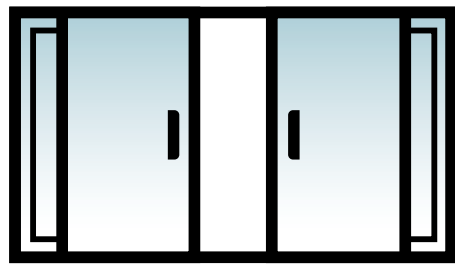




NHWA

Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand





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Cover photo: Assistant Commissioner for Central Queensland Mr Kevin Guteridge; Gerri Kissner, winner NHWA's Malcom Grant Volunteer Award; Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay & Assistant Minister for Education; and Sergeant Nigel Dalton, winner of the NHWA 2022 Police Commissioner's Award



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FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Hello and a warm welcome to the 2023 summer edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Journal.



Secure September

In September we once again held Secure September, a month-long campaign delivered in partnership with Crimsafe to promote safer communities, including the benefits of joining your local Neighbourhood Watch Group (NHW).

National Secure Your Home Day

The inaugural National Secure Your Home Day was held 23, 24 September, and is a NHWA initiative developed in collaboration with Dr Renee Zahnow, The University of Queensland. National Secure Your Home Day provides one day a year when householders are encouraged to assess their home security and to implement target-hardening measures to reduce the risk of break and enter crimes. National Secure Your Home Day is one of the three tiers of NHWA's overarching Safer Australia For Everyone (SAFE) program.



NHW Project Managers Melissa Roberts and Lizzie McGrory packing over 1,000 National Secure Your Home Day Kits



Nick McKone Bear Marketing, Dr Renee Zahnow UQ, Chief Inspector Corey Allen QPS, NHWA CEO Maria Bennett, Liam Straw Bear Marketing videographer, and NHWA Project Manager Melissa Roberts at the National Secure Your Home Day Checklist video filming

The inaugural event was a resounding success, with nationwide engagement taking place at community and individual levels. More than 1,000 National Secure Your Home Day Kits were posted out to registered participants, plus more than 1,500 Kits were distributed electronically and will continue to be available throughout the year – if you'd like to receive a kit, let us know at admin@nhwa.com.au. National Secure Your Home Day is an annual recurring fixture on the NHWA calendar – to find out more and to access home security improvement resources go to: www.secureyourhomeday.com.au



QPS Superintendent Rob Fleischer - news interview for National Secure Your Home Day



National Secure Your Home Day Digital Billboard at the Australian Centre to Counter Child Sexual Exploitation

The final two tiers of NHWA's SAFE program have now been launched and include CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) training for NHW volunteers and community members in Toowoomba QLD, Canberra ACT, and Belmont, WA, as well as a Target Hardening Program to support victims of crime, to enhance security in up to 500 eligible homes, to the value of \$500 per household.

NHWA 2022 Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner's Awards

The NHWA 2022 Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner's Awards were presented to two worthy recipients from Mackay region. This makes it the first time in the history of the Awards that both recipients were from the same region – NHW Mackay District – Area Coordinator Gerri Kissner and Sergeant Nigel Dalton. See article on page 16.



Sergeant Nigel Dalton QPS, Gerri Kissner NHW Mackay Northern Beaches, and NHWA CEO Maria Bennett at the NHWA Awards presentation

Get Online Week 2023

Get Online Week (GOLW), 16-22 October 2023, was NHWA and NHW groups fifth year of participation in the Good Things Foundation community-based event! This year NHWA assisted 24 NHW groups to access GOLW funding to hold their event. GOLW provides the opportunity to find support and assistance to improve digital skills. Each year the quality of the NHWA and NHW events has increased as facilitators actively improve their digital mentoring skills.

Capacity Building Digital Mentor Training

During 2022-2023 NHWA delivered the Be Connected Capacity Building Digital Mentor training for a fourth year, with over one hundred new Digital Mentors trained to assist with teaching digital skills in their local Australian communities!

Keeping Kids Safe Online TV Commercials

NHWA's Keeping Kids Safe Online TV Community Service Announcements (CSAs), developed in partnership with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), continue to be aired by the Australian broadcasting sector during primetime across Australia. To view the Keeping Kids Safe Online CSAs go to: www.nhwa.com.au/resources/tvc-messages

Run Against Violence

On 30 August, the 2023 annual Run Against Violence (RAV) Virtual Team Challenge began, and NHWA fielded a community team, and gave it a good go to cross the finish line! This year's RAV theme, Seeing the Unseen, demonstrates the power of connection to create communities where family violence no longer exists. For more information and to find out how you can take future steps to prevent family violence, go to: www.runagainstviolence.com

2023-2024 Upcoming Events & Dates

NHW Week 6-12 Nov 2023

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) and Bunnings Warehouse have teamed up again this year to bring you the combined Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Week and Crime Prevention Week. All NHW groups are encouraged to hold an event at your local Bunnings this November!

NHW Month 1-31 March 2024

In March 2024, NHWA and Crimsafe will partner up to further awareness about home security. Following on from the three prior successful annual campaigns, the 2024 campaign will continue to build on positive behaviour change messaging to improve home and property security.

Neighbour Day Sunday 31 March 2024

On the last Sunday in March NHWA will "SAY G'DAY" on Neighbour Day – a day dedicated to connecting with your neighbours and community, presented by Relationships Australia Neighbours Every Day (NED). For more information, see page 15, and visit: www.neighbourseveryday.org

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

NHWA Holiday Security Tips

To assist everyone with staying safe this festive season NHWA has prepared a Holiday Tips centre page pullout.

Stay safe this summer, and see you in the New Year!

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

Together we achieve great things.

Neighbourhood Watch – the Power of Many!

Maria Bennett

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

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PATRON, BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



Commissioner Reece P Kershaw APM - Patron

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

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

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

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

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



Bernie Durkin - Chairman, Western Australia

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



Margaret Pearson - Company Secretary

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



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 - New Zealand

Brent joined Police in 1998, after graduating with a degree in Management from Lincoln University. He has continued tertiary education gaining a Post Grad Diploma in Business Admin. The majority of his career has been spent in operational policing, ranging from frontline Sergeant in both Frontline 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.

Child protection efforts boosted in the Northern Territory

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is rolling out measures to further protect Northern Territory children, including extra resources for child protection operations and reinvigorated online safety initiatives for children, parents, and educators.

Some of the forthcoming measures form part of the AFP's commitment to enhancing child protection investigations under the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse, which includes \$3.9 million to enhance child protection investigations in the Northern Territory.

AFP Detective Superintendent Jayne Crossling said the measures would increase the AFP's presence in the Northern Territory.

"The AFP is committed to working with partners in the Northern Territory to ensure that children are protected from online abuse," Detective Superintendent Crossling said.

"The AFP will have stronger investigative, prevention and intelligence capability in the Northern Territory and an increased presence in the Northern Territory Joint Anti-Child Exploitation Team, which comprises of officers from the AFP and Northern Territory Police."

The AFP will also expand our community outreach and engagement across the Northern Territory.

In August, the AFP launched a targeted recruitment effort for program partner volunteers to deliver the AFP's ThinkUKnow online child safety program.

ThinkUKnow is a law enforcement-led program, delivered nationally to educate the community about preventing online child sexual exploitation. The program is



AFP Detective Superintendent Jayne Crossling and Ms Danielle Broster delivering a ThinkUKnow parent and teacher presentation in Darwin

facilitated in partnership with state and territory police, Datacom, Microsoft, Commonwealth Bank of Australia and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

During the last financial year, the AFP, state and territory police and program partner volunteers delivered 257 presentations to an estimated 17,756 parents, carers, and teachers across Australia, including a mix of face-to-face and virtual sessions. The AFP and state and territory police delivered 2,515 presentations to an estimated 209,544 students across Australia.

The AFP has experienced an increase in demand for the ThinkUKnow program, demonstrated by the increase in delivery of presentations, and number of police members and program partner volunteers being trained to deliver the presentation. The demand shows the need for a targeted education program on online child sexual exploitation, and the important role the ThinkUKnow program plays in the community.

ThinkUKnow addresses topics including online grooming, preventing inappropriate contact, self-generated content, sexual extortion, and importantly, how to report and where to seek help.

ThinkUKnow is a unique initiative, as it is developed using the evidence base of real case studies as a result of reports to the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) and AFP investigations.

While in Darwin, Detective Superintendent Crossling delivered a ThinkUKnow parent and educator presentation at a primary school and undertook volunteer engagement and training with police and partners, including the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

The recruitment and training efforts will boost the AFP's ability to deliver more presentations to the Northern Territory community.

For more information about ThinkUKnow, including how to request a presentation go to www.thinkuknow.org.au.

Stopping Human Trafficking and Slavery is everyone's responsibility

Human Trafficking, often referred to as Modern Slavery, is happening here in Australia.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is the lead agency which investigates human trafficking and exploitation crimes, but it is up to all of us to do whatever we can to help identify this crime type and support victims to seek help.

The AFP human trafficking education and awareness program – Look a Little Deeper – has recently been re-branded with a new logo that represents that hope is on the horizon, symbolising the promise of a new day or fresh start.



The new branding for AFP Program Look a Little Deeper

ACCCE and Human Exploitation Commander Helen Schneider explained that a lot of thought went into the development of the new logo to ensure it represented the AFP's work in the human trafficking space.

"The new logo invites the viewer to look a little deeper, look below the surface of the lines. The position of the dark and light lines symbolises the program's mission to shine a light on the darkness of human trafficking and slavery," Commander Schneider said.

"Our community needs to be aware that human trafficking happens here in Australia and everyone should be aware of what human trafficking is,



what the indicators are, where you may see it and most importantly, what to do if we suspect someone is experiencing human trafficking."

Human trafficking is the physical movement of people across or within borders by coercing, threatening, or deceiving them, for the purpose of exploiting them when they reach their destination. In essence, human trafficking is the **ongoing exploitation** of a person.

"These are crimes that often go unseen in Australian communities. We are urging all community members to "look a little deeper" at what may be going on around you, in your neighbourhood, your school and in your own backyards. The AFP Look a Little Deeper Program is used to educate frontline workers and the community about human trafficking and slavery.

"I urge the community to take ten minutes out of their day, click on the QR code and learn how to recognise

the indicators of human trafficking and what to do. Help us shine a light on this crime by talking about the signs of human trafficking and reporting anything that doesn't seem right."



Stopping human trafficking and modern slavery is everyone's responsibility. If someone's life is in danger, immediately call 000.

If you have information about human trafficking, you are urged to make a report to the AFP via the AFP website www.afp.gov.au. You may also report anonymously through Crimestoppers (1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppers.com.au).

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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.



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learn more

ruok.org.au/triple-ok

RUOK?
A conversation could change a life.

Be Connected and Get the Most out of Going Online Safely

No matter our age or skill level, we can all use some extra help to stay tech savvy.

Be Connected is helping improve the digital literacy and confidence of all Australians, to make the online world a safer, more positive place for us all to participate in, be connected, and enjoy.

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

Discover Be Connected's latest online safety advice and start learning new skills today.

New course: Setting up and using email

Do you or someone you know want to learn more about email? The Setting up and using email course has all you need to know about how to safely use free email services.

Focusing on three popular email services – Gmail, Outlook, and Yahoo Mail – you will be stepped through the process, from basics to advanced tips including how to block nuisance emails, report spam, unsubscribe to newsletters, plus how to change your password and more. You'll also learn how to spot common email scams and how to avoid them.

Visit: beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/setting-up-and-using-email

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Podcast: New ways of doing old things

Technology has changed the way we look at photos, watch videos, listen to the radio, read books and more. But does it make it better or easier?

In the latest Be Connected podcast episode, host Val Quinn looks at new ways of enjoying some of our favourite pastimes.

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

Upcoming free online presentations

Join a live online presentation to develop your digital skills and keep safer online. Be Connected's free presentations cover a wide range of topics every month. Here are some of the upcoming sessions:

- **9 November:** Can you spot a scam?
- **9 November:** Staying safe on Facebook

- **14 November:** iPhone basics
- **5 December:** Connecting to others
- **6 December:** Protect yourself against scams
- **12 December:** Useful tips for using your Android phone

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 a part of Be Connected.

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





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Keep Mob Safe Online: Resources to support First Nations people

Technology has changed the way we share knowledge and tell stories. There are lots of benefits, but there are risks too.

Research from the eSafety Commissioner shows that First Nations children are almost twice as likely as Australian young people overall to post original video or music online, and more than twice as likely to post their own story or blog. Unfortunately, they are also almost three times more likely to experience hate speech.

eSafety has developed resources to support First Nations people to navigate the online world safely, including advice and support in multiple languages, with information on how to be safe online and what to do if things go wrong.

eSafety supports mob of all ages with different types of online abuse – they can help you manage it and get very harmful content taken down.

The First Nations web pages cover key topics – including connecting safely, sexting and sending nudes, family safety and online hate and abuse – featuring videos, audio, clear explanations and more to help you be deadly online.

The internet is a key platform for cultural expression among First Nations people, so it's important to know how to connect with each other safely online. eSafety has partnered with First Nations organisations to develop these resources and advice to help empower communities to stay safe and active online, and ensure mob's voices, music and stories continue to be heard.

eSafety is actively promoting and sharing these resources and



eSafety staff at Garma Festival 2023



engaging directly with communities, including recently attending Garma Festival and Puliima 2023.

Find out more:

[eSafety.gov.au/first-nations](https://esafety.gov.au/first-nations)

Other ways to show your support

- Share the Be Deadly Online resources with your school or community. They explore online issues including cyberbullying, digital reputation and respect for others through short videos and posters.
- Register your interest for eSafety's free Strong People, Safe Spaces online safety training for First Nations people who have an active online presence, and First Nations organisations and businesses that use social media to engage with their clients.

- Download Your Online Journey, a free and easy-to-use app with step-by-step instructions and videos to help mob get online and stay safe.
- Check out eSafety's indigiTUBE page to easily stream some of our First Nations video content.

eSafety encourages all Australians who witness online abuse, regardless of who the target may be, to be an upstander, rather than a bystander. This means supporting the person who is being abused or harmed and letting them know they know help is available, for example through **[eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)**.

All Australians experiencing online abuse can report it at **[eSafety.gov.au/report](https://esafety.gov.au/report)**



Give life. Give blood.

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National Secure Your Home Day Strengthens Community Resilience Against Crime

In a resounding display of community collaboration and proactive engagement, the joint effort between crime prevention partners Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia has yielded remarkable results during this year's inaugural 'National Secure Your Home Day' held on September 23 and 24.

With a primary focus on enhancing home security and fostering a sense of collective responsibility in local communities, the two-day initiative generated significant interest and participation from homeowners nationwide.

Leading up to the event, Crimsafe's 'Home Crimprovement' campaign encouraged homeowners to 'crimprove' their home security with expert advice and practical strategies to strengthen their resistance to crime. By illustrating how a typical Aussie home could be turned into a crim's worst nightmare, the campaign exemplified how incorporating security screens, cameras, spotlights, and padlocks can substantially improve a home's **Secure Score**.

Those keen on strengthening their home's security measures registered online through the Secure Your Home Day website. They received a comprehensive home security checklist, invaluable tips to enhance security, and details about community events and activities related to National Secure Your Home Day.

On September 23 and 24, homeowners were encouraged to collectively pause, assess their home security, and take proactive measures to enhance the safety and security of their homes, yards, vehicles, and neighbourhoods, thereby reducing the risk of crime, theft, and vandalism.



A huge success

The debut of National Secure Your Home Day was a resounding success, extending beyond participation statistics. With over a 1,500 participants registering for the event, the most significant outcome was the sense of unity within neighbourhoods.

As homeowners proactively fortified their home security, local

communities experienced a profound coming together. They engaged in conversations about security concerns and shared valuable insights and ideas on establishing safer neighbourhoods through community-oriented events led by local Neighbourhood Watch groups.

The event will also provide one fortunate homeowner with a significant improvement in home



security, in the form of \$3,000 worth of Crimsafe security screens for their home. This valuable addition will enhance their home security and serves as a tangible symbol of the event's commitment to bolstering community safety and security.

Partners in crime prevention

Since coming together in 2021, Crimsafe and NHTA have embarked on a mission to build stronger, more secure neighbourhoods, to make them more resilient against criminal activities. Their collaborative efforts, including past initiatives like **Secure September** and **Neighbourhood Watch Month** campaigns, motivated thousands of homeowners to engage in a home security assessment using the free online Secure Score tool.

Over the last two years, data has revealed that the national average Secure Score stands at a mere 56 (out of 100), indicating that numerous residences remain susceptible to break-ins, damage, or theft.



This year, the crime prevention duo of NHTA and Crimsafe have remained committed to elevating this score by equipping homeowners with the essential resources to bolster the security of their homes and empowering them to take proactive measures to enhance their homes' safety. This was achieved on National Secure Your Home Day when the nation united in this collective effort.

It's not too late to get involved

You can still get involved if you missed National Secure Your Home Day. It's never too late to enhance your home's security. Head to secureyourhomeday.com

to receive your free Home Security Kit and practical tips for improving your security. Additionally you can 'crimprove' your home's security with these simple yet effective suggestions from Crimsafe.

Top 5 'Home Crimprovement' ideas from Crimsafe:

Do these home security crimprovements to make your home more secure:

1. Install security screens to protect from unwanted intruders
2. Install cameras to deter criminals and monitor your home
3. Trim trees so crim's have nowhere to hide
4. Add sensor lights to light up dark areas at night
5. Lock your garden shed and garage

For more tips, head to crimsafe.com.au/home-crimprovement/

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Why Scammers are so Successful at Scamming!

In 2023 IDCARE has received in excess of 300,000 phone calls.

Many of these callers have experienced scams and some have lost everything. Imagine that. Imagine looking forward to retirement and then investing in something that looks legitimate, it may even be a reputable financial advisory firm, with a financial services licence, that gives you access to a portal where you watch your hard earned and saved money grow a fake balance. You may have even been told about it by a family member or friend. You're moving up the ranks with the investment firm and getting access to special advice and may be even enticed to "co-invest," or even consider setting up an arm of the business in-country.

These signs are sadly common for scams that are costing some people literally everything. So why do people believe these scams?

After more than a decade of supporting victims of these crimes, IDCARE can reputedly tell you there is no relationship between being a victim of a scam and how smart or naive a person may be. Scams are forms of psychological deception at its worst. The brain does some pretty amazing and sometimes unpredictable things. It controls our emotions, which influence our behaviours, including what's appealing to us, and how well, in some cases, we are able to actually detect scams.

IDCARE is partnering with the University of Sydney's Cyberpsychology Research Group in undertaking a program of research that helps communities and organisations better predict and prevent scam compliance. Put simply, in what is fast-becoming a



IDCARE have helped thousands of individuals and organisations reduce harm from the misuse of their identity information

scam epidemic, the research will contribute to what can we all do to better protect people from the psychological deception we are exposed to on a daily basis.

It's very sad that we cannot trust most communications that come our way, whether that be phone calls, text messages, emails, and even ads pushed to us on social media and website browsers and search engines. This is one reason why scammers are so successful. Some flood our phones and email accounts every day, whilst others are a little more subtle about their targeting.

Many social media platforms and browsing applications make their money selling ads. These ads are very targeted. So, if I am a scammer wanting to promote a fake investment, I am wanting to target typically retirees, more often than not experienced investors, and those who may have shown some browsing interest in cryptocurrencies. If you've ever done some browsing and noticed when you look at your social media why you are starting to see ads on the very topic you have previously expressed interest in, there's a good chance your electronic footprint is



IDCARE is Australia and New Zealand's national identity and cyber support service

meeting the ad promotion criteria. Scammers use this a lot.

So, what can we do? Well the "we" is a great starting point. There's a job for each of us to keep talking about these things at home, at the dinner table, whilst we're cooking, or relaxing. We need to know that these innocent conversations about "did you see the latest scam text?" or "did you hear about this investment scam?" can make all the difference. But the "we" is much more than you and me. It also includes all of the organisations that play a role in actually enabling scam activities. Whether that be telcos, search engines, social media companies, banking and finance organisations, or cryptocurrency exchanges. "We" all need to own this problem, because at the moment, there is one thing for certain: it is only going to get worse if "we" don't make a stand and address this problem from the Home to the House (Parliament House).

If you have experienced a scam and have concerns about your personal, account or credential information free support and advice is available at idcare.org (hopefully "we" will never need to speak with you).

Create Belonging, Share Belonging

What is Neighbours Every Day?

Neighbours Every Day (NED) is Relationships Australia's social connection campaign, building capacity for all Australians to make and maintain respectful relationships. Formerly known as Neighbour Day, it has operated in Australia for more than twenty years, promoting the benefits of well-connected and resilient communities.

Why get involved?

NED recognises the significant positive impacts that can flow from making sustainable, lasting connections, every day of the year.

Research shows that when people connect with their communities, they have a greater sense of belonging, which leads to improved mental well-being and a reduction in loneliness. It also contributes to strength and resilience in the face of external pressures. The need for all Australians to have strong social support networks has never been more apparent; when we 'belong,' we draw sustaining strength and resilience.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia has been welcomed for many years by NED as a Very Neighbourly Organisation (VNO) in recognition of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups' as good neighbours and for their generation of major positive impacts in communities across Australia and New Zealand.

Many NHW groups celebrate Neighbour Day each year fostering belonging among their networks by creating inclusive, welcoming spaces and events for people to connect and share belonging.

What is Neighbour Day?

Neighbour Day was founded in Melbourne in March 2003 by Andrew Heslop after a deceased elderly woman was found inside



Neighbour Day is an annual celebration of community and respectful relationships, with many neighbourly gatherings hosted in public parks



Sharing food and fun with neighbours helps build respectful relationships, which creates and shares belonging – Alison Clarke and neighbours, Chapel Hill QLD



Neighbours of all shapes, sizes, and kinds help create and share belonging in our communities – here are Ruby and Maxwell, good bois and good neighbours!

her suburban home, apparently forgotten by her community.

Neighbour Day has become Australia's annual celebration of community and falls on the last Sunday in March each year. In 2024, Neighbour Day will take place on 31 March.

Create Belonging, Share Belonging

The theme for Neighbours Every Day in 2024 is 'Create Belonging, Share Belonging' – a call to action for all Australians to take everyday actions that create social connection and foster respectful relationships.

We can all work to create belonging: for ourselves, for our families and for our neighbours. We can 'share belonging' by focusing on genuine inclusion and connection, making others welcome, and by building respectful relationships with those around us.

We all need each other to belong.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3

1. Visit neighbourseveryday.org to access helpful information, free resources, and more.
2. Register your community events on the NED website year-round.
3. Create and share belonging!



Group shot at 2022 NHWA Awards Presentation, Mackay, Queensland, including Assistant Commissioner for Central Queensland, Mr Kevin Guteridge; Sergeant Nigel Dalton, winner of the NHWA 2022 Police Commissioner's Award; Gerri Kissner, winner NHWA's Malcom Grant Volunteer Award; Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay & Assistant Minister for Education

2022 Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Malcom Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year and the Police Commissioner's Awards

In July 2023 Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) presented the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia 2022 Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner's Award to the winners.

NHW CEO Maria Bennett travelled to Mackay, Queensland, for the presentation, where she was joined by the Member for Mackay and Assistant Minister for Education, Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, to present the Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year Award, and by the Assistant Commissioner for Central Queensland, Mr Kevin Guteridge, to present the 2022 Police Commissioner's Award.

The competition for the 2022 NHWA Awards was more fierce than usual, as they included nominees from 2020, 2021 and 2022, due to the Awards not having been held during the pandemic. Given the number of outstanding nominations received for both Awards, the judges – being from Tasmania, Canberra, and Perth respectively – took the unprecedented step of awarding a runner-up recipient for each Award.

The NHWA Awards are presented in honour and recognition of the committed and valuable individuals who are essential to the success

and impact of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) communities and Police Services working together across Australia. The success of effective crime prevention lies within the strong partnerships between communities and Police, and the NHWA awards are bestowed in recognition of those who build and strengthen partnerships between community and the Police.

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

The Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Malcom Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award 2022

The Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year Award was established in honour of the memory of a man whose immense contribution to the Neighbourhood Watch movement was immeasurable. This Award is presented to an individual who has volunteered their time through

NHW to empower people and communities with the development of strong and effective partnerships that promote safer communities, engagement, and social inclusion.

On behalf of the NHWA Board, the judges, and the community, congratulations to the recipients of the 2022 Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year Awards:

Recipient

Gerri Kissner

Neighbourhood Watch Queensland, Mackay District

Runner Up

Annette Moon

Neighbourhood Watch Queensland, Mudgeeraba District

Gerri Kissner is recognised for her significant contribution to NHW over more than eight years through her tireless work to include, connect, and protect all in the community – particularly vulnerable persons – through NHW events and projects, and to facilitate early engagement

through positive experiences between children and police. Gerri has a blackbelt in karate, and as well as delivering a number of NHW programs in the Mackay district, she also gives talks on self-defence.

Annette Moon has been an active and committed NHW member for over six years, and volunteers across a wide range of events and activities while working to ensure proactive and interconnected safety for all within the Gold Coast NHW District. Annette volunteers across an eclectic range of community activities and events, produces and distributes the local NHW newsletter and assists in liaison between neighbouring NHW groups and the Mudgeeraba Police.

The Police Commissioner's Award

The Police Commissioners' Award is presented in recognition of a Police Officer or Police Service Employee who has worked with NHW groups and actively demonstrated empowering people and communities through the development of effective partnerships between the Police and community to promote safer communities, engagement, and social inclusion. These persons are recognised as having served above and beyond to achieve beneficial outcomes for their communities.

Recipient

Sergeant Nigel Dalton

Queensland Police Service, Mackay District

Runner Up

Senior Constable Annabel Shegog

Tasmania Police, Northern Police District, Launceston

Sergeant Nigel Dalton is based out of the Crime Prevention Unit, Mackay, Queensland, where he is the District Crime Prevention Coordinator (DCPC) Police Liaison Officer.

Sergeant Dalton has over fifteen years of commitment with his local NHW groups and has previously been the recipient of



Assistant Commissioner for Central Queensland Mr Kevin Guteridge; Gerri Kissner, winner NHWA's Malcom Grant Volunteer Award; Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay & Assistant Minister for Education; and Sergeant Nigel Dalton, winner of the NHWA 2022 Police Commissioner's Award



The dynamic crime-fighting duo of Mackay; Sergeant Nigel Dalton and Gerri Kissner

Neighbourhood Watch Queensland's (NHWQ's) Mackay District Liaison Officer of the year across multiple years. Sgt Dalton also received Australian Institute Criminology Annual Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards, 2017 Bronze Award, and was recently named the Mackay Citizen of The Year for 2023.

Senior Constable Shegog holds the position of Community Policing Officer and is a highly respected member of both the Tasmanian Police and the NHW community. In her primary Community Policing position, Senior Constable Shegog is committed to supporting NHW in Tasmania for over a decade,

including taking on the role of the de facto District Coordinator for all NHW groups based within her region. Senior Constable Shegog has been the recipient of a number of community policing service awards, including the inaugural Rotary Tasmania Police Excellence Award in 2016.

Certificates of Appreciation have been presented to all other outstanding nominees for the 2022 NHWA Awards.

Thank you to all nominees for your incredible commitment to the wellbeing and safety of your communities, and congratulations on your very well-deserved recognition!

Thank you also to the nominators of individuals for the Awards, as these are the people in the community who recognise and bear witness to the good works being done, ensuring that these outstanding individuals and their work are seen, valued, and appreciated.

For more information about the comprehensive community contributions of the recipients of the NHWA Awards, and for information on how to nominate your deserving community member, go to: www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards/nhwa-awards-winners/

Nominations close 31 October 2023.

NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



The kids loved the balloons from Giggly Wiggly

Farrer Neighbour Day 2023

On 26 March Farrer Neighbourhood Watch again celebrated Neighbour Day in 'Farrerdisse' at the Farrer Adventure Nature Park, with over 200 residents taking part in the celebrations and getting to know their neighbours.

Live entertainment, organised by Tuggeranong Arts Centre and the Woden Arts Program, included balloon art by Chloe from Giggly Wiggly, terracotta pot painting by Blaide Lallemand, and live music by Pachamama.

Area Coordinator Paul Way welcomed everyone to the gathering and gave the Acknowledgement of Country. Then it was time for a free family sausage sizzle, a Neighbour Day cake, and a Lucky Door prize. Great fun was had by all, and 276 sausages were consumed!



People stopped by to chat to the NHW stall and to enjoy the music



Clare McGrath receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from NHWA Chair Bernie Durkin

ACT Well-Represented on NHWA Board

After 13 years as ACT representative on the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Board, Clare McGrath has taken a step back to concentrate on her other role as Vice-President (North) of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT.

Clare has been an active member of Neighbourhood Watch since 1985, primarily in Ainslie where she has lived since moving from Melbourne in 1962 (and, yes, she is still a self-professed sports lover and one-eyed Hawthorn AFL supporter).

Taking over the role of ACT representative on the NHWA board is current NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall.

Laurie joined the Board of NHW ACT as Treasurer in 2018 and has been President since May 2020. He has found a familiar face on the NHWA Board as his predecessor as ACT President, Margaret Pearson, is currently the NHWA Company Secretary.

Following a 22-year career as an officer in the Royal Australian Navy, Laurie joined the Australian Public Service working in several intelligence-related roles, specialising in geospatial intelligence analysis and intelligence capability development.

Laurie 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).



New ACT representative on NHWA Board, Laurie Blackall

20 SECURITY TIPS FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

CENTRE
PAGE
PULL
OUT

1. Home Security

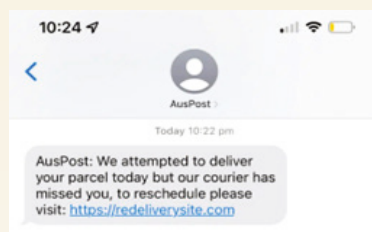
If you have Christmas light cords running through a window or door, ensure the window or door can be securely locked at night. Be vigilant about locking doors and windows when you leave home, and make sure your garage door is closed completely before you drive off.

2. Presents

Do not display gifts so that they can be seen from outside your home, and ensure they are out of sight if they are the car.

3. Fake Delivery Messages

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



4. Motor vehicle theft

Lock your car, and don't leave car keys near the front door where they can easily be stolen by opportunistic thieves. Keep keys with you or in a **secure location** at all times. Don't tag keys with personal information, including name or address, and try to park in a secure carpark when out and about.

5. Personal safety

Always tell your family and close friends of your travel plans and provide them with your itinerary so they know where you are, and how to contact you in an emergency. **Your location can also be shared with them via smart devices.**

6. Scams

Beware of holiday scams. Scammers try to take advantage of online shoppers through identity fraud, bogus gift offers or websites, or posing as a charity. Do not give out any personal information such as credit card details and **do not open emails or click links** from people you do not recognise.

7. No mobile phones when driving

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

8. Safe Package Delivery

If you're expecting a parcel, **arrange secure delivery.** To avoid porch and front-door thieves, add a request signature confirmation to your delivery options, arrange to have your parcel held at a post office, or have a trusted neighbour receive it for you.

9. Remember the Safety Gear!

If giving a bike, scooter, or other wheeled toys as a present, **don't forget the safety gear!** These can include a helmet, and/or kneepads, elbow pads and wrist guards.

10. Secure Your Devices

Ensure smart devices are protected against malware and viruses by installing the latest updates and running up-to-date anti-virus software.

11. Be Alert

The Holiday season is a time when many people will be busy shopping and running errands. Criminals will be looking for distracted targets and opportunity. Even though you may be rushed and have many things on your mind, **stay alert to your surroundings.**

12. Holiday Decorations

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

13. Pet Safety

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

14. Social Media Posting

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

15. Away From Home

If going away, make efforts so it appears that you are home. This can include leaving lights on a timer, asking a neighbour to collect mail, leaving shoes by the front door, or asking a neighbour to keep an eye on your home. Don't leave keys hidden in obvious places, for e.g. under a door mat or flowerpot. Leaving spare keys with a trusted neighbour or in a secure location is a safer option.

16. Child Online Safety

Children will be spending more time on the internet while on holidays. Ensure you know what children are doing online, know the warning signs and never provide personal information or photos to anyone online. Child sexual exploitation can happen to anyone - if you have any suspicions, make a report. For more information on how to keep children safe online and how to report, visit the ACCCE website www.accce.gov.au.

17. Drink Responsibly

The holidays are a time to celebrate, however, look after yourself and your mates. If drinking alcohol, drink responsibly, drink plenty of water, and eat some food. **Remember, it's never ok to drink and drive!**

18. Fire prevention

Do not leave lit candles unattended in your home and ensure they are not near flammable items. Turn off all Christmas lights and electrical items when going to bed. A family roast or BBQ can be a holiday highlight, but don't leave it unattended, as this can lead to a fire.

19. Join Neighbourhood Watch

If you have not already, join your local Neighbourhood Watch or Neighbourhood Support NZ group. Neighbourhood Watch is a great way to look out for each other in your community, and share crime prevention resources and advice.

20. Report

Report any suspicious activity to the Police. In an emergency or when a crime is taking place call Police on Triple Zero (000). If a crime has already happened call Police Link 131 444.



Preventing Parcel Theft

With an increase in online shopping and deliveries, it's important to take proactive measures to deter theft and protect belongings.

Here are five strategies to help you stop thieves and keep deliveries safe:

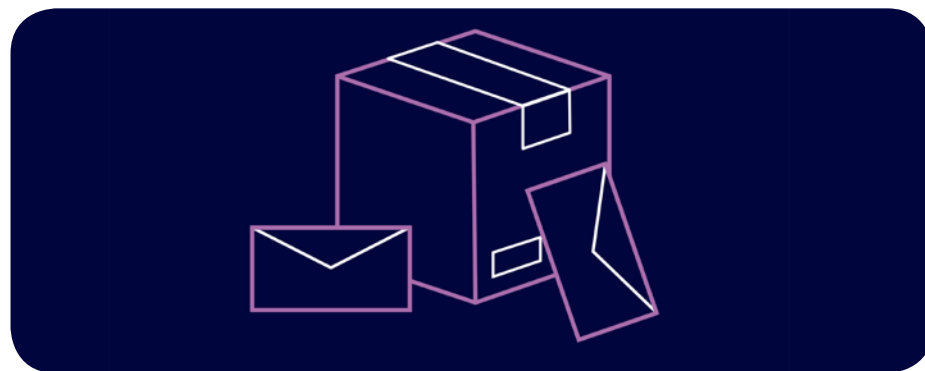
Home Security Devices

- Installing home security devices such as outdoor cameras or a video doorbell can help deter thieves. While these types of devices are great for capturing the moment of theft, they aren't usually enough to stop the crime from happening in the first place. You can submit the imagery to police for investigation or use it to prove your package was stolen to the retailer.

- You might also consider adding a motion sensor light that will turn on any time it's dark when movement is detected, which can help guests and delivery people, but also deter thieves who don't want to be seen.

Ship to a Secure Location or Click and Collect

- Australia Post now offers a range of ways to receive a parcel, you can collect your parcel when and where it suits you from any of their collection points – a Post Office, a PO Box or a free 24/7 Parcel Locker.
- A large number of sellers also offer services such as Parcel Point which provides a network of local delivery, pickup and return locations – convenience stores, pharmacies, service stations – all open late and on weekends – all around Australia, where you can have a parcel delivered, and pick up or drop off whenever you like.



- Similarly, most stores offer Click & Collect services for online purchases.

Parcel Delivery Boxes

- A parcel delivery box at the entryway is a great option for secure package delivery. They are usually tough, weather resistant and virtually tamper-proof.
- With multiple ways to open, such as pin-code and remote opening they are easy for home residents and delivery workers to use.

Request Signature Confirmation of Delivery

- If you know you or someone in your household will be home and willing to answer the door, you can add signature confirmation to your delivery. This means that the package can only be left with someone who signs for it rather than just left at the entryway.

- Australia Post will also allow you to direct your parcel to a new delivery address if plans change to ensure someone is home to receive the parcel, even if it's already on its way to you.

Request Packages be Placed in a Secure Location

- When you order something you may have the opportunity to add a delivery request. In this place you can note the package should be placed out of plain sight, especially from the street, such as behind a plant or under porch stairs.

From making sure you're home to receive a signature confirmation delivery to using a parcel delivery box or having your parcel shipped to a secure location, these tips help you stop thieves in their tracks so you can get your packages safe and sound every time.



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).

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand's Children's Book having an Impact

Nearly 18-months on from its initial launch, **Manaaki Street** is still offering up a platform for positive interactions with the youth in neighbourhoods across New Zealand!

Kristel from North Taranaki has been out and about visiting schools and doing **Manaaki Street** readings. She tells us that one class became very fixated on the author – NSNZ's new CEO, Louise Grevel – asking all sorts of questions such as how long it took to write, what Louise used to write it on, what Louise does for the rest of her job, and were the illustrations done in pencil or paint? Amazing questions from new entrants!



Neighbourhood Support North Taranaki's Coordinator, Kristel, reads **Manaaki Street** to a class at Mokau School

The book has been shared with schools from all parts of the district, and with children in a number of different living environments, but at the end of the day they all answer the questions about how to be a good neighbour at the

end of the session in the same way... whether it's 'sharing food from our garden', 'smiling and saying hi', or 'feeding their cat' (or chickens and livestock). Showing kindness is the common thread... so heart-warming!

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand Becomes Official AWHI Partner

Following an extremely productive conversation with New Zealand Police Senior Constable Tony Tumai, NSNZ's CEO Louise is delighted to share the news that Neighbourhood Support

New Zealand is in the process of being added to the NZ Police AWHI app as a service provider across the whole country (we are currently only listed in a few small parts of the country).

Essentially, what this means for Neighbourhood Support is that every Police officer across the country will be able to make

consented referrals directly to us so that we can follow up via our member networks. These referrals may include burglary/crime prevention information, NS group set-ups or individual member subscriptions, supporting our aged and isolated members of community etc.

What is AWHI?

The AWHI app was created in 2018 by two Bay of Plenty frontline Police officers. AWHI supports frontline Police staff to help people in their communities with issues which could contribute to offending, reoffending or victimisation.

AWHI is built on whanaungatanga 'establishing and nurturing relationships' with local communities and wellbeing service providers. The connections Police make through AWHI referrals help prevent people from offending, reoffending, or becoming victims of crime or harm.

Referrals are made to local wellbeing service providers in the areas of mental health, family wellbeing and addiction services, driver licencing, accommodation, budget assistance and care for older people.



AWHI referrals are made by New Zealand Police officers to local wellbeing service providers



Women who have completed the Women's Only Swim Programme coordinated by Masterton Neighbourhood Support

Neighbourhood Support Fund Women's Only Swim Programme in Masterton

Neighbourhood Support helped fund a Women's Only Swim Programme in Masterton. The Programme was run for women who have settled in Masterton from Pakistan via the Red Cross Refugee Resettlement Programme.

The programme ran as a series of 30-minute sessions over two and a half weeks. During this time the women completed a learners swim programme,

taught by a Belgravia tutor; before also being taught CPR by Cheryl from the Wellington Free Ambulance. For many of the women, this was the first-time having access to such a programme.

Cathy Cameron, Masterton Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, is currently working on funding to be able to continue the programme, perhaps with a separate session for men and an additional round of classes for those who have already completed the learner level.



Sue Robertson, Michelle Hohepa, Toni Helleur, Louise Grevel, and Margaret Faed

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand Volunteers Invited to Afternoon Tea With NZ's Governor General

NSNZ's new CEO, Louise Grevel (who is also a volunteer firefighter), was delighted to receive an afternoon tea invitation from the Governor General of NZ to celebrate National Volunteer Week, alongside Rt Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, Dr Richard Davies, and four other fabulous NSNZ women who all go above and beyond for their communities: Sue Robertson, Michelle Hohepa, Toni Helleur and Margaret Faed.

NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND



Jenni Summer (Hon Treasurer), Julie Brundell, Rhonda Wang, Al Wang, Sascha Voevodin (Area Coordinator), Graeme Brown, Margaret Brown, Andrew Rowe (Assistant Secretary, partly obscured), Ann Jeffery, Maria Bennett (CEO NHWA) and Trevor Taylor (Assistant Area Coordinator)

Robina NHW Honours their Original Members with Special Certificates

Robina Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) held its 13th Annual General Meeting on 22 August 2023.

In addition to the usual reports on activities during the fourth quarter of the NHW year and the election of officers, members were treated to an interesting and informative presentation by Maria Bennett, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The opportunity was also taken to present Certificates of Appreciation to a valued group of members... those who have been with Robina Waters and Robina Woods NHW since its inception in 2010. These folks have attended more than 50 meetings and have been closely involved with the group in that time.

The opportunity was also taken to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Karyn O'Dea of Ray White Real Estate. Karen lives in the area and attends most meetings. She also presents a welcome pack to everyone who buys a house in the local community. These information packs include promotional material about NHW, including information on our quarterly meetings.

The local Gold Coast City Councillor spoke at the meeting and also officiated in the Election of Office-bearers. All previous office-bearers were

happy to stand again and there were no fresh nominations from the floor.

It was a privilege to have Maria present the Certificates.

Thank you and congratulations to our members!

Other recipients who were unable to attend the meeting were:

Barbara Davis, Jack Odgers, Daphne Odgers, Joyce Howard, Kevin Boyle, Gail Boyle, Ruth Carmichael and John Carmichael.

Daisy Hill NHW Another Lively Morning Tea!

Daisy Hill residents were recently invited to attend a morning tea at the Springwood Motor Inn.



Senior Constable Rob Whitehead, Cliff Walker, and Daisy Hill Area Coordinator John Devaus

The purpose of the morning tea was to thank residents for their support of the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program, and to encourage residents to get to know their neighbours. This proved to be a hilarious exercise, with some participants referring to the exercise as 'speed dating'. Most of the people who attended knew each other well, however, we welcomed a couple of newbies too.

Participants were given information about the upcoming National Secure Your Home Day – a joint initiative of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and the University of Queensland, held on 23 & 24 September 2023.

Senior Constable Rob Whitehead attended and provided an overview of current crime events and answered residents' questions. Logan City Councillor Mindy Russell also attended and gave an overview of upcoming council initiatives.

The morning tea was once again catered by local resident Irene Walker, who baked a delicious selection of cakes and slices. Thank you to all who attended and made the morning tea a success.



Harold Mitcham and Anne Walter enjoying the morning tea



Jill Devaus and Senior Constable Rob Whitehead



Mary Ford and Maureen Arch

Barry Donnelly farewelled from Edmonton NHW after 22 years

It was with sadness but great gratitude that Mr Barry Donnelly was recently farewelled, as he retired from Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch (NHW).



Myra Jensen, Rhonda Wallace, Shelley Tunney, Steve Lippingwell, Fran Lindsay, Barry Donnelly, David Callarame, and Ray and Terri Scarbrough



Sergeant Sally Thompson and Senior Sergeant Susan Canniffe presenting Barry his award from QPS

After a staggering 22 years with Edmonton NHW Barry left with a swag of awards and 'thankyous', to add to his large collection of accolades received during his service with Edmonton NHW.

Joining Edmonton NHW in 2001, Barry always held a committee member role as either the Treasurer, Secretary or Area Coordinator. In 2022 Barry was awarded NHW Community Member of the Year for the Far North, an award he

also received 2010. Further, Barry is the recipient of the QLD NHW Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards and also received a District Officers Certificate of Appreciation for his commitment to NHW.

17 July 2023 was Barry's last Edmonton NHW meeting. Senior Sergeant Susan Canniffe and Sergeant Sally Thompson from the Crime Prevention and Programs Unit flew into Cairns to personally present Barry with a Queensland Police



Senior Constable Heidi Marek presenting Barry with his award on behalf of NHWA

Service (QPS) plaque and Certificate of Appreciation.

On behalf of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW), Senior Constable Heidi Marek presented Barry with a Certificate of Appreciation and a beautifully engraved glass trophy thanking Barry for service to NHW.

We sincerely thank Barry for his years of dedication to NHW in the Far North and wish him all the very best for the future.



Members of the Gold Coast NHW Committee with representatives of Shred-X



Annette Moon and Vicki Colwell of the Gold Coast NHW Committee helping out at the Shredding Day

Gold Coast NHW Helping Residents Prevent Identity Theft

As part of the Gold Coast NHW's commitment to helping residents prevent identity theft, members teamed up with Shred-X and the Gold Coast City Council to host a number of Secure Shredding Days across the Gold Coast.

Residents turned up with boot-loads of old tax returns, business documents, X-rays and other confidential information. X-rays are particularly hard to dispose of due to the metal and chemical components and cannot be put out in the ordinary Council garbage collection, leaving many elderly residents with years' worth of films that they don't know what to do with. Shred-X securely shred all paper collected on the day, which is then baled and transported to recycling partners to be repurposed into new office paper and washroom paper products.

Held over three weekends during July and August, the 2023 events were the fifth time NHW has hosted this service and the results and support are on the rise. This year, the Broadwater event saw 57, 240L containers (3.56 tonnes) collected, the Robina event yielded 46, 240L containers (3.38 tonnes) and the event at Ormeau yielded 17, 240L containers (1.36 tonnes) of paper and X-rays, with over 300 residents taking part across the three locations – more than double the 2022 numbers!

Shred-X and the Gold Coast City Council are proud partners with

Neighbourhood Watch for these Secure Disposal events, as part of an ongoing commitment to fight identity theft and to dispose of X-ray films and CDs in an environmentally responsible way. Year on year, more and more residents are taking up the opportunity to dispose of their personal papers securely.

A big thank you also to the management team at Robina Town Centre, Michael Crandon MP and David Crisafulli MP and their teams, who provided support for the events.

Wondai NHW

Area Coordinator of Wondai Town and Rural Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Darren Buckley attended the August meeting of the Wondai Business and Development Association.

Local State Member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, was guest speaker at the breakfast event. Deb Frecklington started 'Local Hero Grants' to help support

local not-for-profit community groups and individuals. Wondai NHW was the recipient of one of these small grants, which will go towards Wondai NHW's First Responders Appreciation brunch.

At the meeting, Darren honoured and thanked Deb Frecklington for her donation and for supporting NHW, and presented her with a NHW water bottle and torch.



Wondai Town and Rural NHW Area Coordinator Darren Buckley, and the local State Member for Nanango Deb Frecklington



Greg Broad, Bev Floyd, Riverview NHW Area Coordinator Amanda Draheim, Lydia Teekens, and the Hon Shayne Neumann MP

Muscle in Maculata - Riverview NHW Rev's It Up for the Annual Car Show

On Sunday 4 June 2023, the community descended on Maculata Family Park for Riverview Neighbourhood Watch's annual event 'Muscle in Maculata'.

Established in 2017, this event has become the biggest community event held in Riverview. It was estimated that 4,000 people inspected over 100 cars, and soaked up the atmosphere that rolled in with the market stalls and food trucks. Children were delighted with the rock climbing wall, the teacups ride and the adorable petting zoo.

The event was established by the Riverview NHW Committee after residents expressed concerns with the volume of hooning across the suburb. The committee set out to change people's perception of the suburb and show the younger generation that vehicles can be appreciated and are more valuable when cared for.

This year's event was funded by the Ipswich City Council Community Event Funding and gave Riverview and surrounding residents the opportunity to



Senior Constable Lynda Whincup, Riverview NHW Area Coordinator Amanda Draheim, and Constable Steve Ihle at the 2023 Muscle in Maculata

connect with local police officers and Volunteers in Policing (ViPs), including the Riverview Police Beat Officer Senior Constable Lynda Whincup who arrived in her

police car and allowed residents to get up close and take pictures with the car and other attending officers.

The event also enables local police to provide road safety messaging on the Fatal Five - speeding, drink or drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt, fatigue, and distractions - in a way that engages the local community. There was also the provision of anti-theft number plate screws with vehicle security messaging.

Ipswich City Council Mayor Teresa Harding was in attendance to present trophies to the winning vehicle owners, and Riverview NHW worked closely with their Local Councillors Marnie Doyle and Andrew Fechner to ensure the park was ready for the expected crowd.

Planning has already begun for next year's event, which promises to deliver another fantastic event for the community.

NHW Community Open Day Attracts Hundreds of Families across the Gold Coast Hinterland

On 27 August 2023, hundreds of families came to Hinterland Regional Park in Mudgeeraba to speak with their local Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups, police, rural fire brigade, paramedics, and local Councillor Glenn Tozer.

Mother nature put on a spectacular warm winter's day against a stunning rural backdrop. Mums, dads, kids, and puppy dogs came out in force to enjoy the event.

To keep the kids entertained, there was a jumping castle set up near the Council playground, as well as a petting zoo full of adorable baby animals, plus a Shetland pony ride circuit amongst the trees.

A delightful local coffee van was in attendance, providing much needed caffeine, and there were slushies, ice cream and milkshakes available from a variety of vendors to keep everyone cool and hydrated.

Mudgeeraba Lions Club provided tea and delicious home baked goodies. For those with a larger appetite, there was a gold coin donation sausage sizzle run by NHW for the Mudgeeraba and Bonogin Rural Fire services, plus a fish and chip food truck.

Councillor Glenn Tozer gave away free native trees, which proved to be extremely popular. His team also spoke with residents about staying vigilant to the threat of fire ants.

The QLD Ambulance Service ran hands-on demonstrations for kids, where they could learn CPR on a life-like dummy. Representatives of the QLD department of Water & Land Carers talked about the importance of our local wildlife and animal conservation, with Hudson Snake Catching explaining safety essentials for the upcoming summer snake breeding period.

Local small business owners set up stalls selling arts & crafts, honey, and larger plants. We were also able



Councillor Glenn Tozer with John and Annette



Attendees were delighted to see Seymour the Owl

to welcome a Ukrainian family who recently came to Australia, bringing further unique diversity to our local community.

Gold Coast Data Cabling demonstrated the latest technology in security cameras, showing how they can help the community combat local crime and support our police in identifying criminals, leading through to arrests and convictions.

Police and NHW listened to and answered many safety concerns from residents, with hot topics including speeding, hooning, electric bikes, and burglaries.



Reedy Creek leaders David and Vicki with Seymour the Owl

A huge thank you to John Kiss from Mudgeeraba Creek 7 NHW, who had the idea and organised this day for the community to meet and thank our first responders. This was made possible with support from all exhibitors & vendors and with funding through Cr Glenn Tozer's office.

Annette Moon from Glenwood Park NHW and Rob Ormsby Reedy Creek NHW also went above and beyond to make this event a success. Every single NHW volunteer on the day did an outstanding job and should be immensely proud of their achievements!

Drink Rite shows how Easy it is to go Over the Limit

Have you ever had a couple of drinks and then considered driving?

On 25 August 2023 at Frenchville Sports Club in Rockhampton, participants and observers at the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) North Rockhampton #4 Drink Rite Night were able to see in a few instances how easy it was to go over the limit while enjoying drinks, food, and enjoyable conversations with others. At the end of the evening volunteers reached a range of blood alcohol readings from 0.042% to 0.073%.

The Drink Rite event involves a standard drinks presentation, and participants have the opportunity to consume alcohol and get breath tested by a police officer. Drink Rite participation helps people learn about the alcohol content of different drinks, what constitutes a standard drink, and the effect alcohol has on drinkers. People are keen to find out how many standard drinks they are actually pouring when they make themselves a drink, and are often surprised at the difference in readings for drinkers consuming alcohol of varying types and strengths. Many factors determine the effect alcohol can have on a person at any given time, but the Drink Rite program shows participants how quickly consuming standard drinks increases their alcohol concentrations. The message will always be: if you are going to drink alcohol, you should definitely not drive.

Participants learnt the only thing that can lower your blood alcohol limit is time - not a cold shower, coffee, or any of the other 'solutions' drinkers often try after a night out. Standard drink tests were conducted on the night, where patrons were asked to pour what they thought would be a standard drink. It was clear many people had trouble



Constable Joel breath testing Ian



Constable Sonya showing Tim and Lex the accuracy of their standard drink estimates



Constable Sonya talking with Perry, Mel and Nick

judging how much a standard drink was, especially those who don't know much about measuring alcohol. People over-poured in their estimates, so they were actually pouring more than a standard drink.

Organised as part of the 2023 Queensland Road Safety Week, Drink Rite participants included NHW and Transport and Main Roads volunteers, and members of the wider community, who were breath tested every 30 minutes over the course of a three-hour drinking session with officers from the North Rockhampton Police. The police officers then recorded the number

of drinks patrons had consumed and their correlating blood alcohol reading. The exercise aimed to show how different alcoholic beverages impacted males and females of different builds, and led to discussions regarding the myths and facts of 'standard drinks' and their consumption.

While the size of wine glasses and the impact of eating a meal before and during drinking on blood alcohol content were common questions, both Constable Sonya and Constable Joel agreed that, if in doubt, the safest option is to not drive at all once you've had a drink.

Neighbourhood E-Watch Cleveland 20

After a serious incident on Boxing Day 2022, a group in the community of North Lakes formed a Facebook group to share information about crime and safety within the area.

After some consideration about her estate in Wellington Point QLD - which has around 250 houses - Julie decided to set one up as well.

Once the Facebook group was set up, Julie and her grandkids walked the estate and delivered pamphlets advising neighbours. Initially, around 100 people joined the group so she knew the desire was there. They then got in contact with the QLD Police Service (QPS) Community Safety Officer Chris to formalise the group through Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), to ensure the group met the social media requirements and for insurance etc.

Within a month the formal setup was complete, and the groups is now known as Cleveland 20. It has 150 members and growing! There is great content going out regularly



Boomer welcomes our new Community Police Officer to Cleveland 20 NHW

supplied by NHW, and easy to apply advice and tools to keep us all safe. Three NHW street signs will also be erected in the area shortly.

There has been a few incidents shared in the group - which was believed to be some potential crimes interrupted - a lost dog reported and safely delivered home, discussions



Dave and Julie West

about speed limits, kids on scooters and even discussing wildlife.

We love our little community, and now working together we can keep each other safer than ever before. Thanks again to Chris and QPS, who streamlined the process and now E-Watch is a perfect solution for our community.

Kumbia NHW Rural Recruitment Program

Being one of the longest running Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups in Queensland brings certain challenges.

Kumbia NHW are situated in a productive rural area close to the Bunya Mountains (a popular tourist spot), but volunteer numbers are dwindling through natural attrition, retirement, members relocating and the like.

This has driven the group to engaging new members to keep the goals of NHW alive and relevant in our community.

Please see the photo of our newest NHW membership applicant, who is always keeping an eye on things!



The newest applicant already keeping a watchful eye on the neighbourhood

NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Marino and Kingston Park NHW

The Marino and Kingston Park Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) committee are committed to safety and security for everyone in their community.

With this in mind, they have been working on a safety upgrade to facilities in their area. In particular, the Marino Railway Station has been identified in urgent need of an upgrade.

In late 2022 and again in March 2023, Marino and Kingston Park NHW Area Coordinator Darren Bailhache wrote to the Honourable Tom Koutsantonis, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport seeking a modest upgrade to the Marino Railway Station to include at a minimum a safety phone, camera, and shelter upgrades. The safety phone will not only help people to communicate with emergency services for safety reasons, but also in the case of a medical emergency.

Over the months the Marino and Kingston Park NHW team have knocked on countless doors to update the community, and thank you to all who have signed the petition for the South Australian House of Assembly for the Marino Railway Station upgrade.

Many members of the community have provided valuable feedback beyond the original concept and have brought to our attention other deficiencies in the platform.

In line with the commitment to provide accurate updates, we are pleased to provide the following information.

On 21 June 2023, Darren Bailhache met with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport,



Marino and Kingston Park NHW Treasurer Tim Hoopmann, Secretary Marilyn Revell, and Area Coordinator Darren Bailhache at the Marino Railway Station

the Honourable Tom Koutsantonis, and the Chief Executive for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport Jon Whelan.

All parties attended the Marino Railway Station for an onsite inspection.

NHW gave a comprehensive presentation on the safety upgrades required and discussion was held around future infrastructure proofing to the Marino Railway Station, to accommodate the Seacliff Village housing development, the Marino

Community Hall project, and the Kingston Park foreshore/Brighton Caravan Park upgrade.

The presentation and discussion was both productive and well received by attendees.

Thank you to Minister Tom Koutsantonis and Chief Executive Jon Whelan for taking the time and interest to attend the Marino Railway Station, and we look forward to providing further updates regarding outcomes over the coming months.



Front row: Sue Bernik, Paul Bernik, Debra Phillips and Carol Durrans | Rear row: Area Coordinator Jim Phillips, Christopher Nogaj, Darren Johns, Peter Chlebowski, Member for Davenport Erin Thompson MP, Christopher Abinett, Roy Durrans and Nancy Johns

Christmas in June at The Vines

Neighbourhood Watch is a wonderful place to meet people who we would be unlikely to meet elsewhere.

The Happy Valley and O'Halloran Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Area recently celebrated Christmas in June at the Vines Golf Club in Reynella. The group has traditionally celebrated together with an end of year lunch at the Vines Golf Club, and since this event has been such a success, they decided to hold another celebration in the middle of the year – Christmas in June!

At this year's event Member for Davenport Erin Thompson presented a number of the group's members with National Volunteer Week awards from the Department of Human Services in recognition of their many years of dedicated volunteering.

O'Halloran Hill NHW merged with Happy Valley NHW back in 2018, and the combined group has been going strong ever since.

The group holds regular meetings throughout the year and their volunteers deliver 3,400 newsletters to local households, four times a year! These informative newsletters contain valuable crime prevention information to help the local community keep their families and properties safe.

The group has around 30 active volunteers who deliver newsletters and attend meetings. Their commitment to volunteering their time and helping their community is commendable. But they don't consider the amount of newsletters

delivered to be the only measure of their success – sustainability is key – and they credit their many achievements to the friendships they have made along the way.

The group actively embraces inclusiveness and diversity, and they look forward to growing their group and seeing more of their local community at their social events in the future.

If you live in the Happy Valley or O'Halloran Hill areas, we encourage you to get in touch with the group by visiting their website: www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home/local-information/happy-valley. You can connect with your neighbours and help to make your local community a safer place.

NHW TAS

TASMANIA

Hope Springs Eternal After Tragic Loss

When the town of Tullah, on the west coast of Tasmania, experienced the unexpected tragic death of local resident Barabara (Barb) Turnbull, it was the catalyst for the re-establishment of Neighbourhood Watch.



Geoff Iliff, Jenny Bowie, Meygan Barstow and Ken French from Tullah Progress Association



Constable Glen Martin delivering the new NHW signs to Sonya Gerwin and Meygan Barstow



In Memory of Barabara Frances Turnbull 25/4/1944 – 29/9/2022

Tullah has a population of about 200, it doesn't have a high crime rate, but it is somewhat isolated. The larger supermarkets and department stores in Burnie are 100 kilometres away.

Over the previous decade there had been instances of community members living alone and being incapacitated or dying in their homes without anyone knowing at the time. These events started conversations within the community and the Tullah Progress Association (TPA) discussed how support systems and police relationships within their neighbourhood could be improved.

Barb was a retired federal government security officer who

had happily made her home in Tullah. She lived alone and her residence overlooked the children's playground. Perhaps because of her security training and experience, Barb took an interest in the safety of the children, particularly if they were in the park without adult supervision. It was as recently as June 2022 when Barb had her concerns, and the benefits of NHW membership, raised with the Tullah Progress Association.

Barb went missing at the beginning of August 2022 after a shopping trip to Burnie. She was found eight days later, trapped in her car on a side road after apparently suffering a stroke from which she did not recover. The whole community was in shock about the circumstances of

how Barb went missing and the delay in her being found. Barb passed away in September. This event galvanised the community, through the TPA, to do something so that Barb left a legacy and some good came from her passing.

And so it was that in December 2022 the wheels were put in motion by the TPA and Barb's friend, Meygan Barstow, to progress an application for NHW to be established in Tullah. This was confirmed soon afterwards, and the Tullah NHW is now actively engaged in getting signs erected, supporting National Secure Your Home Day in September, and scheduling a Get Online Week event for October. Well done Tullah – with thanks to Barb Turnbull RIP.

Tasmanian Calendar Drawing Competition

A flagship publication for Neighbourhood Watch in Tasmania (NHWT) each year is our annual calendar.

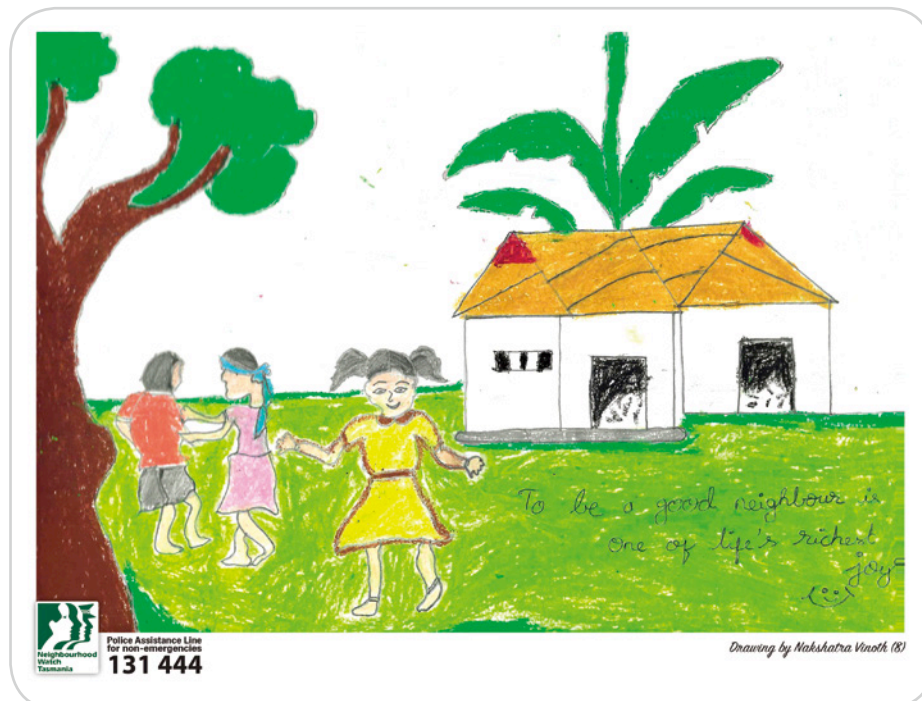
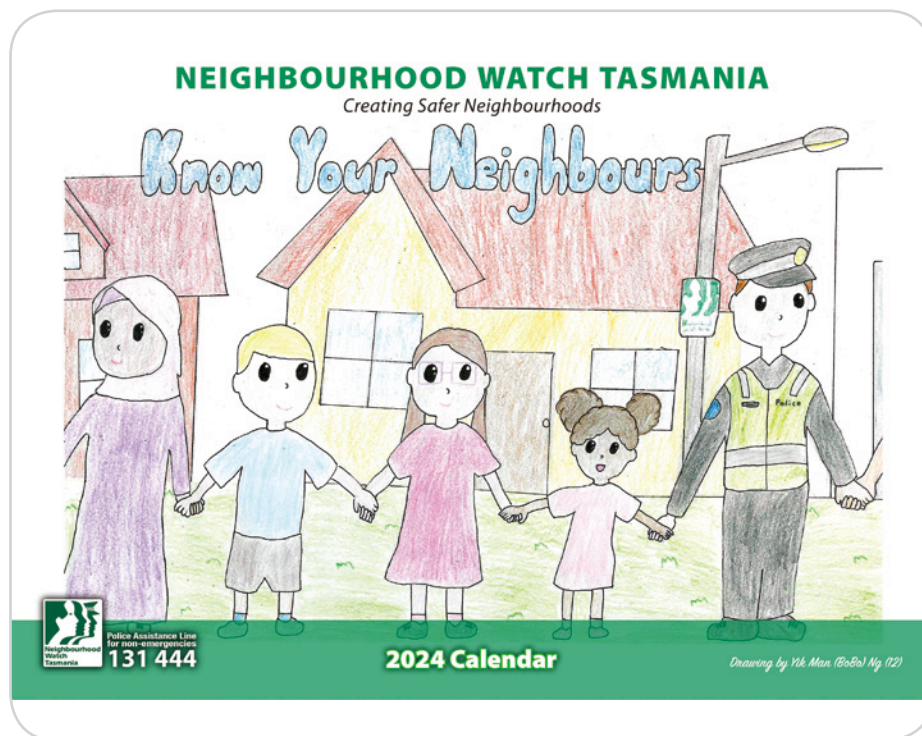
A number of themes have been used over time to promote the good work of our volunteers and their participation in community events to make our neighbourhoods better places for everyone – but particularly our children and future generations. The limited-edition calendars are given away for free and are keenly sought.

This year the NHWT Board decided that the theme for the 2024 Calendar would be Safer Neighbourhoods, and that the feature pages would be selected from a primary school students' drawing competition. Such a simple idea, so how hard could it be to promote the idea and get engagement from our members and their primary school networks across the state?

Our pitch was, "If you do one thing this year, please encourage at least one primary school child to enter the NHWT Drawing Competition where the 12 winners will receive a \$100 prize, but more importantly, their drawing will be the feature image for one of the months in our 2024 Calendar!"

What a great result – but what a difficult task it was to select the winners! However nothing ventured, nothing gained. And we believe we gained enormous exposure across the state during the competition – and even more afterwards – particularly with younger families, their friends, relatives, and neighbours. Win, win, win!

As you read this, the prize winners have been announced and invited to attend the prize giving ceremony to complement our own annual Awards event in Launceston on Saturday 28 October 2023. You can read more about this event in the next edition of the NHWA Journal – but here is a sneak peek of what the calendar will look like.



Well done to all the winners, and everyone else who submitted their drawing in this competition



Sorell NHW, police, and community members at a Cuppa with a Cop event

Plant a Seed and Watch it Grow

Serendipity is one of those words that has a nice sound as it rolls off the tongue. It also has a positive meaning – so it is twice as nice! Serendipity is an unplanned fortunate happening or discovery.

In Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) it is often the case that good things can happen unexpectedly and come from unforeseen sources. This article describes the establishment of Sorell NHW as serendipitous, and here is why.

We are always excited when new groups start up in towns and suburbs across Tasmania. January 2023 saw the official start of a new NHW for Sorell, a town that is nicely positioned between the existing groups of Southern Beaches and Midway Point in the rapidly developing southeast corner of the state. Sarah Pienig was relatively new to the area, and although a busy mother with young children, and running her own business, she initiated enquiries about how she could contribute to her community. That was serendipitous because Sarah asked the question of NHW, got support from the local police, and then accepted the initial challenge



Sarah at her first meeting with Inspector Gavin Hallett and Sergeant Lee Taylor in Sorell

of coordinating a local group through Facebook. And things only continue to get better.

Already this year Sorell NHW has organised a tour of the new police station, held a community meeting to gauge issues and concerns, hosted a Cuppa with a Cop at the Sorell

Plaza shopping centre, designed, promoted, and delivered *Hello Day* for over 20 local community organisations at the Sorell Market and delivered a Get Online Week presentation at a breakfast for mature aged men! How good is that?

Although it was serendipitous that Sarah was in the right place at the right time, everything else has been the result of active engagement, planning and hard work. There is sufficient research now to show that Australia has experienced a significant reduction in volunteering since the outbreak of COVID-19. More so than ever before, every volunteer is to be treasured and those who are prepared to initiate and lead community events are like gold dust in our neighbourhoods. What is the message here? If you are prepared to do something and put the effort into engaging and planning – good and serendipitous things will come of it!



Maureen Newman and Stephen Bourke front and centre, at a recent Cuppa with a Cop in Howrah

Clarence City Recognises NHW Coordinators

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Tasmania were very proud to hear how two of our Coordinators were recognised by the City of Clarence in their 2023 Citizenship Awards.

Stephen Bourke, the Coordinator for Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill NHW, was nominated for Citizen of the Year, "...for his volunteer work with Neighbourhood Watch in Clarence where he devotes a large amount of time and energy to supporting this important organisation and working towards a safer community."

In addition to this work, Stephen is the NHW Facebook Coordinator for Tasmania, as well as being the Coordinator for the Clarence Plains cluster of NHW groups. If that isn't enough, he has gained a reputation as the engaging, lollipop school crossing guard for Bayview Secondary College, and is believed to help Santa out with public appearances in the lead up to Christmas each year!

Maureen Newman, the Coordinator for Shoreline/Howrah NHW, was



Stephen Bourke (allegedly) - AKA Santa!

nominated for Senior Citizen of the Year, "...for her ongoing volunteer work with Neighbourhood Watch in Clarence. She is an important part of the organisation most notably in printing and distributing the Neighbourhood Watch flyers."

Maureen is one of those quiet achievers who has been the backbone of her local NHW for more years than she can remember! Maureen organises both Cuppa with a Cop and Get Online Week events; she is always the first to attend at information stands and help cook sausages at our fundraising barbecues. If Maureen sees something amiss, she will do something about it. To this end, Maureen is particularly active in highlighting road safety issues in her neighbourhood to the relevant authorities for appropriate action.

Congratulations to both Stephen and Maureen for being duly recognised and special thanks to Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Small Business Julie Collins, for reading these awards into Hansard in Federal Parliament so that their contributions are now permanently recorded in our national records.

NHW WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Inner City Living

Loretta has lived at the Equus Building in the central business district of Perth for 11 years. Being a central city apartment building, life has its challenges. The building receives a lot of passer-by traffic due to its proximity to Royal Perth Hospital, a popular fast-food outlet and being a short distance from the main shopping district. The building is also considered 'mixed use' with retail residents and commercial residents within the one location.

Recently, safety has become a priority for residents as the perception of crime has increased with homelessness and antisocial behaviour fuelled by drugs and drunkenness.

Loretta recently called a meeting with police, City of Perth representatives and residents of the building to address some of the issues they are facing. The residents were able to ask the City and Police questions pertaining to their concerns.

The takeaway message from the meeting is that crime prevention is not just a stand-alone concern for police, but is a shared responsibility between the residents, the city and police, to address some of the concerns raised by the residents. The platform afforded the residents the opportunity to be heard and to receive firsthand information back from police and the city regarding some of the solutions discussed at the meeting.

"Overall, the community spirit amongst the residents has



Sergeant Warren Ameduri and Loretta

been good. In an apartment building like this, with high rental occupancy, the community spirit is difficult to foster, however as the years have gone on and more owners reside in the building, it is improving. This is true even today, with the issues residents have experienced, everyone is getting together and trying to improve their homes/investments."

Neighbourhood Watch was also provided an opportunity to present to the residents who already display the philosophy of communication and cooperation within the building. The building managers engage regularly with the residents and keep open lines of communication. There are always notices posted in the lifts, which give direction and instruction. For the residents,

there is a WhatsApp group for sharing information.

The building recently had a positive outcome with reporting to police and building management, regarding the anti-social behaviour of one tenant and their associated visitors. The tenant was evicted and consequently the residents have become more vigilant with locking doors, and questioning people they do not recognise. There is less of a 'laid back' feel. Through a whole of community approach, and with residents taking a proactive approach to protect their homes, they are working towards creating a safer environment where everyone feels comfortable to leave their homes and engage with the wider city community.

Bringing Neighbours Together 'Street by Street'

In a world where digital communication often overshadows face-to-face interactions, a heartwarming initiative is blossoming in the City of Kwinana in the neighbourhood of Leda.



Kwinana Community Development Officer Sinead Gilligan (far left) and Waste Education Officer Emily Tomsett (third from right) with locals taking part in "Street by Street"

Aptly named "Street by Street," this City driven project aims to bridge the gap between neighbours, fostering a sense of togetherness and with the City of Kwinana. The very essence of "Street by Street" lies in the intention to connect neighbours on a profound level, turning the streets of Leda into more than just a place of residence, but into a genuine community. The initiative is a very simple process, after an initial door knocking to gain interest, the following is carried out:

1. Basic Streetscape Maintenance:

One of the initial steps in this transformative initiative involves a one-off maintenance of lawns and verges exclusively for Leda residents. This act of collective care not only beautifies the neighbourhood but also works on the basic principles of CPTED.

2. Greening the Neighbourhood:

An integral aspect of "Street by Street" is the opportunity for Leda residents to access mulch and native plants through the City of Kwinana. This green initiative not only contributes to the environmental well-being of the neighbourhood, but also

encourages residents to come together and participate in activities that benefit both the community and nature.

3. Neighbourly Gatherings:

One of the highlights of this initiative is the organisation of neighbourhood get-togethers. These events are designed to be inclusive, offering Leda residents a chance to connect and bond. A free coffee van providing the perfect brew, an abundance of community safety resources, all skilfully facilitated by the City's Community Safety Officer. These gatherings offer a relaxed atmosphere where neighbours can chat, share experiences, and get to know each other better. During these get-togethers the waste team also comes to help people understand recycling and face their waste in a fun and engaging way.

4. Strengthening Safety Measures:

The City of Kwinana has a strong relationship with Neighbourhood Watch, and they've teamed up to further enhance the sense of security within Leda. Together,

they've developed a flyer that guides neighbours on gathering each other's contact details, fostering a strong sense of trust and security within the community. Additionally, residents are encouraged to start a messenger group after the initiative, providing a convenient platform for communication and support.

"Street by Street" is more than just a series of events and tasks; it's a profound testament to the power of community spirit. This initiative embodies the idea that when neighbours come together, magical transformations occur. Leda is becoming more than just a place where people live; it's becoming a place where people truly belong.

As "Street by Street" gains momentum, it serves as an inspiring example for other neighbourhoods to follow. It reminds us that in the age of digital connections, nurturing the bonds of physical proximity is just as important as virtual connections. It's a reminder that community isn't just a place; it's a feeling of unity, belonging, and shared purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

