



NHWA

Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



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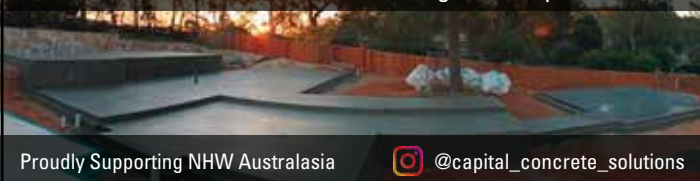
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NHWA Patron, Commissioner Reece P Kershaw

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FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

On behalf of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) team Welcome! I hope this edition of the Journal finds you safe and well, as we can finally enjoy meeting face-to-face once again. With many Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups already taking advantage of the opportunity to hold in-person events.



Meeting with the Attorney-General

In September, acting Deputy Commissioner Operations Lesa Gale hosted a visit by the Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC, at the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE).

The Attorney-General spoke of his support for the work of the ACCCE and its partners who commit to the fight against online child sexual exploitation, commenting on the strength of partnerships across law enforcement, the public sector and civil society in tackling child exploitation.

The Attorney-General was invited to be the first signatory on the new ACCCE vision board.



Representatives from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, Carly Ryan Foundation, Act for Kids, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, yourtown, Bravehearts, NAPCAN, ACCCE team, with acting Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale and Attorney-General the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC



Signing the ACCCE Vision Board

All representatives attending were invited to sign the ACCCE vision board to affirm their role, support, and commitment to the continuing fight against online child sexual exploitation.



Rata Bowerman Chaplain Valley Hearts, Kasper Kuiper Chair Maritime Museum; Asst. Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh and Maria Bennett CEO NHWA

Building Community Meeting

During August the Asst. Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh held a Building Community meeting. The event was attended by hundreds of charities and not-for-profits. Asst. Minister Leigh spoke about the changing trends in communities and how that is affecting our everyday lives; an example of this is less people knowing their neighbours, and the need and benefits of better-connected communities.



NHWA representatives Bernie Durkin Chair, Maria Bennett CEO, and Margaret Pearson Company Secretary with Patron Commissioner Reece Kershaw and acting Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale AFP

NHWA Patron

On behalf of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) community, we are honoured to announce and welcome our Patron, Commissioner Reece P Kershaw APM, of the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

Commissioner Kershaw has over 34 years' experience as a career Police officer, being appointed as the AFP's 8th Commissioner on 2 October 2019. For further insight into Commissioner Kershaw's philosophy, commitment, and approach to the position of Patron of NHWA, and the resulting strengthening of partnership opportunities between the AFP, NHWA, NHW groups and the wider community, please see the feature article on page 6-8.



The team from Be Connected - Blake Utomo, Zena Hosseini, and Liz Jones with Network Partners Monika Kulshrestha and Maria Bennett CEO NHWA

Digital Mentor Program

A recent Be Connected Network Partner Meet-Up was held in Brisbane, to build upon the commitment to bridging the digital divide. NHWA's Digital Mentor program has an Australia-wide community reach across many diverse cultures. The 2021-2022 program trained over 100 Digital Mentors to assist older Australians with the use of digital technology. NHWA's new Digital Mentor classes run until June 2023.

For more information go to: www.nhwa.com.au/resources/digital-mentor-training/ or contact Lizzie McGrory at admin@nhwa.com.au

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Campaign

In response to recently released figures by Budget Direct, NHWA has launched an intensive Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Campaign to educate and inform the public regarding proactive steps to take to keep their vehicles safe and to work towards eradicating vehicle theft.



Car thefts are currently more prevalent than ever: RACQ revealed to the Courier Mail in an August 2022 article that "in the past financial year, RACQ has seen a 20 per cent increase in car theft."

To learn more read the article on page www.nhwa.com.au/resources/motor-vehicle-theft-prevention/

Upcoming Events and Dates

NHW Week 7-13 Nov 2022

Combining forces for the 4th consecutive year, NHWA and Bunnings are partnering to provide crime prevention awareness and information within local communities. Get involved today! If you are new to NHW, consider joining a NHW group in your local area and help make your community a safer, more connected place for all!

NHW Month 1-31 March 2023

In March 2023, NHWA and Crimsafe will again be partnering to bring further awareness to improving home security across Australia. Following on from 3 successful campaigns throughout 2021 and 2022, the data received from our joint campaigns shows key suburbs across Australia where massive opportunity to improve home security exists. The March campaign will continue to build on the positive, behaviour change messaging.

Neighbour Day Sunday 26 March 2023

A day to connect with your neighbours and community.

For more information about any of the above stories, please contact us at: admin@nhwa.com.au

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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

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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.



Acting Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale – AFP

Acting Deputy 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, Acting Deputy 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. Acting Deputy 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.

Q&A with NHWA Patron Commissioner Reece P Kershaw

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) are proud and honoured to announce and welcome the new incumbent Patron, Commissioner Reece P Kershaw APM, of the Australian Federal Police (AFP).



Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) are proud and honoured to announce and welcome the new incumbent Patron, Commissioner Reece P Kershaw APM, of the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

Commissioner Kershaw brings to NHWA an invaluable wealth of knowledge and experience earned through a lifetime of policing, having over thirty-four years' experience as a career Police officer.

NHWA had the opportunity on behalf of our members to present some key questions to Commissioner Kershaw regarding his approach to his undertaking the position of NHWA Patron, and the resulting strengthening of partnership opportunities between the AFP, NHWA, NHW groups and the wider Australian community. The Q&A below provides valuable insight into Commissioner Kershaw's philosophy, commitment, and approach to his NHWA Patronage.

1. As Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (AFP), with national and international policing governance, while it is generally understood that in the world we live in today global crime impacts at local levels, why choose to become Patron of a community-based organisation such as Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA)?

"As AFP Commissioner, I know that the police are the community and the community are police. We are only as strong and as effective as the relationships we have with the public. Since I became Commissioner of the AFP in 2019, I have spoken about building a bridge to community. Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA), and all its important crime prevention initiatives and dedicated volunteers, remains relevant today as it was when Neighbourhood

Watch programs were introduced to Australia by police in the 1980s. Being a Patron for this important community-based organisation will help the AFP continue to build relationships with the communities we serve, plus enable a partnership that will help facilitate Commonwealth crime education and prevention."

2. What do you see as the primary benefit of being Patron of NHWA?

"Any opportunity to help educate the community on protecting themselves from Commonwealth crime – whether it be child exploitation, terrorism, community interference by state actors, cyber fraud or illicit drug trafficking – the AFP and I will grab with two hands. These crimes are perverse and life changing. NHWA is already a formal partner and stakeholder

within the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) and we see the benefit of that partnership. Prevention and education are among our most effective tools, and I am extremely pleased that NHWA will use some of the AFP's materials that show how the public can help protect themselves from crime. The partnership with NHWA provides another avenue for the AFP to protect Australians and Australia's way of life. It is a great honour to be Patron of NHWA and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity."

3. Do you see your NHWA Patronage as being likewise beneficial for the AFP?

"Most law-abiding Australians probably only come into contact with the AFP at major airports, which we help protect. But AFP members take actions every day that directly or indirectly help keep all Australians safe. We hope our partnership with NHWA will enable us to better reach the community we serve, especially regarding cyber fraud, child exploitation, terrorism, and community interference, however, these are only some of the many valuable intended benefits of the partnership. The AFP are funded by taxpayers, so it is important the community understand how we spend their money and use our laws to keep them safe."

4. As Sir Robert Peel said in 1829, "The Police are the Public; the Public are the Police"; do you believe this to still be the case?

"Absolutely. Our police are our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters. We take our police from our community – there's no separating the two. But we do not take anything for granted. Trust is a gift granted to us by the public and is another reason why we need to show the community what the AFP does, and how we help keep them safe."

5. In your Statement to the Senate earlier this year, you advised that Cyber Crime "is the break-and-enter of the 21st Century"; do you see a role for NHW in combatting Cyber Crime?

"Cybercrime certainly is the break-and-enter of the 21st Century. Organised criminals hundreds of kilometres away are using technology to steal the nest eggs of hard-working Australians. The dark web provides a platform to sell stolen identification and the intellectual property or details of Australian businesses. The AFP is relentlessly pursuing these criminals and if there is one message I could get out, it is that victims should contact ReportCyber at cyber.gov.au and their financial institution as soon as they believe they have fallen victim to a scam. Never be

embarrassed. There are cases where banks and police can stop money from leaving Australia or can even have money returned – but they need to know as soon as possible. The AFP is partnering with NHWA and providing education materials that provide simple, yet practical measures, to help arm the community with tools to help protect themselves from cybercrimes."

6. How might an effective Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program assist with demand reduction on frontline operational policing?

"The community are our eyes and ears. It is in everyone's interests to keep their communities safe – we especially owe this to our children and older Australians. It is important people feel safe in their own home, and if they feel safe in their neighbourhood or their community, they are more likely to feel safe in their home. Communities are stronger and more cohesive when we look after each other and that is essentially the ethos of NHWA – and of the AFP. An area where NHW volunteers can assist the AFP is keeping an eye out for signs of human trafficking and modern slavery."

7. What would be the top three areas that you would like to see NHW groups assist police with to increase community safety and crime prevention?

"The AFP focuses on crimes with a federal aspect – essentially crimes that breach Commonwealth laws. Sadly, I'm not shocked by the constant online offending by those who target our children. Child exploitation is such a heinous crime and we have a number of dedicated members whose job it is every day to identify victims and perpetrators. Our investigators never give up and it makes me so proud. We are hoping our partnership with NHWA will help educate families about how to keep their kids safe online. Our partnership priority



is also focussed on protecting vulnerable communities, including older communities and those from our CALD communities, from cybercrime. We also rely on our communities to talk to us about radicalisation, disinformation, and threats and intimidation from foreign governments. Policing is about cooperation, and it goes back to the trust we maintain with our communities. The AFP has great relationships with our diaspora communities and we know many volunteers from NHW are from our diaspora communities."

8. NHW members are encouraged to report suspicious or criminal behaviour to police; how do you see this information-sharing as assisting police?

"While tech and laws are always heavily relied upon by police, we can never discount the information provided by the community. The world has never been smaller. Globalisation and technology have enabled us to be connected but equally, criminals can target Australians from hundreds of kilometres away. The AFP is posted in 33 countries and we work with law enforcement across the world to help keep Australians safe. Information provided by a member of the public could be a piece of the investigative puzzle that leads to the identification or arrest of a serious criminal."

9. Designing Out Crime (DOC) or Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an effective crime prevention tool, where homes are "target-hardened" to make it more difficult for offenders to commit crime; do you see benefits of AFP, jurisdictional Police and NHW groups working in partnership to promote DOC/ CPTED?

"A clear example of this is what we are trying to achieve with educating the community about online child exploitation and cybercrime. The materials we are providing will



hopefully help Australians "harden" their online personal and financial security. This is a starting point for the AFP and we will continue to find more opportunities to work together to mitigate risk via CPTED."

10. NHW has been operating in Australia since the early 1980's; do you believe that NHW remains as relevant in 2022 as it was on inception, and how do we ensure NHW continues to effectively contribute to crime prevention?

"NHW continues to play a valued role in the community and we know NHW's key initiatives and

achievements have had tangible outcomes in protecting Australians. Partnerships, education and trust are key when it comes to policing – that was true in Sir Robert Peel's day and remains true today. We know Australians are busy and time poor, so for policing and for community groups like NHW, we must ensure we make it easy for the community to engage with us. We also know we have to reach all our communities –migrant communities, Indigenous Australians, international students and those in our cities and suburbs, and to do that we need to speak in their languages, understand their culture and connect in authentic ways"

ACCCE and ThinkUKnow Release New Resource in Response to Sexual Extortion Trend

The AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) and AFP ThinkUKnow program have released a new resource to help young people recognise and respond to sexual extortion online.

The Online blackmail and sexual extortion response kit has been developed in response to a significant increase in the number of reports to the ACCCE involving Australian teenagers being targeted online.

The crime often involves overseas offenders targeting teenage males, coercing them into producing explicit images and then extorting them for money, with threats to share the content to their friends and family online.

The response kit is aimed at young people aged 13-17 years old and includes advice and key indicators or 'red flags' that an online chat may be a sign of sexual extortion using de-identified reports from the ACCCE, as well as how to respond and make a report.

The ACCCE and ThinkUKnow are encouraging parents and carers to continue safety conversations with their children, and for young victims to know that they will not be in trouble with the police for coming forward and making a report to the ACCCE.

Detective Superintendent Jayne Crossling encouraged victims to seek help and report the crime.

"Child victims need to be reassured help is available and by reporting what has happened, they may help us catch an offender and prevent other children being harmed," Detective Superintendent Crossling said.



The ACCCE and AFP ThinkUKnow program have released a sexual extortion response kit for young people

The kit includes examples of how to recognise sexual extortion

How to spot this crime

- Receiving a friend request on one app, then being encouraged to continue the chat on a different platform
- Inconsistencies with a profile or language, there might also be signs that English is a second language
- Introduction of sexualised conversations
- The offender webcam or microphone 'not working' for video calls/chats.

The free kit can be accessed at www.thinkuknow.org.au

"If your child is or has been a victim, reassure them that it's not their fault and that there is help available through the ACCCE and our partners."

Cases of sexual extortion involving children under the age of 18 can be reported to the ACCCE at www.accce.gov.au/report

Jack Changes the Game

A new book about staying safe online

Using technology is second nature to many 5 to 8 year olds. With children spending more time online, how do we teach them the difference between in-person and online friends?

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) ThinkUKnow program in partnership with the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) have developed a new children's picture book called Jack Changes the Game to support parents, carers and teachers in discussing some issues around online safety.

Written by notable children's author Tess Rowley and illustrated by Shannon Horsfall, Jack Changes the Game takes a child's perspective to online grooming, the challenges they face and why it's important to talk to a trusted adult if they encounter any problems online.

The book is a first-of-its kind for law enforcement and is based on a report made to the ACCCE. It gives an insight with age-appropriate advice about online grooming and how parents can take action if something goes wrong.

In the book, Jack meets a new online friend through his favourite game. Before too long, 'FootyBoy' starts asking Jack for things that make

him uneasy. Jack starts to wonder if 'FootyBoy' is the person he claims to be. Should Jack tell someone? What will happen if he does?

The AFP through the ACCCE is the lead Australian Government agency for the investigation, prevention and deterrence of online child sexual exploitation. The ACCCE works globally with our partners to combat this crime type, but education about online child safety needs to start at home and in schools.

Research undertaken by the ACCCE showed that only 52 per cent of adults openly talk to their children about online safety.

ACCCE and Human Exploitation Commander Hilda Sirec said the book aims to encourage parents, carers and educators to start conversations with children about recognising, preventing and reporting online grooming.

"Online Child Sexual Exploitation is uncomfortable to talk about, but we need you to have these conversations before it's too late.

"This book is such an important resource to help introduce the topic in a non-threatening way and prompts vital conversations that could protect children from serious harm," Commander Sirec said.

To ensure the book is age-appropriate and evidence-based,



a stakeholder reference group was engaged to provide subject matter expertise and guidance. The group comprised Dr Andrea Baldwin, Professor Susan Edwards, Kelly Humphries and Professor Kerryann Walsh.

ThinkUKnow Australia is an education program, delivered nationally in partnership with police and industry partners to prevent online child sexual exploitation. The program addresses topics including self-generated child abuse material, online grooming, sexual extortion, and importantly encourages help seeking behaviour.

Jack Changes the Game forms part of a complete ThinkUKnow learning package that includes at home learning for parents and carers, a teacher's toolkit and student activity pack to reinforce key concepts from the book.

These resources and an e-copy of Jack Changes the Game are available at ThinkUKnow.org.au

New Online Child Safety Animations Help Educate the Community



The AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) has released a suite of animations to give the Australian community a better understanding of online child sexual exploitation.

The short animations, released in National Child Protection Week, were developed to address the need for more educational resources on this complex crime type, which is often not spoken about.

Market research has shown that only 52 per cent of parents openly talk to their children about online safety, and 38 per cent of people aged 8-17 admitted to talking to strangers online.

The animations aim to increase awareness and understanding around online safety for children and the ACCCE is encouraging the Australian community to start talking about online child safety from an early age.

The first animation titled 'What is the ACCCE' explains the purpose of the AFP-led ACCCE, how it functions and how it collaborates across government and non-government organisations to combat online child sexual exploitation.

The second animation 'What is Online Child Sexual Exploitation' explains the nature and severity of the issue, as well as providing explanations of different forms of online child sexual exploitation, including online grooming and sexual extortion.

The final animation 'How to report Online Child Sexual Exploitation' outlines the process for reporting online crimes against children, and explains the role of law enforcement and other agencies involved in combating the abuse of children in the online space.



The ACCCE has released three new animations to help parents, carers and teachers: What is Online Child Sexual Exploitation?, What is the ACCCE? and How to report Online Child Sexual Exploitation

Commander ACCCE and Human Exploitation Hilda Sirec said the animation series aims to raise awareness and prevent online child sexual exploitation from happening to families.

"ACCCE research has shown 21 percent of parents and carers think online child sexual exploitation is too repulsive and sickening to think about," Commander Sirec said.

"Child protection is everyone's responsibility.

"Combatting this crime starts with awareness. We're asking the Australian community to watch these short animations and to start educating themselves.

"Online child sexual exploitation is a serious issue, and unfortunately many parents and carers don't know how to have age appropriate conversations about online challenges with their children, or where to turn for advice and support."

Commander Sirec said often children think they are talking to a new friend online, when it could be a man or woman of any age grooming them to gain their trust.



"While talking to a 'friend' online may seem innocent at first, a child can be groomed in a matter of minutes," she said.

"Grooming often leads to more severe types of exploitation such as sexual extortion where we're seeing concerning trends."

Last year the ACCCE received more than 33,000 reports of online child sexual exploitation, and each report can contain hundreds or thousands of images and videos.

The animations are available to view at accce.gov.au and through the QR code.

If you or someone you know is impacted by online child sexual exploitation there are support services available at accce.gov.au/support.

Advice and support for parents and carers about how they can help protect children online can be found at thinkuknow.org.au, an AFP-led education program designed to prevent online child sexual exploitation.



Age No Barrier as Teens Connect with Seniors to Break Down Digital Divide

An innovative new program that aims to improve older Australians' digital skills by connecting them with student mentors has now launched in Australia.

Developed by the eSafety Commissioner, Australia's independent regulator for online safety, the intergenerational Young Mentors program brings teenagers together with older Australians to share digital skills and knowledge, and help them gain the confidence they need to navigate the online world.

"Technology has a wonderful ability to connect, enable and empower individuals, and the importance of this connection was made even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic," eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said.

"For those of us who use digital technology as an essential part of our daily lives, we may not realise how novel it can be to older people who have lived much of their lives without it. "It's difficult for anyone to stay on top of the continually evolving digital landscape as new technologies emerge. Ensuring we don't leave older Australians behind as society continues to move online is essential," Ms Inman Grant said.

Young Mentors is a free program that helps community organisations and groups partner with secondary schools to coordinate one-on-one digital mentoring sessions. The weekly one-hour sessions focus specifically on the needs of the older learners and are delivered over a period of six weeks.

eSafety research shows younger Australians are keen to help older relatives get online, with young people more likely to show an older family member how to use



technology (59 per cent) rather than doing the task for them when asked (40 per cent).

The research also shows:

- younger generations believe it is important for people over 70 to have better digital skills
- young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are even more likely to show an older family member how to use technology
- only 4 per cent of young people felt frustrated or annoyed when helping an older family member use technology

For older Australians, the program is intended to build confidence in using digital technology, which can create a greater sense of independence, provide greater access to services and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Following a successful pilot, eSafety is now calling on libraries, councils, aged residential care facilities,

community groups and schools to get involved.

"Young Mentors provides an opportunity for genuine connection between generations as we work together to improve digital literacy in Australia, ensuring older Australians can stay connected with family, friends and their communities and empowering younger Australians through a leadership role as digital mentors," Ms Inman Grant said.

"The Be Connected program continues to play an important part in helping eSafety improve the digital literacy of all Australians and make the online world a safer, more positive place for us all to enjoy."

Young Mentors is the latest offering in the Be Connected program, an Australian Government initiative that empowers older Australians to access digital technology and online services.

To register or for more information visit esafety.gov.au/beconnectedyoungmentors.

New Resources to Help Older Australians Stay Safe Online

From researching and booking travel online, to podcast episodes that answer some of the most common tech questions, Be Connected continues to play an important part in helping improve the digital literacy of all Australians and make the online world a safer, more positive place for us all to enjoy.

The Be Connected website, managed by the eSafety Commissioner, offers hundreds of resources – including self-paced courses, online presentations, articles, podcasts, and even a games and skills practice area – to help older Australians and those who support them to keep their online skills sharp and increase their confidence using the internet and digital devices. Best of all, they're all free!

New resources: Researching and booking travel online

From researching travel, safely accessing your money from overseas, and avoiding common travel scams, this new Be Connected resource topic will teach you everything you need to know to have peace of mind on your next holiday.

You'll also learn where to find up-to-date travel and health advice for any destination, find the best prices and keep in contact with loved ones while you're away.

Visit: beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/researching-and-booking-travel-online

Listen while you learn with the Be Connected podcast

Did you know there's a Be Connected podcast?

Perfect to sharpen your tech skills while on the go, join host Val Quinn and a range of guests as they explore common technology-related questions and dive into conversations to help you stay safer online and get the most from our digital world. Some of the most



popular episodes this year explore unlocking your family history, what online scammers don't want you to know, and crypto currency.

Listen and subscribe on your favourite podcast platform.

Upcoming free online presentations

Hosted by the eSafety Commissioner, Be Connected presentations cover a range of topics every month. Here's what's coming up:

- **8 November:** Can you spot a scam?
- **10 November:** Staying safe on Facebook
- **22 November:** Connecting to others
- **6 December:** Protect yourself against scams

- **8 December:** Helpful apps for your smart device
- **13 December:** How to use Zoom to make video calls

Learn more and register your attendance: beconnected.esafety.gov.au/bookings

Be Connected is an Australian Government initiative implemented in partnership by the Department of Social Services, the eSafety Commissioner and Good Things Foundation Australia, committed to improving the online confidence, skills and safety of older Australians.

Explore hundreds of free online safety resources at beconnected.esafety.gov.au

Cleaning Up Crime during Secure September

Just as the birds and blossoms come out in Spring, so do burglars. They seek vulnerable homes with windows and doors left open by homeowners hoping to catch the fresh air or the cool evening breeze.

With that in mind, crime prevention partners Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) and Crimsafe had a simple message for homeowners this Secure September. Clean up crime!

Now in its second year, the month-long initiative ensured that home security was made easy by combining security checks with similar spring-clean tasks around the home – all with one goal in mind – to improve a home's Secure Score.

From cleaning and checking spotlights, to decluttering the office and preventing identity theft, each day offered a simple yet effective home security and cleaning tip via Crimsafe's and NHWA's social media channels.

If you missed the Secure September Clean Up Crime daily tips and tricks on our social pages, keep reading. We've compiled some of the most popular tips here:

- **Lock up your tools**
don't let your tools be one of the tools a burglar uses to break into your home. Tidy up your tools, ladders and garden equipment and lock them up.
- **No place to hide**
burglars look for an easy target where they won't be seen. Cut back any overgrown trees and ensure your front door and windows can be easily seen from the street.
- **Put the spotlight on intruders**
while cleaning your outdoor lights, consider installing smart or sensor lights to protect your home. If you



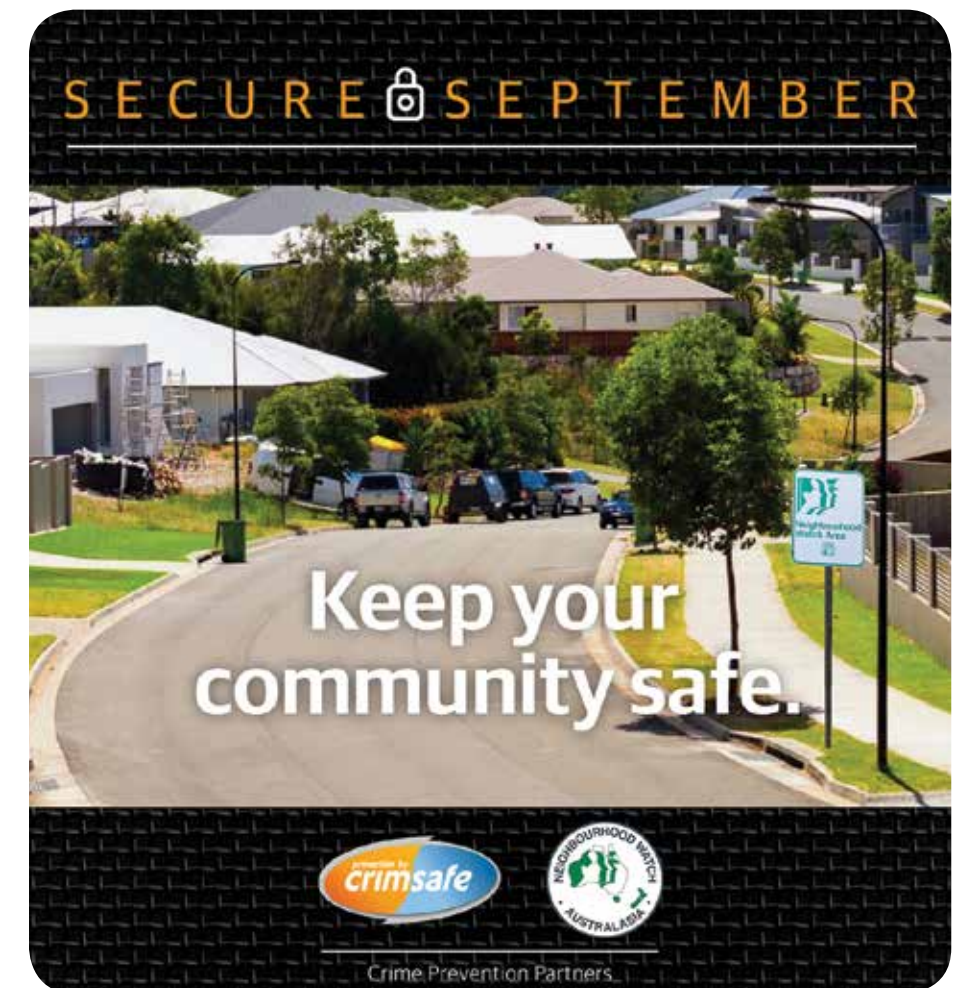
already have them, check that they're in good working order and ensure the exits and entrances to your home are well lit.

- **No easy entrances**
when you spring-clean your windows, check to see how easy they are to access from the outside. Are they secure in their frames? Are they lockable? Have you considered security screens?
- **Talking about security screens**
when was the last time you washed yours? Regularly cleaning your screens will improve airflow, remove build-up and impurities and ensure they perform at their best.
- **Coming clean up front**
while you're cleaning your security windows and doors, make sure the entrance to your property is visible from your front door. Adding a peephole might be a good idea. Make sure you test the locks and have all the right keys on hand too.
- **Don't forget the back door**
Laundry doors are one of the most common entry points for burglars. So, when you're spring-cleaning your washing machine, dryer and vacuum cleaner, take a moment to check your back doors too.

- **The key to success**
is not hiding your spare key under the mat, on a window ledge, around a door frame, in a fake rock or the mailbox. While cleaning up your garden, find a safe, secure place to hide a spare key that a burglar won't think of.
- **Protect your ID**
your possessions aren't the only things burglars are after. Identity theft is on the rise too, so when you're cleaning up your paperwork, be sure to properly destroy any documents containing personal details before putting them in your wheelie bin.
- **Keep a record**
spring-cleaning your living areas or sorting out your cupboards and wardrobes is the perfect time to compile a list of the serial numbers, makes and models of valuable items in your home.
- **Love your neighbour**
as they say, everybody needs good neighbours. They'll keep an eye on your property for any suspicious activity, whether you're home or away. Join your local Neighbourhood Watch program and display the Neighbourhood Watch sign prominently, so burglars know that someone is likely to be keeping an eye on your home.

If you missed Secure September and would like to improve the safety and security of your home, make sure you follow NHWA and Crimsafe on their social media channels for future tips and information.

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



Links to social media sites:

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

www.instagram.com/nhwaaustralasia/

www.facebook.com/Crimsafe/

www.instagram.com/crimsafesecuritysystems/

ThinkUKnow Attends Education Events



Members from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Online Child Safety Team recently attended both the National Education Summit in Brisbane and EduTECH in Melbourne.

After a break from being able to attend events due to COVID-19, the Online Child Safety Team were thrilled to be back engaging with educators about the ThinkUKnow program.

The team hosted stalls at the events and were gladly joined by ThinkUKnow partners, Queensland Police Service and Victoria Police members to provide online child safety advice.

At the National Education Summit, Senior Prevention Officer Danielle Broster delivered a presentation offering key information on ThinkUKnow and the program's educational resources about how to keep young people safe from online child sexual exploitation. The session included a real case study, top tips on safe online behaviours and how to seek help.

The team spoke with hundreds of educators, many eager to request presentations for their schools and organisations. ThinkUKnow is Australia's first and only law enforcement led online child safety program that is delivered nationally and provides educational presentations to young people, parents, carers and educators. ThinkUKnow is a partnership between the AFP, Commonwealth Bank, Microsoft, Datacom, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and state and territory police.

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



Members from the AFP Online Child Safety Team attended EduTECH in Melbourne, joined by ThinkUKnow partners Victoria Police



Senior Prevention Officer Danielle Broster presented a session at the National Education Summit providing online child safety advice



The team hosted a stall at the National Education Summit in Brisbane alongside ThinkUKnow partners from Queensland Police Service

NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Next of Kin cards

Canberrans can now walk into any ACT police station and collect free Next of Kin cards from the front office.

This initiative was developed to support officers responding to incidents involving elderly and vulnerable members of the community who at times are unable to provide Next of Kin information.

The cards are designed to be placed in purses or wallets and have space for people to fill in:

- the holder's name
- their date of birth
- nominated Next of Kin contact details

Importantly, the information is only written on the card, no personal information is held by ACT Policing.



Sergeant Ben Willis with the new next-of-kin cards, available from all ACT police stations

Sergeant Ben Willis from the Community Engagement Team said there has been an increase in situations where officers have been unable to identify someone quickly.

"These cards are incredibly useful for our aging population. They're small enough to fit into the back of a phone, a vehicle console or wallet."

"We need to find new and innovative ways to support families and assist police officers faster in finding individuals in the event of a missing person or casualty."

ACT Policing recognises a Next of Kin as a person's spouse, domestic partner or closest living blood relative who is over 18 years of age.

ACT Coordinators' Workshop on Newsletters

Neighbourhood Watch Australian Capital Territory (NHW ACT) recently held an area coordinators' workshop on 'Newsletters in Connected Communities'.

The workshop, held at the Pearce Community Centre, was well attended by NHW ACT area coordinators, newsletter editors and Board members.

Addressing the workshop, ACT President Laurie Blackall said that in planning for the future, "NHW ACT is continuing to look at broadening engagement within our diverse and technology-connected communities."

Mr Blackall said that the aim of the workshop was "to develop our newsletter offerings and investigate alternate delivery options."



NHW ACT area coordinators' newsletter workshop attendees

"We are looking forward to continuing to improve engagement with our communities to raise awareness of safety and security."

Workshop participants discussed several issues pertinent to sourcing articles for their branch newsletters, such as news releases and crime statistics provided by the AFP; NHW ACT President's reports; and NHW brochures on safety and security.

There was also discussion on branch newsletter mastheads. While all carry NHW branding, some designs are quite different. ACT Vice President (North) Clare McGrath is heading the development of a standardised masthead for use by all branch.

It is important to drink safely and look after your mates when you're out. Drinking alcohol can affect your ability to make decisions and protect yourself. Following a few simple tips can ensure you and your mates have a safe night out!

Tips to help you stay safe from NSW Police

- **Know what you're drinking.** Don't accept drinks from strangers, don't leave your drink unattended and avoid batch drinks like punches that may have unknown ingredients and alcohol content.
- **Pace yourself.** Count your drinks, try a low-alcohol alternative, or have a 'spacer' of water between alcoholic drinks. Don't let people continually top up your drink, as it's hard to keep track of your alcohol consumption.
- **Avoid shouts, drinking games and shots.** Drink at your own pace or buy a non-alcoholic drink when it's your turn. Don't be pressured into drinking more than you want or intend to.
- **Eat before or while you are drinking.** If you have a full stomach, alcohol will be absorbed more slowly. Avoid salty snacks, as these make you drink more.
- **Stay busy.** If you have something to do, you tend to drink less such as playing pool or dancing.
- **Trust your feelings and instincts.** If you feel unsafe, uncomfortable, or worried for any reason, get somewhere safe and find someone you trust.
- **Have a 'plan B'.** Plans change quickly, ensure you have multiple options to get home safely.
- **Always tell your mates where you're going.** If you decide to go



home early, leave the group or even just going to the bathroom, let your mates know.

- **Keep an eye on your mates!** If you are going out in a group, plan to arrive together and leave together. Never leave a friend who's been drinking on their own. If you're at a party, check in with them during the night to see how they're doing. If something doesn't look right, let a friend know you are uncomfortable or worried about their safety.

Sometimes sticking together isn't enough, you need to **recognise when you might need to call for help.**



8 out of 10 homes are entered by car thieves via unlocked doors or windows.

Where are your keys right now?

8 out of 10 cars are stolen using the owner's keys.

50% (half) of vehicles stolen are left unlocked with a remote to the garage inside.

Don't give thieves access to your home.

70% (almost three quarters) of thieves enter homes while victims is sleeping in the house.

If your wallet is stolen, thieves can use your cash and your identity.

Don't give thieves access to your car or your home.

When at home lock your doors and windows, do not leave keys, wallets or other valuables visible from outside your home or near entrances.

Lock your vehicle and always remove and take your ignition keys and garage remotes. Take everything of value from your vehicle each time you leave it.

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT.

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).

Rural Lookout App Being Trialled in North Canterbury

North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support have partnered with the New Zealand Police to trial a new Rural Lookout app in Waimakariri and Hurunui. The Rural Lookout app aims to make reporting rural incidents quick and easy. Anyone based in the North Canterbury region has been invited to take part in the trial. The app can be used on a web browser or downloaded to a smartphone. Once the app is downloaded onto an individual's phone using Wi-Fi or cell phone coverage, they can then use Rural Lookout outside cell phone coverage areas. People using the app can notify police in a few minutes about illegal hunting, trespassing, drones, minor damage, or any other suspicious incidents.

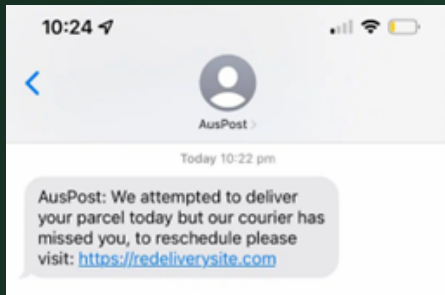


Rural Lookout App trial underway

22 HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR 2022

1. Fake Delivery Messages

You may receive fake text or email messages claiming you have a parcel for pick-up or delivery. They can look very real and appear to be from legitimate organisations. Do not click on any links. Put messages you are unsure of into the 'Junk' folder first, and then check the sender's email address or the website url address provided.



2. Home Security

If you have Christmas light cords running through a window or door, ensure they can be securely locked at night, as this can be a weak spot that makes it easy to enter a home. Be vigilant about locking doors and windows when you leave your home, and make sure your garage door is closed completely before you drive off.

3. Presents

Do not display your Christmas gifts near windows in your home so they are easily visible from outside, or let them be visible inside your car. Take a walk outside to see if valuables can be seen inside your home, and ensure they are out of sight.

4. Away From Home

If going away, make efforts to trick would-be burglars into thinking you are still home. This can include things like leaving lights on a timer, asking a neighbour to collect your mail, leaving shoes by the front door, or asking a neighbour to park their car in your driveway.

5. Social Media Posting

Avoid posting information about gifts from Santa on social media, or that you are going to be away. Thieves can stalk social media and find who has the best loot worth taking.

6. Safe Package Delivery

If you're expecting a parcel, be careful in its delivery. To avoid porch and front-door thieves, request signature confirmation, or hold your parcel at a post office, or have a trusted neighbour hold on to it for you.

7. No Mobile Phones When Driving

Many people on Christmas will want to send you Happy Holiday messages and calls, and this can be a dangerous distraction while driving. Set your phone to 'Do not disturb' when going on road trips, for everyone's safety.

8. Fire Prevention

Do not leave candles unattended in your home and make sure they are not placed near flammable items. Turn off all Christmas lights and electrical items when going to bed.

9. Personal Safety

Always tell your family and close friends of your travel plans and provide them with your itinerary so they know where you are, and how to contact you in an emergency.

10. Scams

Be careful of Holiday scams. Scammers try to take advantage of online shoppers to steal their identity, make bogus gift offers, or pose as a charity. Do not give out any personal information such as your credit card details and do not open e-mails or click links from people you do not know.

11. Remember Safety Gear!

If giving a bike, scooter, or other riding toys as a present, don't forget the safety gear! This can include a helmet or kneepads.

12. Be Alert

The Holiday season is a time when many people will be busy shopping and running errands. Criminals will also be out and about looking for easy targets and to make a big score. Even though you may be rushed and have many things on your mind, stay alert to your surroundings.

13. Pet Safety

If you're going away for Christmas and can't bring your loveable pets along, look for a pet-sitter or ask a trusted neighbour or friend to look after them. If left alone in the December heat, a pet may become dehydrated if not given water regularly.

14. Hide Keys

Don't leave keys hidden outside or under a door mat, flowerpot or in a plastic rock. Thieves know where to look. Leaving spare keys with a trusted neighbour or a secure location is a safer option.

15. Motor Vehicle Theft

Lock your car, and don't leave your car keys near the front door where they can easily be stolen by opportunistic thieves. Make sure keys are always with you or in a secure location. Don't tag your keys with personal information like your name or address, and try to park in a secure carpark wherever possible.

16. Child Online Safety

Children will be spending more time on the internet and playing with their phones and devices while on holidays. Make sure you know what your children are doing online. Know the warning signs and never supply personal information or photos to anyone online. Child sexual exploitation can happen to anyone, and if suspicious make a report. For more tips on how to keep children safe online visit the ACCCE website <https://www.accce.gov.au/>

17. Home Cooking

A Christmas roast or BBQ can be a holiday highlight, but don't leave it unattended. Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

18. Drink Responsibly

The holidays are a time to celebrate, however you should look after yourself and your mates. If drinking alcohol drink responsibly, and make sure to keep drinking water and eat some food. Remember it's never ok to drink and drive.

19. Contact Neighbourhood Watch

If you live in a Neighbourhood Watch or Neighbourhood Support NZ area, tell your local area coordinator that you will be away, and for how long.

20. Christmas Decorations

When selecting house or Christmas tree decorations, be sure to choose ones that are flame resistant, flame retardant, and won't shatter if broken.

21. Secure Your Devices

It is always a good idea to make sure your devices are protected against malware and viruses by installing the latest updates and running up-to-date anti-virus software.

22. Report

Report any suspicious activity to the Police. In an emergency or when a crime is taking place call Triple Zero 000. If a crime has already happened call Police Link 131 444. For anonymous reporting call Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000.





New Neighbourhood Support Organisation launches in Waitaki

With support from Otago Neighbourhood Support, Neighbourhood Support Waitaki is up and running, and the new coordinator, Christine Dorsey, has hit the ground with pace. Several streets and groups have already signed up, one street having nearly the whole street involved. Several street gatherings have already taken place, with Christine paying special mention to Laila and Hisyam who held an afternoon tea for their 16 neighbours, sharing homemade Princess Cakes from Malaysia. The afternoon brought joy to several individuals who don't have family in the area and often live quite an isolated life. Community Senior Constable Niall Gough, of Oamaru, has also praised the initiative, saying it helps build his connection with the community.



Neighbourhood Support Waitaki Area Coordinator Christine Dorsey and community senior constable Niall Gough



Motueka Youth Car Mechanic Workshop

Car mechanics workshop organised for youth in Motueka

Motueka Districts Neighbourhood Support (part of Top of the South Neighbourhood Support) have now run two very successful Car Mechanics Workshops for their

local rangatahi. During these workshops Motueka youth get to learn how to service and maintain their own car by a licensed local mechanic.



Napier Coordinator, Adrienne Galvin, gathers with some of the the region's Group Contacts and special guest, Senior Constable Andrew Chantrey from Eastern District Police

Napier Neighbourhood Support hosted another round of Group Contact People Workshops

Napier Neighbourhood Support often gather their Group Contact People together to thank them for their support and provide various

training opportunities. The latest round thanked volunteers in Meeanee, Awatoto, Te Awa and Maraenui.

NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND



Clean Up Australia Day Photo

Woodlands NHW 2022 & Milestone 10 Year Anniversary

Woodlands Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is proud of their local resident connections and interactions and has transitioned to a predominately online group.

While not everyone is on Facebook, other Local Community Facebook pages are also followed to keep everyone up to date with residents' concerns, with relevant information posted on Woodlands NHW page to assist.

As well as the work done online, the group still phones and meets with local residents as required. The group has supplied feedback to Logan District Crime Prevention Unit, NHWQ and other NHW groups. Most years the group also participates

in the Clean Up Australia Day campaign, together with state and local government representatives and volunteers.

Linda (Area Coordinator) and Sharon (Treasurer & Secretary) represented the group at the Logan Volunteers Breakfast hosted by Logan City Council in May 2022.

The group celebrated 10 years as an official NHW Group in August 2022. Linda and Sharon attended meetings at the request of the local Councillor

to assist with local safety concerns and provided information at a local photo shoot with the Councillor promoting the installation of another safety camera in Waterford. A photo and article 'Community Safety the Focal Point' of the event is in the 'Our Logan' magazine Volume 101.

Linda and Sharon are proud to wear the group's Woodlands NHW shirts and promote NHWQ and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia in their volunteer capacity for Woodlands and Waterford, Logan, Qld.

South Burnett Australia Day Award

In a rare event the South Burnett Australia Day Award Committee decided to award all of the 2022 nominees with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to residents over 60 years of age, in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Award winners display ongoing excellence in their field and in the community, demonstrating leadership and innovation while contributing towards the South Burnett region.

Peter Verbakel, from Kingaroy, was one of these deserving winners. Peter has been a volunteer in policing for more than 15 years at the Kingaroy Police station and is known for his support of local Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups.

Peter Verbakel said, "As far as I can recollect, my support for Kumbia NHW commenced around 2013

when I began to revamp their regular newsletter into its current format, and then continued with grant applications, mostly successful, and fitting out the Kumbia Hall, where NHW meets, with its AV equipment."

Peter has initiated and assisted numerous projects with NHW that support the Queensland Police Service's strategic goals, assisting in events such as Under the Bonnet, Turning the Screws on Crime, and Coffee with a Cop. These projects aim to improve personal, home and road safety and create good relationships between the community and police, to enhance safety in the community. Peter has also held many other roles in the community. Congratulations Peter on your award!



Peter Verbakel wins Lifetime Achievement Award

Motorcycles – The Shiny Side Up

Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has been very active in the community, with a recent display at the Motorcycle Education & Awareness event held between Kingaroy and Kumbia on 27 August.

The event attracted a large number of riders and their families who brought two wheelers, three wheelers and vintage bikes with them from as far as Rockhampton and Mt Nebo.

Included in the day's activities were industry displays and speeding/braking demonstrations by a Queensland Police Service motorcycle and drag car.

Our dedicated Kumbia volunteers ably promoted NHW by handing out to adults a sample bag with educational brochures on a range of topics (including motorbike, road and personal safety), and to the children, stickers, colouring in sheets, rulers, pencils, erasers and balloons.



2 Wheelers Lined Up

Visitors were also able to choose from a wide range of additional NHW items on display and to converse with the volunteers about the aims and goals of NHW.

Our thanks to Area Coordinator Morris Winter, Kumbia NHW members Jeff Hills and Kaye Aitken, and Volunteer in Policing Peter Verbakel, for their involvement in another successful NHW activity.



Kumbia NHW Member Jeff Hills, Volunteer in Policing Peter Verbakel, Kumbia NHW Member Kaye Aitken

'Hunt Right' Initiative Commenced in Kumbia

July 2022 saw the instigation of the 'Hunt Right' initiative, the brainchild of the Officer in Charge (OIC) at Kumbia Station Senior Constable Todd Armstrong. The aim of this initiative is to work closely with the community to detect and deter illegal hunting (predominantly illegal "pigging" in the local area).



Kumbia NHW Area Coordinator Morris Winter, Senior Constable Todd Armstrong, Deb Frecklington MP and Kumbia NHW Member Rosalie Winter with cheque for \$500 enabling purchase of one of the cameras

Kumbia Police in conjunction with Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) have secured funding for the purchase of upgraded 4G cameras, which have been, and can be placed in trouble spots throughout the district. The cameras are equipped with a 4G Sim Card, allowing police to receive photos

as soon as the cameras are motion activated. The cameras are an excellent tool in assisting police to gather information such as vehicle descriptions and registration plates, enabling them to directly respond to areas where suspicious activity has been reported.

Our sincere thanks to the following three benefactors who made purchase of the cameras possible: David Littleproud MP - Federal Member for Maranoa, Deb Frecklington MP - State Member for Nanango, Scott Henschen - Councillor with South Burnett Regional Council.

Bundaberg's Newest Member of the Fleet PADDY

After a visit to the local tender centre in Bundaberg, officers had an idea. For several years Queensland Police officers have attended community events alongside the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). When attending these events, QAS would bring along a mini ambulance vehicle for children which was an absolute hit. The children would flock to it and parents would struggle to get them out.

After a successful bid at the tender centre, Bundaberg Police were excited about their new project. A call was made to local Burnett Heads Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group secretary Dawn Lawrence, who is forever telling police "If you need anything let me know". When local police asked Burnett Heads NHW for some assistance in securing Paddy, of course the answer was "Yes!".



Paddy was a 'Baby Taxi', before the police and NHW made some modifications

What started out as a shopping centre ride for children in the form of a baby taxi, soon became a mini police car after a lot of hard work by local police staff and a handy police husband. Now, with thanks to some sponsorship from Burnett Heads NHW, Bundaberg Police have their very own Paddy.



Bundaberg's new Paddy was a hit with the kids

Paddy made his debut at a recent Oceanfest event at Burnett Heads and the children couldn't get enough. Officers were pleased to see the positive interactions between Paddy and the children, really reinforcing positive relationships between police and the community. Thank you again to Burnett Heads NHW for their continued support of their local police.



Gold Coast Secure Disposal Events

The Gold Coast District and Runaway Bay NHW groups once again partnered with Shred-X to hold two Community Secure Disposal events on the Gold Coast.



NHW volunteers at the Broadwater Secure Disposal event



Volunteers in Robina with Shred-X

The Robina and Broadwater events in August and September gave Gold Coast residents the opportunity to dispose of confidential paper documents, cardboard and x-rays securely for a gold coin donation.

These events have gained in popularity since the inaugural Robina event in 2018 and this year was no exception, with 6.1 tonnes of paper and x-rays collected over the 2 days.

Even the rain during the event on the northern end of the Coast in September didn't deter the local community from taking advantage of this annual opportunity to dispose of their confidential material safely and securely.

Shred-X are proud to partner with Neighbourhood Watch for these Secure Disposal events, and to play a part in keeping the community's confidential information safe, and also educate why data privacy is

essential to everyone. Once the documents collected at these events were securely destroyed, the shredded paper was transported to our local recycling partners to be recycled into new office paper and washroom paper products.

A big thank you also to the management team at Robina Town Centre and to David Crisafulli MP and his team, who provided the support and locations for the events which raised over \$1100 in donations.



Blazeaid representative Ron Murphy, Area Coordinator Wondai Town and Rural NHW Darren Buckley, Sergeant Brad Fewtrell, Rob McEwen from Rural Fire Service QLD, and the manager of Wondai RSL Neil Burrows

Wondai Coffee with a Cop and First Responders Appreciation Day

Wondai Town and Rural Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has celebrated several successful events recently in the community.

The second Coffee with a Cop for the year was held in May, at the Wondai RSL. There were 13 members of Wondai NHW and the public who attended, including local police officers. This allowed for members of the public and police to have a chat and discuss any concerns in their community.

In June Wondai Town and Rural NHW also hosted a special morning tea to thank all local first responders for National First Responders Day.

Wondai Town and Rural NHW decided that it would be a great way to thank all of the local Ambulance, Police, Fire Fighters, Rural Fire Brigade, SES, Blazeaid, Life Flight Rescue and the Royal Flying Doctors who assist their community, with representatives from many of these organisations present. Sergeant Brad Fewtrell, who is the Wondai Town and Rural NHW Police Liaison



A delicious 'Thank You' cake was enjoyed by attendees!

Officer, was also in attendance. The First Responder representatives spent time talking to members of the community about what they do and shared their experiences. It was a great morning, and all who attended said that they enjoyed the event. A highlight of the event was the delicious 'Thank You' cake!

Each of the First Responder representatives was presented with a 'Thank You Appreciation Certificate'



Police chatted with Wondai Town and Rural NHW members and the public at the Coffee with a Cop

from the Wondai Town and Rural NHW group, and those that couldn't attend on the day were posted a certificate.

The Wondai RSL Club was also presented with a certificate of appreciation for supporting NHW and allowing them to hold their meetings, Coffee with a Cop mornings and other NHW events. Thank you to all first responders and Wondai RSL!



NHW volunteers worked with the Shed Happens team and Mackay PCYC at Pancakes in the Park event

Pancakes and Family Fun in the Park

A morning of family fun organised in partnership with Mackay Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Mackay PCYC, Shed Happens Mackay and the Mackay Crime Prevention Unit went off with a blast.

Sack races, tug of war, Giant Jenga along with balancing games were all supervised by the Shed Happens men.

Pancakes were cooked on the NHW BBQ, and with the jam and cream meant they were irresistible. Sgt Dorinda Freeman the Mackay PCYC Manager, despite her competitive nature, managed to let others win a few games!

This type of event and the fruitful partnerships make all the hard work worthwhile nobody went hungry, no one was left out, and everyone could share their story and help someone out. Remember, 'Nobody goes backwards with encouragement - smile, it's contagious!'

Sgt Nigel Dalton DCPC Mackay, said, "Crime Prevention looks very different when the community works together, and being the end of Child Protection Week, it was wonderful to see families working and having fun together."

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this morning a great success.



Sgt Freeman was put to the test in tug of war against the children



Sgt Dalton and Sgt Freeman were going for gold in the sack race!

Mackay Australia Day Awards

Spreading messages of shared experience, personal growth and mateship has earned Mackay's Frank Cowell the title 2022 Citizen of the Year.



Vassie Comino, 2021 Citizen of the Year Mabel Quakawoot, 2022 Citizen of the Year Frank Cowell, and MacKay Mayor Greg Williamson

The driving force behind Shed Happens has been creating a network of support for men in the region since he brought the concept to Mackay from the Gold Coast.

Men's Shed Frank Cowell runs a raw and honest group for men that helps 'blokes' to connect.

Shed Happens is a non-judgemental place where men can be honest and talk about the good, bad, happy or sad, rather than bottling it up and hardening hearts to the ones they care about.

Mr Cowell calls himself the convener, for lack of a better word, organising the Shed Happens meetings in Mackay.

Known by many as a genuine man, his peers deemed him worthy of recognition for the tireless work he does in the community.

In addition to his involvement with Shed Happens, he is an active

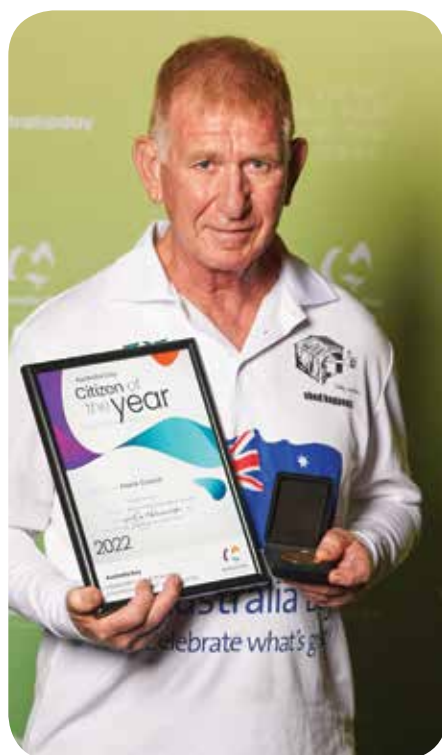
member of Mackay Northern Beaches Neighbourhood Watch, a local and regional judge for Lions Youth of the Year competition, Deacon with Beaches Baptist Church, and participates on the Suicide Prevention Action Committee.

Mr Cowell is also the head of the International Men's Day committee, which not only puts on an event to celebrate everyday heroes but raises funds to share with other not-for-profit organisations in our community.

They have raised \$9000 that has been donated to three local charities to date.

Among other good deeds, the volunteer work and role Mr Cowell plays in his local community has a significant flow-on effect for families and our region.

Mr Cowell received the award at a ceremony at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre.



Frank Cowell, from Shed Happens, won 2022 Citizen of the Year at Mackay Regional Council's 2022 Australia Day awards



Community BBQ in full swing at Daisy Hill

Daisy Hill NHW Celebrates 22 Years

In July Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) held a community BBQ for residents of Daisy Hill to celebrate 22 years of the group supporting police and community.

A fantastic turnout sharing crime prevention information, discussing the importance of reporting suspicious activity, while having friendly neighbourhood conversations over a plate of food – what more could you ask for?! The Barnyard Babies petting zoo was also a hit with the kids.

It was a lovely sunny day and the new marquee provided respite from the sun for the residents and volunteers. Information was handed out about NHW, focusing on crime prevention strategies while also promoting community awareness and the benefits of getting to know your neighbours. Thanks to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia for your help in securing funding for the marquee.

There were lots of new faces at the BBQ, as Daisy Hill is a very



Jill Devaus with Cliff Walker, the usual BBQ chef

big suburb and the police District Crime Prevention Unit has recently reviewed the boundaries so the NHW now covers the whole of Daisy Hill. This will be implemented gradually, as there is a lot of additional work required. There were quite a few enquiries from people

living in Daisy Hill streets in the newly incorporated area, all wanting to belong to NHW!

Funding for the BBQ came from Councillor Mindy Russell from Logan City Council, who was in attendance and helped out with raffle prizes and chatted with residents.

Neighbourhood Watch is an internationally recognised and established brand within the community and has a very strong and committed volunteer base.

It is a community-driven program delivered by community members in partnership with the police. The objective of NHW is to encourage community members to work together to establish local partnerships with the goal of reducing crime and improving the safety of all people who live, visit and do business in neighbourhoods.

In Memory of Carol Clare NHWQ

Carol Clare was the Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ) area coordinator for Caboolture 19 and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) member representing Moreton, prior to moving to Woodgate in 2020 where she continued to work as a Volunteer in Policing.

Carol's tireless work within the Moreton District was recognised when she was awarded the 2018 NHWQ State Community Member of the year.

Sadly, Carol passed away on 4 August 2022 with her loving family by her side.

Some of her fellow CAC members wanted to share their memories of Carol.

Jan McSweeney Thanks to NHWQ a newfound friend came into my life and was cemented when the newly formed CAC group was formed in 2015. I arrived to find I was sharing a room with a stranger or so I thought, until this friendly and effervescent younger lady with a big smile walked into the room. God knew what He was doing when we were put together. Carol you and your beautiful caring, sharing, gentle naturalness not only lit up a room but brought peace.

You brought so much hard work and energy to NHW and as a ViP. Things didn't always go smoothly as happens in any group of people, but you put your 'big girl pants' on and any 'hiccups' were resolved with your gentleness and optimism. Carol, you were a 'people person' who cared and had empathy for everyone you met.

We shared a love of sunrises, sunsets and exploring new surroundings. I miss you my 'Roomie' and will be forever grateful to our NHWQ family for the seven short years of memories you have left me with. Lots of fun and laughter whenever you were around. Your light shines on.



Carol Clare pictured with then QLD Police Commissioner Ian Stewart receiving the 2018 NHWQ State Community Member of the year award

Bill Jeffs Right from the start of CAC, Carol took to the task of improving NHW for everyone, tossed ideas around and 'lived' her CAC involvement. She prepared name tags for the committee members (ok, maybe so she would recognise us next time!) and immersed herself in the work of the committee; no mucking around for our Carol. Like the rest of us, she didn't know all of the answers but that didn't stop her from trying to find them.

Being named a Member of the Year at the 2018 NHWQ State Conference at Southport may have been a surprise to Carol but not to

those of us who had worked with her on the CAC.

When Wendy told us about Carol's passing and mentioned that she had gained her Angels Wings, my immediate thoughts were "If anyone deserves Angel's Wings it is Carol. Carol was always full of energy and cheekiness so I reckon she will sort that mob in Heaven out pretty quickly".

Ken Rehbein I remember Carol as a "human dynamo" extremely friendly, considerate and very committed to our CAC and NHWQ. She was always thinking of others.

NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Good neighbours are good for your health

Good Neighbours are Good for Your Health

According to new research from The Australian National University, good neighbours are good for your health!

The research found that neighbourhood relationships and social connections protected people against loneliness, depression and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People generally are much less likely to report symptoms of depression, anxiety and loneliness if they have positive perceptions of their neighbourhood social environments," lead author Dr James O'Donnell said.

"Neighbourhood cohesiveness is a really important social glue; it keeps us connected and supports our wellbeing in everyday life and

during a crisis. Everybody needs good neighbours. It is good for your health."

The study, which examined the period prior and during the second COVID-19 lockdown in Melbourne, provides powerful evidence on the mental health impacts of lockdowns. It found that if people perceived their neighbourhoods as being more cohesive, they were less likely to experience negative mental health outcomes.

"Our study shows social connections protected against loneliness, depression and anxiety," Dr O'Donnell said.

"Close-knit neighbourhoods and neighbours that trust one another, get along well and help each other can provide a really important source of social and psychological support."

It might be a good time to ask yourself how well you know your neighbours. If you don't know them, could you pluck up the courage to start making some connections? It will be easier than you think!

Find out more about the research here: <https://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/good-neighbours-are-good-for-your-health>.

Stirling North Paint by House Numbers

Earlier this year, Stirling North Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group and SA Police (SAPOL) were out in the community, painting house numbers on the kerbs of Progress and Kanyaka Avenues.

Helping the local community and emergency services by ensuring they can quickly identify houses in critical moments, the previous kerb numbers had started to fade so the proactive NHW group decided they needed a loving repaint.

The group reached out to the local Port Augusta Police to ask for some assistance and Probationary Constable (PC) Rhiannon Ireland saw the benefit in providing support, quickly mobilising extra volunteers to help carry out the task.

Everyone came together on 22 May to get painting, and thanks to all the volunteers' hard work they finished the job in a couple of hours.

PC Ireland was very thankful to the group and admired their proactive attitude.

"The group have been most welcoming and supportive with the project. They have been passionate to ensure it happens and helpful with gathering resources such as stencils and paint," PC Ireland said.

The Stirling North NHW group has been running for 31 years, carrying out various projects like this in the local community.

Marty Seymour, Stirling North NHW Area Coordinator is keen for more local people to join in the action.

"We would welcome new volunteers with open arms. We're always trying to think of new ideas for Stirling North how we can make it safer and more connected. If you're interested in helping us, please join us at our next meeting."



Stirling North NHW members getting ready to paint

The Stirling North group meets at 7:30pm on the last Tuesday of every month at the Stirling North Progress Association Hall.

Find out more about the group here: <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home/local-information/stirling-north>.

NHW SA attends the 2022 Let's Go Caravan Camping Show

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) SA teamed up with South Australia Police (SAPOL) to host a stall at the 2022 Let's Go Caravan and Camping Show.

Taking place at the Adelaide Showgrounds 27-31 July, the NHW and SAPOL teams were prepared for the communities' safety and crime prevention questions.

Located in the Duncan Gallery, they gave out a range of FREE safe driving, caravanning and crime prevention resources and giveaways to help the community stay safe when going on their next road trip adventure.

The Let's Go Caravan and Camping Show brought together industry experts and organisations in one huge event, providing a one-stop shop for those interested in caravanning and camping. You could see the latest caravans, camper trailers and RV's plus a huge range of camping equipment and accessories. There was plenty for kids to take part in too.



SAPOL's Senior Constable Alan Wallace at the NHW stall at the Caravan and Camping Show

NHW TAS

TASMANIA

New Shopping Centre Embraces Neighbourhood Watch Partnership, Every Step of the Way

Clarence Plains is a region on the eastern shore of the River Derwent in Tasmania. It is a location of significant suburban growth, and this article highlights the value in communities engaging with their business neighbours to grow together and build safety, pride, and respect in where they live.

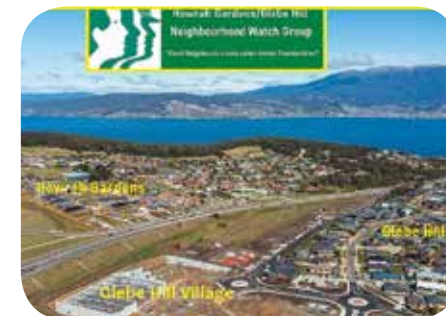
Howrah Gardens and Glebe Hill are two of the newer suburbs in Clarence Plains that straddle the South Arm Highway near the apex of Rokeby Hill. The midpoint between these two suburbs is the location for a brand-new Glebe Hill Village Shopping Centre constructed by Tipalea Partners.

Whether by good luck or good management, the Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was established around the same time that the first sod was turned for the shopping centre. As both entities continued to develop, so too did their partnership with the recognition that as neighbours, both the communities and the businesses could foster an ongoing relationship that would only be to the benefit of everyone in the neighbourhood.

Glebe Hill Village opened in August 2022 with great fanfare and a significant contribution from the local NHW. Members and volunteers helped to fill 400 tote bags with NHW merchandise and information about how to prevent crime and keep yourself and your vehicle safe from harm and theft. In the lead up to the day our volunteers engaged with the Clarence City Council to



Pakana Kanaplila Dance Troupe Members Harley Mansell, Nathan Pitchford, Tye Hart & Uncle Dougie Mansell, with NHW Stephen Bourke



Local police officers and Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill NHW Coordinator Stephen Bourke at the Glebe Hill Village opening

have NHW street signs strategically positioned on streets leading into and out of the new suburbs. NHW stickers continue to appear on local letterboxes, and shops in the complex are collaborating with our members to deliver events, such as 'Get Online Week' and 'Cuppa with a Cop'.

This partnership has seen NHW involvement in the area grow from strength to strength and serves as an excellent example of how engaged communities benefit from the networks that are created and the safety and wellbeing that people experience as a result of the process.

UK Conference Snap Shots by Peter Edwards

Neighbourhood Watch – An International Movement

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) operates in every state and territory of Australia. Our peak body, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA), also includes our partner from across the Tasman, Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand.

On 31 May this year, NHW Tasmania President and NHWA Director, Peter Edwards, was fortunate to attend the Neighbourhood Watch Conference for England and Wales (population 60 million) in London, which was celebrating 40 years of operations. The Neighbourhood Watch Network is said to be the largest crime prevention charity in the United Kingdom. It has a membership of 2.3 million people, with 90,000 volunteers.

Not unlike us in Australasia, their NHW is about 'being connected and feeling safe' by supporting all communities, inclusive of non-members and from diverse backgrounds. In their words, 'If its right for the community then its right for NHW'. This article contains some brief summaries of what Peter found to be interesting information worth sharing.

NHW Origins

Although it is commonly known that the Neighbourhood Watch concept started in the United States of America, one particular incident is reputed to be the catalyst that gave our movement the momentum to become what it is today.

In 1964, 28-year-old Kitty Genovese was stabbed to death in a public street in New York. Two weeks after the murder, it was rumoured that 38 witnesses saw or heard the attack, but none of them called the police or came to her aid. Although the truth of the rumour was later disputed, the reluctance of witnesses to intervene



Peter Edwards with Ian Bretman, Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch Network

became known as "the bystander effect" or Genovese Syndrome. It is believed that as a result, the very first Neighbourhood Watch scheme was set up.

The purpose of retelling this story, apart from the historical factor, is it provides a pathway to the UK Neighbourhood Watch launch of their Community Safety Charter.

Community Safety Charter

The Community Safety Charter is a means by which NHW members, local residents, businesses, and organisations, agree to do whatever they can together to provide an environment that is safer for

everyone, and help all community members to meet this goal by committing to four pledges. The pledges are:

Promote

Promote a culture that does not tolerate antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation, and hostility towards others.

Enable

Enable others to identify and take an active stance against these crimes and incidents.

Report

Actively encourage and support those who experience or witness these crimes and incidents to report them to the relevant authorities.

We are proud to support the
COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER



We pledge to:

PROMOTE

Promote a culture that does not tolerate antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation and hostility towards others

ENABLE

Enable others to identify and take an active stance against these crimes and incidents

REPORT

Actively encourage and support those who experience or witness these crimes and incidents to report them to the relevant authorities

SUPPORT

Support those affected and signpost those who need further support to agencies who can help them

ourwatch.org.uk/charter

#BETHECHANGE

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

Support

Support those affected and signpost those who need further support to agencies who can help them.

Anyone who wants to live in a safe and secure community would have no trouble embracing these principles. They epitomise the ethos of what NHW stands for, in all the countries of the world where we are established. However, to be promoted as a pledge, particularly for NHW members, but anyone who wants to be a decent member of society, is a much deeper commitment to the intent of the words.

Hate Crimes

Sadly, the issue of Hate Crimes received some prominence at the conference with a presentation from Dr David Wilkin from the Centre for Hate Studies at the University of Leicester. He explained a Hate Crime as, "A crime against someone because of their difference". It was indicated that there has been an increase in these crimes in the UK since its withdrawal from the European Union. Research has described the *Pyramid of Hate* as having five levels. At the base of the pyramid is bias;

followed by acts of prejudice; systematic discrimination; crime; and then the peak of the pyramid is genocide.

A reflection from the Australian perspective can be drawn from our most recent migration data which indicates that almost 30 percent of our population was born overseas. We know we are not immune from the lower levels of the pyramid that is described above. Being aware of overseas trends is a tool to help our own thinking about how we prevent our communities being impacted in a similar way.

The Long Lunch

To finish on a high note, a presentation from Tracey Robbins of the Eden Project highlighted the importance of human connections. The Eden Project is a charity whose mission is to create a movement that builds relationships between people and the natural world to demonstrate the power of working together for the benefit of all living things.

Ms Robbins spoke of their project called *The Big Lunch* which was happening at the time for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. The concept is not new, and it is extremely simple, to have lunch with your neighbours to build human connection, but it certainly had traction in the UK. There is effort in organising any event, but the message was that sharing lunch is a great way to engage and contribute to that sense of community within your neighbourhood, area, zone, or suburb. The persuasive statistic offered from their experience was that 63% of people would come to a *long lunch* if invited. These events happen right across their country and they report that 9 million people participated in 2021 and they were expecting this to double in 2022 to 18 million!

The Changing Type and Impact of Crime

On a recent visit to London, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Director, Peter Edwards, was invited to attend the annual conference for Neighbourhood Watch for England and Wales. A keynote speaker was Sir Bill Jeffrey, who briefed the conference on the findings from research conducted by the *The Police Foundation: The UK's policing think tank*.

UK Police Foundation Report

Australian policing is based on the model established in England, circa 1829, by Sir Robert Peel. Our policing and social systems (including Neighbourhood Watch) continue to be influenced by what happens in other western democracies, particularly the United Kingdom. A recent review of policing in England and Wales by the independent *Police Foundation*, released its final report in March 2022, *Redesigning Policing and Public Safety for the 21st Century*.

“A principal objective of Neighbourhood Watch is to support the police purpose of preventing crime.”

A principal objective of Neighbourhood Watch is to support the police purpose of preventing crime. Scanning the environment to project what the future may look like is important to ensure we stay focussed, when the only constant is change. This article is a snapshot of some key observations and recommendations contained within that UK report. It is expected that the reader will find many similarities with the Australian experience and salutary advice in its recommendations.



Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Director, Peter Edwards

Crime Statistics

Over the past 25 years traditional crime in England and Wales (except fraud and cybercrime) has fallen by 75%! Without making a direct comparison, contemporary Australian research by Weatherburn and Rahman, has also revealed that most common forms of crime have fallen between 40 and 80 percent over the recent 20-to-30 year period in our country. On face value this is great news. However, the cautionary tale, according to the UK report, is

that other crimes have evolved as a result of three transformations in societies.

These societal transformations may seem self-evident, but it is worthwhile reflecting on some of the detail to consider the present, and long term affects, that they generate. The benefit of exploring these impacts is to better project what this means for the police, and as a consequence, for Neighbourhood Watch – whether in the UK or Australia.

1. The Technological Revolution

The internet has created a whole new environment for crime to occur. The speed of technology is a serious challenge for police and security agencies to keep pace. Fraud and cybercrime now make up over 50% of all crime affecting people in England and Wales.

2. The Environmental Crisis

The world is now experiencing more intense and extreme weather events, and this is increasingly evident in Australia with floods, droughts, and storms. More people across the world are being displaced because of these climate impacts with consequences for international migration, refugee management, political protests, and unrest. Population growth, pandemics and poverty are disruptive with ongoing implications for policing and public safety.

3. Social Change

Complex social needs manifesting in increased mental health incidents and missing persons reports continue to impact on police services. Increased reporting of domestic related crimes, the evidence of sexual abuse of women and children and an increase in hate crimes are part of the UK landscape and these are not foreign to the Australian environment. Terrorism remains a constant threat to public security and organised crime will continue to use these new tools and trends to exploit the vulnerable, greedy, and gullible.

What does this mean?

Fear of crime is still a very real concern, particularly for those on a low income and other marginalised groups, including women, but more particularly people from a non-white demographic. Increased migration is expected, so it is reasonable

to assume that police will continue to be challenged by the associated complexities. Community organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch, can have an even greater role in promoting safety and engagement to help reduce these fears in more vulnerable communities.

The UK report says the police do not have the capacity or resources to solely tackle these challenges. The report specifically makes out the case for an improved crime prevention strategy and highlights the importance of Community

“Fear of crime is still a very real concern, particularly for those on a low income and other marginalised groups, including women, but more particularly people from a non-white demographic.”

Safety Partnerships. This language is not new in western societies, but the UK report does propose 56 recommendations of how policing can embrace reform and effectively serve the people in its communities.

It is significant that in 1829 Sir Robert Peel documented nine principles that have guided western policing services ever since. The principles start with *the purpose of police is to prevent crime; the ninth principle is that the measure of police performance will be the absence of crime*. Almost two hundred years later, these principles still hold true.

Conclusion

This article is but a cursory summary of what is claimed to be the first independent review of policing in the UK for many years. Its intent is to describe the police service needed to address the challenges of the 21st century. The ethos of Neighbourhood Watch can take confidence in the report recommendations which are littered with the importance of community engagement, legitimacy, neighbourhood policing and Community Partnerships. So, our value and purpose won't change, although we will continue to look for new ways to do those things better, to help make our neighbourhoods great places to live.

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The Police Foundation. *The Final Report of the Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales: Summary. A New Mode of Protection: Redesigning policing and public safety for the 21st century*. London. March 2022.

Farewell to Commissioner Darren Hine AO PSM APM

In March of 2022, Darren Hine announced that he would retire on 10 October 2022 after serving 14 years in the roles of Commissioner of the Tasmania Police Service, and Secretary of the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management.

For many years Darren has been the longest serving police commissioner in Australia and has provided significant leadership in national and international forums, including Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) and Chair of the National Crime Statistics Board of Management (NCSU).

Commissioner Hine started his career as a 17-year-old cadet in 1980 at the Tasmania Police Academy. He regularly gives credit of his career choice to an incident in his youth when he had a serious crash on his bicycle. The attending officer made such an impression with his professionalism, care, and concern, that the young Darren Hine wanted to emulate those qualities as a police officer himself. Throughout his early career Mr Hine worked in many operational areas, including uniform, criminal investigations, and specialist operations. He has always supported the work of the key support organisations which include Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Crime Stoppers and the Police and Community Youth Clubs.

In 2015, Commissioner Hine was appointed by the Prime Minister to the Australian Government's Advisory Panel to Reduce Violence against Women. This is a role for which he has made a personal commitment and he remains a strong advocate for tackling violence against women and children. As the Secretary of the Department for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Commissioner Hine has been instrumental in coordinating the work of those agencies to improve services to Tasmanian communities.



Accepting a NHW Certificate of Appreciation from NHW Tasmania President Peter Edwards



Commissioner Darren Hine

He is particularly recognised for advancing the investment in health and wellbeing of all departmental employees and members.

Commissioner Hine was awarded the National Medal in 1995, the Commissioner's Medal in 1999, the Australian Police Medal in 2002 and

the National Police Service Medal in 2012. In 2020 he was inducted as an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to law enforcement, and to the community. In 2022, Commissioner Hine was awarded the Public Service Medal for his extraordinary contribution to keeping Tasmanians safe from the threat of COVID-19 through exemplary leadership and management of Tasmania's response to the pandemic.

For all his accolades, Darren Hine has never accepted them without recognising that he is but one person whose achievements reflect the effort and quality of the team that support him. Although, as a keen runner, he has completed five marathons, so he can take personal credit and individual pride in those accomplishments!

NHW WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Neighbourhood Watch at the City of Melville in Western Australia

In the City of Melville, the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program is overseen by the NHW Committee comprising 12 members, who work to create welcoming, friendly, safe and secure neighbourhoods by conducting and participating in NHW promotional events. Some of events the committee are involved in include; participation in bimonthly meetings, an annual planning workshop, supporting and participating in WA Police and City of Melville community safety and crime prevention initiatives, planning and implementing events, activities, and initiatives that promote welcoming and secure neighbourhoods.

The city's NHW team also contributes information to the Safer Melville eNews newsletter, recruits new volunteers, contributes information on social media in accordance with guidelines, makes reports on each promotional event for city and Police HQ, participates in meetings and activities with other cities, and contributes to continuous improvement of both the city and WA's State guideline manuals.

Some popular events where NHW team has made contact with hundreds of community members are the city's Australia Day celebrations, Limestone concerts, seniors' forums and NHW Week celebrations at Westfield Garden City, Booragoon.

Some popular resources, which the community members enjoy and look forward to receiving are, NHW bags,



Celebrating Christmas at Bunnings Melville



With Local MLA at Winthrop Village



CoM NHW Team At Westfield Booragoon



NHW team at Hawaiian's Melville

wheelie bin and window stickers, children's activity books, personal alarms and police paper hats. The local community members are very appreciative of the information sessions conducted by the NHW team.

The NHW team is quite technology focused, and with the assistance of the State office has made up QR code posters of all resource materials, thereby eliminating the need of printed material. The usage of CCTV is supported, along with City of Melville and the WA State

Government, who are both providing assistance by way of grant funding for security systems. Melville NHW also successfully uses technology to conduct meetings online.

Since 2008, the team has been led by Atul Garg as Chairperson. Atul has been a NHW volunteer for 29 years and is also a member of the NHW WA Board, as the volunteer representative.

The photos show some of the recent activities in which Melville NHW have been involved.

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.

