



NHWA

Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



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Expo in Autumn



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Bundy Style



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Canning NHW
Group Out and About!

ARE THEY TRIPLE OK?

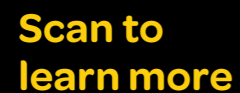
An R U OK? conversation guide for family and friends of police and emergency services workers and volunteers

Are They Triple OK? Trailer

**PODCAST NOW
STREAMING**

ARE THEY TRIPLE OK?

Even the most resilient emergency services workers and volunteers can be affected by stress and trauma related to their work, or as a result of other life challenges. Are They Triple OK? resources provide practical tools and tips on how to start an R U OK? conversation with a workmate, friend or family member in the emergency services, to help them feel connected and supported, long before they're in crisis.



ruok.org.au/triple-ok

RU OK?™
A conversation could change a life.



Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

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Cover photo: Police and community members with their awards, at the NHWQ Conference

countrywideaustral

FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Hello Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

Welcome to the winter edition of the **Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Journal** – we hope you are keeping safe and warm. Featured are many of the community safety projects and partnerships that are underway in the NHWA calendar



Keeping Kids Safe Online TV Commercials

In April NHWA launched a series of 3 television commercial community service announcements (CSAs), developed in partnership with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), aimed at **Keeping Kids Safe Online**. The Keeping Kids Safe Online CSAs have specific messaging for parents and carers that having open and honest conversations about online safety is a key to protecting young people from potential online sexual exploitation.

The Keeping Kids Safe Online CSAs have been exceptionally well-received by the Australian broadcasting sector and are being aired during primetime viewing Australia-wide on Paramount Network Ten, WIN TV, GOOD TV, also C31 a community station based in Melbourne.

For more information about NHWA's **Keeping Kids Safe Online** campaign, see p8.

To view the 3 CSAs go to:
nhwa.com.au/resources/tvc-messages/

Youth, Technology and Virtual Communities Conference

NHWA was honoured to have the **Keeping Kids Safe Online** CSAs included in Commander Helen Schneider's presentation focussing on **The Power of Partnerships for Success at the April 2023 Youth, Technology and Virtual Communities Conference** hosted by Argos - Queensland Police Service. This internationally renowned event – in its 10th year – brings together global industry and law enforcement experts who are unified in their commitment to protecting children, sharing

insights, and promoting powerful discussion and effective action plans through case studies, workshops, and partnerships.



AFP Commander Helen Schneider presenting at the Youth, Technology and Virtual Communities Conference

NHW Queensland Conference



NHWA team Melissa Roberts Project Manager, Maria Bennett CEO, Lizzie McGrory EA/Project Manager with Mark Plath MC

The Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ) conference, held in November 2022, was another significant event for information and activity sharing, and for celebrating the achievements of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteers and police personnel. The theme for the conference was **Securing our Community** and had a line-up of presenters discussing topics including Home Security, Cyber Security and Youth programs. Many of the dedicated members of police and NHW communities were acknowledged for their achievements – congratulations to all recipients! To read more about the awardees see p31.

Neighbour Day with NAPCAN

In March NHWA partnered again with Neighbours Every Day (NED) and the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), to proudly present Neighbour Day. Neighbour Day is an annual Day of Action dedicated to **Creating Belonging** in our communities. The principle aim of NED is to build better relationships with the people we call neighbours. NHW groups are uniquely positioned to participate in and promote Neighbour Day, given that NHW members are, at their core, good neighbours. NAPCAN created an excellent short video to promote **Neighbour Day 2023**, go to: nhwa.com.au/resources/tvc-messages/



The community jigsaw puzzle

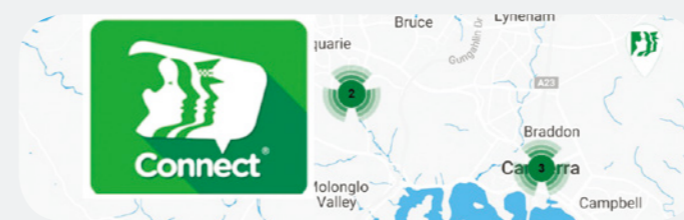
Run Against Violence



Attendees getting ready to run at the Run Against Violence presentation with Kirrily Dear

In May I attended a presentation by Kirrily Dear, co-founder of Run Against Violence (RAV), a campaign designed to start important conversations about family violence and to raise money for the primary prevention of violence, including for **NAPCAN's Love Bites Respectful Relationships Program**. This year's RAV theme, Seeing the Unseen, aims to demonstrate the power of connection to create communities where family violence no longer exists. The RAV Virtual Team Challenge starts 30 August 2023 – **NHWA will be entering a team in the RAV virtual run. To participate and join Kirrily and RAV in taking steps to prevent family violence go to: race.runagainstviolence.com and facebook.com/runagainstviolence**

NHW Connect has arrived!



NHWA is launching the **NHW Connect** site, a one-stop site for locating local, state, and national NHW and Neighbourhood Support NZ (NSNZ) groups and organisations. **All NHW and NSNZ groups are welcome to enter their details on the NHW Connect site – go to: nhwconnect.com.au/**

2023 Upcoming Events

NHWA Volunteer and Policing Awards 2023

It's that time of year again: nominations for the **Malcolm Grant OAM – NHWA Volunteer of the Year Award** and the **NHWA Police Commissioner's Award 2023** are now open! For details on how to nominate and acknowledge your outstanding NHW community and police members go to: nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards/

Secure September 1-30 Sept 2023

A month long campaign promoting safer communities with crime prevention partner Crimsafe.

National Secure Your Home Day 23, 24 September 2023

National Secure Your Home Day (NSYHD) is a great opportunity for all NHW groups to reach out to their neighbours, **hold an event and have it listed on the NSYHD site (www.secureyourhomeday.com.au)**, make connections, secure your homes and build resilience in communities.



Register now to participate in **National Secure Your Home Day** at secureyourhomeday.com.au, and receive your free information kit, see p9.

Get Online Week 16-22 Oct 2023

Preparations are now underway for Get Online Week (GOLW), with a theme of **Try One Thing**. Last year more than 30 NHW groups received grants of up to a \$1,000 each to participate and host local and online events that contributed significantly to bridging the digital divide. To participate contact us at admin@nhwa.com.au

NHW Week 6-12 Nov 2023

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and Bunnings are partnering again to combine Neighbourhood Watch Week and Crime Prevention Week. Contact your local Bunnings to book a BBQ and hold an event.

To keep up to date with upcoming events and opportunities, go to www.nhwa.com.au/calendar/

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

Stay safe and connected.

Together we achieve great things.

Neighbourhood Watch – the Power of Many!

Maria Bennett

Maria Bennett
Chief Executive Officer
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
maria.bennett@nhwa.com.au

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



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

PATRON, BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



Commissioner Reece P Kershaw APM - Patron

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

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

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

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

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



Bernie Durkin - Chairman, Western Australia

Bernie is the Executive Manager for the Community Engagement Division of the Western Australia Police. Part of this role encompasses the position of WA State Director for NHTWA. In 1988 Bernie joined WA Police as a sworn Police Officer then switching to a Public Servant in 2008. In his current role Bernie manages a team of crime prevention community engagement staff and is extensively involved with NHTWA at both a State and National level. Bernie is currently the Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



Margaret Pearson - Company Secretary

Throughout Margaret's career she has made a significant contribution to the voluntary sector by being involved with numerous community organisations including ACT Neighbourhood Watch Association Inc. where she held a number of positions within that organisation and has recently retired from the role of President. Having lived overseas for a number of years Margaret returned, with her family, to Canberra where she continues to follow her great interest in local and international politics. Margaret is currently the Company Secretary of NHTWA.



Laurie Blackall - Australian Capital Territory

Following a 22 year career as an Officer in the Royal Australian Navy, Laurie joined the Australian Public Service working in a number of intelligence-related roles, specialising in geospatial intelligence analysis and intelligence capability development. He has extensive project and program management experience and, until recently, was a member of the Australian Institute of Project Management. He is a graduate of the UNSW Graduate School of Management and has a Degree in Resource and Environmental Management (Remote Sensing). Laurie joined the Board of ACT NHTWA as Treasurer in 2018 and has been President since May 2020.



Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale APM - AFP

Deputy Commissioner Gale's passion for combatting all forms of human exploitation and maintaining community safety has been admirably demonstrated throughout her 35 year career, most notably in her previous role as head of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. During her career in the AFP, 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. 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.



Incorporating:

IFE23
ConferenceWAFAC23
ConferenceADRC23
Conference

22-25 AUGUST 2023 | BRISBANE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

Creating a sustainable future: the challenges and opportunities

AFAC23 exhibition creates a hub for organisations, local government, community groups to network and source solutions to create safer communities. Engage in face-to-face discussions with Access Easy English, Minderoo Foundation, visit the NRMA Resilience Lane and discover organisations like Good Grief, MacKillop Institute, Resilience Ready, and these are only a few to get your attention. Come along and discover lots, and lots more on the exhibition floor.

AFAC23, ADRC23, IFE23 and WAFAC23 deliver solutions to these industry sectors:



Fire

Emergency/
RescueFirst
RespondersPublic
Safety

Resilience

Critical
Infrastructure

Delivered by



Deutsche Messe



Sponsored by



AIDR Knowledge Centre Sponsor



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AFP and ACCCE Covert Operatives Helping Kids Stay Safe

An Australian Federal Police (AFP) covert online operative and senior child protection specialist Detective Superintendent Jayne Crossling from the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), participated in Channel 9's Parental Guidance television show (5 June 2023).

Parental Guidance is a reality television series where 12 sets of parents undergo challenges that put their parenting styles to the test.

AFP experts worked closely with the show's producers for months to develop an online gaming scenario based off real reports made to the ACCCE. This included advice on grooming strategies and techniques commonly used by online child sex offenders.

The scenarios were limited to include only the initial stages of the grooming process and were carefully designed to highlight how quickly an online child sex offender can extract personal information from a child.

The show provided a confronting, real-life example of how skilled online child sex offenders are when communicating with children, including instances where children have avoided further harm.

Detective Superintendent Crossling appeared as the show's first ever in-studio guest, joining hosts Ally Langdon and Dr Justin Coulson to provide advice and educative support to parents.

Detective Superintendent Crossling said the key message the AFP wanted parents and carers to take from the show was the importance of having regular conversations with your children about their online activities.

"The online world is a key part of most children's lives these days and



Detective Superintendent Jayne Crossling, Dr Justin Coulson and Channel 9's Parental Guidance host Ally Langdon

as digital natives they are generally much savvier in this world than their parents or carers," Detective Superintendent Crossling said.

"Despite this, parents and carers still play a vital role in helping their children navigate the online world safely and should be actively guiding them online just as they do in the physical world."

"The online gaming challenge in Parental Guidance was a controlled environment but showed the reality of what the AFP sees everyday: unsuspecting children being groomed by online child sex offenders into revealing personal information or images."

In-game chat and direct message features are common functions used by online child sex offenders to initiate contact with children and young people. It is important that parents and carers are aware of these features and know how to respond if their child is approached online.

If your child discloses that this has happened to them, respond calmly, without judgement, and believe them.

A good place for parents and carers to find information and resources about online safety is www.thinkuknow.org.au.

ThinkUKnow Australia is an evidence-based education program led by the AFP, delivered nationally in partnership with police and industry partners to prevent online child sexual exploitation. On their website you will find; *Gaming, devices and what you need to know* and the children's e-book *Jack Changes the Game*.

Jack Changes the Game is based on a real report to the ACCCE. The book is designed to be read to 5-8-year-olds by parents, carers, and educators. It gives age-appropriate advice on the importance of recognising online child sexual exploitation, including online grooming, how to take action and report to police.

The **Parental Guidance** episode is available to download from the channel nine website.

Keeping Kids Safe Online

A Campaign to Protect Children from Online Sexual Exploitation

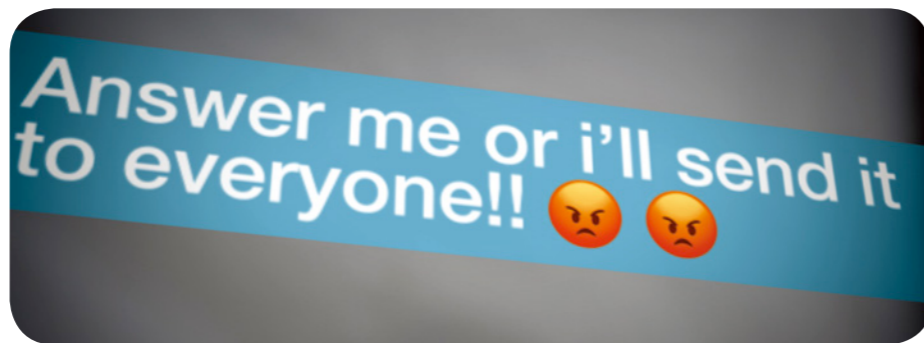
In April Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) launched its new series of community service announcements (CSAs), **Keeping Kids Safe Online**, a campaign of targeted messaging to inform parents and carers how to recognise, respond to, and report online child sexual exploitation.

As children and young people's access to the internet continues to increase, so too do the risks to their online safety, with there being a corresponding upward trend in cases of online child sexual exploitation.

In collaboration with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), the **Keeping Kids Safe Online** CSAs have been developed to inform parents and carers of the importance of having open and honest conversations about online safety to protect children and young people from potential online sexual exploitation.

The campaign focuses on three key areas: awareness of the extent of the problem, red flags to watch out for, and supporting children and adults to speak up and know how to report.

"As we continue to meet people and socialise more and more through online communities, the safety of



young people in these environments is a top priority," said Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Chief Executive Officer, Maria Bennett.

AFP Acting Commander Jayne Crossling said education and prevention played a critical role in the fight against child exploitation in Australia.

"Law enforcement can't be everywhere at once and the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia program, working together with

the ACCCE, represents a holistic approach to fighting this crime and keeping our children safe.

"By working closely with our partners across Australia, we aim to help parents and carers, and children, understand what to look out for, in the hope that we can reduce offending against children," Commander Crossling said.

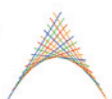
The campaign has now rolled out nationally on free-to-air television and has been very well received by broadcasters and the community. The CSAs are available to view on the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia website at: www.nhwa.com.au/resources/tvc-messages/

In partnering with the ACCCE in the fight against online child sexual exploitation, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia continues its effort to engage, inform, and advocate for the safety and wellbeing of all children, their families, and communities.

If you have seen inappropriate behaviour towards children online, get help and report at: <https://www.accce.gov.au/help-and-support/who-can-help> or <https://www.accce.gov.au/report>



NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH
AUSTRALASIA



Australian
Centre to Counter
Child Exploitation



AFP

National Secure Your Home Day

Save the date! 23-24 September 2023

National Secure Your Home Day will be held on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September to coincide with Secure September, providing a fantastic opportunity to review and improve your home's security.



National Secure Your Home Day a Neighbourhood Watch Australasia initiative to enhance home security across Australia. This dedicated

day encourages homeowners to conduct a yearly household security check, reducing the risk of crime and improving property safety. Participants gain access to free resources and information on simple, cost effective security strategies developed in collaboration with The University of Queensland.

Target hardening strategies play a vital role in making homes less appealing to potential thieves. By implementing practical measures such as ensuring secure window locks, maintaining trimmed vegetation, and removing potential access items, homeowners can significantly improve their home's security. Additional measures like security screens, lights, and CCTV systems further enhance protection.

Home break-ins and thefts have been on the rise, as reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In the past year alone, 2% of households experienced break-ins, with an estimated additional 2% encountering attempted break-ins. There was also an increase in break-ins related to motor vehicle theft due to stolen car keys.

To safeguard your property, don't miss the opportunity to register for National Secure Your Home Day on 23-24 September 2023. As a participant, you'll receive the National Secure Your Home Day Kit, which includes a comprehensive Home Security Checklist, valuable information, tips on proactive



security measures, and updates on community events in your area.

For an added bonus, kids can showcase their creativity and enter the National Secure Your Home Day drawing and colouring competition. The winning artwork will be featured online by Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

By actively participating in National Secure Your Home Day, you contribute to creating a safer environment and promoting community resilience.

Neighbourhood Watch groups are encouraged to hold an event during National Secure Your Home Day weekend for neighbours to get together and meet each other.

Register now and participate in National Secure Your Home Day and gain access to valuable tips, resources, engaging activities for kids, and more.

Scan the QR code or visit secureyourhomeday.com.au



National Secure Your Home Day is part of the Safer Australia For Everyone (SAFE) Target Hardening for Australian Communities Project, a joint initiative by Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and The University of Queensland. Together, let's make our homes and communities safer.

Resources to Help Older Australians get the most out of Going Online

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

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

New course: Useful apps

From the applications that come with your smartphone, to those available from your device's app store, there are apps that you can use every day to make life more convenient.

Our brand-new topic shows you the apps that come built-in to your iPhone or Android phone and how apps can transform your device into an entertainment hub! You'll also learn about apps that connect you to important services and apps to help you get around.

Visit: beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/useful-apps

Podcast: Answers to your tech questions

The Be Connected podcast is perfect for anyone looking to sharpen their tech skills while on the go.

Explore our latest episodes including when we put host Val Quinn in the hot seat to answer your tricky tech questions. Join us as Val explains what happens when we're hacked, what the dark web is and more.

Listen and subscribe on your favourite podcast platform, or listen online at: beconnected.esafety.gov.au/podcast



Ready to build
your digital
skills?



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

Upcoming free online presentations

Be Connected's free presentations cover a wide range of topics every month. Here are some of our upcoming sessions:

- **15 August: Selling safely online**
- **17 August: Transport apps**
- **5 September: Android phone basics**
- **7 September: Smart home technology**
- **19 September: Government websites**
- **21 September: Technology for health**

Learn more and register your attendance: beconnected.esafety.gov.au/online-safety-presentations

Whether you want to pick up new skills or dive into a new topic, join the thousands of Australians already accessing Be Connected's free learning resources online.

Scan the QR Code with your smart phone camera (or QR Code reader) to go to the Be Connected website



Introducing the Mighty Heroes: New Tools to Help Prepare 5-8s for Life Online

The eSafety Commissioner has created a package of resources for educators, parents and carers to help children develop their online safety skills in the early to middle primary school years.

Available for download at [eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au), the materials include classroom activities, teacher professional learning modules and activities for parents and carers to do at home with children aged 5 to 8, complementing and building on eSafety's Early Years program for younger children.

eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said the package provided age-appropriate, curriculum-aligned resources to help prepare children for the increasing risk of exposure to online harms.

"Our research shows 81% of parents with children aged 2 to 5 report their child is using the internet, so we have to start educating them at an early age," Ms Inman Grant said.

"Teachers, as well as parents and carers, can play a pivotal role in helping children develop digital skills to have positive, safe experiences online and develop good habits when using technology."

The classroom resources feature four fun bush characters, the Mighty Heroes, each with an online safety message for children:

- **Wanda the echidna:** I am responsible – I protect my personal information
- **River the sugar glider:** I show respect – I am kind and caring to others
- **Dusty the frilled neck lizard:** I trust my feelings – I get help if something doesn't feel right
- **Billie the bilby:** I investigate – I question what I see, hear and do online



eSafety Commissioner

By chatting with children early and often, we can equip them with the tools they need to stay safe online.

Developed with teachers, the package is aligned to the Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education and the Australian Curriculum.

Resources are also available as part of the package to help parents and carers have conversations with their children about online safety at eSafety's website.

"Complaints to eSafety continue to increase substantially across all our reporting schemes, including those involving school-age children," Ms Inman Grant said.

"Complaints about cyberbullying, for example, increased by almost 70 per cent last year alone, and our research shows almost two-

thirds of young people have been exposed to harmful content of some kind by age 17.

"It's more important than ever that we start educating children early about the risks and ensure they know where to go for information, advice and help."

eSafety is Australia's independent national regulator for online safety. It has a range of civil powers that act as a safety net, including the power to help remove illegal or harmful content, image-based abuse or online cyberbullying.

Teacher resources are available here: [eSafety.gov.au/educators/classroom-resources](https://esafety.gov.au/educators/classroom-resources)

Resources for parents and carers are available here: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/resources/mighty-heroes](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/resources/mighty-heroes)

Reducing Crime with Safety in Numbers

During Neighbourhood Watch Month in March, Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) again united for the 'Safety in Numbers' campaign.



The primary goal of this successful campaign was to inspire homeowners to come together with their local community to create safer, more resilient neighbourhoods.

The campaign focused on enhancing the Secure Score of each home in the area by providing homeowners with a tiered action plan comprising thirteen security improvements that could increase their Secure Score by up to 66 points. This plan was a motivating resource, encouraging homeowners to take proactive measures to protect their properties and foster a sense of security within their community.

The campaign witnessed significant engagement as thousands of Australian homeowners were drawn to the Secure Score tool, demonstrating their ongoing interest in equipping themselves with simple yet effective techniques to enhance home and neighbourhood security.



Likewise, many homeowners took advantage of the free, tiered action plan, seeking straightforward, cost-effective methods to elevate their Secure Score.

While the ABS statistics represent a promising step in the right direction, Crimsafe and NHWA remain firmly committed to further reducing crime rates. It is this shared dedication that brings them together once again for the upcoming Secure September campaign.

Throughout Secure September, stay connected with Crimsafe and NHWA on Facebook and Instagram.



You'll gain access to valuable resources, including helpful tips and insights on enhancing home security and fostering a safer local community. Join the conversation, stay informed, and take proactive steps towards a more secure community for you and your neighbours.

How Secure is Your Home?

Discover the true effectiveness of your home security today with Secure Score—a free online audit tool designed to assess your home's overall security. Within just five minutes, Secure Score evaluates vulnerable areas and generates a personalised action plan with valuable tips to enhance your score and boost your home's protection.

Secure Score is a joint initiative by Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia dedicated to fostering safer communities by empowering homeowners to strengthen their home security. Start your assessment now by scanning the QR code or visiting: <https://seurescore.crimsafe.com.au/>

Run Against Violence

Australia unites to walk and run against family violence in the 2023 Run Against Violence Virtual Team Challenge.



Australia's annual Run Against Violence (RAV) Virtual Team Challenge begins on 30 August 2023. Now in its sixth year, this nationwide event aims to generate meaningful conversations about family violence prevention, helping to remove the stigma surrounding family violence. Teams of up to 20 people are encouraged to walk or run 1300 kilometres over 19 days in their local community.

Co-founded by Kirrily Dear and Brad Smithers in 2017, the RAV Virtual Team Challenge is pivotal in creating a safer community for everyone. Kirrily says, "It's more than just a run; it's about joining people together to create healthy and respectful communities, free from family violence."

According to a recent Australian Child Maltreatment Study, almost 40% of Australians have been exposed to domestic violence in childhood, with long-term consequences in adulthood, such as a higher likelihood of mental disorders. This year's theme, "Seeing the Unseen," aims to demonstrate the power of connection to create communities where family violence no longer exists.

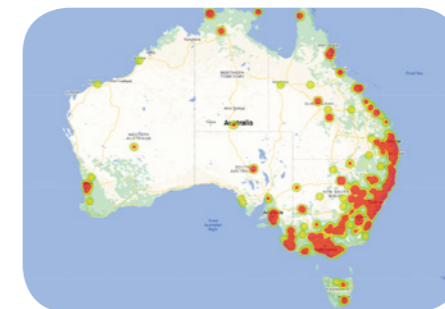
In 2022, over 200 teams participated in the RAV Virtual Team Challenge across Australia, with almost 70% of participants based in regional areas. This year, Kirrily hopes to welcome more communities into the RAV family, specifically more men, who play a pivotal role in the healing journey.

"So far, men only make up around 21% of RAV participants," Kirrily says. "We want men to know that the RAV Challenge is enjoyable, healthy, and you don't need to say or do anything special. Listening and participating is enough."

This year's artwork, created by young Indigenous artist Jorja Cohen,



RAV is Australia's only Virtual Team Challenge dedicated to family violence prevention



Heat Map shows the location of participants during the 2022 RAV Virtual Team Challenge

and incorporated into RAV 2023 merchandise, depicts male and female figures seated and facing away from each other.

"They can't see each other's expression or form; they are unseen by each other and by their community and families. They're melancholic and hurt," says Jorja. As the story unfolds, the two find their paths to healing and reconnection through their family and community.

All donations go directly to the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) to support and expand the Love Bites Program, helping Australian teenagers access respectful relationship education in their schools.



2023 Artwork by Jorja Cohen depicting this year's theme - Seeing the Unseen

Brad encourages everyone to participate, regardless of fitness level. "Whether you can walk or run 10 or 10,000 metres, we'd love you to join us to help end family violence", he says.

The RAV Virtual Team Challenge equates to 1.7 million steps*, representing the estimated number of Australians who experience physical abuse before the age of 15. Let's all take steps towards preventing family violence together.

* Sourced from ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016.

More information: <https://www.runagainstvience.com/team-challenge-overview>

Follow on: **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/runagainstvience>

MISSING PERSONS

Helping Families Through the National Missing Persons Coordination Centre

The **National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (NMPCC)** was established in 2006 to drive national coordination in response to missing persons in Australia, and to complement the investigative role of state and territory police.

The NMPCC is funded by the Federal Government through the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The NMPCC is a non-operational arm of the AFP and its mandate is to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons in Australia.

In Australia a missing person is defined as anyone who is reported missing to police, whose whereabouts are unknown, and where there are fears for the safety or concern for the welfare of that person.

A long-term missing person is someone who has been missing for more than three months. In Australia there are over 2,500 people listed as a long-term missing person. The NMPCC manages the Australian **Missing Persons** website and **Public Register** at missingpersons.gov.au.

Have you seen any of these people?

The NMPCC publishes national missing persons posters twice a year. Posters are sent to police, search organisations, community services, and other organisations for public display. The posters are also circulated digitally and on social media. If you would like to display a missing persons poster, please contact NMPCC through missingpersons.gov.au.



Missing Persons poster - April 2023

Another of the NMPCC's primary programs of work includes the **Police Consultative Group on Missing Persons (PCGMP)** which brings together the AFP and all state and territory Missing Persons Units, to develop, maintain and review national policy and procedures in relation to missing persons in Australia. The PCGMP also provides a national forum to deal with issues and trends specific to missing persons, and to ensure a consistent approach and response from police and search agencies across the country.

Through the PCGMP, the NMPCC is engaging with police agencies around the country in support of a national implementation of the highly successful **Safe & Found WA** program, a joint initiative of the Western Australia Police Force and MedicAlert Foundation.

This program assists police to more rapidly locate vulnerable persons living with dementia, autism or a cognitive impairment that increases their chances of going missing.



Safe & Found ID bracelet

In Australia there are over 480,000 people living with dementia and it is estimated that approximately 60% will wander at least once. Utilising the Safe & Found model provides police with the opportunity to not only address the prevalence of wandering episodes for those living with dementia but to expand to include all cognitive impairments, thus safeguarding a larger portion of the population.

National Missing Persons Week (NMPW) is an annual week of action that takes place in Australia during the first week of August to raise awareness of the significant issues surrounding missing persons. This year's NMPW focusses on unsolved cases where police have located remains but have not yet made an identification. By featuring these cases, it is hoped members of the public will come forward with relevant information that may help solve these cases.

NATIONAL
DNA PROGRAM
FOR UNIDENTIFIED
AND MISSING PERSONS

National DNA Program

The AFP's **National DNA Program for Unidentified and Missing Persons** launched in July 2020 and harnesses modern forensic techniques to allow the advanced DNA profiling and matching of unidentified human remains and missing persons nationally for the first time in Australia. The program has received 70 state and territory police cases to date; of these, 46 cases have been submitted for specialist DNA testing in the program's laboratory, whilst other cases have come in for other forms of testing such as examination by a forensic anthropologist or radiocarbon dating.

Since its inception, the DNA results generated by the program have assisted with the resolution of eight unidentified human remains cases and a national dental search has linked another set of unknown remains to an interstate missing person.

Solved cases include Mario Della Torre — missing since 1976 — whose identity was confirmed by the South



Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark

The AFP's DNA Program helped solve Australia's biggest maritime mystery 80 years after the sinking of the warship HMAS Sydney (II) off the West Australian coast during World War II, claiming the lives of all 645 men on board. The sailor's remains were exhumed from his resting place on Christmas Island in 2006. In the following years, his remains were subjected to a number of forensic tests in the pursuit of identifying him.

Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark



Associate Professor Jodie Ward

Australian Coroner in February 2022 after program DNA specialists tested bones found at False Bay, SA in 1977 and provided these results to South Australia Police. In 2021, the program team also provided the Australian Navy with DNA evidence to assist with the identification of the 'Unknown Sailor', Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark.

The success of the program is dependent on genetic relatives of missing persons providing a reference DNA sample for comparison. While the program team can recover DNA from unknown bones and teeth, if they don't have a DNA profile to compare it to, they are not going to continue to get DNA matches.

The Missing Person Details Form, now available online at missingpersons.gov.au, aims to collect relevant details about each long-term missing person that are essential for the investigation, but may not have been collected or provided previously. The forensic information, records and samples provided by families will be shared with police investigators and forensic scientists, and may be submitted to national databases for searching nationally.

"I am appealing to the Australian public to assist us with our mission to restore the names and faces of as many unknown Australians as possible — their DNA may just be the missing piece of the puzzle." (DNA Program Lead, Associate Professor Ward).

NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall (centre) leads discussion on NHW helping ACT Policing to get the message out about the new Online Reporting procedure

Online Crime Reporting in ACT

At a recent Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT Area Coordinators Forum, attendees were briefed on the introduction by ACT Policing of Online Reporting for particular crime types to supplement reporting channels for the Canberra community, similar to procedures currently offered by other law enforcement agencies.

ACT Policing's Strategic Communications Officer (SCO), Emma Bailey, explained to the meeting that Online Reporting will complement existing reporting means and residents will still be able to report emergencies and life-threatening incidents to Triple Zero (000), and non-urgent matters on 131 444 or by attending a local police station.

The new reporting tool will initially enable residents to report non-urgent, minor property damage and vandalism incidents using any digital device via the ACT Policing website. Online

reports received will be assessed in line with current ACT Policing processes. If further investigation is required, the report will be transferred for a police officer to attend and speak to the individual making the report.

After SCO Bailey finished introducing aspects of the new procedure, she distributed samples of the types of posters and information brochures that would be used to publicise the new reporting method.

The Area Coordinators attending the meeting displayed considerable interest in this new development,

and NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall led discussions on how NHW could assist ACT Policing in getting the message out to the public through our own branch newsletters, NHW website and Facebook page.

The ACT Policing website is being updated to align with the launch and will include information guides in several languages to assist with the implementation of Online Reporting.

ACT Policing plans to enhance Online Reporting following the initial launch in June, to cater for additional crime types in the future.



ACT Membership Secretary Jude Bowman, Vice President (South) Albert Orszaczky, and NHW member Kevin Henderson interacting with COTA Expo visitors

ACT Seniors Expo in Autumn

Neighbourhood Watch ACT shared a booth with ACT Policing at the Council on the Ageing (COTA)'s first major event in 2023, the 'Seniors Expo in Autumn' at Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC).

The Autumn Expo in mid-March will be followed by another later in Spring. Services Australia was on hand to offer the latest advice on aged care and potential scams for older Australians.

According to COTA, both Expos are designed to inspire, inform and foster social connections, and create the opportunity for over 130 stallholders representing business, government agencies and community organisations, to forge strong and effective links with older Canberrans.

For their part, the NHW and ACT Policing representatives were on hand to answer visitors' questions and provide pamphlets on a range of security issues - and a booklet on recent scams that was snapped up by many visitors.

The Parkes Room, located adjacent to the large pavilion, featured a free music program consisting of seven 'pocket' performances. The performances included two 'singalong' interactive music concerts,

Elvis impersonator Andrew Leonard, and Canberra jazz singer and pianist Leisa Keen.

Other special features at the Expo included a Green Hub for gardening enthusiasts, a Hobby Hub featuring model railway displays and wood crafts, and even a Smart Energy Hub.

Transport Canberra and Canberra Metro offered older Canberrans free public transport on the day, and there was also free and disabled parking for Expo patrons.

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With a Little Help from Our Friends at NHW Week

ACT President Laurie Blackall had some welcome company when interacting with the public at the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) information booth at Bunnings, Gungahlin, during last NHW Week in November.

ACT Policing was well represented by 1st Constable Tracy Rollings, Senior Constable Matt Barnden, and Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) Graeme Brown (a proud Bundjalung & Yuin man).

Dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officers (ALOs) are part of ACT Policing's Community Safety-Community Engagement Team, and provide a vital link between police and local indigenous communities, which leads to increased cooperation and open lines of communication.



1st Constable Tracy Rollings, NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall, Senior Constable Matt Barnden, and Aboriginal Liaison Officer Graeme Brown interacting with the public during NHW Week

ACT Loves its Volunteers

Ahead of National Volunteer Week 2023, Volunteering ACT CEO Jean Giese said she was hoping visitors would 'fall in love' with the 'Volunteering At First Sight' themed Volunteering Expo and Symposium.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT was one of the many volunteer organisations that stepped up and hosted a stall at the Expo.

As NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall noted, "The expo was a great opportunity for us to showcase NHW and discuss volunteering activities to support our mission.

"We also made valuable contacts with other organisation's supporting the Canberra community.

"The event saw a constant stream of visitors looking to provide some of their time and skills to volunteering with several new volunteers

potentially joining us to expand our capabilities, particularly in the areas of social media, IT and marketing."

Earlier in the week, Mr Blackall and NHW ACT Secretary Angela Di Pauli attended the 2023 Volunteering ACT Symposium.

At the Symposium they heard about legislative changes affecting the non-profit sector, discussed strategies for engaging younger volunteers, and identified areas where Volunteering ACT and their supporting agencies could assist NHW - particularly in governance, and volunteer management and recruitment.



Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury Dr Andrew Leigh MP, dropped by the NHW booth manned by ACT President Laurie Blackall and Vice President (North) Clare McGrath

NHW NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES

Senior Safety

To be safe from crime and violence is a fundamental right for everyone in our community. As we grow older, several factors can impact on our confidence and quality of life.

Take a few extra precautions and be prepared when a risk is identified. This can go a long way to improve your feeling of safety when out in public spaces and at home.

Here are some simple tips we all can take to help protect yourself, your family and friends from the effects of crime.

Protect Yourself When Out and About

- **ALWAYS** be alert when travelling on public transport. Travel in busy carriages, guard compartments (marked with a blue light) or sit at the front of the bus.



- **ALWAYS** try to travel in groups of friends wherever possible.
- **ALWAYS** carry identification and let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- **NEVER** carry large sums of cash in public.

Protect Yourself at Home

- **NEVER** let anyone you don't know and trust inside your home.
- **ALWAYS** secure your doors and windows.
- **DO NOT** leave valuables, mobile devices or keys (home or vehicle) in clear view.
- **ALWAYS** report suspicious behaviour within your neighbourhood to police.

Protect Yourself From Fraud

- **BE CAREFUL** when sharing your personal or financial information such as driver's licence details or date of birth etc, over the telephone or online.
- **ALWAYS** read any contract or service paperwork carefully prior to paying for any work.
- **NEVER** give anyone remote access to your online devices.
- **NEVER** access emails from senders you don't know or trust.

If you are or know of someone who is the victim of abuse, please call the Aging and Disability Abuse Helpline on **1800 628 221** or visit: <https://www.ageingdisabilitycommission.nsw.gov.au/contact-us.html>

Alpine Safety

A SNOW SAFE MESSAGE FROM THE NSW POLICE.

Important safety tips when visiting the Alpine Region:

- Roads can quickly become dangerous, with snow and ice on the road. Fit chains when directed by signs or authorities, fit the chains to the vehicles driving wheels. You can hire snow chains at service stations and ski hire shops, there are special chain fitting bays along the route.
- For your safety, leave double the normal distance between you and the car in front, don't brake

harshly and avoid sharp steering movements as stopping on icy roads takes longer.

- When driving, watch for signs of tiredness and take a break.
- Check if there are any park alerts or road closures and check if carparks at resorts are full, as they can fill up early. If you're advised that carparks are full, make alternative plans. Leave the car in Jindabyne and catch the Snowy Mountains bus service to reach the snow.
- When hiking ensure your personal safety by submitting a Trip Intention Form and hiring a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). PLBs are free of charge by way of a re-fundable deposit from one of the National

Parks and Wildlife Service centres located at numerous locations, including Jindabyne, as well as Perisher resort.

- Travel with at least 3 people in your group. If there's an emergency one of you can go for help, while the other stays with the injured or sick person.
- Know your limits and stay within them. If you're skiing or snowboarding, know how to stay in control and stick to designated slopes, as ungroomed surfaces can be unpredictable.
- Ensure you take enough water, food, equipment and first aid supplies.
- Download the NSW National Parks app & the Emergency Plus app.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

What's New with Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

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

New NSNZ CEO Appointed

In April 2023, the Neighbourhood Support New Zealand Board appointed Louise Grevel as the new CEO for Neighbourhood Support New Zealand.

Louise is certainly no stranger to Neighbourhood Support, having previously served nine years on the NSNZ Board, four of those as Chair. She also previously worked as the Coordinator for Neighbourhood Support Waitakere for 13 years and was the District Representative for Waitemata District (which covers Members in Waitakere, Rodney, North Shore and Greenhithe) for nine years. To top this all off, Louise was

the Acting CEO for NSNZ for several months after Tess Casey's resignation earlier this year.

"Taking Louise's passion and wealth of experience within the organisation into consideration, it was a relatively easy decision" said Acting Board Chair, Claire Steer.

"As a Board we feel very fortunate and excited about what Louise will be able to bring to this role."

Outside of her work with Neighbourhood Support, Louise is also a volunteer fire fighter, a Trustee for the Waitakere Township Hall and Whangateau Cemetery, as well as a Ranui Swanson Waitakere Community Patroller.



Louise Grevel, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand's newly appointed CEO

The Power of Neighbourhood Support Networks

Last month Neighbourhood Support New Zealand received a call through their 0800 number from a senior who lives in St Kilda, Dunedin. Newly appointed CEO, Louise, took the call. The caller explained that she has very limited mobility and was concerned

because her windows had accidentally been left open by her carer who had visited earlier that day. She was unable to close them and didn't feel safe going to bed with them open. The stars aligned as Otago District Rep, Lois, happened to live just around the corner. After a quick phone call from Louise, Lois and her husband whipped around to the caller's home and were able to help her get her windows closed

so that she could have a safe and peaceful night's sleep.

Stories like this are what Neighbourhood Support is all about, and it's simple things like this that really prove the power of Neighbourhood Support networks across the country. As a result, Neighbourhood Support Otago are now in the process of helping the residents on the caller's street set up a Neighbourhood Support Group for their area.

Neighbourhood Support Heroes Vital to Flood Response

Neighbours and community groups were the unsung heroes of the emergency flood response across the North Island and upper South Island of New Zealand earlier this year.

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand, which has networks throughout the affected areas, recognised the efforts of countless coordinators and volunteers who went doorknocking, undertook welfare checks, participated in clean ups, and organised assistance for those who needed it.

"Reaching out, looking out and helping out is what Neighbourhood Support is all about," says NSNZ CEO Louise Grevel, "but the scale of the emergencies experienced this year, and their ongoing nature, has meant that neighbours and neighbourhoods have been working tirelessly to support those who have needed help. It has also been wonderful to see community



Flooding impacts North Island and upper South Island

organisations connecting and working together. Communities have really dug in to support each other this year. It has been a grass roots community response."

Throughout the continued bad weather, Neighbourhood Support encouraged people to check in with their neighbours, particularly those who live alone or are vulnerable.

"We were particularly concerned about people, such as the disabled

community and older people, who may rely on support services who were unable to reach them," says Louise Grevel. "Not everyone has access to social media or the internet for up-to-date information so in some instances, neighbours were an essential point of call for help and assistance."

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand offer free resources to help neighbours to connect and support one another through disaster and emergencies.

NSNZ Partner with Farmstrong to Offer a Wellbeing Webinar with Sam Whitelock

In April, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand partnered with Farmstrong to offer a wellbeing webinar, presented by Farmstrong ambassador and All Black, Sam Whitelock, to Neighbourhood Support members across the country.

The webinar looked at the science of wellbeing in relation to community connectedness. Sam talked about how he gets through challenging times and supports others - a particularly relevant and timely conversation given what so many regions across the country were dealing with at the time. Attendees were then able to use the chat function to ask Sam questions live.

The webinar recording is available to watch on the Neighbourhood Support NZ Youtube channel.



Sam Whitelock - All Black and Farmstrong Ambassador
Photo Credit: Farmstrong

New Car for North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support

North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support are beyond thankful for Arthur Burke Amberley's very generous sponsorship of a new Mazda 2 car.

With Arthur Burke being a "real community company" they immediately said 'yes' when approached by Dalice Stewart of North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support, as they "liked what Neighbourhood Support stand for" and did the sign writing of the vehicle as well.

"It's a great zippy wee car and great on petrol. We think it looks great all sign written up too!" said Dalice.



Sergeant Munro, Brent Cairns (Neighbourhood Support), Dalice Stewart, Tim McCracken (Mazda, Arthur Burke Amberley) and Craig Schroder (Mazda, Arthur Burke, Amberley) on what was a very exciting day

Papamoa Residents Feeling Safer After Having New Smoke Alarms Installed by Neighbourhood Support Volunteers

Working with Fire and Emergency, Western Bay of Plenty Neighbourhood Support has installed 150 smoke alarms so far - and there are more to come.

Alarms are installed by volunteers Ron Judd, a Community Patrol volunteer, and Geoff Russell, a Neighbourhood Support Street Coordinator and former ambulance officer. Geoff provides some fire safety tips while Ron does the installation.

Neighbourhood Support Manager Bruce Banks says those who have had the alarms installed are grateful for the campaign. "We're happy to help people be safer in their homes - but we also hope they never have to hear their alarm go off at all."

Western Bay of Plenty Neighbourhood Support is hoping to extend the programme beyond Pāpāmoa.



Waiata Shores "learning" garden

Papakura District Neighbourhood Support Facilitates Establishment of Waiata Shores Community Garden

Café proprietor, Amit Luthra generously provided space for a small group of Waiata Shores residents to establish a "learning" garden. Planter boxes and fill were provided by Fletcher Residential Living, and the Local Board of Auckland

Council provided funding for plants. With the help of Ace Landscaping a combined team recently completed the initial project. This gardening crew of local volunteers now has the joy of nurturing the growing crop!

The planter boxes came from local firm, FuturePost. The components are made from re-cycled soft plastics. They won't rot or split, are UV resistant, and have a 50+ life expectancy.

NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND



Area Coordinators for NHW 10 Clover Hill, NHW 8 Reedy Creek, and NHW 7 Mudgeeraba, and Councillor Tozer speaking at the Community Safety Afternoon

Mudgeeraba Community Safety Afternoon a Huge Success

On 20 May, several Gold Coast based Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups, along with local police and Councillor Glenn Tozer, hosted a Community Safety Afternoon at the Mudgeeraba Community Centre in the beautiful Gold Coast hinterland.

There were over 100 members of the community in attendance, who came along to listen to and participate in a discussion about local crime, speeding, hooning, and other vehicle crimes, and how we can all help police do their jobs.

The event was emceed by Councillor Glenn Tozer from Division 9 in the City of Gold Coast Council. There was a Q&A style interview between Cr Tozer and Senior Sergeant Matthew Pyke from Mudgeeraba Police Station, who graciously answered several questions from

the crowd. This was followed by a forum of three local NHW volunteers: John Kiss from Mudgeeraba 7, David James from Clover Hill 10, and Robert Ormsby from Reedy Creek. They spoke about how they got involved with NHW and what is involved with running their groups.

The presenters communicated the key message that it's everyone's responsibility to report crime; for example, by reporting hooning on the QPS website. Private CCTV footage can also be utilised to help police catch hoons and the like,

and three security and CCTV camera companies were in attendance to talk people through the process of how best to use them.

Special thanks need to go to volunteers from the following NHW groups, who helped plan, promote, set up, talk with guests, and pack down after the event: Clover Hill 10, Glenwood Park, Mudgeeraba 6, Mudgeeraba 7, and Reedy Creek.

There will be a NHW Community Day happening on Sunday 27 August as a follow up from the May event.

Coffee with a Cop Brings Community together in Daisy Hill

Daisy Hill community members and police officers enjoyed a brew and a chat recently for Coffee with a Cop in June, at St Coco Café.

Officers Senior Constable Mike McDonald and Senior Constable Rob Whitehead, alongside Councillor Mindy Russell, chatted with residents about their concerns about local crime.

Topics covered included the recent burglaries in Shailer Park and Daisy Hill, information about police responses, Home Security Assessments and the installation of the new camera in Daisy Hill.

The importance of providing timely and accurate information to Policelink or Crime Stoppers (for anonymous reporting), rather than Facebook, was also discussed. It was heartening to hear so many messages of support for police from the community and appreciation for the work done by the Service. Your kind words were greatly appreciated by QPS officers.



Logan City Councillor Mindy Russell, Senior Constable Mike McDonald, Senior Constable Rob Whitehead and a Coffee with a Cop attendee

Edmonton NHW Shining Lights in their Community

Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) members loved their NHW torches provided by Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

Here they are testing them out! If you are interested in purchasing some mini LED torches, please visit <https://www.nhwa.com.au/nhwa-shop/> or email: admin@nhwa.com.au.



NHW Daisy Hill Morning Tea

The Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) morning tea on 10 March at the Springwood Motor Inn was well attended.

Senior Constable Mike McDonald and Acting Senior Sergeant Neil Stacey attended from Queensland Police (QPS), providing an opportunity to meet with residents and discuss crime in an informal setting. Mick De Brenni, State Member for Springwood, attended and presented Gold Award Certificates and Badges to Richard Schultz and Mal Thompson in recognition of their service to Daisy Hill NHW over many years. Congratulations Richard and Mal!

A range of printed material about crime prevention and home security tips was also distributed. The overall message to people was about locking up - your home



Gold Award winners Richard Schultz and Mal Thompson

(whether you are home or not), your cars, and your tools. Mindy Russell, Logan City Councillor, also attended. Thank you to all those who attended, and to Irene Walker for the delicious morning tea.



Senior Constable Mike McDonald, Jill Devaus, Irene Walker (who baked the goodies for morning tea) and Senior Sergeant Neil Stacey

“Lock Up” Your Number Plates

Theft of vehicle number plates continues to create problems for motorists throughout the nation.

If you regularly park your vehicle in the street, on your driveway, or at a shopping centre, you may be particularly vulnerable to number plate theft. The longer your vehicle is unattended the greater the risk.

“Why would thieves want number plates?” Think about burglary, stealing petrol, crime scene getaway and any other time when crooks don't want to be easily identified. Thieves wear hoods and other disguises when they commit crimes and the same applies when a vehicle is involved – **your number plates can become their disguise.**

It takes only 15 to 20 seconds to remove a number plate that has conventional screws, so it makes sense to make it harder for thieves to steal your number

plates. The easiest way to do this is to use screws that are easy to install using a regular screwdriver but are extremely difficult to remove.

You lock up your car, so why wouldn't you “lock up” your number plates! Thieves look for easy targets so the trick is to ‘target harden’ your vehicle. Using one-way security screws on your car's registration plates can help prevent them from being stolen.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) #4 Group in North Rockhampton recently organised a crime prevention project in association with the Queensland Police Service (QPS), and financial assistance from Councillor Shane Latcham of Rockhampton Regional Council. This initially involved volunteers



Coordinator Jan McSweeney of NHW Group #4 with Councillor Shane Latcham

handing out free packets of these screws at local shopping centres. Demand was so strong that reception counters at local police stations were soon supplied with packets of screws to give to interested motorists. These stations were also provided with the special removal tools needed to extract the screws so that number plates could still be removed when the owner was deregistering a vehicle or wanting to relocate personalised plates.



Bundaberg & District NHW volunteers Wendy Byrne, Rhonda Sutton, Anita Ellery, Rex Sheppard, Lester Rogers, Geneve Rogers and Mary Waugh



Peter Vallance and Allen Betts applying one-way security screws to a vehicle's number plates



ViPs Mavis White, Colleen Webber, Annette Hair and Karl Bowman at the QPS display



DCPC Senior Constable Brittany Duncan setting up in readiness for the day

Neighbour Day Bundy Style

NHW goes all out for Neighbour Day

It was all hands on deck when the Bundaberg and District Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups decided to run a *Neighbour Day* event. After consultation with the council's Community Development Officer, it was all systems go!

After many weeks of planning, with the usual up and downs of last-minute changes, the day finally arrived.

The District Crime Prevent Co-ordinator (DCPC) was in attendance for the entire day with some of her lovely Volunteers in Policing (ViPs). Naturally the police vehicle was a huge draw card, and the younger children loved sitting in 'Paddy' the police car.

Not to be outdone, the Fire Department was also in attendance with two fire trucks.

Naturally there was a NHW display along with Crime Stoppers, Volunteer Marine Rescue and the Neighbourhood Centre.

People attending were able to grab a sausage sizzle and cold drink from the Lions Club, or pop over to the Coffee Van for coffee or donuts.

The face painting lady was a huge success, as she was swamped with children for most of the day. The Division 10 Council representative was also kept busy handing out free potted trees and a council goody bag.

The local member of parliament was kept occupied answering a multitude of questions.

There was also a designated area set aside for people to bring their cars to have one-way security screws fitted to their number plates.

Although the weather was excessively hot on the day, those in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves very much.

Will there be another event next year? Well, that is a really good question, so guess you'll just have to wait and see!

Mudgeeraba Street Party and Parade

Recently our combined Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups participated in the annual Mudgeeraba Street Party & Parade.

As always, we were well accepted by all, especially the kids who we "stickered and made police friends". From our existing groups we met with new residents, and best of all, discussed with a number of people the option to start new groups or to 'work with us' by expanding our existing areas to support their area. We are following through and anticipate adding the equivalent of three new areas, not currently part of the NHW Gold Coast District.

With one of our area coordinators being on the shy side, we participated in the Grand Street Parade with Seymour the Owl being the most popular attraction!



NHWQ mascot Seymour the owl in the Parade with some NHW friends!

Moore Park Beach NHW Volunteer Day

Moore Park Community Association organised a Volunteer Day on 21 May, for all the local volunteer groups; Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Lions Club, Rural Fire Service, Ambulance, Surf Lifesaving, SES, Arts Inc. and Men's Shed.

The local member, Jason Bartels, was also there to chat with the groups and local residents. It was a great day, with the free BBQ, plenty of coffee and tea, and jumping castle enjoyed by many. The day was organised so locals could meet, ask questions, and talk to volunteer groups. The day was nice and sunny with a bit of a strong breeze, thank you to the organiser Alan and Men's Shed for helping with the marque.

Several residents stopped by to find out about NHW, and what we do in the community.



NHW and Men's Shed displays attracting visitors

One individual who lives in a cul-de-sac mentioned that around Christmas, they have a party for all neighbours in the cul-de-sac and

street. This is a great way to meet your neighbours, and is what NHW is all about. Hopefully we can have this day again!

Ipswich District Neighbour Day March 2023

Neighbour Day is a social connection campaign that promotes supportive and respectful relationships across the community.

When people feel connected to others in their community, they have a greater sense of belonging which reduces feelings of isolation and loneliness. This has been particularly important for Australians during periods of pandemic lockdowns and extreme weather conditions, and Ipswich District has not been immune to this.

Knowing your neighbours can also help familiarise yourself with people in your neighbourhood, which in turn can increase personal safety and natural surveillance.

Neighbour Day aims to build positive mental health outcomes for individuals as well as community resilience.

A seemingly small gesture, like having a cup of tea with your neighbour, can create a meaningful



Greame (Harrisville NHW), Laurie and Errol (Boonah NHW), Sergeant Nadine Webster APM Ipswich District Crime Prevention Coordinator, Amanda (Riverview NHW), and Pam (Harrisville NHW) sharing a cuppa after putting teabags in the cards

social connection as well as assisting with reducing crime.

On 26 March 2023 as part of Neighbour Day, Neighbourhood

Watch Areas across the Ipswich District provided their communities with a beautiful card containing two teabags encouraging community engagement with their neighbours.

The Caves Show

More than a thousand attended The Caves Show on 29 April, and were entertained by cattle, horse and pavilion events with the evening rounding off with fireworks.

The Caves Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) members Barry and Laurie are shown manning the information booth, where attendees could get information or stop by for a chat, as well as giving away information packs. The Caves NHW also managed to raise some much-needed money for future projects.

The information packs contained magnetic cards for fridges where neighbours' phone numbers could be recorded, as well as 'Staying Safe' leaflets and information about personal and property security.



Anger Rage Regret Program

The Community Policing Board Mackay, in partnership with Queensland Police, launched an educational initiative 'Anger Rage Regret' on 20 December 2022 in an effort to prevent and reduce assaults, and the associated health impacts, in the Mackay region.

The initiative is designed to evoke thought and start the conversation about the tough topic of how to respond when we're overcome by the emotion of anger - with the effect of reducing and preventing assault and the related health impacts in the community.

There was an 'Anger, Rage, Regret' stand at the event *Remembering Shandee* on 11 February 2023, in Mackay.

Shandee Blackburn, a young vibrant Mackay woman, was murdered 10 years ago one evening on her way home from work. Her murder remains unsolved.

Anger Rage Regret education resources can be delivered by QPS Crime Prevention Officers or other community agencies in workplaces, community groups, and other interested sectors.

To learn more, visit:
<https://www.angerrageregret.com.au>



Sergeant Nigel Dalton, NHW Mackay member Gerri Kissner, and Member for Whitsunday Amanda Camm

Knowing How to Drink Rite

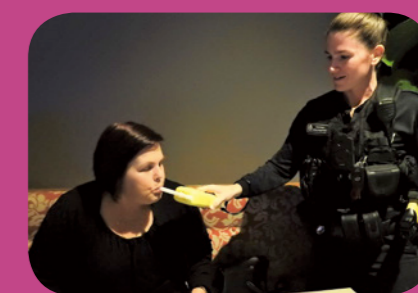
Drink Rite is a Queensland Police Service (QPS) program that promotes responsible alcohol consumption and creates awareness of the consequences of drink driving.

The program helps people learn about the alcohol content of various drinks, what makes a standard drink, how different the effects of alcohol can be on individuals, and that guessing your own breath alcohol concentration level is very difficult. Drink Rite provides a hands-on demonstration of why alcohol and driving don't mix.

The Frenchville Sports Club (FSC) was again the venue for North Rockhampton NHW#4 Group's fourth Drink Rite event. The nine participants had the opportunity to see the results of drinking on their breath alcohol concentration

as QPS officers gave an interactive presentation while allowing each of them to drink four standard drinks of their preferred alcoholic beverage over a period of 2 hours, and then breath tested them 30 minutes after each drink.

The highest readings of the night were 0.065 after drinking red wine and 0.059 with heavy beer. FSC provided the alcoholic drinks and some finger-food free of charge and some participants who did not have a designated driver used the FSC courtesy bus to get home. A memorable night was had by all. The Caves NHW Group based



Constable Jemma breath testing Angela

25km north of Rockhampton had an observer at the event as well, as they are considering running their own event. Thank you to QPS, FSC, and everyone that attended.



Attendees at the Gold Coast NHW Connection Day farewelling retiring Gold Coast NHW President Peter Barrett

NHW Gold Coast Connection Day

On 8 October 2022, the Gold Coast District NHW Committee hosted another very successful Connection Day.

The aim of the day was to bring together area coordinators, police and members of the Gold Coast Council to talk about issues and challenges that NHW groups may be having, swap war stories and successes, and to find out about new developments from senior police officers. It also allowed the NHW groups to discuss with Gold Coast councillors about the ways NHW can improve their neighbourhood and increase community safety. Around 30 area coordinators and committee members attended the meeting.

Chief Superintendent Craig Hanlon, the most senior police officer on the Gold Coast, spoke at some length about the challenges facing the Queensland Police Service (QPS) on the Gold Coast, including recruitment and retention, public perceptions of the police and the ongoing challenges of juvenile crime across Queensland. There had been an overall decrease in 'Break and Enter' offences across the Gold Coast. However, it remained

a standard way of operating that an offender will break into a home, not worry much about the TV like they used to, and will go straight for the car keys. Interestingly, the cars tended not to be sold on or chop-shopped but are used for joyriding - most offenders will only keep them for a few days. Most car theft offenders are adults.

The keynote speaker for the day was Sergeant Sarah McGuinness from the QPS Counter-Terrorism Unit, speaking about creating Safe and Secure suburbs. She talked about the effect that COVID lockdowns had on the recruitment of young men to radical causes via the internet. Shockingly, 30-40 percent of the Counter-Terrorism Unit's workload now comprised ideologically motivated extremists, which were experiencing a significant surge of support, including on the Gold Coast. These tended to be white supremacists and use tactics such as stickers, leaflets, graffiti and gatherings to intimidate eg. swastikas and stickers

on poles near places of worship. She encouraged NHW members who saw such stickers and graffiti to report it via PoliceLink as it was an important means of gathering intelligence about group activities.

Finally, attendees were able to celebrate and honour retiring Gold Coast NHW President Peter Barrett. Peter has been a member of Coolangatta 1 NHW, becoming President of the Gold Cost NHW Committee in 2018 and overseeing a huge range of very successful NHW activities, including the launch of the annual Connection Day, Secure Shredding activities, and hosting the 2018 NHW State Conference.

NHW on the Gold Coast is very healthy and active, a great testament to the hard work and dedication of Peter and his team on the District Committee. Peter and his wife, Gail, have retired to Bribie Island where, rumour has it, he has already been co-opted to help out at NHW activities.



Police and community members with their awards, at the NHWQ Conference

Neighbourhood Watch QLD State Conference

On 12 November Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ) held their state conference for 2022 at the Pullman Hotel Brisbane, to recognise and thank the dedicated NHW volunteers and police officers in Queensland.

The theme of the conference was 'Securing our Community', and saw over 100 attendees gather from across Queensland to celebrate the award winners and hear from a number of guest speakers. It also provided a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends from across the state, since meet-ups have been scarce post-covid.

Topics discussed included the increase of cybercrime and how to stay safe online, layered

security assessments for homes, the importance of road safety, and an update from Neighbourhood Watch Australasia CEO Maria Bennett.

VIPs included Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Ipswich West MP Jim Madden, and MC Mark Plath who congratulated award recipients on their dedication and hard work.

Congratulations to all the recipients, and thank you to QPS for organising a great event!

Award Recipients:

STATE WINNER - Police

- Senior Constable Lynda Whincup, Ipswich

STATE WINNER - Community

- John Devaus, Springwood 10

Police

- Sergeant Jodavene Fernie, Rockhampton
- Sergeant Allan Gerrard, Murgon
- Sergeant Kerry Parker, Edmonton
- Senior Constable Damian Jones, Browns Plains

- Sergeant Nigel Dalton, Mackay
- Senior Constable Jo-Anne Arthur, Caboolture/Moreton
- Sergeant Jodie Murray, Boondall
- Senior Constable Ricki Brudenall, South Brisbane
- Senior Constable Jessica Phillips, Noosa
- Inspector Gavin Oates, Townsville
- Senior Constable Brittany Duncan, Bundaberg

Community Members

- Jan McSweeney, North Rockhampton Area #4

- Rosalie Winter, Kumbia
- Barry Donnelly, Edmonton
- Jean Greatbanks, Runaway Bay Islands
- Jocelyne Harris, Ipswich
- Gerri Kissner, Mackay Northern Beaches
- Jay Peters, Newport Waterside
- Joanne Ingram, The Gap 2
- Ada Lanham, Inala 10 (Doolandella)
- MerryI Berry, Coolum 5
- Kevin Webb, Mundingburra 6 - Aitkenvale
- David Dempster, Avenell Heights 7

Seymour the Owl visits the Agricultural Show

Seymour the owl was introduced to the local agriculture scene of Oakey and Goombungee in March and April 2023.

Oakey Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has been in existence for 22 years, and decided that Seymour should finally come and meet the community.

The show attendees thought Seymour was a 'hoot' to see and get happy snaps with, throughout sideshow alley and the pavilion area.

At the Goombungee Haden Agriculture Show in April, Seymour was treated to being in the 'grand parade' where he stood (safely) on the back of one of the champion utes from the Ute Muster, and waved to the crowd. Later, Seymour was told that both the young and the young at heart were very excited to see such a creature at the local country show. The Oakey NHW group also offered information and flyers at the show to encourage the Goombungee community to start their own NHW group.



NHW volunteers Desley, Rita, Maurine, Seymour and Cheryl at the Oakey Show

Oakey NHW thanks the Darling Downs Crime Prevention unit for continually supporting our group's endeavours. We now can utilise two large banners that have been strategically placed around Oakey town in support of NHW, which are changed locations every month. This is hoped to encourage residents and visitors to access the QLD NHW

webpage to gain knowledge on how to stay safe.

Oakey NHW were also thrilled to host Sergeant Scott McGrath at our June meeting, which was open to all. Sergeant Scott presented on property security and personal safety, thank you to Sergeant Scott and all who attended.

Wondai NHW First Responders Appreciation Day

Wondai Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) hosted a First Responders Appreciation Day brunch at the Wondai RSL, on 8 June.

There were representatives from the Queensland Police Service, Wondai SES and Wondai Fire Services, with a total of 15 people in attendance.

The emergency services attendees were gifted with a certificate, Neighbourhood Watch coffee mug and Neighbourhood Watch torch. The various representatives who attended all shared their thanks and were very appreciative of the brunch and their gifts.

Thank you to local member Deb Frecklington, for funding the event.



Senior Constable Susan Stevens, Sergeant Matt Donaldson, Cookie Jeffrey (Wondai Fire Service), Craig Martin (SES), Darren Buckley, Sonia McMahon (Crow FM), Warren Lohmann

NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NHW SA members attending the Western District NHW Awards and Recognition Evening

Neighbourhood Watch gets with the Program



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
KEEPING SA SAFE

In early 2022, SAPOL's Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) team identified that their NHW program needed some help.

No new groups were opening and many of the existing ones were somewhat in a state of dormancy, where they were unable to attract new volunteers. Many of these were still being run by the original volunteers who set up these groups when the South Australian program started in 1985.

Although the COVID pandemic had placed considerable pressure on the program, it wasn't the cause of the wider and longer-term

decline. The program was still being run largely how it had from the program's beginnings with a focus on property crime and holding face-to-face NHW meetings to talk about this.

NHW State Coordinator, Sergeant Phil Gurr believes the increase of digital crime and alternative remote ways to communicate provides a range of opportunities to re-invigorate the program.

"We knew that the time had come to take urgent action to make the NHW program more meaningful to today's communities and make it sufficiently relevant for new people to want to give up their valuable time to be part of it," Sergeant Gurr said.

"We also knew that the program still represented an extremely valuable community safety asset, acting as a conduit between SAPOL's sworn members and the wider

community to provide two-way communication to happen.”

Academic research has shown that NHW can reduce crime by between 16 to 26 percent through a number of factors, and the existing steadfast cohort of more than 1,000 community-spirited volunteers provides a solid foundation to initiate a re-invigoration drive.

“The NHW program aligns perfectly with SAPOL’s 2030 ‘Safer Communities’ strategy and prevention-first approach,” Sergeant Gurr said.

“Many of our District Policing Teams had advised that they were collaborating with their local NHW groups to directly address and reduce criminal activities in real-time. We just needed to work out how to attract and retain new volunteers to support the existing ones.”

SAPOL decided to appoint a market research company to conduct qualitative online mini focus group workshops and in-depth interviews with current and potential NHW supporters, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people with disabilities. The purpose was to better understand, from a diverse range of community members, their motivators and preferred level of engagement and to then co-create the ideal NHW model.

The following quantitative phase of the research consisted of a large online survey with 1,000 South Australians who did not reject taking steps to be a part of a safe and connected community, to size, segment and profile the potential NHW audience and develop personas.

The market research findings enabled SAPOL to see for the first time a broad range of community

perceptions around safety, connectedness, and more specifically around what they thought about the NHW program.

One important issue the research identified was that many participants stated their feelings of personal safety were reasonably high and that the community they lived in was safe. Conversely, many reported low levels of being connected in their community and that they would like to be more connected but did not know how to do this.

Many survey respondents reported being busy and time-poor, with this being a barrier to joining NHW. To make joining more attractive the program would need to be quick and easy to join, have clearly defined roles, and sufficient flexibility to allow ad hoc participation where a volunteer could sometimes step back from active participation if they have other commitments and priorities.

“This raises the question of whether a new level of participation is needed to complement the more traditional membership; one which does not require a lot of time or effort and enable the volunteer to step in and out to balance their busy lives,” Sergeant Gurr said.

The survey also highlighted that online connection is incredibly important to the future of the program. Facebook is the most widely used social media platform and people now rely on this for social interactions. Many survey participants stated they would prefer to use an online platform as their primary means of communicating if they joined NHW.

“This survey finding was no surprise to us and we are about to commence a Facebook trial for NHW groups to have their own Facebook pages,” Sergeant Gurr said.

“Many established groups still want to carry on with their traditional face-to-face meetings where they get to meet their local police coordinator which is important, but the use of social media allows group members to share information quickly and easily.”

Another key finding from the research was that many participants felt it was important that NHW membership should be better representative of diverse communities, and include minority groups so their voices can be heard at the ‘grass roots’ NHW group meeting level as well as by local police representatives.

“This issue of diversification of membership within the NHW program is critically important because community members from minority groups may well have diverse perceptions around how safe and connected they feel and what concerns them in their community,” Sergeant Gurr said.

The NHW team have now launched their new NHW Action Plan which will address this issue and all the other market research findings.

An important step in implementing the action plan will see the SAPOL NHW Team and the NHW Board of Management members all participate in a series of workshops aimed at developing high performing teams.

“The Action Plan required both the SAPOL staff involved in NHW and the actual volunteer Board of Management to work effectively together and understand collective goals and know how we are going to achieve them,” Sergeant Gurr said.

“These workshops will help us to create really high performing teams through culture change and this will ensure we can implement the Action Plan to ensure the NHW program continues to be relevant and meaningful to today’s diverse communities.”

NHW TAS

TASMANIA



Mr John Chapman giving a bike safety presentation to children from Dodges Ferry Primary School

Children Are Our Future

It could be said that the ethos of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is about doing things to make our world a better place for now and into the future.

We want to set good examples for our children, to appreciate the importance of community and looking out for each other so that they will grow to be conscientious community members. This article shares a sample of how some of the Tasmanian NHW groups have been positively engaging with the younger generation.

For NHW Week the Southern Beaches NHW organised a presentation for children at the local Bike Shed. John Chapman spoke to the students about safety while riding a bike, as well as suitable clothing and safe well-serviced bikes. He produced many tools, prepared signs and bikes to illustrate the importance of being safe on and off a bike.

In May the Greater Glenorchy NHW hosted a Cuppa with a Cop at Claremont Plaza. Local Inspector Jim Semmens made a point of being there, and actively engaging with students from Holy Rosary Catholic Primary School.



Inspector Jim Semmens setting a good example with students and members of Holy Rosary Catholic Primary School

New Commissioner Leads from the Front

In November 2022, in one of her first public speeches as the new Commissioner for Tasmania Police, Donna Adams spoke at the graduation of new officers at the Police Academy.



Commissioner Donna Adams with NHW volunteers and community members at Shoreline Plaza

When referring to her vision as the 15th Commissioner, Donna placed significant emphasis on her intention to work *'closely with the community to identify and address local issues of concern...'* and *'...enhance our relationships with the community by going back to basic principles of policing.'*

True to her word, Commissioner Adams was only too keen to show her support for the work of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) when she gave priority to attending a Cuppa with a Cop event in Shoreline Plaza on Hobart's Eastern Shore. The local shoppers were surprised and enthusiastic to engage when they realised that the Commissioner was there to chat and get their

views on a range of topics, which also included her love of golf and the desire for her AFL team, North Melbourne, to have a more successful year in 2023. So far – not so good!

Long time stalwart and Coordinator of the Shoreline/Howrah NHW, Maureen Newman, summed up the positive vibes from the visit when she said, "Isn't it lovely that the Commissioner would come to our event in little old Howrah, and she was so friendly!"

Commissioner Adams was just as enthusiastic when she asked to be kept informed of future events and commended the initiatives of NHW groups across the state.



Commissioner Adams chats to local ladies over a coffee at Banjos cafe



Third prize winner, Carolyn Hutchinson, happy with her win!

Neighbourhood Watch Month The Month of Home Security

Here's a great idea that other Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups might like to copy, to promote the Neighbourhood Watch brand and in doing so, improve the wellbeing, engagement and sense of safety for people in their neighbourhood.

Tina Brown from Rokeby NHW in Tasmania devised a practical method for increasing the presence of NHW signage on homes in the Clarence Plains footprint. Quite simply, the plan was to provide a **Swann Home Security System** prize for one lucky winner in the neighbourhood, which was drawn on Neighbour Day, 26 March 2023.

So how did it work? People living in Clarence Plains were encouraged to collect a NHW letterbox label from nominated venues during March, and then send a photo of the label on their property, via Facebook Messenger, to be in the draw. First prize from Bunnings was valued at \$400, with two \$100 vouchers as second and third prizes. To raise the money for the prizes Tina applied for a NHW grant, which Rokeby



To be in the running, participants had to submit a photo of the NHW sticker on their letterbox

NHW contributed to on a dollar-for-dollar basis, and as usual, Bunnings came to the party with an excellent discount price.

For a first-time effort this was a great outcome. As Tina said, "This initiative had many benefits,

it promoted NHW in our area, it engaged with local businesses, and it generated a greater awareness about security and connectedness in Clarence Plains."

And really, isn't that what NHW is all about?



The younger ones also enjoyed a catchup with officers!



Community members were appreciative to have a chat to police and Bush Watch members over a cuppa

Tasmanian Partnerships Going Strong

In Tasmania, the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) delivery model continues to evolve and expand as new groups come on board.

After operating in the traditional *area committee mode* for over 35 years, it became increasingly obvious that regular area meetings were decreasing in popularity. Yet there was still a strong desire to be reliably informed about crime trends, crime prevention initiatives and things that could improve the wellbeing of our communities.

In respecting this information, we have been active in pursuing the following strategies:

- **Recognising and lobbying like-minded organisations to partner us for the mutual benefit of us and them.**

- **Recognising that there are now far more contemporary and expedient ways to share information – often in real time (or at least so much faster than the good old, pre-social media days!)**
- **Putting a greater emphasis on providing simple and non-threatening social events without imposing an agenda on the people who come.**

Bush Watch has been a member of the Tasmanian NHW family for over 20 years and in March 2023 we were able to co-host a Cuppa with a Cop at Burnie Plaza. Bush Watch is a crime-

prevention initiative that encourages users of the bush or recreational areas to report unusual, suspicious or criminal activity and vandalism to the police.

District Commander Debbie Williams led a strong contingent of Tasmanian police officers to show support for the Watch movement, and give the public that unique opportunity to talk to the police in social setting.

For the statistically minded, Tasmania now has 12 NHW groups that operate in partnership with a variety of other community organisations – and there are more on the way.



Bee education - without being stung!

From Honey Bees to Working Bees – Otago Hits its Straps

One of our newest members of the Tasmania Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) family is at Otago on the eastern banks of the Derwent River.

As is often the case, this small community had been running an informal community support arrangement through its own Facebook page. However, with the support of the local Member for Rumney in the Legislative Council, Sarah Lovell, Otago registered as an organisational member of NHW and very soon after that the Clarence City Council helped with the erection of NHW signage in strategic locations.

One of their first events to build community relationships was to accept an invitation from local beekeeper, Laura Rittenhouse, to visit her apiary and learn about the important role bees play in our biodiversity on which we all depend for our survival. We could draw an analogy about the importance of volunteers which our society depends on, inclusive of Neighbourhood Watch.

The love of animals and the desire to take pride in their community



Otago NHW Coordinator Heidi and Snickers with one of the new NHW signs

is self-evident with the new NHW signs being displayed under one that already alerts drivers to be aware of wildlife in the area. The family pet, Snickers, has also not gone unnoticed!

However, the purpose of this article is to highlight how communities



Volunteers at Otago Working Bee - this is only a sample of the volunteers who helped out on the day. Others started at different locations so unfortunately missed out on the photo opportunity!

can engage and through a small amount of effort and coordination can do things that make a difference. Hence, on Clean Up Australia Day, this community was able to roll out a good representation of locals to do their bit in keeping Otago a great place to live and bee engaged (pun intended!)

Junior NHW Transitions to After School

With the increase in youth crime and the number of young people hanging around the streets, the Mildura Junior Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program has transitioned to engaging youth in after school activities.

With the common argument being there is "nothing to do", Junior NHW has partnered with the Sunraysia Premier League Darts Club in a Junior Darts Corporation Academy. The Academy offers kids an alternative to hanging around the streets. Young people in the Academy are offered accredited coaching and the opportunity for long term involvement in the sport by transitioning into the club itself. With the partnership between NHW and the Sunraysia Premier League, the Academy has been able to get to the next level - doubling in size by just the second season making it the biggest Junior Darts Corporation Academy in Oceania.

Three of the participants have already advanced to the next stage and attended the State tryouts in Geelong on the 1 July 2023. They were all wearing custom designed uniforms with the Junior NHW logo displayed proudly on the front.

The Junior Darts Corporation is a worldwide program, which will provide a platform for the Junior NHW brand to be shared worldwide.



Junior Neighbourhood Watch sponsored Sunraysia Premier League Junior Darts Team



Wellard Village Primary School students at the Ride to School



A Bertram Primary School student shows his bike riding skills at the Ride to School

Junior NHW encourages students to Ride to School

Junior Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is a tried and tested program run as a collaboration between NHW and police in Victoria, but here in the West we like to do things a bit differently.

In Western Australia, Junior NHW is run in collaboration with the City of Kwinana, NHW, and the police, and is designed for Year 6 students to teach them important tips and information related to crime prevention and the building of community connections.

Their first lesson of the year focused on the correct number to call depending on the incident, how to report graffiti, and how to register your bike on Bikelinc.

They also took part one of several Ride to School events in the City of Kwinana.

The City of Kwinana rolled out the red carpet at four Ride to School events in March, April and May to promote Bikelinc, which is a police-monitored database for bikes.

A roving photobooth captured photos to provide a little memento



Junior NHW member, City of Kwinana Community Safety Officer Sinead Gilligan, and Annette Burton of Kwinana Police

for students to take home and each child was offered free fruit at the end of their ride.

Ride to School events took place at Wellard Village Primary School on 29 March, Bertram Primary School on 5 April, and at

Orelia Primary School on 6 April, which was attended by police and the Junior NHW students who helped run the event. A similar event was held at Medina Primary School on 12 May.

Thank you to everyone involved!

Canning NHW Group Out and About!



Canning NHW Group – Kath, Ian, Judy, Steve, Kutty and Carol

City of Canning Neighbourhood Watch Group Video

The City of Canning’s Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group created a video in April 2023 as a call out for new volunteers.

The group has since had over 10 new residents interested in joining!
The full video is available on the City’s social media platforms mentioned below, and shorter

versions including weekly ‘safety tips’ has been rolled out on the City’s social media platforms.
Watch the video here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dx3swhBjKxQ&t=3s>



City of Canning Community Safety Sessions

Canning NHW volunteers assisted the City of Canning in delivering five localised Community Safety Sessions throughout the months of April and May.
The sessions were designed to facilitate discussions between the community, the City’s Community Safety team, NHW and local police about their respective roles in working together for a safer community.
NHW Volunteers Judy and Kath signing residents in at the door



Graffiti Pop-up Stalls
Canning NHW Volunteer and Cultural Ambassador Kutty recently collaborated with the City’s Community Safety and Engagement teams to host two graffiti awareness pop up stalls.

The pop ups were held at Southlands Boulevard in Willetton and Bentley Plaza Shopping Centre, where the team distributed:

- 60+ graffiti removal kits/wipes
- 150+ additional graffiti resources - which provided insight on who to contact and how to report
- 100+ City of Canning Community Safety resources

Thank you Kutty, for your dedication towards a safer Canning community!

NHW volunteer Kutty at Southlands Boulevard Shopping Centre



NHW volunteers Kutty, Kath and Judy with Councillor Singh and Mason Ward residents at Queens Park Reserve

Neighbour Day

City of Canning (Mason Ward) volunteers at their Neighbour Day pop-up event in Queens Park. The team were there to encourage community members to get out and get to know each other, whilst discussing crime prevention techniques.



Cockburn NHW volunteers at our 2022 Christmas celebration

Online Volunteer Event Sign Up!

Our daily lives are busy and finding time to volunteer is a challenge. Imagine if we could make it easier for volunteers to “sign up” to give their time, without further impacting their busy lives in order to organise it.

As an active volunteer of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), I found the process of signing up to volunteer at events a struggle. I would have to either sign up on a physical form, or email through my availability to the organiser not knowing who else had volunteered already for those times/events. Then wait for a response either via email or phone. Manually add this to my calendar while often busy with other things at the time. This process was slow and frustrating when trying to organise my own life, not to mention for the organiser who was trying to keep track of all this on a spreadsheet with multiple emails and phone calls.

As part of my new role at the City of Cockburn, I now facilitate the NHW group meetings and events. To assist our volunteers, it was time to find a better solution to this manual method. Thankfully I found the online platform **SignUp!**

SignUp's basic service is FREE and easy to use. For NHW, all you require is the free service to coordinate your events and volunteers.

It is so simple to use – you create an account as the organiser, and load up any events you have coming up in the online calendar. You can create shifts, which allows for

the event to be broken up and shared to reduce volunteer burnout.

This is an online platform accessible anywhere. It requires no software to download, or accounts to be created to volunteer. This makes it user friendly for anyone. Once a volunteer selects a shift/event, it posts their initials next to the event allowing other members to see who they are volunteering with. A reminder is sent from the platform one day prior to the volunteer with all the details relevant to their shift.

Here is an introductory video online to show the volunteers how it works: <https://youtu.be/pAEgDdLOtNc>

Top 3 Reasons to Use SignUp

- **The CONFIDENCE that, with SignUp, your events and activities are sure to be a success:** SignUps and participation are easy – for everyone. (Automated reminders and e-calendar syncing keep everyone on track!) As a result, you'll see more people sign up and show up when you need them.
- **The TIME & ENERGY SAVED coordinating people and activities:** With fewer emails and phone calls,



less to remember, and no more spreadsheets to juggle, you win, too!

- **The BANDWIDTH TO DO MORE for yourself and others:** By minimizing the stress and tedious hassle of coordination, you can focus on what matters most to you.

SignUp has been a game changer for NHW Cockburn. It has saved us all time and allowed the volunteers to pick when it suits them to volunteer.

Our volunteers are a huge part in making Cockburn the best place to be!

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

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

RUOK?TM

A conversation could change a life.