



# NHWA

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







# ARE THEY TRIPLE OK?

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL  
POLICE

**We're always there to help.  
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**R U OK?**  
A conversation could change a life.



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# FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

## Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

Welcome to the first edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) Journal for 2022.

2021 proved to be another hard-working year for NHWA and for local Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups, as we continued to evolve and establish new and safe ways to provide and promote the well-being and security of our neighbours and communities throughout the second year of a global pandemic.



## Neighbourhood Watch Month



The inaugural Neighbourhood Watch Month, an annual collaborative campaign by crime prevention partners NHWA and Crimsafe, launched in March this year. NHW Month is designed to raise awareness of home security and encourage people to connect with their local NHW communities, while spotlighting ways in which we can create safe, secure and more crime-resistant homes and neighbourhoods. NHW Month shares some effective tips and tricks for improving home security, introduces a new free, online home security audit tool, Secure Score, to rate the effectiveness of a householders' overall home security. Read more on page 8.

## Neighbour Day 27 March 2022



Margaret Pearson NHWA Company Secretary at Neighbour Day 20th anniversary event

Neighbour Day is held annually on the last Sunday in March. This year Neighbour Day celebrated 20 years of actively connecting communities! During this time Neighbour Day has progressed from being a reminder to connect with elderly neighbours, to an annual celebration of respectful relationships and strong communities. Relationships Australia invites everyone to celebrate two decades of social connection on Neighbour Day and are calling on all to continue to *help build ongoing community connections across the country for the next 20 years, and to continue to work towards ending loneliness, one relationship at a time.*

## StreetSmart Handbooks

The *StreetSmart Handbooks* – the essential guide into adulthood, are also celebrating their 20th year anniversary. Commencing publication in 2002, as an accessible, comprehensive, state-specific resource designed to provide teenagers with information about practical and useful steps to take to assist in the safe navigation of their transition to adult lives. The *StreetSmart Handbooks* are available in print and also online – to have a look and find the edition for your state/territory go to: <https://www.nhwa.com.au/resources/flyers-booklets/streetsmart-handbooks/>



Lead Digital Mentor training day

## Digital Mentor Training

One of the programs being delivered by NHWA is the Digital Mentor training program, a digital literacy program developed by the Good Things Foundation. This program is currently being delivered twice monthly by NHWA's trained Lead Digital Mentor Facilitators through free nation-wide online training sessions. The program trains Digital Mentors to support older Australians aged 50+ to develop their digital skills and confidence. Interest and participation in this program has proven to be wide-reaching, from Year 12 students to mature adults, with participants located in all corners of the country. Regardless of the age or geographical location of the participants, it has become increasingly apparent that each is motivated by a shared goal: a dedication to ensuring equitable online access and community interconnectedness and inclusion for all via digital platforms during these pandemic times. Many of the younger participants have spoken of the joy brought about through empowering their own older loved ones to be able to communicate with family who they have otherwise been isolated and disconnected from, and of wanting to enable others to have this same opportunity. It is heartening to see the strengthening and building of both local and global community, and the bond between young and old, come about through the goodwill and commitment of these individuals.

If you are interested in becoming a Digital Mentor visit: [www.nhwa.com.au/resources/digital-mentor-training/](http://www.nhwa.com.au/resources/digital-mentor-training/)

## White Ribbon

As 2022 progresses NHWA will continue to actively explore and engage further opportunities to evolve and develop partnerships with other invested stakeholders to keep working towards ensuring communities are safe and interconnected.

This year NHWA had the opportunity to meet with representatives from White Ribbon, who outlined some of their current and upcoming initiatives. Both entities are deeply committed to ending violence against women and children and share the common goal of making our communities safer.



NHWA meeting with members of White Ribbon Australia

White Ribbon takes a primary prevention approach to change the culture, structures and attitudes that drive gender-based violence - to work to end violence and abuse before it occurs. The work White Ribbon is doing includes developing tailored, collaborative, locality and culturally specific, consultative community engagement programs, offering a range of training for individuals (Community Partners) such as bystander intervention training, and developing community-led activities with local Community Action Groups across the country that challenge gender inequality and promote pathways to establishing healthy masculinities and relationships. To learn more, and to become involved, see page 9.

## Upcoming Events and Dates Get Online Week 17-23 Oct 2022

Get Online Week (GOLW) is a digital inclusion campaign organised by Good Things Foundation, that promotes and facilitates digital inclusivity, (at present "1 in 4 Australians are digitally excluded..."), while bringing people and communities together, both locally and online.

In 2021 NHW groups nation-wide participated in GOLW by organising, hosting, and presenting a variety of activities, promotions, and events to assist in reducing digital exclusion, held at local level gatherings or online (some places even did both!). Small grants are offered to assist community organisations run events and participate in GOLW.

## Newsletter initiative for NHW groups local grants opportunities

NHWA has launched a great new initiative this year to assist local NHW groups with being aware of and applying for local grants. Throughout the year NHWA will be emailing our grants newsletter directly to subscriber's inboxes with details of upcoming community grants available across Australia and New Zealand. Community grants are a fantastic way for eligible NHW groups to obtain additional funding in support of local community-focussed projects. If required, NHWA can provide auspicing services for NHW organisations applying for grants. Watch your inboxes for further information.

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**For more information about any of the above stories, please contact us at: [admin@nhwa.com.au](mailto:admin@nhwa.com.au)**

Stay safe and connected.

**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](mailto:maria.bennett@nhwa.com.au)

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



## **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.



## **Lizze McGrory – Project Manager & Executive Assistant**

Lizzie recently completed her Bachelor of Psychology and Justice (majoring in Criminology and Policing), she is passionate about helping those involved in the justice system, whether it be the treatment of victims or rehabilitation of offenders. She has a strong interest in national security and youth crime, and what can be done to prevent these in our community. Lizzie has a range of experience working in sales and customer service and is excited to be encouraging safer and more connected communities through her role at NHWA.



# The Social Media Resource Every Parent and Carer Needs

As part of the Australian Federal Police's (AFP's) seven days of back-to-school safety tips to help parents, carers and students prevent instances of online child sexual exploitation, the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) and ThinkUKnow have released a social media starter kit.

The *Parent and carer social media starter kit: preventing online child sexual exploitation* provides information and advice on various social media channels, their features and how to implement safety measures to help prevent inappropriate contact for children and young people.

AFP Commander for the AFP-led ACCCE Hilda Sirec said turning 13 years old is an important milestone for parents and carers to initiate age-appropriate conversations about their personal safety online. The beginning of the school year is also a great time to start these conversations.

**"Websites, apps, games or sites have the potential to be positive, and foster creativity, teach problem-solving skills, and provide much-needed connectivity to friends, however, there is also the potential for them to be misused or cause harm."**

**"Talking to your children early and often about their online behaviour as well as educating them on safe online practices is key to ensuring that children use the internet safely."**

**Although at the age of 13 a young person is legally allowed to create an account in their own name, it does not necessarily mean that the content and images they will be exposed to is appropriate for that age group.**



Parent and carer social media starter kit: preventing online child sexual exploitation

Commander Sirec said the AFP recommends all parents and carers have the following conversations with their children when they are old enough to sign up for social media:

- Discuss their online activities, including how they intend to use an app and who they will be interacting with;
- Talk about appropriate privacy settings. The AFP recommends strong privacy settings and regularly checking that they are still in place as they can be changed at any time;

- Talk about how to recognise a suspicious friend or follower request and what to do about it (block, and if, necessary, report);
- Discuss their options if someone online was asking personal questions or even asking for sexualised images; and
- Make sure your child has a support network of trusted people they can talk to if something goes wrong.

**The social media starter kit along with other helpful information and advice can be found on the ThinkUKnow ([www.thinkuknow.org.au](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au)) and ACCCE ([www.accce.gov.au](http://www.accce.gov.au)) websites. You can also follow the ThinkUKnow and ACCCE social media channels at:**



## ThinkUKnow

Facebook: ThinkUKnow Australia  
Twitter: ThinkUKnow\_Aus  
YouTube: ThinkUKnowAUS

## ACCCE

Facebook: ACCCEaus  
Twitter: ACCCE\_AUS  
YouTube: ACCCE  
Instagram: accceaus

# AFP Releases ThinkUKnow Corporate Report 2020-21

The Australian Federal Police-led ThinkUKnow program continues to deliver online child safety education and awareness presentations to schools and organisations, with almost 200,000 students reached during 2020-21.

The ThinkUKnow Corporate Report 2020-21 highlights efforts made by law enforcement and industry volunteers delivering the online child safety program to the Australian community. AFP Commander ACCCE and Human Exploitation Hilda Sirec said that despite the challenges throughout the pandemic, the program continued to reach a large audience.

"Throughout COVID-19 restrictions and the partial suspension of face-to-face presentations, these numbers show the increased demand and need for online child safety education, particularly during a time where we saw more children active online," Commander Sirec said.

"These achievements would not be possible without the hard work

and dedication our ThinkUKnow program partners including industry volunteers and State and Territory police, who dedicate countless hours to educating parents, carers, teachers and students about online safety."

"I would like to thank every presenter for being involved in the ThinkUKnow program by giving your time to make a difference to the community – each presentation you deliver helps to educate our community and ultimately keep young people safe online."

**ThinkUKnow currently has 977 registered volunteers from varying backgrounds in technology, policing and crime prevention.**

Highlights from the ThinkUKnow Corporate Report 2020-21 include:

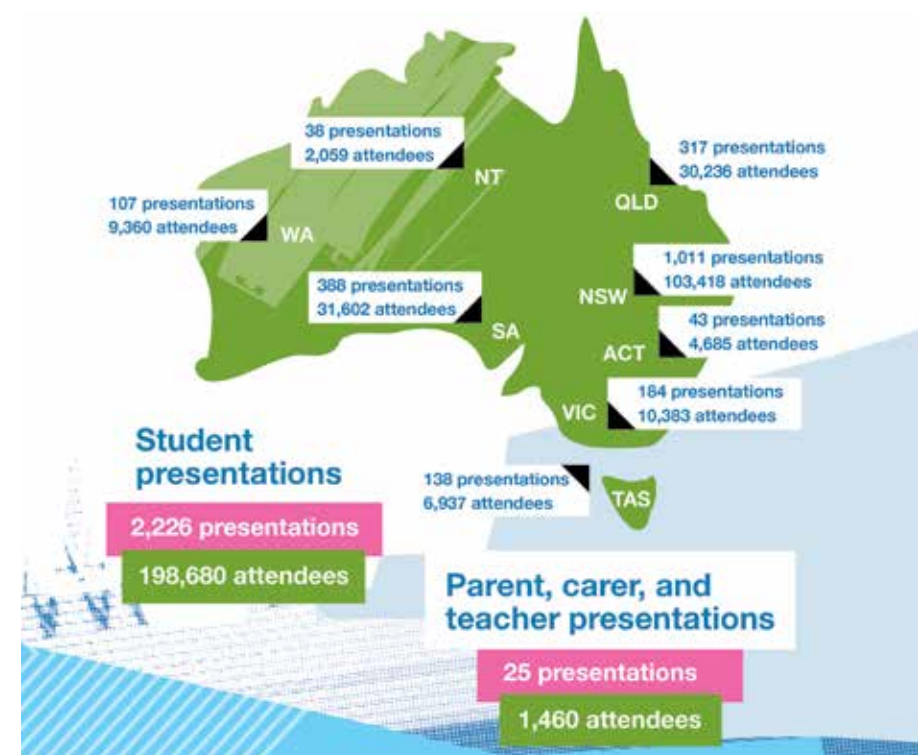


ThinkUKnow Corporate Report 2020-21

- 2,226 presentations delivered to more than 198,680 students across Australia by State and Territory police presenters;
- 25 presentations delivered to over 1,460 parents, carers and teachers by law enforcement and industry volunteers;
- Launch of a refreshed ThinkUKnow website providing new advice and tailored resources for parents, carers and teachers as well as presenter resources; and
- Co-location of the ThinkUKnow program within the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation.

The ThinkUKnow Corporate Report 2020-21 can be viewed on the ThinkUKnow website: [www.thinkuknow.org.au/about/corporate-report](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/about/corporate-report)

ThinkUKnow was established in 2009 and is Australia's first and only nationally delivered, law enforcement-led online safety program, supporting the critical work of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. It is a partnership between the AFP, Commonwealth Bank, Datcom and Microsoft Australia, and is delivered in collaboration with all State and Territory police and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.





# Neighbourhood Watch Month Raising the Secure Score of Home Security

Crime prevention partners Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) joined forces again in March in a collaborative campaign to encourage Australians to strengthen their home security measures and build safer, secure and more crime-resistant homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

Neighbourhood Watch Month ran throughout March and put the spotlight on home security, providing tips and tricks to improve security and encouraging people to become involved in their local Neighbourhood Watch group, either in person or online.

Recent statistics from Secure Score ([www.nhwa.com.au/resources/secure-score/](http://www.nhwa.com.au/resources/secure-score/)) reveal that 64% of respondents do not have security cameras on their property, while 55% don't have security screens that exceed Australian Standards. At the same time, only 57% indicated that they had sensor lighting around external doors and windows. Overall, Australia's average Secure Score is only 56 out of 100 – suggesting that many homes across the country have room for improvement, and are susceptible to break-ins, theft or damage.

Since it was developed and launched by the crime prevention partners in September 2021, Secure Score has had an impressive response from homeowners across the country eager to assess their home security and obtain their secure score.

**Secure Score is a free, online home security audit tool that rates the effectiveness of a householders' overall home security. Using suburb and postcode data, Secure Score prompts homeowners to answer a few questions about their current home security measures before providing a score out of 100. Based on the answers provided,**

**homeowners are provided with a tailored action plan to help improve their Secure Score and the overall security of their home and property.**

Insights from Secure Score data have highlighted some simple and effective actions homeowners can take to improve their home security. For example, adding a sensor light, trimming hedges near windows and leaving shoes at the front door are simple and effective ways to improve your Secure Score.

Just as important as how secure your home is, is how safe you feel in your home. Secure Score data reveals that 14% of respondents already belong to an active Neighbourhood Watch

group in their local area. Joining your local Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) community group, where people work together to create safe and confident neighbourhoods, can greatly reduce fear of crime and increase a sense of safety in the community.

Follow Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia on Facebook and Instagram for helpful tips to increase your home security, and consider joining your local NHW community. Contact NHWA to find a NHW group near you at [www.nhwa.com.au/contact/](http://www.nhwa.com.au/contact/)

Want to know your Secure Score? Find out in under five minutes now – <https://seurescore.crimsafe.com.au/>

## Australia's average score is 56.



## What's yours?



Gawler Bunyips White Ribbon Round - Bunyips stand up against domestic violence

# White Ribbon Australia Aims To End Men's Violence Against Women

White Ribbon Australia is part of a global social movement working to end men's violence against women. Our vision is a world where every woman is free from men's violence and abuse.

White Ribbon's Community Engagement Team recently met with Neighbourhood Watch Australasia to discuss the natural synergies with community members and groups to create change. We know that many Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and supporters are also deeply committed to ending violence against women and children, sharing the goal of making our communities safer.

### Our approach

White Ribbon takes a primary prevention approach, to change the culture, structures and attitudes that drive violence against women. Simply put, we want to end violence and abuse before it occurs. White Ribbon Australia's community engagement programs work with community members and groups across the country to challenge gender inequality and promote healthy masculinities and relationships.

### Our community engagement programs

**Community Partners** are everyday people who want to prevent men's violence against women. We believe that self-reflection and understanding are key to meaningful and sustainable social change. This program offers a range of training, reflection and connection opportunities, to build our knowledge and skills to prevent men's violence against women. Our training includes an introduction to preventing violence against women, bystander intervention training, and understanding intersectionality.

**Community Action Groups** are a group of people coming together to prevent men's violence against women. Community Action Groups can be geographically based, or built around faith, culture, sport, work or other shared interests. We know that violence is not unique to any one community, but the solutions are.

White Ribbon works with groups to develop community-led activities that promote gender equality and challenge the gendered drivers of violence.

### Get involved

- Become a White Ribbon Community Partner or start a Community Action Group by visiting [www.whiteribbon.org.au/get-involved](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/get-involved)
- If you have any questions, email [communitypartners@whiteribbon.org.au](mailto:communitypartners@whiteribbon.org.au)
- Follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, call **1800RESPECT** (on **1800 737 732**). For counselling, advice and support for men who have anger, relationship or parenting issues, call the Men's Referral Service on **1300 766 491**.

**Photo: Adelaide Advertiser**





Neighbour Day Ambassadors: Costa Georgiadis, Natalie Ahmat, Mitch McPherson

# Neighbour Day 20 Year Anniversary

The 8 February launch marked the commencement of the campaign, which lead up to Neighbour Day on 27 March 2022.

Bringing a real community feel to the event, Relationships Australia brought together Neighbour Day's key Ambassadors.

These VIPs acknowledged the crucial and ongoing importance of relationships as a protective factor against loneliness, and the collective need to continue to pursue an end to loneliness and its many ill effects.

Costa Georgiadis spoke of how habits become culture, and the need to encourage social engagement in all that we do. Costa shared his story of starting a 'happiness garden' in his local neighbourhood, and other initiatives to help bring people together.

Natalie Ahmat spoke of the inherent nature of community across Indigenous Australia and

the importance of everyone staying connected and checking in with our mob both near and far.

Mitch McPherson shared his story of starting *SPEAK UP! Stay ChatTY*, the positive mental health campaign for everyone, and the alliances of core values with Neighbour Day. Mitch spoke of the importance of having conversations, building meaningful relationships, and keeping individuals and community connected to maintain positive mental health and combat loneliness.

Video messages from Hugh Mackay AO and Sophie Thomson echoed the sentiments of addressing loneliness through social connection at all opportunities.

In the lead up to the annual Neighbour Day celebration on 27 March 2022,

Mr Nick Tebbey, National Executive Officer of Relationships Australia said, "Together we call on all Australians to join in the campaign and help shift the tide from loneliness to connection".

Loneliness and social isolation continue to affect the health and wellbeing of Australians, and Neighbour Day works to connect people and communities across Australia – one relationship at a time.

Relationships Australia works with the Australian National University to produce research on Neighbour Day, which has found that identifying strongly with multiple groups (such as neighbours, volunteering groups, sports etc.) was protective against loneliness and mental ill-health, and that connecting with your community improves your perception



Alison Brook - CEO Relationships Australia (RA) ACT and Region, Michael Meegan - CEO RA NT, Claire Ralfs - CEO RA SA, Dr Fiona Martin MP, Nick Tebbey - National Executive Officer, RA, Elisabeth Shaw - CEO RA NSW



Speaking at the 20th anniversary launch Nick Tebbey, National Executive Officer, Relationships Australia

of your relationships with your family and friends.

"The importance of social connection, especially during the times we've collectively faced lately, cannot be understated. Increasing the sustainable and respectful relationships in our lives benefits us as individuals, and our communities as a whole to be more resilient and helps address loneliness broadly.

"Neighbour Day encourages people to reach out and make sustainable connections with those around them and across all their communities. We encourage all Australians to join with us and help celebrate the 20th year of Neighbour Day and communities broadly", said Mr Tebbey. Register your Neighbour Day event at [neighbourday.org](https://neighbourday.org)!

*Neighbour Day was founded in 2003 by Mr Andrew Heslop, who then gifted the campaign to Relationships Australia in 2014. As the campaign has evolved, Mr Heslop remained a key Ambassador. Mr Heslop announced at the launch that he is relinquishing his role as an ongoing Ambassador of Neighbour Day and will step away from the campaign in 2022.*

*"Relationships Australia wishes to thank Andrew for trusting Relationships Australia to continue his good work these past 9 years and into the future, and we wish him every good fortune in his future endeavours", said Nick Tebbey, National Executive Officer, Relationships Australia.*





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## Caroline Bristow Wig Library

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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

# NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Inspector Booth (centre) flanked by colleagues Detective Superintendent Mick Calatzis; ACT Chief Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM; Commander Operations Linda Champion; and NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall

## Inspector Booth gets the Nod

Belconnen Police Station Officer-in-Charge, Inspector Brett Booth was presented with the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT Police Recognition Award for 2021, at an awards ceremony at Jamison Southern Cross Club.

The award was presented by ACT Chief Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM. During the presentation NHW ACT president, Laurie Blackall, stated that "The award recognises outstanding service by an individual ACT Policing officer or ACT Policing employee who has contributed to NHW and the concept of community policing in the ACT".

Mr Blackall said: "This award not only recognises Inspector Booth's

consistently positive engagement with the Neighbourhood Watch ACT leadership team, but also reflects the personal interest he takes in supporting the community.

"His involvement with Neighbourhood Watch in the Belconnen region, in particular, has enabled our organisation to more effectively support the communities that we serve. He actively supports the

establishment of new areas and freely gives his time responding to requests to participate in area activities as his other operational commitments allow.

"Inspector Booth's consistent and enthusiastic support of NHW has significantly contributed to the achievement of our goals and enabled us to expand the reach and success of NHW in the Belconnen region".





NHW ACT Vice President South, Albert Orszaczky, and Gordon Area Coordinator, Mark Lynch, manning the booth at Majura Park

## NHW Week 2021 in the ACT

NHW booths at two busy Bunnings' sites in the ACT – Gungahlin and Majura Park - marked the recent 'Neighbourhood Watch Week' – 'Bunnings Crime Prevention' promotion.

The assistance provided by Bunnings' staff in setting up the booths was appreciated by the Neighbourhood watch (NHW) members who volunteered to help out from Monday through Sunday.

Apart from NHW brochures on crime prevention and household safety at the booths, Bunnings' customers could also select from a variety of pamphlets from ACT Policing and Crime Stoppers, along with free UV Pens to mark their personal items at work or in their homes – these pens were quite popular, especially with the 'tradies'.



NHW ACT president, Laurie Blackall, is given a hand in setting up the booth at the Gungahlin store by Bunnings Activity Organiser, Sheryl McCulloch



Rachael receiving her award from Chief Police Officer Neil Gaughan with NHW ACT president Laurie Blackall

## ACT 2021 Member of the Year Rachael Thorpe

Despite her own ongoing battle with cancer, Rachael Thorpe remains a positive influence in her community and played a key role in the resurgence of Florey Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), among other efforts.

Rachael's volunteer work has now been recognised with the presentation of the 2021 NHW ACT Member of the Year Award by ACT Chief Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM, at the annual NHW ACT Awards held at the Jamison Southern Cross Club.

The Member of the Year Award recognises an individual who has volunteered their time as a member of NHW to empower people and communities through the development of strong and effective partnerships, that promote well-being within the local community by improving safety and security in ACT neighbourhoods.

NHW ACT president, Laurie Blackall, remarked that Rachael had made a "significant contribution to making Florey a safer and more inclusive suburb" by rallying local residents at a time when consistent criminal behaviour had been impacting people.

Mr Blackall said: "This group of residents realised the importance of knowing your neighbour and Rachael's leadership in this regard led to the resurgence of Florey Neighbourhood Watch."

Rachael went on to establish the Bizzy Bee Street Library, Little Green Pantry and the Sprout Spot to

support the community, thus playing an important part in rejuvenating community spirit. In August 2019, she was instrumental in securing funds from Belconnen Community Council for six street libraries in Belconnen.

In addition to the street libraries and continuing support for Florey NHW, Rachael attends community forums and took part in the 'Fabulous Florey Community Fair'. She also helps deliver NHW Newsletters to Florey residences, recently joined the Florey NHW Coordinating Team and is moderator of the very popular NHW Facebook site.



# NHW NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES

## Neighbourhood Watch Week

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, for the 3rd consecutive year, partnered with Bunnings for a combined Neighbourhood Watch Week and Crime Prevention Week from 8-14 November 2021.

This enabled Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups to have priority for the week in Bunnings stores to host events, such as fundraising BBQ's, property marking and sharing crime prevention information.

Numerous Bunnings locations were engaged with local NHW groups and police for activities during the week.

### Goulburn / Orange NSW

Senior Constable Nikki Hodge and Sergeant Yonneka Hill from Central West Police District attended Bunnings Orange for Crime Prevention Week and discussed home security options with members of the public.

Officers from Goulburn Crime Prevention Unit, CPO's Senior Constable Michelle Cook (in uniform) and Senior Constable Louise Raymond (in civilian clothes), with Bunnings staff member, attending the NHW Week and Crime Prevention Week activity.

Even though it rained the whole day, the day was still a success, with Crime Prevention initiatives conducted in the store and in the drive through area.



Bunnings staff attached anti-theft screws on over 60 vehicle number plates



Senior Constable Michelle Cook with a Bunnings staff member and Senior Constable Louise Raymond during NHW Week and Crime Prevention Week

## NHW Kings Langley Snags a Winner!

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Kings Langley held a BBQ at Bunnings as part of NHW Week and Crime Prevention Week on 13 November 2021.

Everyone seemed to enjoy seeing the return of the Bunnings BBQ. Happy customers lined up, all 'CovidSafe' and socially-distanced, with an air of "thankfully at last, a return to some normality!"

The Police vehicle's lights and sirens were a winner with both parents and children. You should have seen the smiles on the kids' faces as they sat in the driving-seat, pushing various buttons. This is what makes a very satisfying and worthwhile day.

Like all successful events the lead-up to the day required a huge amount of time and energy, rules and organisation. Joshua Masonwells studied hard and obtained the necessary TAFE certificates, then oversaw that health regulations were maintained throughout the day. Thanks to the Support Team at Bunnings Abbott Seven Hills for their gloves and masks.

Our greatest challenge for the planned BBQ was finding an affordable Public Liability 'Certificate of Currency' (insurance policy). Eventually we settled on a policy for \$184.

Bunnings sets the BBQ price list, as well as requiring a set time frame that must be adhered to by community groups – setting-up to cleaning-up was a long 8am to 4pm, with volunteer numbers also dictated due to Covid restrictions. Thankfully, Bunnings allocated us a dedicated 'Activities Organiser', who we were very grateful for, and was magnificent with her advice and assistance.

The BBQ was so popular that the recommended 480 sausages didn't last, so at 1pm, a quick dash was made to Woolworths Kings



After the rush (modelling Narelle's homemade aprons!) Jarrod Tate, NHW Kings Langley; Diane McCullough, Assistant Area Coordinator, NHW Kings Langley; Joshua Masonwells, CovidSafe Marshall & Assistant Committee NHW Kings Langley; Narelle Masonwells, Secretary, NHW Kings Langley; Peter Kenyon, Treasurer, NHW Kings Langley; Christine Clarke, Area Coordinator, NHW Kings Langley



Snags 'n' Sirens – a kids perfect combination!



Ron Denham, NHW Kings Langley and Julianne France, VIP with Riverstone NSW Police Area Command (PAC)

Langley for more. Fortunately, the 15kg of chopped onions was bang on! Thank you also to our local Woolworths for a generous donation towards the day's costs.

Our many committee members and volunteers worked tirelessly and with a great sense of comradery, to create a lovely, cheerful working environment.

Our local Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) Senior Constable Melissa Rosevear brought her Volunteer-in-Policing (VIP) support team: Gil and

Julianne France, who distributed many handouts to those waiting in the sausage queue, whilst Ron Denham shared information from our Neighbourhood Watch table. Overall the day was an extremely well-received event, marking a successful post-Covid return of NHW into the community. Was it worth the effort? Yes, it was! We were so pleased to have happy parents and even happier children. After all, these children may be our NHW volunteers or supporters in the future.



# BUY, SWAP AND SELL SMART



Online marketplaces such as Gumtree and Facebook have become a popular place to buy, sell, share, swap and give away unwanted items. While the vast majority of experiences on these sites are successful and hassle-free, online marketplaces are also popular among thieves and scammers. There are a few tips users should follow to ensure they get the best out of their use of these sites:

- **If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably isn't true,** always use common sense. You should inspect the item carefully in person to ensure it is as described in the ad and any issues are known upfront before you exchange any money.
- **Know who you're dealing with.** If you've only ever met someone online or are unsure of the legitimacy of a business, take some time to do a bit more research. It is better to use online sites that you know and trust. Scammers will set up fake online stores or post goods for sale in buyswap-sell groups or online classified sites to trick people into buying items that don't exist.
- For **personal safety** and ease, if possible, you should arrange to meet in a busy public place. Also, it's a good idea to take a family member or friend with you.
- **Never send money to anyone you don't know.** While online transactions can be simple and convenient, please remember that face to face transactions are the best way to minimise the risk of fraudulent activity.
- When buying or selling an item online, **always transact in person, in public, with cash or through payment methods with buyer protection, such as PayPal or Afterpay.**

A MESSAGE FROM NSW POLICE FORCE

## BUY, SWAP AND SELL SMART



### PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND TO AVOID THE TYPES OF SCAMS LISTED IN BELOW:

- A **scheduled payment receipt** is not a confirmation of money transfer, but a notification of a payment scheduled to be made in the future. This can easily be cancelled by the buyer after goods are exchanged.
- **Oops, I paid you too much!** Buyer's will purposely overpay for an item by cheque and request the overpayment be refunded to them by other means, such as cash. The cheque may appear cleared into your account but can be stopped or refused weeks later. Then you've lost the item, the money from the cheque and the amount you refunded to the scammer. Oops!
- A seller claims that there are **brokerage fees, import duties, or other such fees** required to get an item into the country. Do not pay such fees, as you will most often never get the product and will have lost any money you paid.

### OTHER COMMON SCAMS:

#### Car theft

Be aware when selling a vehicle on online there have been instances where a 'buyer' takes the car on a test drive and never returns or, in an accompanied test drive, forces the owner from the car and steals it. Always sight buyer's identification and record details before allowing a test drive or access to your vehicle. Have a friend or family member accompany you and the buyer on a test drive. Never leave the buyer alone with access to your car.

#### Delivery Scam via Whatsapp / SMS

If you receive any Whatsapp or SMS messages from potential buyers offering Gumtree or similar delivery as a service, do NOT click on the link or enter your payment details, this is a scam.

#### Brand name spoofing / phishing

You get an email/SMS that claims to be from Gumtree, Adeventa, Western Union, or another company and offers buyer protection or an online payment system or perhaps a cash prize. Legitimate companies will never send out such emails. Phishing attempts can also come in the form of emails/SMS messages telling you that your account has been disabled, suspended, locked, or something similar and you are asked to click on a link. Do not click on the link.

#### SMS Scam

An SMS message from a potential buyer asking you to respond by email is most likely a scam. Legitimate buyers and sellers are unlikely to want to be emailed if they are already texting you.

For more information on how you can protect yourself online, visit the Australian Government's online safety section <https://info.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/public-safety-and-law/online-safety>

or SCAMWATCH online shopping scams <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/types-of-scams/buying-or-selling/online-shopping-scams>



# NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

## What's New with Neighbourhood Support NZ

The latest news and highlights from Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) National Office, Members and Supporters.

### Encouraging Neighbourhoods to Work Together in Preparation for Omicron

With the possibility of many people self-isolating, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) wanted to highlight a few key things that kiwis could do during this time to make sure they were best prepared at home and in their neighbourhoods, such as updating their home's emergency kit, establishing a 'check-in buddy', and growing networks within their communities so that they are never short on someone to help them with errands outside the home, such as picking up groceries or walking the dog.

Chief Executive, Tess Casey, explained that with the possibility of people's usual support networks being unavailable due to self-isolation that a Neighbourhood Support group could come in handy and implored communities to think about establishing one for their neighbourhood if they have not done so already.

NSNZ have collated an extensive range of resources to help communities and individuals in their preparations and planning, such as our 'Kia Ora Neighbour' flyer – a simple flyer that is able to be printed off, filled in, and popped into you neighbours' letterboxes as a friendly reminder that you are available to help as needed.

### KIA ORA NEIGHBOUR!

If you are self-isolating, I can help provide support.

My name is:

---

My address is:

---

My phone number is:

---

If you are self-isolating, I'd be happy to help with:

☐ Shopping ☐ Urgent supplies

☐ A friendly call ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

180 Molesworth Street  
PO Box 3017  
Wellington 6140

Phone Toll Free: 0800 463 444  
Website: [neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz](https://neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz)



Neighbourhood Support NZ's Kia Ora Neighbour flyer

## It's Time to Get Prepared

Getting Our Neighbourhoods Ready for Omicron

### Have a plan for your neighbourhood

Now is a great time to put a neighbourhood plan in place. Who can help with things like shopping or walking your dog if you are required to self-isolate? Contact us for resources to help put a plan together.



### Find ways to stay socially connected

Do you have family, friends or a neighbour who you can check in with each day to ensure you stay socially connected? This will really support your wellbeing if you are required to self-isolate.



### Update your home's emergency kit

This might include repeats of any essential medications, pain relievers, a thermometer, easy meals, perhaps some additional vitamin C & D, and simple things like tissues and cleaning products.



### Take a prevention first approach

If you are able, make sure you wear an appropriate mask when you are out and about; keep your home well ventilated; practice good hygiene; be kind; be calm and stay positive. We've got this!



**Neighbourhood Support New Zealand**

Creating safe, resilient and connected communities.  
0800 4 NEIGHBOURS | [neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz](https://neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz)



NSNZ's Getting Our Neighbourhood's Ready for Omicron resource



**Neighbourhood Support Mangere volunteer, Toni Helleur, nominated as an Awesome Aucklander**

Toni not only volunteers with Neighbourhood Support Mangere, but she also runs her own charity, I Am Mangere, where she works every day to make a difference to the lives of the people in her community by helping connect them to what they need to live their best possible lives. During the extended Auckland lockdown, she noticed the toll it was taking on people and started a new initiative, Sparkle Joy, dedicated to delivering a little bit of 'joy' into people's lives each Friday. They received thanks from hundreds of people who said these small gestures made a big difference to them in a truly tough time.



Newly appointed Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Kelly Kerr

**Neighbourhood Support Coordinator appointed in Dargaville**

Kelly Kerr, who moved back to Northland last year, has recently been hired by the Kumarani Productions Trust to set up a Neighbourhood Support network to foster community support and connection. Kelly has an extensive background working for the community, including mental health roles, roles teaching numeracy and literacy, and roles in the prison system.



Eastern Southland Neighbourhood Support launch event

**Closer Gore connections with Neighbourhood Support**

Eastern Southland Neighbourhood Support launched in mid-December. The event was held at the Calvin Community Church in Gore, and speakers included Otago

Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Joy Davis; Neighbourhood Support National Board Member, Lois Scott-Muir of Dunedin; and Gore Deputy Mayor, Bronwyn Reid.



Omanu Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Linda Thompson

**BOP Neighbourhood Support says "Be a buddy"**

Omanu Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Linda Thompson, was in the Bay's Sunlive news with her message to 'be a buddy'. Linda had some helpful tips for caring for each other, explaining that creating your own buddy system to help people near you prepare for a community outbreak of Omicron is made easier by joining a local Neighbourhood Support group.

**Demand for multicultural services increases in Timaru**

Neighbourhood Support have been working in partnership with Multicultural Aoraki on an Initiative called Aoraki Connect. Many of the families the initiative work with are migrants who do not have a support network to help them with things such as moving house, or looking after older children when the mother was in hospital giving birth to a new baby. The initiative is set to help migrants participate in the community and navigate New Zealand systems such as Work and Income, Inland Revenue, court, social services, and health needs.

**NHW QLD**

QUEENSLAND



Where is what under the bonnet?

**Under the Bonnet again at Kingaroy**

Once again the Under the Bonnet event attracted a full-house of people, young and old to this workshop.

Designed to help participants feel confident and safe knowing basic car maintenance and safe driving tips, there was eager participation in the session, hosted by Bill Hull Car Centre in Kingaroy.

Supported and promoted by Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch, police officers from Kumbia, Sen Con Todd Armstrong, and Kingaroy police station, Sen Con Sonja Scott led the session and gave a very informative and relevant talk.

There were also hands-on activities such as changing a tyre and checking vehicle fluid levels. Technicians from Bill Hull Car Centre led these activities.



Sen Con Todd Armstrong (Officer in Charge Kumbia Police), Sen Con Sonja Scott (Kingaroy Police), Ms Jacqui Trace Dealer Principal Bill Hull Car Centre, and Pete Verbakel Volunteer in Policing Kingaroy Police

This event is targeted to learners and drivers of all ages and is regularly well attended. Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch wishes to

thank the participants, Bill Hull Car Centre and staff, and Kingaroy and Kumbia police for yet another great community initiative.



# Carina 1 NHW Area turns 30!

And says goodbye to the Area Coordinator of 30 years

In 2021 Carina 1 Neighbourhood Watch (formerly named Camp Hill 1 NHW) celebrated 30 years of serving the Carina Community. The Area Coordinator for each one of those 30 years, Col DeVantier, has decided to retire. In his words: "...before I get a letter from the Queen."

A large celebration was held in November to acknowledge the 30th Anniversary, Col's retirement, and to celebrate Christmas and the close of 2021. Former and retired Officer in Charge of Camp Hill Station (now Carina Station) Vic Tollenaere, and Sgt Richard Phillips now of Logan District, the groups' first liaison officer, attended the event to congratulate Col on such an outstanding commitment to his



Col De Vantier and members of the Carina 1 NHW

NHW and share in the celebrations of their involvement of the creation of such a wonderful and long lasting NWH group.

Carina 1 NHW members would like to thank Col for his leadership and friendship and wish him well in his retirement... and of course, eventually a letter from the Queen.

The current Officer in Charge of Carina Police, Senior Sergeant Brendan Jorgensen, also attended the celebration. Brendan is working hard to support Carina NHW groups and encourages participation and expansion in the division.



Steve Minnikin MP Chatsworth, Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Krista Adams, Area Coordinator Col De Vantier and Senior Sergeant Brendan Jorgensen Officer in Charge Carina police station

"Ever since taking over the reigns as Officer in Charge of the Carina Police Station, the ever-present assistance and support from the NHW in the local community has been evident. Possibly our most active group – Carina 1, headed by Col DeVantier, has been a continuous source of community values and engagement. Together with the Carina Police Station, Carina 1 NHW has assisted with reinvigorating the NHW Brand in the local community, engaged in community events such as Coffee with a Cop and Security Screws for Number Plates, and has been a continuous source of sound safety

advice for local residents. In the modern age of increased technology and decreased interactions with each other, it is good to know that these types of values haven't disappeared. Carina 1 NHW, with Col at the head, was a wonderful benchmark for NHW Groups across Queensland and Australia. Col leaves the group in the very capable hands of Ron Kreger, who maintains his strong engagement with the local community and Police. All the best Col – thank you for your service," said Senior Sergeant Brendan Jorgensen Officer in Charge Carina Police Station.

# 'Safety Circus' Gets Plenty Of Support

Two teams of performers (students of Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music) who volunteered their time and expertise during their course break, travelled west to the Isaac region, north to the Whitsunday region and locally to schools within Mackay and district, taking the important messages contained in the Safety Circus production to 66 primary schools during November 2021.

As on previous occasions, props and sound equipment were able to be conveyed behind our minibus due to the generosity of Neighbourhood Watch whose trailer has travelled far and wide over the years.

The performance at Sarina State School was conducted with Bruce and Denise Morcombe of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, in attendance. They expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to attend and were able to see firsthand how the principles of Safety Circus and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation could work hand in hand in delivering the all-



Bruce Morcombe and Sergeant Nigel Dalton doing the Helmet song

important safety messages to our young people.

Approximately 2500 students viewed Safety Circus and the support of organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch and



Students of Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music in the Safety Circus production

the Daniel Morecombe Foundation who facilitate taking the Safety Circus production on the road is invaluable.

Preparations are now underway for the 2022 Safety Circus production.

# Bunnings BBQ raises funds for Police Mascot Cluedo

Have you met the famous police dog Cluedo?

Cluedo has been visiting Bundaberg for the past few years from Maryborough to meet the wonderful community and promote a positive relationship between police and children. Over the years Cluedo has become such a popular member of the community that Bundaberg Police decided they wanted their own mascot and no longer had to borrow the mascot from Maryborough Police Station.

Unfortunately, the Cluedo mascot isn't cheap so when Bundaberg Police asked for assistance with fundraising – of course Bundaberg and District Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) answered the call. Late last year NHW were lucky enough

to run the Bunnings sausage sizzle to assist with raising funds for the Cluedo costume. Maryborough Cluedo also made an appearance on the day chatting with the locals about their DIY projects and of course eating way too many sausages. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services also popped in and took the opportunity to get a picture with Cluedo.

Through further fundraising efforts Bundaberg Police are currently in the process of ordering their very own Cluedo costume thanks to the wonderful support of Bundaberg and District Neighbourhood Watch. Watch this space for the release of Bundaberg's very own Cluedo, we can't wait!



Queensland Fire and Emergency Services hanging out with Cluedo



BBQ gurus Lester Rogers and Peter Vallance



# Mudgeeraba Neighbourhood Watch Groups Activities

The Mudgeeraba Neighbourhood Watch groups work closely together in supporting our local groups and associated areas, also running a “combined” facebook page for all to access.

At most every opportunity we exhibit at the local Mudgeeraba Show, Street Parade and any community events, handing out information sheets, blank phone contact forms and most recently a Police Phone Information fridge magnet to hold the neighbour's contact phone number sheet for easy access in time of need.

As a courtesy, here is a photo of our Police Phone Information magnet, should other groups be interested in a similar product. We can arrange a competitive

price for you, and ideally we could collate orders to achieve further cost reductions – these were around \$0.55 per piece, and we distributed (through the kind assistance of our local Councillor Glenn Tozer), over 8,000 through his division, as well as a further 3,000 at community events.

The magnet dimensions: Finished size: 145mm W x 115mm H on 0.8mm thick magnet base with gloss print face. For additional information regarding the magnets, please contact: admin@nhwa.com.au



Our 'wonderful Annette' in action at the Mudgeeraba Show (complete with Perspex screens for COVID security when talking with people)

Neighbourhood Watch	Introduce yourself to your neighbours, exchange contact phone numbers and let them know to support you when they need your help. Visit <a href="http://www.nhwa.org.au">www.nhwa.org.au</a>
In an emergency, or if a crime is happening now, call	<b>Triple Zero (000)</b>
If not, call POLICELINK and report crime via <a href="http://www.police.qld.gov.au">www.police.qld.gov.au</a> or call	<b>131 444</b>
To anonymously report information about suspicious and criminal activity, call CRIME STOPPERS	<b>1800 333 000</b>
Report leaving to the HOON HOTLINE	<b>134 666</b>
Mudgeeraba Police Station	Open from <b>8 AM UNTIL 4 PM, MON – FRI</b>
CITY OF GOLD COAST	Control business hours: Monday 5362 6211 Weekends / after hours: 1800 637 000

NHW police phone information magnet

## Turn The Screws On Crime Event

On 5 February 2022, our local Murgon Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) held an event to attach one way security screws to number plates.

This is the 3rd event of this nature that we have held and it continues to be very successful. We had 25 vehicles turn up on the day, plus a few more who are awaiting new number plates. These will be attached in a few weeks.

Special thank you to our Area Coordinator Brett Sander, member Darryl Koy and Secretary/Treasurer Phenella Hiron who made this event possible.

Thanks to the folks who attended on the day to make their number plates more crime proof.



# Ipswich District Launches Road Safety Cinema Ad

Ipswich District Crime Prevention launched their Road Safety ad across Ipswich Cinemas titled 'There's nothing more we can do'.

The ad spotlights the 'fatal five' - Speeding, Drink or drug driving, Distractions, Fatigue, Not wearing seatbelts, raising awareness that road safety is everyone's responsibility, and that starts with you.

'There's nothing more we can do' benefits the community by raising awareness and aims to also educate and inspire safe driving practices, encouraging more responsibility from our road users ultimately reducing road trauma.

Ipswich District Officer Superintendent David Cuskelly reflected on the need for the public to see the ad. "The cinema ad can be quite confronting for some," said Superintendent Cuskelly.

"It is always a timely reminder for motorists to consider their driving behaviours, ensuring the best possible chance of arriving at destinations safely."

The cinema ad is a local community awareness initiative. It emphasises the combined dedication of emergency services and community service providers to road safety and how every decision road users make behind the wheel, counts.

'There's nothing more we can do' was screened during the Christmas school holidays over a 6 week period in the five locations:

- Limelight Cinemas
- Cineplex Redbank Plaza
- Event Cinemas Springfield
- Toogoolawah Pictures
- Tivoli Drive-in Theatre

Local police attended cinemas in the lead up to and during the September-October school holidays along with project partners Department of Transport and Main roads, Ipswich City Council and



Release of the Road Safety Cinema Ad at Limelight Cinemas. Thankyou to Ipswich City Council, PCYC, Limelight and our Volunteers in Police



Senior Constable Kerrin Sheedy and Sergeant Nadine Webster, Ipswich District Crime Prevention Coordinator

Ipswich PCYC to promote the ad and provide the community with road safety information.

For more information visit the Department Transport and Main Roads Streetsmarts Initiatives (<https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/>).

You can also visit the Queensland Police website ([www.police.qld.gov.au/initiatives/road-safety](http://www.police.qld.gov.au/initiatives/road-safety)) for road safety information, or for further information contact the Ipswich District Crime Prevention Unit on 3817 1351 or email [dcpc.ipswich@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:dcpc.ipswich@police.qld.gov.au)



# Seven Hills Coffee with a Cop Neighbourhood Watch Week 2021

On the morning of 10 November 2021 the third *Seven Hills Coffee with a Cop* event was held to coincide with Neighbourhood Watch Week.

The purpose was to provide local residents with an opportunity to informally discuss any concerns with police officers, and to make available a lot of free brochures, booklets and merchandise to help support residents' own crime prevention tactics.

We were privileged to have three officers from Morningside police station and four Volunteers-in-Policing from South Brisbane District Crime Prevention Unit. They all enjoyed talking with residents about security, safety and cybercrime concerns.

Those who came along were rewarded with a free cuppa. We were glad to see so many people turn up – a total of 66 free cuppas were provided. Local Councillor Kara Cook even donated a Lions Christmas cake, used as a “lucky door” prize for attendees. The winner of the cake was drawn on the day – congratulations to Jordan!

Many thanks must go to Mandy and her staff at The Rabbit Hole Cafe for accommodating this event for a second time and coping with the extra demands that the event created during the morning. We would also like to thank the Hon. Di Farmer MP and Mr Steve Minnikin MP and their staff for their interest shown in the event and the support given to us. Their contributions helped make the morning the success it was.



Morningside 1 /Camp Seven NHW Inc. Area Coordinator Ray Kinne (second from left), with local residents and other NHW members, with Police Liaison Officer Senior Constable Richard Meredith, and Constable Lisa Comrie, Acting Senior Sergeant Mick Morier (Officer-in-Charge, Morningside Police)



Residents taking advantage of the opportunity to pick up some free guidance about security and safety

## NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Ben Williams receiving his Community Service Award from Whyalla Mayor Clare McLaughlin

## SA's Ben Williams Awarded with Community Service Award

Inspirational citizens were recognised and celebrated at Whyalla's annual community awards ceremony in January.

As part of the celebrations, longstanding Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers Association of SA (NHW VASA) Board of Management member, Ben Williams was awarded with a Community Service Award.

Ben has been a long-time volunteer for Neighbourhood Watch SA, holding various key positions. Currently, as well as his Board of Management role as Vice President, he is also

Chairperson of the Whyalla Combined Areas NHW - E & W LSA and Area Coordinator for Whyalla Stuart NHW Area 277.

This award provides recognition for Ben's outstanding overall achievements in the Whyalla community.

Phil Tavender, President of NHW VASA commented on Ben's well deserved award, "Ben is incredibly deserving of this award. He does so much for Neighbourhood Watch SA

and the Whyalla groups and we are thrilled to see all his hard work and efforts celebrated.

"A huge thank you to Ben and all our volunteers, as they say, volunteers aren't paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

Ben is also a great supporter of the Whyalla Pink Spirits Breast Cancer Support Group and he makes himself available to the community as a Justice of the Peace.





The SA Police Band performing outside Bunnings Mile End during NHW Week 2021

## NHW Week celebrated in style

**In November, groups across South Australia celebrated Neighbourhood Watch Week 2021, holding celebratory public events to raise awareness of the benefits of belonging to a local Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group while encouraging participation in the program.**

With Neighbourhood Watch Australasia partnering with Bunnings Warehouse to celebrate the week in style, Bunnings stores across Australia gave NHW group's priority access to BBQs, awareness tables and other activities in store.

On 10 November the state Neighbourhood Watch SA team, along with the SA Police Band and volunteers from the North Adelaide NHW group, were at Bunnings Mile

End celebrating and chatting to customers.

Senior Sergeant Richard O'dea, Community Engagement Section was present and commented on the success of the day, "It was brilliant; plenty of customers visited the awareness table we hosted, asking questions about Neighbourhood Watch SA. It was great to see so much interest in the program.

"People were also asking questions about crime prevention and how

they can keep themselves and their property safe so we provided lots of helpful tips. It was great to get out into the community!"

Neighbourhood Watch SA is South Australia's largest community crime prevention program. It brings neighbours and police together to solve local issues, develop safer neighbourhoods and create connected and inclusive communities.

## Gawler East 111 in the Spotlight

**In early 1989 a group of Gawler East community members met in Gawler Town Hall to discuss their Adelaide Hills suburb.**

As proactive and caring individuals, they dreamed of a connected, safe and proud area. Quickly two small but determined Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) SA groups formed - Gawler East 111 and Gawler East 112.

The NHW gave the groups an identity that enabled them to make positive change to their local community. It provided a means to connect, with monthly meetings and a police liaison officer on hand.

Area Coordinator of group 111, Trevor Bellchambers said they started out small but always had big plans, "Initially our task was to develop an identity in our area and get neighbours talking and looking out for each other.

"We have since developed into a group seeking ways to serve our community by working to have improvements made to this area and our environment".

The District 111 group, now it its 33rd year, may only have eight current members, however, they have a long list of impressive achievements.

Mr Bellchambers outlines their feats, "Our first major neighbourhood project was the house numbering on the kerb of all buildings in our area. We saw this as a critical activity, as one of my neighbours died before medical attention arrived as the ambulance could not find his location.

"We have also made security card holders available, so people are able to protect their precious bank cards in their wallets. We held a day during Crime Prevention Week at Bunnings to promote these cards and made them available to the public.

"We are preparing to street mark the numbers on the kerb of all buildings in our Area 111, as there are newly kerbed streets that have no marked numbers.



Trevor Bellchambers, Area Coordinator of group 111 holding a NHW SA sign  
Photo: Nick Hopton

We have the support of all Emergency Services and the local Council for this project. We believe it could save lives."

Mr Bellchambers, a retired school principal and founding group member of 111 said that they'd love to expand the group to allow them to work on more or bigger projects. They want to strengthen their efforts to make Gawler East a safer and happier community.

"We are a small band of concerned citizens and friends who meet briefly on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) in the Gawler East Primary School library at 7:30pm.

"We have a police liaison officer, Senior Constable Randal Murch, who attends our meetings and

strongly supports us. He gives a local police report so we know what to look out for each month and can have a think about what we can do to support the district against common crimes."

Senior Constable Randal Murch, who works in the Barossa Crime Prevention Section, and has been working with the group for 9 years is fully supportive.

"It is an honour to be involved with such a proactive and successful group. Trevor and his members have contributed enormously to their local area, and continue to promote and support NHW. They all have a shared interest in creating a safe and connected community."



# Raving Over “Regional Watch” Group

Communities are connecting with local police this week for Neighbourhood Watch Week.

With Neighbourhood Watch Australasia partnering with Bunnings Warehouse this year, the Port Lincoln NHW group occupied a gazebo at Bunnings on Monday to talk to customers and raise awareness.

Mine-site worker and volunteer CFS fire fighter Stephen Brewster is an administrator of the Port Lincoln Rant and Rave Facebook page and describes it as a “regional watch”, where community on the Lower Eyre Peninsula can band together and support each other.

“I find if people wish to get the word out or wish to get advice or even ask for help... Rant and Rave is one of the main ways to do that in the modern era,” he said.

“Other avenues such as TV, radio and newspapers can’t provide the immediate response/communication like social media can, which helps keep everyone in the loop, so to speak.”

Mr Brewster has been an administrator for several years and signed up for the role to give back to the community, and to try to foster positive, constructive discussion.

“I definitely feel people would be less connected (without it) - never before could we engage thousands of other locals at a moments notice,” he said.

Neighbourhood Watch state coordinator Sergeant Phil Gurr said Neighbourhood Watch Week was an opportunity to showcase the benefits of being a part of the program.

“Many Neighbourhood Watch volunteers find this process extremely empowering and brings about a real sense of safety and connectedness,” he said.



Administrator of the Port Lincoln Rant and Rave Facebook page, Stephen Brewster, said it’s an essential service for the Eyre Peninsula



**NHW Week - Sergeant Di Baker-Tagg, EWLSC Crime Prevention, Senior Community Constable Swayne Ackland, Port Lincoln Police, Tammy Jessop, Event Coordinator at Bunnings, Adele Whittaker, Pt Lincoln NHW Coordinator**

“We are currently striving to make the membership of Neighbourhood Watch as diverse and representative of the communities they volunteer within.”

Neighbourhood Watch Week 2021 takes place from November 8 to 14.

Neighbourhood Watch SA is South Australia’s largest community crime prevention program and brings neighbours and police together to solve local issues, develop safer neighbourhoods and create connected and inclusive communities.

## NHW TAS

TASMANIA



Peter Vogelsanger on the hustings in Montrose & Rosetta, signing up new members Amy and Adam



Peter Vogelsanger and fellow Montrose and Rosetta NHW member modelling their new masks

## Montrose & Rosetta NHW Setting the Pace!

Montrose and Rosetta are one of the newest Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups in Tasmania and their Coordinators, Dawn Hendrick and Peter Vogelsanger, are actively promoting the NHW brand and driving to increase their membership.

By running a raffle during Neighbourhood Watch Week at Bunnings Glenorchy, they were able to raise funds to help them be more engaging and proactive in their community (thank you once again Bunnings).

As part of their membership drive, they have established a local NHW Facebook page on which they post and share relevant community, police, and safety information. Seizing the availability of NHW masks at the

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia ([www.nhwa.com.au/nhwa-shop/](http://www.nhwa.com.au/nhwa-shop/)) online store, they applied for a grant from NHW Tasmania to go halves in the purchase of 50 masks. The added bonus was that the bulk order also realised a price reduction of \$0.50 per mask. All NHW volunteers are encouraged to be enterprising, and this group is proving to be quite savvy in that regard.

Well done to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and Australia Post,

because their order was received two days later, and they immediately started distributing the masks to new members.

A NHW group purchasing some masks is a simple initiative to grow your engagement with your community and promote our brand. Food for thought to start 2022 which is our year in Tasmania for *at least do something!*



# 35th Anniversary for Tasmania the Springboard for the Future

## Neighbourhood Watch Week/Bunnings Crime Prevention Week

2021 was a year of celebration for Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania (NHWT) with plenty of activity to provide a solid foundation for the next decades. Some of the highlights included a very successful partnership with Bunnings for the third year in a row to promote Neighbourhood Watch Week/Bunnings Crime Prevention Week (*the Week*) from 8 – 14 November 2021. Commissioner Darren Hine launched the *Week with a Cuppa* (CWAC) at the new NHWT home in the ABC Complex.

There are seven Bunnings Warehouses in Tasmania and with their help NHWT members delivered four information stands and raffles; three CWACs; one barbecue and three carpark events to round off *the Week*. We even provided Santa to the delight of children and adults alike.



Launch of NHW Week in Hobart



Raffle at Devonport



Minister for Justice drops in at Glenorchy



Santa in his element at Mornington

## Get Online Week

A significant benefit of being a member organisation of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) is access to their resources and support. In recent years, NHWA have facilitated small grants of \$700 to our groups that organised activities for *Get Online Week* through the *Good Things Foundation*. This year, eight of our *Watches* took up the offer once again and hosted events to give older Tasmanian's exposure to, knowledge of, and confidence in, doing activities online in this digital age.

The grants can be used to provide the venue, facilitator,



NHW Tasmania members from West Hobart enjoying light refreshments after the *Get Online Week* event

administration costs, as well as refreshments and prizes for the people attending, which can be either online or in person. Members of our West Hobart event enjoyed

the lessons as well as the morning tea! We want our groups to be even more involved in 2022 – good for our people – good for NHWT. Win/Win!



L-R Maureen Newman, Ian Peck, Joan North, Commander Stuart Wilkinson, Pam Martin, Robert Anderson, Linda Madill OAM, President Peter Edwards, Gerry Bartley, Malcolm Cash OAM, Roxley Snare OAM and Wayne Burgess

## Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the NHWT AGM and Awards Ceremony which was held at the prestigious Launceston Country Club on 20 November 21. Commander

Stuart Wilkinson helped NHWT President, Peter Edwards, recognise seven new Life Members who have provided outstanding leadership in their communities over many years. A President's

Certificate of Commendation was also presented to two former Life Members who have continued to go above and beyond in their service of NHW and their communities.

## CWACs (it's not a duck)!

With the support of and for Tasmania Police, NHWT has really made CWACs their flagship event. With help from sponsors, a grant from the Clarence City Council and generous businesses we were able to deliver 11 CWACs in 2021 – with every one being a resounding success.



Blackstone Heights NHW delivering at Prospect; and Evandale Watch at the Ingleside Café



## And we do other things

On the eastern side of the Derwent River is the picturesque suburb of Old Beach in the Brighton Municipality. Our Old Beach NHW group started late in 2021 and to their credit they took the mantra of *do something* to heart and ran a Bunnings barbecue with their local volunteer fire brigade during *the Week*.

Doing something can be infectious because by December the group had formed a working bee to clean up their foreshore - getting a jump start on Clean Up Australia Day. We know that doing something



Members of the Old Beach NHW working bee cleaning up their foreshore

for your community is also good for the individual. Some of the comments from participants were: "It's a wonderful way to get to know others in our community"

and "I feel really good doing something like this." Well done to the Old Beach team. Keep up the good work – your community is the beneficiary.



# Snap, Send, Solve (First you see it – then you don't!)

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) usually starts in a community because there are one or more issues that aggravate one or more people who will complain to themselves, and others that ... they should do something about it. Often the conversation will be more directed to ... the police should do something about it. After a while there is a realisation that it is not just a police problem and a voice may say, ... is there something we can do about it? And there is!

Many times, I have seen the abandoned car on the street, traffic signage damaged or obscured by graffiti or foliage, dangerous parking, dumped rubbish, etc and said to myself ... *I should report that!* But haven't followed up because it was going to be a complicated process. If I phone up, I will be put on hold for who knows how long. Go online, send an email, maybe a Facebook message or a text – but to who and then it all gets too hard.

A recent conversation with an enthusiastic NHW member encouraged me to download the free Snap, Send, Solve App. See a problem, use the camera on the app, then the photos and exact location are sent to the responsible authority to action. I have tried it and it worked like a dream. Here is my story.

A mattress had been dumped beside the bushes at my local swimming pool in Clarence. An eyesore and a problem that was only going to get worse. Many people saw this dumped mattress over the course of two weeks and amazingly, it never moved – because we said, ... someone should do something about that; or ... I am going to report that; or that mattress has been there for two weeks, and no one has done anything about it!



## Snap Send Solve

**And then I remembered the Snap, Send, Solve App on my phone. I opened the app and took photos, provided my name, email and phone number and pressed send. Done in five minutes! But even better, within 48 hours the mattress had gone!**

**A big thank you to the Clarence City Council for their prompt response to the report.**

**There are two messages in this story:**

- **It is now very easy to do something to help address an issue – because 'we' are 'they'.**
- **Snap, Send, Solve worked for me and I was so impressed**

**with how simple it was that I wanted to share this unpaid and unsolicited testimonial with as many community minded people as I could.**

I now know there are other similar Apps that may work just as well, or better. However, this was simple for someone who is not really into technology, but knew they would see things in the future that needed someone to do something. A five-minute visit to the App Store and you're prepared to be that *person who will do something*.

Good neighbours create better communities.

## NHW VIC

VICTORIA



Mildura Junior NHW has started for 2022 with Irymple South Primary being the first school attended for the year

## Junior Neighbourhood Watch Up and Running in 2022

Mildura Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has kicked off the Junior NHW program for 2022 at the Irymple South Primary School with the first two classes for the year.

The program has once again received great support from local schools, with schools booked in for 20 days over the 9 week term.

This year has been made a bit easier through the great support of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia who have supplied customised Junior NHW folders, which the students were excited to receive for the first time ever.

It is fantastic that even after a COVID affected year in 2021, the program continues to have such strong support and we are very much looking forward to running the Junior NHW program during what looks like a very busy 2022.



Irymple South Primary Students show off their new Junior NHW folders



# NHW WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Family Harmony Day and Neighbourhood Watch Week

A steady drum of lion dancers combined to transform Piney Lakes Reserve into a hub of activity at the 2021 Neighbourhood Watch Week event with the Neighbourhood Watch Chinese Group (NHWCG).

Many gathered to celebrate their great achievements of the year. The growth of the event, and the way that NHW Week celebrations are increasingly being enjoyed by Western Australians of Asian backgrounds, shows the positives and strength of our multicultural society, which benefits from diversity and shared cultural traditions.

The event was held on 14 November at Piney Lakes, Winthrop. This is the third year that the NHWCG has organised this significant event to celebrate NHW Week with the Chinese and wider community.

The Piney Lakes Reserve was filled with entertainment programs that showcased the cultural heritage of the Chinese community. The Lion dancers started the day with an extraordinary performance. Also performing were the WA Police Pipe Band, traditional Chinese Dance Troupes and a variety of multicultural groups. There were also cultural performances, demonstrations, games and competitions and of course, a diverse range of street food. Children were also very well catered for in the Kid's Zone.

This event generated great support from government at all levels, politicians and local businesses. The weather on the day was perfect for this event which peaked at an estimated crowd of 5,000.



VIP guests: Kim Giddens, Lisa Li, Bernie Durkin, Warren Ameduri, Jean Zhang and Hanson Wu



WA Police Pipe Band with dance performers

All formal presentations on the day were designed to assist in breaking down language barriers to help reduce crime and increase community cohesion. The aim of these events is to foster safer local communities, not only for people from Chinese backgrounds, but the entire community.

The NHWCG aim to support all community members to make them feel safer where they live, work, or while out and about in public. They promote a culture of respect and dignity and do not tolerate discrimination in any form.



Snr Sgt Jeremy Petersen, Acting NHW State Coordinator Mathieu Uchino, Sgt Katrina Ganzer, Superintendent Mark Longman, NHW Armadale Inc. Chair June MacDonald, Sgt Jackie Newby and Crime Prevention and Community Liaison Unit Executive Manager Bernie Durkin

## Crime Prevention Podcasts

In 2020, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Armadale Inc. met with Advanced Personnel Management Armadale (APM), an organisation that delivers services and programs to enable better lives for people with disabilities, to discuss opportunities of collaboration between the two organisations.

One of APM stakeholder groups are people who are vision impaired. In the discussion with NHW Armadale it was identified that accessing information on crime prevention was a gap currently not being met for this target group.

A further meeting was organised between APM, NHW State Office, WA Police Force representatives, NHW Armadale Inc and City of Armadale to identify alternative sources where crime prevention information could be available other than current hard copy resources or

websites for people who are vision impaired. This discussion identified that the development of a series of podcasts focussing on specific crime prevention information would be highly beneficial to this section of the Western Australia (WA) community.

Over the next 12 months a series of podcasts were developed covering a range of crime prevention information to educate the audience on target hardening, reporting and other relevant crime prevention information including:

- How and where to report information
- What to report
- Scams
- Personal safety
- Motor vehicle crime
- Target hardening

The podcasts were launched at a local event hosted by NHW Armadale Inc in September 2021 and are now available through the APM network, NHW Armadale Inc and the NHW WA State Office for the wider WA community to access.

**Please visit the podcast at:**  
<https://anchor.fm/preventcrime>





Aboriginal performer and Chinese Lion Dance Master happily dance together

## This Australia Day, We're All Part of The Story

On 26 January 2022, the Australia National Day Carnival was held, organised by the Neighbourhood Watch Chinese Group (NHWCG), with the support from the Australia Day Council, Neighbourhood Watch, the Western Australian Police Service and the City of Bayswater.

At the beginning of the event, the traditional Chinese dragon and lion dances got the audience excited. The lion dance is a symbol of luck and prosperity for the Chinese people, and through the lion dance, we hope to bring good wishes to the people to eliminate disasters and seek good fortune. On Australia Day, we also hope to bring blessings to Australia through the lion dance and pray for the safety of all Australians.

The lion dance was followed by a speech from Australian Aboriginal elders and a special performance reflecting the stories of Aboriginal culture.

An Indigenous cultural performance by the Neil Coyne Midn Marr Dreaming Noongar Dance Group



People from different backgrounds, cultures and professions laughed, danced and celebrated Australia Day together

and then a very moving welcome to country was performed by Aunty Roma Winmar a local Noongar woman of the Whadjuk people. What was unique about this welcome to country was Aunty Roma's rendition of 'I am,

you are, we are Australian' in her traditional language. For those who were present this was a very moving performance. An acknowledgement of country was also performed by Avril Williams a local Noongar woman.



VIP delegates applaud multicultural performances



Awarding of certificates to some of the outstanding volunteers



NHWCG dedicated volunteers

There were also many wonderful traditional Chinese cultural performances, such as beautiful folk dances, the amazing Chinese face-transformation, dance performance by Chinese children, classical and elegant harp performance, and more.

People from different backgrounds, cultures and professions laughed, danced and celebrated Australia Day together.

Since its foundation, NHWCG has been committed to helping build bridges between Chinese and local cultures, helping Chinese, especially new immigrants, to better integrate into local customs and cultures. Australia Day is a great opportunity for Chinese people to learn about Australian history and culture, and

for Chinese art and Aboriginal art to mingle. The merger of culture and art allows multicultural Australia to shine and truly achieve "We're all part of the story".

Community Harmony Australia Day Carnival was held as a live performance and simultaneous online broadcast. The live streaming allowed those who could not attend the event, due to the epidemic or other reasons, to enjoy the performances on the day.

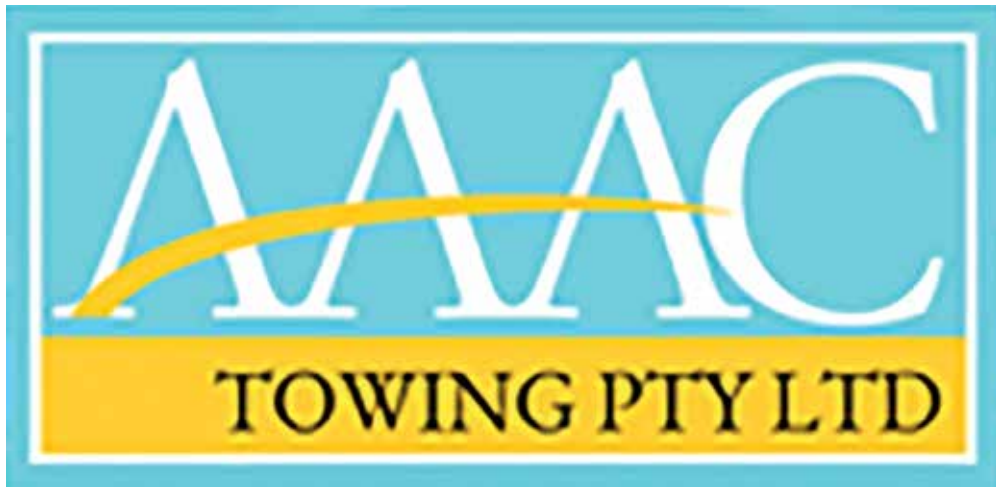
The NHWCG has grown to an organisation with a total of 4,000 members and has held more than 20 law enforcement and anti-crime events for Chinese immigrants. The growth of the group is dependent on the selfless dedication

of each and every volunteer. Whether it is the daily operation of the team or the organisation of each event, the generous support and help of the volunteers is indispensable.

They are the cornerstone of the team's development, and they are an important part of the bridge between Chinese and local culture. The awarding of certificates to some of the outstanding volunteers on this special day of Australia Day is a token of recognition and appreciation for their dedication.

NHWCG celebrated Australia Day 2022 with a blend of Chinese and local culture, "no matter who you are or where you come from, we're all part of the story".





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