie Durkin and QLD Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Hon Mark Ryan MP

"...an amazing, truly international conference."

- Doug Ringham, Neighbourhood Watch Broadbeach 24



NHWA Board Member Peter Edwards, Ben Williams and SAPOL Sergeant Phil Gurr mingling during the break



Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Karen Andrews MP during her pre-recorded welcome address



National Director of the Good Things Foundation, Jess Wilson during her live virtual Be Connected presentation

"...thankyou all for a very professional and informative conference. The attention to detail was never missed on any occasion. The dinner experience was out of this world, something we will all remember for a long time to come."

- Annette Moon, NHWQ, Glenwood Park, Mudgeeraba 3 & 4



Riverview NHW with Sergeant Nadine Webster APM and NHWA CEO Maria Bennett



NHWA Chair Bernie Durkin welcoming the delegates to the conference



Bob Atkinson AO APM presenting the findings of the 2018 Youth Justice Report

"...a great opportunity to meet those involved in Neighbourhood Watch, as well as share information about our work in online child sexual exploitation."

- Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation



Commander ACCCE, Child Protection and Human Trafficking, Hilda Sirec during her presentation



The Hon Mark Ryan MP enjoying the conference

“We joined other jurisdictions to share ideas, make connections and hear about the latest research.”

– Neighbourhood Watch South Australia

“Huge thanks to NHWA for the chance to speak about better ways of communication and connecting with vulnerable communities... It all starts with respect, empathy and listening.”

– Inspector Corey Allen, Queensland Police Service



Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Chief Police Officer for the ACT, Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM, Professor Lorraine Mazerolle and NHWA Chair Bernie Durkin during the Crime Prevention Forum



Pre-dinner reception at Sea World's Shark Bay



Carillon Conference Management team with NHWA Project Manager and Executive Assistant Selina Otto



SAPOL Sergeant Phil Gurr during his presentation



ACCCE Prevention and Engagement team member Ben Proctor with Ping Bao from Broadwater NHW



Dr Renee Zahnow presenting her findings from the joint survey between UQ and NHW



Professor Lorraine Mazerolle during her keynote address

“I met so many wonderful people who have been doing so much for the community! The clearest message (from the conference) ‘the police are the community, and the community are the police’. Thanks to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and all those involved... it was a great experience.”

– Matthew Hooper, Neighbourhood Watch Bli Bli



Delegates in the conference room at the Gold Coast

ACCCE Stakeholder and Community Engagement Events

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), recently attended events to raise awareness about online child safety and to foster community engagement.

Neighbourhood Watch International Conference

The ACCCE was a proud sponsor of the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference, held over two days from 21 – 22 May 2021.

During the conference, Commander ACCCE, Child Protection and Human Trafficking Hilda Sirec, delivered a session on *'Creating Safer Communities is everyone's responsibility. Tackling Child Exploitation begins with education, collaboration and innovation'* highlighting the work of the AFP and ACCCE.

Members from the AFP hosted a stall, speaking to delegates about crime prevention including human trafficking and online child sexual exploitation, through programs such as ThinkUKnow.



Commander ACCCE, Child Protection and Human Trafficking, Hilda Sirec addressing delegates at the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference



AFP staff engage with delegates at the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference

ThinkUKnow attends National Education Summit



AFP and Queensland Police meeting with educators at the National Education Summit

The AFP and ACCCE attended the National Education Summit from 4-5 June 2021, along with Queensland Police, to speak to educators from across Australasia about the ThinkUKnow program.

The event provided an important outreach opportunity to communicate directly to hundreds of educators, parents and carers about online child safety.

During the summit, the AFP delivered an information session which covered why young people use the internet; what young people see, say and do online, what online challenges young people may face, along with how to get help and report.

ThinkUKnow is a partnership between the AFP, Microsoft, Datacom, and the Commonwealth Bank, and is delivered in partnership with State and Territory police and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

For more information visit www.thinkuknow.org.au



Senior Prevention Officer, AFP Online Child Safety Team, Danielle Broster presenting at the National Education Summit on the ThinkUKnow program

Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation and Australian Federal Police Podcast Series

This podcast brings online child sexual exploitation out of the shadows and into the public's consciousness.



Commander ACCCE and Human Trafficking, Hilda Sirec with actor, Rodger Corser at the ACCCE prior to narrating the podcast series

A new podcast launched in June, will provide the Australian community a rare insight into the work being undertaken to prevent, deter and pursue child sexual abuse and exploitation.

'Closing The Net' for the very first time takes us inside the world of the AFP and those policing the 'borderless crime' of online child sexual exploitation.

Hosted by father and Australian actor, Rodger Corser, the series highlights the work of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) – a world-leading facility established and led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) – which is leading a collaborative response



Assistant Commissioner Northern Command, Lesa Gale in the studio

to remove children from harm and pursue and prosecute offenders in this crime type.

Throughout the series, listeners will meet some incredible people who dedicate their lives to ending this horrendous crime type – people who work tirelessly to track down and bring online child sex offenders to justice and to protect children.

You will also hear from those who have a commitment to preventing abuse through education and by providing tools, knowledge and resources.

Commander ACCCE and Human Trafficking, Hilda Sirec said the series will provide listeners with an understanding of what constitutes



Dr Katrina Lines, CEO Act for Kids

online exploitation and just how easily children can be targeted by anyone from anywhere.

"The series also contains tips and advice for parents and carers about how to protect kids online, as well as how to identify and report offensive online behaviour.

"Although some listeners may find parts of the content confronting, these are stories that need to be told, I encourage all Australians to listen and start the conversation," said Commander Sirec.

'Closing The Net' is available now on all major podcast platforms.

For more information visit: www.accce.gov.au/closingthenet



Listen now



CLOSING THE NET

A podcast about online child sexual exploitation

A ten-part series that shares compelling insights of more than 55 child protection experts across law enforcement, government, academia and non-government organisations. We are bringing some hard-to-tell stories about online child sexual exploitation out from the shadows and into the public consciousness.

EPISODE 1

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Stopping online child sex offenders and protecting children from harm is what drives the women and men of the ACCCE.

The world's best child protection minds explain online child sexual exploitation, and what it will take to end it.

Australia's law enforcement and other government agencies work hand in glove to inform legislation, enforce harsh laws, and educate the community.

EPISODE 2

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW MAY HURT YOU

It's now easier than ever for our children and young people to receive inappropriate contact via online devices, apps and games.

Understand what constitutes online exploitation and how easily children can be targeted. Busting myths and stereotypes is a key in community awareness of this crime type.

EPISODE 3

I'M JUST A KID

Not all online child sex offenders are adults. Sexual exploitation by peers and image based abuse are rife issues in the technology and platforms we use every day.

The youth of today do not differentiate between 'the online world' and 'the real world'. How can carers adapt their approach to help them navigate the challenges they will invariably face?

EPISODE 6

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Knowing more about technology and about what is and isn't appropriate online is critical to protecting our kids online.

Market research suggests there is a vast amount of work to be done to educate children and carers alike.

The ACCCE is a complex capability that brings together expertise from across the globe.

EPISODE 5

TURNING GRIEF INTO HOPE

Some families are torn apart by the death of a child. Others are galvanised by it and turn their grief into hope for others.

Hear from some of Australia's most courageous people, who've been through the rigmarole of online child sexual exploitation, and from the inspired bunch who have dedicated their lives to working and campaigning for the protection of all children.

EPISODE 4

OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR

What motivates an online child sex offender and how can law enforcement use that information to help protect our kids?

Forensic psychologists are utilised in the fight against online child sex offenders, to ascertain the reason behind their actions in order to deter and prevent such crimes in the future.

EPISODE 7

PREVENT, PREPARE, PURSUE AND PROTECT

Go inside the ACCCE with those who work tirelessly to protect children from harm and bring child sex offenders to justice.

The ACCCE drives a collaborative national response to counter online child sexual exploitation.

With the help of world leading personnel and capabilities, the ACCCE houses teams to triage reports, identify victims, build and enhance prevention technology, inform prevention initiatives and target offenders.

EPISODE 8

THE GOOD FIGHT

If a child discloses online abuse to you, how should you support them and where should you go to report the abuse?

The ACCCE and the eSafety Commissioner process reports that relate to online child sexual exploitation.

Find out how they operate, what their challenges are, how to report effectively, and the process that sees reports turn into law enforcement action.

EPISODE 9

THE BORDERLESS CRIME

Bringing an end to online child sexual exploitation requires a collaborative international response, and Australia is leading the charge.

The internet has profoundly changed the way in which we communicate, and has successfully enabled us to connect with each other from anywhere in the world. This, unfortunately, enables online child sex offenders to work anonymously in networks and provides a challenge like no other crime type.

Evolving technology and a relentless collaborative effort to stamp these offenders out, has set us on a path to end online child sexual exploitation.

EPISODE 10

TARGET ZERO

Australia's law enforcement agencies are working to stay one step ahead of online offenders and ultimately wipe them out.

Informed and dedicated leadership meets world-class expertise. The global effort to end online child exploitation is fuelled by the belief that there is an achievable end game.

accce.gov.au



Australian Federal Police ThinkUKnow Program and Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation Launch Updated Websites

Raising awareness and preventing online child sexual exploitation is an important role for all members of the community.

The key to raising awareness is to provide the community with the most up-to-date information to protect children and young people from harm online.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has recently refreshed the ThinkUKnow and Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) websites, developed with a focus on being the primary source for the Australian community to learn, understand and report online child sexual exploitation.

The ThinkUKnow website is clearly sectioned for its targeted audience of parents, carers and educators, and provides relevant and age specific information and resources.

Features include:

- Interactive myth busters including common misconceptions about online child sexual exploitation
- Find advice articles with age-specific information that addresses topics related to online child sexual exploitation
- A segmented resource section for educators, parents and carers, including fact sheets, guides, home learning activities, videos and teacher toolkits
- How to request a ThinkUKnow presentation for students, parents, carers and educators and frequently asked questions
- A 'Get Help' section that provides support services and how to make a report to the ACCCE
- The ACCCE website has been developed to make reporting online child sexual exploitation easier



ThinkUKnow website



ACCCE website

Other key features include:

- Learning more about what constitutes online child sexual exploitation
- Information on the types of exploitation that the ACCCE encounters

- Help and support services for families and individuals affected by online child sexual exploitation
- Latest news and events from the ACCCE

Check them out at:

www.thinkuknow.org.au and
www.accce.gov.au

eSafety Leads Australia's Push for a Safer Internet

Australians came together in record numbers in February as part of Safer Internet Day – a global effort to encourage safer online experiences.

Now in its 18th year, and supported in 170 countries around the world, the event is led on home soil by Australia's own eSafety Commissioner.

With more than 3,600 registered supporters, the event was once again a huge success, spreading valuable online safety information, resources, advice, and tips to an audience that stretched across Australia and beyond our shores.

Amplified by unprecedented nationwide media coverage for this event, eSafety's activities reached a broad group of participants including families, schools, and early childhood providers, corporate companies, government and not-for-profit organisations.

Safer Internet Day 2021 was also marked with the release of new resources including:

Research – The digital lives of Aussie teens

This new research, *The digital lives of Aussie teens*, provides a glimpse into how they deal with negative online experiences, the types of information they need to stay safe online and the information sources that they trust. It also looks at the positive online behaviours in which they engage.

A new picture book for early years readers

Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5 is an original picture book that tells the story of two young sugar gliders who develop good online safety habits, while having fun experiences with digital technology. A video of the new picture book is narrated by kids' television presenter, Jimmy Rees.



Julie Inman Grant reading *Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5* to young children



Early years picture book

The My Family Rules song

My Family Rules, a song by popular children's performer, Lah-Lah, helps to reinforce the messaging with a catchy tune demonstrating the importance of always keeping safe online.

Webinars

Safer Internet Day offered a valuable platform to launch eSafety's newest webinars: a virtual classroom webinar for primary schools, *Be an eSafe Kid: Fake News, Real Harms*, and one for parents and carers

focussing on Cyberbullying and online drama. The sessions were incredibly popular, with over 40,000 parents, carers, teachers and students attending.

eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, highlighted the importance of Safer Internet Day – when the world comes together with a shared vision of making online experiences better for everyone.

"This year we are encouraging people to 'start the chat' about online safety – whether that's with friends, in the workplace, or parents at home with their children. It's never too early to start the chat," said Ms Inman Grant.

For more information about online safety, including eSafety's newest resources, support, advice and reporting services, visit www.esafety.gov.au

Are you a fan of our Facebook page?

It's staggering to think that more than 17.2 million people across Australia are now on Facebook.

Let's get social for a safer neighbourhood!



**NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH
AUSTRALASIA**



Social media platforms have become an entrenched part of our daily lives and a great way for people to stay connected and enjoy a sense of community – even when it is only in a virtual sense! Many local communities have turned to social media as a modern version of the ‘bush telegraph’ to stay in touch with each other, share happenings in the local area that may be of concern and keep watch over family, friends and neighbours.

Our Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Facebook page has

become an increasingly important way to engage with people.

It's a platform where we can keep volunteers and community members up-to-date with our latest events and share some great prevention tips on how to keep you, your loved ones and your property safe from criminals.

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest community-based crime prevention activity in Australia and the single largest community crime prevention activity in the world. Social media

remains an easy and cost-effective option to encourage people to be active and alert participants in their local community. Crime – and the fear of crime – can have a profound impact on community confidence and our quality of life, which is why it's important that we all play a part in maintaining a safer society.

So do your bit for a better community by liking and following our Facebook page @nhwa.com.au or follow the social media link from our website: www.nhwa.com.au

NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



NHW ACT President, Laurie Blackall and ACT Chief Police, Officer Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM display MoU

Neighbourhood Watch ACT and Australian Federal Police Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT President Laurie Blackall, ACT Chief Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM and Superintendent Community Safety Naomi Binstead, discussed community issues affecting Canberra, following the signing of a Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU) between the Australian Federal Police (ACT Policing) and NHW ACT Assoc. Inc. in Chief Gaughan's office at Winchester Police Centre, Belconnen, on 27 April 2021. Also present at the signing was leader of ACT Policing's Proactive Intervention and Diversion team,

Detective Inspector Mark Rowsell. A broad range of issues were discussed, including the new Community Engagement events that give Canberra residents the chance to meet and raise issues of concern with representatives of ACT Policing, Legal Aid ACT and NHW.

ACT Community Engagement During COVID-19

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT has joined with ACT Policing and Legal Aid ACT in a program of community engagements throughout 2021.

One region is targeted each month throughout the year, with a stall set up at a regional shopping centre where members of the public can discuss crime prevention, community safety issues and access to legal aid.

With the cancellation of all major community engagement activities last year due to COVID-19 restrictions and with many already cancelled again this year, NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall sees these smaller, targeted activities as, "Vital in maintaining a connection with the communities we support and to encourage members of the public to become involved in making their communities safer and more secure".

Since the first community engagement session at Southlands Shopping Centre in Mawson early this year, there have been sessions at Dickson, Manuka and Jamison – with more to come.

Residents have shown a keen interest in discussing a wide range of security and safety issues and in learning how they can get involved to help reduce crime in their neighbourhoods.

While the initial target audience for these sessions was older members of the community (with a focus on elder abuse and scams – two crime trends that are quite significant to this audience) the sessions have attracted people from all sectors and age groups, raising a wide variety of security and safety issues.



Representatives from NHW, Legal Aid ACT and ACT Policing at the Community Engagement event at Dickson Shopping Centre



NHW ACT Secretary Angela Di Pauli with representatives from Legal Aid ACT and ACT Policing at the Community Engagement event at Manuka Shopping Centre

The Beginnings of Neighbourhood Watch in New South Wales

As co-founder of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) New South Wales (NSW) back in the 1980s, I am acutely aware of the importance of NHW and related community policing strategies which are becoming increasingly important throughout Australia.

In December 1984 NHW NSW was launched at Campsie in the inner western suburbs of Sydney. This was in response to the growing number of house break-ins which was being fuelled by the escalating drug problem at the time.

In two short years, NHW dramatically reduced the incidence of house break-ins by involving the community in crime reporting and crime prevention. The community became the eyes and ears of the police.

By 1986 there were over 300 Neighbourhood Watch areas in operation in NSW. Since the commencement of the program NSW Police have had a strong commitment to Neighbourhood Watch and community policing generally. In December 2018 Neighbourhood Watch NSW became incorporated with its own board of directors who are drawn from the community.

After leaving the NSW police force in the late 1980s, I continued working closely with small business in developing crime prevention programs. It was during this period that I wrote the bestselling Neighbourhood Crime Prevention Handbook, published by Angus and Robertson. Then working as Director of Media for the Salvation Army from 1994. My time at the Salvos gave me the opportunity to work with and



Pat Daley speaking to local residents about NHW in the 1980s

advocate for the most vulnerable community members. NHW is also very much focused on assisting this demographic.

Over the last twenty years, I have served in local government as an elected councillor on Sydney's Northern Beaches. As a result of this experience there is a clear role that NHW can and should play in the protection of public property and assets, with a NHW group recently starting in the Northern

Beaches area by a group of citizens concerned with the safety of the local community.

Last year it was my great honour to join the Board of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) as an independent director. NHW is making a real difference in creating safer communities and assisting the more vulnerable members of the community. I very much look forward to making my contribution in the months and years ahead.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

What's New with Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

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



Neighbours Day Aotearoa rock painters



One of the winners of Otago Neighbourhood Support's Neighbours Day Aotearoa colouring competition

Neighbourhood Supporters from across the country took part in Neighbour Day Aotearoa 2021

One such group was Neighbourhood Support North Shore who did two weekends in a row of community events. On Saturday March 20 they held a Celebrating Communities - Rock Painting event in Beach Haven. Whānau (family) and friends came and let their creative juices flow, decorating rocks while getting to meet some of their neighbours.

The following weekend was a Flower Pot Painting event held on March 27 in Browns Bay. As part of

this years 'The Great Plant Swap' theme, residents got to enjoy the sun and fresh air while painting mini terracotta pots - each participant receiving a plant to take home with their pots.

Down South in Middelmarsh, Otago Neighbourhood Support attended the Strath Taieri A&P show where they worked with Constable Lynch from New Zealand Police and Paul Allen from Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management to host a

display. They also ran a Neighbour Day Aotearoa colouring competition for local school children - winners were selected from four categories, with each receiving a plant kindly donated by Bunnings.

Overall, Neighbour Day Aotearoa had over 550 events registered this year and more engagement than ever before. Their 'Notes for Neighbours' saw five selected notes going up on 132 billboards in 11 locations across the country.

NSNZ has been keeping busy delivering workshops to new and existing members across the country

The workshops are designed for the people running NSNZ member organisations i.e., paid staff and key volunteers, including governing bodies. Key partners such as Police are also welcome and encouraged to attend.

There will be a total of four separate workshops delivered to members one at a time. They are:

- The nuts and bolts of running Neighbourhood Support
- Promoting Neighbourhood Support
- Funding and fundraising
- Engaging people and communities

These workshops are designed to be interactive and an opportunity for people to come together, share ideas and learn from one another, so that Neighbourhood Support can continue to grow and flourish throughout the country.



Workshop attendees from Waikato District



Teaching our young people valuable skills builds safer and more resilient communities

Supporting our Young People

As part of the June National Campaign, Supporting our Young People, Greenhithe Community Trust who run Neighbourhood Support in their area, held a basic car maintenance workshop for local young people to help take the guesswork out of tasks like putting on a spare tyre or checking oil.



NSNZ Board Member – Claire Steer, NSNZ Board Treasurer – Craig Yarnley, NSNZ Board Chair – Louise Grevel, NSNZ Community Advisor – Kelsey Scarr, NSNZ CEO – Tess Casey, and NZ Police Manager: Mental Health & Community Services – Brett Callander

NSNZ takes part in the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference from Wellington

On Friday 21 May and Saturday 22 May 2021, several NSNZ Board Members, Staff and NZ Police partners, remotely took part in the 2-day Conference from Wellington. The first day of the event also coincided with Pink Shirt Day here in New Zealand, which NSNZ are proud to support every year.

A very warm nau mai to the newest team member, Hannah White, who joins Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) in a brand-new role as Tai Tokerau Community Advisor – focusing on supporting Northland members and neighbourhoods

Get to know Hannah better, in her words...

Ko Puketapu tōku maunga,
Ko Waikato tōku awa,
Ko Tainui tōku waka,
Ko Tainui tōku iwi,
Ko Ngāti Te Ata tōku hapū,
Ko Tāhuna Pā tōku marae,
Ko Ngahuiarangi rāua ko Arthur
White ōku tūpuna, i haere rāua ki a
Hukerenui, heoi anō, Ko Taitokerau
tōku Ūkaipō,
Ko Hannah White ahau.

My family has lived in Northland for five generations. I grew up in Whangarei and spent eight years of my 20s living in Auckland. Since moving home about eight years ago, I have been involved in a number of groups, activities and events around Whangarei. I love living in a small community where I walk down the road and see many people I know and connect with. I am excited to now be working for an organisation committed to establishing, supporting and furthering those connections to create a community where we all feel safe and loved.



Want to connect? Hannah can be reached at hannah@neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz

On Easter Monday, South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support took part in one of the busiest one-day A&P shows in the country by teaming up with a group of local support services and organisations to create a 'Community Support Village'

The goal of the village was to help raise awareness about safety, health, wellness, preparedness and how to get better connected to your neighbours and these services.



South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support stall in the 'Community Support Village' at their local A&P show this year



Reducing A Burglar's Opportunities

Burglar's are opportunists who make the most of tempting situations.

To help prevent you or someone you know from becoming a victim, here are some simple and practical steps anyone can take to reduce these opportunities:

- Setup or join a Neighbourhood Support group in your area and advertise the fact by displaying Neighbourhood Support signs and stickers.
- Make sure doors, windows and other entry and exit points from your house have good quality and effective catches and locks. Ideally choose a deadbolt whenever possible. Get into the habit of always using your locks.
- Always lock doors and windows at night, if you're out in the garden, or going away. Don't leave a key hidden outside - burglars know where to look for these.
- Keep sheds and garages secure and lock away tools, ladders, quads and bikes.
- Consider having an alarm system professionally installed or have your property monitored by a reputable security company.
- Install sensor lights on access paths or around main external doors.
- Install a peep-hole in your front door so you know who's there before opening the door.
- Don't be afraid to ask unannounced visitors who they are and what they want. If you aren't satisfied with their answer, don't open the door to them.
- Trim and/or remove trees and shrubbery which might 'hide' a burglary or their activity.
- Get to know your neighbours and develop plans to deal with any problems or suspicious activity. Exchanging contact information such as phone numbers and emails is a good start.
- If you're going away, ask neighbours to collect your mail and make your place look occupied. They could turn on lights, park their vehicle outside, hang washing, or mow your lawns.
- Mark valuable property such as electronics and tools with identifiable details such as your full name, driver's license number or phone number. Keep track of serial numbers which can more easily reunite you with your items if they are ever stolen.
- Place 'Beware of Dog' signs around your property to help deter would be trespassers.
- Never confide in anyone you don't trust that you're away from your home or live alone.
- Police are always interested in suspicious activity. Don't hesitate to contact them at 105 to report unusual activity. If you see a crime being committed, call 111 right away.
- If you see someone acting suspiciously ask yourself these questions:
 - Have I seen this person in our neighbourhood before?
 - Is there a sense of purpose to what they are doing? Do they appear hesitant?
 - How did they arrive to the area? Is there a car nearby? What's the registration?

Remember, burglars like easy opportunities. Avoid giving them an 'invite' by being secure!



Committee and helpers at the Kangaroo Point NHW 20th Anniversary Meeting. Diane Arapovic, Secretary; Marty Doyle, committee member; Amanda Spink, Area Coordinator; David Rees, committee member holding copies of the first edition of the Heritage Walk booklet; Dana McCown, Treasurer; Austin Adams, committee member; Police Representative Snr Constable Simon Riley; and Annemarie Vourinen newsletter editor

Kangaroo Point NHW Group Celebrates 20 Years

Every 'Brisbanite' knows Kangaroo Point as that pointy bit of land close to the centre of town, yet kept away from the city by the wide moat of the river. It's the home of parks, riverfront walks, high-rise apartments and of course the Story Bridge straddling the river and, sheltering underneath it, the iconic Story Bridge Hotel (SBH).

The owners of the SBH, brother and sister Richard and Jane Deery, generously provide the Kangaroo Point Neighbourhood Watch group free use of a meeting room for its meetings every two months.

Formed in 2001 the Kangaroo Point (KP) NHW group celebrated its 20th anniversary at their April meeting, with a lively crowd of



Kangaroo Point NHW members at a national Neighbour Day event in a local park

66 people including the state MP, a representative for the federal MP and Chief Executive Officer of NHW Australasia, Maria Bennett.

There is also a Police report from the very professional and supportive Senior Constable Simon Riley, and often a briefing from the local city

councillor regarding local issues and developments – many of which affect security.

At the 20th anniversary meeting, one of their oldest-serving members presented a short history of the group and its activities over the past 20 years. These have included heritage projects; producing a heritage walk book that was recently updated with stories of the people who lived there, as well as producing heritage plaques for buildings encountered on the walk.

The KP NHW group provides the only formal, regular, community gathering forum in Kangaroo Point, and meetings are usually well attended.

Central Lakes NHW Free Family Fun Day and Movie Night

On Saturday 27 March 2021, Central Lakes NHW Caboolture organised a free family fun day and movie night in the local park.



Terminator

The event aimed to bring our local community together so that neighbours could get to know each other in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

300 people attended the event to look at and interact with the displays from the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Crime Stoppers and NHW. A Ghostbusters and Terminator car were on display and the movie How to Train Your Dragon was played. The event was family friendly and encouraged children to get active by playing games and dancing. Plenty of food and beverages were on offer, including an ice cream van and a BBQ lead by the Caboolture Men's Shed.

Senior Constable, Moreton Crime Prevention Coordinator, Jo-Anne Arthur said, "The Central Lakes movie night was a great success in bringing the community together. Building a resilient, safe and happy community is what NHW is about and Central Lakes NHW always goes above and beyond. Congratulations on holding such a great night."

Central Lakes NHW received all positive feedback from the residents, and everyone is looking forward to the next event. The committee could not be happier with the outcome,



BBQ: Members of Caboolture Men's Shed together with Terry Young MP



Watching film



NHW members and Moreton Crime Prevention Co-ordinator at entrance



Moreton police

and throughout the journey and challenges, they met many beautiful people and collected some great memories.

The project was funded through a grant provided by the Moreton Bay Regional Council. With additional sponsors from QPS, Crime Stoppers, Moreton Bay radio station 101.5 FM,

local businesses, the MPs for LNP & ALP and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, showing their support for the event.

Finally, a big thank you goes out to the police contact person and councillor, who worked tirelessly with Central Lakes NHW Committee to make this event an absolute blast.



Some of the event attendees

Muscle in Maculata 2021

Sunshine, shiny cars and smiling faces were the order of the day when Muscle in Maculata 2021 returned to Riverview in April for its 5th year.

Having cancelled the event in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, the volunteers at Riverview Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) were keen to make this year's event bigger and better.

Muscle in Maculata was born at a meeting where it was evident the community had some concerns about hooning. Rather than sitting back and talking about it, the committee at Riverview created an event where motoring enthusiasts can show off their passion legally while connecting with like-minded people and provide

an opportunity for police and the community to work together to highlight the fatal five causes of fatalities on our roads and strategies to reduce road trauma.

The event draws attendees from the wider community, some of whom may never have attended a NHW meeting otherwise.

This year 99 vehicles were booked alongside the 24 market stalls and food trucks. Community members mingled with police, police liaison officers, Volunteers in Policing, state and local government

representatives, NHW volunteers, and many other service providers from the local area. Up to 1,000 people attended and came away with a more positive view of the suburb and a better knowledge of what NHW can do.

Sergeant Nadine Webster said, "This event really highlights such a fun and interactive way that Neighbourhood Watch can engage and educate the community on road safety and is an absolute credit to the committee that this event is becoming bigger and better every year".

Secure Disposal Day

At the Gold Coast, the first Saturday in August is becoming known as the day on which all secure, sensitive or personal correspondence; paper based documents; photographs and x-rays can be disposed of in a secure environment.

The Gold Coast District Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has partnered with the Gold Coast City Council, the Robina Town Centre and Shred-X, to provide the service to all residents, organisations and businesses across the Gold Coast, to allow them to dispose of their documentation in a secure way. 2020 was the fourth year that this program has been run by the District. During this time, fifty-



Gold Coast District NHW Committee at Secure Disposal Day 2020

five wheelie bins were filled with meeting minutes, government correspondence, financial statements, the contents of ancient filing cabinets, property documentation, divorce papers and even bundles of letters tied with ribbon! In addition,

five bins of x-rays and photographs were securely shredded and reprocessed into computer paper. Don't worry about your rate notices or tax records blowing down the street on recycling day, this is a Secure Day.

Clean Up Australia Day

On Sunday 7 March Riverview Neighbourhood Watch participated in Clean Up Australia Day.

Setting up a meeting point in Maggie Hodges Park, volunteers registered to clean an area in Riverview before returning to celebrate their efforts with a free sausage sizzle.

Collecting a total of 40kgs of rubbish from local parks and streets.

They connected with Pastor Paulo and the congregation from the Rivcom Church who cleaned Maculata and Hayden Parks prior to their morning service, and Dinmore Bushrats Soccer Club who volunteered to clean up their home ground in Riverview before their games.

A massive thank you must also go to the two officers, Jaques Beckers and Ben Lewis, who were possibly their most productive rubbish collectors!

Overall a fantastic effort from all involved and Riverview looks better for it!



Katherine Smith, Gregory Broad, Luesa Aspden, Jaques Beckers, Ben Lewis, Sandra Smrecnik, Jazzmin Coates, Jennifer Aspden and Skyann Aspden

30 Year History of Bundaberg NHW 11 Avenell Heights East

In late 1990, Stan Greenwood and other concerned residents in our area, contacted the local police to see about starting up a Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group in our area.



Cutting of the cake during the anniversary celebration



Senior Constable Amanda Dohrman being presented with her certificate of appreciation

Sergeant Terry Farrell, then officer in charge of NHW in the Bundaberg District, and other concerned residents canvassed the area to gauge interest in forming a group.

The first meeting was held at Bright Horizons in Nixon Street on the 19 October 1990, with about 20 residents attending. Bundaberg NHW 11 South Kepnock (as it was called then) was officially formed with Stan Greenwood duly elected as the Area Coordinator.

Over the last 30 years, our group has been active in a number of initiatives including:

- Lobbying the council for more lighting in the local parks
- Drainage in McCarthy Street
- Reducing the speed limits in certain streets

During the past 15 years, we have been fortunate to have

had councillors attend many of our meetings. Firstly, Lyn Forgan, the late Peter Heyser and now John Learmonth. Each has been a guest speaker keeping us up to date on local council business and we have been able to pass on any concerns in our area. We thank them all for the input in our area and being our sponsors.

We have had a few projects over the years, namely:

- **Engraving bicycles at St Luke's Anglican School and Woongarra State School**
- **Assisted in fixing security screws to car registration plates**
- **Producing and distributing an annual calendar for our local residents, which gives them quick access to emergency phone numbers and the dates of our future meetings**

- **For the last four years, we have held our Christmas meeting in Boreham Park and invited residents to a free sausage sizzle to try to interest more residents in NHW**
- **Placed house numbers on street gutters**

Over the last 15 years, we have been lucky to have a great Police Liaison Officer, Senior Constable Amanda Dohrman in our area. During that time, Amanda has been able to keep us up to date with crime statistics, police activities and has been our official photographer. She has been awarded the NHW Queensland Police Liaison Officer of the Year and the NHW Australasia Police Commissioner's Award winner in 2017 for her work in NHW.

To all of our zone and block coordinators, plus the office bearers and residents who have attended our meetings over the last 30 years. Thank you all.

NHW Week in the South Burnett

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Week turned out to be a busy time for Kumbia NHW members and officers, who ably promoted NHW in two separate events.

On Saturday 14 November 2020, 14 volunteers and 2 Queensland Police Service officers participated in our third 'Turning the Screws on Crime' event, where they replaced screws on around 40 vehicles number plates, with one-way security anti-theft screws, and handed out additional screws to those who requested sets for family members.

As most of our members are 65 and above, it is proof of their dedication and resilience that they persevered in very hot and humid conditions.

Funding came by way of our local councillor and we were especially grateful for the assistance given during the morning by three of the local council staff members.

Two local businesses donated prizes for the event, including Crowies Paints and Repco.

On 18 November 2020, Kumbia NHW set-up a display at the local Bunnings store, focusing mainly on home security, but also incorporating other NHW initiatives. We were pleased to have two Queensland Police Service officers from Kingaroy in attendance, to answer questions from the public and help our Volunteer in Policing promote NHW.



Senior Constable Connor Miller and Constable Ellen Meagher on hand to answer questions at the NHW display



NHW and QPS display table at Bunnings Kingaroy



Bumper bar assembled by Volunteer in Policing Peter Verbakel on display at the 'Turning the Screws' event



Kumbia NHW & sausage sizzle marquees at the 'Turning the Screws' crime disruption strategy event



Group of volunteers who assisted at the 'Turning the Screws' event

Hope Valley and Highbury Reach 30 Years

Hope Valley and Highbury Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) South Australia (SA) (3, Area 222) celebrated its 30+1 anniversary with a celebratory dinner at the Highbury Hotel on 10 May 2021. The official 30th birthday was in May last year but due to COVID-19 restrictions the group were unable to celebrate. They did so in style this year, with over 45 invited guests, volunteers, and community members in attendance.

The active NHW group, which has nine of its original members still with the group to this day, reached the milestone after forming in May 1990. During the celebrations, the original members were presented with certificates by Superintendent Matt Nairn from SA Police's Eastern District.

Over the years, the Hope Valley and Highbury group has contributed to its local community through a variety of initiatives and programs, notably staging 'Big Day Out' fundraiser events, providing local residents with personal safety tools such as card protection sleeves and initiating the annual *Outstanding Community Service Award* for Highbury Primary School students, which has an \$100 prize for the winner.

After 30 magical years a special occasion was necessary, with a cake cutting, speeches from special guests and some delicious food, it was exactly that.

Phil Tavender, Area Coordinator for Hope Valley and Highbury said, "When the group was formed in 1990 it was really well attended



Members of Hope Valley & Highbury with Senior Sergeant Michelle O'Rielley



Mac Vogel, original member of Hope Valley & Highbury with Superintendent Matt Nairn

and so from that amazing start, we've always had big ambitions but reaching 30 plus years is really special and we're so proud.

"The group is still getting a lot of engagement and attendance at our monthly meetings which is great to see. I think it helps that we have such a good core group of volunteers; even during the COVID-19 shutdown we were still producing our monthly NHW newsletter.



Members of Hope Valley & Highbury celebrating at the dinner

"I'd like to thank everyone that has been involved with the group over the years, the nine originals that are still with us to this day, plus everyone else. We wouldn't have reached this milestone without you!

"It was a fabulous evening, a great way to top off a brilliant 30 years, bring on the next 30!"

Find out more about NHW SA at <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw>

NHW South Australia Celebrates SA Youth Week

SA Youth Week is South Australia's biggest celebration for young people aged 12-25.

Taking place from Sunday 2 to 9 May, the annual celebration week provides a unique platform to recognise the contribution of young people to our communities, while aiming to empower our youth to make a difference to their own and others' lives.

As part of SA Youth week, the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) SA team sat down with young member and volunteer Liam White to hear more about his involvement with the program.

Liam is 20 years old and while studying at the University of South Australia and working as a cameraman, he also finds time to take part in Sefton Park's NHW group.

Here is what Liam had to say...

To start, tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm part of the Neighbourhood Watch group in Sefton Park. I'm currently studying Primary Education at the University of South Australia, and I also work as a cameraman for sports leagues like the Adelaide Footy League.

I'm in second year uni at the moment so it was pretty interesting over the last year with COVID-19 happening. Now that we're back on campus and I've had a year of uni it's a bit easier. I do love it, it's a good course, and good people in it too.

When did you start getting involved in NHW?

A couple of years ago. I wanted to do a bit of volunteer work and connect with the community, so I made some enquiries about it. I spoke to the local contact at SAPOL and she



Young NHW volunteer Liam White

encouraged me to go to my closest group, which was Sefton Park. I began attending meetings and it was as simple as that.

What's the best thing about NHW?

The best thing about NHW has to be the people. That might sound cliché but it's truly excellent seeing the enthusiasm and diverse range of perspectives they bring to any discussion.

Have you been involved in any NHW activities recently?

We have had the meetings recently but because of COVID-19 it has been difficult to do events, everything got put on hiatus. Our group has done a lot in the past like fundraisers, being present at the Prospect Spring Fair, and of course promoting crime prevention. They also welcome new people to the community through information packs. People that have just moved to Sefton get them, it introduces them to the area and shows that there is plenty of community help available. They also include a few useful trinkets and gadgets as goodies!

You sound like a busy person, how do you balance your studies, work and NHW volunteering?

It can be quite a juggling act but that's life I think. The experiences from all my ventures, and especially NHW make it worth it, and I find the community involvement very rewarding.

Do you think that being involved with NHW has impacted in other areas of your life?

It has given me an opportunity to meet people that I never would have met otherwise and has helped develop my confidence and identity as well. It really pays to mix with your community. NHW was also a great introduction to volunteering as I went from just being involved with NHW to becoming a SAPOL volunteer as a role player, and that's been a really good experience for me.

Since joining NHW do you feel safer and more connected to your community?

It's that sense of community and vigilance which really helps with that. There are plenty of initiatives and common goals in place, if something needs to be solved in terms of safety or things like that, that's what the group really gets onto. It also really helps having a police coordinator at the meetings because they're always super helpful and it's nice having that liaison to provide some insight.

Of course, you know who your neighbours are but once you join a NHW group, that extends beyond just who's to your left and right.

Find out more about NHW SA at <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw>



Broadview and Collinswood NHW SA group celebrating World Environment Day

Broadview and Collinswood Host Community Pruning Day

On Sunday 30 March, Broadview and Collinswood Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group hosted a community pruning day, in partnership with Prospect Local Environment Group (PLEG) at Broadview Community Garden.

The day was in aid of World Environment Day which takes place annually and encourages awareness and taking action to protect our environment.

Local residents were invited, along with their secateurs and shears, to roll up their sleeves and dig in, giving the garden a good pre-winter cut-back.

Previously, three volunteers were maintaining the space, however, it became too difficult to manage so Broadview and Collinswood NHW group, along with PLEG, stepped in to help.

In the beautiful autumn sun, local community members turned out in force with over 30 people coming and going in the two-hour window. Once the pruning, cutting and digging was done the residents were treated to a BBQ lunch, giving them all a chance to catch up.

Josie Meyer, NHW Area Coordinator explained, "It was really obvious last year, with COVID-19 concerns and restrictions, how important it was to actually get out into places like this. It's really beneficial for your mental health to get out into the sun and enjoy the peacefulness of nature. We need to make sure our local green spaces are maintained to give local residents a place to enjoy.

"It's part of the Neighbourhood Watch ethos, it's about looking after

your neighbours and your local community. Bringing people out into the community that may usually feel quite isolated and getting them involved with something active, something that provides purpose. It doesn't always have to be a formal meeting, it can be a catch up over a BBQ or coffee."

Grace Fitzpatrick, Chairperson of PLEG, the local community group who have partnered with the Broadview and Collinswood NHW to help ensure the space is looked after said, "It's amazing to see lots of people and every generation here. With Prospect, because we are a suburb with probably the smallest green space out of any inner-metro suburb in the whole of South Australia, this is just so important that we have more of these spaces for our community."

Churchill Fellowship Awarded to Tasmanian State Secretary

Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania (NHWT) celebrates the awarding of a Churchill Fellowship to State Secretary Kate Dobson.

A Churchill Fellowship offers everyday Australian citizens a life-changing opportunity to travel overseas for four to eight weeks to explore a topic or issue that they are passionate about. As an internationally recognised award, recipients gain access to expertise from around the world on an incredibly broad and diverse range of issues such as agriculture, health, arts, music, building, architecture, business, sport, science, the environment and more.

Schools are a big part of every Australian community and in some areas in Tasmania, our Watches sponsor annual student awards or coordinate student competitions and other events. These activities promote closer community ties – a cornerstone to community based crime prevention, improved public safety and better quality of life. In Tasmania, the Department of Education has purview of 196 schools, which includes a staff of some 12,000 people and a student population of over 60,000.

When Kate Dobson is not performing her Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania (NHWT) State Secretary duties, she is the Principal Advisor – Security & Emergency Management, with the Tasmanian Department of Education. Kate is a qualified teacher and has spent almost 20 years specialising in emergency management interstate and in Tasmania. Kate was recently announced as one of the nine Tasmanians to be awarded a Churchill Fellowship to be taken up in 2021/22. It is Kate's solid background in this type of work and her desire to make a difference within her community that



Kate Dobson, Principal Advisor – Security & Emergency Management, Department of Education and State Secretary for Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania

led Kate to join NHWT in 2019 and take on the added responsibilities as a Director and State Secretary.

Kate's Churchill Fellowship project will be to travel to the USA and New Zealand to investigate ways to minimise casualties from school attacks. In these countries, Kate will work with schools, community groups, and local law enforcement and emergency medicine agencies to understand what they do to minimise the harm caused to students and staff by these types of incidents.

Kate says, "We are lucky in Australia that violent intruder events in schools are not something we are familiar with and there is no police intelligence that indicates attacks are imminent. They are considered 'low likelihood' but can be 'high consequence' and challenging for schools to prepare for; unlike other situations which Australian schools are more familiar with such as

bushfires, floods and bus accidents, which all schools already prepare for. It's also a topic we need to keep a balanced perspective on, as schools are for learning and there are limited opportunities to prepare, which makes it even more important to know what some schools are doing to be most effective in terms of readiness."

The plan is for Kate to bring this knowledge back to Australia and share it amongst Education Departments (who all work with the Independent and Catholic schools in their jurisdictions), the National Government Emergency Management sector and other groups to assist them to mitigate effects of violent incidents at our schools and in our communities.

For readers who may also be interested in pursuing similar opportunities, there are no prescribed qualifications to apply for Churchill Fellowships. Australian citizens from all walks of life can apply. Proposed project topics are limitless, as long as they provide benefit to Australia and that the applicant demonstrates the willingness and ability to share their findings with the Australian community.

Kate hopes to undertake the overseas study component of the fellowship toward the end of 2021, or in 2022. Kate believes in the mantra of 'Learners First: Every Learner, Every Day' and is proud and excited to be a Churchill Fellow, committed to contributing in a practical way, so schools (as community cornerstones) can be safer and learning can be optimised.

Junior Neighbourhood Watch Update

Junior Neighbourhood Watch continues to go from strength to strength in Northwest Victoria. They have built a program to facilitate 15 local schools and it continues to be well received by students, teachers, parents and the community at large.

The final session for term two is all about road safety. The students are taught about things that directly affect them while they are on or near roads. This includes pedestrian and bike safety messaging which the students are encouraged to take home to other family members.

The activity for this session is to build bike helmets to protect an egg dropped from the height of a person sitting on a bike. Whilst success was limited, enthusiasm was 'off the charts' and videos of the egg drop were well received on several school social media pages. The activity helps to illustrate the importance of wearing a helmet while riding a bike.



Leading Senior Constable Joe Clarke demonstrating fingerprinting techniques



The winners of the bike helmets for eggs competition



Leading Senior Constable Joe Clarke, NHW Mildura Area Coordinator Helen Worcester and local school students

Neighbourhood Watch International Conference Perth Hub

Western Australia Police Force (WAPF), Neighbourhood Watch Western Australia (NHW WA) and Kensington Police and Citizens Youth Club partnered to host an online hub for the NHW International Conference on the 22 May 2021.



Group photo of the NHW WA virtual hub attendees

WAPF and NHW WA had graciously accepted an offer from the Kensington PCYC to host the viewing hub. After reviewing the venue capacity it was decided that their facilities were more than adequate with spacious airconditioned rooms, seating, a commercial kitchen and changerooms that would accommodate a whole footy club!

A COVID-19 lockdown at the end of April put the event in jeopardy, however, a decision was made in May to push ahead with the virtual viewing Hub. They garnered commitment from nearly 40 volunteers to meet, mingle and learn on a cold Saturday morning.

Members from volunteer groups of Armadale, Burswood Peninsula, Melville, Gosnells, Cockburn and the Chinese Group were in attendance. It was a great opportunity for the volunteers from geographically distant areas to be able to network and compare notes.

Due to the difference in time zone, broadcast of the NHW International Conference started early and finished early for the WA viewing Hub, and attendees were delighted to spend it with so many other caring individuals.

Plans were made between the groups to pool resources for future projects together, and everyone



Mr Ganxin Cai of the NHW Chinese Group

benefited greatly from the collective wisdom in the room. The interesting and informative speakers at the NHW International Conference gave the volunteers an insight into challenges faced by all NHW participants. Furthermore, there was advice given about resources and services that can assist their groups that was valued by all in attendance.

The day proved to reinforce the ethos of Neighbourhood Watch. The spirit of collaborative communities, caring individuals, great teams of people and a drive to work and learn together to make our communities safer for everyone.

Neighbourhood Watch Chinese Group Volunteer Appreciation Event

On the evening of the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference Hub on 22 May 2021, the Neighbourhood Watch Chinese Group organised a special event to congratulate its volunteers for the special contribution that they made to the organisation during the year.

It was a great community-driven event that coincided with their volunteers attending the NHW International Conference Hub via video-link, from the Kensington PCYC, enabling them to invite several other NHW groups to attend and thus making the atmosphere more socially cohesive and inclusive.

Their event featured a range of speeches from Crime Stoppers CEO Dr. Vince Hughes, Cr. Dan Bull, Mayor of the City of Bayswater and featured representatives from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) including Mathieu Uchino, the Acting NHW Western Australia (WA) State Coordinator. There were also entertaining performances such as a magic show, singing, dancing and a free meal and glass of wine for all participants.

The event was designed as being a small token of appreciation for their valued volunteers and a great way for those more isolated members of the community to get out and socialise with more Chinese speaking community members.

NHW Chinese Group has expressed their gratitude to Volunteering WA and Lotterywest for providing them with support to host the event, and all the people who braved the weather to attend and share in the appreciation for those who have contributed so much to the community.



Dr Vince Hughes, CEO Crime Stoppers with NHW CG volunteers



Front of house volunteers posing for a photo



Our kitchen volunteers pausing their busy night for a photo



Acting NHW WA State Coordinator Mathieu Uchino with his daughter watching the performance

Women in Community Leadership – Lisa Li

Lisa Li is a great example for young women to become leaders within their community. Everyone at the Neighbourhood Watch Chinese Group supports the move towards women reaching leadership positions, a trend that is becoming increasingly obvious as the barriers to leadership for women are being broken down by the groundwork set by those who have fought the odds and become leaders in traditionally male dominated areas.

Starting her career as a teacher in China, Lisa has come a long way since she moved to Australia as a young woman in 2002. Since that time, she has always strived to promote the Chinese speaking community through establishing the cultural association HuaXia. Through this group she successfully hosted many events and helped those most vulnerable find their feet in a new country, an experience that can leave new immigrants feeling isolated, overwhelmed and alienated.

An example of the great work that Lisa has done through her community work is illustrated through the support she has provided to over 40 families who experienced domestic violence, by helping the victims to secure support services and even driving the affected women and children to their new temporary accommodation, spending the time with them to calm their anxieties and being on call to help them liaise with the police and other service agencies. Lisa herself has undergone White Ribbon training for dealing with domestic violence and is a fierce advocate of women being empowered to remove themselves and their children from this horrible situation.

Over the last 3 years, Lisa Li has established the Neighbourhood Watch Chinese Group Inc. a not-for-



Lisa Li with the Mayor of the City of Bayswater, Cr. Dan Bul



Lisa Li thanking the volunteers at the groups last event

profit community group that aims to reduce crime by encouraging everyone to report any instances of crimes that they are witness to, along with hosting workshops and events designed to educate Chinese speaking people about the applicable laws in Australia and the penalties for not following them.

Further, the organisation serves to promote multiculturalism in Australia – celebrating Chinese culture through showcasing amateur cultural performers within the Chinese community, ranging from traditional Chinese dancing, singing, calligraphy



Lisa working with the volunteers to help the community through the COVID crisis

and Tai-Chi. These performances have been a great socially cohesive feature at many events and help to cast a positive cultural light on the Chinese-speaking community while also engaging the Western audience, many of whom have never experienced those types of cultural traditions.

Recently awarded the Women in Leadership award by the City of Bayswater, Lisa Li embodies a positive and constructive message for the community and sets a great example for the next generation of community leaders.



Armadale Neighbourhood Watch members June McDonald, Kelly Partington, Damien Brennan, Arun Ram with Sergeant Simon Rimmer

Community Crime Prevention Podcasts

In 2020 Western Australia (WA) Police Force and Neighbourhood Watch Western Australia (NHW WA) partnered with The City of Armadale, Advanced Personnel Management (APM), HFM local radio and Armadale Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Group to produce a series of Crime Prevention Podcasts.

These podcasts are short tips and talks aimed at making crime prevention information accessible to members of the public that may be vision or mobility impaired. **Our research into the topic found that there were no other crime prevention podcasts in Australasia, so we would be pioneers in the field!**

A team of volunteers, police officers and staff, community radio announcers and employment agency advocates were assembled to create content for a series of six crime prevention topics ranging from home and vehicle security to online safety.

The local community radio station HFM assisted with recording and editing the audio files and were very generous with their time and resources. Our team

was so encouraged by how much community spirit was behind the project.

As the podcast progressed, it was discovered that a wider audience than was initially predicted was interested in the product. The growing interest and acceptance was encouraging for the podcast team and so the decision was made to host the podcasts on a streaming platform to increase exposure.

The "Community Crime Prevention" podcasts are currently hosted on Anchor.fm who have redistributed the content to other popular podcast sites including Spotify, Google Podcasts and Pocketcasts.

To assist community members to access the content, we have also created QR codes to allow direct access via mobile devices. These are included with this article so everyone that reads this can also enjoy the podcasts via a direct link. You can also use Google voice command or Apple Siri to say, "Open Community Crime Prevention podcasts".

The nature of online resources that are available via mobile application is that

they are internationally available – and these podcasts have been enjoyed from as far away as Germany and Washington State in the USA!

One of the best things about the podcast format is that you can get the information whilst exercising or even driving to work. You can even learn about crime prevention whilst walking the dog!

The podcast project team is currently planning a marketing launch of the series to different agencies and community groups with an aim to show how easy it is to access this informative crime prevention media. The next phase is to plan further topics, so we'd love to receive feedback on what you would like to hear about.

Please visit the podcast:

<https://anchor.fm/preventcrime>



Anchor FM



Google Podcasts



Spotify

City of Canning Working Together For a Safe Community

The City of Canning has been working closely with local residents, Canning Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), the Western Australia Police Force and the Department of Communities to improve community safety, reduce opportunistic crime, and raise awareness of correct reporting lines.

Collaboration with key stakeholders identified a number of strategies the city could implement to improve safety concerns and help address language barriers. These included:

- Promotion of NHW and the importance of getting to know your neighbours
- Targeted NHW recruitment drive within the local community
- Social media promotion and resource distribution of city services and the importance of reporting crime to the appropriate channels, along with a presentation from Crime Stoppers Western Australia
- Attendance of city officers at local community meet and greets
- Additional community patrols from the city's 24-hour Ranger and Community Safety service
- School presentations and celebrating *Walk Safely to School Day* with Ranger Buddy (the city's Ranger and Community Safety mascot).

Ranger Buddy school talks aim to build good safety behaviours through the delivery of key messages presented in a fun and interactive way

More recently, the City of Canning attended a local shopping centre with representatives from the Canning NHW, Ranger and community safety officers and Cannington police to raise awareness of theft from motor



Ranger Buddy mascot promoting the Gone in Less Than 60 Seconds (GILT60) campaign



City of Canning promoting NHW and GILT60 at local shopping centres



City of Canning promoting NHW and GILT60 at Bentley Plaza shopping centre

vehicles. The city promoted the *Gone in Less Than 60 Seconds* program, which is a joint initiative with seven neighbouring local governments targeting theft from motor vehicles. This awareness-raising initiative encourages people not to leave valuables in their vehicle and to always lock their car.

This pop-up event was highly successful, receiving over 60 meaningful engagements throughout the morning.

Collaboration and community-led action has resulted in increased membership of the city's NHW program, and the implementation of an active NHW Facebook group being established.

There has also been an increased understanding of the importance of correct reporting, resulting in a significant increase in reporting crime and antisocial behaviour to police and Crime Stoppers.

Community Garden Builds Connections with Neighbours

Windich Place Leederville is a cul-de-sac where neighbours know each other and chat regularly. The homes are predominately townhouses with small front and rear courtyards with young families. The cul-de-sac has provided a perfect environment for children to play and neighbours to interact. During one of these informal interactions, neighbours Gabby, Todd, Lucy, Matt, Heidi and Clayton explored the idea of creating a communal garden.

The community garden was to provide another space for neighbours to socialise, to expand upon limited gardening spaces at the townhouses, provide an interactive space for children to explore and to make use of an empty space at the end of the cul-de-sac.

The idea ignited discussions with the City



Gabby and neighbour Jacinta preparing the beds for spring

of Vincent, who generously supported the idea through grant funding and an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the neighbours who added value to the space.

Utilising the skills of local neighbours, including environmental scientist

Gabby, the garden beds were established. Neighbouring streets were advised of the garden and encouraged to contribute to the composting and help themselves to the local produce.

The neighbours believe that the garden has added value to their neighbourhood community and contributes to a safer environment by building relationships with neighbours who know each other and look out for the local environment.

One of the newest residents to the area bought into the complex because of the garden. They said, "I saw the garden when I was looking for a house for sale and thought, I want to live there. So, I took up the opportunity and I am now happy to be part of this great neighbourhood community."

Local Verge Improvement Adds Value to Neighbourhood

Erlene and Jim are good examples of neighbours who practice the Neighbourhood Watch philosophy in their street. They know their neighbours, look out for one another, have a communication network and report all suspicious activity to police.

Fostering a sense of belonging is important to Erlene, Jim and their neighbours and they all recognise the importance of knowing who lives in their street and the sense of safety this brings. Erlene and Jim host an annual barbeque driveway dinner, as an opportunity to get to know new residents and to enhance existing relationships.

Recently, an issue concerning the verge that abuts their property was affecting the quality of life for Erlene, Jim and their neighbours. Their concerns included constant and excessive parking by residents and individuals from outside of the neighbourhood who were accessing free parking close



Erlene and Jim admiring the new space they have helped develop and maintain for the area

to public transport and the park at the bottom of their street. The parking often resulted in intrusive behaviour, broken sprinklers and excessive weeds, as access to mow the verge area was limited due to the parking.

The issue was raised amongst the neighbours, who discussed ways to take back their verge. One idea put forward was to convert the verge into a garden of native plants that attract

birds, needs little water and are edible Indigenous plants such as Warrigal Greens and Youlk.

The neighbours approached their local council who were very supportive of the idea and arranged for the grass and weeds to be removed, graded the area, supplied mulch and 100 plants and created a path to a nearby reserve. Alex and Catherine sourced bollards, Erlene and Jim supplied the park bench and bird bath, and the maintenance of the area has been taken over by the neighbours.

This collaborative effort has seen the verge developed into something beautiful that is used by local residents, workers, walkers, young families and neighbours. The development of the native plants now attracts a number of birds, creating a relaxing space to sit and admire nature.

The space is now the new location of the annual neighbourhood get together.



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 to find restrictions specific to your State or Territory.



Australian Red Cross
Lifeblood



Give life. Give blood.

Book your donation today

