



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Limited







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**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH  
AUSTRALASIA**



## OUR PURPOSE

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia will promote community safety by supporting its members through education, awareness and resources, to prevent crime.

## OUR HISTORY

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) programs were introduced to Australian communities by Police in the 1980s.

The logo of the four faces was designed in 1983 by a Victorian volunteer community committee and has become the nationally recognised brand of NHW.

In 2003, NHW conference participants from Australian policing agencies and NHW voluntary associations agreed there would be significant value in establishing a national structure to assist the growth and development of NHW across Australia and New Zealand.

By 2006, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) was established to provide a collaborative approach to the development of resources; training; cross-sector information exchange and advocacy for Neighbourhood Watch in Australia and Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand.

The first NHWA Journal was printed in October 2006 and shares information on crime prevention initiatives and events from the Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Support regions.

In 2007 NHWA, as a not for profit organisation, registered as an incorporated association.

In 2010 NHWA established an online presence with the nhwa.com.au website. This continues to be a great point of contact and source of news and information for groups, members, and the general public.

2011 saw the launch of the NHWA Facebook page as a result of the growth of social media.

During 2018 NHWA transitioned from an incorporated association, to a company limited by guarantee and a registered Charity.

In 2020, NHWA was listed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisation in the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. This was fantastic news for our organisation and is recognition of our ongoing commitment to public safety and crime prevention.

NHWAs primary role in 2021 continues to be to promote the exchange of information and knowledge between communities and Police and to improve community safety, engagement and social inclusion while adhering to COVID-19 restrictions.

## OUR VISION

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch member organisations and the Police, will be the leading volunteer community inclusion and crime prevention organisation in Australasia.

## OUR PATRON

### Commissioner Michael Fuller APM



Commissioner Michael Fuller joined the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) in 1987. Throughout his career he has served in a variety of areas including General Duties, Detective, Criminal Investigation, Inspector Duty Officer, Target Action Group, Superintendent Operations Manager, Field Operations and Local Area Commander before being promoted to Assistant Commissioner, Commander Southern Region in 2010.

Since then, he has served as the Assistant Commissioner, Commander Professional Standards and Assistant Commissioner, Commander Central Metropolitan Region. Commissioner Fuller received the Australian Police Medal in 2009 and currently holds a Graduate Diploma of Executive Leadership, a Diploma of Applied Policing and a number of Diplomas and Certificates in Leadership and Management.

The NSWPF has worked closely with Neighbourhood Watch in NSW for over 30 years as well as supported Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW).

The Commissioner's objective, since becoming NHWA Patron in May 2019, has been to continue achieving positive outcomes for communities through the implementation of programs and awareness-raising activities in collaboration with NHWA. He is also involved in a variety of programs and activities within the community including a program he developed called RISEUP.

Commissioner Fuller's role as Patron of NHWA concluded in mid-2021.

The NHWA Board was pleased that Commissioner Fuller was Patron throughout the period of upheaval due to COVID-19 as he provided a degree of continuity and stability during difficult times.

On behalf of the NHWA Board, we acknowledge the Commissioner's contribution to Neighbourhood Watch both at a local and federal level and give our sincere thanks to him for his work and commitment over the years as our Patron.

# CEO'S REPORT

Maria Bennett



## A warm welcome to all!

It's been another busy and productive year for Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW), with plenty to report on to date, and even more projects and initiatives in the pipeline that will contribute further to our community's safety and wellbeing. Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has continued to work within C-19 restrictions and prioritise community safety and connectivity, face to face where possible, and also online.

This year we have seen the completion of many major projects, including:

- **Community Capacity Study** in collaboration with The University of Queensland to survey and measure the effectiveness of NHW in communities. The project culminated in the production of 7 training videos, created specifically to assist NHW members and groups, project update p11.
- **Reporting Training** has seen the delivery of video training modules and a dedicated website Reporting page to increase the effectiveness of reports given by NHW members to police, project update p14.
- **NHW International Conference**, 21-22 May 2021, Gold Coast. The conference brought together NHW volunteers and members, police and other law enforcement agencies, academia, and industry experts to engage and be part of the inaugural national and international crime prevention initiative, project update p15.
- **Community Service Announcements - 5 TV commercials** were produced to deliver everyday crime prevention messages, focused on protecting our property, our homes and each other, project update p17.

I'm immensely proud of my team, Selina Otto and Melissa Roberts, their work ethic, professionalism and 'can do' attitude is a credit to them.

Thank you to the Chair, Company Secretary and Board Directors for their support, governance and commitment to the organisation's strategic direction.

Central to all NHWA activities and projects is the relationship between Neighbourhood Watch and policing organisations. We recognise and are appreciative of the strong partnerships between Police and communities working together for better crime prevention outcomes.

The 2020/21 journey has been intense, challenging and incredibly rewarding and this is just the springboard for even bigger plans over the next twelve months and beyond.

It is a pleasure to be a part of Neighbourhood Watch creating safer communities. Let's take action. Let's take ownership. And number 1. Let's stay safe.

**Maria Bennett**  
Chief Executive Officer



# CHAIR'S REPORT

Bernie Durkin



## Dear Stakeholders and Members

On behalf of the Board, it gives me great pleasure to present our Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) Limited Annual Report for the financial year 2020/21.

This has been a very challenging year for businesses, organisations and the community as we have had to learn to deal with the disruptions to our normal way of life as a result of COVID-19. Our organisation, like many others, has had to embrace technology to enable business to continue as usual. NHWA has representation from across Australia and New Zealand, and we have successfully used technology to enable Board meetings and other subsequent essential meetings to take place to enable us to continue to operate effectively during these unusual times.

On behalf of the Board and our Members, I wish to acknowledge the significant contribution of our CEO Maria Bennett and Executive Assistant Selina Otto, who ensured the smooth running of our organisation. Maria has provided unsurpassed leadership during a difficult period and together she and Selina have done an outstanding job maintaining the momentum of our organisation which enabled us to achieve our targets. I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution by Melissa Roberts who was engaged to project manage our extremely successful NHW International Conference; thank you Melissa.

During the 2020/21 financial year we farewelled from our Board a long-term Director, Inspector Les Bulluss from the Queensland Police Service. Les was a fantastic contributor on our Board and I wish to thank him for his dedicated and enthusiastic service to our organisation.

This financial year saw the culmination of a number of significant projects that were delivered and finalised as part of our Federal Government Grant commitments, the most significant being the hosting of the first ever NHW International Conference held on the Gold Coast in May 2021. Not only was this conference an outstanding success but more importantly, we were able to host this event face to face with relatively no interference from COVID-19 restrictions. I wish to congratulate and thank everyone involved, including the attendees, both in person and online, from whom we received very positive feedback.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my fellow Board Members and our Staff for their outstanding efforts and I look forward to the consolidation of our organisation during the years ahead.

Best regards

**Bernie Durkin**  
Board Chair



# OUR PEOPLE

## Board Members and Staff

**Bernie Durkin**  
**Chair, Western Australia**  
Bernie is the Executive Manager for the Community Engagement Division of the WA Police. This role encompasses the position of WA State Director for NHW. Bernie is currently the Chair of NHWA.

**Margaret Pearson**  
**Company Secretary**  
Throughout her career, Margaret has made a significant contribution to the voluntary sector, including President of NHW ACT for 8 years. Margaret is currently the Company Secretary of NHWA.

**Clare McGrath**  
**Australian Capital Territory**  
Clare is currently the Vice-President and Board Member of ACT NHW. Clare has been an active member of NHW since 1985.

**Peter Edwards BM**  
**Tasmania**  
Peter Edwards is a former Commander in the Tasmanian Police Service. He has served as a Detective, Prosecutor, Intelligence Officer and Head of Training. Peter is now President of NHW Tasmania.

**RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS**  
Less Bulluss QLD – concluded November 2020



BERNIE DURKIN



MARGARET PEARSON



CLARE MCGRATH



PETER EDWARDS



STEVE COLLINS



MARIA BENNETT



SELINA OTTO



LESA GALE



ERIC TIBBOTT



CR PAT DALEY

**Steve Collins**  
**Queensland**  
Acting Superintendent Steve Collins is a career police officer, with over 37 years with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and is currently Commander overseeing the QPS Community Engagement and Internal Support portfolio – Communication, Culture and Engagement Division.

**Maria Bennett**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
Maria has extensive knowledge, management skills and leadership experience in the public and private sectors in Australia, NZ and Asia, including working with many prominent charities/not for profit organisations.

**Selina Otto**  
**Project Manager/Executive Assistant**  
Selina has 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.

**Lesa Gale**  
**Australian Federal Police**  
During her career with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Assistant Commissioner Lesa Gale has worked across serious and organised crime and national security portfolios, and in 2019 was appointed head of AFP Northern Command and the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation.

**Eric Tibbott**  
**New Zealand**  
Superintendent Eric Tibbott assists the Commissioner of Police in driving the development and implementation of NZ Police's Prevention First Strategy, actively supporting and contributing to community-based crime prevention.

**Cr Pat Daley OAM**  
**Appointed Director**  
Pat is a former NSW Police Crime Prevention Officer. He co-founded Neighbourhood Watch in NSW in the 1980's. Since 2004, Pat has served in local government on Sydney's Northern Beaches as an elected Councillor.





## ABOUT US

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) is the peak body of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Australia and Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ). It is governed by a Board comprising NHW representatives and senior Police from member States and Territories of Australia, and New Zealand.

NHW supports and works in partnership with NHW and NSNZ to enhance the safety and security of communities. We share ideas and disseminate information through community programs that encourage participation in crime prevention and the building of safe and confident communities.



**NHW Board Directors (BD), staff and guests at the NHW AGM, November 2020 (via Zoom)**

L-R: Maria Bennett NHWA CEO, Selina Otto NHWA EA/Project Manager, Eric Tibbott BD/NZ Police/NSNZ, Margaret Pearson BD/NHW Company Secretary, Bernie Durkin BD/NHW Chair/NHW WA, Peter Edwards BD/NHW Tasmania, Cameron Devey SA Police, Clare McGrath BD/NHW ACT, Cr Pat Daley OAM Appointed Director



# MAJOR PROJECTS

## Community Capacity Study



**Dr Renee Zahnow**  
Criminology Lecturer



**Lorraine Mazerolle**  
Professor of Criminology

### Neighbourhood Watch Queensland Survey Community Participation in Crime Prevention

The Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ) Community Capacity Study Survey was a huge success thanks to all the dedicated members who took the time to complete the questionnaire. At the end of the study period The University of Queensland received **800 surveys completed** by members of NHWQ. Of those surveyed, **47% have been members of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) for more than 10 years.**

Importantly, over **75% of people believe that NHW provides useful crime prevention advice** and **83.5% agree or strongly agree that NHW is a worthwhile program.**

**Over half (53%) of the NHWQ members responding to the survey reported that NHW had helped reduce crime in their neighbourhood and 71% either agreed or strongly agreed that NHW brought people together in their community.**

Most people (68%) described crime in their community as being low or average. While the majority of respondents reported that they felt safe in their neighbourhood during the day (89%), approximately one third of people (34%) said they did not feel safe to walk in their neighbourhood at night. **More than half (59%) of respondents reported they feel safer in their community because they are connected with their NHW group.**

The majority of NHW members also reported they engaged in crime prevention activities in their homes. For example, **77% of people indicated they had a security door installed; 70% installed window security screens, 65% had an alarm installed and 52% displayed NHW stickers** at their property. Overall, respondents thought police were doing a good job responding to crime in their neighbourhoods and **expressed high levels of both confidence and trust in the police.**

The results demonstrated that active members of NHWQ, that is those who frequently attended meetings and contacted fellow members, **felt safer and were more proactive about crime problems in their community.** This demonstrates the benefits of NHW membership for individuals and communities.

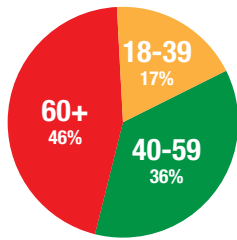
Compared to a general population sample of Brisbane residents surveyed in 2012 (Wickes et al 2014), **NHWQ members in the sample, on average, reported higher levels of collective efficacy and were twice as likely to report, that they would respond to problems in the community** such as drug use, public drinking, graffiti, young people getting into trouble and traffic issues by calling authorities or talking to neighbours.

### Who participates in NHWQ?

More women than men



Almost half are senior residents (aged 60 or over)



### Social Benefits



**71%**

said that NHW brings people together in the community



**52%**

said that NHW had helped them meet new people



**17%**

only said that NHW should ONLY focus on reducing levels of crime

Attitudes towards NHWQ  
**72%**



said that their NHW group contributes positively to the community

### Top 5 issues discussed at NHWQ meetings



### Crime and Safety



**59%**

said they feel safer in their community because they are connected to their NHW group



**53%**

said that the work of their NHW group had reduced crime levels in their neighbourhood



**53%**

said that they were not at all worried, not very worried or only a little worried about being a victim of crime

### Crime Prevention Strategies



**92%**

had someone watch their house while away



**88%**

had someone collect mail while they were away



**77%**

installed security screens on doors



**70%**

installed security screens on windows



**52%**

used NHWQ - provided security stickers





# MAJOR PROJECTS

## Reporting Training

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) members are encouraged to provide reports and intelligence on drug related activity, property crime and other criminal activity.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) has developed a new dedicated Reporting page on the NHWA website, together with two informative Reporting Training Videos. The purpose of the project is to upskill the reporting methods of NHW groups, volunteers, and members within the community to ensure the best possible outcomes from reports given to police, crime prevention and other law enforcement agencies.

### Reporting Page

The new Reporting page provides essential information on correct reporting methods. This includes emergencies, police assistance, reporting crime anonymously, information and links to relevant State/ Territory/Commonwealth reporting organisations, and information on online crimes including scams, cybercrime, image-based abuse, cyberbullying, and online child sexual exploitation.

Visit the NHWA website: [www.nhwa.com.au/reporting/](http://www.nhwa.com.au/reporting/)

### Reporting Training Videos

NHWAs reporting training videos – developed in conjunction with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Queensland Police Service (QPS) – aim to improve reporting methods of NHW members and groups. Presented by AFP Assistant Commissioner Lesa Gale, and QPS Acting Inspector Mick Ackery, the videos cover several topics including How to Report Crime and Recognising Suspicious Activity.

Visit the NHWA website: [www.nhwa.com.au/resources/training-videos](http://www.nhwa.com.au/resources/training-videos)







# MAJOR PROJECTS

## Neighbourhood Watch International Conference

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

The conference hybrid format enabled delegates to congregate and socialise in-person, as well as view and participate in real-time via the virtual online conference portal. Delegates were welcomed 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, police, 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. Leading figures in police, law enforcement, academia, and community groups, presented on compelling subjects and addressed key issues in communities.

The **'Creating Safer Communities'** theme was at the core of the insightful and thought-provoking presentations, 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, Master of Ceremonies, Superintendent Mark Plath – Qld Corrective Services, officially opened the conference and welcomed all guests. A memorable Welcome To Country ceremony was conducted by Luther Cora of the Kombumerri People of The Yugambeh Language Region, with a special guest address by Cr Mayor Tom Tate, City of Gold Coast, a pre-recorded message from the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Karen Andrews MP, and a letter from the Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison MP which was read by NHWA Chief Executive Officer Maria Bennett.

Keynote Speaker Professor Lorraine Mazerolle, Program Director of the School of Social Science, The University of Queensland (UQ), spoke on 'Neighbouring in Times of Crises: What Works for Neighbourhood Watch'. Followed by the Crime Prevention Forum, where esteemed panel members included Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Queensland Police Service; Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer for ACT Policing; Professor Lorraine Mazerolle UQ; and Bernie Durkin, NHWA Chair – discussed the latest in crime prevention initiatives, and the relationship and important connection between community and police.

On day two, the Hon. Mark Ryan MP, Queensland Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, gave a special address to commence the day. A long list of esteemed speakers from local and international organisations, presented throughout the day on relevant topics. Two of the presentations were from Bob Atkinson AO APM on the findings from the Youth Justice Report 2018, and Jess Wilson, National Director of Good Things Foundation with an engaging and inspiring discussion on 'Bridging the digital divide – a community-based approach'.

The two-day conference was a great success – with an abundance of knowledge, insights and ideas shared between speakers, organisations, and individuals. Feedback following the event has been extremely positive from both speakers and delegates.

### Indigenous design tells the story of Neighbourhood Watch in the community

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia commissioned Indigenous designer, Leigh Harris from Cairns based creative design agency ingeous studios, to create a bespoke Indigenous design. The design tells the story of the work of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, together with Neighbourhood Watch groups and members throughout Australia, and their commitment to building safe, inclusive, and connected communities. The unique design features on polo shirts, face masks, and conference collateral.



# MAJOR PROJECTS

## Community and Media Engagement

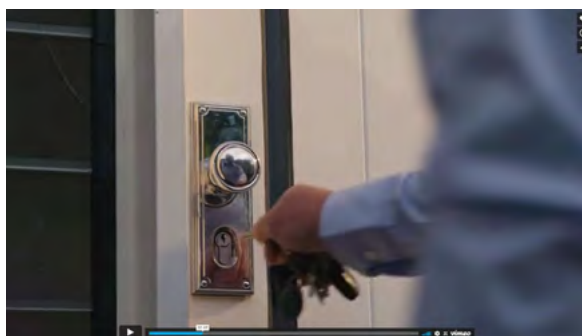
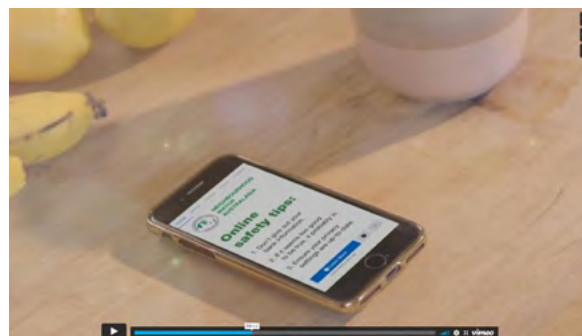
### Community Service Announcements – TV Commercials

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia has worked in conjunction with national and local television broadcast organisations to create a series of five Community Service Announcements (CSAs). The purpose of the series is to promote community awareness of personal safety and security – simple steps we can take to help protect ourselves and those around us.

The Community Service Announcements have been designed to:

- Create safer communities by promoting crime prevention messaging, reporting of suspicious behaviour, and the benefits of joining Neighbourhood Watch
- Enhance community safety and security by building greater individual and community resilience and safe behaviours
- Increase feelings and perceptions of personal safety and confidence in public spaces

In addition to being aired on various national and local television stations, the CSAs are also accessible on the NHTWA website ([www.nhtwa.com.au/resources/tvc-messages/](http://www.nhtwa.com.au/resources/tvc-messages/)) and can be utilised at local Neighbourhood Watch events and activities.



## Youth Engagement Program

The Junior Neighbourhood Watch program takes an innovative approach to develop new strategies to deliver the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) message of creating safer communities and to engage young people.

Created and led by Leading Senior Constable Joe Clarke from Victoria Police, and delivered in conjunction with Helen Worcester, Area Coordinator of NHW Mildura, the Junior Neighbourhood Watch program continues to go from strength to strength in Northwest Victoria. Having started at Mildura West Primary School, the program now facilitates 15 local schools and continues to be well received by students, teachers, parents, and the community.

The program has been developed to decrease the level of apathy within the community in relation to Crime Prevention and personal safety. The Junior Neighbourhood Watch program has now been enabled to be rolled out nationally.

#### Junior Neighbourhood Watch objectives:

1. Introduce Neighbourhood Watch to youth in the community
2. Raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch amongst young people
3. Create a positive learning environment reducing the likelihood of disengagement
4. Educate in relation to Crime Prevention initiatives and personal safety
5. Educate in relation to Road Safety
6. Increase the level of awareness of the children's surroundings
7. Decrease the level of apathy within the home with home tasks
8. Increase positive interaction with Police, increasing the likelihood of reporting crime
9. Increase the level of perception of safety
10. Create a safer community



# MAJOR PROJECTS

## Break The Cycle

In consultation with the Palm Island Community a program was developed, aimed at helping to break the cycle of youth imprisonment. The Community Engagement Program works with the families and children of incarcerated Indigenous people, with the objective to engage with communities and discuss how to break the cycle of children following in their parent's footsteps and into the justice system.

Working in conjunction with Police, Justice Group, Diversionary Group, Youth Justice, Corrective Services, Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC), and most importantly the local community and Indigenous families, a Search Conference was held in May 2021 as a participatory approach to developing a strategy for this local youth issue. Griffith University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice were engaged to assist with the facilitation and development of the program.

Based on the research, the most appropriate method for working on local problems, such as cycles of incarceration in Indigenous communities, involves working directly with residents to identify the local issues and support the development of local solutions. A research framework was utilised to develop an action plan with local residents and stakeholders – and as a part of the search conference, participants created a number of actions.

Some of the outcomes included the creation of a mentorship program in the Bwgcolman school for youth, training and support in cultural artifacts to help share cultural knowledge and a potential income stream, creating a support group for fathers that included conflict and relationship skills, creating a walking group for health and social cohesion; and contacting Corrections regarding supportive programs for inmates on release around drug and alcohol use and expanding those supports into the community with others who have a shared lived experience, as well as discussions on what participants could do individually to help make these plans a reality. The action plan is designed as a living document, and the Community takes ownership of its implementation and any changes in direction.



## Digital Mentor Training

Digital inclusion is a social issue. Digital inclusion means ensuring people can use the internet and technology to improve their daily lives. This is not just a technology issue. Digital inclusion is about enabling access to everything the digital world has to offer to ensure no one is left behind.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia is a Be Connected Network Partner and has trained more than 60 people, this year, to be Digital Mentors. The objective is to train a total of 80 Digital Mentors by August 2021. A Digital Mentor is someone who provides one-on-one support to empower people to use technology and get online.

The course is offered free of charge, and the purpose of the program is to train anyone who would like to become a Digital Mentor. The role of the Digital Mentors is to train over 50's how to use digital technology, such as computers, smart phones, tablets and the internet in a safe and confident way.

2.5 million people in Australia are offline, and many more do not have the skills they need to thrive in a digital world. People aged 65+ are the least digitally included age group and are most at risk of social isolation and loneliness, at a time in their lives when feeling connected is increasingly important.

The program is perfect for Neighbourhood Watch groups to train their members in the use of digital technology, as well as the opportunity to earn some additional grant funding for their local group.



# EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

## Neighbourhood Watch Week



## Neighbourhood Watch and Bunnings combines forces on crime.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and Bunnings partnered once again for a combined Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) WEEK and Crime Prevention Week.

NHW WEEK has a long history of being a successful week of showcasing NHW and crime prevention initiatives to the community, with hundreds of NHW members and volunteers conducting events in their local communities.

NHW Week activities included:

- BBQ/Fundraisers
- One-way number plate security screws
- Tool engraving and UV property marking
- Home security information
- Crime prevention information

NHW WEEK is the time to raise public awareness of NHW and the benefits of belonging to a local NHW group.

## Get Online Week

Get Online Week is a digital inclusion campaign organised by Good Things Foundation.

If the last 18 months have taught us anything, it is how vitally important digital skills are to our wellbeing, safety and connectedness.

2.5 million people are currently not online in Australia, and 4 million people have limited digital skills.

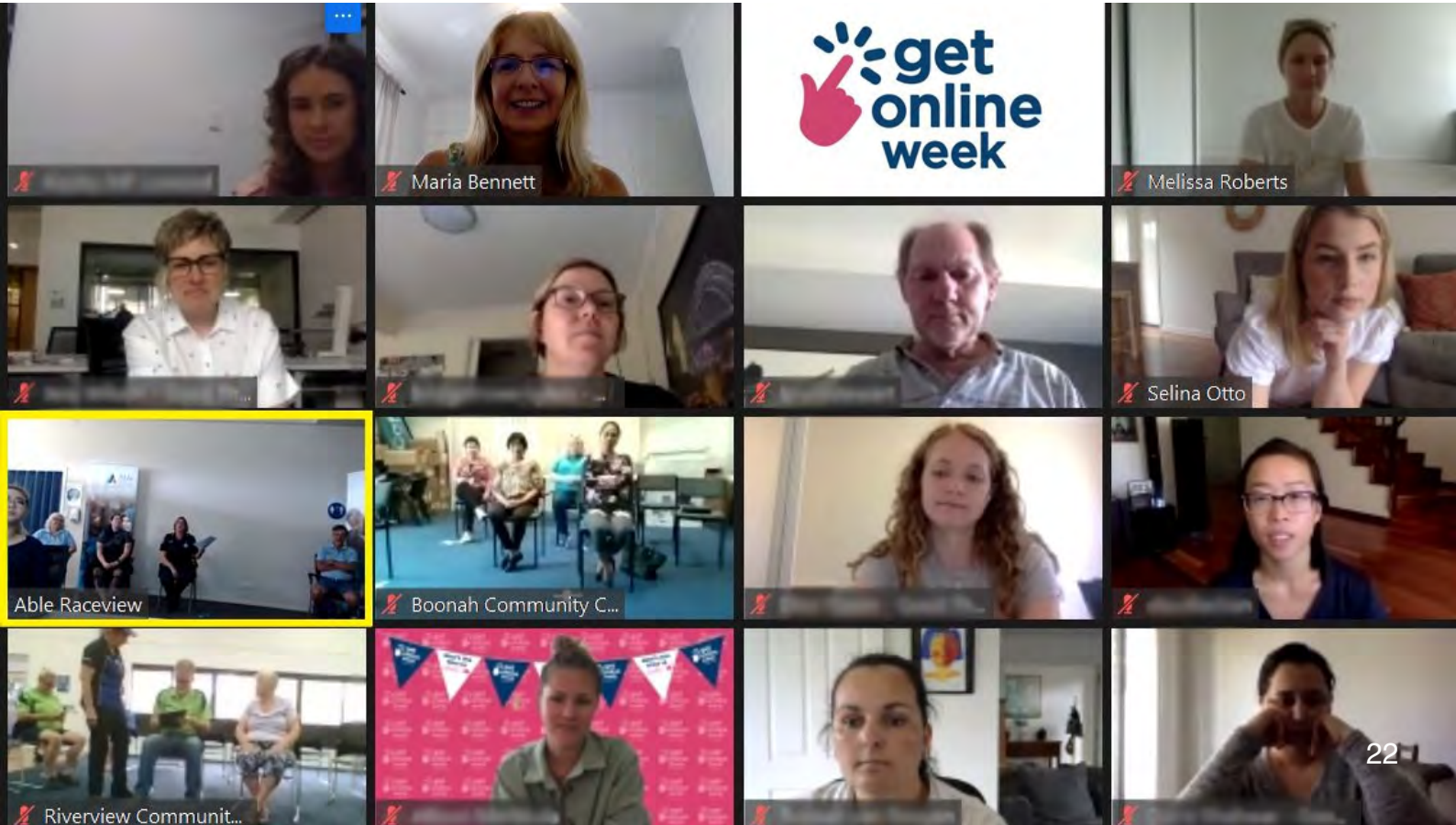
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia secured \$28,000 in grant funding for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups to host Get Online Week events.

In October 2020, 28 NHW groups got onboard to promote Get Online Week; each NHW group received funding to host an event that showcased online technology.

Many NHW groups and volunteers have adapted and found creative ways to continue to support local communities during COVID-19 restrictions. It is difficult to predict what our “new normal” will look like, however, one thing we know for sure is that everyone deserves the opportunity to learn digital skills and no one should be left behind.

Beginning in the UK in 2007 and introduced to Australia in 2018, Get Online Week is a week-long annual campaign supporting people to improve their digital skills and close the digital divide. Get Online Week sees thousands of local events take place each year hosted by community organisations, giving everyone the chance to find the support they need to improve their digital skills and get motivated to learn more.

Last year, over 700 community organisations around Australia held online or COVID-Safe face-to-face events for people with limited digital skills, reaching more than 23,500 people.





# EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

## Streetsmart Handbooks



Director Tony Cornish, Elizabeth Cornish, and Director Craig Berger at Countrywide Austral's Streetsmart Handbook exhibit at the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference, May 2021, Gold Coast, QLD

Since 2002, the Streetsmart Handbooks have been delivered to teenagers at secondary schools. They provide friendly positive approaches for youth on important topics relevant to them as they transition into adult life.

Topics include cyber bullying, depression, social behaviour in the community, dangers of drugs, alcohol and much more. They also give teenagers and their families details of places and organisations to contact whenever they need assistance.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia's partnership with Streetsmart Handbooks promotes our goal of creating a safe, connected, and inclusive community, where people feel empowered, informed and engaged with one another and with Police.

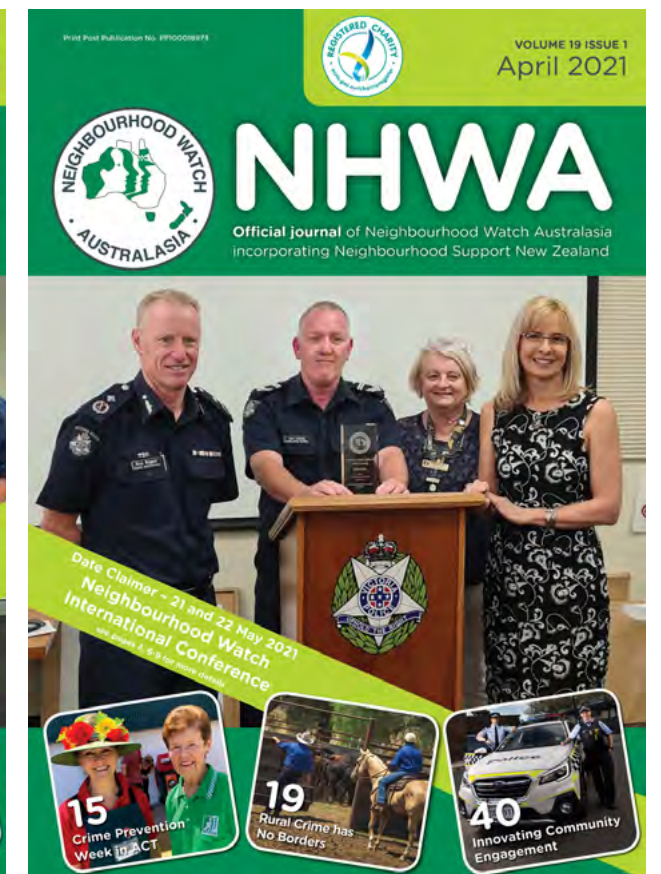
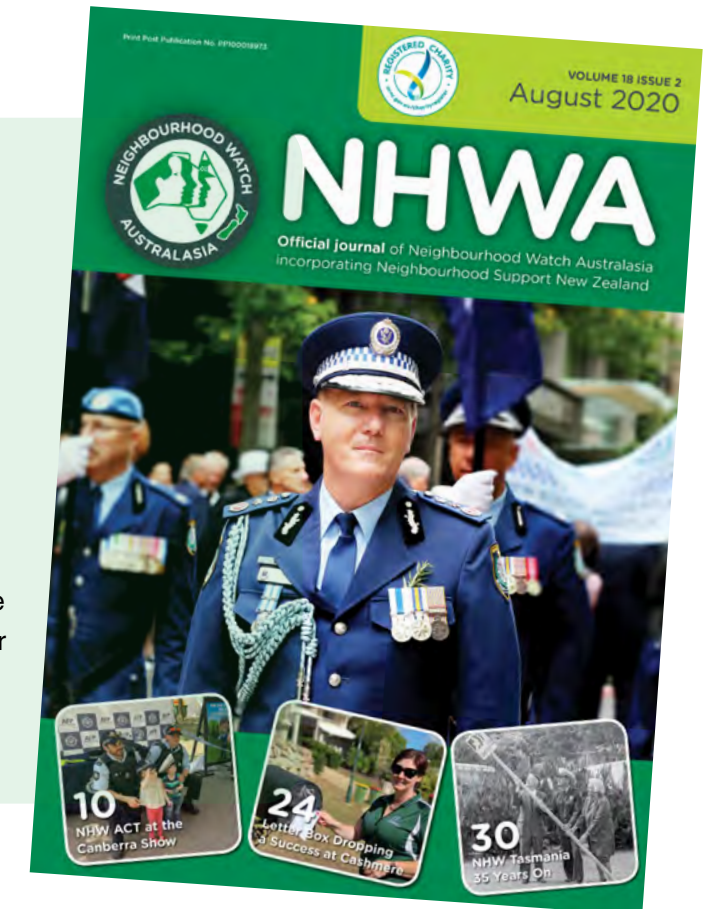


## NHWA Journals

The NHWA Journal is printed and distributed across Australia and New Zealand 3 times a year.

Over 10,000 copies are printed for each edition and distributed free of charge to Neighbourhood Watch members, groups and policing organisations as well as an extensive email database.

Copies of the NHWA Journal are also available via paid subscription for hard copies, or free for electronic copies to all members of the public at [www.nhwa.com.au](http://www.nhwa.com.au).





# FINANCIAL REPORT

Margaret Pearson



Despite the challenges of COVID-19, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) has completed the following six projects in Financial Year 2020-2021 from funding provided by the Federal Government, through the Department of Home Affairs:

- Community Capacity Project – a NHW and University of Queensland Survey
- Reporting Training
- Neighbourhood Watch International Conference
- Community and Media Engagement
- Youth Engagement Program, and
- Break the Cycle

All funds received for these projects were made available from the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). This funding was \$800,000 from March 2019 to November 2020 and was extended to June 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19 on the ability to deliver the funded projects.

Following an approach to the Federal Government for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Specific Listing in the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, advice was received from the then Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters, Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, that the application had been successful. DGR status was finalised early in 2021, which means that donations to the organisation from 1 July 2019 are tax deductible with donors able to claim tax deductions for gifts of \$2.00 or more. Special thanks go to the NHWA CEO, Maria Bennett for her work and efforts in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion.

It was fortunate that the Neighbourhood Watch International Conference was able to be held in May 2021 after having been deferred from September 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions. Financially the International Conference was successful and the Conference itself was particularly successful. It attracted a large number of presenters and participants, both in person, pre-recorded and also via video conferencing and brought together many outstanding speakers who covered a variety of relevant subjects.

NHWA recently received a grant of \$50,000 from Westpac Banking Corporation to undertake a pilot project relating to the protection of children from online exploitation.

Currently, other sources of finance are being explored by the CEO, Maria Bennett, who, through her representations, has made an outstanding contribution to the financial viability of NHWA Limited. Her guidance and leadership in all facets of the organisation's activities are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our many supporters. We look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of the organisation and its members.

Best regards

**Margaret Pearson**  
Company Secretary  
Chair Audit, Finance, Risk Committee

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For year ending 30 June 2021

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

Assets	2021	2020	Variance \$	Variance %
Cash on Hand	\$163,209	\$649,906	-\$486,697	-75%
Accounts Receivable	\$14,575	\$6,875	\$7,700	112%
Total Current Assets	\$177,784	\$656,781	-\$478,997	-73%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$177,784</b>	<b>\$656,781</b>	<b>-\$478,997</b>	<b>-73%</b>

## Liabilities

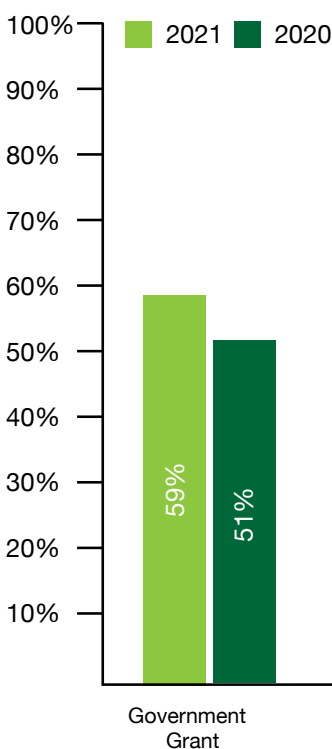
Accounts Payable	\$12,871	\$0	\$12,871	0%
Employee Liabilities	\$40,287	\$36,199	\$4,088	11%
GST	-\$33,289	\$25,694	-\$58,983	-230%
Income Received in Advance	\$0	\$543,058	-\$543,058	-100%
Accrued expenses	\$9,500	\$0	\$9,500	0%
Total Current Liabilities	\$29,369	\$604,951	-\$575,582	-95%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$29,369</b>	<b>\$604,951</b>	<b>-\$575,582</b>	<b>-95%</b>

<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$148,415</b>	<b>\$51,830</b>	<b>\$96,585</b>	<b>186%</b>
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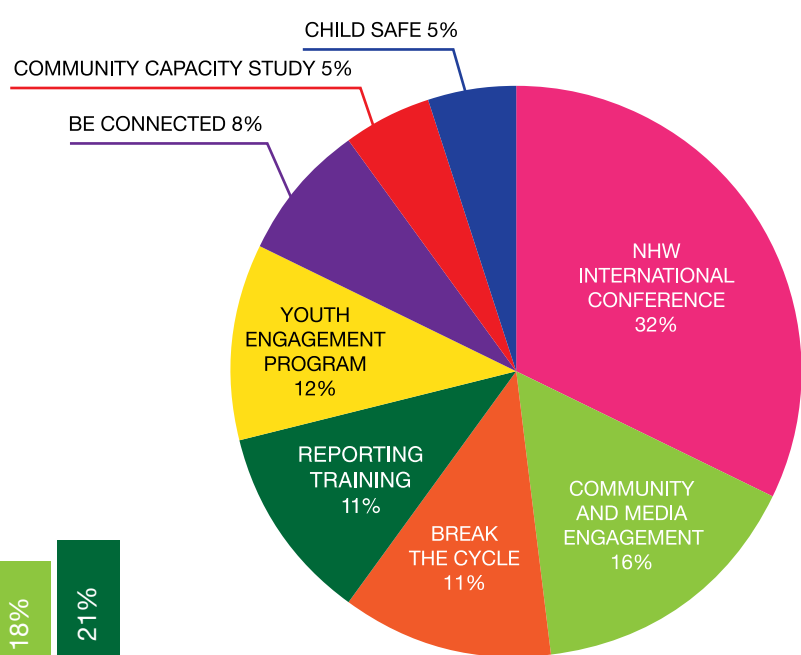
## Equity

Current Year Earnings	\$97,811	-\$121,381	\$219,192	181%
Retained Earnings	\$50,604	\$173,211	-\$122,607	-71%
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$148,415</b>	<b>\$51,830</b>	<b>\$96,585</b>	<b>186%</b>

## INCOME



## MAJOR PROJECT EXPENDITURE





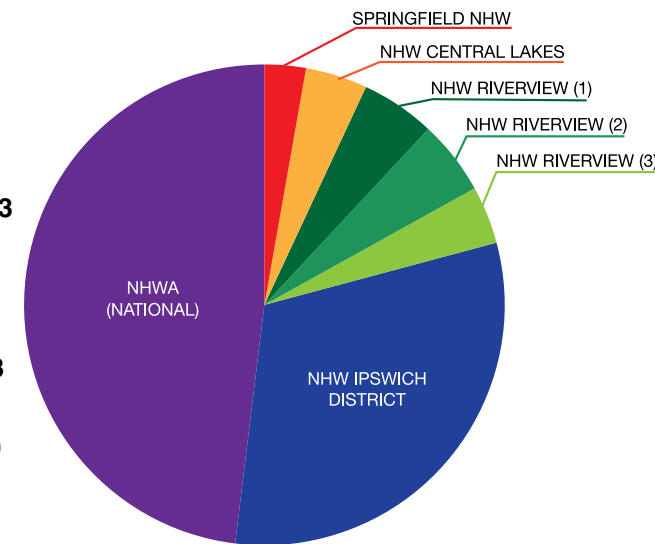
# GRANTS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

## Over \$64,300 in grants sourced for NHW community projects

During the 2021 financial year, NHPA assisted 43 NHW groups with sourcing over \$64,300 in funding for their local community events and projects.

### Summary of Community Grants:

1. NHW Central Lakes (Caboolture Group), QLD – \$2,393
2. NHW Riverview, QLD, – \$3,000
3. NHW Riverview, QLD – \$3,537
4. NHW Riverview, QLD – \$2,773
5. NHW Ipswich District, QLD – 10 NHW groups \$19,823
6. Springfield NHW, QLD – \$2,000
7. NHW Australasia, National – 28 NHW Groups \$30,800



### Organisers: Neighbourhood Watch Central Lakes (Caboolture Group), QLD

#### Project: Community Movie Night – over \$2,390

Funded by a grant provided by the Moreton Bay Regional Council to the Central Lakes NHW Caboolture group, in cooperation with Queensland Police Service (QPS), arranged a Community Movie night in March 2021. This family friendly event consisted of a movie screening, BBQ, children's games, and the display of famous movie cars.

Status: **COMPLETED**

### Organisers: Neighbourhood Watch Riverview, QLD

#### Grant 1 – Project: Muscle in Maculata – \$3,000

Brings together a Car Display, Market Stalls, Food Trucks, Amusement Rides and Entertainment to provide a free community event. The event was created by NHW to address an issue with hooning in Riverview and through our “soft approach” we continue to engage community who otherwise would not come together or engage with our group. The event provides the community with a sense of pride for their suburb and will serve to lessen the social isolation for those who cannot access activities outside the local area.

Status: **COMPLETED**

#### Grant 2 – Project: Marquees and chairs – \$3,537

Grant funds were used to purchase 2 new marquees and chairs to be used at community events.

Status: **COMPLETED**

#### Grant 3 – Project: NHW Polo shirts – \$2,773

Grant funds were used to purchase new polo shirts and software for the NHW group.

Status: **COMPLETED**

### Organisers: Neighbourhood Watch Ipswich District, QLD

#### Project: Road Safety cinema ad – \$19,823

##### Recipients: 10 Neighbourhood Watch groups

In response to the rise in fatal traffic incidents, NHW Ipswich District in partnership with emergency services, QPS Ipswich District Crime Prevention, and service providers, developed a cinema ad focusing on the Fatal Five. The cinema ad named ‘There’s nothing more we can do! But you can’ is a local educational community awareness initiative targeting all community members aged from 16 to 75+. It signifies that emergency services and community service providers working in the road safety space have done all they can, now it’s up to all road users to take responsibility! The cinema ad will screen during Road Safety Week 2021.



Status: **IN PROGRESS**

### Organisers: Springfield Neighbourhood Watch, QLD

#### Project: Number plate security screws – \$2,000

Grant funds were used to purchase one-way security screws to prevent number plate theft and associated crime.

Status: **IN PROGRESS**



### Organisers: Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, National

##### Recipients: 28 Neighbourhood Watch groups

#### Project: Get Online Week 2020 – \$30,800

28 NHW groups held activities during Get Online Week including morning and afternoon teas, hands on digital training sessions, video conferences, online information sessions about how to find and utilise resources on websites and even a world record online Hokey Pokey attempt. All the activities focused on the importance of getting online, improving digital skills and having a bit of fun along the way.

Status: **COMPLETED**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

## Volunteers and Members

To the many thousands of Volunteers and Members of Neighbourhood Watch in Australia and Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand, we sincerely thank you.



## Funding

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia acknowledges with gratitude the funding provided by the Australian Government.



## Australian Federal Police

### ThinkUKnow Program

ThinkUKnow is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Commonwealth Bank, Microsoft and Datacom, and delivered in partnership with all State and Territory Police and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The cyber safety presentations sensitively cover a range of topics including sexting, cyber bullying, online child exploitation, online privacy, and importantly what to do when something goes wrong.

Presentations are aimed at parents, carers and teachers and young people from Kindergarten to Grade 12.



## Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Support and Policing jurisdictions

***“The Police are the Public and the Public are the Police.”***

This quote by Sir Robert Peel in 1829, is as relevant now as it was nearly 200 years ago. It epitomises the collaboration that is essential between the community and police working together to bring about safer communities and reducing crime.

The future of effective crime prevention lies within the strong partnerships between communities and Police, as we work together to achieve common goals and create safer, inclusive and more resilient communities.



Neighbourhood Watch Australasia acknowledges all member Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Support and policing jurisdictions throughout Australia and New Zealand including partners.







## Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

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Donations to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia are tax deductible  
To donate go to [www.nhwa.com.au/donate](http://www.nhwa.com.au/donate)