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Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



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Cover photo: International Women's Day attendees Bec, Courtney, Duchense, Amanda, Simon and Snr Constable Lynda Whincup

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

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FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

Welcome to the second edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) Journal for 2022. This year continues as it began for NHWA, at a good pace, with many projects and initiatives on the go, all working towards the common goals of making Australasian communities safer and more connected. Below are details of some of the projects and partnerships NHWA has on the go at present, however, watch this space, as there is more to come before 2022 is over!



Neighbour Day with NAPCAN

On Neighbour Day Sunday 27 March, NHWA announced an exciting new collaboration with another partner in crime prevention, NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect).



NAPCAN works to create communities that support families and keep children safe, so it makes sense for NHWA and NAPCAN to work together in partnership, via a range of projects and initiatives, to raise awareness of social connectedness within communities.

NAPCAN has identified that:

- children thrive in communities where people are friendly and neighbourly
- children do best when their families are well supported (and communities play an integral part in this)
- community volunteering helps create safer communities for children by creating linkages and stronger social capital

To find out more go to: www.napcan.org.au/



NHWA CEO Maria Bennett with IDCARE Managing Director Dr David Lacey

Meeting with IDCARE to discuss CROC Program

Recently I met with the Managing Director of IDCARE, Dr David Lacey. IDCARE is Australia and New Zealand's national identity & cyber support service and is the only one of its kind in the world. IDCARE have helped thousands of Australian and New Zealand individuals and organisations reduce the harm they are at risk of from the compromise and misuse of their identity information by providing effective mitigation and response options.

IDCARE delivers professional services with personal care, in the fight against cybercrimes, scams, and identity theft. To extend their reach and provision of services, IDCARE has established a new program, Cyber Resilience Outreach Clinics (CROC), to connect with vulnerable Australian communities where many may feel forgotten and overlooked.

This program is being delivered via mobile pop-up clinics across outback Australia to ensure the coverage of remote and regional communities, providing direct priority access to IDCARE services for those most at risk and in need, see more p8.

Upcoming Events and Dates

**Get online
Get connected**

Get Online Week 17-23 Oct 2022

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

All Neighbourhood Watch groups are invited to get involved in the national campaign by hosting a local face to face or online event, that encourages people to get online and to improve their digital skills so that they can feel confident and safe while being digitally connected.

To support the cost of your event, there is a \$1,000 grant available for eligible groups. Funds can be used to hire a venue, pay for catering, bring in interesting guest speakers, run a raffle, have prizes, or whatever it takes to make your NHW Get Online Week event effective & impactful!

NHWA Volunteer and Policing Awards 2022 NHWA Award Nominations Now Open!

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

This year we are again seeking award nominations to acknowledge the work and dedication of outstanding individuals in our communities who make neighbourhoods safer and more connected and inclusive places to live.

The awards are:

- **'NHWA 2022 Malcolm Grant OAM - Volunteer of the Year Award'**
- nominate an outstanding NHW Volunteer community member
- **'NHWA 2022 Police Commissioner's Award'**
- nominate a Police employee who has made a significant contribution to NHW

Nominations for both awards are open now. To nominate a NHW Volunteer or Police employee deserving recognition and acknowledgement, download the forms at: www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards/



Neighbourhood Watch Week

7-13 NOVEMBER 2022



Neighbourhood Watch Week 7-13 Nov 2022

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) and Bunnings Warehouse are partnering again this year to combine Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Week and Crime Prevention Week from 7 to 13 November 2022.



This will be NHWA's fourth partnership with Bunnings in the community crime prevention education space. As you read this, across Australia grassroots Neighbourhood Watch groups and their local Bunnings are preparing for their NHW Week & Crime Prevention Week events, whether it's a sausage sizzle, number plate anti-theft screws, a meet and greet with crime prevention specialists and excellent tips and advice on ways to keep your property and loved ones safe and secure.

All NHW groups are invited to book a spot at your local Bunnings store to hold a fundraising sausage sizzle, or other activities during NHW Week, see more p9.

For more information about any of the above stories, please contact us at: 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
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
maria.bennett@nhwa.com.au

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



**Donations to NHWA of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.
To donate go to <https://www.nhwa.com.au/donate/>**

PATRON, BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



Commissioner Reece P Kershaw APM – Patron

Commissioner Kershaw is a career police officer, joining the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in 1988. Throughout his early career, he worked in General Duties and Criminal Investigations as a Detective, and was seconded to the National Crime Authority and the Australian Crime Commission.

In 1999, Commissioner Kershaw worked in Operations and Close Personal Protection in Perth. In 2003, he was promoted to Superintendent, undertaking roles in the investigation of victim-based crime, High Tech Crime Operations and deployments on overseas postings to the Netherlands, East Timor and Solomon Islands. In 2010, Commissioner Kershaw was promoted to Commander, leading Serious and Organised Crime Investigations.

In 2011, Commissioner Kershaw joined the Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) as Assistant Commissioner Crime and Specialist Services and Darwin Metropolitan Service. In 2015, he was appointed Commissioner of Police and Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Commissioner Kershaw was a recipient of the NTPF Outstanding Leadership Medal, and was awarded the Australian Police Medal in the 2016 Australia Day Honours. Commissioner Kershaw was appointed as the AFP's 8th Commissioner on 2 October 2019.

The AFP is a strong supporter of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia with Commissioner Kershaw recently becoming Patron of NHTWA. Under Commissioner Kershaw's leadership the AFP will continue to focus on positive outcomes for communities through the implementation of programs and awareness-raising activities in collaboration with Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



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 NHTWA. 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 NHTWA 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 NHTWA.



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 NHTWA 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.



Inspector Brent Register – Manager of Prevention – Community Focus – New Zealand

Brent joined Police in 1998, after graduating with a degree in Management from University. The majority of his career has been spent in operational policing, ranging from frontline Sergeant in both PST and Road Policing, Prosecutions, Sub Area Commander in a rural location to Area Commander Wairarapa. In his current role he is responsible for the areas of Alcohol Harm Prevention, Mental Health, Community, Community Inclusion and Crowded Places at a national level.



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 NHTWA 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.



Lizzie 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 NHTWA.



The ACCCE 'Closing the Net' podcast wins Silver at New York Radio Awards

ACCCE Podcast 'Closing the Net' Wins Silver at New York Radio Awards

The Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) is adding yet another feather in its cap with the podcast series 'Closing The Net' winning Silver at the New York Festivals 2022 Radio Awards in the Narrative/Documentary Podcast category.

Embracing all aspects of the Radio and Audio industries, the awards program honours and promotes the exceptional and innovative content being created today on all continents and seen across all platforms. The winners were announced on 26 April at the Storytellers Gala Virtual Event.

Out of 15 categories in the Podcast field, 'Closing The Net' was a nominee then finalist in the Narrative/Documentary section. The Australian Federal Police's (AFP) first podcast was ranked among some of the world's most popular podcasts from the UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Germany, and Ireland. The winner of the 'Grand prize' in the category was the BBC's critically-acclaimed podcast 'Have You Heard George's Podcast' from George the Poet.

'Closing The Net' is a podcast series that for the very first time takes you inside the world of the AFP and those policing the 'borderless crime' of online child sexual exploitation.



The ACCCE 'Closing The Net' podcast is available on all popular podcast streaming platforms

Research conducted by the ACCCE in 2020 has shown that in Australia only around half of all parents talk to their children about online safety. 50% of parents don't know what to do to keep their kids safe online. Just 3% of parents are concerned about online grooming. And sadly, most believe online child sexual exploitation is too repulsive to even think about.

'Closing The Net' is working to change that, showcasing that knowledge is power and that our only chance to eradicate this issue is if we bring a 'whole-of-community' response.

Learn more about the podcast at accce.gov.au/closingthenet, and listen to Closing The Net on any popular podcast streaming platform.

New Online Safety Laws, and Lessons for Older Australians

Australia's independent regulator for online safety, the eSafety Commissioner, has a serious goal: to help Australians have safer and more positive experiences online.

Since eSafety was set up seven years ago, it has made significant inroads in improving awareness of online safety issues and helping to relieve the distress caused by online harms to tens of thousands of Australians.

Last year, the Australian Parliament passed the *Online Safety Act 2021* which strengthened existing laws to protect Australians from online harms, providing for:

- a new **Adult Cyber Abuse scheme** which allows those over 18 years to report severely abusive content that is menacing, harassing or offensive and intended to cause serious harm
- a stronger **Cyberbullying Scheme** to assist children who are targeted online by seriously threatening, harassing, intimidating or humiliating content
- an updated **Image-Based Abuse scheme**, to address sharing, or threatened sharing, of intimate images and videos without consent
- a modernised **Online Content Scheme**, designed to remove illegal and restricted content

How to make a report to eSafety

Reports are a core element in eSafety's approach to helping address online abuse:

- Anyone experiencing cyberbullying or serious adult cyber abuse should first report the content to the online platform where the content appeared. If the platform does not respond, a report can be made to eSafety.



- For image-based abuse and illegal or restricted content, a report can be made to eSafety straight away. eSafety works with online platforms to have harmful content removed as quickly as possible. If material that meets the legal thresholds isn't removed, eSafety can pursue fines against providers or the person who posted or shared the content.

For more information about these online safety protections and to make a report, please visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)

Free online safety presentations for older Australians

eSafety also plays an important role offering online safety education and training across the community, including to schools, parents and other organisations.

To help older Australians, eSafety's free Be Connected presentations help participants improve their digital skills and keep safer online. Join our live streamed presentations which will step you through the

essentials from the comfort of your own home. In August we have a great selection of topics to give you more confidence online.

Protect yourself against scams
2 August, 11.30am - 12.30pm AEST
How to protect your personal information and spot a scam.

Safer online shopping and banking
4 August, 3 - 4pm AEST
The benefits of online shopping and banking and how to keep safe.

Connecting to others
16 August, 10 - 11am AEST
How to set up video calling and use FaceTime, WhatsApp and Skype.

How to use government websites
18 August, 2 - 3pm AEST
What government websites might benefit you and how to set up a MyGov account.

For more information on Be Connected presentations, visit becconnected.esafety.gov.au/bookings

A Novel Approach to Busting Scams and Cybercrimes - Cyber Resilience Outreach Clinics (CROC)

Keep an eye out for IDCARE.org's CROC Trucks throughout 2022 and 2023 and get to 'scream at scammer'.

IDCARE.org is a national community support service that provides specialist response services to victims of scams, cybercrimes and identity theft. It was launched in 2014 and provides direct Case Management support to tens of thousands of community members as a charitable service each year.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, IDCARE's specialist services are engaging communities via its Cyber Resilience Outreach Clinics (CROC) Program. These are specific community events being held across regions in Australia IDCARE knows experience greater harm and vulnerabilities to these types of crimes. Community members can bring their devices, take a "scamability" test, record your own personalised message to deliver to a scammer, and learn about simple and pragmatic ways to protect yourselves and your loved ones.

The specialist CROC Trucks are setting up pop-up clinics in some of Australia's remotest locations.

"A really important part of our CROC Program is to recruit local community champions," said Dr David Lacey, Managing Director of IDCARE.

Community Champions will be provided ongoing information from IDCARE's Identity Security Operations Centre about what's happening in their community. They will be supported with carrying the message and building



IDCARE CROC Team with Dr David Lacey (right)

community resilience long after the CROC Trucks have left.

"Being forewarned is being forearmed. This is one way to ensure the conversation about what is specifically targeting communities endures," said Dr Lacey.

By running community events and clinics and recruiting local champions, IDCARE.org is aiming to build community resilience and defeat these criminals. As the team at IDCARE.org know all too well, the only reason people fall for these crimes is they are unaware of the deception. The role of the community and the ongoing discussions that are needed is a simple but effective way of defeating these criminals.

If you or someone you know experiences a scam, cybercrime or identity theft event, here are the things you should do:

1. **Contact your financial institution(s) immediately;**
2. **Contact IDCARE.org and speak with one of their expert Case Managers to build your own Response Plan to protect yourself (1800 595 160 or book a time at www.idcare.org);**
3. **If it was something you clicked on, or if you provided remote access to your device, disconnect from the Internet immediately and seek treatment for your device;**
4. **Report the matter to Report Cyber (the police) via cyber.gov.au**

NHW Week 7-13 Nov 2022

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and Bunnings combine forces in the prevention of crime!

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) and Bunnings have partnered once again to continue their tradition of a combined Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Week & Crime Prevention Week.

NHW Week has a long and well-established history of being a successful event for showcasing NHW and crime prevention initiatives to the community, while raising public awareness of the benefits of belonging to a NHW group and encouraging community participation in NHW programs.

Maria Bennett, NHWA Chief Executive Officer, said "We are pleased to announce that Neighbourhood Watch Australasia are proudly partnering with Bunnings for the 4th consecutive year, to hold the combined NHW Week & Crime Prevention Week, across 7 to 13 November 2022.

"Partnering with Bunnings nationally reinforces the already successful Neighbourhood Watch Week program and brings a combined focus on incorporating Neighbourhood Watch, Police, community groups and other crime prevention agencies. All Bunnings locations across Australia and New Zealand will be participating."

Neighbourhood Watch is a community led safety and awareness program, with many thousands of NHW volunteers working in partnership with Police. NHW aims to prevent crime, stop social isolation and increase the safety, security and quality of life for everyone in the community.

Simon McDowell, Bunnings' Chief Operating Officer said, "Crime Prevention Week is all about raising awareness of the ways we can deter theft and fraud and keep our customers' sites, homes, property, and vehicles safe and secure.



NHW, Police and Bunnings staff attaching anti-theft number plate screws during NHW Week

"Bunnings is really pleased to get behind this year's programme and support the efforts of police and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia. Our team are really looking forward to providing our retail and trade customers with practical advice and product information that can help protect their properties going into the holiday period."

Neighbourhood Watch groups are invited to book activities with their local Bunnings stores as part of NHW Week & Crime Prevention Week; suggested activities include:

- **BBQ/Fundraisers**
- **One-way number plate security screws**
- **Tool engraving or UV property marking**
- **Home security information**
- **Crime prevention information sharing**
- **Guest speakers with crime prevention advice**
- **Information on NHW in your community**

NHW groups can contact your local Bunnings store to book suitable days for your activities as soon as possible.

Bunnings stores have been advised and will be waiting to hear from NHW groups who will be participating in this community partnership.

Maria Bennett NHWA CEO said, "As the peak body for Neighbourhood Watch I see this positive messaging, promotion and advocacy of the Neighbourhood Watch organisation in our communities as a fundamental part of our role. We will continue to promote Neighbourhood Watch both locally and Australasia-wide at every opportunity.

"NHW Week is the time to raise public awareness of NHW and the benefits of belonging to your local community NHW group. The aim is to increase membership and encourage participation in NHW programs throughout Australia and Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand," Ms Bennett said.

Email admin@nhwa.com.au with your events, photos and stories.

Neighbourhood Watch Month

In March this year, crime prevention partners Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) came together for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Month, a month-long initiative to empower Australian families to take control of their home security.

For many Australians, the pandemic significantly changed how we live in our homes. Lockdowns, working from home and staying indoors frequently resulted in homeowners being complacent about home security. NHW Month provided a timely reminder for homeowners to take proactive measures to audit their security and better protect their homes and loved ones.

Throughout March, both Crimsafe and NHWA shared home security tips and personal safety advice via radio, their websites and social media channels. Homeowners were encouraged to take simple yet effective actions to increase their security, including installing alarms, cameras and sensor lighting, arranging for mailboxes to be checked while away on holidays, and becoming involved with their local NHW group.

The security of our homes and personal safety is important to each of us, and the expert advice given to homeowners provides them with effective ways to reduce their home's vulnerability to household-based crimes. According to ABS data, 9.4% of households experienced a break-in, an attempted break-in, property theft or malicious damage during 2020-21.

The NHW Month campaign also encouraged homeowners to audit their home security with Secure Score.

More than 53,000 visitors were attracted to the Secure Score tool during NHW Month, demonstrating a strong desire among homeowners to arm themselves with the knowledge they need to better protect their homes and neighbourhoods.

Respondent data received during the campaign revealed that while 88% of households have adequate locks on all external doors, only 35% have a security alarm system in place. At the same time, only 57% indicated that they had sensor lighting around exterior doors and windows.

Overall, Australia's average Secure Score is only 56 out of 100 – suggesting that many homes are susceptible to break-ins, theft or damage.

The average Secure Score rating proves that much more still needs to be done to increase awareness, improve home security measures, and make our communities stronger and safer. To support this requirement, the two crime prevention organisations of NHWA and Crimsafe will unite in partnership again for Secure September 2022.



Secure September 2022



Secure September, initially launched in 2021, is a month-long campaign to encourage Australians to become more security conscious and make improvements to enhance their home security, while promoting a community-minded approach to crime prevention and the benefits of involvement with local NHW groups.

Secure September 2022 will provide homeowners helpful tips to increase their security, such as leaving shoes on the front porch, trimming foliage near the windows, or removing wheelie bins from areas of the house where they may be used to scale a fence or access a window.

Another great resource is Secure Score; 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.

If you missed NHW Month in March and would like to improve the safety and security of your home, make sure you follow Crimsafe and NHWA on their social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) during Secure September for expert advice and home security tips.

Watch this space for some exciting new projects coming from NHWA and Crimsafe for Secure September 2022!

Australia's average score is 56.



Want to know your Secure Score? Find out in under five minutes now – www.nhwa.com.au/resources/secure-score/

Links to social media sites:

www.facebook.com/nhwa.com.au/

www.facebook.com/Crimsafe/

www.instagram.com/nhwaaustralasia/

www.instagram.com/crimsafesecuritysystems/

ThinkUKnow Delivers Training as Program Back in Full Swing



After a partial pause of face-to-face presentations due to COVID-19, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Online Child Safety Team is back on the road delivering ThinkUKnow training for volunteers and presenters.

Over the course of eight weeks, the team has delivered training to AFP, State and Territory police and industry presenters across Tasmania, the ACT, South Australia, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales, including metropolitan and regional areas; as well as having hosted virtual training sessions.

To broaden the reach, some of the areas included in this year's training rollout have included Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Alice Springs, Albany, Katanning, Cairns and Mackay.

The national training is an important part of the ThinkUKnow program. It provides presenters and volunteers with key educational messaging, updated case studies and research.

The presentations are reviewed and updated with information from real case studies and reports generated from the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation and AFP investigations.

Despite the challenges and restrictions faced during COVID-19, in 2020-21 the AFP and State and Territory police delivered 2,226 presentations to more than 196,680 students across Australia. The AFP and volunteers from industry and law enforcement delivered 25 presentations to 1,460 parents, carers and teachers.

With the return to schools, sporting and other community groups, ThinkUKnow is back in full swing.



Senior Prevention Officer, AFP Online Child Safety Team, Nick Thomas presenting the ThinkUKnow presentation to ACT Policing



Senior Prevention Officer, AFP Online Child Safety Team, Danielle Broster presenting the ThinkUKnow presentation to Tasmania police



AFP Online Safety Team Leader Simone McKeough delivering ThinkUKnow training presentation to AFP and industry volunteers in Canberra, ACT

ThinkUKnow is Australia's only nationally delivered, law enforcement led online child safety program, managed by the AFP.

ThinkUKnow is a partnership with Commonwealth Bank, Datacom, Microsoft, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, and State and Territory police.

The program addresses self-generated online child sexual abuse

material, online grooming, sexual extortion and importantly, how to seek help.

ThinkUKnow presentations can be requested by any school, organisation or community group.

For more information about preventing online child sexual exploitation or to request a presentation visit www.thinkuknow.org.au

NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Neighbour Day in "Farrerdise"

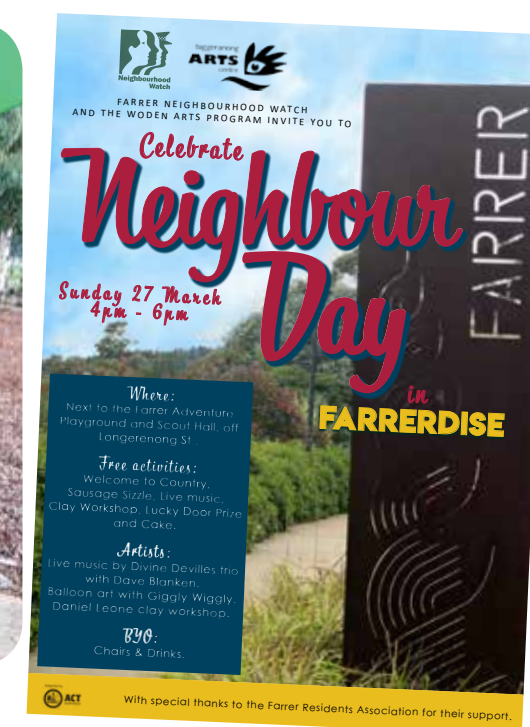
To celebrate Neighbour Day this year, the residents of Farrer were invited to a barbeque hosted by Farrer Neighbourhood Watch and supported by the Farrer Residents Association and the Woden Community Council.

Despite a few clouds and some drops of rain, about 100 people gathered to meet and greet fellow Farrer residents and to take part in the various free activities including a well patronized sausage sizzle. The day commenced with a Welcome to Country and there was live music by the Divine Devilles Trio with Dave Blanken. The balloon art stall with Giggly Wiggly was well supported by the many children who attended, and Daniel Leone conducted a clay workshop. In addition, two "lucky number" tickets were drawn for prizes donated by local businesses.

To top off the afternoon there was an exceptionally large cake to be consumed in celebration of Neighbour Day and the gathering of friends and neighbours.



Malcolm Hayes attending Neighbour Day in "Farrerdise"



‘Cover Up’ at 2022 Royal Canberra Show

It was a bit more difficult to literally ‘show the face’ of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) at this year’s Royal Canberra Show due to COVID-19 restrictions.

With the virus still dictating social interaction, the volunteers manning the NHW stand at the show were obliged to remain masked in their interaction with the thousands who flocked to enjoy all the fun of the fair over the long weekend.

Various NHW Board members were also rostered at the stall to assist in handling enquiries from the public on personal and property security, along with information on the aims and objectives of the organisation.

At previous Canberra shows, NHW usually assisted at the ACT Policing stand, however, as the AFP did not have a stand this year, NHW decided to go it alone – albeit with assistance from Crime Stoppers.

In addition to the numerous informational publications from NHW, there were also brochures from AFP and Crime Stoppers.



The NHW stand soon attracted visitors on the opening day of the 2022 Royal Canberra Show

The brochures ranged from Creating Safer Communities and Apartment Theft to Home Burglary and Bike Theft.

Visitors to the stand were also invited to take home UV Pens for marking personal property, sports bottles bearing the AFP/NHW/Crime

Stoppers logos, and personal hand sanitiser dispensers.

With tens of thousands of people from all over Australia attending the show, the benefits from the NHW stand are expected to extend far beyond the local ACT community.

AusIndia Fair 2022

Canberra's Indian communities have shown a keen interest in learning more about Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and how the organisation contributes to safety and security in their neighbourhoods.

NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall explained that, following a presentation to the Federation of Indian Associations of ACT Inc, NHW ACT and our partner Crime Stoppers ACT were invited to host an information booth at the 2022 AusIndia Fair, which was held at Thoroughbred Park in Canberra on 2 April.

Despite a cold and wet day, the fair was a popular destination for a diverse crowd.

While visitors to the Fair were attracted by the food and cultural activities, many also took time out to discuss NHW.

Mr Blackall said, “Our property identification marker pens and brochures on car security proved to be particularly popular, and the event was a great success in continuing to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers within the diverse Canberra community.”



ACT NHW Membership Secretary Judith Bowman engaging with a family visiting the NHW stand at the AusIndia Fair

ACT Parties at ‘Africa Party in the Park’

The biggest African festival in Canberra came back with a bang in 2022 for its third edition.

Billed as ‘Africa Party in the Park’, the chance to experience a day of African cultures, food, fashion, art, drumming and dance brought Canberrans out to Commonwealth Park – and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT was there to engage with the many visitors.

To the accompaniment of African music and brightly costumed dancers, NHW volunteers – along with our partners from ACT Policing (including the ever-popular Constable Kenny Koala) – met many people from the local African community and some of the agencies that support them.

There was much interest in the wide variety of brochures on display at the NHW stand and we are looking forward to further developing our links with all sectors of the diverse ACT community.

It was also a good opportunity for our NHW members to enjoy some of the cuisine on offer – ranging from Algerian to Ugandan – and to learn more about the various African cultures on display at the national stands.



ACT NHW Vice President (North) Clare McGrath, President Laurie Blackall, and Vice President (South) Albert Orszaczky at the NHW stand



A drumming session at African Party in the Park

ACT 'Silver is Gold' Seniors Expo

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) partnered with ACT Policing in manning a stall at the 'Silver is Gold' Seniors Expo at the EPIC showgrounds in late May.

NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall said, "It has been a busy 2022 so far and we have achieved significant positive exposure for Neighbourhood Watch through our attendance at a wide range of events."

COTA (Council on the Ageing) ACT hosted the Seniors Expo that included over 200 stall holders from community groups and businesses providing information on their services and products befitting a senior audience.

There were also give-aways, competitions, live music, and dance and exercise groups performing on the day. Food was plentiful with winter soups, savoury dishes, cakes, sweets and tea and coffee available.

Canberra's seniors were encouraged to attend and sample local produce and browse the local craft stalls which were also selling their products.



ACT NHW Membership Secretary Judith Bowman and Vice President (South) Albert Orszaczky greeting visitors to the ACT Policing/NHW ACT stall

COTA invited visitors to the Expo to "Join us this year as we paint the town silver and gold and celebrate ageing in a positive way. After two years of social isolation and lockdown, let's make 2022 the year of sparking connection right across Canberra."

In accordance with COVID-19 protocols, to ensure the wellbeing of attendees and stallholders, allowances had been made for social distancing, hand sanitising stations were set up, and the wearing of masks was encouraged.

NHW Joins Easter Bunny at Yerrabi Pond

As a community service, Canberry Properties ran an Easter egg hunt for the local community in the park beside Yerrabi Pond in the Canberra suburb of Gungahlin in mid-April.

Canberry Property's Braelynn French has joined Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and she invited us to participate in this community event. A huge crowd of eager youngsters and their support crew (parents) turned out on a bright sunny day in the hope of finding plenty of chocolate eggs.

NHW ACT President, Laurie Blackall, said "This was a fantastic initiative to bring the community

together and our presence was well justified with many locals interested in learning more about Neighbourhood Watch."

Braelynn, from Nicholls, is the youngest ever member to join NHW ACT and she took some time out from ensuring the children (young and old) found their chocolate eggs, to assist Laurie and NHW media adviser, Ian McLean, at our information booth.

Apart from engaging in community activities, Canberry Properties host a NHW Facebook Group for NHW branches in the Canberra suburbs of Bruce, Lawson and Belconnen.



Braelynn French and NHW ACT media adviser, Ian McLean ('That fluoro vest puts kilos on my waist') at our information booth

NHW NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES



Police officers and staff with participants of the Fit for Change Program

Success at Belmore

Youth Engagement Officers (YEOs), Senior Constables Craig Kelly and Angus Humphrey have been making great progress with the young people attending Belmore Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) and Edgeware School.

They initially helped several young people enrol at the Edgeware School as a part of the case management process. Edgeware School caters for those not currently deemed suitable for mainstream education. Through building relationships with school staff and students, it was deemed the perfect cohort to run a Fit for Change Program. This included youth at risk and young offenders, some of whom are well known to several local Police Area Commands.

The eight week program included excursions to Treetop Adventures, the RSPCA, Lidcombe TAFE, and Polair at Bankstown Airport. Education around offending behaviours, respectful relationships, safe driving and assertive communication was also addressed and their first aid course was completed too.



Jasmine receives her certificate for the Fit for Change Program

Throughout the program, some great rapport has been made with the young people and they have become very relaxed around police as relationships continue to develop. Due to the

success of the program, the school has invited YEOs to run Fit for Change once a year, with the prospect of also running a fortnightly Fit for Life exercise program within the school.



NHW members at a "Meet the Cops" event in Rutherford, along with our (then) Mayor Lorretta Baker (centre) and local Police

Aberglasslyn Rutherford Telarah NHW

Aberglasslyn Rutherford Telarah Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was established 19 July 2017 after a public meeting was held.

The current committee includes President/Treasurer Henry Meskauskas, Vice President Bob Elliott, and Secretary Neale Savertsen. Committee persons are Linda and John Meaney, Sandra Elliott, Margret Savertsen, Tom Price, Roxanne Shetter and Bob Russell.

Aberglasslyn Rutherford Telarah NHW started with a small membership on our Facebook page, and now it exceeds 3,330 members.

Facebook page Administrators are Henry Meskauskas, Bob Elliott, Neale Savertsen, Sandra Elliott, Linda Meaney and Renee Meister.

Our monthly meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of every month and occasionally involves reports from Police on crime statistics.

Our group meets with local Police on a three-monthly basis to discuss crime in our area.

Earlier this year the suburb of Telarah was added to our group and Facebook page.

We have conducted raffles with Bunnings, and stalls with the Maitland police in our area.

NHW has bought signs to be installed on posts throughout or area and handed out 100's of fridge magnets to the public.

The effort from the NHW team has been marvellous, and has shown the response by the public on our facebook site.



Committee members Henry Meskauskas (President), Roxanne Shetter, Tom Price, Neale (Secretary) and Margaret Savertsen, John and Lind Meaney, Sandra and Bob Elliott (Vice President) and Jeff Dunn attending a monthly meeting



Fundraising at our local Maitland Bunnings store; Neale Savertsen, Bob Elliott, Henry Meskauskas and Margaret Savertsen

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

What's New with Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

Here's an overview of the latest news and highlights from the team at Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ).

NSNZ celebrated the official launch of their new children's book, Manaaki Street

Manaaki Street, which was in production for over a year, is written by Neighbourhood Support New Zealand's Chair, Louise Grevel, and illustrated by Kerin Casey.

The book tells the story of what Neighbourhood Support is all about by following a child and their mother on a simple walk through their neighbourhood.

It offers an easily accessible way for our young tamariki to understand the benefit of caring communities. Copies were gifted to local schools and early childhood centres, School Community Constables, local libraries, and Plunket groups throughout New Zealand.

They were also enjoyed at Neighbourhood Support street meetings and Neighbours Day street BBQs.



Tamariki enjoy Manaaki Street at the Neighbourhood Support Whangārei street meeting



Neighbourhood Support Otago Coordinator, Joy Davis, delivers books to Dunedin City Council Children's Librarian, Yvonne Hughes



Neighbourhood Support North Shore Neighbours Day Street BBQ



Manaaki Street book delivery to Glamorgan Kindergarten on the North Shore of Auckland



Otago Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Ruth McNamara, and the Central Otago District Council's Welcoming Communities team display a selection of Neighbours Day tea towels that were given out as part of a recipe sharing initiative

Neighbour's Day Aotearoa celebrated, with the 2022 theme being Kai Connections

NSNZ once again got involved with Neighbour's Day Aotearoa throughout their 'Creating Connections' campaign in March. Along with the *Manaaki Street* book launch, other activities included an online book reading by Constable Bryan, cupcake decorating competitions, recipe sharing, and an online 'Picnic Pack' give away – complete with copies of *Manaaki Street* and Neighbours Day tea towels. The lucky winner was Tracy Berghan from Whangarei, who said she would be sharing her goodies with her friends and neighbours.



'Picnic Pack' given away by NSNZ during Neighbours Day Aotearoa

Community initiative in Canterbury promoting neighbourhood safety to combat crime

Canterbury Neighbourhood Support has joined together with a collective of agencies, including the Waimāero Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood

Community Board, Police, North Christchurch Community Patrol, and the Ilam MP, to establish the Avonhead/Russley Safety Initiative.

The motivation is to create a safer neighbourhood. They are now looking at rolling the programme out across other suburbs in the region.



NS Police Liaison Officer, Jono Erwood, Central Taranaki Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Di Gleeson, and Stratford Positive Ageing Group Chair, Gloria Webby, get ready to distribute a supply of Easter goodies

NSNZ spread Easter joy throughout the regions

In Central Taranaki the Neighbourhood Support team partnered with the Stratford Positive Ageing Group and Community Patrol to deliver over 300 packs of hot cross buns and marshmallow eggs throughout their neighbourhoods. Marrit & Maree from

Top of the South Neighbourhood Support had great fun playing Easter Bunny throughout Nelson, Stoke and Richmond. Up in Ōtiria, Easter event plans had to adjust on the fly due to heavy rain, so they moved to a local café where much joy and connection was found.

South Island NSNZ Coordinators 'Re-Connect'

Neighbourhood Support Coordinators across the South Island of New Zealand gathered in a series of online 'conference' sessions, titled *South Island Re-Connect*, during the week of April 4th – 8th. Session topics included maintaining positive mental health while working from home, reducing rural isolation, membership strategies, and the AF8 (Alpine Fault magnitude 8) programme.

More communities connecting through Covid-19 pandemic

An increased interest in connecting with neighbours has continued two years on from the first lockdown in New Zealand.

In the past six months, the number of registered Neighbourhood Support Groups in New Zealand has jumped by 10.5 percent in urban areas, and 22 percent rurally. There are now 18,000 neighbourhood groups registered.



Smoke alarms are installed during the Ahipara Home Fire Safety Day

Ahipara Home Fire Safety Day a resounding success

NSNZ's Tai Tokerau Community Advisor, Han White, joined forces with the Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) Northland Community Readiness and Recovery team to organise a Home Fire Safety Day. During this event Fire Safety Champions were trained, Home Fire Safety Visits were completed, and 75% of the registered households went on to join Neighbourhood Support.

NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND

Cuppa with a Copper Returns

Cuppa with a Copper was held on 30 April at the Marsden on Fifth Shopping Centre to give residents an opportunity to chat with the local police about any concerns, in an informal setting. An information table promoting Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) initiatives was also set up outside the Social Sphere Café.

The manager was very supportive of our event by providing hot drinks at a reduced price on a rainy day, while locals were able to chat with police and members of the Crestmead NHW group. The event was actively supported by Crestmead Police including the Officer in Charge and the Patrol Group Inspector.

Crestmead NHW were able to give out a wide range information on the day, including information on marking valuables in the home and for tools for the trade sector. There were plenty of NHW give-aways including the popular shopping bags, pens and magnets which were also a hit.

Residents were encouraged to sign up for our regular newsletter and scam bulletins. We were proud to wear our new shirts recently purchased from Neighbourhood Watch Australasia. The Volunteers in Police from Crestmead were on hand to either fit Safe PL8 screws or give them out to be fitted later.

The star of the event was the Queensland Blue Light Drag car, affectionately named 'Cop This'. The car, a Holden VR Calais chassis with a small block 350 Chev engine was part of the Operation Drag events run by Queensland Blue Light back in the 1990's and 2000's.

'Cop This' has recently been brought out of hibernation and is actively being



Acting Inspector Warren Parker and Crestmead NHW Secretary Geoff Smith enjoying a cuppa, and discussing issues from residents outside the Social Sphere Café



Acting Inspector Warren Parker and Acting Senior Sgt Mark Pryer from Crestmead Police Station



Crestmead VIPs Barbara and Graeme (also Crestmead NHW assistant Area Coordinator) with the Queensland Blue Light Drag Car

used at drive days and community events to promote road safety.

A large crowd had gathered at the end of the event when the car was being driven onto the trailer to go back to Crestmead Police Station. Acting Inspector Parker reported that someone in the crowd had filmed the car and uploaded it to Facebook, and by the following Tuesday morning it had been viewed 77,000 times.

Crestmead NHW group will continue presenting Cuppa with a Copper across the Crestmead Police District over the next year to engage with residents to promote NHW in the community.

With the growing population making homes in new estates and housing areas, we will have many places to visit and new residents to include when spreading news about NHW and community life in the police district.

Under the Bonnet in Kingaroy

Feeling confident and safe knowing basic car maintenance and understanding road rules is the message once again coming from the recent "Under the Bonnet" event, held in Kingaroy on 27 April 2022.

The workshop session was presented by Kingaroy Police, supported by Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and South Burnett Learn to Drive, and hosted by Bill Hull Car Centre Kingaroy.

Snr Sgt Dave Tierney, Officer in Charge of Kingaroy Police, opened the session with some startling images which warned about reckless driving consequences. The Learner drivers, P-Platers and experienced drivers attending were very responsive to the information provided. Some very interesting scenarios were portrayed, and a very clear message of the consequences of distraction introduced the theory session.

In this session particular emphasis was placed on the Fatal Five (Distraction, Drink Driving, Speeding, Fatigue and Failing to wear a seatbelt), as contributors to the road toll, and strategies to address these. It was also highlighted that making good choices leads to safer driving.

Many useful driving tips such as being confident, assertive, and alert helped participants understand the need for a sound mindset while driving. With the theory session over, participants eagerly attended the Bill Hull Car Centre and the vehicles they had prepared.

Participants were then able to learn about basic car maintenance, saw the parts of the engine that require regular monitoring, and were hands on changing a tyre. This always creates much interest and participation.

Everyone learnt a few new things during this session!

Photos courtesy South Burnett Today.



Snr Sgt Tierney addressing the participants



Snr Sgt Tierney (Kingaroy Police), Bill Hull Car Centre General Manager Kathy McMurdy and Russell Schloss (South Burnett Learn To Drive)



Taking turns to remove and refit a wheel



"Now, where do we check the oil level?" Participants listening eagerly

Edmonton NHW celebrates 30 years

30 years ago in October 1992, community members in the southern Cairns suburb of Edmonton met for their very first Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) meeting at a local primary school.

30 years on and still going strong, Edmonton NHW still retains some of their original members along with strong community support both at meetings and through their online forums.

An original and still serving Edmonton NHW member is Fran Lindsay. Commencing with the newly formed Edmonton NHW in 1992, Fran has held several committee positions for Edmonton NHW and recalls their monthly meetings moving to many locations.

"We started at Hambledon school, then went to Down Park Community Hall, Edmonton Police Station, Edmonton PCYC and now the Hambledon Hotel," said Fran.

Rhonda Wallace was our longest serving Area Coordinator chairing our meetings for over 20 years from 1996.

Other long serving members supporting Edmonton NHW include Barry Donnelly, Rhonda Wallace, Peter Piccone, Myra Jensen, Bill Conoplia, Sandra Hart, Rosalie Cavallaro and Rosemarie Mack.

Members of Edmonton NHW are extremely appreciative of the ongoing support that they have received from both Lou and Peter Piccone from Piccone's SUPA IGA and Mr Curtis Pitt MLA.

Long-time member and new Area Coordinator Barry Donnelly said, "The group has seen many changes in the community.

"The introduction of Facebook has been great for our group however we still have many members that don't use social media or have



Edmonton NHW Volunteers with their new fridge magnets produced following a successful funding grant



Local police and Edmonton NHW Volunteers thank long-time coordinator Rhonda Wallace



Edmonton NHW assists with a team of volunteers at the 2012 NHW State Conference in Cairns

access to email so we ensure that the information is still available to them.

"Our NHW group has been involved in many important community projects including the donation of two bicycles to the Edmonton Police Station for patrols, the production of safety and security fridge magnets, maintaining street lighting in the Edmonton Division, raising community concerns with local members, police and council and providing input for ongoing problems at Fuller Park" Barry said.

Edmonton NHW has been well-supported by officers from their local police station for the past 30 years. Both since retired from the Queensland Police Service, Inspector Ron O'Brien and Constable Dennis

Fitzpatrick were the police officers present at that very first meeting.

Edmonton NHW meetings are now regularly attended by the Officer in Charge of Edmonton Police Station along with other serving officers located at the station.

Edmonton NHW now boasts nearly 2,500 online members along with a steady stream of local community members attending their monthly meetings.

Keen to celebrate their longevity, Edmonton NHW group will hold a 30th Birthday celebration in October with a free sausage sizzle at Piccone's Supa IGA in Edmonton.

Congratulations Edmonton NHW and Happy Birthday!

Queensland Police Help Flood Impacted Locals

Proactive policing is a core part of crime prevention, and when natural disasters occur police look at different ways to assist the community and keep people safe.

Police from North Brisbane have been involved with a different side of police work, by assisting flood victims in and around the Deagon area for several weeks post flood event. Queensland Police Service (QPS) officers saturated the area, and door knocked residents in the most badly affected areas to ensure residents were checked on for their safety, as well as to be a listening ear and to arrange the appropriate referrals for support agencies.

Many of the flood victims are vulnerable members of our community, and police worked alongside Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group (SANDBAG), Cr Jarred Cassidy's office, and the Local Disaster Coordination Centre to ensure these members of the public had the support they needed to recover, heal, and eventually move forward from the hardships they have endured.

Many residents had no washing machines, working bathrooms or fridges. A response to flood victims in the community allowed police to create a partnership with Orange Sky (<https://orangesky.org.au/>) who set up a Health and Hygiene Hub, where residents had access to free clothes washing and drying services, as well as a friendly face to chat to. Police also spent many hours helping residents to mow, lift, sweep, clean up and assist with online applications for flood relief funding.

Community and charity shops kindly donated many essential items, storage containers and gift cards to those affected to help relieve a little of their daily stresses. Having



Deagon residents with Constable Weibie from Albany Creek station



Sandgate officers with Rita, putting their gardening skills to the test

a close partnership with SANDBAG meant that access to food hampers, toiletries, towels, hand sanitizer and disposable glove packs allowed for an easier distribution.

Many residents continue to live either in their flood inundated houses, in caravans or makeshift rooms while they deal with the massive job of clean up and recovery. Rita, a local resident, was highlighted to police from numerous neighbours as needing assistance as she was adamant about continuing to live at her property despite the amount of flood damage. Rita has proudly

owned and lived in her home for over 40 years and was an extremely proud gardener. She had requested help to get her yard mowed because she told police she would feel so much better if she was able to look out to a nice yard. The local officers from Sandgate attended Rita's residence with their own personal gardening equipment and did a full maintenance job of Rita's garden.

Police also assisted with transports to medical appointments and local community hubs where residents were able to get assistance with financial grant applications.



Sherrie with her support Gerri Kissner and mother Judie Price

Mackay NHW Member's Proud Achievement

After years of hard work and determination, hundreds of students graduated from their studies at the Central Queensland University (CQU) graduation ceremony, however, to us one scholar stole the show.

A member of Mackay Northern Beaches Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) – Sherrie Price.

Sherrie is a 29 year old young woman with Down Syndrome who graduated with a Certificate I and Certificate II in Information, Digital Media and Technology.

Sherrie says she couldn't have done it without her support network,

and the person who assisted her throughout the whole process is the coordinator of Mackay Northern Beaches NHW Gerri Kissner. Gerri first learnt the content herself, and then how to present it in a format best suited to Sherrie's learning.

Discipline Lead for Vocational Information and Communications Technology (ICT) at CQU, Michael

Menzies, says it's part of a process called reasonable adjustment. "We cater for people's individual needs. "We can adjust the method by which the student answers or does their work so it's within their abilities, whilst still meeting the criteria", said Mr Menzies.

Congratulations to Sherrie and all the graduates!



Sgt Nigel Dalton sharing his expertise



Sherrie Price helping out at a recent Be Connected session

Oldies Helping Oldies to Be Connected

Mackay Northern Beaches Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has held Be Connected sessions to help the over 50's get online and gain more confidence using computers.

Mackay Northern Beaches NHW Coordinator Gerri Kissner and her merry band of mentors have, over a number of years, helped more than 100 participants improve their digital skills. Sessions have been held at venues to support local businesses, PCYC's, retirement villages and a private home. Participants are enticed to come along with the promise of a delicious morning or afternoon tea and on one occasion, a pizza night!

Mentors who help at these sessions are mostly retired locals. However, Sherrie Price, a young 29 year old woman with Down Syndrome, has been lending her expertise and now her mum Judie has joined this dedicated group of helpers. Sherrie recently graduated from Central Queensland University with a Certificate II in Information, Digital Media and Technology.

Gerri is also a Volunteer in Policing (VIP) and has a direct line to the officers from the Crime Prevention Unit of Mackay Police. Sergeant



Snr. Constable Steve Smith delivering a safety online message

Nigel Dalton and Senior Constable Steve Smith attend most sessions passing on information on how to stay safe online, beginning with a safe password (now called a passphrase) to confuse the hackers' sophisticated machines.

The Little Black Book of Scams is also provided to all attendees, and there are discussions on how to spot a scam. Participants are also encouraged to question anything that doesn't seem quite right or too good to be true.



International Women's Day attendees Bec, Courtney, Duchense, Amanda, Simon and Snr Constable Lynda Whincup

Riverview Women Breaking the Bias

When Amanda and Duchense from Riverview Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) heard that there was no local event this year to celebrate International Women's Day, the team set out to bring their community groups together along with local services to provide a fun and free event for everyone.

The morning tea and raffle prizes were provided via donations sourced by Riverview NHW, and the Riverview Cuppa and Chat Group attended alongside community members from Riverview and beyond. Queensland Youth and Families Support

Services Inc. shared their event space and coffee with the group and the scene was set for a celebration. Attendees enjoyed hearing from guest speakers including local Police Beat Officer Senior Constable Lynda Whincup, and representatives from Kambu

Health and the Domestic Violence Action Centre Ipswich. The theme for International Women's Day celebrations this year was #breakthebias and discussions were lively, and the community left more informed and empowered with goody bags in hand.



Drink Rite participants listening to QPS officers at the presentation

Drinking Right the Order of the Night

Queensland Police Service (QPS) recently ran a Drink Rite event for North Rockhampton #4 Neighbourhood Watch at the Frenchville Sports Club. Around 18 people took part in the night which encouraged responsible attitudes to alcohol consumption and the critical need to avoid drink driving.

The program was able to demonstrate the dramatically different effects that their favourite tipple had on people, even those who think of themselves as experienced drinkers. Participants were made aware of the factors that affect their blood alcohol content (BAC), including gender, body mass, how dehydrated they were and whether or not they had been eating during the evening.

Two QPS officers assisted with the interactive slideshow presentation, and then carried out periodic breathalyser testing as participants had the opportunity to drink their alcoholic beverage of choice and eat some snacks provided gratis by the licenced club.



Drink Rite participants having their BAC tested



Participants reviewing the results of their tests on the whiteboard

Kumbia NHW Celebrates Neighbour Day - 27 March 2022



Several of the locals who enjoyed the Neighbour Day morning tea

In keeping with the concept of Neighbour Day as outlined in a recent NHWA Journal, the treasurer of Kumbia NHW organised a morning tea get together at the local hall on Neighbour Day, Sunday 27 March 2022.

Around 30 attendees from the township and surrounding area enjoyed the chance to meet new neighbours, and to catch up with existing friends and neighbours over a community cuppa.

While the adults chatted, the children had fun playing with giant dominoes and checkers, and a good time was had by all.

Day at The Caves Show

In April, The Caves Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) set up a stall at the annual show. Despite being overcast for much of the day, there was plenty of interest from the public. Most of the merchandise was snapped up, and the sale of some handmade items raised funds.

Barry, Laurie, and Callum (plus a couple of friends!) looking after the NHW stall at The Caves Show



NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



The new NHW SA 'Hello Neighbour' Calling Cards

New Way to Say 'Hello Neighbour' in SA

To celebrate Neighbour Day, NHW SA created new 'Hello Neighbour' calling cards.

The calling cards can be used as a way of introducing neighbours to each other while promoting NHW SA and safety in the community. Neighbours can write a short message on the calling card and then post them to another neighbour.

If you live in SA, contact your local NHW group to get some cards,

or you could print the card yourself by downloading it from the NHW SA website: police.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/1114453/postcards-FINAL-.pdf

Neighbour Day is an annual awareness day coordinated by Relationships Australia. It aims to celebrate social connection

and building relationships, while driving awareness of loneliness and how it can negatively impact the wellbeing of individuals and our communities.

You can find out more information about the day here: neighbourday.org/



Members of Clare NHW group gearing up to get spraying

Clare's Graffiti Removal Hits the Mark

The Neighbourhood Watch SA team recently travelled to Clare to see the local group's graffiti removal project in action. The group have been committed to the cause, having started the project 10 years ago and gave great insight into how the operation works.

It was a beautiful spring day with the Clare Valley canola just starting to bloom. On arrival to Clare Skate Park the team were greeted by a selection of the Clare NHW members who were eager to get spraying. Sergeant in Charge Matthew McDonnell of Clare Police Station has supported the group for the past year and was also present.

Prior to our arrival, the team had already spotted a few tags around the park. Gloves on, spray cans at the ready, they quickly got going. It couldn't have been easier, spraying

neutral paint over the various tags they had spotted in the locality.

While the team were working through the tags, we spoke to the group's Secretary Pam Datson to have a chat about the project. Here's what she said:

When did you start the project?

We started some 10 years ago. There was a lot of graffiti in the township spread over buildings in the main street, lamp posts in various streets and also on fences.

Why did you start cleaning up graffiti all those years ago?

Senior Constable Mark Hill, who was working with us at the time, asked if we were willing to attack the issue – as I said the graffiti was quite bad at that time. A small group of about eight NHW members got together after speaking to Mark and planned out what we would do. We wanted to make the township graffiti free which would mean keeping on top of the situation for a period of time but we were keen to do it. We were



Clare NHW group's Secretary Pam Datson in action

hopeful that the message would be sent loud and clear, that graffiti was not welcome.

How did you get the project started?

After that initial meeting, we contacted the Clare Valley Council to see if they would be happy with us starting the project and they were, which was great. Initially they provided us with the paint and brushes to do the work. The group came together on a Sunday morning many years ago and got a lot of it cleaned up.

When we were doing it people saw us and asked questions about what we were doing. It was great! We created interest from the local community and they thought it was an awesome idea. They could

see the benefit of being graffiti free. It's a tourist town with lots of visitors locally, interstate and overseas coming to the region. We all agreed it's better to keep it clean!

That initial Sunday took about three hours to complete but as we did such a good job we now only have to do small follow ups, just the odd job here and there every few months. It's important to keep on top of it.

How are regular clean-ups organised?

At our regular bi-monthly NHW meetings I ask everyone to keep an eye out for graffiti and to let us know if they spot any. I then go to have a look at it, and if it's not a big job, I'll spray over it there and

then. If however, it is a large job, I'll enlist the help of another two NHW volunteers to help clean it up. The group members are always vigilant in keeping an eye out for any graffiti either big or small.

The main place we see graffiti these days is at the skate park and underneath the bridge that crosses the main entrance into Clare. This is manageable and is easily dealt with by using a can of neutral paint and spraying over the graffiti.

Why is keeping graffiti at bay so important?

At the present time there is virtually no graffiti in the Clare township because when members see it, we go and get rid of it straight away. The benefits to the township are immense, we often get visitors reporting on how clean it is and that they like the way it looks with no graffiti.

We don't really advertise the fact that we clean-up the graffiti as that's not really what we're about, we just want it to be a pleasure for locals and visitors alike to be able to enjoy the township in the best possible way.

What has been your most memorable graffiti job?

Last year there was an incident of a large amount of graffiti under the bridge and the person responsible for it was caught and made to paint it off under the supervision of Senior Constable Mark Hill. Since then we have not had any graffiti other than a few small marks on the ramps here, which is what we're spraying today.

Due to the efforts of past and present NHW members we have made the township graffiti free, which is what we set out to do and it has been achieved. I really applaud everyone in the group for their efforts over the last 12 years. We're very proud of our township and love the way it looks!

NHW SA and SAPOL Develop New Safety and Assistance Wristband

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) SA and SA Police (SAPOL) have launched a new initiative that aims to keep vulnerable people safe while attending events – the safety and assistance wristband.

At events, as well as enjoyment, community safety is paramount and it's clear that parents or carers sometimes worry about bringing vulnerable people due to a risk of them getting lost or potentially needing emergency support.

The new, FREE wristband contains a space where vital information about the wearer can be noted such as phone number, medical advice, languages spoken, or details of any vulnerabilities, allowing an assisting person to provide relevant and immediate support if the wearer finds themselves lost or in need of help.

The wristband is now available from all SA police stations. If you live in SA and want to pick some up you can find your local station on the SA Police website: police.sa.gov.au/about-us/find-your-local-police-station

Chief Inspector Cameron Devey of SAPOL's Community Engagement Section said: "We're encouraging parents and caregivers who take children and vulnerable adults to events or public locations to get some wristbands from their local police station. You can write useful and relevant information on it, if you want to, and then secure them on the wearer's wrist prior to you commencing your day out.

"Identifying the wearers name on the wristband could enable the assisting person to establish a friendly rapport with the wristband wearer and help alleviate any potential anxiety.

"We know that parents and caregivers will keep a close eye on their loved ones and those in their care, however, sometimes people can become separated and our wristband aims to support people in this worrying situation. Even if people go out on their own, they may want to consider



Free Safety and Assistance Wristbands

wearing a wristband if they have any physical or health concerns.

"We're really pleased that the wristband is now available and I thank SAPOL's NHW SA team for making it happen" said Chief Inspector Devey.

SA Police and NHW SA will also collaborate with various organisations and groups across the state to ensure a supply of wristbands are available at community and major events.

If you're in SA and find a lost vulnerable person or someone that is in need of assistance, check to see if they are wearing a safety and assistance wristband and follow the instructions provided, contacting the caregiver to advise them of your location. If you are having difficulty arranging a reunion you can also call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Made from Tyvek material the safety and assistance wristband is tear proof, water resistant, lightweight, allergy free and has a tab free adhesive that ensures there'll be no disposable plastic tab element at the time of fitting. There are also instructions on the wristband that detail safe disposal.

Watch Out for Online Puppy Scams!

SA Police has seen an increase in fraudulent advertisements for puppies online. Scammers' tactics are extremely sophisticated which often leaves even the most vigilant people out of pocket.

Typically, a scammer will create a website that looks legitimate and post photos of puppies for sale, using language that feels genuine. The website will show contact details and encourage you to get in touch to discuss the purchase of a puppy.

These scams have also taken place on Facebook and Instagram, so it's important to be vigilant on those platforms too.

Once the scammer has your interest and contact details they will work hard to entice you to make an online purchase, requesting a bank transfer or online sale. Again, this contact can feel incredibly genuine.

Scammers have been known to provide certificates that look authentic, customer service emails and receipts from delivery companies.

In one example, the scammer completed the sale of a puppy and then tried to scam further payments due to shipping errors. The scammer told the purchaser that the puppy was being held in shipping containers and needed payment to be released. They tried to emotionally blackmail the purchaser out of further money.

Puppies can be bought safely online, but it's important you remain vigilant to potential scams. If you're ever looking to purchase a puppy online, please follow these valuable tips:

- Request to see the puppy in a video call with the breeder.
- Verify if the breeder's website or social media profile is legitimate.
- Perform a location search of the breeder's address.



Screenshot of a website created by scammer that has since been taken down



Protect yourself! Know the Scam

- Check official directories of approved and accredited breeders.
- Compare pricing because 'if it's too good to be true, it probably is'.
- Request a full financial breakdown of services required in advance.
- Perform a search of the BSB provided by the seller.
- Be aware of bad grammar and spelling. Sentence structure is often incorrect or rigid.
- Ask to view photos or videos of the puppy's life and ongoing photos or videos if the puppy is still in the breeder's care.
- Be aware of emotional manipulation.

For more online safety and scam awareness information visit police.sa.gov.au/scams and make sure you report scams to cyber.gov.au/report.

Newnham Celebrates 30 Years – and More Some!

Newnham is one of the larger suburbs in the City of Launceston. It has the Tamar River as its southwestern boundary and is home to the University of Tasmania – Australian Maritime College, and a campus of TasTAFE.

This suburb has also been the domicile of Newnham Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) for over thirty years. It started in August 1991 and recently celebrated 30 years of continuous operations at a lunch in October 2021.

It is important to reflect on these achievements and acknowledge the history from which there will always be something to learn. Not unusually, Newnham NHW began as a well-attended informal meeting in the Salvation Army Hall. The immediate wash-up was that Newnham became an official NHW Area and before the meeting ended, 43 Zone Leaders had been signed up to deliver 629 newsletters. It is testament to the commitment of this group, that today deliver 875 newsletters!

To hear that at their first formal meeting all executive positions were filled, with comparative ease, is very much a cause for envy.

Linda Madill OAM is the current Area Coordinator and she recalls how at that meeting there was consensus for the committee to work as a team – and that principle has borne them in good stead over the past 30 years. In thanking Tasmania Police for their long-standing support, Linda said, “The program relies on the community and the police working together in a partnership and Tasmania Police have worked cooperatively with us over the entire time to achieve the aims of Neighbourhood Watch.”



30 Year Certificate being presented by NHW Tasmania President Peter Edwards to Newnham NHW Coordinator, Mrs Linda Madill OAM Inset: Malcolm James Cash OAM

Eight of the founding members are still active in the Watch, three of whom have been awarded Life Membership.

More kudos was bestowed on Newnham NHW when another of their founding members, and current Secretary, Malcolm Cash, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the 2022 Australia Day Honours for service to veterans and to the community of Launceston. Malcolm has been described as a serial volunteer. The Australian

It's an Honour website lists eight charities or not-for-profits that Malcolm has supported in executive positions over many years <https://honours.pmc.gov.au/honours/awards/2009868>.

Apart from being a Life Member of NHW Tasmania, he is listed as being a Life Member of another seven volunteer organisations. What an outstanding life of service. The Neighbourhood Watch movement across Australasia salutes a very deserving recipient.



Our Lady's Primary School Forensic Science day was a lot of fun and a big hit with the students

Junior Neighbourhood Watch Term 2 Update

The Junior Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program continues to go from strength to strength in Mildura! In term 2 we have been forced to raise the capped limit on session numbers as a result of continued high demand for the program. We have also added a further 10 sessions per term to the roster, bringing the total number of sessions to 56 per term.

In term 2 it was all about Home Security and Forensic Science. The first session centred around how to minimise the risk of becoming a victim of crime, and the preservation of the crime scene if it did happen. Session 2 was a natural progression into some



Students at Nicholls Point Primary learn how to keep their home safe

forensic science, where the students learned about the different types of fingerprints and got to take their own.

On a side note, we wish our friends in Kwinana Western Australia good luck with their Junior NHW program.



Families celebrate at the Neighbour Day event

Neighbour Day Delights with Five Community Events

City of Kwinana

Five Neighbour Day events planned by community groups offered people a range of ways to connect and share food together in local parks within the City of Kwinana.

Mayor Carol Adams said grants of \$2000 were made available by the City for community groups to run local neighbourhood events, with an extra \$1000 to match any other contribution, so some groups received \$3000 in total from the City.

Neighbour Day, usually celebrated on the last weekend of March,

is Relationship Australia's social connection campaign that encourages people to reach out and make sustainable connections.

The Kwinana Hockey Club organised an event in Orelia on Saturday 26 March with a raft of family activities, including a bouncy castle and extreme obstacle course.

On the same day, a local youth group known as the Outdoor Adventure Group gathered people together for a round of mini golf, fairy floss and popcorn and giant games at Calista Oval.

On the Sunday, Kwinana in Transition organised an event at the historic Sloan's Cottage, complete with



Neighbour Day Orelia April 2022, Kwinana Community Development Officer Sinead Gilligan handing out resources to families at the Orelia event - photo Wild Folie

community arts projects, lawn games and live music for people to enjoy over a sausage sizzle or ice-cream.

The Medina Residents Group opted for a nutritious lunch in the lush shade of Ridley Green, offering eco sustainability information plus a wellness tent and even a Ninja obstacle course.

A petting zoo, pony rides, and woodturning demonstrations kept families entertained at the Wandi Community Centre Oval with free beef rolls and a sausage sizzle organised by the Wandi Progress Association as host of the event.

Each event also provided tips to help people connect to their community and combat isolation, including Neighbourhood Watch resources. The community safety packs handed out also included tools and tips to mark and protect property.



Krystal, Peter and Rose handing out the merchandise and enjoying the Christmas community spirit

Christmas in the Community

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Landsdale was once again asked by Bunnings Wangara to be part of the end-of-year celebrations. The event attracted residents and business owners, who all thoroughly enjoyed the festivities.

Bunnings provided a sausage sizzle that was manned by the Mens Shed, NHW Landsdale had a display of merchandise and gave away goodie bags, and Santa even made a special visit.



City of Canning Ranger and Community Safety Services team promoting the masks

City of Canning Free NHW Mask Promotion

The month of March was all about community safety and connectivity at the City of Canning. It's more important than ever that we keep in touch with our community and offer support wherever we can.

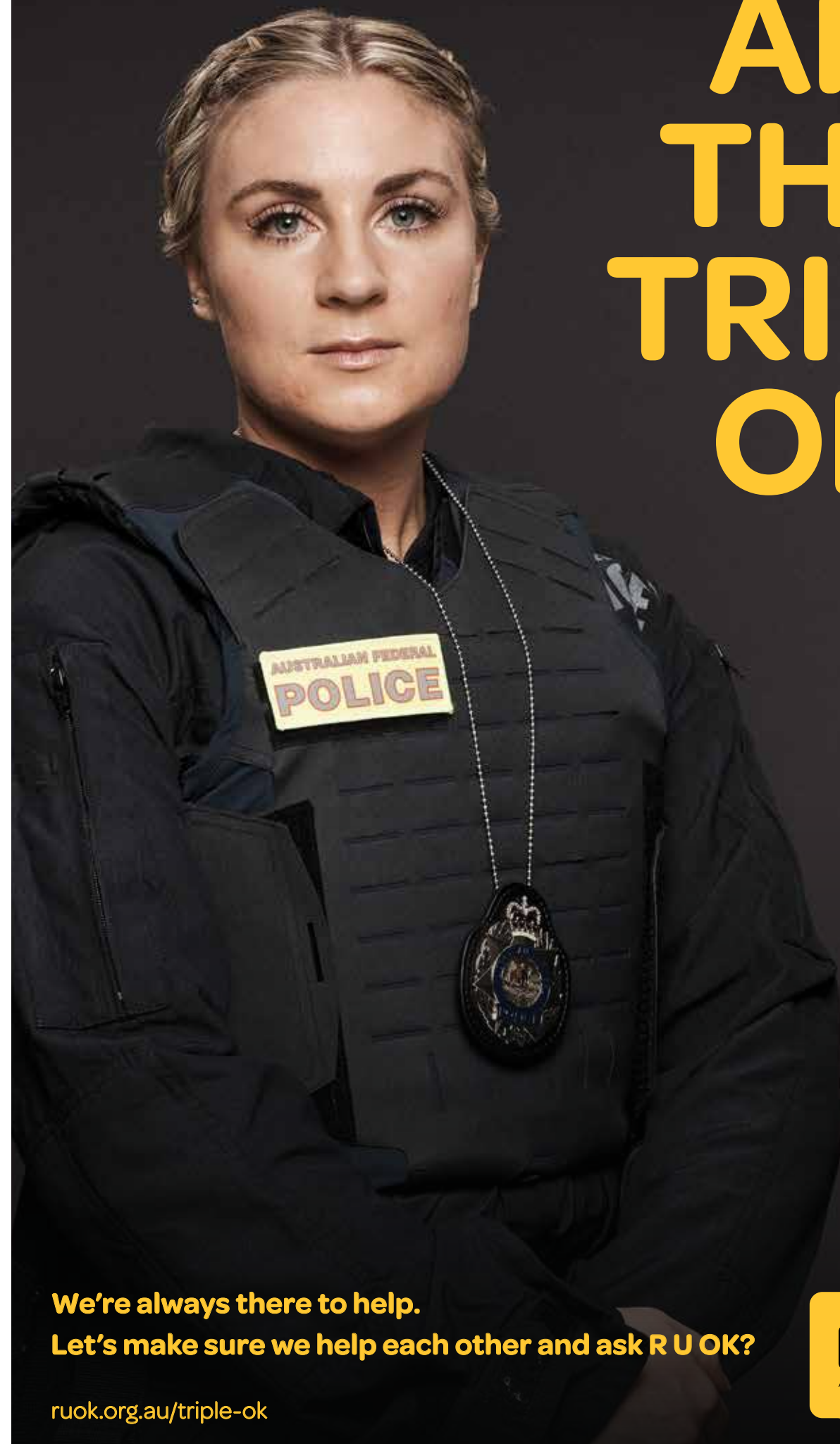
We partnered with Neighbourhood Watch Australasia to provide 200 free Neighbourhood Watch face masks to residents as part of our safety messaging for March.

We loved having all of the community members come in to see us and leave with a snazzy new mask!



City of Canning NHW group wearing their new masks at their April meeting

ARE THEY TRIPLE OK?



**We're always there to help.
Let's make sure we help each other and ask R U OK?**

ruok.org.au/triple-ok

RUOK?
A conversation could change a life.

Being online has made meeting and interacting with others easier than ever before, but it's important to know how to stay safe.

Here are ThinkUKnow's top tips for safer online interactions:

- Question suspicious accounts, and trust your instincts if something doesn't seem right - not everyone is who they say they are.
- Avoid meeting someone in person that you have only ever spoken to online. However, if you do meet, choose a public place and take someone with you.
- If something goes wrong, know how to block or un-match and report.
- Your safety should always come first!

Sometimes things don't go to plan but there is always help available.

For more information, visit www.thinkuknow.org.au

ThinkUKnow is a national online child safety program led by the Australian Federal Police, delivered in schools through educational presentations and resources for young people and their parents and carers.

