



# NHWA

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







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Cover photo: NHWA Chair Bernie Durkin of WA Police, Assistant Commissioner Dario Bolzonella WA Police Operation Support, WA Governor His Excellency the Hon Chris Dawson APM, Ms Peta Walker representing the late Superintendent Jim King, and NHWA CEO Maria Bennett

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# FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

## Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

Welcome to the first edition of the 2023 NHA Journal!

At Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHA) we've hit the ground running with many projects, plans and initiatives underway as we continue to work towards ensuring the safety and security of all Australians!



## NHWA AGM and Board Meeting



Lizzie McGrory, Brent Register, Lesa Gale, Margaret Pearson, Bernie Durkin, Maria Bennett, Commissioner Reece Kershaw, Chief Police Officer Neil Gaughan, Laurie Blackall, Peter Edwards, Cameron Devey

The Annual General Meeting was held in Canberra in November 2022, with NHWA Patron, Australian Federal Police Commissioner Reece P Kershaw APM, delivering the opening address. The Patron spoke of the importance of police and community achieving greater outcomes for community safety in the areas of online child exploitation and cybercrime.

## NHWA's 2022 Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioners' Awards

During the NHWA November Board meeting the winners of the **2022 Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioners' Awards** were announced. The awards confirm and acknowledge the importance of police and community working together.

Congratulations to all nominees for their outstanding contribution to Neighbourhood Watch. Read more p10.

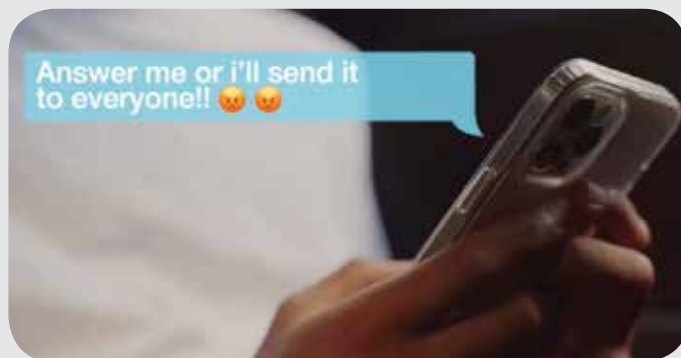


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## NHW Month

NHWA partnered with Crimsafe in March for another extremely successful Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Month. Read more p8.

## Online Child Safety Community Service Announcements



NHWA has partnered with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) to produce 3 Community Service Announcements (CSAs) to inform parents and carers how to recognise, respond to and report suspected online child sexual exploitation.

The ACCCE reports that in recent years there has been an exponential increase in online exploitation and advises that it is important that parents and carers know how to take action to prevent online child sexual exploitation.

NHWA's Online Child Safety CSA's highlights what parents and carers should do in these situations – focussing on three key areas: awareness of the extent of the problem, red flags to watch out for, and supporting children to speak up and report.

The CSAs have been distributed nation-wide to television and radio stations, as well as social media.

To view the 3 CSAs go to: [www.nhwa.com.au/resources/tvc-messages/](http://www.nhwa.com.au/resources/tvc-messages/)

If you have seen inappropriate behaviour towards children online, get help and report at: [www.accce.gov.au/help-and-support/who-can-help](http://www.accce.gov.au/help-and-support/who-can-help) or [www.accce.gov.au/report](http://www.accce.gov.au/report)



## Meeting with Asst Minister Andrew Leigh



Lizzie McGrory, Bernie Durkin, Maria Bennett, Peter Edwards, Asst Minister Andrew Leigh, Margaret Pearson, Clare McGrath, Brent Register

In November, while the NHWA Board met for the Annual General Meeting in Canberra, they were delighted to meet with the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP - Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury. The NHWA Board took the opportunity to discuss the organisation's current & future projects, and the role of NHW across Australia and New Zealand. One of the topics discussed was the importance of getting involved in the community, in order to reduce feelings of isolation and improve community safety. It was great to hear from Assistant Minister Leigh, who has researched widely on the topic and has released a book 'Reconnected' co-authored with Nick Terrell, looking at how strong social connections improve community resilience and help get through 'hard times'.

## Bridging the Digital Divide



NHWA continues to deliver the Be Connected Digital Mentor training, with more than 100 new Digital Mentors to be trained to assist with bridging the digital divide in Australia. This year NHWA has implemented a new initiative for NHWA Digital Mentor graduates to connect and communicate with each other via a dedicated closed Facebook page, which has proven to be a remarkable success.

To sign up for the Digital Mentor training, or to connect with a qualified Digital Mentor to assist with teaching digital skills in your NHW community, contact us at [admin@nhwa.com.au](mailto:admin@nhwa.com.au).

## 2023 Upcoming Events & Dates

### Secure September 1 – 30 Sept

A month-long campaign to improve home and personal security.

### National Secure at Home Day 23, 24 Sept

In 2022 NHWA began an exciting new major project, which has gathered momentum during 2023. The Safety For All project is a multi-tiered project built on the foundations of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), to improve home security nation-wide.



Working with University of Queensland researcher Dr Renee Zahnow and local NHW representatives, Safety For All will demonstrate and deliver target-hardening objectives and outcomes through the provision of and access to up-to-date information and education.

**The project will also establish an annual National Secure at Home Day (NHSD) to be held on the last weekend of Secure September (23 and 24), when people will be encouraged and empowered to undertake security audits of their homes. Read more on p11.**



### Get Online Week 16-22 Oct 2023

A week-long annual celebration that sees thousands of events take place each year, giving everyone the chance to find the support they need to improve their digital skills.

**Grant applications open 3 July, contact [admin@nhwa.com.au](mailto:admin@nhwa.com.au)**

### NHW Week 6-12 Nov 2023

NHWA and Bunnings are partnering again this year to combine NHW Week and Crime Prevention Week.

**To keep up to date with upcoming events and opportunities, go to [www.nhwa.com.au/calendar/](http://www.nhwa.com.au/calendar/)**

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

Stay safe and connected.

**Together we achieve great things**

**Neighbourhood Watch – the Power of Many**

*Maria Bennett*

**Maria Bennett**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia  
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**Let's take action.**  
**Let's take ownership.**  
**Number 1 Stay Safe.**





# 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.



## Inspector Rob Fleischer – Queensland

After joining the New South Wales Police Service in 1997, Rob moved to the Queensland Police Service in 2002. He has worked in various areas of Policing, including general duties, Drug Unit, Covert and Surveillance Operations Unit, State Intelligence Group and the Security and Counter-Terrorism Group where he was made Operations Leader. Rob is currently an Inspector, Strategy and Performance Officer, in the Commissioner's Office. Since this time Rob has performed various other roles on behalf of the Commissioner, including the Commissioner's Chief of Staff and Ministerial Liaison Officer.



## 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.



# UC Capitals Promote Online Child Safety with *Jack Changes the Game*

Basketball stars Alex Bunton and Britt Smart helped promote children's picture *Jack Changes the Game*, using it to share an important message about online safety with their fans.

The University of Canberra (UC) Capitals players joined Australian Federal Police (AFP) Assistant Commissioner Hilda Sirec in January to share the book, which is a first-of-its-kind for law enforcement.

Written by notable children's author Tess Rowley and illustrated by Shannon Horsfall, the book was developed by the AFP's ThinkUKnow program, in partnership with the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE).

Based on a real report to the ACCCE, the book gives age-appropriate advice on how to recognise online child sexual exploitation, including online grooming, and how to take action and make a report to police.

Ms Bunton said the UC Capitals were "a family friendly club and we are fortunate to connect with a lot of young fans at our games."

"They have become our second family and we hope this book can help educate them, and all children, about online safety," Ms Bunton said.

Assistant Commissioner Sirec said the book was a powerful resource and one that will help families around Australia begin important conversations.

"Around half of Australian parents and carers regularly talk to their child about online safety. With children spending more time online, it is important we teach them about safe practices and encourage help-seeking behaviours.



University of Canberra Capitals fans enjoyed a reading of *Jack Changes the Game* by Britt Smart and Alex Bunton



Children attending the event enjoyed a reading of *Jack Changes the Game* with University of Canberra Capitals player, Britt Smart

"*Jack Changes the Game* was created as a resource to start conversations with 5 to 8 year olds in a simple, yet effective way," Assistant Commissioner Sirec said.

A reference group comprising of Australia's leading experts in education and child protection, provided subject matter expertise and guidance on the development of the book.

Subscribe to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation



University of Canberra Capitals players Alex Bunton, daughter Opal, and Britt Smart joined Assistant Commissioner Hilda Sirec to promote the importance of online child safety

channel on YouTube to hear more from the reference group.

*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](https://www.thinkuknow.org.au)

## Be Connected and Make Online Safety a Priority

Giving family members tech gifts like home assistants and smart phones may be very welcome and well intentioned, but these electronic devices can also be overwhelming and risky for older Australians if not set up securely.

This year, the eSafety Commissioner is encouraging everyone to support older relatives and friends by taking the time to check their device settings and reinforce the importance of online safety, with help from Be Connected.

"Technology and electronic devices can help open up a wide and wonderful new world for older Australians – from facilitating video calls and connection on social media, to introducing new hobbies like listening to podcasts or playing online games," eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said.

"Access to services and social connection through digital technology and the internet is empowering. However, we know that it can also be overwhelming to an older person who may not feel confident online and doesn't know what to look for when setting up a new device or signing up for a digital service.

"Even those of us who use technology on a daily basis can find it challenging to create strong passwords and review privacy settings across our devices and accounts. For older Australians who haven't had as much exposure to the online world, this can be an even more intimidating process full of confusing tech jargon."

eSafety is encouraging everyone to help improve the digital skills of those around us by taking time to share the importance of online safety.

Be Connected provides a wide range of self-paced courses to help improve online safety and security settings, accompanied by easy-to-follow instructions with short videos and summary sheets to download and use as helpful reference tools.



eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant

**Keep these online safety tips front of mind and help build good habits to keep you and your loved ones safe online:**

- **Make your passwords strong and unique, and set up multi-factor authentication on accounts.**
- **Don't share more information than you need to: when signing up for online services or registering an account, remember that you can choose to skip fields marked as optional.**
- **Adjust your privacy settings on social media platforms to help protect your personal information and be mindful about how much information is in the photos or videos you share.**
- **Be aware of scams: there are many online, email and phone scams out there, so it's important to stay vigilant. Remember, if something looks too good to be true, it probably is.**

"No matter our age or digital skill level, we all need to be careful about the amount of personal information we disclose online, especially as technology



evolves and new devices have the potential to collect extensive location and biometric information including fingerprint logins," Ms Inman Grant said.

"In connecting our loved ones through new devices and online services, we need to make sure devices and accounts are set up securely, so we don't unintentionally open them up to scams and other vulnerabilities."

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](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au).**





# Building Resilient Neighbourhoods

## Showing Safety in Numbers

During March 2023, crime prevention partners **Crimsafe** and **Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW)** came together once again as part of Neighbourhood Watch Month for their 'Safety in Numbers' campaign.

Putting new meaning to 'Safety in Numbers', the month-long campaign encouraged homeowners to join others in their local community, including Neighbourhood Watch groups, to build safer, more crime-resilient neighbourhoods by collectively improving the security of each home in their local area, by utilising the Secure Score tool. The higher a home's Secure Score, the better protected it is against unwanted break-ins, theft or property damage. Likewise, the higher the average Secure Score in a local community, the more resilient it is against crime.

The campaign followed other successful change-behaviour initiatives that Crimsafe and NHWA have promoted since joining as crime prevention partners in 2021. Neighbourhood Watch Month and the Secure September campaigns encouraged homeowners to improve the security of their homes with Secure Score. The most recent campaign was an extension of these, encouraging communities to show safety in numbers by coming together to become more resilient against crime in the neighbourhood.

Throughout the month, both Crimsafe and NHWA shared a tiered action plan across their websites and social media channels so homeowners could boost their

Secure Score, improve their home security, and by doing so, improve community safety.

The tiered actioned plan listed thirteen home security improvements that a homeowner could make to boost their Secure Score by up to 66 points. While some security improvements required an investment, many could be done at no cost – proof that improving home security doesn't have to cost a lot.

If you missed the tiered action plan, here are some simple ways you can boost your Secure Score and help reduce crime in your neighbourhood:

### Home Security improvements - \$0

- **+3 points – Keep shoes by the front door**
- **+5 points – Move your wheelie bins to a secure location, not against the house**
- **+6 points – Lock your garden shed and garage**

### Home Security improvements - \$250+

- **+3 points – Install a peephole on your front door**
- **+6 points – Install sensor lights around external doors and windows**

### Home Security improvements - \$500+

- **+4 points – Install visible alarms or CCTV cameras**
- **+8 points – Install Crimsafe security screens on your doors and windows**

The complete tiered action plan, worth 66 Secure Score points, can be downloaded from the Crimsafe website – just scan the QR code to get a copy.



If you missed Neighbourhood Watch Month and would like to find out what safety in numbers means for your neighbourhood, check out your Secure Score now at <https://securescore.crimsafe.com.au/>

Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia will come together again later in the year for Secure September. Now in its third year, the campaign will continue to encourage Australians to become more security conscious



and improve their home security, all while promoting a community-minded approach to crime prevention and local Neighbourhood Watch groups.

Follow Crimsafe (Facebook and Instagram) and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (Facebook and Instagram), for helpful tips to increase security at home and in your local community.

### What is Secure Score?

Since it launched in 2021, Secure Score has attracted more than 100,000 visitors to the site and

has provided many homeowners with a tailored action plan and practical tips to improve their home security measures. A joint initiative by Crimsafe and NHWA, the free, online home security audit tool was designed to promote safer and more secure communities by empowering home owners to make their homes more secure.

A home's Secure Score is determined by assessing the existing security measures from the street level, within the yard and inside the home. Each security feature, such as a spotlight,

security camera or security screen, is assigned a valued which makes up a home's Secure Score – a score out of 100.

Find out your Secure Score now at [www.nhwa.com.au/resources/secure-score/](http://www.nhwa.com.au/resources/secure-score/)



Scan to go to podcast

### Links to social media sites:

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[www.facebook.com/Crimsafe/](https://www.facebook.com/Crimsafe/)

[www.instagram.com/crimsafesecuritysystems/](https://www.instagram.com/crimsafesecuritysystems/)



# 2022 NHWA Malcom Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioners' Awards

The Winners of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia's 2022 Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award and Police Commissioner's Award and have been announced!

The Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Awards are presented in recognition of persons who have worked with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups and actively demonstrated empowering people and communities, through the development of effective partnerships between the police and community that promote safer communities, engagement, and social inclusion.

## The Winners are:

- **NHWA 2022 Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award:** Gerri Kissner, Mackay Northern Beaches NHW QLD
- **NHWA 2022 Police Commissioner's Award:** Sergeant Nigel Dalton, Mackay District, Queensland Police Service

This is the first time in the history of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia awards that both winners have been selected from the same region, in the same state. This outcome is testament to the achievements of Police and community working together in the Mackay District – a most fortunate NHW district indeed! The calibre and standard demonstrated by the nominees for both awards were extremely high, making the final decisions of the judges (being three independent judges from the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia,

and Tasmania) extra difficult, and the judges took the unprecedented step of commending a Runner Up recipient across both Awards.

## The Runners Up are:

- **NHWA 2022 Runner Up Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award:** Annette Moon, Mudgeeraba NHW Gold Coast District, QLD
- **NHWA 2022 Runner Up 2022 Police Commissioner's Award:** Senior Constable Annabel Shegog, Northern Police District, Launceston, Tasmania Police

All other nominees for the NHWA 2022 Awards, who will be receiving a **Certificate of Appreciation**, are:

- Clare McGrath, Ainslie NHW, ACT NHW, and NHWA
- Constable Eden Walters, Broadwater, Queensland Police Service
- Constable Marita Osborn, Southern District, Tasmania Police
- Heather Allard, Yatala NHW QLD
- Jan McSweeney, North Rockhampton 4 NHW QLD
- Jay Peters, Newport Westside NHW QLD
- Katie O'Reilly, Ryde NHW NSW
- Neil Parker, Mountain Creek NHW (M8) QLD
- Peter Barrett, Gold Coast District NHW QLD
- Senior Sergeant Steve Castledine, Fremantle District, WA Police Force
- Sharon Leigh-Hazell, Florey NHW ACT
- Vicki Whalan, Kirwan 10 NHW QLD
- Wayne Burgess, Illawarra Watch, Kingston LGA, and NHW TAS
- Wayne Deaner, Wagga Wagga NHW NSW

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia congratulates the Neighbourhood Watch groups and the Police Service on these extremely well-deserved awards.

*"The Police are the Public; the Public are the Police."* Sir Robert Peel, 1829.

The 2023 NHWA Awards will open on 1st July.



**S·A·F·E**  
SAFER AUSTRALIA FOR EVERYONE



## Safer Australia For Everyone (SAFE) project

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) has begun the 'Safer Australia For Everyone' (SAFE) project, a multi-tiered home security improvement program built on the foundations of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is based on the design elements in built environments that enhance personal, home and community security and safety. This can be achieved through the practical application of methods such as 'target hardening' and 'cocooning.'

Target hardening is a process wherein a building or place is made into a more difficult, or a less attractive, target, through practical applications such as effective fencing, secure locks, installation of security lights and/or CCTV cameras, and the lessening of opportunity for unlawful entry to premises. This includes the installation of security screening on windows and doors, and the removal of items that could be used to assist with entry access, such as wheelie bins.

Cocooning in CPTED terms is a form of wrapping community support and awareness around nearby homes, to protect them from criminals who strike repeatedly in the same home or neighbourhood once they are familiar with it.

**Working in conjunction with The University of Queensland, Criminology researcher Dr Renee Zahnow, NHWA will deliver the SAFE project in collaboration with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups, based in districts where home break-ins are a primary issue.**



Lizzie McGrory NHWA Project Manager with Dr Renee Zahnow UQ

**In Tier 1 SAFE project** - NHW volunteers are provided with CPTED training. The CPTED trained NHW volunteers will then connect with victims of burglary to undertake Home Security Audits of their homes with recommendations for security improvements.

**Tier 2 SAFE project** - 500 homes will be offered target hardening measures to better secure properties, including the installation of locks, lights, screens, cameras, and foliage cutbacks, with costs covered to the value of \$500 per household.

**Tier 3 SAFE project** - the establishment of the inaugural annual **National Secure At Home Day**, held during the last weekend of Secure September, on 23 and 24 September 2023. On these days NHW groups and all households will be encouraged and empowered to dedicate some

time to conduct a crime prevention audit of their home, guided by a downloaded target hardening checklist from the newly established **secureathomeday.com.au** website.

The SAFE project, once finalised, will have continuing benefit for the wider community, with resources and materials being available to educate the public in target hardening practices. The *National Secure At Home Day* will also remain as an annual fixture on the NHWA calendar.





# NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## Community and Police Working Together for Safer Communities

“We are only as strong as the sum of our parts, and as Police, our parts are the relationships with partner agencies we rely upon on a daily basis to ensure our community stays safe,” said Commander Joanne Cameron.

With this observation, Commander Joanne Cameron, acting Deputy Chief Police Officer of ACT Policing, had the rapt attention of her audience at the Neighbourhood Watch ACT 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Commander Cameron has spent most of her 25-year career with the Australian Federal Police in ACT Policing, experiencing the darker side of humanity and the criminal activity it attracts. Outlaw motorcycles gangs, organised crime, family violence, increasing calls for assistance and broadly an ever-increasing demand for service.

“We are fortuitous enough in the ACT to have very strong relationships with those that significantly contribute to our ability to service the community,” Commander Cameron said.

**“The community is our most important - dare I say - integral partner, and Neighbourhood Watch has always been at the forefront, assisting Police by continuing to encourage the community to report suspicious behaviour, working together at the grassroots community level to prevent crime and assist police with responding to local issues.”**



Commander Joanne Cameron, acting Deputy Chief Police Officer of ACT Policing

“Without the community, we cannot attempt to be proactive, much less attempt to deter young people or intervene when they are most vulnerable, and without the assistance that Neighbourhood Watch asks of the community, we cannot assist these same young people to be diverted away from the criminal justice system.”

Commander Cameron said that, to identify new and emerging trends in crime or to use their support to promote legislative reform, “the community is assisting us to service whem effectively and efficiently and will continue to be a close partner as we implement new strategies to prevent crime

and divert potential offenders under the Police Services Model.

“We must look into the future and be prepared to confront the challenges we see coming to us. This might mean the traditions of the past are adapted to meet the needs of that future, whilst still preserving the core tenants of why we, the police, exist. And whilst changes to our systems, technology and processes might change over time, one principle will remain a cornerstone to our existence — our relationship with the Canberra community.

**“And, of course, Neighbourhood Watch is that conduit with the community.”**

**Commander Cameron noted that the relationship Neighbourhood Watch has had with the ACT community since the 1980s “is invaluable and critical to ACT Policing’s success if we are to have a lasting and positive impact on community safety.”**

**“I am committed to improving how ACT Policing services the Canberra community and I am grateful for the support Neighbourhood Watch provides to ACT Policing as a key partner in making the Territory a safer place.”**



Sharon Leigh-Hazell receiving her Award from ACT Chief Police Officer Neil Gaughan APM

## ACT NHW 2022 Member of the Year Award – Sharon Leigh-Hazell

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

The 2022 recipient, Sharon Leigh-Hazell, was presented with her Award by ACT Chief Police Officer & Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM.

NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall said that Sharon had been recognised by her local community for her significant contribution to helping to make Florey a safer and more inclusive suburb.

Mr Blackall said that in early 2018, Florey NHW was reactivated with Sharon being appointed Area Coordinator, a position she held until her move interstate in mid-2022.

Mr Blackall, “Sharon’s leadership, enthusiasm and many hours spent organising activities and events in Florey and the wider Belconnen region have helped to raise the profile

of NHW and substantially contributed to safety and security in the region.

“As District Delegate for Belconnen, Sharon’s contribution to the broader NHW community as a member of the Board, and as Social Media Adviser, has also left the organisation better positioned to develop into the future.

“Over her four years involvement with ACT NHW, Sharon continuously demonstrated a very strong commitment to the organisation and showed how it could play an important role in crime prevention and building social cohesion in the community,” said Mr Blackall.



# ACT NHW 2022 Police Recognition Award - Adrienne Carey

The 'ACT Neighbourhood Watch Police Recognition Award' recognises outstanding service by an individual ACT Policing officer or ACT Policing employee who has consistently contributed to Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and the concept of community policing in the ACT.

Unfortunately, the recipient of the 2022 Award, Adrienne Carey, was unable to attend the Awards Night function, however, NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall announced that ACT Chief Police Officer and Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM, would present Adrienne with her Award upon her return to Canberra.

Mr. Blackall noted that Adrienne has provided significant and sustained support to NHW, "most notably in her support of Neighbourhood Watch engagement with ACT Policing and all sectors of the community."



Award recipient Adrienne Carey

"Adrienne was always available when her input or advice on public relations and engagement was sought. She made

herself available to share ideas and discuss ways in which Neighbourhood Watch could enhance our liaison with ACT Policing and coordinate public engagement activities."

"Adrienne facilitated attendance at events where appropriate, particularly during the recent COVID-related restrictions. She provided great support to a number of events that Neighbourhood Watch was involved in as restrictions on activities in the ACT were eased, and always considered Neighbourhood Watch when managing relevant ACT policing activities."

## Clare Passes the Baton

After more than a decade on the Crime Stoppers Board, Clare is stepping back from the position.

Her last official act with Crime Stoppers was to introduce her replacement to the Board, NHW ACT Secretary and Board member Angela Di Pauli.

At a recent Board meeting of ACT Crime Stoppers, Chairperson Oliver Forrester presented Clare with a 'Certificate of Appreciation' for her role of liaison between the two organisations.

Clare will continue to occupy her senior positions within NHW ACT & NHWA.

Thank you to Clare for her time and commitment to Crime Stoppers for over a decade.



ACT Crime Stoppers Chairperson, Oliver Forrester, presents a 'Certificate of Appreciation' to Clare McGrath



ACT Membership Secretary Jude Bowman and ACT Secretary Angela Di Pauli handling enquiries at the NHW end of the joint booth

## ACT Veterans & Seniors Expo

With the aim of increasing the level of engagement with older Canberrans at one great large-scale event under one roof, the Council on the Ageing (COTA) ACT launched the *2022 Silver is Gold Veterans and Seniors Expo* – the first of its kind in Australia.

**Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT and the Australian Federal Police's ACT Policing saw the Expo as an excellent opportunity to impart information and promote their services to older Canberrans, including the 26,000 members of the ACT veterans' community.**

COTA notes that, collectively, this group of older Canberrans represent over 100,000 people, or one-quarter of the entire ACT population.

As they have often done at other community events, NHW and ACT Policing shared an extended booth from which they could showcase their services to the community, answer questions from attendees, and provide brochures and pamphlets highlighting personal safety and security.



ACT Policing's Belinda Maxwell and Constable Tracy Rollings assisting Expo visitors

**The timing of the Expo was fortuitous in that it fitted in with NHW ACT's efforts to promote 'Secure September' activities.**

There were over 140 exhibition stalls representing community organisations, government agencies, and businesses offering services and advice of relevance and interest to both veterans and seniors within the community.

In addition to stalls focusing on lifestyle and recreational activities, others offered retirement living options and advice; veterans' affairs services; government and community services; and health and fitness programs.

Another highlight was the live music from the Band of the Royal Military College Duntroon!



# NHW NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES

## How NHW Evolved Online

In December 1984 Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), an unincorporated association of like-minded individuals, was launched at Campsie, New South Wales.

In December 2018, NHW NSW became incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) in line with the trend to ensure that the members are protected from personal liability in respect of activities carried out in the name of their Association.

Neighbourhood Watch New South Wales Incorporated became a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in October 2021.

However, NHW New South Wales Incorporated still remains a 'grass roots' organisation. It acts as the umbrella organisation for numerous local NHW groups around the state of NSW, offering them advice and resources.

Some NHW groups registered with NHW NSW have over recent years adopted evolving technologies. For instance, NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby have created a profile online. They have a website (au-nhwkuringgaiHornsby.org), weekly eNewsletter, Twitter account, a Facebook page and group, in addition to many of the suburbs in their Police Area Command each having their own NHW Facebook page. Its objectives remain the same – of neighbours watching out for each other, in close cooperation with the local members of the NSW Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command.

In technical terms NHW facilitates the means by which people feel more connected and involved in their local community, thereby ensuring that suspicious behaviour can be



A selection of Frequently Asked Questions



Have a brochure

reported to police quickly. Police can either prevent criminal behaviour or apprehend the criminals in the act, or shortly thereafter. Residents are further educated in crime prevention and empowered to take responsibility for protecting themselves, including protection from the growing online crimes, such as fraud, scams and identity theft.

As Chief Inspector Josh Maxwell of the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) described their online presence on Facebook, when the NSWPF eyewatch was launched in 2011: "It's like having a police officer on every corner!" NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby can add to that: "It's like all the crime prevention information at your fingertips".

To see how NHW Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby have adopted their online presence, go to the website landing page at: <https://au-nhwkuringgaiHornsby.org/> and view the information available. Maybe you can download handy tips on how to keep you, your home and your home contents safe, or peruse their Frequently Asked Questions.

### How do you join Neighbourhood Watch?

Once you start, the more you understand about what you can do, the more you want to share with your neighbours. Isn't that a good thing? And that's how a local NHW group is formed – just go to the NHW NSW website [www.nhwnsw.au](http://www.nhwnsw.au) to get details on 'Starting a Group'.



SCAN ME

## Protect Your Home

Home should be a place where you and your family can enjoy safety and security.

Criminals are often opportunists and are likely to target homes with poor home security to steal belongings. You can secure your home by taking a few simple steps which can significantly lower the risk of your home being the target of thieves.

**Here are some simple steps we all can take to help protect our home.**

### Secure Your Home

- Fit quality security doors, windows, locks, alarms, lighting and warning signs.
- Secure all windows and doors.
- Activate your alarm, smoke detectors and security lighting.
- Upgrade your alarm system to a monitored system (back to base).
- Consider installing CCTV cameras that allow you to remote view.
- Lock your gates, sheds and garages.

### Check Your Home

- Ensure your street number is clearly visible.
- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed to improve visibility around your home.
- Lock away items such as ladders, tools and gardening equipment.
- Don't leave spare keys outside the home.



- Don't leave valuables, mobile devices or keys (home or vehicle) in clear view.
- Mark valuable property and record details.

### When Away From Home

- Use a timer to activate an internal light or radio to give the impression someone is home.
- Have family, a trusted friend or neighbour regularly check on your home. Inform them of your travel plans and have them collect your garbage bins and mail.

- Consider redirecting your mail, newspapers and deliveries.
- Never advertise your travel on social media sites.

### Other

- Record all details including serial number and descriptions of all items of value.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- Keep your insurance up to date. Make sure that you're insured for the right amount to cover the replacement cost of your contents at today's prices.

**For further information about Crime Prevention please visit [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)**

When reporting crime, remember to record the following:

- Details of the offence.
- Description of offenders.
- Direction offenders headed.
- Witness details.
- Vehicle registration and description.

**Save the app that could save your life. Download the Emergency+ app at [emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au](http://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au)**

## Aberglasslyn, Rutherford & Telarah Neighbourhood Watch Group

After breaking for Christmas, the Aberglasslyn, Rutherford & Telarah Neighbourhood Watch group resumed their monthly meetings on 15 February. Here is a photo of the group at the last meeting of 2022.



Neale Savertsen, Henry Meskauskas, Margaret Savertsen, Tom Price, Mick Ahern, Bob Elliott, Sandra Elliott, John Meaney and Jeff Dunn



# NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

## What's New with Neighbourhood Support NZ

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



NSNZ were thrilled with their new wheels, which meant being able to travel and connect to more members of their community

### SOUTH CANTERBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT GETS NEW WHEELS

After a year of seeking sponsorship and funding (with the success of applications to Pub Charity and The Aotearoa Gaming Trust, and generous support from the Bob Driver SsangYong dealership in Timaru and sign writer All About Signs), South Canterbury Neighbourhood

Support have been able to acquire new wheels! Their previous community vehicle, donated by Trust Power a number of years ago, was damaged in the Timaru hailstorm of November 2019, and subsequently assessed and written off in 2020.

"It's fantastic news! Now we will be able to continue to get out and about in the community to support our members, volunteers and partners; as well as attend events, training, meetings and community activities spread out across the wide and diverse South Canterbury area," said Coordinator Betty-Ann Smart.

### NEW WATER TANKS ON THE WAY FOR ŌTIRIA

A Neighbourhood Support group in Ōtiria, Te Tai Tokerau, New Zealand has secured funding from Northland Regional Council to install a new water tank for each home in their group.

This success sprouted from conversation at a Home Fire Safety Day that Neighbourhood Support Kainoho ki Ōtiria held with Fire and Emergency New Zealand, where they identified that none of the water tanks in the area had fittings that fire hoses could connect to. In summer the local creeks run very low, so would also not provide a source of water for any firefighting if needed.

Other contributing factors that supported the need for the water tanks included:

- **Water resilience in drought** - catching water when it's plentiful so that it doesn't go to waste and can be used during dry times.
- **Flood resilience** - the extra tanks will take a degree of water off the floodplain and enhance recent works on their spillway and drain clearing.
- All of the previous local tanks are past the recommended age for replacing. Healthy tanks, healthy drinking water, **HEALTHY PEOPLE!!!!**

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand are very proud of the work going into this initiative - creating safe, resilient, and connected communities.



### "I SAW THE SIGN"

Eastern Southland Neighbourhood Support ran a fun competition for people to find and photograph old Neighbourhood Support signs so that they could be replaced with new signs that reflect the organisation's new brand identity (Neighbourhood

Support New Zealand underwent a re-brand in 2019). Those who sent in a photograph of an old sign, letting Coordinator Kelly Young know where it was located, went in the draw to win a Preparedness Pack for their household.



### SUMMER STREET SMARTS CAMPAIGN

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) kicked off summer with a campaign promoting a collection of tips, tricks, and advice for neighbourhoods to *Stay Street Smart for Summer*.

The campaign offered advice on topics such as keeping your home safe while you're away on holiday, staying safe on the roads, hosting a party with consideration

for your neighbours, preventing mail theft, and staying safe whilst shopping online. Advice included steps to keep you, your home, and your belongings safe and secure over summer; so that people could put their feet up and relax, knowing that it was all good in their hood! To check out the advice you can visit [neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz/summer-street-smarts](http://neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz/summer-street-smarts).



# NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND

## John Devaus Receives Stan Wells Award

The work of community stalwart John Devaus was recognised in October by Logan City Council.



Chief Superintendent Mel Adams, Senior Constable Rob Whitehead, John Devaus, Councillor Mindy Russell and Senior Constable Mike McDonald

Mr Devaus received the Stan Wells Award at the annual City of Logan Safe City Awards at PCYC Logan, for his outstanding work with Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW).

The award honours former Jimboomba NHW area coordinator, the late Stan Wells.

The City of Logan Safe City Awards acknowledge the work of volunteer groups, individuals, not-for-profit groups, government agencies and businesses.

Mr Devaus has Chaired Daisy Hill NHW for 22 years and has advocated for the local community to all levels of government, as well as ensuring anyone moving into the area is aware of the local group.

City Lifestyle Chair, Councillor Laurie Koranski said community safety was about feeling safe, whether at home, out and about, or at work.

"Each year we recognise all those who contribute to making our neighbourhoods safer and more welcoming," Cr Koranski said.

"John Devaus is an outstanding example of someone with strong local community spirit.

"Neighbourhood Watch Groups and the residents who help to run them are part of our community's backbone and it is wonderful to recognise John and the Daisy Hill group this year along with all our other award recipients and nominees."

Congratulations to John on your award!

## Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch Halloween 2022

Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) got involved in the community Halloween festivities, especially the trick or treating.

2021 went well with over 70 children involved, and 2022 was even better - with over 164 participants passing by to grab some sweets! Everything went; 80 cupcakes, a box of chocolate brownies, 60 jelly cups and enough sweets to feed an army!

The costumes and make-up were also incredible. Thanks to John and Jill, Irene, Jenny, Sabre, Cliff, James and Jayme for decorating and participating. Thanks also to Gabby for the map - most of the visitors seemed to be following it.

Feedback from the event was positive, with many members of the community happy to see kids having fun in a safe environment, and the event bringing neighbours and the community together. Due to the success it will be a regular event in the future.



## Daisy Hill NHW Christmas BBQ

To wrap up a busy year, Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) held their Community Christmas BBQ, with just over 100 adults and children attending.

Santa came all the way from Canada, and two Senior Constables from Springwood Police Station brought the Police Beat van and a TV set up to explain the M1 upgrade to interested residents.

Local Councillor Mindy Russell helped with funding, and hired a jukebox to get the kids up dancing with parents. It was a great event, with everyone helping to clean up and dismantle the equipment once it was over. We hope everyone had a very safe and Merry Christmas!



Senior Constable Rob Whitehead, Irene Walker, Santa, Jill Devaus and Senior Constable Mike McDonald



# Mackay Australia Day Awards

On 25 January, Sergeant Nigel Dalton was awarded Citizen of the Year at a gala ceremony at the Mackay Convention Centre. There were 178 nominations for this prestigious Award.

Nigel Dalton is the local Police District Crime Prevention Coordinator, the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Liaison officer for three groups in the Mackay District and is a very active community member. His Police record is extremely high, having been Mackay Police Liaison Officer of the Year 2013, 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2022, and was awarded the Queensland Police Liaison Officer Award in 2017.

His Police District activities are outstanding, particularly the "Choices" and "Safety Circus" initiatives. "Choices" is a musical theatre collaboration with students and staff at the Central Queensland University that has underlying messages aimed at Year 12 School leavers - prior to Schoolies commencing. "Safety Circus" is also a musical theatre presentation with underlying messages, covering topics such as non-motorised transport safety, anti-bullying and child personal safety. Nigel also runs information sessions on domestic and family violence, consent, and cyber safety. These initiatives impact approximately 8,000 school students every year in the Mackay District.

His other community engagements include Beaches Baptist Church; a bread run and pick up for disadvantage youths to Sunday school (and continued contact with these young people); a very active member of Shed Happens, a men's group that works on hearts not projects; and being involved with the Mackay International Men's Award since its inception, which generates thousands of dollars for distribution to local charities. Nigel is also an avid swimmer and has been Vice President of North Mackay Sinkers Masters Swimming Club since 2019.

Nigel has also been actively involved with the 'Get Connected' project over the past 3 years; 'Pancakes in the Park' - a wonderful community event run by Shed Happens and Mackay Northern Beaches NHW each year as a family



Federal Member for Dawson Andrew Wilcox, Frank Cowell, Sergeant Nigel Dalton, and the State Member for Whitsunday Amanda Camm



Mackay Citizen of the Year 2023 Sergeant Nigel Dalton, NHW Mackay member Ken Rehbein, and Mackay Citizen of the Year 2022 Frank Cowell

fun day; and being a coordinator for the Community Christmas held at Shoal Point Park each December.

Nigel recently lead, created and launched for a new assault reduction project "Anger Rage Regret". He is the Secretariat for the Mackay Community Based Crime Action Committee, which organises projects to help disengaged youth from offending, and is the Liaison officer for the Mackay

Mosque to meet and assist Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people as they start to make Mackay home.

It was a wonderful sight to see Frank Cowell (2022 Citizen of the Year) hand over the baton to Nigel, Frank is also an active member of our Mackay Northern Beaches NHW Group.

This award is a well-deserved honour for a wonderful community member - congratulations Nigel!

# Bunnings Sausage Sizzle NHW Week Style!

The annual Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Week and Crime Prevention Week was a success thanks to our good friends at Bunnings Bundaberg.

The week began with Coffee with a Cop, relaxing in style while assisting the public with plenty of crime prevention information. Our local Volunteers in Policing (VIP's) joined in the fun enjoying a cuppa or two while chatting with community members.

The week ended on a high with many sausages and drinks sold at the Bundaberg Bunnings NHW sausage sizzle. Dedicated NHW volunteers from a variety of local groups teamed up to deliver the yummy food to hungry DIY shoppers, raising funds for future NHW projects.

PD Cluedo - who is never far from a tasty BBQ - made an appearance, posing for photos and giving out plenty of hi-five's and thumbs up to passers-by. Thanks for having us Bunnings Bundaberg!



Maurie Wilson, David Dempster, Mary Waugh, Art McCloskey, Wilma Van Der Heide, Gary Turner and Ken Dinsey



PD Cluedo and some friends



VIP Mavis White, Rhonda Sutton and VIP Karl Bowman taking a well deserved break, testing the Bunnings merchandise!



VIP Mavis White, VIP Karl Bowman, Rhonda Sutton and Snr Con Dave Didsman manning the QPS and NHW table



Wilma Van Der Heide, Art McCloskey, Gary Turner, Wendy Byrne and Mary Waugh



Gary Turner and Art McCloskey hard at work on the BBQ



# A Busy 6 Months for NHW Robina (Broadbeach 24)

The Volunteer members of the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Robina (Broadbeach 24) group have been flying the flag at many functions since September 2022.

Using face to face meetings, emails, a volunteer-delivered printed newsletter and Facebook, the group has been able to communicate with members and the wider Robina community.

The group actively participated in installing Neighbourhood Watch plaques to letterboxes or front fences, and replacing original number plate screws with One Way Safety Screws provided by the Queensland Police Service (QPS). In 2022 there were also many social lunches, and a Trivia Night table at Club Robina.

## Some of the events have included:

### 2022

- My Aged Care Workshop 20 Sep
- NHW Gold Coast Connection Day 8 Oct
- NHWGC Social Media Workshop 18 Oct for Get Online Week
- Open Day Club Robina 30 Oct
- Newsletter Deliveries 3 - 18 Nov
- QPS BBQ Bunnings Robina 8 Nov for Neighbourhood Watch Week and Crime Prevention Week
- Lone Pine Park Memorial Dedication 11 Nov

- NHW QLD State Conference in Brisbane 12 Nov
- November Meeting 22 Nov Guest Speaker from Dementia Australia
- NHW Christmas Lunch at RQs 1 Dec

### 2023

- NHW February Lunch at Club Robina 2 Feb
- Newsletter Deliveries 3 - 18 Feb
- My Aged Care Workshop 7 Feb
- February Meeting 28 Feb Guest Speakers from QPS Youth Justice Unit



My Aged Care Workshop, Ashmore



Dianne Stubbs, Doug Ringham, Assistant Area Coordinator Trevor Taylor, Ken Maddison and Ping Bao at Lone Pine Memorial Dedication



Volunteers at the NHWQ State Conference, Brisbane



Christmas Lunch at RQs Tavern, Robina

# Streetsmart Handbooks connect with Wondai Youths

In December 2022, Wondai Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) donated copies of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Streetsmart Handbook to South Burnett CTC Youth Services, to help connect with the Wondai and South Burnett youth.

The Streetsmart Handbooks aim to assist teenagers, their families, and caregivers by providing contemporary information on a wide range of subjects. This includes information and advice from experts, covering subjects such as cyber bullying, mental health, body positivity, healthy living, the dangers of drugs and alcohol to name a few!

Wondai NHW thought the Streetsmart Handbooks would be a great addition to the resources available to the South Burnett youth, due to its relevant and informative content.

CTC Youth and Family run a range of programs across South Burnett, with their services focusing on supporting people around issues



Kate McCormack CTC Youth Services and Darren Buckley Wondai NHW Area Coordinator

such as homelessness, domestic violence, health, parenting, independence to move towards successful engagement in education, employment and their community.

The CTC Youth and Family Services office in Kingaroy supports people

across the whole South Burnett including Blackbutt, Yarraman, Nanango, Kingaroy, Proston, Wondai and Goomeri.

If you would like to receive some of the Streetsmart Handbooks, contact NHWA at [admin@nhwa.com.au](mailto:admin@nhwa.com.au)

## Wondai Neighbourhood Watch Coffee with a Cop

Thanks to the generosity of Counsellor Scott Henshin of Division 6 South Burnett Regional Council, the Wondai Neighbourhood Watch group were able to hold their Coffee with a Cop event. This was done as a part of Neighbourhood Watch Week. There were 16 people who attended, and it was a great opportunity for community members to meet their local police members in a relaxed atmosphere. We would like to thank counsellor Scott Henshin for his assistance with making this event possible.



Sergeant Brad Fewtrell, Wondai NHW members Fred Law, Roy and Glenis Radunz



Beth Gustafson, Margaret Heritage, Fran Whitmore and Terry Levi enjoying their coffee





Bec Cross, our first Turning the Screws customer for the day, and Area Coordinator Morris Winter

## Events Keeping Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch Busy

Our group of willing and capable volunteers again showed their support and dedication to Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in three outings as 2022 drew to a close.

During NHW Week in November, we joined our sponsors Bunnings in a joint display at their local premises, focusing mainly on home and personal security, and also spreading the word about domestic violence, drugs and other issues affecting the community.

Later in that week, we combined a 'Turning the Screws on Crime' and sausage sizzle event, even attracting travellers from NSW who were visiting the area and took advantage of the opportunity to make their number plates more secure.

We rounded off the years' activities by advertising NHW with a display table at the annual Kumbia Christmas Carnival, and had a special guest, Constable Clancy, to help promote NHW ideals. He was a big hit with children and adults alike, and we kept him busy handing out NHW balloons, educational materials, and posing for photographs with both young and old... we did give him regular rest breaks to cool down and recharge his batteries!



Snr Constable Todd Armstrong, OIC Kumbia busy at the Turning the Screw BBQ while customers stood around and chatted



Constable Clancy (aka Will) with NHW members Jeff Hills and Kaye Aitken at the Kumbia Christmas Carnival



NHW Member Kaye Aitken, VIP Peter Verbakel and Area Coordinator Morris Winter manning the Bunnings display

## Congratulations to Amanda Draheim, Area Coordinator Riverview NHW

The Ipswich District Crime Prevention Unit and Ipswich District and Riverview Neighbourhood Watch Committees would like to say a huge congratulations to Ms Amanda Draheim, Area Coordinator of the Riverview Neighbourhood Watch Committee, for her nomination for this year's Australia Day Awards.

Amanda was nominated for the Ipswich City Council Australia Day Awards and a finalist in the Citizen of the Year category, for her contribution to the safety and betterment of her community.

Amanda has served as a Volunteer on the Riverview Neighbourhood Watch Committee for almost 10 years, and has taken on a variety of roles and functions including newsletter editor, social media coordinator, secretary, and is currently the area coordinator.

**Amanda has also led the local committee in organising a number of community events and programs including Muscle in Maculata, movie nights, cent auctions, road safety**

**events, Get Online Week activities, Neighbourhood Watch Week static displays, Dogs on Patrol events, International Women's Day morning teas, assisted with the organising for Riverview NHW 30 years celebrations and even the odd sausage sizzle.**

Nadine Webster, Ipswich District Crime Prevention Coordinator, assures that there is a lot more that Amanda has organised and participated in, and that Amanda has gained a great deal of admiration in her community for going above and beyond to support her local community of Riverview.

Thank you Amanda and congratulations!



Riverview NHW Area Coordinator Amanda Draheim, with Australia Day Awards finalist certificate

## Kumbia NHW Strikes Again!

A short week after the last community outing, Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was again on show with a display stall at the centenary celebrations for the Kumbia Memorial School of Arts.

Much interest was shown in our display of brochures and NHW items, and numerous bags containing fact sheets and safety hints were handed out to the adults.

Fun items such as colouring sheets, stickers and balloons caught the eyes of the children, with many pleasant exchanges between our members and the passers-by.

An intriguing visitor in the form of Missy Peacharoo stopped by our stall during the event - Kumbia NHW displays are attracting quite a deal of attention!



Kumbia NHW member Jeff Hills and Area Coordinator Morris Winter manning the display

Special thanks must go to our willing and capable member, Jeff Hills, who helped to man both of our recent displays, and to the area coordinator of over 30 years standing, Morris Winter, for his invaluable help.



A visit from Missy Peacharoo made our day!



# NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## Safety and Assistance Fridge Magnet

In December, South Australia Police (SAPOL) in collaboration with Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers Association of South Australia Inc. (NHV VASA) launched their new Safety and Assistance Fridge Magnets.

Sometimes South Australian emergency services who attend people's homes to provide assistance may need to contact the occupant's next of kin or doctor/ general practitioner to obtain instant and relevant details about them.

The new Safety and Assistance Fridge Magnet aims to support in these scenarios. The magnet is double sided - on the front there is SAPOL related telephone numbers (Triple Zero, the Police Assistance Line and Crime Stoppers) and a brief explanation of when those numbers should be called. Also included is the Emergency+ app logo to act as a timely reminder for mobile phone users to download the app. On the back of the magnet there is space to record next of kin and doctor/ general practitioner details in the event of personal emergency.

The magnets have been widely distributed to all South Australian police stations.

If you live in SA you can find your local station on the SA Police by visiting [police.sa.gov.au/about-us/find-your-local-police-station](https://police.sa.gov.au/about-us/find-your-local-police-station)

Sergeant Phil Gurr, NHW SA State Coordinator said, "It's important for householders to clearly write their personal information on the reverse of the fridge magnet before placing on their fridge".



"In an emergency the personal information really can help the occupant, SA Police, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service and/or the SA Ambulance Service valuable time.

"We've already had plenty of really positive feedback about these magnets from residents as well as NHW groups and I thank SAPOL's NHW Team and NHW Volunteers Association for making it happen." said Sergeant Gurr.



Senior Constable Keren Burke (far left) and the other amazing Whyalla NHW Area 264 members, with Area Coordinator Anne Armstrong presenting Foodbank Manager Zoe Norman with donation

## Whyalla NHW Foodbank

Whyalla Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Area 264 were hard at work during October and November selling raffle tickets to raise funds for their local Foodbank.

In efforts to support the local community, every December the group selects a local charity to make donations to.

The group were committed to the cause and attended the Whyalla Westlands Shopping Centre twice a week for six weeks, promoting the raffle and selling tickets. Through their determination they raised a fantastic \$850!

On 9 December the group and their Police Coordinator Senior Constable Keren Burke had the pleasure of presenting the raised funds to the Foodbank.

Foodbank Manager, Zoe Norman, was very thankful for the donation.

"It's amazing! The money this NHW group have raised will probably

feed about 1,700 people in Whyalla, with every \$1 usually feeding two people," Zoe Norman said.

If you live in SA and want to find out more about joining an existing NHW group or even starting your own, you can find out more on our NHW website here:

[www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home](https://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home)





NHW SA Award winners with Assistant Commissioner Philip Newitt, Acting Superintendent Cameron Devey, the Hon Joe Szakacs and NHW SA President Phil Tavender

# 2022 NHW South Australia Awards

On 19 November 2022, SA Police and the Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers Association of South Australia (NHW VASA) held the 2022 Neighbourhood Watch Awards and Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Every year NHW and SA Police recognise and express their appreciation for the valuable contribution, enthusiasm and dedication that volunteers and police officers provide to the NHW program. Nominations for the various awards are submitted and winners are then chosen by an expert panel of NHW members.

The winners of the 2022 awards were:

**The President's Award**  
(Presented annually by the President of NHW VASA to a NHW volunteer who has demonstrated exemplary service to NHW)

**Chris Brightwell**  
Area 428 - Klemzig

**Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer of the Year**  
(Awarded annually to a NHW volunteer who has demonstrated exemplary service to NHW)

**Patricia Salter**  
Area 272 - Goolwa

**Award of Merit**  
(Awarded annually to NHW volunteers, NHW groups and police officers who have demonstrated superior levels of service to NHW)

**Senior Constable Randal Murch**  
Barossa Local Service Area Crime Prevention Section

**Senior Constable Keren Burke**  
Eyre and Western Local Service Area Crime Prevention Section

**Senior Constable First Class Sophie Hodge**  
Southern District Community Engagement Section

**Tim Gibbs**  
Neighbourhood Watch SA Administration Officer

**Lynn Mansfield**  
Area 075 - O'Sullivan Beach

**Glen Woods**  
Area 210 - Hendon / Royal Park

**Ross Kirby**  
Area 111 - Gawler East

**Pauline Sultana**  
Area 210 - Hendon / Royal Park

**Sue Bernik**  
Area 461 - Happy Valley & O'Halloran Hill

**Barbara Dawe**  
Area 33 - Lockleys

**Peter Moller**  
Area 428 - Klemzig

**Certificate of Commendation**  
(Awarded annually to NHW volunteers, NHW groups and police officers who have demonstrated significant levels of service to NHW)

**Stirling North Neighbourhood Watch Area 206**  
Area Coordinator - Pat Phillips

**Gawler East Neighbourhood Watch Area 111**  
Area Coordinator - Trevor Bellchambers

**Trevor Howe**  
Area 210 - Hendon / Royal Park

**Sandra Stennett**  
Area 210 - Hendon / Royal Park

**Helen Keros**  
Area 210 - Hendon / Royal Park

**Emil Szczurko**  
Area 210 - Hendon / Royal Park

**Cathy Ireland**  
Area 210 - Hendon / Royal Park

**Karina Kyriazis**  
Area 210 - Hendon / Royal Park

## Congratulations to all winners and nominees!

The Awards ceremony was attended by more than 60 people including the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, the Hon Joe Szakacs, SA Police representatives Assistant Commissioner (AC) Philip Newitt, Acting Superintendent Cameron Devey, NHW State Coordinator Siobhan Eastham, Sergeant Phil Gurr, and NHW VASA Board of Management members including

President Phil Tavender. Thank you to AC Philip Newitt, the Hon Joe Szakacs and President Phil Tavender for presenting awards.

Along with celebrating the great work of SA Police members and our many NHW volunteers, during the AGM two new NHW VASA Board members were welcomed following a nomination and election process - Andy Constantinides (Area 628 - St Clair) and Pat Salter (Area 272 - Goolwa). Thank you to Lynn Mansfield (Area 075 - O'Sullivan Beach) and Shiralee Reardon (Area

504 - Para Hills 3) who have stepped down from the Board of Management following the ending of their tenure's. Their guidance and expertise over the last few years has been fantastic!

Thank you to all of our valued SA Police volunteers for your service to the Neighbourhood Watch program.

If you live in SA and want to find out more about joining an existing NHW group or even starting your own you can find out more on our NHW website here: [www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home](http://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home)

# Recognition for Peter Hall

The Marino and Kingston Park Neighbourhood Watch Annual General Meeting (AGM) took the opportunity to recognise one of the grass roots unsung pioneers of our Neighbourhood Watch Committee.

Mr Peter Hall, now into his 90s, has spent the last 30 years as both a Committee Member and Chief

Editor of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter servicing the Adelaide beachside communities of Marino, Marino Rocks and Kingston Park.

Darren Bailhache the Area Coordinator, described Peter as the 'true backbone of our committee who displays the loyalty, enthusiasm and dedication that not only

makes him a valuable member of our team, but a true gentleman of our community.'

Peter was presented with the 30 years Certificate of Service by South Australian Police Sergeant Ian Forster for his dedicated, devoted and valuable contribution to Neighbourhood Watch in our community.



The historical Kingston House played host to the local NHW AGM, attended by the residents of Marino, Marino Rocks and Kingston Park



Area Coordinator Darren Bailhache, Mr Peter Hall, and Sergeant Ian Forster presenting Peter with the certificate for 30 years of dedicated and diligent service





Eyre Western LSA's (Whyalla) Senior Constable Keren Burke with Whyalla NHW Area 277 Area Coordinator Ben Williams, and volunteer Betty Boundy at a shopping centre in Whyalla

# NHW Week and Crime Prevention Week

Neighbourhood Watch Week and Crime Prevention Week, which ran from 7 to 13 November, saw informative crime prevention events being held at multiple Bunnings stores and other shopping precincts across South Australia.

Many Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups and SA Police from the Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western Districts along with Barossa, Eyre and Western, Murray Mallee and Limestone Coast Local Service Areas (LSAs) participated.

NHW volunteers, SA Police and members from Crime Stoppers actively engaged with shoppers and staff, and provided them with crime prevention material on topics that ranged from home and vehicle security, scam awareness, bushfire prevention and retail theft prevention. Many shoppers advised they had already taken crime prevention measures by installing external security lighting and CCTV cameras around their homes,

and many said they were impressed with the home security booklet being distributed, which includes a really useful property record and home security checklist.

Coffee and breakfast was provided by Bunnings at various 'Tradies Week' crime prevention stalls that SA Police held. Tool theft was a key topic of discussion and tradies were reminded of the importance of marking/engraving, photographing and adequately securing their tools to prevent tool theft.

Members from Limestone Coast Local Service Area also attended the 'Sheep Technology Expo' held in Penola, where Superintendent Hill conducted an informative presentation to an audience of

approximately 80 people on rural crime and rural security. Crime trends relating to diesel, stock and tool thefts were discussed as well as highlighting the importance of reporting rural crime to police.

The usefulness of having a CCTV system which provides high quality images was discussed and how such material can support the identification and prosecution of offenders. Members from the Limestone Coast Crime Prevention Section spoke to farmers on the importance of securing their vehicles and homes when unattended, and community members were encouraged to utilise the NHW stickers not only on their council bins but also on their water/feed tanks and sheds as a crime deterrent.



Police officers from Eyre Western LSA (Port Lincoln) and staff from Port Lincoln Bunnings hosted a 'Breakfast for Tradies' during NHW Week and Crime Prevention Week



Senior Constable 1st Class David Brown from Murray Mallee LSA (Murray Bridge), Area Coordinator Barb Green, and Maurice Wegener from Murray Bridge NHW at Murray Bridge Bunnings

Sergeant Phil Gurr, NHW SA State Coordinator said, "The combined NHW Week and Crime Prevention Week is always a great opportunity to raise community awareness around crime prevention whilst also promoting our wonderful NHW groups and the benefits of joining the program".

A wide range of crime prevention and security advice is available on the SA Police website: [police.sa.gov.au/your-safety/crime-prevention-and-security](http://police.sa.gov.au/your-safety/crime-prevention-and-security)

If you live in SA and want to find out about joining an existing NHW group or even starting your own you can find out more on our NHW website here: [www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw](http://www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw) home



Members from Limestone Coast Local Service Area at the 'Sheep Technology Expo' held in Penola, where Superintendent Hill conducted an informative presentation



# NHW TAS

TASMANIA

## The Week - NHW Week & Bunnings Crime Prevention Week

The national partnership between Neighbourhood Watch Week and Bunnings Crime Prevention Week each November continues to be warmly embraced in Tasmania by both the seven Bunnings Warehouses peppered across the state, and the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups that are found within the local Bunnings footprint. It is one of the most important events on our annual calendar. We call it *The Week*!

Once again in 2022 we received great support from Bunnings Warehouses with raffle prizes, space for information stands and of course, the famous Bunnings Barbecues. These are important fundraising opportunities and venues for a multitude of community and charity organisations. From a NHW perspective, the opportunity to engage with the thousands of people who visit Bunnings on any day of *The Week* is rarely unrivaled by other activities we conduct throughout the year. We take delight in selling raffle tickets in home security products and giving away merchandise that reinforces the safety and security messages not only in the home, but also on worksites where tradies equipment can be vulnerable to theft.

Here are some photos of our volunteers in action!



Blackstone Heights NHW member Graham, Blackstone Community News committee member Janelle, and Bunnings staff were excited to help out!



Our volunteers from the Clarence Plains Cluster making a profit from our Bunnings Raffle



Our volunteers at Mornington eating the profits from the Bunnings Barbecue!

## Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers – A Tasmanian Partnership

Both nationally and in Tasmania there is a strong bond between Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and Crime Stoppers (CS).

**We both exist to help our respective police jurisdictions in their objectives to reduce crime and improve the safety and security of our communities.**

In simple terms Neighbourhood Watch sees its purpose in helping the police to prevent crime by reporting suspicious behaviour and methods of building collective efficacy within communities. Crime Stoppers has a strong focus in helping solve crimes through their secure phone and online systems that guarantee anonymity, with the added opportunity to receive financial rewards for information provided.

Crime Stoppers in Tasmania has recently introduced two initiatives that Neighbourhood Watch has been keen to support. On 14 December 2022 Crime Stoppers launched their new online portal for members of the public to report information about crime and criminals. As always, reports to Crime Stoppers guarantee the confidentiality of the person reporting. However, the benefit of this new portal is that media files, such as videos or photos captured on smartphones can now be easily attached to a Crime Stoppers report to go to the police.

The Crime Stoppers phone number of 1800 333 000 remains unchanged. The online portal is accessed through the Crime Stoppers link whenever you want to provide information (or a 'tip') at: <https://crimestoppers.com.au/>



Chairman David Daniels, Debra Thurley from Bicycle Network Tasmania and Peter Edwards President Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania



Attorney General Elise Archer, Chairman of Crime Stoppers Tasmania David Daniels, and Andrew Schmidt Account Manager Government and Public Safety for Motorola Solutions

**Although what may initially seem like a minor amendment, is in fact a highly relevant change for indicating the Neighbourhood Watch contribution to our joint cause. Whenever a person makes a Crime Stoppers 'tip' they are asked; What prompted you to make this tip? 'Neighbourhood Watch' is now one of the options available to the informant. Over time this data can**

**be used to help assess the effect of Neighbourhood Watch efforts in promoting crime prevention advice, and the ways anyone can provide anonymous information through Crime Stoppers.**

The second initiative is the launch of Bikelinc in Tasmania. With a bicycle stolen every day in our state, Bikelinc is an online community tool that is designed to re-connect owners to their bikes. The number of bike riders continues to increase in Tasmania and concurrently the sophistication and price of bikes has increased exponentially. Thus, the timeliness of Bikelinc is to be applauded. It is free for owners to register the serial number of their bikes online and give the police a quick and practical method to confirm ownership, or check the legitimacy of people claiming to own bikes. Bikes can be registered with Bikelinc by visiting: <https://bikelinc.com.au/>



# Knight Frank Supporting Cuppa with a Cop in 2023

A flagship activity for Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania (NHW) for many years has been holding *Cuppa with a Cop* (CWAC) events for community members to engage with their local police officers, in a simple social setting.

It is a fact that most people rarely engage *one on one* with a police officer. We may see them in their cars, directing traffic or at the scenes of incidents, however, it is nice to meet them face to face, to thank them for their service, and also to ask those questions you always wanted to ask but never had the opportunity.

Although there is an international *Coffee with a Cop Day*, which falls on the first Wednesday in September each year, NHWT has been keen to spread the event over the 12 months of the year, and across the state. When this idea became known to *Knight Frank*, who manage many shopping centres across Tasmania, they were keen to support these events. As Anne Lacy, Marketing Manager Shopping Centres from Knight Frank Tasmania said, "We are in all regions of the state and our shopping centres are very much a community hub within our local neighbourhoods. We would like to increase our efforts to build strong, sustainable communities, to promote safe environments and to welcome the police into our centres, not just on a CWAC day, but each and every day."



Greater Glenorchy Coordinator, Peter Vogelsanger with Sergeant Amanda Hall and Mr Josh Willie, Member for Elwick in the Legislative Council



Inspector John Ward OIC Glenorchy Division, Attorney General Elise Archer and Peter Edwards President NHW Tasmania

*Knight Frank* trialed this event in conjunction with Blackstone Heights NHW in 2022 at Full a Beans Café in the Prospect Vale Marketplace, Launceston.

The success of that event provided the impetus to make it a statewide project for 2023. With more than 11 shopping centres across Tasmania, there will be many opportunities in both city and regional areas to promote good community/police relationships, *one cup at a time*.

Recently appointed Commissioner for Tasmania Police, Donna Adams, is committed to increasing the public presence of police in Tasmania, and to work closely with the community to identify and address local issues of concern. When speaking about the value of CWACs, the President of Neighbourhood Watch in Tasmania, Peter Edwards, said, "We are proud to work with our business partners to provide a simple, effective and pleasant environment for the police and the public to interact."

# NHW Tasmania Awards

## Outstanding service recognised in 2022.

Each year Neighbourhood Watch in Tasmania holds an awards ceremony immediately following its Annual General Meeting (AGM). We have been fortunate to have the support of the Country Club in Launceston to hold this event in their auditorium. The facility provides a stage with audio visual capability to project the achievements of those members who have been recognised for their contributions to the Neighbourhood Watch cause. It is also a wonderful venue to host the morning tea that follows the celebration!

We are fortunate in Tasmania that our Neighbourhood Watch is awash with people who have selflessly given significant voluntary service to their communities, as members of our organisation, and invariably as members of other community services as well. We have recently revisited our awards which now afford three categories:

- Certificate of Appreciation
- President's Certificate of Commendation
- Honourary Life Membership

In 2024 we recognised seven members with a Certificate of Appreciation; three members with a President's Certificate of Commendation; and the following three members with Honourary Life Membership:

- **Stefan Frazik** for his leadership of BushWatch Westerway and Upper Derwent Valley
- **David Brown** for his service and leadership of Lilydale Neighbourhood Watch
- **Sharon Leonard** for over 25 years of leadership in the Ravenswood community

A hearty congratulations to all award recipients and a special thankyou to Commander Stuart Wilkinson for being the guest speaker and helping to officiate in the awards ceremony with NHW Tasmania President Peter Edwards.



Honourary Life Membership Award recipient Stefan Frazik



Honourary Life Membership Award recipient David Brown



Honourary Life Membership Award recipient Sharon Leonard





Breakfast Session in Sorell

# Get Online Week

In recent years Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Tasmania has engaged with the Get Online Week (GOLW) campaign run in October each year by the *Good Things Foundation*, in support of the Australian Government's *Be Connected* program.

This campaign is designed to inspire more people to do things online and is particularly directed at older Australians.

**Ten NHW groups in Tasmania, from Weymouth in the north to Oakdowns in the south, held GOLW events between 17-22 October 2022. With the help of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA), these events were facilitated by small grants that were used to hire venues, engage presenters, advertise details, purchase equipment, prizes, refreshments and cover an assortment of other miscellaneous costs to ensure the success of each venture.**

The importance of this campaign in reducing anxiety about being online cannot be understated. However, it was the Tasmanian experience that



COVID Safe in Howrah!

many indirect benefits came about from the social interaction on the day – learning something new in a non-threatening environment – but in particular, learning from each other. In its totality, the online world is enormous, the workings of which

are incomprehensible to most of us. The fact is, we don't need to understand how it works – we just need a few basic skills to make it do simple tasks for us. And what we found was that at each of the events, many of the attendees knew



iPad class in Glebe Hill



Learning in Lilydale

something that they could share with others present. As simple as this may seem, the realisation that you do know something technical that can help someone else builds self-esteem and confidence to learn more.

**Although each of the Tasmanian events started with a presentation from a mentor, we found the question and answer sessions that followed, and the ongoing discussion over refreshments, was where quality learning also occurred. One successful strategy, particularly in the use of smart phones, was providing one-on-one, hands-on tuition in the steps to complete a desired task. So often the steps were easy, it just needed someone with the time and patience to walk the student through the key strokes that made something simple that once seemed difficult.**

Every year that NHW in Tasmania has participated in this campaign we feel we have improved our skills in how to run a successful event. We believe every day can be a school day and that's how we feel about the benefits of the GOLW campaign.



Oakdowns class is in at the Bellerive Yacht Club



Blackstone Heights is engaged



## Junior NHW Comes to a Close

The biggest year in the history of Junior Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has come to a close in Mildura in what has been a super busy end to the year.

We had a dramatic end to our Crime Prevention video competition, with all three categories ending in a draw and having to be separated by a tie breaker. The videos are created independently by the students, who are given a choice of three topics and no further assistance. The effort the students put in and the quality of the product they produce never ceases to surprise.

The videos commenced screening on the Prime TV network in mid – December and will run through until the end of February. They are also available on the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Facebook page and Junior NHW website: [www.nhwa.com.au/resources/junior-neighbourhood-watch](http://www.nhwa.com.au/resources/junior-neighbourhood-watch).

**The year ended with recognition with our Student of the Year Awards. With over 900 students taking part, the inevitable happened, the first ever dead heat. This year we had three winners; Noah Edgar from Our Lady's Primary School; James Murphy from Irymple South Primary; and Maddison Arnold from Henderson College.**

Once again it was an absolute pleasure and a privilege to spread the word of security and safety to so many young people at so many schools.



Maddison Arnold from Henderson accepts her Student of the Year Award at a whole of School assembly



Mildura Junior NHW Student of the Year Noah Edgar from Our Lady's Primary School



James Murphy from Irymple South Primary School also won the Student of the Year Award



Canning NHW volunteer Judy with Safe Communities Officer Isabella Miels, at the Canning Show

## Canning Show and 20 Years of Service

The City of Canning Community Safety team, Ranger Buddy, and Canning Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) joined in for some fun at the Canning Show!

There was a FREE home security giveaway which was a great incentive for members of the community to come over and meet our volunteers. The Canning NHWatchers were able to have some fantastic conversations with members of the community, talking about all things safety and Neighbourhood Watch!

20 Years of Service - In December, NHWatcher Kutty Veluthakkal was awarded a hamper full of goodies and a plaque in recognition of his dedication to Canning Neighbourhood Watch for the last 20 years! Thank you Kutty, for your continued commitment to keeping our community safe.



Volunteer Kutty with a plaque to recognise 20 years of service to Canning Neighbourhood Watch



Ranger Buddy at the Canning Show





Attendees celebrating NHW WA 40th Anniversary in the Perth Government House Ballroom

# Neighbourhood Watch WA Celebrates 40 Years

Forty years after it began as a pilot program in Bunbury in 1982, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Western Australia celebrated its anniversary with around 150 guests attending a morning tea hosted in the Government House Ballroom on 13 October 2022.

**His Excellency the Hon Chris Dawson APM, Governor of Western Australia welcomed the CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Maria Bennett, Peta Walker (the late Superintendent Jim King's daughter), NHW volunteers, community members, WA Police Force personnel, Local Government and State Government representatives and stakeholders from key organisations to the event.**

Executive Manager (Community Engagement Division), NHWA Chair and NHW WA Chair Bernie Durkin

was the emcee and also spoke of the journey NHW has taken during four decades.

**“Our traditional volunteers of the 80s and 90s built the program through door knocks, letter box drops, stalls and face-to-face meetings to garner members and build the brand,” he said. “Today our vast online community keeps the program alive in a modern and sustainable way, but despite these changes, the philosophy of the networks remains the same – neighbours looking out for neighbours,” said Mr Durkin.**

A special mention was made to acknowledge the attendance of Derek Melhuish, who at 99 years-old has been continuously involved since the beginning as an original NHW volunteer in 1982. At the other end of the age spectrum, students from Orelia Primary School were excited to be attending due to their involvement in a pilot Junior NHW program being run in partnership with the City of Kwinana.

Peta Walker travelled down from Exmouth to attend the event as a special guest and Governor Dawson made a presentation to her family



in recognition of the significant contribution made to NHW and crime prevention by her late father, Supt King.

NHWA CEO Maria Bennett congratulated Neighbourhood Watch WA on their 40th anniversary and thanked the WA Police Force for their stewardship of the program. Speaking at the event she highlighted the fact that NHW in WA was not only the longest running in Australia, and also the first to introduce a participation model utilising technology to compliment the traditional NHW meetings and formal volunteer structure. “Western Australia continues along a trailblazing path which contributes to the vibrancy and success of the program,” Ms Bennett said.



NHWA Chair Bernie Durkin of WA Police, Assistant Commissioner Dario Bolzonella WA Police Operation Support, WA Governor His Excellency the Hon Chris Dawson APM, Ms Peta Walker representing the late Superintendent Jim King, and NHWA CEO Maria Bennett



Bernie Durkin, Derek Melhuish - a centenarian who is an original NHW volunteer, and long term NHW volunteers Alison Woods and Jan Watts



# Kids Engage in Community Safety

Junior Neighbourhood Watch launch shows young children are helping keep Kwinana safe.

Adapting a tried and tested program from Mildura Victoria, the City of Kwinana helped establish a Junior Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program at Orelia Primary School.

As part of the program, 14 students from Year 6 wrote the letters about the new initiative and asked residents to keep an eye on their school during the holidays.

The students then door-knocked and delivered the notes along Bolton Way with local Police Officers in the last week of school.

Mayor Carol Adams announced five of those Junior NHW members would meet the Governor at Government House to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch in WA.

Mayor Adams commended the school for recently signing up to Your Move which is a free program run by Department of Transport helping students get active by increasing walking, scooting and riding to school.

"On 23 September, the City of Kwinana rolled out the red carpet for Orelia Primary School students who chose to ride, walk or scoot to school," Mayor Adams said.

"Teachers said it was fantastic to see local Police cheering the students on as they came across the red carpet.

"Many children made use of the brand new shared path along Gilmore Avenue which is the first shared-use path along a City-owned road, allowing both pedestrians and cyclists to safely use the pathway," she said.

"We are proud to have been able to help make it easier and safer for children to keep active, and it has been lovely to see them engage in community safety initiatives within the City of Kwinana," Mayor Adams said.



Orelia Primary School students Abigail Duncan, Isabella Samiran, Jude Mickan, Zaidan Piazzola, Audrey Mickan and David Ugle on the first shared path along a City-owned road



Orelia Primary School students Isabella Samiran, Abigail Duncan and Audrey Mickan on the first shared path along a City-owned road



Front row - Orelia Primary School students Audrey Mickan and Isabella Samiran; Middle row - Mayor Carol Adams, Principal Joanne Stewart-Magee, Stanley Apostol, Ryan Barber, WA Governor His Excellency the Hon Chris Dawson APM, Community Development Officer Sinead Gilligan; Back row - Tahj Crouch, Abigail Duncan and Julie Gliddon

# Don't touch it, report it.



Australian Government  
Department of Defence

## UXO. Curiosity Can Kill You.

You need to understand the real danger of **unexploded ordnance (UXO)**. If you touch UXO - like an old bomb, bullet or hand grenade - it could seriously injure or even kill you. You must know - Don't Touch It!

### Report it to the Police on 000



[www.defence.gov.au/uxo](http://www.defence.gov.au/uxo)



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

# ARE THEY TRIPLE OK?

**We're always there to help.**

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

[ruok.org.au/triple-ok](https://ruok.org.au/triple-ok)

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A conversation could change a life.