



NHWA

Official Journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



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Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

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Cover photo: NHW Forestdale Treasurer Clay Yates, Secretary Bradley Yates, Assistant Area Coordinator David Whittingham and Area Coordinator Lynn Whittingham at the Logan City Council Volunteer of the Year Awards Presentation

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

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FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Greetings and welcome to the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Journal.

I'm delighted to share the latest projects and initiatives from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Neighbourhood Support NZ (NSNZ), and our valued partners.



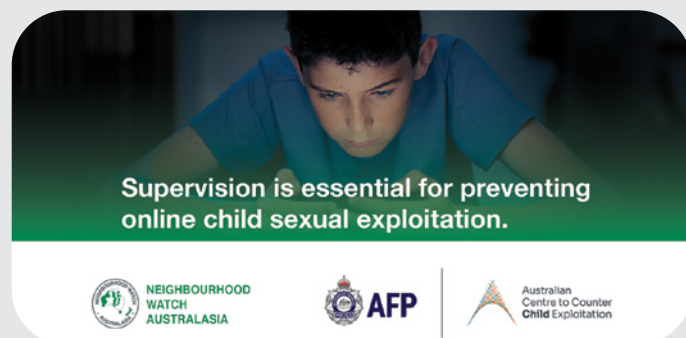
Keeping Kids Safe Online: New Community Service Announcements

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia has proudly launched a powerful new campaign to help protect children from online harm. In partnership with the **Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE)** and with funding from the **Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund**, this initiative features a series of Community Service Announcements (CSAs) designed to raise awareness about online child sexual exploitation.

The campaign includes:

- **Five 30-second** and **five 15-second** TV commercials
- **Five 30-second** radio ads
- Messaging crafted to reflect everyday family life and promote community action

See more p7



Celebrating NHWA Leaders Recognised with OAM

Congratulations to NHWA Chair Bernie Durkin and former NHWA Board Director Clare McGrath, who were each awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

Bernie Durkin was acknowledged for his extensive contribution to crime prevention and community engagement through his leadership with the WA Police, NHW WA and his role with NHWA. Clare McGrath was recognised for her decades of dedicated service to NHW ACT and more than 13 years on the NHWA Board.

Their OAM honours reflect the values of community, safety, and volunteerism that underpin Neighbourhood Watch. We thank Bernie and Clare for their tireless efforts and congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition.



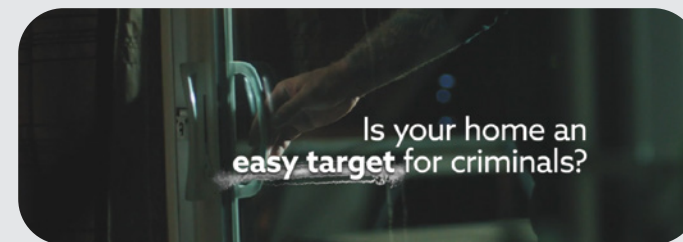
Bernie Durkin OAM Chair NHWA and NHW WA with Clare McGrath OAM former NHWA Board Director

Partnering to Protect Families Online

In late 2024, NHWA was awarded the Department of Home Affairs Cyber Security Awareness Support for Vulnerable Groups grant. Together with the Australian Federal Police's Joint Policing Cybercrime Coordination Centre (JPC3), NHWA are creating free resources for NHW groups to help you stay safe and aware of cybercrime threats.



Project meeting between NHWA and the AFP's JPC3 team. Henry Shirer, AFP A/Coordinator Cybercrime Technical Strategy, Nuckhley Succar, AFP Detective A/Superintendent JPC3, Maria Bennett, NHWA CEO, Selina Maguire, NHWA Project Manager, and Claudia Forsyth, AFP Team Leader Cybercrime Prevention



New TV commercial for National Secure Your Home Day

National Secure Your Home Day New TVC

Our third **National Secure Your Home Day**, held over the last weekend of September, was another fantastic success! With a brand new **Television Commercial (TVC)**, great prizes on offer, and thousands of households getting involved, the momentum around home security continues to grow.

Whether you hosted a local event or simply ticked off the Home Security Checklist, thank you for being part of this important annual event. Together, we're making our homes, and our neighbourhoods safer.

To view the new TVC go to: www.bit.ly/nsyhdtvc

National Secure Your Home Day presentation at NHW Daisy Hill



NHWA CEO Maria Bennett with John and Jill Devaus, Logan City Councillor Mindy Russell and the NHW Daisy Hill volunteers, during a National Secure Your Home Day presentation

For more information visit National Secure Your Home Day at: www.secureyourhomeday.com.au

Annual Report ARA Silver Award

We're thrilled to share that NHWA has been honoured with a **Silver Award** for our **2024 Annual Report** at the Australasian Reporting Awards!

This award is a testament to our dedication to **transparency, accountability, and the work we do to keep communities safe**. A huge thanks to our team for their incredible effort and attention to detail, and to our Board for their guidance and support.

Here's to continuing our mission of building safer and more resilient communities across Australasia!

To view the NHWA Annual Report go to: www.nhwa.com.au/about/annual-reports



2025 and 2026 Upcoming Events and Dates

NHWA Award Nominations Now Open

The NHWA Volunteer of the Year Award and Police Commissioner's Award nominations are now open and close on 31 October 2025. To submit a nomination, go to:

www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards



NHW Week 13 - 19 October 2025

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and Bunnings are partnering for the 7th consecutive year to present Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Week.

Get Online Week 20 - 26 October 2025

Get Online Week (**GOLW**) events will be taking place to teach digital skills and improve online safety across Australia.

NHW Month 2026

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and Crimsafe will partner for NHW Month in March 2026. A national campaign to help Australians take practical steps in improving their home security and foster stronger community connections through their local NHW groups.

Neighbour Day 29 March 2026

NHWA is once again taking part in Neighbour Day on the last Sunday of March 2026, creating, sharing, and growing a sense of belonging. Neighbour Day, presented by Relationships Australia's Neighbours Every Day, is a day dedicated to connecting with your neighbours and community. For more information visit: www.neighbourseveryday.org

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas!

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

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

Together we achieve great things.

Neighbourhood Watch - the Power of Many!

Maria Bennett

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

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



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

PATRON, BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



Farewell Acknowledgement Commissioner Reece P. Kershaw APM, Patron

The Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Board, staff and community extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner Reece P. Kershaw APM for his outstanding service as our Patron since December 2021.

As Patron of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, Commissioner Kershaw has been a strong advocate for safer, more connected communities. Under his patronage, NHTWA delivered significant initiatives, including eight Keeping Kids Safe Online community service announcements in partnership with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), ongoing collaborations with the Joint Policing Cybercrime Coordination Centre (JPC3) on cybercrime prevention, and national programs such as National Secure Your Home Day. These initiatives have made a lasting impact on community safety and awareness across Australia and New Zealand.

We thank Commissioner Kershaw for his dedication, leadership and commitment to building a bridge to community and acknowledge the excellence he brought to his role as AFP Commissioner and Patron of NHTWA. We wish him every success in the future and express our deepest gratitude for his contribution to our mission of building safer and stronger communities.



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.



Angela Di Pauli - Australian Capital Territory

Angela has a background in corporate governance and risk management. She has worked in both the public sector and the private sector (small business). In addition, she has significant volunteering and volunteer Board experience over many years.

She moved to Canberra from NSW eight years ago and has been an active member and Secretary of ACT Neighbourhood Watch for four years.



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 Brett Callander - New Zealand

Inspector Brett Callander is the Manager Community Prevention Partnerships for New Zealand Police and is based at Police National Headquarters, Wellington. He manages Community Policing, Community Partners, Health Partnerships, Alcohol Harm Prevention, Community Inclusion, Rural Policing and Crowded Places. Brett has been a Police officer for 28 years and has worked in Frontline Policing, Youth Services, Diplomatic Protection, Alcohol Harm Prevention, Mental Health and Community Policing. Brett served with NZ Police in Timor-Leste for four years.



Superintendent Rob Fleischer - Queensland

Superintendent Robert Fleischer joined the NSW Police in 1997, moving to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in 2002. He has worked in various areas of Policing, including general duties, Drug Unit, Covert and Surveillance Operations Unit, State Intelligence Group, Security and Counter-Terrorism Command, and the Commissioner's Office. Rob is currently at the QPS Communications, Culture and Engagement Division and manages several portfolios including Youth Programs, Community Engagement and Crime Prevention.



Chief Inspector Melissa Gilchrist - South Australia

Chief Inspector Melissa Gilchrist joined South Australia Police (SAPOL) in 2002, performing general duties in metropolitan Adelaide, Intelligence, IT Project Management, HR, Media and Communications and Community Engagement roles. In 2024, she commenced her current role as the Officer in Charge of Community Engagement Section, responsible for Corporate Events Unit, Awards and Recognition Unit, the Band of South Australia Police, Neighbourhood Watch Unit and Public Engagement Unit. Community Engagement Section leads SAPOL's strategic approach to community engagement and focuses on using proven crime prevention methodologies and public engagement to reduce actual crime and fear of crime.



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.



Cheryl-Lee Fitzgerald ESM GAICD - Independent Director

Cheryl-Lee has over 25 years experience working within emergency services and the public sector, including senior roles in local and state government and military service. She thrives on building teams and working with communities to improve resilience, having held leadership roles in disaster response and recovery operations across Australia. Cheryl-Lee actively volunteers with several community groups and boards. Cheryl-Lee is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds post-graduate qualifications in strategic leadership and public sector management, a Bachelor of Arts, as well as formal qualifications in both emergency management and project management. Cheryl-Lee was awarded the Emergency Service Medal in 2020.



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.



Darcy Hart - Project Manager & Executive Assistant

Darcy holds degrees in Business Management and Psychology, bringing experience in domestic violence crisis response and youth, family, and disability support services. Passionate about building safer, more connected communities, she takes an evidence-based approach to crime prevention and wellbeing while leading key initiatives such as Get Online Week, the NHTWA Journal, and the Target Hardening Support Offer.

Belonging Every Day: Building Stronger Communities Together

What if the simplest way to strengthen your community started with just saying hello?

That's the heart of Neighbours Every Day (NED), a year-round campaign by Relationships Australia that empowers Australians to build more connected, respectful and inclusive communities. From casual chats over the fence to organised street events, the campaign reminds us that small, everyday actions can make a big difference.

Australia is facing a loneliness crisis; one in four people report they feel lonely, rising to one in three among young adults. The health impacts are serious, but the connection is powerful, and the community makes a difference.

Neighbours Every Day is more than just a message; it's a practical movement. Backed by over 20 years of experience, the initiative provides free resources for individuals, councils, workplaces, schools and community groups. Its flagship event, Neighbour Day (held each March), sparks thousands of local gatherings.

Independent evaluation found 85% of participants knew their neighbours better after getting involved, with 99% of those relationships lasting. People reported feeling less isolated and more supported.

Community-Led Success

What sets this initiative apart is its grassroots, inclusive approach. Rather than top-down solutions, Neighbours Every Day supports local champions, offering scalable,



sustainable support tailored for diverse communities — including youth, seniors, people with disabilities and multicultural groups.

The initiative has gained global recognition — acknowledged in Australia's National Suicide Prevention Strategy and highlighted by the World Health Organisation as a model for connection-based wellbeing.

Perfect Partnership

The alignment between Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) and Neighbours Every Day

is natural and powerful. NHWA's core values — safety, community, inclusion, integrity and professionalism — mirror the Neighbours Every Day approach.

Both movements understand that strong, safe communities don't just happen — they're built through consistent care, connection and inclusion. Where Neighbourhood Watch focuses on safety through vigilance, Neighbours Every Day adds safety through belonging.

As this year's theme reminds us: Belonging Every Day - starts with you. Every small act of connection helps build a more inclusive, resilient Australia.

NED Ambassador, Julie Goodwin, says, "I grow belonging by gathering people together around the table. The community and communion that happens over a shared meal is the most important thing of all."

It doesn't take much. A wave, a conversation, a simple invitation — these actions build safer, stronger and more connected communities.

Save the date! Neighbour Day 2026 is on Sunday 29 March. Visit neighbourseveryday.org to download free resources and get involved. Because when everyone feels they belong, everyone benefits.

Keeping Kids Safe Online: New Community Service Announcements

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia has launched a new TV and radio campaign to help families keep children safe online.

In collaboration with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) with funding from the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) has recently launched a new series of Community Service Announcements (CSAs) focused on keeping children safe online.

The series aims to raise awareness about the importance of online safety for children and the vital role parents, carers, and the broader community play in protecting young people from online child sexual exploitation. The campaign encompasses a comprehensive suite of content, including five 30-second television commercials, five 15-second television commercials, and five 30-second radio ads.

Engagement from media outlets has been very encouraging, with the Seven Network, SBS, Paramount/Ten, and WIN Network committing to schedule the CSAs across various dates, continuing through to mid-year 2027.

In addition, Nova has confirmed support across their national radio network, further extending the campaign's reach.



At the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Human Exploitation Command Stakeholder Operational Briefing in July, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia provided an update on its newly launched 'Keeping Kids Safe Online' campaign. The briefing offered a valuable opportunity to share the campaign with representatives from law enforcement, government and non-government organisations, industry stakeholders, and the academic sector.

This initiative represents a significant step forward in empowering families to safeguard children in the digital world. By leveraging relatable storytelling and wide media coverage, the campaign aims to foster safer online environments and ensure that parents, carers, and community members are equipped with the knowledge and tools to protect children from online harm.





Australians Encouraged to be Proactive About Home Security

Mark Upton and Wendy Northey BIC Industries, Clark Montagu Crimsafe, Lisa 2025 Home Crimprovement Winner, Kristy Ellery Brand Manager Crimsafe

As Australians open their homes to spring, crime prevention partners Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and Crimsafe encourage the community to assess their home security.

Secure September 2025

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and Crimsafe partnered once again to deliver Secure September, a month-long national safety campaign designed to empower Australians to take practical, proactive steps to improve their home security.

The 2025 campaign encouraged households across the country to assess their home security measures and make simple yet effective upgrades. The initiative also promoted local community engagement through Neighbourhood Watch groups, reinforcing the importance of neighbourhood connection in crime prevention.

A key feature of the campaign was Secure Score, a free online home security assessment tool that enables users to evaluate their home security and receive tailored recommendations for improvements.

Secure September 2025 was a great success, raising awareness about

the importance of home security and empowering Australians to take meaningful action toward safer homes and communities.

Neighbourhood Watch Month 2025 Home Crimprovement Winner

Lisa from South Australia, was thrilled to win the Neighbourhood Watch Month Home Improvement prize in March 2025. She said winning the security package made her family feel safer at home, and that through Neighbourhood Watch Month they had also become more aware of simple everyday actions to improve security, such as leaving shoes at the front door and keeping the side gate locked.

“My Secure Score increased from 48 to 83 after implementing the knowledge I learnt during Neighbourhood Watch Month.”

To review your Secure Score, visit securescore.crimsafe.com.au, or scan the QR code.



Partners in crime prevention

Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia are proud to be Crime Prevention partners, working to strengthen communities against criminal activities with initiatives like Neighbourhood Watch Month and Secure September.



ACCCE Stakeholder Operational Briefing Attendees

AFP Hosts Stakeholder Operational Briefing

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Human Exploitation Command recently hosted its first stakeholder operational briefing for 2025.

The event brought together representatives from organisations across the child protection and human exploitation sectors, including law enforcement, government and non-government organisations, academia and industry stakeholders who are committed to combatting human exploitation.

The event opened the opportunity for organisations to network, inform and educate attendees on the human exploitation threat environment, including the current trends and operational outcomes.

This operational briefing also included updates on current awareness-raising initiatives from our partners, including Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, Project Paradigm, Snapchat and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

During the event, Helen Schneider, Commander of Human Exploitation, officially launched a new initiative to recognise the valuable contributions of partners in Human Exploitation Command.

This initiative was established to recognise the dedication, commitment and efforts of partners contributing to meaningful progress in preventing online exploitation, fostering safer communities, advocating for the rights of exploited people, and protecting children at both local and national levels.

To learn more or to submit a nomination, visit: www.accce.gov.au/what-we-do/our-partnerships

2024 Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner’s Awards

In September 2025 Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) presented the NHWA 2024 Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner’s Awards.

The NHWA Awards recognise committed and valuable individuals who are essential to the success and impact of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) communities and Police Services working together to prevent crime. The success of effective crime prevention lies within the strong partnerships between communities and Police.

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

2024 NHWA Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year Awards

The NHWA Volunteer of the Year 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.



Sergeant Nadine Webster, QPS Ipswich District with Amanda Draheim, NHWA 2024 Volunteer of the Year Recipient



Ben Williams, Whyalla SA and NHW VASA President, NHWA 2024 Volunteer of the Year Runner-Up

Amanda Draheim, NHW Riverview QLD, Volunteer of the Year Recipient, is recognised as a passionate community leader whose work strengthens safety, connection, and engagement across the Ipswich District. Guided by the belief that “the neighbourhood you live in is what you make it”.

One of Amanda’s most notable contributions is creating Muscle in Maculata, an annual community event that has become a much-loved tradition, bringing residents, local police and emergency services together helping to build trust and lasting relationships.

Amanda also played a vital role in supporting the formation and growth of the Goodna NHW

group, offering guidance and encouragement as they established their community presence.

Her long-standing service has been recognised with several awards, including the Gold Lapel Badge (2019), District Community Volunteer Member (2018 & 2024), and the Ipswich City Council Citizen of the Year (2024).

Ben Williams NHW South Australia, Whyalla District, President NHW VASA, Volunteer of the Year Runner-Up, has dedicated 23 years to driving community engagement and reviving Whyalla NHW groups. Ben supports events including information shopping centre stalls and ad letterbox drops to keep NHW visible and active. His leadership has earned multiple Regional Watcher of the Year Awards and the Whyalla City Council Citizen of the Year Service Award in 2022.

2024 NHWA Police Commissioner’s Award

The NHWA Police Commissioners’ Award recognises a Police Officer or Police Service Employee who has shown exceptional commitment to working with NHW groups. Through strong partnerships between Police and the community, they empower others, promote safety, encourage engagement and foster social inclusion.



Inspector Ben Wiltshire, QPS Gladstone with Senior Constable Brittany Duncan, QPS Bundaberg District, NHWA 2024 Police Commissioners Award Recipient



1st Class Constable Anthony Bailey TASPOL, NHWA 2024 Police Commissioners Award Runner-Up

Senior Constable Brittany Duncan Queensland Police Service (QPS), Bundaberg District, Police Commissioner’s Award Recipient. Brittany leads Youth in Touch, using football to steer young people away from crime and delivers ThinkUKnow presentations to help keep young people safe online.

As Bundaberg’s Rise Up, Be Yourself (RUBY) officer, Brittany empowers women to build strength and resilience, both physically and emotionally. She also serves as the Police Liaison Officer for the Patrol Group’s NHW, overseeing 11 volunteers and championing initiatives on cyber safety, road awareness and property protection.

Recognised with the Brian Prince Award in 2022, she continues to go above and beyond, most recently launching a program providing security advice and audits to victims of crime. Brittany’s work is both impactful and inspiring, reflecting her unwavering commitment to building safer, stronger communities.

1st Class Constable Anthony Bailey Tasmania Police, Police Commissioner’s Award Runner-Up is an instrumental figure to over 20 Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups in his district and is a familiar face at community events like Cuppa With A Cop and Get Online Week. He delivers ThinkUKnow presentations, actively supports NHW at public forums, and as Community Policing Liaison Officer for Southern Tasmania, works tirelessly to prevent youth crime through the Early Youth Intervention Unit. His dedication to fostering safer, stronger communities makes him a valued leader and asset to the region.

Certificates of Appreciation have been presented to all nominees for the 2024 NHWA Awards.

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

NHWA Volunteer of the Year Award Nominees:

- Christine Dorsey, Otago NZ
- Amanda Draheim, Riverview QLD
- Andrew Mooy, Riverview QLD
- Bill Jeffs, Morningside QLD
- Darren Buckley, Wondai QLD
- Joy Buckley, Wondai QLD
- Peter Brackstone, Shoreline QLD
- Rob Ormsby, Reedy Creek QLD
- Ben Williams, Whyalla SA
- Peter Vogelsanger, Greater Glenorchy TAS
- June MacDonald, Armadale WA

NHWA Police Commissioner’s Award Nominees:

- Seniors Liaison Officer Line Webber, ACT
- Senior Constable Brittany Duncan, Bundaberg QLD
- Constable Anthony Bailey, TAS

For more information about 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

NHWA Award nominations for 2025 are OPEN NOW and close 31 October 2025.

Volunteer with ThinkUKnow

Do you have a passion for community safety and helping keep children and young people safe online?

The ThinkUKnow parent, carer and teacher presentation being delivered by a ThinkUKnow volunteer

The ThinkUKnow Australia program is calling on Neighbourhood Watch members and volunteers help to deliver important online safety prevention education messaging to parents, carers and teachers in your local area.

Led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), ThinkUKnow is delivered in partnership with state and territory police, industry partners from Commonwealth Bank, Microsoft, Datacom, Bankwest and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA).

ThinkUKnow is a nationally delivered, evidence-based education program focused on preventing online child sexual exploitation.

As a ThinkUKnow volunteer, you will deliver informative, engaging presentations to parents, carers and teachers, helping them understand what children and young people see, say and do online – and most importantly, how to create a safer online environment for children and young people.

Presentations cover topics including:

- Online grooming
- Self-generated child abuse material
- Sexual extortion
- Image-based abuse
- Help-seeking behaviours

Parent, carer and teacher presentations are typically held outside business hours, either in person at schools and community organisations or alternatively, online via Microsoft Teams.

Volunteers are fully supported by the AFP's Online Child Safety Team, provided with training and everything needed to present confidently – including the PowerPoint presentation and comprehensive presenter manual. Presentations are evidenced based including current research and case studies and are updated regularly to reflect emerging trends and technology use.

Why volunteer?

NHW members are already passionate about preventing crime and building stronger, safer communities. Volunteering with ThinkUKnow is an extension of that mission, providing an opportunity to take part in early intervention and education efforts to help protect children online.

As a volunteer, you will:

- Contribute to meaningful community engagement
- Represent your organisation and the AFP in a trusted role
- Learn about online child safety challenges and prevention strategies
- Be part of a collective effort to combat online child sexual exploitation

To find out more or register your interest in becoming a volunteer, contact the Online Child Safety Team at:

online-child-safety@afp.gov.au
admin@nhwa.com.au or www.thinkuknow.org.au

The 'Too Good to Be True' Trap: How to Avoid Online Scams This Festive Season

Scammers might be getting sneakier – but you can learn to spot their common tricks and ruses with Be Connected.

In the lead-up to the festive season, scammers are counting on people being busy, distracted, and frantically looking for last-minute deals.

From fake parcel delivery texts to bargain sales on items you love, scammers know how to play on (and manipulate) a sense of urgency, love of a bargain, and trust.

But help is a click away. The Be Connected website offers free and easy-to-follow learning resources to help you build your digital skills and safety online.

Stay safe online with Be Connected

Be Connected has lots of practical resources to help you navigate the online world with confidence, including:

- Spotting scams: Learn how to recognise phishing emails, fake investment schemes, and crypto scams
- Blocking unwanted calls: Reduce nuisance and telemarketing calls with simple tools
- Boosting security: Get tips on strong passwords, antivirus protection, and keeping your devices safe

Explore the full range of free resources at: beconnected.esafety.gov.au/online-safety

Need more than a webpage to feel confident? Join a free online presentation

Want extra help in a friendly setting? Be Connected offers online



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

beconnected.esafety.gov.au

learning sessions – where there are no so-called 'dumb' questions. Learn directly from expert trainers and ask questions along the way.

October sessions

- **16 October, 3pm AEDT**
Can you spot a scam?
- **21 October, 3pm AEDT**
Protecting your personal information
- **23 October, 11am AEDT**
Managing your emails safely

November sessions

- **13 November, 3pm AEDT**
Protect yourself against scams 18 November, 3pm AEDT – Helpful apps for your smart device
- **25 November, 10am AEDT**
Safer online shopping: The festive season edition

Register or find out more at: beconnected.esafety.gov.au/bookings



Be Connected is a joint Australian government initiative between the Department of Social Services, the eSafety Commissioner and Good Things Foundation Australia.



NHW on Display at Watson Day 2025

SES handler and mascot, meeting with Jude Bowman, NHW ACT President

In partnership with ACT's Northside Community Service, the Watson Community Association (WCA) celebrated its 30th anniversary with a community event on Neighbour Day.

In Canberra's multicultural suburb of Watson, the Majura Scouts ran a sausage sizzle, thanks to a kind donation from the local Watson Supabarn. Community, volunteer and social groups joined local artists to create vibrant stalls throughout the event.

The Watson Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) branch hosted an information stall, offering advice and brochures on personal safety and securing homes and vehicles. The day was a great success, featuring live music, arts and crafts, games, and performances by musicians and dancers from the Pacific Islands to Europe.



NHW ACT President Jude Bowman at Watson Day 2025



NHW ACT Members Forum April 2025

The April 2025 NHW ACT Members Forum brought members together to share ideas, launch new initiatives and strengthen the community connections that keep Canberra safe.

NHW ACT President Jude Bowman Addressing the Forum

The April 2025 Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT Members Forum, led by President Jude Bowman, buzzed with energy as familiar faces and first-time attendees gathered to focus on the vital theme of communication, both within NHW and across the wider community. Discussions flowed freely, with valuable feedback gathered to help shape future forums and an action plan already underway.

A major highlight was the introduction of IT specialist Ian Urquhart, who joined to support the Board and members with digital challenges, strengthening NHW ACT's technology capabilities for the future.

With over 2,500 members across 25 groups in almost every Canberra

suburb, NHW ACT's message reaches well beyond its core membership, thanks to its website and a network of Facebook pages. The main ACT Facebook page, established in 2016, and its local suburb counterparts are currently under review. Sharon Leigh-Hazell, the page's original creator, returned to train administrators and share insights, most notably that crime statistics posts attract the highest engagement. **With a combined audience of more than 20,000 followers, Facebook remains a powerful tool for promoting safety and awareness.**

Behind the scenes, newsletters dating back to 2016 are being archived on the ACT Heritage Library's TROVE site, and a dedicated repository of NHW stories,

photos and memorabilia is being developed. These efforts preserve the organisation's rich history for future generations.

Volunteer opportunities were highlighted across marketing and events, website support and social media administration, and higher-level financial advice, with an invitation to anyone interested in joining the Board.

Wayne Deane, President of NHW New South Wales, made a surprise visit and shared a snapshot of developments across the border.

The forum once again demonstrated that NHW ACT is more than a network; it's a thriving community united in keeping the ACT safe, connected and informed.



NHW ACT Board members with Singapore University of Social Sciences students

From Singapore to Canberra: Sharing NHW Insights on Community Safety

Twenty-five Public Safety and Security students from the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) recently visited Canberra for a hands-on learning experience with Australia's frontline emergency services.

Guided by Faculty Associate Ms Kasthuri Prameswaren, the group spent several insightful days in the nation's capital, receiving in-depth operational briefings from ACT Policing, Crime Stoppers, Emergency Services Headquarters and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW). A highlight of their visit was a session led by Neighbourhood Watch ACT President, Jude Bowman, who emphasised NHW's close partnership with ACT Policing, Crime Stoppers and the ACT Government.

The two-hour briefing included several NHW Board members and concluded with a lively Q&A following a presentation on NHW

ACT's role and impact. As President Bowman noted, NHW fosters closer neighbourhood ties and delivers community programs that "encourage participation in crime prevention and the building of safe and confident communities."

This information is shared through multiple channels, including the NHW ACT Website, NHW ACT Facebook page, individual NHW communities, press releases, the NHWA Journal, the NHW ACT Newsletter and other community newsletters.

Beyond communication, the students learnt how NHW volunteers

contribute at major events such as the Royal Canberra Show, African Fair in the Park, AusIndian Fair and the ACT Volunteering Expo, alongside ACT Policing and Crime Stoppers to share advice, answer questions, and distribute crime prevention and personal-safety materials.

As the visit was wrapping up, the students enjoyed a uniquely Australian moment when a large kangaroo hopped past the venue. The visit proved enriching for both the students and the NHW ACT team, emphasising the value of collaboration in building safer, more resilient communities.

Canberra AusIndia Fair Showcases Diverse Heritage

FINACT (Federation of Indian Associations of ACT) kept its promise of "a day of vibrant cultural celebrations, including performances, food stalls, crafts and more" at the 2025 AusIndia Fair.

Canberrans and visitors gathered at the Exhibition Park in Canberra for the popular annual event.

From music, poetry, skits and dance to booths on education, IT, fashion design, digital media, handicrafts, renewable energy and tourism, the event offered something for everyone.

Community groups, including Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Crime Stoppers and ACT Policing, were represented at the event.

FINACT is an umbrella organisation that unites Indian member organisations and presents a unified voice to all levels of Australian government and the High Commission of India.



Jude Bowman, ACT NHW President, Andrew Kúzek, NHW ACT Volunteer, Clare McGrath OAM, ACT Vice President (North) preparing to welcome AusIndia Fair visitors

The ACT is home to 12,000 residents of Indian origin, including many who migrated from countries such as Fiji, Singapore, Mauritius, Malaysia, South Africa, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.



Traditional dancers entertaining visitors at the Canberra AusIndia Fair 2025

While many Indian associations organise festivals such as Diwali, Holi and Ugadi, the AusIndia Fair is designed to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and its connection with Australia.

ACT Africa Festival in the Park 2025

The event's name changed from 'African Party in the Park' to 'Africa Festival in the Park'. However, the party atmosphere Canberra has enjoyed for several years was very much alive.

Despite the new title, the festival remained at Commonwealth Park and featured a wide range of African live music, traditional dance performances, and cultural displays.

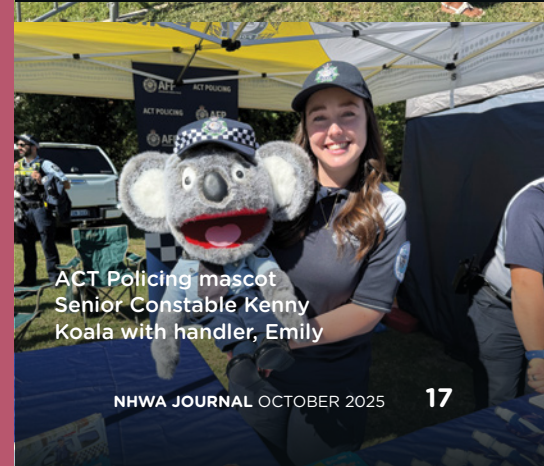
Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT teamed up once again with ACT Policing,

sharing a stall and answering questions about personal and property security.

ACT Policing was well represented, with officers on hand and crowd favourite Senior Constable Kenny Koala appearing with his handler, Emily.



NHW ACT and ACT Policing's shared stall at the ACT Africa Festival in the Park 2025



ACT Policing mascot Senior Constable Kenny Koala with handler, Emily

ACT Actively Recruiting at Volunteering Expo

Sep and Jo, NHW ACT Volunteers, Albert Orszaczky, NHW ACT Vice President (South), Mark, NHW ACT Volunteer

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT was among more than 50 organisations ready to chat with visitors about finding their ideal volunteering role at the 2025 Volunteering Expo, held at the University of Canberra Refectory.

This event is the leading exhibition for volunteer-involving organisations in the Canberra region, highlighting opportunities for seasoned volunteers and first-timers alike.

“Volunteering is within the very fabric of our city. A single act of service supports not only our personal wellbeing but also the wellbeing of our community. When volunteering is thriving, our community is stronger, safer, better connected and more active,” said Jean Giese, CEO of Volunteering ACT. Volunteering ACT is committed to inclusion for people of all backgrounds and abilities.

Exhibitors were from all sectors, including sport, health, arts and culture, tourism, community services and even political parties. NHW ACT President Jude Bowman noted, “In terms of interaction, foot traffic was less than expected, but we did have some promising contact with several people about our Neighbourhood Watch volunteering opportunities.”



Leading by example, Jude Bowman, NHW ACT President, Albert Orszaczky, NHW ACT Vice President (South), Clare McGrath OAM, NHW ACT Vice President (North), manning the booth at the expo

Royal Canberra Show Approaching Centenary

Constable Kenny Koala caught up with NHW ACT Vice President (North) Clare McGrath OAM and introduced handler, Tim

The first Royal National Capital Agricultural Society-recognised show was held in 1927 at Hall Showground, though its origins trace back to the Ginninderra Farmers' Union's 1908 agricultural show with sporting events and ploughing matches.

By 1931, the show ran for two days, and in 1964, it moved to the Canberra Showground. Today, the event has evolved into a three-day showcase of exhibits, entertainment, and attractions.

The 2025 show featured over 150 attractions and more than 5,000 animals, drawing a record crowd of over 45,000 up from 38,000 in 2024.

Showjumping returned to the Main Arena after several years away, alongside pig racing, BMX stunt riding, fireworks, sideshow alley, farmyard nursery, an outback stockman's show and pickleball, the world's fastest-growing sport.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT shared a large booth with ACT Policing, displaying the latest NHW banner and signage as volunteers handed out brochures on home security and scams. It was also a valuable opportunity to inform and recruit visitors, echoing the banner's call to action: “Become part of Neighbourhood Watch today”.



Two members of the AFP's Major Collision Team checking out NHW ACT's new banner, with Clare McGrath OAM, ACT Vice President (North), Jude Bowman, NHW ACT President

NHW NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES

NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

New Committee, New Energy: Volunteer Power Driving Safer Communities

Jimmy Lennon, Patrick Winsbury, Treasurer, Simon Lennon, Vice President, Warren Dunn, Pasquale Vartuli, Gay Balasubramanian, Secretary, Wal Knowles, Ben Campbell, Committee member, Mick Gallagher
Front: Cloris Yang, Bridgett Lennon, Julia Eagles, President, David Beale, Committee member

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby in New South Wales has recently taken an exciting step forward with the formation of a new committee structure designed to energise community engagement and enhance crime prevention efforts across the region.

For many years, local volunteers have worked informally alongside the NSW Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command based at Hornsby Police Station, however 2025 marks the start of a more formal and coordinated approach aimed at building a broader network of local initiatives.

The refreshed leadership team is focused on keeping residents informed, connected, and empowered to play an active role in their safety. They will be working closely with police and government services to ensure the community receives clear, timely information about reporting concerns and safety issues. Through sharing

crime alerts, practical safety advice, and neighbourly tips, they encourage vigilance and cooperation throughout Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby.

A standout feature of their efforts is the innovative “Borrow It”, which allows residents to access security equipment without the expense of purchasing it. This cost-saving initiative makes it easier for people to enhance their home safety with tools that boost security, all while fostering a strong sense of shared responsibility within the neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby invites local residents

to get involved by sharing ideas, contributing to social media updates, volunteering skills such as IT, communications, or community engagement, or by making use of the “Borrow It” program. Every contribution, big or small, helps strengthen the collective safety of the community.

Committee member Ben Campbell shared his enthusiasm for the new chapter ahead, stating, “Our organisation has been at the forefront from the very start, using technology and hands-on projects to help empower residents. With the new committee structure in place, we’re eager to hear the community’s ideas and take on new projects that meet their needs.”

Scam Alert CAPTCHA/Phishing Scam

Scammers are luring victims with fake CAPTCHA pop ups designed to manipulate victims into installing malware onto their devices, stealing personal data.

To protect yourself from fake CAPTCHA:

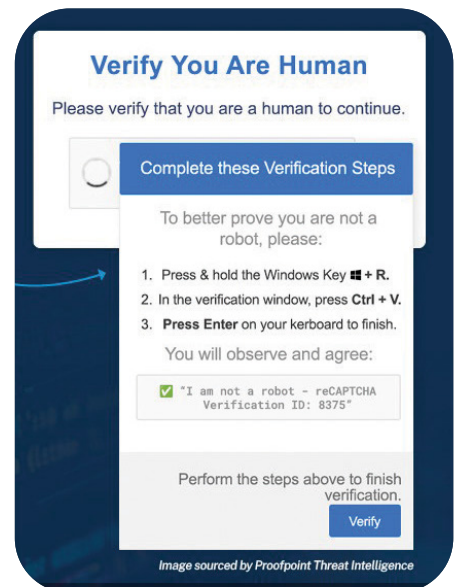
- Be cautious of unexpected CAPTCHA requests that appear out of place.
- Be cautious of CAPTCHAS that have extra verification steps (e.g. paste into the command line or windows run. (Windows Key + R)).
- Always check the website URL to ensure it is legitimate, look for any spelling mistakes or alterations to the website name.
- Be cautious of abnormal verification steps such as downloading a file, clicking a link or typing commands.



Report a Scam

www.scamwatch.gov.au

If you believe you have become the victim of a fraud or scam contact your local Police or report at www.cyber.gov.au/report-and-recover



Beware Of Locksmith Scams!

Unlicensed locksmiths are advertising extremely low call-out fees, sometimes as little as \$29, to lure unsuspecting customers.

On-site they often dismantle the locks causing significant damage and then demand huge payments upwards of \$800 to fix the problem.

In most cases victims need a legitimate locksmith to fix the damage, costing them even more.

All locksmiths in Australia are required to hold a valid security licence, but the specific requirements differ between states and territories. Please refer to the relevant legislation or licensing authority in

your area for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Their licence number should be displayed on their website, business card, or provided on request.

Always check:

- The registered individual or business name
- The licence type (covers locksmithing)
- The licence status - registration date and expiry date

You can verify a locksmith's licence through your state or territory's **consumer affairs, fair trading, or police licensing authority.**

If you're a victim, please report to:

- Your **local police station** (in person)
- **Police Assistance Line (PAL): 131 444**

12 Days of Holiday Safety

Holiday Safety Tips brought to you by Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

1

Away From Home

Going away? Make your home look lived in by using light timers, leaving shoes by the door, and asking a neighbour to collect your mail and watch over your home. Never hide spare keys outside; instead, leave them with a trusted neighbour or friend.

2

Home Security

When setting up Christmas lights, make sure any doors or windows with cords running through them can still close and lock properly. Keep all doors, windows, and the garage securely locked, regardless of whether you are at home or away.

3

Safe Package Delivery

If you're expecting a parcel, arrange for secure delivery to prevent it from being left in easily accessible spots. Consider requesting signature confirmation or picking it up from the post office if you're unavailable. Providing a secure drop-off location can also help keep your package safe from opportunistic potential thieves.

4

Presents

Make sure to keep gifts completely out of sight from outside your home. Presents shouldn't be visible through windows, on porches, or in parked cars. When transporting gifts, it's best to store them in the trunk or underneath seats to keep them hidden. Easy visibility can attract thieves, so taking these precautions is essential to ensuring those holiday gifts get delivered to the right person on Christmas.

5

Vehicle Safety

Always lock your car and store the keys somewhere secure, away from doors and windows. Never label keys with personal details, and whenever possible, park in well-lit, secure areas.

6

Be Alert and Watch for Scams

Watch out for holiday scams. Scammers often target online shoppers during the holiday season with fake gift offers, fraudulent websites, or by posing as charities. Never share personal or financial information, and avoid opening emails or clicking links from unknown senders.

7

Fake Delivery Messages

You may receive fake texts or emails 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.

8

Social Media

While it's exciting to share with your friends and family your plans and presents this Christmas, try to avoid posting about gifts or travel plans on social media. Would-be thieves can monitor these posts to learn when homes will be empty, or when they're likely to be stocked with gifts.

9

Secure Your Devices

To ensure the security of your smart devices against viruses and unauthorized access, regularly update your anti-virus software and install the latest security patches. Don't forget to add the same level of protection to any gifted items, as they can also be vulnerable to security threats.

10

Online Child Safety

Children often spend more time online during the holidays. It's essential during this time to stay extra vigilant about knowing which websites and apps they are using and talking openly to them about the potential risks of sharing personal information or photos online. Online child sexual exploitation can happen to anyone, anywhere. If you're concerned, contact the Police for advice on keeping children safe online and how to report. For more information, visit: www.acccce.gov.au

11

Reporting

Remember, you have the power to keep your community safe. If you notice any suspicious activity, don't hesitate to report it to the Police. In an emergency or when a crime is taking place, call **Triple Zero (000)**. If a crime has already occurred, you can also ring **131 444**. For anonymous reporting, call Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**. All are available 24/7.

12

Join Neighbourhood Watch

If you haven't already, consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch or Neighbourhood Support Group. These groups play a vital role in enhancing the safety of our community by sharing valuable crime prevention resources and alerts, fostering a sense of solidarity where members look out for one another.



**NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH
AUSTRALASIA**



NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

Creating Safe, Resilient, and Connected Communities

Supporting Our Young People

Each month, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) introduces a theme that reflects the season, or highlights key community issues, helping to guide activities and reinforce shared goals.

By having one common mission, our members and supporters can come together at a national level and focus on a single cause, allowing us to maximise our impact. This May's theme was **"Supporting our Young People"**: Engaging and Supporting Youth to Empower Them to be Kaitiaki of Tomorrow."

In the lead-up to May, North Taranaki Neighbourhood Support (NS) reached out to their local community to get tamariki (children) involved in an NS colouring competition, and the results were incredible. All 19 kindergartens in the area were invited to colour in an artwork from the NS toolkit. Winners received a handcrafted gift bag, an NS children's book 'Manaaki Street', a toy and a certificate. Krystal from North Taranaki had the privilege of delivering the prizes and said, "It was lots of fun to see their happy little faces."



Krystal, North Taranaki NS, delivering prize bags to the winners of the Easter colouring competition



Victoria, North Taranaki NS, at the "3 Steps for Life" event

Taupō NS regularly organises free "3 Steps for Life" training sessions in basic CPR and AED use for residents, in partnership with Hato Hone St John. Afterwards, many participants are interested in staying back and learning more about NS.

Aligned with our May theme, "Supporting Our Young People", we emphasised that 3 Steps for Life sessions aren't just for adults - young people aged 13 and older can benefit too. Over the past year, more parents have been bringing their teenagers. One Mum, Victoria, attended with her 13 and 15-year-olds, hoping the experience would give them the confidence to act and help in an emergency.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

In June, we proudly took part in #TheBigShoutOut - a campaign delivered by National Volunteer Week NZ. This campaign gave us an amazing opportunity to recognise and thank all the wonderful volunteers who make NS what it is.

To mark the occasion, we asked our member organisation coordinators

to nominate volunteers who go above and beyond through their passion and commitment to their local NS community. Each week, one nominee was selected for a special shout-out on our website, social media and in our Hapori (newsletter). Winners were also presented with a certificate of appreciation and a thank-you gift in recognition of their valuable contributions to NS.



Mandy Merson, Te Awamutu NS, with her DCC award and NZ Police colleagues

Celebrating Success

Mandy Merson, Community Safety Officer for CommSafe (Te Awamutu NS), was awarded a prestigious District Commander's Commendation (DCC) from New Zealand (NZ) Police. Superintendent Scott Gemmell, Acting District Commander for Waikato, said, "She has built strong partnerships that have been instrumental in assisting police resolve crimes and gather critical evidence to support investigations... Mandy's commitment to crime prevention, community engagement and volunteerism makes her a truly deserving candidate for this award."

Christine Dorsey from Waitaki (Otago) NS was nominated for the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWAA) Malcom Grant OAM 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Louise Grevel, from NSNZ, said, "Christine is a model Coordinator for NSNZ and wholeheartedly gives her all to the community by bringing people together, networking and building community safety, resilience and wellbeing. Christine takes every opportunity to promote the aims and objectives of NS whilst promoting and celebrating her strategic partnerships. Christine



Christine Dorsey, NHWA Malcom Grant OAM, Volunteer of the Year Award nominee, Waitaki NS

is an inspiring coordinator and creates many new and exciting opportunities that she is more than happy to share with other coordinators.

We are blessed to have such a passionate and driven individual within our membership."

Collaborating with Our Partners

As a community-led network, NS relies on the generosity of individuals and the support of partners to deliver services that strengthen communities. We work closely with NZ Police, Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ), and NEMA/ Civil Defence to host events across the country, fostering stronger connections, promoting community safety, and encouraging greater emergency preparedness.

Here are just a handful of events and collaborations we have worked on together this year:



Waitakere NS volunteers manning the booth at the Henderson Heroes event

Henderson Heroes 2025

Waitakere (Auckland) NS attended Henderson Heroes, a free family fun day held annually. The event aims to celebrate and showcase our amazing emergency responders and community service heroes.



Dalice, North Canterbury NS, with local emergency service personnel at the Community Emergency Hub opening

New Emergency Hubs in Napier and North Canterbury

Napier and North Canterbury NS have been busy working with their local councils and Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) teams to strengthen emergency readiness, opening multiple new community emergency hubs.

CDEM Advisor, Dean Eades, says that during a big earthquake, emergency services are tied up dealing with the most urgent matters. "So, there will be a period when neighbours will need to work together to support each other and offer resources locally."

Each hub is equipped with a Hub Guide, VHF radio, stationery, maps and step-by-step instructions on how to run the hub.

North Canterbury NS Manager, Dalice Stewart, emphasised the importance of getting to know your neighbours.

"Your neighbours should be the first people (after your household) you check on during an event. So, we're all about making sure you know your neighbours before an event happens – they're the ones who are generally there to help you first before the crews can come in."



Building stronger, safer communities in Whakatāne, one cup of coffee at a time

Coffee with a Cop

Many of our NS groups around the country hold "Coffee with a Cop" events. These events give the community an opportunity to chat with police in a stress-free environment. The Whakatāne community recently came together for a warm and engaging "Coffee with a Cop" event. With free coffees generously provided by the café, around 60 community members dropped in for casual kōrero (chat)

and connection with 10 police officers from across the region.

The atmosphere fostered genuine conversations, laughter, and positive engagement, strengthening trust and relationships between police and the people they serve. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the power of shared spaces and small moments to create safer, more connected communities, one cup of coffee at a time!



Kahlia McDougall and Lou Grevel, NSNZ, at the CDEM Forum

Community Civil Defence and Emergency Management Forum

The Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) contingent of NS took part in CDEM. The forum featured an impressive line-up of key speakers including Minister Mitchell, NEMA, WREMO, FENZ and MPI. The NS Coordinators engaged in workshops, while Kahlia McDougall and Lou Grevel from NSNZ managed an information stand showcasing NS to the many community representatives.

Secure your vehicle number plate from theft!



Safer Plates and Free Tool Engraving

Many NS groups regularly hold Safer Plates and Tool Engraving events in conjunction with NZ Police and Community Patrols NZ. In July alone, there were 5 events across Auckland, including Ormiston, North Shore, Waitākere, and Māngere Bridge.

Number plate theft is a growing concern across New Zealand. Stolen plates are often used in fuel drive-offs, burglaries and other criminal activities. By securing your plates with anti-theft screws, you're not only protecting your property but also helping prevent your registration from being associated with criminal activity.

Tool marking and engraving offer several key benefits: they make tools harder to resell, enable police to quickly identify and return stolen items and ensure insurance claims are processed smoothly.



A beautiful sunny day for the Ormiston Safer Communities event

Ormiston Safer Communities Day

NSNZ held the Ormiston Safer Communities Day at Sir Barry Curtis Park in Auckland. The successful event drew families in large numbers, bringing smiles to the faces of children and adults, as fire trucks,

police cars and ambulances drove past with their sirens on. The day was a celebration of community spirit, bringing together residents, volunteers, and emergency services to connect, learn and have fun. Perfectly embodying the spirit of NSNZ - Looking Out, Reaching Out and Helping Out.



Fun, connection and learning at the Ashburton Cultural Whānau (family) Day

Ashburton Cultural Day

Cultural Whānau (family) Day was created to bridge the gap between emergency services and our ethnic communities. In many parts of the world, emergency responders are met with fear or mistrust, and we wanted to change that narrative here.

Now in its third year, the event continues to grow, bringing together families, cultures and essential services in one vibrant, welcoming space. The goal is simple: connect, educate and celebrate. Cultural Whānau Day is more than an event; it's a step toward a more connected and inclusive community.



A lively and interactive NS presentation for Cambridge Police

Police Training Day

At the recent Cambridge Police Training Day, we were pleased to present the work of Safer Cambridge Trust (NS and Community Patrol).

The session aimed to educate both new and experienced officers on the breadth and depth of our work, and to highlight

the powerful impact of our partnerships with the police and other emergency services.

We are driven by three core objectives: Connection, Safety, and Resilience for neighbourhood communities. To bring these values to life, we began our session with an engaging and active exercise that got everyone

on their feet - demonstrating the power of human connection in real time. This set the tone for a lively and interactive presentation.

The session was not only informative but also filled with laughter and camaraderie, reflecting the spirit of partnership and community we strive to cultivate every day.



Creating safer, connected and more resilient communities with our partners at FENZ

Lower Hutt Fire Station Open Day

In March, Lower Hutt NS was invited by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) to attend an open day at a local fire station in Wainuiomata.

"On behalf of the Wainuiomata Volunteer Fire Brigade, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support

at our Open Day. It was fantastic to welcome nearly 1,000 members from the Wainuiomata and Hutt Valley communities and to see such strong interest in our Brigade and the other services present. Many thanks for your display and the interaction with the community. Your support undoubtedly contributed to the day's success." – Wainuiomata Volunteer Fire Brigade

Home Fire Safety in Waitaki and Whakatane

FENZ and NS have a strong working relationship across the country. In Waitaki, Christine (NS) and Ali Carroll (FENZ) work side by side to deliver home fire safety visits and presentations at community events.

"People joke that we come as somewhat of a 'package deal' but I think that's exactly what we have tried to achieve through our partnership." – Ali Carroll, FENZ

"It has been a privilege to be trained in Home Fire Safety Visits and carry these out with FENZ. Going into people's homes and making sure people have smoke alarms is ultimately lifesaving." – Christine Dorsey, NS Waitaki

Whakatāne NS's fire alarm awareness campaign is in full swing across the district. By sharing crime reports and responding to community enquiries, they've helped 40 homes install new fire alarms - making whānau and homes safer. Kia kaha, Whakatāne!

NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND



Bundaberg Neighbourhood Watch Community Fun Day

Stephen Bennett, Member for Burnett with Queensland Ambulance Service

Bundaberg and District Neighbourhood Watch proudly held its first-ever Community Fun Day in May, timed to coincide with Volunteer Week.

The day featured live entertainment from the Caledonian Pipe Band, Kalkie School Band and several local musicians, all volunteering their time to support the community. The face painting stall quickly became a crowd favourite, drawing smiles from kids and adults alike.

Visitors also enjoyed displays from the Queensland Police Service, Ambulance Service, Rural Fire Service, Volunteer Marine Rescue, Crime Stoppers and, of course, Neighbourhood Watch.

Giant lawn games kept the fun going for all ages. For those wanting a simple but effective security upgrade, they could have one-way screws fitted to their car number plates. And when it came to food and drinks, the Lions Club's sausage sizzle, along with the ice cream and coffee vans, ensured no one left hungry.

The day was a great success. With ideas already taking shape, the committee is planning an even bigger event next year, so Bundy, be prepared. A sincere thank you to Bundaberg Regional Council for the micro grant, and to our local State and Federal members for their generous support in bringing this event to life.



Neighbourhood Watch volunteers after a busy day: Wilma Van der Heide, Lester Rogers, Wendy Byrne, David Dempster, Mary Waugh (Kelvin Rowland not shown)



Marine Rescue volunteers eager to discuss their role



Paddy is always a crowd-pleaser with the kids



A Double Celebration for Forestdale NHW

Forestdale Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has marked an incredible milestone, celebrating 35 years of dedicated service to the local community.

Mayor Jon Raven and Councillor Tim Frazer joined in acknowledging the group's remarkable contribution, thanking all those past and present who have volunteered their time. From patrolling streets to delivering local events, the group has invested thousands of hours into making Forestdale a safer and more connected place to live.

Becoming Queensland's longest-serving NHW group is no small feat; it represents a legacy built by countless volunteers who have stepped up for their neighbours over the decades. As the group looks forward to the future, there's a shared commitment to keeping that community spirit alive for the next 35 years and beyond.

But this wasn't the only achievement worth celebrating. Area Coordinator Lynn was recently honoured with a nomination for the Logan City Council Volunteer of the Year Awards. Attending the presentation alongside her fellow group members, she used the opportunity to thank her biggest supporters, her team and the dedicated 'Forestdalians' who work tirelessly to make each event and initiative a success.



Organised by Riverview Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), this free, family-friendly event attracted more than 3,000 attendees, cementing its place as one of the region's most anticipated annual gatherings.

The event was created to curb hooning and promote a safe, legal space for local car enthusiasts to share their passion. It has since evolved into a powerful showcase of community spirit and collaboration. This year, a record-breaking 117 vehicles were on display, from high-powered muscle cars and rare classics to custom builds and restorations, each with a story and an owner proud to share it.

More than 30 market stalls offered a wide variety of food, handmade crafts, gifts, and services, helping support local small businesses and community groups. Families were

“Muscle in Maculata has evolved into a powerful showcase of community spirit and collaboration.”

also well catered for, with amusement rides, a face painter, and a petting zoo keeping children entertained for hours.

The event was officially opened by Division 3 Councillor Marnie Doyle, with support from Ipswich City Council's Community Events Funding Program. Special guests included Mayor Teresa Harding, Division 3 Councillor Andrew Antonioli, State Member for Bundamba Lance McCallum, Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann, and members of Queensland Police and Volunteers in Policing, showcasing their commitment to

strengthening ties between the community and its leaders.

In addition to being a visual feast for motoring fans, Muscle in Maculata serves as a shining example of how positive, community-led initiatives can inspire real change. Now in its 9th year, the event continues to grow in both popularity and purpose.

Plans are already in motion to make Muscle in Maculata 2026 the biggest celebration yet, as the event prepares to mark its 10th anniversary, a major milestone that will honour a decade of bringing the community together through a shared love of cars, connection, and local pride.



Carseldine NHW Family Fun Day

Lights, sirens, and smiles: Local kids got an up-close look at a Queensland Police Service patrol car during the Family Fun Day

Carseldine Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) brought the fun factor to Chermside West earlier this year with a vibrant Family Fun Day that drew locals together for a day of connection, laughter, and community pride. What began as a simple way to remind residents that NHW is alive and active in the area ended up achieving so much more.

The event was a true community effort. Local Scouts kept the crowd well-fed with a sausage sizzle barbecue, while local councillors lent their support with funding, and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) had officers present. Children were especially thrilled to meet local police officers and climb inside a real patrol car - lights flashing and sirens ready - while the talented face painter added colourful smiles across the park.

Carseldine NHW organisers were thrilled with the turnout and the positive feedback from residents, volunteers, and supporters. The day proved to be more than just a fun afternoon - it was an opportunity to strengthen community bonds, raise awareness about NHW, and reinforce the shared commitment to keeping the neighbourhood safe.



Daisy Hill NHW Community Morning Tea

Senior Prevention Officer Lanita Goos ACCCE with Daisy Hill volunteers and residents

Daisy Hill's March community morning tea welcomed a special visitor Lanita Goos from the Australian Centre To Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE).

Lanita Goos from the ACCCE joined residents to share her expertise and encourage volunteer involvement in the ThinkUKnow program.

The ThinkUKnow program is an initiative that delivers presentations about online safety for children to schools and community groups. She encouraged attendees to consider volunteering to help spread the message and distributed resources to eager participants after the presentation.

This was just one of several proactive morning teas Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) enjoyed hosting this year. The combination of home-baked goods, thanks to NHW Volunteer Irene Walker, and great company creates a welcoming space for neighbours to discuss current crime prevention strategies and home safety measures. Another benefit of the event is the growing community spirit and the encouragement for neighbours to get to know and look out for one another.

Crestwood Heights Community Barbecue

The Crestwood Heights community came together once again for the biannual local Neighbourhood Watch barbecue, enjoying an afternoon of great company, live music, and a free sausage sizzle. Over the past two decades, these gatherings have become a much-loved tradition, bringing neighbours together and strengthening community ties.

This event featured live music from long-time resident Chris Bulmer on guitar, with vocals by Cecilia Russell. The afternoon lifted spirits as neighbours sang along to well-loved songs and soaked up the community spirit until long after the sun had set.



Residents enjoying music in the park on a sunny Gold Coast afternoon

Cuppa with a Cop Goes Down a Treat

The "Cuppa with a Cop" event, hosted by Oakey Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) with special guests from Crime Stoppers, was a resounding success. Community turnout far outnumbered police attendance, and residents received practical advice on home and personal security.

The morning also celebrated Neighbourhood Watch Month and the permanent appointment of Sergeant James as Oakey Station's Commanding Officer.



Free coffee and conversations with Oakey Police and Crime Stoppers, courtesy of Oakey NHW

A Busy Winter in the Gold Coast Hinterland



Diane and Rob proudly display the Neighbourhood Watch banner

Winter in the Gold Coast provides the perfect weather for community events, and our Hinterland Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups made sure to make the most of it with several local events over the cooler months.

The first was the Mudgeeraba Street Party and Parade held in May. The Mudgeeraba, Reedy Creek, Clover Hill, and Glenwood Park groups banded together to man the stall and proudly carry the banner in the street parade. Special mention to Annette Moon from Glenwood Park, who delighted local children in the Seymour owl costume.

The Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show followed in the last weekend of June, a historic event with nearly 100 years of tradition. More than 30,000 attendees over two days gave our volunteers ample opportunities to share practical tips on personal and property safety.

As always, **the bi-monthly Mudgeeraba Police Community Consultative Committee** provided excellent opportunities for locals to

discuss and brainstorm with police, NHW, and politicians about their safety concerns, including ebikes, hoons, theft, and break-ins.

These wintertime festivities were fantastic opportunities to showcase NHW, engage residents, share safety tips and strengthen community connections.

Coming up in spring we will be hosting Movies in the Park at Reedy Creek. Families can bring their little minions to an open-air screening of Despicable Me 4.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to speak with families about keeping themselves and each other safe.

Celebrating Volunteer Week



Vicki Colwell, Gold Coast District NHW Committee Member, Cr Donna Gates, Division 3 Councillor, Cr Dan Doran, Division 11 Councillor

Volunteering means different things to different people:
connecting with like-minded friends,
getting out and about, feeling valued,
or simply giving back to the community.

For one dedicated volunteer with over 20 years of experience across various organisations and roles, it has meant all of these, with the bonus of forming lasting friendships.

On 21 May, local volunteers were recognised and celebrated by the City of Gold Coast Council for the countless hours they generously dedicate to their communities, organisations, and the region.

The event welcomed volunteers to enjoy a light breakfast and an exclusive sneak peek of the exhibition *Writers Revealed*, showcasing treasures from the British Library and the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Adding to the occasion, students from Saint Hilda's and All Saints Schools welcomed attendees with grace and enthusiasm. These young

ambassadors handed out free books and engaged warmly with guests, embodying the spirit of community.

Deputy Mayor Cr Mark Hammel expressed sincere gratitude for the tireless work volunteers undertake to make the Gold Coast a better place.

Representing the Gold Coast District Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), which supports 42 local groups and collaborates closely with Volunteers in Policing and Crimestoppers, was Vicki Colwell, who met with former Deputy Mayor Cr Donna Gates and Cr Dan Doran during the event.

This event was not only a joyful celebration but also a reminder of the profound impact volunteers have on their communities. Those present left feeling deeply appreciated and inspired to continue their invaluable service.



Anne Cobcroft receiving her Gold Award with Acting Senior Sergeant Holly James

Nearly Two Decades of Dedication: Anne Cobcroft Recognised with Gold Award

After more than 19 years of dedicated service, Coomera 10 Willow Vale Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) bid farewell to their long-serving Area Coordinator, Anne Cobcroft, as she officially handed over the reins.

Anne's journey with NHW began almost by chance. At her very first meeting, with only a handful of people in the room and the group facing closure, she bravely volunteered to take on the role of Coordinator - not knowing exactly what it would involve. That decision shaped nearly two decades of leadership and community service.

Under Anne's guidance, the group grew into a strong, active network of residents who regularly came together to support each other and keep their neighbourhood safe. She was always quick to share the credit, recognising the loyalty and commitment of long-serving committee members, including Secretary Doris Liedmann and Treasurer Jenny Osborne, along with many others over the years.

Anne's dedication was formally recognised with the prestigious NHW Gold Award, presented with a gold lapel badge and certificate signed by Assistant Commissioner Craig Hanlon. Local MP Michael Crandon also praised her remarkable contribution, acknowledging her tireless commitment to making the community safer.

Although stepping back from her leadership role, Anne will remain an active member of the organisation and offer her support to the newly appointed Area Coordinator, Phil Brown.

Coomera 10 Willow Vale now looks to the future, strengthened by nearly two decades of service and leadership that have left a legacy of community spirit and safety.

Wondai Thanks Our First Responders

On 11 June, Wondai Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) brought the community together for a First Responders Expo to recognise, celebrate and thank the local heroes who help keep Wondai safe.

Representatives from the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (both urban and rural), Queensland Ambulance Service, the Local Ambulance Committee, and the Wondai Army Service all attended the evening. Each group was presented with a thoughtfully curated gift basket and a certificate of appreciation as a token of gratitude from Wondai NHW.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, the Wondai Lions Club fired up the barbecue, keeping everyone well fed with a sausage sizzle.

Thanks to a generous Hero Grant donation from Deb Frecklington MP, this event brought the community together for a well-deserved show of thanks.



Darren Buckley, Wondai NHW Area Coordinator, and Joy Buckley at the First Responders Expo

Safety and Smiles at The Caves Show

The Caves Show on 26 April buzzed with energy, drawing more than 2,000 visitors for a day of country charm, community connection and a few surprises.

The Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) stall was ideally positioned near the pavilion, attracting a steady flow of visitors keen to discuss safety, security and local concerns. A representative from Crime Stoppers also joined the display, making the stall a one-stop spot for crime prevention information.

The day's unexpected highlight was a mischievous poddy calf that slipped out of its enclosure and bolted through sideshow alley, to the delight of onlookers. Its quick-thinking owner arrived armed with a milk bottle and teat, luring the runaway back to safety, a true "Houdini" moment that became the talk of the show.

Between the lively atmosphere, the informative conversations and the strong community turnout, the



Caves NHW members Callum, Barry and Laurie, deep in conversation with Rockhampton North members Jan and Tim Mcsweeney

day proved both successful and enjoyable for all involved. The event reinforced the importance of community connection and proved that you never quite know what to expect at a country show.

NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Big-Hearted Group Starts Little Library

Murray Bridge Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is helping their community access free books through a 'little library' in collaboration with local supermarket Drakes.

Senior Constable First Class, David Brown, Murray Bridge NHW Area Coordinator, Michelle Roberts, Drakes Murray Bridge Manager, Randall Meyers, NHW volunteer, Bob Eisen, with the little library and bin stickers

The book swap is ideally located inside the supermarket, where it is easily accessible while still being protected from the weather. Murray Bridge NHW Area Coordinator, Michelle Roberts, said that community members are encouraged to take and donate books to the library. "We welcome any donations except those including true crime or adult literature." Michelle is hopeful that people from a variety of backgrounds will use the library. "There are many people in our community who face difficult circumstances, and for them, reading can offer a gentle escape, or a moment of calm, hope, or inspiration when it's most needed."

The library also offers a wide range of children's books, encouraging families to engage in reading together. Senior Constable First Class, David Brown, emphasised that reading with children is a valuable family activity, noting that

research shows positive family interactions significantly reduce the risk of involvement in future criminal behaviour. David explained, "Another valuable aim for this book swap is to encourage children to put down their devices and spend more quality time with their families through story time. This small but impactful change will hopefully help to build strong early childhood connections that will continue to benefit the community for years to come."

The little library isn't the only initiative the Murray Bridge NHW group has underway. Volunteers have also been keeping busy working with the council to distribute NHW bin stickers after household rubbish bins were recently replaced throughout the town.

Additionally, the group has remained committed to supporting the L2P program, which enables individuals without access to

a fully licensed supervisor to complete the required driving hours and obtain their licence. Michelle highlights the importance of this program, explaining, "Without a driver's licence, securing employment in this area becomes extremely difficult."

Over the past year, Murray Bridge NHW has continued to host stalls at Bunnings, providing practical advice on crime prevention and home security. During National Volunteers Week, the group also engaged the community with an information stand at the local shopping centre, highlighting the vital role of volunteers in keeping the community safe.

In May, the group celebrated their achievements by joining the NHW South Australia 40th anniversary celebrations, which featured 40 cupcakes topped with green icing.

Celebrating 40 Years of Safer Communities in South Australia

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups across South Australia (SA) marked the organisation's 40th anniversary with local celebrations, made possible through funding from the NHW Volunteer Association of SA Inc (VASA). To support the milestone, VASA offered \$250 to any group interested in hosting a celebration within their community.

NHW VASA Board Treasurer, George Holroyd, emphasised the importance of celebrating this significant milestone in a way that reflected the strength and reach of NHW across SA. By offering NHW groups funding, they were able to commemorate the 40th anniversary in their communities in ways that were meaningful and locally relevant. Many also gained valuable exposure through local media.



George Holroyd, Woodcroft NHW Area Coordinator, and Sergeant Sophie Hodge, Southern District Community Engagement Section, South Australia Police, at the combined anniversary celebrations

Rather than holding a single centralised event, the decision to support multiple local celebrations ensured that the anniversary was recognised widely and inclusively. Approximately one third of NHW groups took up the opportunity, inviting members of the public to participate and reinforcing community pride and the continued relevance of NHW at the local level.

NHW SA 40th Anniversary Grants Empower Local Safety Initiatives

Ten Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) South Australia (SA) groups have received a boost to support crime prevention and community connection initiatives in their areas, thanks to the NHW SA 40th Anniversary Grants Program.

The NHW Volunteers Association of South Australia Inc (VASA) and the SA Police NHW program established the \$15,000 grants program to commemorate the four decades NHW members have dedicated to building safer, more connected communities.

According to NHW SA State Coordinator Kirsty Mudge, the grants of up to \$2,000 have enabled groups to deliver projects that they

didn't have the funds to get off the ground. "The grants have reduced the need for groups to spend time fundraising for valuable community initiatives," Kristy said.

Funded projects include the purchase of high-visibility vests for elderly people who ride gophers on the roads, reflective paint to stencil house numbers on curbs for emergency services, as well as personal alarms and video doorbells for vulnerable

individuals. Several events are also being funded, including community barbeques and carols in the park.

VASA Board President Ben Williams said the selection panel was very impressed by the high calibre of the applications. "We extend our warmest congratulations to the successful grant recipients and sincerely thank all who applied for their dedication to community safety," Ben said.

NHW TAS

TASMANIA

ABC Centre, Hobart

The headquarters of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania is located in the ABC Centre at the entrance to Hobart, the state's capital. The unveiling of our new sign was made extra special with the support of international members of the Sri Chinmoy Peace Run, who stopped by the ABC during their journey to promote peace around the world.



Peter Edwards, Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania President, joined the Sri Chinmoy runners, sharing the relay torch as part of their Australian leg of the journey

The Resurgence of Western District Bush Watch

Bush Watch in Tasmania is a crime prevention initiative that encourages people using bushland and recreational areas to report unusual, suspicious or criminal activity. The program focuses on issues that have lasting impacts on the community and create significant costs for landowners and organisations, including firewood theft, property damage and illegal rubbish dumping. In many ways Bush Watch is the rural equivalent of a "good neighbour" initiative, proudly operating under the Neighbourhood Watch umbrella.

Next year, Bush Watch in the Western Police District will celebrate 30 years of service. The very first meeting, held in 1996 at Oldina Forest Reserve near Wynyard, drew sixty attendees and saw World Champion axeman David Foster elected as Patron. Since then, Bush Watch has provided an effective hub for community groups, regulatory bodies and businesses to share information and coordinate resources to improve safety, security and productivity in their rural area.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted regular meetings as many stakeholders adjusted to new ways of delivering their core activities. However, in May 2025 the committee regrouped and is now powering ahead with strong support from both government and commercial partners. Melissa Bell, from Tasmania Police (TASPOL) has returned to the secretary/coordinator role and is being supported by the new Tasmania Police Community Engagement Command through Senior Constable Blake Nolan.

Critical connections with member organisations and key supporters have been re-established. These include Tasmania Police, Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), Parks and Wildlife



Mellisa Bell, TASPOL, Olivia Barnard, EPA, Emma Barker, STT, Brendan Taylor, EPA, David Whelan, PWS, Tom O'Malley, CCA, Blake Nolan, TASPOL, Robert Dawes, TFS

(PWS), Forico, Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Inland Fisheries, Private Forests Tasmania, Tasmania Fire Service (TFS), Burnie City Council, Central Coast Council (CCA), Waratah Wynyard Council, Cradle Coast NRM, Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania and Crime Stoppers.

A new interagency newsletter has been launched to strengthen communication, and the Bush Watch Facebook page is continuing to assist member organisations share community safety and awareness messages. Even the much-loved Bush Watch logo featuring the iconic Tasmanian wombat is under review, with discussions underway about whether an updated version might better reflect the renewed energy and commitment of the Western District team.

After a challenging few years, it's inspiring to see Bush Watch is back at full steam, once again serving the rural communities of the Western District.

Commander Joanne Stolp to Lead Community Engagement Command

Stephen Bourke, Livewire NHW, helps launch the new Poli at a Cuppa With A Cop event in Glebe Hill Village

Tasmania Police has introduced a new Community Engagement Command, designed to strengthen relationships with communities across the state through visible, approachable, and inclusive policing.

Key highlights include:

- The Poli Outreach Van: A mobile unit that brings police services directly to schools, community events, and areas with vulnerable populations.
- Collaborative Partnerships: Working alongside groups like Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), PCYC, and Crime Stoppers to support safety and crime prevention.
- Youth and Vulnerable Engagement: Prioritising outreach to children, young people, and those at greater risk.
- Public-Informed Strategy: Developed in response to community feedback and recommendations from the Weiss Review and the Commission of Inquiry into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

The command is led by Commander Joanne Stolp, who brings a forward-focused approach to building trust and transparency. The initiative marks a cultural shift toward more meaningful connections between police and the communities they serve.

Central Kingston NHW – Thriving in Their First Year

NHW Kingston volunteers fundraising at Bunnings

NHW Kingston may only be a year old, but in that short time, they have built strong momentum by putting people and relationships at the heart of everything they do. Formed with a passion for safety, connection and community wellbeing, the group has quickly grown into a confident and active presence in their area. Their monthly meetings draw steady attendance, even though the chilly Tasmanian winter, demonstrating the eagerness of the community to get involved and support each other.

NHW is fortunate to have a partnership with Bunnings throughout Australasia, with seven stores in Tasmania. The southernmost (and perhaps the smallest) is in Kingston, however size has proven no barrier. In fact, Kingston Bunnings and NHW have forged a strong partnership, promoting safety, security and the importance of community connection. One of the group's first projects was working with the local council to have NHW signs installed in strategic locations. Building on this success, their next project is to encourage every household to display a NHW letter box label - one street at a time. Their guiding belief is simple: from little things, big things grow.

NHW WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Community-Led Action in Canning

Canning NHW Volunteers Katherine Longhurst, Lynsey Ross, and Angela Cousins

On 14 August 2025, volunteers from the City of Canning’s Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group held a Community Crime and Safety Forum in Bentley.

This community-led event brought together residents, community groups, local government representatives and subject matter experts to discuss shared community safety concerns and build stronger neighbourhood connections. The key objectives of the event were to develop a shared understanding of current crime and safety concerns, generate bold and creative ideas to improve safety and well-being, and prioritise the most pressing issues to create actionable and accountable plans.

The event kicked off with a presentation from Canning NHW volunteer Katherine Longhurst, followed by Safe Communities Now Alliance, Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, and the Designing out Crime and CPTED Centre. The City of Canning Mayor, Patrick Hall

spoke about the community safety programs and initiatives available to Canning residents, namely the Security Incentive Scheme and Graffiti Removal Incentive Program. He also encouraged the group to get involved in NHW, advising residents to get connected and continue getting to know their neighbours.

“When neighbours look out for each other, the whole community benefits. Programs like NHW not only help reduce crime, they also strengthen the connections that make Canning such a great place to live,” said Mayor Hall.

Afterwards, resident Megan Cechner facilitated an interactive workshop where participants discussed the main safety concerns in the area and collated a list of hotspots. The discussion highlighted what stakeholders and the community

are already doing well, and explored other opportunities to further improve safety. From these conversations, the group identified four achievable actions: getting to know one another, increasing awareness of community safety issues, increasing reporting, and ensuring graffiti is reported within 24 hours.

One of the key outcomes was a renewed sense of collective responsibility and a desire to act together. More than just a workshop, the event marked a powerful step toward a safer, more connected community. This event reinforced the importance of community-led action: when communities take the lead, solutions are more relevant, sustainable, and reflective of local needs and values. It builds trust, fosters ownership, and strengthens social connections.

NHW Day Community Event: Celebration of Unity and Safety

The Neighbourhood Watch Day Community Event, hosted by Neighbourhood Watch Asian Community Services (NHWACS), was a vibrant celebration of multicultural harmony, volunteer appreciation, and community safety. More than 750 people attended, making the day truly special.

The event brought together members from across our diverse Asian communities, including Chinese, Indonesian, Malaysian, Indian, Thai, Bruneian, Taiwanese, Hong Kong and Singaporean backgrounds. Stunning cultural performances lit up the stage, with traditional dancing from each group showcasing the rich heritage that makes our community so unique.

The WA Police Pipe Band delivered a rousing performance, filling the auditorium with music and reinforcing the strong partnership between police and community. Their involvement elevated the welcoming atmosphere and reminded everyone of the shared commitment to safety.

At its heart, the event was community connection, awareness, and celebrating volunteers who give their time to help others. Prizes were presented to both individual volunteers and community groups, whose dedication has made an impact in bringing people together and keeping our neighbourhood safe.

The President of NHWACS, Lisa Li, gave a speech on behalf of the group’s 5,000+ members, highlighting the importance of “cultivating the safety awareness of new immigrants” as a key step in building a more united community, and in turn, a happier and more fulfilling life for everyone.

Another highlight of the event was a heartfelt speech by Qiang



Raffle Winners at the Neighbourhood Watch Day Event



Lisa Li and the Police Pipe Band



Performance from Chinese Community Group

Li, who spoke on behalf of the groups volunteers. His message reminded everyone of the power of giving back and the positive impact each individual can have in creating stronger, safer communities.

Events like this truly reflect our motto: “Uniting for a safer and stronger community”. From the cultural performances to the

recognition of volunteer efforts, the day was a perfect blend of celebration and purpose.

NHWACS would like to extend a huge thank you to all attendees, performers, volunteers, and our partners in law enforcement for making the event a success. Together, we’re creating a community where everyone feels safe, included, and connected.

City of Kwinana Showcases Local Initiatives on Global Stage



Sinead Gilligan, Community Safety Officer City of Kwinana, Australia with Lieutenant William Hutchinson, Palm Springs Police Department, United States of America

The City of Kwinana was recently represented at the International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Association Conference in Palm Springs, USA, on two local initiatives: *Love My Neighbourhood* and *Street by Street*. Reflecting the City's commitment to building stronger communities, both initiatives take a practical, street-by-street approach, combining CPTED principles with sustainability and community connection to create safer, more engaged neighbourhoods.

Both initiatives have improved safety, increased reporting to police, and educated the community on waste

and recycling. This includes the highly engaging *Face Your Waste* campaign, which has been a real hit with the community. Together, these efforts have helped build stronger connections between the City and its residents, fostering a shared sense of ownership and pride in local spaces.

This approach closely aligns with Neighbourhood Watch values, promoting community connection, encouraging neighbours to look out for one another, and building safer, more engaged neighbourhoods.

While overseas, the City also met with local police to exchange

insights and approaches to community safety in their respective cities.

"It was a privilege to share some of the work happening in the City of Kwinana," said Community Safety Officer Sinead Gilligan. "Initiatives like Love My Neighbourhood and Street by Street show how simple changes can help build community trust, promote sustainability, and foster stronger, safer streets."

The City looks forward to continuing this momentum and sharing learnings with other local governments committed to innovative community safety.

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.





the ACADEMY NEWS

from Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia

OCT 2025

EVENT RECAP

The annual Otlands Heritage & Bullock Festival in Tasmania, is held over two days and blends old-world charm with heritage experiences, local crafts, and good old country hospitality.



As part of the Southern Midlands community, the Academy participated in the parade and followed up with performances near the famous Callington Mill - showcasing the holy dragon and lion dances to the crowd.

more about us

Light of Tasmania
on WeChat



The World of Jin
Gang Dhyana



Academy
Website



Academy
Facebook Page



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enquiry form on our website
email at contact@tascbaa.org