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Official Journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



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Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

PO Box 16, Seddon West VIC 3011 | Ph: 0428 377 901 | Email: admin@nhwa.com.au | Website: nhwa.com.au

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NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH
AUSTRALASIA

FROM THE CEO

SELINA OTTO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Hello readers, and welcome to the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) Journal!



I'm Selina Otto, and I am delighted to be stepping into the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) role. I'd like to thank Maria Bennett, our former CEO, for her commitment and leadership. Under her guidance, NHWA achieved significant milestones and strengthened its standing as a trusted voice in community safety.

Looking ahead, I am committed to building on this success and working together with member Neighbourhood Watch programs in Australia, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand, and our partners to create safer, more connected communities.

NHWA 2025 Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner's Awards

Congratulations to Stephen Bourke, Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill NHW TAS, and Senior Constable Kurt Foessel, Gold Coast District QLD, the winners of this year's Awards.

The NHWA Awards are judged by an independent panel, who have the difficult task of selecting a winner from several highly deserving nominees. The Awards recognise individuals who go above and beyond to foster safe, inclusive and resilient communities. The recipients of the 2025 Awards have achieved this by delivering a range of events and initiatives that bring their communities together and raise awareness about crime prevention.

The 2025 Runner-Up Award recipients are Lisa Li, NHW Asian Community Services WA, and Sergeant Warren Ameduri, WA.

The dedication shown by all nominees is inspiring and highlights the amazing people who are building stronger communities and improving feelings of safety. Congratulations to all nominees and recipients for their well-deserved recognition and to the volunteers and police whose contributions help keep the community safe.

Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year Award Nominees:

- Albert Orszaczky, ACT NHW
- Jean Greatbanks, Gold Coast District NHW, QLD
- Kelli Stidiford, The Caves NHW, QLD
- Morris Winter, Kumbia NHW, QLD
- Nancy Cooper, Gold Coast District NHW, QLD
- Peter Barrett, Bongaree NHW, QLD
- Patricia Salter, Goolwa NHW, SA
- Pauline Williams, Kingston SE NHW, SA
- Stephen Bourke, Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill NHW, TAS
- Lisa Li, NHW Asian Community Services, WA
- Lyn Cuthbert, Melville NHW, WA

Police Commissioner's Award Nominees:

- Senior Sergeant Nora (Foliaki) Poching, Counties Manukau (West), NZ
- Senior Constable Kurt Foessel, Gold Coast District, QLD
- Senior Constable Annabel Shegog, Northern District, TAS
- Constable Marita Osborn, Community Engagement Command, TAS
- Sergeant Warren Ameduri, WA



Annual Report

NHWA's 2024-2025 Annual Report is out now, highlighting major achievements and initiatives from the past year. To view the report, visit: www.nhwa.com.au/about/annual-reports



NHW SA 40th Anniversary Conference

In November, some of the NHWA Board and staff attended the NHW SA 40th Anniversary Conference in Adelaide. It was a great opportunity to connect in person with NHW volunteers and the NHW SA team. The conference featured engaging presentations, discussions, and an awards ceremony recognising the contributions of volunteers and police.



NHW Month

March was NHW Month, an annual event in which NHWA partners with Crimsafe to promote home security awareness and support safer communities. This collaboration equips homeowners with dedicated tools and resources to assess and increase their home security measures.



2026 Upcoming Events & Dates

NHWA Award Nominations

Open 1 July

The NHWA Volunteer of the Year Award and Police Commissioner's Award nominations open on 1 July 2026. To nominate, go to: www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards



Secure September

1 - 30 September

NHWA and Crimsafe unite for a month-long security awareness campaign, empowering communities with practical crime prevention strategies.

National Secure Your Home Day

26 - 27 September

An annual event dedicated to checking and improving the security of your home. Visit www.secureyourhomeday.com.au to locate nearby events, learn how to host your own, or register for a free information kit.



NHW Week

12 - 18 October

NHWA and Bunnings are partnering for the 8th consecutive year to present the combined NHW Crime Prevention Week. Start planning your event today! Email admin@nhwa.com.au for more information.

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

Selina Otto

Selina Otto
Chief Executive Officer
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia



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

BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



**Bernie Durkin OAM
Chairman**

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 Chair for NHW. 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 NHW 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 NHWA.



**Angela Di Pauli
Australian Capital Territory**

Angela has a background in corporate governance and risk management, with experience in both the public and private sectors. She has significant volunteer and Board experience, and since moving from NSW to Canberra, has been an active member and Secretary of Australian Capital Territory Neighbourhood Watch.



**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.



The Board Directors of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia serve voluntarily and are drawn from Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand, and the police.



**Deputy Commissioner
Lesla Gale APM
Australian Federal Police**

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 29 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.



**Acting Chief Superintendent
Robert Fleischer
Queensland**

Acting Chief Superintendent Robert Fleischer joined the New South Wales Police in 1997, moving to the Queensland Police Service in 2002. He has worked in various areas of policing, including general duties, Drug Unit, Covert and Surveillance Operations Unit, State Intelligence Group, Security and Counter-Terrorism Command, and the Commissioner's Office. Rob is currently the Commissioner's Chief of Staff.



**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.



**Selina Otto
Chief Executive Officer**

Selina's experience spans not-for-profit organisations, corrective services, and start-up companies. With tertiary qualifications in criminology and justice and hands-on experience in rehabilitation and community engagement, she brings an informed perspective on the social, behavioural, and community factors that underpin safer neighbourhoods. Selina is passionate about empowering communities to take an active role in preventing crime and strengthening the connections, awareness, and collaboration that support safe, inclusive and resilient communities.



**Darcy Hart
Executive Assistant/
Project Manager**

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 NHWA Journal, and the Target Hardening Support Offer.

NSYHD Strengthens Home Security and Community Resilience



Queensland Police Service Sergeant Nadine Webster APM, Volunteers in Policing Jan, Vanessa and Kellie and Riverview NHW Area Coordinator Amanda Draheim and volunteer Sandra Smrecnick during NSYHD 2025

National Secure Your Home Day (NSYHD) is a key initiative in Neighbourhood Watch Australasia's (NHW) efforts to promote safer homes and stronger communities. Held over the last weekend of September (27-28), the 2025 campaign built on growing national momentum, engaging thousands of households and reinforcing the value of practical, preventative home security measures.

An initiative of NHWA, developed in collaboration with The University of Queensland (UQ), **NSYHD encourages households to dedicate one day each year to review their home security and implement simple 'target-hardening' measures proven to reduce opportunities for break-and-enter crime.** These include quality locks on doors and windows, sensor lighting and security cameras, good visibility around the property, and everyday security habits that make homes less attractive to offenders.

In its third year, the campaign continued to demonstrate strong engagement, with thousands of households registering to receive a free NSYHD Kit. The kit includes a Home Security Checklist, practical Home Security Tips, useful links, and other resources to support home security and community safety.

This year's campaign was highlighted by the launch of a new television commercial (TVC) and radio advertisement, raising awareness of simple actions households can take to reduce the risk of break-ins. The TVC can be viewed here: www.bit.ly/nsyhdtvc

A key development was the introduction of cyber security information, expanding the campaign beyond physical home security. Practical advice aimed at helping households stay safe online, recognising the growing importance of digital security in overall crime prevention and helping people feel safer at home and online.

Alongside competitions and prizes for registered NSYHD participants, including a children's colouring competition; local community events were held across the country. Delivered by Neighbourhood Watch groups, police, and local council members, these activities ranged from coffee gatherings to expo exhibits and helped inform and empower households while strengthening community connections.

Results from the UQ post-campaign survey demonstrated that **participants were primarily motivated by a desire to make their**

homes safer and concerns about rising crime. Of the respondents, **83% reported learning something new, and 76% indicated an intention to make changes to their home or behaviour after using the Home Security Checklist.**

As an annual NHWA event, NSYHD continues to play a vital role in promoting safer homes and more resilient neighbourhoods, demonstrating the impact of simple actions taken together.

To learn more, access free resources, or register for NSYHD 2026, visit www.secureyourhomeday.com.au



NSYHD 2025 kids colouring in competition winner Rory

Home 'Crim'provement Campaign Encourages Safer Homes



Crime Prevention Partners, Crimsafe and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) partnered for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Month to deliver the Home 'Crim'provement campaign.



With home break-ins increasing from 1.8% in 2022-23 to 2.1% in 2023-24, affecting an additional 32,000 households and bringing the total to 218,000*, NHW Month encouraged Australians to take simple, practical steps towards improving home security and help reduce the risk of crime.

Throughout March, Crimsafe and NHWA shared crime prevention tips and advice through national radio advertising and across social media, empowering Australians to improve their home security and increase their Secure Scores.

Australians were also encouraged to visit the Secure Score website, a free online resource designed to assess the effectiveness of home security measures and provide simple,

tailored tips and actions to help households strengthen their security and feel safer in their homes.

The campaign built on previous behaviour-change initiatives delivered by Crimsafe and NHWA.

Natalie Hodgskin, Crimsafe's Head of Marketing, said that tampered or damaged windows and doors were the most common evidence of attempted entry for intruders.[^]

"Consider installing strong security screens as a barrier to prevent intruders, but let in plenty of fresh air and natural light into the home."

NHW CEO Selina Otto said there are many simple and cost-effective steps households can take to improve their home security.

"Every day practical actions such as locking doors and windows, even when at home, storing climbable items like bins and ladders away from your house and fence, improving visibility around the property with sensor lights or timers, and staying connected with your community by joining your local Neighbourhood Watch group."



***2025, ABS. Property crime rises | Australian Bureau of Statistics**

[^] Based on the most common evidence of attempted break-ins involving damage to or tampering with doors or windows. 2025, ABS. Crime Victimisation, 2023-24 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics



Supporting Online Safety for Young People

With the school year back in full swing, many children and young people are forming new connections online. These may be classmates from a new year level, friends from a recently joined sport, or people met through online games.

While digital spaces can be a positive way to build friendships, they also raise important questions about how safe those connections really are. The ThinkUKnow program is designed to help.

Last year, more than 202,000 students and over 19,300 community members attended ThinkUKnow presentations. Feedback consistently shows the program plays a valuable role in improving digital awareness and confidence among both young people and adults when it comes to online child safety.

ThinkUKnow is a national, evidence-based online safety education program led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP). Rather than discouraging technology use, the program takes a practical approach, helping young people learn how to use online platforms safely, respectfully and responsibly, and understand where to seek help if something goes wrong.

Student presentations are available from Foundation through to Year 12 and are tailored to suit different age groups. Sessions cover topics such as online grooming, self-generated child abuse material, sexual extortion and, importantly, building confidence in help-seeking behaviours. All content links with the Australian Curriculum and is informed by current research, intelligence and real case studies.

Parent and carer presentations are offered alongside student sessions, ensuring adults have the knowledge and tools to support children at home. These sessions encourage open, ongoing conversations about online experiences and help families and community groups create safer digital environments together.

ThinkUKnow is delivered nationally in partnership with state and territory police and industry supporters including Commonwealth Bank, Microsoft, Datacom, and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia. Student sessions are delivered by police, while parent and carer presentations are facilitated by trained volunteers from the AFP, police and partner organisations.

Schools and community groups can request a free ThinkUKnow presentation via the ThinkUKnow website. By taking part, communities can help children and young people build the confidence, resilience and skills they need to navigate both online and offline worlds safely.

www.thinkuknow.org.au/request-presentation

What We Share Matters

Social media can be a great way to share milestones and everyday moments from your child's life with family and friends. However, it is important to be mindful of what information is shared online and who may be able to access it.

Photos and posts can sometimes reveal more than intended. Details shared online can be used by online child sex offenders to build a picture of a child or family, which may then be used to groom parents or children. Information often shared includes a child's age or school year, full names, schools or sports teams, interests, and details that reveal routines or locations.

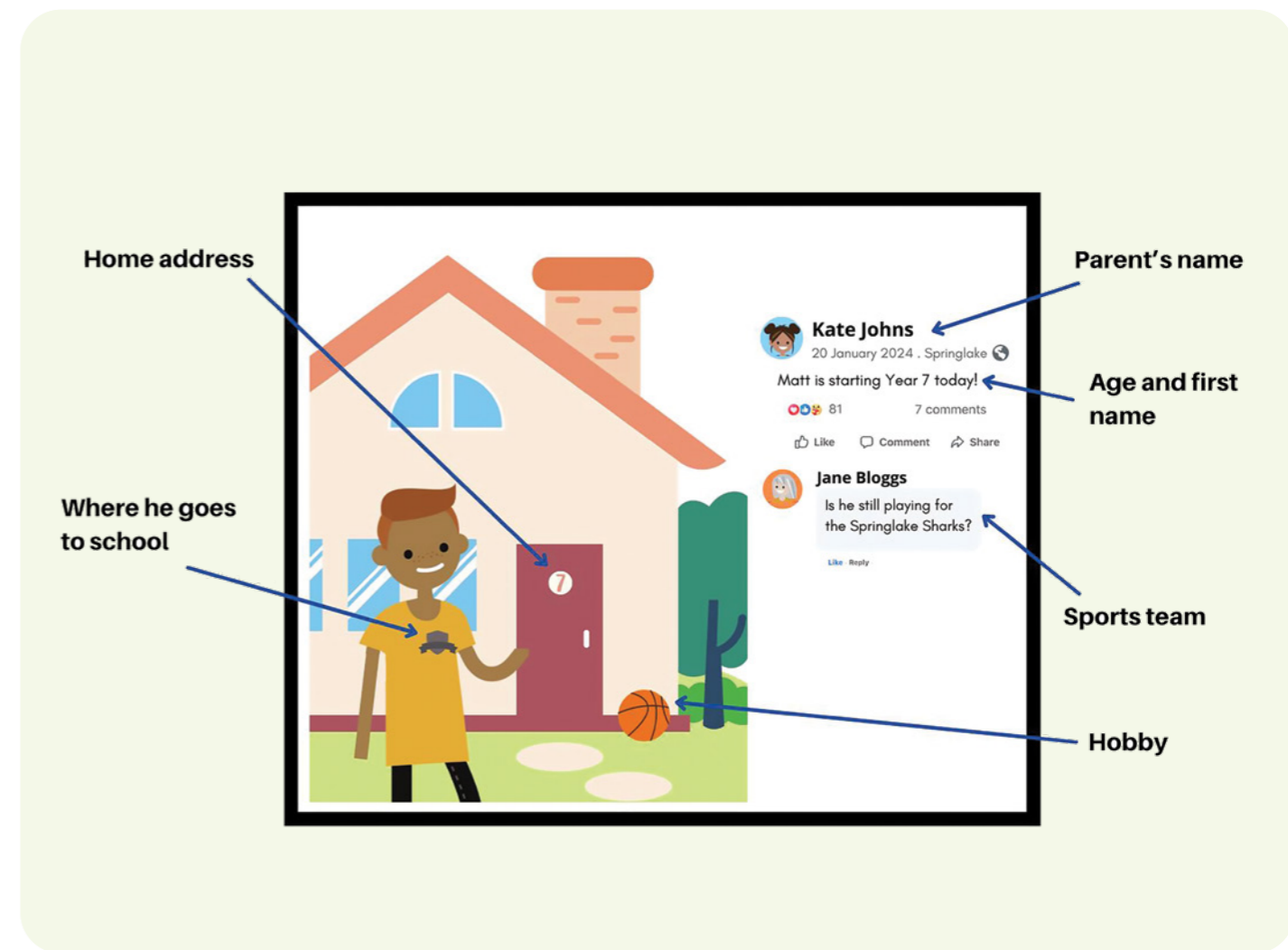
Images of children taking part in everyday activities can also be

misused. In some cases, images have been altered to create sexually explicit artificial intelligence generated material.

There are practical steps parents and carers can take to better protect children online. Checking the background of photos, avoiding school logos or uniforms, limiting location sharing and using private group chats with trusted family and friends can all reduce risk. It is also important to talk

with others about how photos of your child may be used or shared.

Concerns about online child sexual exploitation, including online grooming or sexual extortion, can be reported to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation at: www.acce.gov.au



Be conscious of what information may be revealed through images posted online

Online Shopping Scams: What You Need to Know



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

Online shopping is a convenient option, but staying alert to scams takes a little know-how. Scams are becoming increasingly more sophisticated and are often designed to catch you off guard.



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

Whether you're buying something or selling unwanted items, there are three simple steps you can take to help protect your money and personal information:

1. **Stop** and slow things down before sharing your money or personal details.
2. **Check** who you're dealing with by taking a closer look at the person or business behind the transaction.
3. **Protect** yourself by responding quickly if something doesn't sit right.

For more practical tips to help protect yourself against online shopping scams, check out this online video course: [beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/identifying-and-avoiding-scams/tips-for-shopping-safely-online](https://www.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/identifying-and-avoiding-scams/tips-for-shopping-safely-online)

Stay up to date with technology

Want to learn more about online scams and keep up with technology, but not sure where to begin? Be Connected is a free Australian program designed to build your digital skills, confidence, and online safety.

You can learn at your own pace with hundreds of easy-to-follow resources on topics such as getting the most out of your smartphone, using government services, staying safer online, and more. There are also regular online presentations and free in-person computer classes and support at local community organisations.

Find out more: [beconnected.esafety.gov.au](https://www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au)

Free online safety presentations

Keep up with technology from the comfort of your own home with a free Be Connected online safety presentation — where you'll learn directly from expert trainers and have the opportunity to ask questions along the way.

May sessions

- **Thursday 14 May**, 3pm AEST – Apps for smarter travel
- **Tuesday 19 May**, 10am AEST – Can you spot a scam?
- **Thursday 21 May**, 3pm AEST – Staying safe on Facebook

[beconnected.esafety.gov.au/online-safety-presentations](https://www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au/online-safety-presentations)



When Good Neighbours become Great Friends

Small things are often big things – a cuppa with a neighbour

Neighbour Day 2026 reminded Australians how important everyday kindness, connection and a sense of belonging can be. Across the country on 29 March, something powerful occurred. People showed up for one another; front gates opened, tables were set, conversations flowed and connections grew.

From shared morning teas and street barbecues to simple check-ins over the fence, Neighbour Day once again demonstrated that belonging does not require grand gestures. It begins with small, intentional acts: a smile, an invitation, a shared plate of food. What unfolded across neighbourhoods was a clear reminder that when people take small actions, big things happen, and that community is built through everyday moments.

Neighbour Day 2026 reinforced a truth long recognised by Neighbourhood Watch groups across Australasia: social connection underpins community wellbeing. When people feel known and valued, isolation is reduced, trust is strengthened, and neighbours are better placed to look out for one another.

Neighbours Every Day Ambassador Julie Goodwin captures this spirit, reflecting on the role food plays in bringing people together. "Food has an amazing power to create connection and strengthen communities," she said. "When we gather to share a meal, we're not just sharing food, we're creating connections that nourish both body and mind."



For inspiration and free resources to keep connections growing all year round, visit [neighbourseveryday.org](https://www.neighbourseveryday.org)

NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Farrer NHW Celebrates Twenty-One Years of Free Community Events

Farrer NHW volunteers at the Family Fun Day held during NHW Week

Farrer Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) marked its twenty-first annual free community event during NHW Week, bringing together more than three hundred residents for a day centred on safety, connection, and community partnership. The long-standing message of Be Safe, Be Aware remained central to the celebration and was embraced by neighbours of all ages.

The event was delivered through strong collaboration between NHW, local organisations, schools, businesses, and police. A full program of activities, including balloon twisting, face painting, craft activities, live music, and a community sausage sizzle, created a welcoming environment that encouraged families and neighbours to spend time together. The green and white twenty-first anniversary cake and the Lucky Neighbour raffle added to the sense of shared celebration.

The NHW stand was a focal point throughout the day, with residents accessing home and personal safety information, alongside resources from Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Policing and Crime Stoppers. These conversations highlighted the value of trusted partnerships in delivering practical, accessible safety advice to the community.

Support from local Farrer businesses, Farrer Primary School, Farrer Residents Association, Farrer Goodwin Village, Tuggeranong Arts

Centre, the Tuggeranong Valley Band, ACT NHW, and ACT Policing was central to the event's success. Their involvement demonstrated the strength of local collaboration in supporting safer, more connected neighbourhoods.

The milestone celebration reflected the strong partnerships that have underpinned Farrer NHW for more than two decades and reinforced its ongoing commitment to working alongside the community to build a safer and more connected suburb.

Community Engagement in Action: NHW Teams Up with ACT Policing at 'Cop Pop-Ups'

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Australian Capital Territory (ACT) recently partnered with ACT Policing to deliver a series of community engagement sessions through the Cop Pop-up program.

The initiative creates a visible and approachable police presence in local public spaces, giving residents the opportunity to speak directly with police officers and NHW volunteers about safety concerns, crime prevention, and other local issues. Guided by the program's tagline, "Conversations with Our Community", the sessions are designed to encourage open, informal dialogue in a welcoming environment.

At a recent pop-up event in the Canberra suburb of Dickson, NHW ACT Vice President (North) Clare McGrath OAM joined the team to support community engagement efforts.

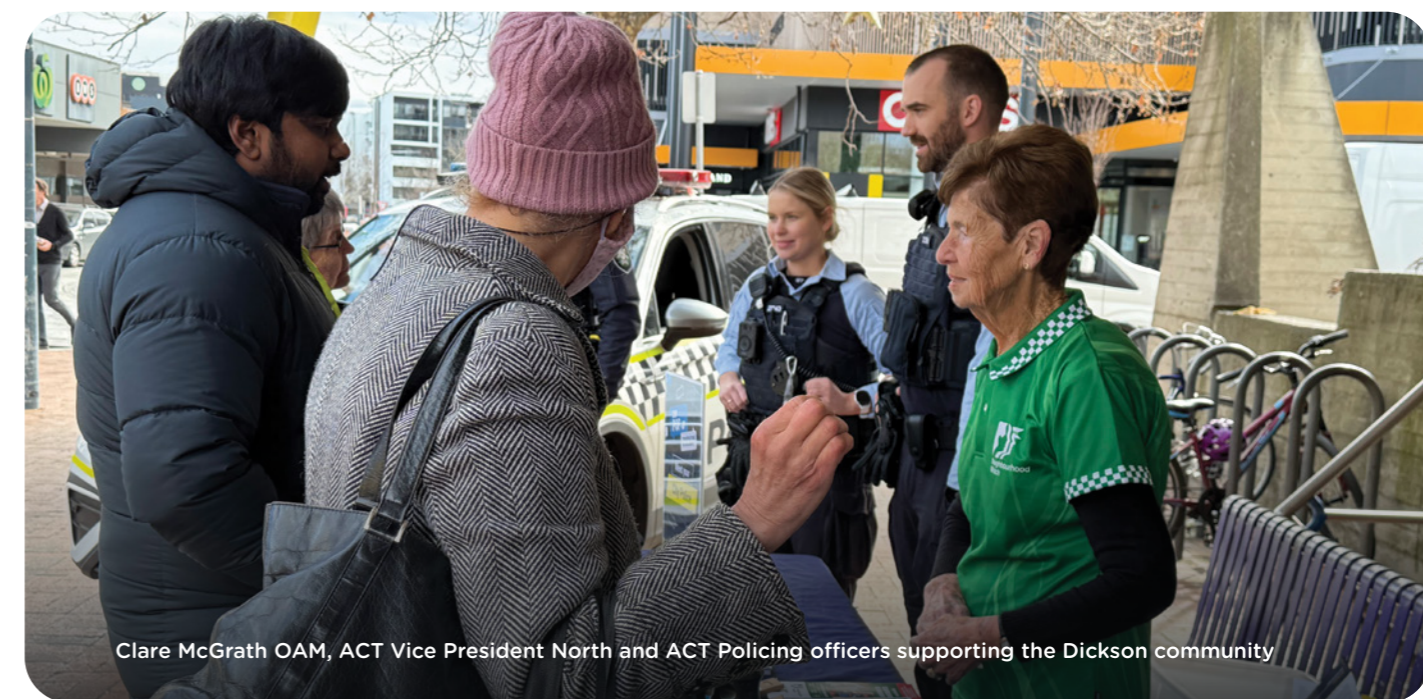
Throughout the session, many residents stopped by to raise local concerns, seek advice, and express their appreciation for the work of police.

Canberra's multicultural community was strongly represented at the event. Several attendees shared that the opportunity to interact informally with local police was especially meaningful, noting that such access is not always available.

The event also attracted families, with children delighted to receive Kenny Koala activity books, pencils, and stickers. These small giveaways help foster early, positive connections with policing and reinforce important community safety messages.

Clare supported the day by answering questions about NHW activities, crime-prevention initiatives, and membership opportunities. Her involvement highlighted the complementary role NHW plays in supporting ACT Policing through education, awareness, and neighbourhood-level engagement.

Together, ACT Policing and NHW ACT continue to strengthen their partnership through initiatives like the Cop Pop-Up program, ensuring the community has accessible opportunities to connect, ask questions, and learn about safety in a friendly and supportive setting.



Clare McGrath OAM, ACT Vice President North and ACT Policing officers supporting the Dickson community

Hardware Meets Home Safety during NHW Week

Residents across the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) had the opportunity to connect, ask questions, and learn more about creating safer and more inclusive communities during Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Week and Crime Prevention Week 2025.

Continuing their partnership with Bunnings, NHW ACT hosted community information stands at two busy locations, Bunnings Tuggeranong and Bunnings Belconnen.

The steady flow of customers created valuable opportunities for residents to stop by, start conversations, and collect practical resources to support creating safer homes and neighbourhoods.

NHW volunteers were on hand to answer questions, guide residents through available resources, and discuss everyday safety concerns. Printed materials on home and personal safety were available, offering clear and practical guidance that residents could put into action.

NHW Week and Crime Prevention Week 2025 helped strengthen awareness of local safety services and reinforced the importance of community-led prevention. By taking information directly to the public in familiar, high-traffic settings, NHW ACT ensured safety messages reached a broad and diverse cross-section of the community.



ACT Vice President South Albert Orszaczky, and NHW Area Coordinator Rudi Schneider Pearce, ready to engage with visitors at Bunnings Tuggeranong



Attendees at the ACT Members Forum presented by NHW Hawker/ Weetangera Area Coordinator Melissa Ricketts

Building Communication Capability: NHW ACT Members Enhance Skills with Canva Training

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Australian Capital Territory (ACT) recently hosted a Members Forum focused on building confidence in creating clear and consistent communication materials using Canva.

The session supported members to develop practical skills to produce flyers, newsletters, presentations, and social media content that promote NHW activities and strengthen community engagement, without the need for design experience.

Led by Hawker/Weetangera NHW Area Coordinator Melissa Ricketts, the forum provided a guided

introduction to Canva's basic features, including simple templates, colour choices, and layout tools to create professional-looking materials. The session demonstrated how these tools can save time and support consistent messaging across NHW communications.

NHW ACT Facebook Coordinator Sharon Leigh-Hazell also shared how Canva is used by the ACT

Facebook team to support regular safety messaging and maintain community interest. She encouraged local NHW groups to explore using simple digital tools including Canva, to support their communication. The forum reinforced NHW ACT's commitment to supporting members with practical skills that enhance communication, confidence, and community connection.

NHW NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES



NHW Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby committee member David Beale, President Julia Eagles, Secretary Gay Balasubramanian, Committee Members Wal Knowles and Ben Campbell, Vice President Simon Lennon, and volunteer Jimmy Lennon

Volunteer Insights Shape the 2026 Strategy

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby recently conducted a volunteer survey, with twenty participants providing valuable insight into community concerns, motivations and priorities to help guide the 2026 Strategy Plan.

The findings highlighted that personal safety, preventing break-ins, scams, fraud and threats to online identity remain the most pressing concerns for the community. Looking ahead, volunteers identified home security and emerging technology as key priorities. This reflects the growing community uptake of video doorbells, CCTV, smart lighting and alarms, GPS trackers and digital identity tools, and the increasing need for clear, practical guidance on how to use them safely and responsibly.

In response, a key initiative will be the release of a practical technology paper drawing on our "Top 20 Technology Safety Tips". These tips cover a wide range of topics, from smart security cameras and visible deterrents, to protecting digital wallets and online identity, securing home Wi-Fi, reducing parcel theft, registering CCTV with police, using emergency apps and protecting keyless vehicles.

The tips reinforce that while technology can strengthen

security, connected neighbours and responsible reporting remain at the heart of crime prevention.

The survey results will also directly inform NHW Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby's materials, events and advocacy efforts over the next 12 months. By aligning our focus with what the community cares about most, we aim to strengthen our impact and standing as a trusted partner in local crime prevention.



Lights, Camera, Catch 'Em

Break, enter and stealing incidents can have a serious impact on families and individuals in different ways. People can often feel violated and have difficulty overcoming the experience. By implementing these recommendations and adequately securing your home, you can reduce the likelihood of this crime occurring.

- **LOCK IT** – Make sure doors and windows are locked and secured. Do not leave keys in locks. Consider shatterproof glass or protective film. Consider installing metal shutters.
- **ALARM IT** – Ensure the alarm is visible from the street, makes a loud noise and is linked to a security monitoring service.
- **LIGHT IT** – Install security sensor lights around the perimeter of the property.
- **RECORD IT** - Modern CCTV cameras and recording equipment are a cost effective preventative measure and powerful investigative tool. Display security warning signs around the property to deter offenders.

Pack away garden tools and always keep them in a locked shed or garage so they can't be used to break into your home. Landscaping should be maintained regularly with trees and shrubs trimmed away from doors and windows. This limits concealment and increases natural surveillance of your property.

Hide your valuables

- Don't leave keys or wallets near the door where they can be seen by offenders.
- Keep valuables somewhere hard to find.
- Never hide keys outside the house. Have a duplicate set of keys with someone you trust.
- Engrave, use ultraviolet pen or microdots on personal property.

When you go away

- Ask someone to collect your mail so the mailbox doesn't overflow.
- Keep a light on inside.
- Get someone to water your plants and generally check on your house.
- Let your neighbours know you're going away.

By following the steps above and staying vigilant you can help to reduce crime.

If you believe you have been a victim of crime, report it immediately:

- In an emergency, contact 000
- In person at the Police Station
- Police Assistance Line - 131 444
- Crime Stoppers - 1800 333 00

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

When Communities Gather, Ideas Flourish



Every two years, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) organisations gather for a national conference, to connect, share experiences and strengthen their shared commitment to creating safer, more connected communities.

Held under the theme *Flourish*, the 2025 Conference encouraged participants to think boldly about the future of neighbourhood-based safety and the value of telling community stories well. Keynote speaker Monique Bradley opened the conference with practical insights into how storytelling can build confidence and bring messages to life. Broadcaster Hilary Barry followed with reflections from her career, offering thoughtful perspectives on resilience, public engagement and managing criticism.

Workshops throughout the conference explored practical challenges faced by community organisations, including youth inclusion, privacy obligations,

emerging technologies, emergency response and effective engagement with local government. Sessions included *Strengthening Communities Through Youth Inclusion* presented by Selena Wong from NSNZ North Shore, and *AI Simplified* led by Joseph Morgan from NanoTech IT. A particularly powerful session reflected on leadership and coordination during Cyclone Gabrielle, led by Mary Moore from NSNZ Hastings and Anaru Graham from New Zealand Police.

Collaboration remained a central theme, reinforced through panel discussions on strengthening partnerships between community groups, government agencies and emergency services.

The panel featured Superintendent Andrew Mortimore from New Zealand Police, alongside representatives from Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Auckland Council, Volunteering New Zealand and the National Emergency Management Agency.

The conference concluded with an awards presentation recognising outstanding contributions across the NSNZ network, celebrating both long-standing leadership and emerging community champions.

Attendees left the conference energised and encouraged, returning to their communities with new ideas, practical tools and a renewed sense of purpose.

From Television to Radio: One Message About Neighbourhood Safety

September brought new opportunities for Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) to share its message of connection and community safety.

Through a national television appearance and the launch of a weekly podcast, the organisation continued to highlight how simple neighbourly actions can strengthen communities and reduce the risk of crime.

NSNZ Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Louise Grevel appeared in a live interview on Seven Sharp, bringing the organisation's message to a nationwide audience. The story focused on one of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce the risk of burglary: getting to know your neighbours.

Drawing on burglary statistics from New Zealand Police, the segment explored how everyday relationships can play a powerful role in crime prevention. During the interview, Louise spoke about Neighbourhood Support's

mission and shared practical, low-cost tips for improving home and community safety. The story reinforced the idea that neighbours who are aware and connected remain one of the most effective forms of security.

September also marked the launch of a new weekly podcast, *The Neighbourhood Support Report*. Hosted by NSNZ Ambassador Senior Constable Bryan Ward and broadcaster Nick Rado, the podcast grew out of Bryan's regular segment on More FM Rodney.

Recognising that many listeners were unable to tune in live, the pair created the podcast available on Spotify to ensure the content is available and accessible. Each episode runs for five to seven minutes and features crime prevention advice, community wellbeing insights and relaxed conversation.



Auckland

Louise Grevel, NSNZ CEO, on Seven Sharp

Be a Grate Mate, Adopt a Drain



Kahlia MacDougal, NS Tamaki Makarau; Natalie Jessup, Awhi Awa-Endangered Species; Sascha Bailey, Grafton Residents Association Chair; Anne Mouat, Grafton Residents Association Committee Member; Tahī Mapp Boren, NS Albert-Eden and Puketapata; Tiffany Crombie, NS Orakei and Waitemata

Neighbourhood Support (NS) has launched the Adopt a Drain initiative to encourage residents to take simple, practical steps to help keep drains clear, reduce flooding and protect local waterways. By adopting a drain on their street and checking it regularly for leaves and rubbish, neighbours are helping prevent blockages before heavy rain hits.



The initiative has received strong local support, including from the Waitematā Local Board and the Grafton Residents Association. Armed with boots and rakes, local residents have been rolling up their sleeves and working together to care for their streets and shared spaces.

NS has also welcomed the involvement of the Endangered Species Foundation (Awhi Awa). Their support adds an important environmental dimension to the initiative, with opportunities to learn more about caring for waterways and the native species that depend on them. Looking ahead, there are plans to collaborate on future *Adopt a Drain* projects across the motu (country).

NS Grafton's efforts are a strong reminder that small, everyday actions can make a real difference. By working together to keep drains clear, neighbours are helping to reduce flooding, protect the environment and strengthen connections within their community.



New Videos Highlight the Power of Neighbourhood Support

Kate Grevel; New Lynn Community Constable NZ Police; Louise Grevel, NSNZ CEO; Massey Community Constable NZ Police; Kahlia McDougall, NSNZ; Kelsey Ardern, NSNZ; Hadyn Jones, Mr Jones and Content; and Kiran Cordeiro, NSNZ

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) has launched the first of three new videos designed to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Support (NS) and encourage people across the country to connect with those living around them.

The video series focuses on a simple but powerful message: **strong neighbourhood connections help create safer, more resilient and more connected communities.** The first video highlights that one of the most effective steps anyone can take to improve local safety is getting to know their neighbours. From a crime prevention perspective, neighbours remain one of the most reliable and accessible forms of security.

Viewers are encouraged to visit the NS website, where they can access a wide range of practical safety tips and advice. The campaign also invites viewers to take the next step by reaching out and joining their local NS group.

With a limited budget, the campaign took a distinctly

community-led approach. NSNZ team members, family and friends generously stepped in to feature in the video, bringing authenticity and warmth to the message. The filming process became a community experience in its own right. Special thanks were extended to Hadyn Jones for his patience, expertise and guidance throughout the project, helping bring the campaign to life with care and professionalism.

The video was further strengthened through the support of key partners, including New Zealand Police and Fire and Emergency New Zealand, who appeared in the video and shared it across their social media channels. Their involvement helped significantly extend the campaign's reach.

The response to the first video has been overwhelmingly positive, with more than 93,000 views and 187 shares recorded. The strong engagement reflects a clear appetite for positive, people-focused messages about community connection and safety, and sets a promising foundation for the remaining videos in the series.



NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND

Working Together for Community Safety in Carseldine

Carseldine NHW Area Coordinator Bill Nancarrow, NHW Queensland mascot Seymour and Carseldine NHW volunteer Doc Houston

Carseldine 4 Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) played an active role during Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Watch Week 2025, delivering two successful community events in partnership with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Bunnings.

Together, these activities strengthened local connections, promoted practical crime prevention, and demonstrated the value of community, police, and business working side by side.

The week began at Bunnings Carseldine, where Carseldine 4 NHW joined QPS and Bunnings staff for a well-attended community engagement event that also marked the launch of the QPS Tool Theft Prevention Strategy. Tradies and local residents stopped by throughout the morning to learn more about preventing theft and protecting tools and vehicles, with the relaxed setting encouraging open conversation and shared learning.

Carseldine 4 NHW volunteers were a visible presence on the day, engaging with community members under the group's marquee and discussing local safety issues, the role of NHW, and ways residents and businesses can work together to reduce crime. The event also provided an opportunity to grow local connections

through the group's online channels, supporting ongoing communication beyond the day itself.

Building on this momentum, Carseldine 4 NHW hosted a community barbecue at Bunnings Virginia the following weekend. Supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, the event combined fundraising with hands-on crime prevention. A popular feature was the anti-theft number plate screw service, coordinated with police support, which provided a simple and effective security upgrade for vehicles in the local area.

The day also highlighted positive engagement between police and the community, with police recruits volunteering their time alongside NHW members. Their involvement was warmly received and reflected a shared commitment to community service and prevention.

Funds raised through the barbecue have since been reinvested directly into local safety initiatives, including the purchase of additional anti-theft number plate screws to support future crime prevention activities.

Kangaroo Point NHW Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Kangaroo Point Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) marked a significant milestone in 2026, celebrating 25 years of supporting safer, more connected, and inclusive communities.

Established in 2001, the group has grown steadily and now connects with more than 650 residents through its email network.

Regular bi-monthly meetings and dinners at the Story Bridge Hotel have become important points of connection, providing residents with opportunities to stay informed about safety and security while strengthening local relationships.

The group's continued success reflects the commitment of its committee, whose collective efforts have supported growth, consistency, and strong community engagement. Led



Kangaroo Point NHW committee members and volunteers

by Area Coordinator Amanda Spink, the committee works together to ensure residents benefit from practical safety information, local connection, and a supportive neighbourhood culture.

To mark the anniversary, Kangaroo Point NHW hosted a Committee and Friends dinner,

giving members and supporters the opportunity to reflect on the group's achievements and shared history. Celebrations will continue throughout the year at regular meetings and dinners, recognising the dedication and community spirit that have guided the group through 25 successful years.

Kumbia NHW Celebrate their Officer in Charge

A significant milestone was celebrated in 2025 when Officer in Charge, Leading Senior Constable Todd Armstrong, was recognised as the 2024 Police Member of the Year for the Darling Downs District.

The award was presented at a Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) gathering by Queensland Police Service (QPS) Assistant Commissioner Kev Guteridge and Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Southern Region, Kerry Johnson. As the first Kumbia Officer in Charge to receive this honour, the local NHW group ensured the occasion was both meaningful and reflective of the community's pride in his achievement.

The evening highlighted the importance of strong, respectful relationships between police and the communities they serve.



QPS Assistant Commissioner, Kev Guteridge; QPS Leading Senior Constable, Todd Armstrong; and QPS Acting Assistant Commissioner, Southern Region, Kerry Johnson

Both Commissioners spoke with members about their own experiences working in regional areas and the value of community connection in effective policing. The event also included light-hearted moments, reinforcing that community policing is built on approachability, teamwork, and mutual respect.

The presentation marked an important moment for Kumbia NHW and reinforced the shared commitment between police and the community working together to create safer neighbourhoods.

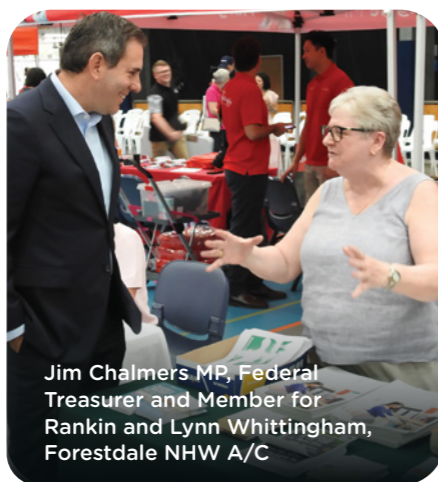
Congratulations to Leading Senior Constable Todd Armstrong on this recognition, and thanks to the Commissioners for their support.

A Proud Day for Forestdale NHW at the Southside Seniors Expo

The Southside Seniors Expo, held in Brisbane on 1 October 2025, brought together more than 600 local seniors, community groups and service providers, creating a lively and welcoming space that reflected a strong sense of community.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Forestdale to connect with residents and highlight the role they play in supporting wellbeing and connection.

During the Expo, NHW Forestdale showcased ways for residents to get involved in local community-safety initiatives and well-loved events such as Christmas in the Park and



Jim Chalmers MP, Federal Treasurer and Member for Rankin and Lynn Whittingham, Forestdale NHW A/C

Coffee with a Cop, which strengthens neighbourhood connections while promoting safety and inclusion.

Forestdale NHW Area Coordinator (A/C) Lynn Whittingham and Secretary Bradley Yates also had the opportunity to discuss their insights with Federal Treasurer and Member for Rankin, Jim Chalmers MP.

Lynn and Jim spoke about the importance of grassroots organisations like NHW in helping build safer, stronger and more inclusive communities. The conversation highlighted how local volunteers and community-led initiatives contribute meaningfully to everyday connection and support.

The meeting and Expo was a proud moment for Forestdale NHW and a positive reflection of the value placed on community organisations.

Community Comes Alive at Shoreline's Movie in the Park

On 27 September, the Shoreline community in Redland Bay came together for an evening filled with laughter, connection and a shared sense of purpose, as eWatch Shoreline, the online evolution of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), partnered with the Shoreline Association for Neighbourhood Development Inc. to host a popular Movie in the Park event.

Held to coincide with National Secure Your Home Day (NSYHD), the event attracted more than 300 residents from across the Redland Bay area. Families and neighbours enjoyed a film under the stars, a range of street food options and the opportunity to meet one another and strengthen connections in this growing community.

The NHW Queensland gazebo became a natural meeting point on the night, prompting friendly conversations



Joy Brackstone, eWatch Shoreline volunteer at Movie in the Park for NSYHD

about home security, personal safety and the increasing importance of online safety. Attendees engaged warmly with the eWatch Shoreline team and made good use of resources provided by Neighbourhood Watch Australasia. The children's colouring competition, information leaflets and small giveaways were particularly well received.

While eWatch Shoreline usually connects neighbours through digital platforms, the event highlighted how online networks can support meaningful face-to-face connections. The evening was a clear reminder that when neighbours take the time to come together, strong community bonds can grow, sometimes beginning with something as simple as a shared movie night.



NHW Bongaree Media Officer Don Fairweather, Committee Member Gerald Clark, Area Coordinator Peter Barrett, and Treasurer Kay Taaffe, with Shred X Team Chris Wilson and Leith Thornton

Turning Old Paper into Peace of Mind

What began as a simple idea has evolved into a trusted community safety initiative, giving residents a secure way to dispose of sensitive documents and reduce the risk of identity theft.

The Bribie Island Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) community shredding day was first introduced on the Gold Coast nine years ago, responding to concerns about safely discarding personal records such as tax documents, correspondence, and business papers. With support from local NHW groups and community partners, Shred-X provided secure shredding services at no cost, with all material recycled after processing. Shredding Day events are held at shopping centres to ensure the service is accessible to the community.

Held annually on the last Saturday in August, the initiative was so successful that it has now been operating annually in numerous locations across the Gold Coast. After Area Coordinator and creator of Shredding Day, Peter Barrett relocated to Bribie Island in 2022, the concept was adapted for a smaller, older community. Working with local police and community partners, the focus remained on prevention through practical action. The Bribie Island shredding day, held on the third Saturday in August, invites residents to securely

dispose of paper documents, X-rays, and photographs. In its first year, around 50 wheelie bins of material were collected, with more than 40 bins filled at the most recent event. Beyond the numbers, the event has highlighted how personal these documents can be. Many residents express relief knowing their information will be destroyed securely and kept out of the public domain. The shredding day demonstrates how simple, community-led initiatives can build trust, reduce risk, and provide practical support.

Mackay NHW Christmas Party Brings Residents Together

The 2025 Mackay Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Community Christmas Party at Shoal Point Park brought residents together for a relaxed and welcoming evening to close out the year. With 111 adults and 27 children attending, the park quickly filled with conversation, laughter, and a strong sense of community and festive spirit.

The event was supported by members of the Queensland Police Service (QPS), along with local council representatives including Councillor (Cr) Amanda Camm and MLA Nigel Dalton. Their presence helped contribute to the friendly atmosphere and reflected the value of community connection. Master of Ceremonies Ian Rowan guided the evening, supported by Frank Cowell, who delivered the Welcome to Slade Point.



Mackay residents and NHW Volunteer Bruce Barnet enjoying the festivities

Santa Mal was a popular highlight for children, arriving on his motorised esky and handing out lollies. Music from DJ Jungle Jim added to the festive mood, with many guests joining in the dancing. A wide range of lucky door prizes kept energy high throughout the evening, while the sausage sizzle, and slices of

Lions Christmas Cake, ensured guests were well catered for.

Support from Mackay Regional Council, Coles Rural View, and Bunnings North Mackay helped make the event a memorable community celebration and reinforced the importance of coming together to build safe and connected communities.

Daisy Hill NHW: 25 Years Strong

Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) marked its 25th anniversary with a celebratory dinner. The evening brought together long-time supporters of the group including residents, volunteers, Councillors, Queensland Police (QPS), and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) staff, several of which have proudly worked alongside Area Coordinator John since the group's establishment.

Key supporters of the celebration included the Honourable Mick de Brenni MP and staff member Fiona Lawson, Logan City Councillor Mindy Russell, QPS representatives, Senior Sergeant Matt Scott and Sergeant



John Devaus, Daisy Hill NHW Area Coordinator and Maria Bennett, NHWA former CEO, presenting on 25 successful years

Rob Crowley, NHWA former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Maria Bennett and Executive Assistant/Project Manager Darcy Hart.

The dinner was generously sponsored by the Lancini

Property Group and provided an opportunity to recognise the volunteers and supporters who have created a safer and more connected community over the past two and half decades.

A light-hearted awards presentation, filled with plenty of laughter as the ladies donned tiaras and the men sported Elton John-style glasses, formally recognised individual contributions to the group, offering a token of gratitude for their dedication. The evening reflected the strong relationships, goodwill, and community spirit that have shaped Daisy Hill NHW over the past 25 years.

Gold Coast District Committee Ends 2025 on a High

The Gold Coast District Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Committee delivered and participated in a range of community-focused events between August and November 2025, with activities centred on connection, prevention, and collaboration across the region.

Community shredding days held at Robina, Coomera, and Runaway Bay once again attracted strong participation, providing residents with a secure way to dispose of sensitive documents and X-rays. Delivered in partnership with Shred-X, the three events collected 11.6 tonnes of material, which were safely disposed of, while creating valuable opportunities for community members to directly engage with NHW volunteers about local safety concerns.

Gold Coast NHW groups also came together for the annual Connection Day, a full-day forum for shared learning and open discussion. With contributions from Queensland Police (QPS), Crime Prevention teams, Crime Stoppers, and the Queensland Fire Service (QFS), the day focused on current crime trends and practical safety issues, including the safe and lawful use of e-bikes and e-scooters.

In October, collaboration with Upper Coomera State College supported the delivery of a ThinkUKnow presentation during Get Online Week, bringing students, parents, and community members together to build awareness around online safety and the prevention of online child exploitation.

The City of Gold Coast Safer Suburbs Awards recognised individuals and groups who contribute to safer, more connected neighbourhoods. The 2025 awards celebrated 40 nominees across individual and group categories, with several Gold Coast NHW groups and the District Committee represented. The nominations highlighted a wide range of community-led efforts, including prevention initiatives, volunteer leadership, and sustained local engagement.

The NHW Queensland State Conference provided a further opportunity to recognise local contribution, with District Committee member Nancy Cooper nominated for the South East Region NHW Community Member Award. Her work with local seniors' groups and crime prevention initiatives reflects the broader commitment across the district to practical, community-led safety.



NHW Gold Coast Volunteers on Shredding Day



Connection Day, 2025 featuring Gold Coast NHW Groups, QPS, Crime Stoppers and QFS



Acting Sergeant Margaux O'Reilly, QPS, delivering a ThinkUKnow presentation during GOLW at Upper Coomera State College



Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate, Gold Coast District NHW Committee Members Jean Greatbanks (Secretary) and Rhys Macfarlane (President), with Acting Chief Superintendent Brett Jackson, QPS

Harrisville NHW Marks Thirty-Five Year Milestone

Harrisville Rural Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) marked 35 years of volunteer service in August 2025, celebrating the long-standing partnership between the community and local police. The anniversary event, held at the historic Harrisville Hall, brought together past and present committee members, local students, community organisations, and long-time supporters.



Sergeant Jesse Shaw, Officer in Charge Harrisville Police, Seymour, NHW Queensland Mascot, and Pam Lobwein, President Harrisville Rural NHW

A 35-year commemorative plaque was presented to Sergeant Jesse Shaw, Officer in Charge of the Harrisville Police Station, and Harrisville NHW President Pam Lobwein, who has collaborated closely with police since its formation. The presentation highlighted the shared commitment between NHW and local police to encourage community engagement, prevention, and trust. Special acknowledgement was given to President Lobwein for her long-term leadership and detailed record-keeping, and to Sergeant Shaw and executive

committee members Marlene, Gina, and Leanne for their ongoing dedication.

Community safety partnerships were a central feature of the event, with information stands from NHW and Crime Stoppers, as well as interactive displays from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. These exhibits provided opportunities for residents to engage directly with safety agencies and learn more about crime prevention and emergency response.

Dignitaries including the Honourable Scott Buchholz MP and Councillor Jacob Madsen

joined former and current Harrisville police officers and members of the Harrisville Historical Society, reinforcing the importance of strong community relationships. Young community members enjoyed a range of activities throughout the morning, including a themed escape room and tunnel ball. The celebration concluded with a surprise visit from Seymour the Owl and the announcement of the colouring competition winners, bringing a positive close to a milestone event grounded in partnership and shared purpose.

Have a Coffee Break, Not a House Break

Thousands of Ipswich residents were reached with practical crime prevention advice through a short digital campaign promoting simple steps to improve home and vehicle security. The initiative was delivered by the Ipswich District Crime Prevention Unit, with support from police media teams and sponsorship from Bendigo Bank Rosewood.

Originally developed as a cinema advertisement, the content was adapted for online use and shared through a targeted Netflix social media campaign, where it attracted more than 31,000 views. The strong response demonstrated the value of presenting clear, practical safety messages in formats that fit easily into everyday life.

The digital campaign coincided with National Secure Your Home Day,



Volunteer in Policing (ViP) Vanessa, Ipswich District NHW volunteer Pam Lobwein, Queensland Police Service Senior Constable Shantelle Dowell, and ViP Imogen, at Ripley Square

providing a timely opportunity to reinforce the messaging through direct community engagement. On the final weekend of September, crime prevention personnel and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteers met with residents at

several local shopping centres, answering questions and sharing practical advice in a relaxed, accessible setting.

As a light-hearted reminder, coffee cups printed with the message "Have a Coffee Break, Not a House Break" were distributed, encouraging residents to pause and consider small actions that can make a meaningful difference to home security.

By combining digital outreach with face-to-face conversations, the initiative ensured crime prevention advice reached a broad cross-section of the Ipswich community and supported residents to take simple, proactive steps to protect their homes and vehicles.

A Community Celebration with Safety at Heart

Twin Waters Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) located on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, caters to a community of around 1,400 homes.

Each year, local residents come together to celebrate the anniversary of the community, which is now approaching 25 years since its establishment.

This annual celebration provides a valuable opportunity for Twin Waters NHW to connect with residents and promote safer practices in a relaxed, family-friendly setting. This year, the group used the occasion to support National Secure Your Home Day, sharing practical messages about home safety with community members of all ages.



Twin Waters NHW Treasurer Julie Glover, Assistant Area Co-ordinator Jenny Masche, and volunteer Merryl Berry, with Crime Stoppers, SES, and local residents

Children took part in a range of activities designed to introduce simple security concepts in a fun and engaging way. These included building and colouring activities, safety-themed booklets, guessing competitions and hands-on games

that encouraged discussion about how to make homes safer. While the children were busy, volunteers also had the chance to speak with adults about everyday security habits, including the importance of locking up and looking out for one another.

NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NHW SA Celebrates 40 Years of Community Commitment

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) South Australia (SA) marked its 40th anniversary with a special awards ceremony recognising the long-standing contributions of volunteers and police.

Ben Williams, NHW Volunteers Association SA Inc. Board of Management President, Pauline Cother 2025 Presidents Award Winner, and Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Police

The event included presentations from South Australia Police Water Operations and the Honourable (Hon) Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Police, who presented the President's Award to Kingston South East volunteer Pauline Cother. During Pauline's seventeen years of dedicated service, she has led many practical safety initiatives, including improving road safety for gopher users and securing funding to stencil reflective house numbers on street kerbs, supporting faster and more accurate responses by emergency services.

Aileen and Robert Eldridge from Para Hills NHW were jointly recognised as Volunteers of the Year for more than two decades of continuous involvement. Their key contributions include hosting annual NHW sessions at a local primary school and working with student leaders to promote community safety and crime prevention awareness.

More than 150 attendees joined in celebrating the four decades of contributions NHW SA has made to strengthening community connection and safety.

South Australia police officers' merit awards

- Senior Constable First Class Bridgette Barendregt (Eastern District Community Engagement)
- Senior Constable First Class David Brown (Murray Mallee Crime Prevention Section)
- Constable Cassandra Herkiloglu (Northern District Community Engagement)
- Senior Constable First Class Nancy Johns (Police Coordinator Area 461 Happy Valley / O'Halloran Hill)
- Brevet Sergeant Bruce Lawton (Police Coordinator Area 222 Hope Valley / Highbury)
- Sergeant First Class Deborah Luetkens (Barossa Region Crime Prevention Section)



SA police officers, Sergeant First Class Deborah Luetkens, Senior Constable First Class David Brown, Brevet Sergeant Bruce Lawton, and Senior Constable First Class Bridgette Barendregt, recognised at the anniversary awards

Volunteer Certificate of Commendation

- Rodney Beames (Area 150 West Beach)
- Tanya Rendulic (Area 277 Whyalla)
- Penelope Campbell (Area 84 Hectorville)
- Jeanette Conroy (Area 277 Whyalla)
- Arlene Jones (Area 428 Klemzig)
- Elizabeth Minuzzo (Area 300 Dernancourt)
- James Phillips (Area 461 Happy Valley / O'Halloran Hill)
- Ian Polkinghorne (Area 111 Gawler East)
- Phil Tavender (Area 222 Hope Valley / Highbury)
- Shirley Tink (Area 33 Lockleys)
- Ben Williams (Area 227 Whyalla Stuart)
- Raelene Williams (Area 277 Whyalla)
- Robyn Williams (Area 428 Klemzig)
- Mervyn Gerschwitz (Area 111 Gawler East)

Volunteer Certificate of Merit

- Matthew Curnow (Area 453 Flagstaff Hill)
- Margaret Kneebone (Area 272 Goolwa)
- Claire Lovelock (Area 428 Klemzig)
- Anthony McWhinney (Area 272 Goolwa)
- Roger Porter (Area 55 Sefton Park)
- Robert Eisen (Area 40 Murray Bridge)
- Jock MacGill (Area 40 Murray Bridge)
- Area 406 Woodcroft

Volunteer/s of the Year

- Robert and Aileen Eldridge (Area 441 Para Hills)

President's Award

- Pauline Cother (Kingston South East NHW)



Keeping Safety on Track

Louise Miller Frost MP, Alex Dighton MP, Darren Bailhache, Marilyn Ravell and Tim Hoopmann at the upgraded Marino Railway Station

The three-year, \$2.7 million community-led upgrade of Marino Railway Station is now complete, delivering meaningful safety and accessibility improvements for commuters in Adelaide's southern suburbs.

Led by Marino and Kingston Park Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), the project was powered by close collaboration between volunteers, residents, local businesses, and elected representatives. Volunteers gathered community feedback, worked with stakeholders, and maintained momentum throughout the campaign to secure funding and deliver lasting improvements. The upgrade has resulted in improved visibility, quicker access to assistance, and a safer station environment.

Ten live CCTV cameras now provide coverage across the platform, pedestrian tunnels, and the Newland Avenue car park, supporting real-time monitoring and evidence

gathering. These measures are complemented by upgraded lighting throughout the precinct, reducing concealment points and improving natural surveillance, particularly during early morning and evening services. A 24-hour emergency phone enhances safety by providing passengers with direct access to assistance.

Additional improvements include a new information monitor displaying real-time service updates, tactile markers to support people with vision impairment, and a new all-weather platform structure to improve comfort and encourage appropriate use of waiting areas.

Former Marino and Kingston Park NHW Coordinator Darren Bailhache

acknowledged the contributions of volunteers, residents, businesses, and supporting representatives, noting the importance of sustained community involvement over the life of the project.

State Member for Black, Alex Dighton, recognised the upgrade as an important outcome for local safety and commuter confidence, commending the proactive advocacy of Marino and Kingston Park NHW.

Ongoing community feedback has already informed the next stage of upgrades, with additional seating planned at both ends of the platform to better support mobility access and passenger comfort.

The Partnership that Built Woodcroft NHW

Woodcroft Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is a long-standing and active community group whose origins reach more than 3,500 kilometres to New Zealand; where the partnership of Shona and Rodney Morgan first began.

The couple moved to Australia in 1986 and settled in Woodcroft the following year. Soon after arriving, Shona experienced a serious allergic reaction that left her reliant on a wheelchair. When their daughter later broke her arm on her first day of school, Shona found herself navigating an unfamiliar suburb without local contacts. The experience prompted her to take action.

Shona contacted the Happy Valley Council and began volunteering to assemble information packs for new residents, a role that quickly grew into advocacy for practical safety and accessibility improvements, including footpaths, traffic lights, and pedestrian crossings.

After noticing a NHW sign, Shona contacted local police to learn more about the program. Her persistence led to the formal establishment of Woodcroft NHW in 1995. As the suburb expanded from around 300 homes to more than 4,000, meetings regularly filled the Woodcroft Neighbourhood Centre, with residents seeking advice on safety and local issues.

Rodney supported the group by knocking on doors across the suburb and coordinating the production and distribution of the group's bimonthly newsletter, helping maintain strong communication and connection.

Although Shona did not seek a leadership role, originally intending to contribute as Treasurer, she stepped forward when the group needed her and served diligently as Area Coordinator until August 2021. During this time, she worked closely with residents and police to deliver practical, impactful community safety initiatives.

Reflecting on their involvement, Shona said NHW helped them build strong local connections and support others facing similar challenges. The foundations laid by Shona and Rodney continue to shape the strength and success of Woodcroft NHW today.



Founding Woodcroft NHW members Shona and Rodney Morgan

From Awareness to Action: NHW SA Launches New Home Security Campaign

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) South Australia (SA) has launched a new statewide campaign encouraging residents to take simple, practical steps to strengthen home security and reduce opportunities for crime.

The campaign combines clear advice with easy access to tools and resources available through the NHW SA website, supporting householders to improve security without added cost.

At the centre of the campaign is the Home Security Habits Quiz, a short ten-question tool designed to highlight small changes that can make a meaningful difference. In just a few minutes, residents can identify common vulnerabilities, adopt no-cost solutions, and reduce the risk of break-ins. The quiz is available at: www.police.sa.gov.au/nhw/home-security-habits-quiz

NHW SA State Coordinator Kirsty Mudge said the campaign is designed to extend access to reliable crime prevention information across the state, including to areas without established NHW groups.

While face-to-face advice from local volunteers remains highly valued, Ms Mudge noted that statewide campaigns play an important role in ensuring all South Australians can access clear, practical guidance that is easy to understand and implement.

Prevention remains the most effective way to reduce the financial and emotional impact of break-ins.

The campaign focuses on everyday security habits, alongside lesser-known measures that can make a property less attractive to offenders, such as planting thorny shrubs beneath windows to deter access.

To maximise reach, campaign messaging is being delivered through digital advertising, posters in community venues, and letterbox drops across SA.



NHW TAS

TASMANIA



Junior Cordial with a Cop - A New Innovation

TASPOL S/C Brett Bowering, TASPOL Commissioner Donna Adams, Bunnings Activities Organiser Lindy Jackson, and NHW Area Coordinator Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill Stephen Bourke

Community connection and positive engagement were at the heart of a lively family event in Mornington, Tasmania, where the first Cordial with a Cop was held.

The event provided children and young families with a welcoming opportunity to meet local police, take part in hands-on activities, and learn about safety in a relaxed and friendly setting.

The event featured a range of interactive experiences, including police motorcycles and patrol vehicles, fingerprinting activities, and appearances by special officers Kate and Sam. These attractions proved popular with young visitors and helped create an approachable environment where children could explore, ask questions, and build familiarity with their local police. Police involvement was coordinated by Senior Constable (S/C) Brett Bowering, whose support ensured a strong and engaging presence throughout the day.

Bunnings Mornington contributed to the success of the event by offering face painting, a junior woodwork workshop, and plenty of cordial, adding to the festive atmosphere. Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteers supported the day by cooking sausages and assisting families as they moved between activities, reinforcing the sense of community connection that underpinned the event.

The concept for Cordial with a Cop was envisioned several months earlier during a Cuppa with a Cop gathering at Bunnings Mornington. Conversations between Bunnings Activities Organiser Lindy Jackson, Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill Area Coordinator, Stephen Bourke, Tasmania Police

(TASPOL) Inspector Andrew Kean, and Deputy Mayor Allison Ritchie explored ways to create a similar opportunity tailored specifically for children. From this collaboration, Cordial with a Cop emerged as a dedicated initiative focused on building trust and positive relationships between young people and police.

The strong response from families, volunteers, and police highlighted the value of accessible, community-led engagement. With planning already underway for future events, Cordial with a Cop is set to continue as a practical and welcoming way to strengthen connections between children, families, and the officers who serve their community.



The Next Generation of Safe and Connected Communities in Tasmania

The 2025 NHW Award recipients and calendar drawing competition winners with Maria Bennett, former NHWA CEO and Peter Edwards, NHW TAS President

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Tasmania (TAS) will mark an important milestone in October 2026, celebrating 40 years since the first NHW group was established at Risdon Vale in 1986.

As NHW TAS prepares to celebrate this anniversary, the milestone offers a chance to reflect on the past, but also to look ahead. Central to the anniversary year will be the continuation of the annual calendar drawing competition for primary school students, a long-standing initiative that captures the spirit of NHW through the eyes of the next generation.

For 2026, the calendar competition theme will concentrate on 40 years of NHW TAS, while continuing its consistent focus on what it means to be a good neighbour. The competition has become a flagship activity, engaging children and young families in ideas of kindness, awareness, and shared responsibility, and reinforcing the values that have underpinned NHW since its beginnings.

The strength of this connection between past and future was evident again in 2025, when children from across Tasmania expressed their understanding of neighbourhood connection through their artwork. The winning entries now feature on the cover and monthly pages of the 2026 NHW TAS calendar, with runner-up drawings also included in a special montage. Together, the artworks form a visual celebration of community, creativity, and continuity.

The calendar competition winners were recognised at a presentation ceremony held alongside the annual NHW TAS Awards event, bringing together children, families, volunteers, and members in a shared celebration.

As NHW TAS approaches its 40th anniversary, the calendar drawing competition stands as a fitting

tribute to the organisation's legacy. Through the creativity of children and the involvement of families and volunteers, it reflects both the history and the promise to the communities it will continue to support in the years ahead.



To enter this year's competition, scan this QR code

Cuppa with a Cop: Small Conversations, Stronger Community Trust

Policing in Australia is grounded in public trust and strong relationships between police and the communities they serve. Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) supports this model by working alongside police to prevent crime and create opportunities for connection at the everyday, grassroots level.



Malcolm McArthur, NHW Old Beach Area Coordinator, Peter Edwards, NHW Tasmania President, Tasmania Police Constables Taylee Carr and Rachel Fellowes, Councillor Phil Owen, and Phil and Fiona at the Old Beach CWAC

Cuppa with a Cop (CWAC) has grown into a simple but meaningful way to develop these connections, offering space for conversation that is social, informal, and open to everyone.

This approach was recently embraced by one of Tasmania's newest NHW groups in Oatlands. As a small regional town, Oatlands relies strongly on community relationships, making it a natural fit for neighbourhood-led engagement.

After the installation of new NHW signs throughout the town, local NHW Coordinator Paul Scowen used the successful CWAC framework as a simple way to introduce the group and bring people together. The local newsagency and milk bar provided the perfect location for CWAC, where residents were invited to stop by, enjoy a coffee, and spend time talking

with police and NHW representatives in a relaxed, familiar setting.

The gathering created an easy starting point for conversation. Locals shared stories, asked questions, and took the opportunity to learn more about NHW and how it supports community safety. For police, it offered a chance to connect outside formal settings and strengthen visibility in a positive, approachable way.

Further south, a CWAC held in Old Beach had a positive outcome for several homeowners who had been recent victims of a home burglary. It was during this event that they learnt about the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Target Hardening Support Offer (THSO), a \$550 rebate available to victims of home burglary in the Bridgewater Police Division. For full terms and conditions, visit: www.nhwa.com.au/targethardening

As both groups continue their missions to create safer and more connected neighbourhoods, the success of their CWAC's sets a strong foundation to build their future work. Demonstrating how small, thoughtful initiatives can help ensure that relationships between police, NHW and residents continue to grow.



For more information on the THSO, scan this QR code

NHW WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A Growing Focus on Community Safety in Kwinana

Each year, the City of Kwinana brings community safety into focus through its Spring Community Safety Series, a program designed to build connection, raise awareness, and support residents to play an active role in creating safer neighbourhoods.

In 2025, the series delivered more than 40 events across the city, reaching a wide cross-section of the community.

Police participated in 14 events throughout the series, providing residents with approachable opportunities to ask questions, discuss concerns, and engage in everyday conversations about safety. Topics ranged from crime prevention and road safety to disaster preparedness and emerging issues such as parcel theft.

Alongside education and engagement, the series offered practical support. Subsidies for CCTV and sensor lighting were available, and the Secure PL8 initiative, originally delivered with support from Neighbourhood Watch, provided anti-theft screws for vehicle number plates, giving residents a simple and effective way to protect their property.

Community feedback played a central role in shaping the program. More than 2,100 responses were received through the Community Safety Survey conducted during September and October, offering valuable insight into local priorities. In November, the city shared survey results and next steps through update videos developed with police, including the introduction of a parcel letterbox subsidy aimed at reducing theft.



Western Australia police officer Anita Davies engaging with community members at the Medina Markets during the Spring Community Safety Series

Safety, Stalls and Shared Conversations

The City of Canning's 2025 Community Safety Expo welcomed upwards of four thousand residents of all ages to connect with local services, ask questions, and learn about practical steps they can take to stay safe.

With a strong focus on preventive actions and creating a shared commitment to looking out for one another, Canning Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteers Kath, Dhan, Frank and Kutty played an important role at the Expo, bridging information, trust and community connection.

At the NHW stall, volunteers shared crime prevention tips, discussed local safety issues, and provided information about how residents can become more involved in their neighbourhoods.

The steady flow of visitors highlighted the value of face-to-face



Kutty Veluthakkal, NHW Volunteer and Shane Mallon, Manager of Community Safety, City of Canning

engagement, providing residents with the opportunity to stop, chat, and seek advice in an informal and approachable

setting. These conversations reinforced the important role NHW volunteers play in creating safer, more connected communities.

Recognising 20 Years of Dedication in Canning

The City of Canning celebrated an important milestone as long-serving volunteer Carol marked 20 years of involvement with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW). Joining in 2005, Carol has become a familiar and trusted presence within the Canning Vale community. Over the two decades of dedicated service, she has helped foster a safer and more connected neighbourhood, supporting residents and contributing to the strong sense of local pride. Her commitment has not only supported crime

prevention efforts but has also helped build trust and connection at a grassroots level.

In recognition of her service, Carol was presented with a commemorative award by Canning NHW, acknowledging the impact of her contributions and the vital role volunteers like Carol play in supporting community safety. Carol's milestone is a reminder of the lasting difference made by long-term volunteers and the strength they bring to their communities.



City of Canning Mascot, Ranger Buddy and NHW Canning Volunteer Carol Filbey



Celebrating 10 Years of Community, Culture and Safety

Neighbourhood Watch Asian Community Services (NHWACS) proudly celebrated its 10th Anniversary alongside Neighbourhood Watch Week with a vibrant community event held at The Rocks, Cannington.

Community leaders, partners, police, NHW members, and performers at the anniversary celebration

The milestone celebration brought together community members, volunteers, performers, partners and supporters to recognise a decade of service dedicated to safety, inclusion and community connection.

Since its establishment, NHWACS has played a vital role in supporting culturally and linguistically diverse communities across Western Australia by strengthening crime prevention awareness, encouraging community participation and fostering positive relationships between residents, local government and police. Over the past ten years, the organisation has grown into a trusted community partner, delivering programs and initiatives that empower communities through education, engagement and collaboration.

The anniversary event showcased the diversity and unity that define NHWACS. Guests were treated to a colourful cultural program featuring performances from multiple communities, including traditional dance, music and intergenerational presentations that reflected the rich cultural fabric of the region. The performances were met with enthusiastic applause and highlighted how culture can be a powerful bridge for understanding and connection.



Cultural performers at the NHWACS Anniversary event

A key highlight of the event was the recognition of volunteers, community leaders and partners who have contributed to NHWACS's success over the past decade. Certificates of appreciation were presented to acknowledge the dedication, commitment and leadership of individuals who continue to strengthen community safety and cohesion. Their contributions have been instrumental in building trust, resilience and shared responsibility within neighbourhoods.

The celebration was proudly supported by the City of Canning and attended by representatives

from NHW, local police and community organisations. With strong attendance and participation, the event reflected the ongoing relevance and impact of NHWACS's work.

As NHWACS looks ahead, the organisation remains committed to building safer neighbourhoods, empowering diverse communities and continuing to serve as a bridge between cultures, services and the wider community. The 10th Anniversary celebration was not only a reflection on past achievements, but a renewed commitment to the years ahead.



Stopping Plate Theft: Anti-theft Screw Events

Atul Garg, Melville NHW Chairperson, with Melville Mayor, Katy Mair

Melville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) hosted successful anti-theft screws events at Bunnings Melville in September and October 2025.

Across the two events, there was a strong community turnout, highlighting local commitment to vehicle security and crime prevention. Throughout the two days, a queue of vehicles kept volunteers busy, with more than 100 cars assisted.

The event focused on replacing standard number plate screws with one-way, anti-theft screws, a simple but effective measure that significantly reduces the risk of number plate theft. By making plates far more difficult to remove, the initiative provided residents with a practical way to protect their vehicles and reduce opportunities for crime.

The events were led by Melville NHW Chair Atul Garg and supported by volunteers Sebastian Mann, Peter Best, and Annie Robins. Mayor Katy Mair, also attended the event and worked alongside the team throughout the day, welcoming residents, assisting at the registration table, and offering hands-on support that reflected the strong partnership between local government and the community.

Despite challenging weather conditions, both events maintained strong momentum, with volunteers distributing NHW information materials and free fruit to residents as they waited. The relaxed, welcoming atmosphere encouraged

conversation and engagement, allowing volunteers to share information about local safety and the role of NHW.

The event was made possible through the support of the City of Melville, Western Australia Police, and Bunnings Melville, which generously provided the venue, free anti-theft screws, and logistical support.

Together, the collaboration demonstrated the value of practical, community-led initiatives in strengthening safety and connection at a local level and reinforced the role of NHW in helping keep Melville a safe and connected community.



the ACADEMY NEWS

from Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia

MARCH 2026



The Spring Festival or Lunar New Year is one of the most important period on the Lunar Calendar. On 21 February, Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia invited community members to ring the Peace Bell at Jin-Gang-Dhyana Temple at Campania, Tasmania, to carry on this tradition.

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