



# NHWA

Official journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia  
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



Neighbourhood  
Watch  
Australasia  
Awards



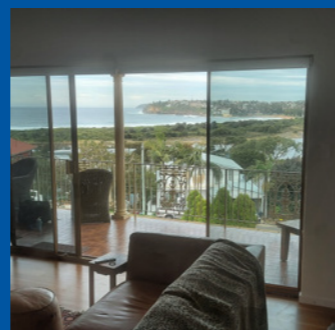
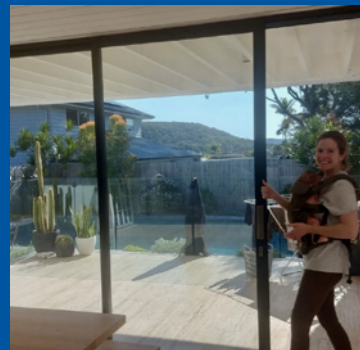
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**SERENITYNOW**  
 SLIDING DOOR REPAIRS  
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After a quick discussion with Cam & some photos, he provided a free quote & set up a time. Cam was friendly, professional & efficient. I highly recommend.  
**JERRY - COLLAROY BEACH**

Some of the best customer service and workmanship I have experienced for years.  
**ZIA - TERRY HILLS**

If I could give 10 Stars I would. Without a doubt one of the best experiences I have had with Tradesmen in my home.  
**JAN - MANLY**

Wow. Serenity Now saved our life. Cam was punctual, straight forward & delivered on time. Fab result and saved us \$10K.  
**TIM - (AOM) COLLAROY**

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# FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

## Welcome to the 2024 summer edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) Journal!

As we wrap up another busy year, I'm excited to share the latest projects and initiatives from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Neighbourhood Support NZ (NSNZ), and our valued partners.



## Celebrating 40 Years of NHW ACT

It is with great pleasure that we acknowledge the remarkable milestone of Neighbourhood Watch ACT celebrating 40 years of service to its community. Since its inception, NHW ACT has been a driving force in fostering safer, more connected neighbourhoods, empowering residents, and enhancing community spirit. This significant anniversary is a testament to the dedication and resilience of all those who have contributed over the years - volunteers, members, and our invaluable partners in ACT Policing.

Congratulations to NHW ACT on four decades of making a real difference. Here's to many more years of strengthening our communities together!



NHW CEO Maria Bennett, NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, and Assistant Minister for Employment, the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, and NHWA Company Secretary Margaret Pearson at the NHW ACT 40th anniversary dinner

## Secure September

The focus this year was all about Crimprovement, how to make your home a less attractive target for burglars and opportunistic thieves. Secure September is a month-long campaign delivered in partnership with Crimsafe to promote safer communities, including the benefits of joining your local Neighbourhood Watch Group. See more page 10.

## National Secure Your Home Day

National Secure Your Home Day (NSYHD) 28, 29 September, is a NHWA initiative developed in collaboration with Dr Renee Zahnow, The University of Queensland. National Secure Your Home Day provides one day a year when householders are encouraged to assess their home security and to implement target-hardening measures to reduce the risk of break and enter crimes.

Thousands of everyday Australians have registered on the National Secure Your Home Day website to receive their free home security assessment Kit, Tips Sheet and more. The event was a resounding success, with nationwide engagement taking place at community and individual levels. National Secure Your Home Day is an annual event on the NHWA calendar - to find out more and to access home security improvement resources go to: [www.secureyourhomeday.com.au](http://www.secureyourhomeday.com.au)

One of the many events held for National Secure Your Home Day, organised by Burwood City Council with the help of library staff and Police, was a session aimed at informing young children on safety around the house.



Children at the Burwood Library doing fun activities with Senior Constable Latu and Clare Wong, with the NHWA Children's Activity Book



NHW CEO Maria Bennett with Queensland Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski presenting the NHWA Awards to Volunteer of the Year Award recipient Daisy Hill Area Coordinator John Devaus, and Police Commissioner's Award recipient Sergeant Nadine Webster APM

## NHW 2023 Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year Award, Police Commissioner's Award, and Community Champion Award

The NHWA 2023 Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner's Awards were presented to Daisy Hill Area Coordinator John Devaus, and Sergeant Nadine Webster APM at a function for family, friends and NHW Volunteers. The Community Champion Award was also presented to Sinead Gilligan at a ceremony in the City of Kwinana, WA.

The NHWA Awards are a highlight of our community, recognising outstanding individuals who go above and beyond to create safer and more inclusive neighbourhoods. The dedication and passion shown by all nominees is truly inspiring, showcasing the importance of strong community and police partnerships in reducing crime and enhancing social cohesion.

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners for their well-deserved recognition, and THANK YOU to all the amazing Volunteers who do great work to our communities safer! See feature article pages 12-13.



Inspector Brent (Reg) Register receives an Appreciation Award, presented on behalf of the NHWA Board by Inspector Brett Callander, NZ Police

## NHW Board Directors

Thank You Brent (Reg) Register, and Welcome Brett Callander.

Reg's dedication during his tenure on the NHWA Board has been instrumental in our success. In recognition of his service, Reg was presented with an Appreciation Award by our incoming Board Director, Brett Callander.

## Get Online Week 2024

Get Online Week (GOLW), 14-20 October 2024. NHWA assisted 29 NHW groups access \$1,000 each in grant funding for their GOLW events. GOLW events support people to feel safer and more confident online. Every year hundreds of fun, local digital skills events are held in communities across Australia.

## 2024-2025 Upcoming Events

### NHW Week 6-12 Nov 2024

NHW and Bunnings have teamed up again this year to bring you the combined Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Week. Optional dates: 28 Oct-3 Nov 2024. All NHW groups are encouraged to hold an event at your local Bunnings this November!

### NHW Month 1-31 March 2025

NHW and Crimsafe will partner up to further awareness about home security. Following on from the three prior successful annual campaigns, the 2025 campaign will continue to build on positive behaviour change messaging to improve home and property security.

### Neighbour Day Sunday 30 March 2025

On the last Sunday in March NHWA will "Create, Share, and Grow Belonging" on Neighbour Day - a day dedicated to connecting with your neighbours and community, presented by Relationships Australia Neighbours Every Day (NED). For more information visit: [www.neighbourseveryday.org](http://www.neighbourseveryday.org) see page 11.

## NHW Holiday Tips

Check out our Holiday Tips centre page pullout and stay safe this festive season.

Stay safe and see you in the New Year!

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

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

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](mailto: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](http://www.nhwa.com.au/donate)

# PATRON, BOARD DIRECTORS & STAFF



## Commissioner Reece P Kershaw APM - Patron

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

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

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

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

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



## Bernie Durkin - Chairman, Western Australia

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



## Margaret Pearson - Company Secretary

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



## Laurie Blackall - Australian Capital Territory

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



## Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale APM - AFP

Deputy Commissioner Gale's passion for combatting all forms of human exploitation and maintaining community safety has been admirably demonstrated throughout her 35 year career, most notably in her previous role as head of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. During her career in the AFP, Deputy Commissioner Gale has combined significant leadership expertise across serious and organised crime and national security portfolios, leading the delivery of business outcomes across AFP Commands in Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane. Deputy Commissioner Gale holds a Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management and was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2019.



## Inspector 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.



## Peter Edwards BM APM - Tasmania

Peter Edwards is a former Commander in the Tasmanian Police Service. He has extensive experience across diverse policing portfolios within his home State, as well as national and international law enforcement representation. He has served as a Detective, Prosecutor, Intelligence Officer and Head of Training. Peter is currently the President of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania.



## Maria Bennett - Chief Executive Officer

Maria has extensive knowledge, management skills and leadership experience in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining NHTWA Maria had a successful career in corporate sales and marketing roles. Previous management roles have provided experience in coordination of major projects and exposure to the differing legislative and regulatory environments involved as well as an awareness of the unique physical and social challenges each location brings.



## Lizzie McGrory - Project Manager & Executive Assistant

Lizzie recently completed her Bachelor of Psychology and Justice (majoring in Criminology and Policing), she is passionate about helping those involved in the justice system, whether it be the treatment of victims or rehabilitation of offenders. She has a strong interest in national security and youth crime, and what can be done to prevent these in our community. Lizzie has a range of experience working in sales and customer service and is excited to be encouraging safer and more connected communities through her role at NHTWA.

# Keeping Your Digital Skills Sharp All Year Round

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

As the year wraps up, here are the latest resources to help you and your community stay sharp with your digital skills.

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

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

## New resource: Which icon is that?

Have you ever wondered what a certain icon on your device means? Our new icon glossary breaks down the most common icons found across your devices and explains exactly what they do.

Whether it's connecting your device to Bluetooth, making video calls or cropping your photos, discover more features available on your device with confidence using our glossary.


Consider downloading the glossary and hanging it up in your community to help those around you identify what different icons mean: [beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/articles-and-tips/icon-glossary](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/articles-and-tips/icon-glossary)

## How to spot an email scam


Fake or phishing emails range from the downright obvious to the alarming lookalikes. Their goal is to trick you into thinking the sender is an organisation you're familiar with or someone you know, in order to get your personal information.

Be Connected's new article on how to spot email scams shares tips to help you spot the red flags, ways to protect yourself and what to do if you think you've received a phishing email and quizzes to put your scam-spotting skills to the test.

Stay scam savvy: [beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/articles-and-tips/how-to-spot-a-fake-email](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/articles-and-tips/how-to-spot-a-fake-email)

















**Be Connected**  
Every Australian online.

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

### Which icon is that?

Get to know some of the features on your smartphone, tablet or computer with the Be Connected guide to common technology icons.

 Power	 Home	 Menu	 Battery
 Wi-Fi	 No Wi-Fi	 Mobile network strength	 Hotspot (iOS)
 Fingerprint unlock	 Location	 Bluetooth	 Flight mode
	 Hotspot (Android)	 Accessibility	

## Upcoming free online presentations

Join a live online presentation to develop your digital skills and keep safe online. Be Connected's free presentations cover a wide range of topics every month.

### Catch one of our final sessions for the year:

- **7 November:** iPhone basics
- **26 November:** Protect yourself against scams
- **28 November:** Safer online shopping - Festive season edition
- **3 December:** Staying safe on Facebook
- **4 December:** Connecting to others
- **5 December:** Apps for smarter travel

Learn more and register your attendance: [beconnected.esafety.gov.au/online-safety-presentations](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/online-safety-presentations)

Whether you want to pick up new skills or dive into a new topic, Be Connected has something to help everyone improve their digital skills.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera (or QR code reader) to the Be Connected website





AFP Detective Superintendent Stephen Jay with some of the HECOs

## Human Exploitation Community Officers: A New Australian Federal Police Capability

The AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) has just launched a new capability with the introduction of Human Exploitation Community Officers (HECOs).

These officers will deliver targeted outreach and education relating to human exploitation, specifically online child sexual exploitation and human trafficking crimes.

Five sworn police officers are now operating in this role in locations across the country. Funded through the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030, HECOs have a community engagement role in delivering dedicated prevention and education initiatives to community groups, schools and members of the public with a strong focus on outreach in regional Australia. HECO's deploy to locations where information suggests these efforts are most needed.

Some of the activities HECOs are involved in include:

- Educating at-risk and vulnerable areas of the community on the prevention and intervention programs at the AFP relating to online child sexual exploitation and human trafficking;
- Engaging community stakeholders to deliver information and promote the work of HECOs through community education initiatives; and
- Building on existing efforts of the ThinkUKnow and Look a Little Deeper (LALD) programs.

To request HECO engagement, email [ACCCE-HECO@afp.gov.au](mailto:ACCCE-HECO@afp.gov.au)

For parents and carers

## Protecting children from sexual abuse online



## Keeping Children Safe Online

Resources to help you talk to children about keeping safe online

The online world offers incredible opportunities, but it also has risks. We need to ensure children are prepared and protected before they start navigating it on their own.

A growing concern in Australia is online child sexual abuse. It's a tough topic, but it's one we need to address head-on.

The eSafety Commissioner, Australia's independent regulator for online safety, has important advice on what you can do and steps you can take to help protect your children.

**What is online child sexual abuse?**

This issue is affecting children of all ages, showing up in ways like non-consensual sharing of intimate images, tech-facilitated child sexual abuse, sexual extortion ('sextortion') and the grooming of a child with the intention to abuse them online or in person.

**With 11% of teens aged 14-17 reporting they've been solicited sexually online, it's more important than ever to create environments where children feel safe to speak up - whether they're at home or school.**

To find out more, visit: [eSafety.gov.au/child-sexual-abuse-online](https://www.esafety.gov.au/child-sexual-abuse-online)

**What can I do?**

Feeling overwhelmed by the online world your child is growing up in? You're not alone.

Whether your child is starting to explore the internet or is already a tech-savvy teen, it's natural to worry about who they're connecting with online and whether they're safe.

**Just like you wouldn't let your child dive into a pool without first teaching them how to swim, it's important to teach them about online safety before they're in too deep.**

eSafety's new resources are specifically designed to help address the growing concern of online child sexual abuse. Here are some steps you can take to protect your child:

- Understand the risks - Start by getting informed. Learn about the potential dangers and how to talk to your child about them in a way that's age-appropriate.
- Use eSafety's new resources - eSafety has developed new resources to help navigate

this difficult topic. These tools guide you through key actions, like discussing who your child connects with online and staying aware of how they use their devices. You'll find practical tips, videos and conversation starters to make these conversations easier.

**As parents, carers, community members and educators, you can take practical steps to make a real difference. eSafety research shows that when we strengthen the support systems around children, we give them the best chance to stay safe online.**

Together, we can ensure children have the support they need to explore the online world safely.

More information on what you can do is available at: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/protecting-children-from-sexual-abuse-online](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/protecting-children-from-sexual-abuse-online)

# Stay Secure this Holiday Season

As the warmer months and holidays approach, many Australians open their doors and windows to enjoy the season, while also leaving them wide open for crims. That's why Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) in partnership with Crimsafe, is reminding homeowners to reassess their home security as we head into the holiday and festive season.

## Why home security matters

NHW and Crimsafe have made it their mission to help homeowners review their home security and live safer.

By taking a few simple steps to review your home's safety, you can reduce that risk significantly. One easy way to start is by using the Secure Score quiz, a quick online tool that gives you a score out of 100, along with practical tips on improving your home's security.

## Secure September

For the third consecutive year, crime prevention partners NHWA and Crimsafe joined forces for Secure September, a month-long national safety campaign designed to inspire Australians to take proactive steps in home security. This year's theme, "Home Crimprovement", delivered a clear and simple message: Make your home a crim's worst nightmare!

**Although any time of year is the right time to check your home's safety, the arrival of warmer weather often creates more opportunities for crims. The goal of Secure September is to help homeowners become more security conscious, implementing simple steps to improve their home security.**

## Simple ways to Crimprove your home

Improving your home security doesn't have to be complicated. Start with easy steps like placing large decoy boots by the front door to make it appear someone is home, or move your bins, and any other potential "ladders" away from fences and windows.



Joining your local Neighbourhood Watch group or creating a Neighbourhood Watch group chat on social apps, can not only boost your feeling of community but also boost your home security.

## Take action before you head on holiday

While the Secure September campaign may have passed, it's never too late to do a simple evaluation of your overall home security and potential weak spots. And it doesn't have to be expensive. Simple steps, such as arranging for a neighbour or friend to collect your mail while you're away, setting up light timers, or using smart plugs to turn on lights and electronics, can create an illusion that someone is at home. The Secure Score quiz will help you audit your home and provide personalised recommendations to keep your home safe during the holiday season.

## How secure is your home?

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

**Exclusive offer:** 15% off Crimsafe Webshop products

To help you get started, Crimsafe are offering 15% off home security products in the Crimsafe webshop! This includes items like home security signage, smart tags, and more to help secure your home affordably and effectively. Head over to the Crimsafe Webshop and use the code NHWA at the checkout to claim your exclusive discount.

**Offer expires: 31 December 2024**



NED Ambassador Costa Georgiadis encourages everyone to create, share and grow belonging!

# Creating Connections, Growing Communities

In today's fast-paced world, the power of community has never been more important.

That's why Relationships Australia is proud to introduce its Neighbours Every Day (NED) campaign for 2024/25, encouraging Australians to "Create, Share, and Grow Belonging" in their communities. Like every year, the campaign will culminate with an annual day of celebration on **Neighbour Day 2025** - taking place on **Sunday March 30, 2025**.

For over seventy-five years, Relationships Australia has worked across Australian communities to support people from all walks of life to build and maintain positive, respectful relationships. Through their work, they have seen first-hand the importance of social connection, and are champions of the idea that strong communities start with individuals. Their updated NED website and resources provide practical tools to help people foster meaningful connections not just on Neighbour Day, but every day of the year.

## It's as easy as 1,2,3!

1. **Visit** [neighbourseveryday.org](http://neighbourseveryday.org)
2. **Access** helpful information, free resources & more to help you plan your event or activity
3. **Create, share & grow belonging!**



Neighbours Every Day | Relationships Australia

**Research shows that regular social interactions reduce loneliness and improve life satisfaction. By building belonging through respectful relationships, communities become more resilient, supportive, and inclusive.**

This year, Relationships Australia's NED campaign challenges everyone to go beyond their immediate circle. It encourages people to embrace

diversity, practice empathy, and create spaces where everyone feels they belong. Whether it's a friendly chat over the fence, organising a community event, or simply reaching out to someone new - every action counts. Neighbours Every Day Ambassador Costa Georgiadis said, "I think you create belonging by making time. And making time is actually as simple as being present."

People are invited to join in on Sunday March 30 2025 for Neighbour Day, the annual celebration of community. But it doesn't stop there - the goal is to make every day a day to grow belonging.

Individuals and community organisations can visit [neighbourseveryday.org](http://neighbourseveryday.org) to access free resources and start building stronger connections today.

Together, communities can be created where everyone belongs.



# 2023 Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Awards

NHWA Board Director Superintendent Rob Fleischer, John Devaus winner Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award, Sergeant Nadine Webster APM winner Police Commissioner's Award, and Steve Gollschewski APM Queensland Police Commissioner

In August, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) held a presentation to recognise and congratulate the Winners of the 2023 NHWA Awards at the Easts Leagues Club.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) CEO Maria Bennett started the presentation welcoming all attendees, which included Queensland Police Service (QPS) officers, family and friends of the winners, and some 2023 NHWA Award nominees. Also present was Hon. Mick de Brenni MP, Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs and Member for Springwood; Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes; NHWA Board Director Superintendent Rob Fleischer; and Acting Senior Sergeant Susan Canniffe, Manager of the Crime Prevention Programs Unit. NHWA was honoured to have Queensland Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski present the awards to the winners.

### The Malcom Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award

The Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has volunteered their time with NHW, empowering people and communities through the development of strong partnerships, reducing the fear of crime and promoting safer communities.

### Winner: John Devaus, Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Watch Queensland

John Devaus is recognised for his significant contribution to NHW for over 23 years, through his tireless work to connect and protect the community by organising countless NHW events, projects, and resources. John has been able to develop and maintain strong community relationships with government and police, which are indicative of his commitment to improving his community.

### Runner Up: Stephen Bourke, Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania

Stephen has shown his commitment to the community, setting up a Facebook page and establishing the local NHW group. Stephen sources grant funding to lead many NHW initiatives, and engages with local politicians on how to make the community more inclusive and safe. Stephen's unquestioned commitment to NHW reflects his desire to create safer communities.



Stephen Bourke Coordinator for Howrah Gardens/Glebe Hill NHW, and Peter Edwards BM APM NHWA Board Director and Tasmania NHW President

### The Police Commissioner's Award

The Police Commissioner's Award is presented in recognition of a Police Officer or Police Service Employee who has worked with NHW groups and actively demonstrated empowering people and communities.

### Winner: Sergeant Nadine Webster APM, Ipswich District, Queensland Police Service

Sergeant Nadine Webster has committed over 22 years to multiple NHW groups, and has

championed numerous community safety initiatives over the years. Nadine has also organised a range of community events for NHW volunteers and the wider community, in addition to the development and distribution of crime prevention resources. Nadine is commended for providing opportunities for NHW members to engage with the community, and providing support and guidance to all members.

### Runner Up: Sergeant Anaru Graham, Hawkes Bay District, New Zealand Police

Sergeant Anaru Graham is an advocate for his community, combining the true essence of community policing with his passion for Neighbourhood Support. Anaru empowers community members to take an active approach, connecting key stakeholders and leaders with a shared vision of community safety and connection. Anaru has also supported a range of NSNZ events, including natural disaster community workshops to educate, and improve community resilience.

### Community Champion Award

In 2023 NHWA recognised the need for a new award; the Community Champion Award. This award is to recognise an individual who has promoted the NHW ethos, while not being a NHW Volunteer or Police employee.

### Winner: Sinead Gilligan, City of Kwinana, Western Australia

Going above her usual duties, Sinead engages to collaborate with police and NHW whenever possible to better serve her community - from sourcing and distributing NHW resources, establishing local projects to address concerns, or supporting activities to get children involved with NHW. Sinead recognises the importance of agencies working together, to achieve the mutual goal of building friendly, connected and safer communities.



Garry Fisher Director City Life City of Kwinana, Sinead Gilligan Community Development Officer, Jenny O'Brien NHW WA State Coordinator, and Bernie Durkin NHWA Chair and NHW WA State Director



Sergeant Anaru Graham, Kelsey Arden NSNZ National Community Advisor, Louise Grevel NSNZ Chief Executive, Kirsty Oliver-Robson NSNZ Marketing and Communications Liaison, and Samasoni Malaulau Acting Manager Community Engagement NZ Police

### 2023 NHWA Award Nominees:

- Darren Buckley, Toowoomba Region, QLD
- Joy Buckley, Toowoomba Region, QLD
- Julie Gliddon, Kwinana WA
- Pam Lobwein, Ipswich QLD
- Robert Ormsby, Gold Coast QLD
- Senior Constable Rob Crowley, Logan District, QLD
- Sergeant Angela Graham, Mudgeeraba QLD
- Senior Constable Mike McDonald, Logan District, QLD

Thank you to all 2023 nominees for your incredible commitment to the wellbeing and safety of your communities, and congratulations on your very well-deserved recognition! Thank you also to the nominators for the Awards, for recognising the outstanding work being done in the community.

The 2024 NHWA Awards are open now, to nominate a worthy recipient or for more information visit: [www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards](http://www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards)



# NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



## Safety Sessions for Canberra's Multicultural Seniors

ACT Policing's Talia Cattuzzo kicking off the session with Membership Secretary Jude Bowman, and Vice President (North) Clare McGrath

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and ACT Policing have assisted the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) in educating various multicultural seniors' groups on personal and community safety, scam awareness, suspicious behaviour, and how to make a police report.

MCCI is a non-profit charity that provides a leadership voice for people and communities from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven and ACT/Queanbeyan regions.

With around 380 staff and volunteers and more than 40 languages spoken, MCCI delivers a range of services including aged care, youth development programs, stakeholder engagement, community capacity building, and training services.

**The safety and personal security sessions, initiated by NHW ACT Vice President (North) Clare McGrath in consultation with MCCI's Social Groups team leader Jacque Kim, Le Hoa, and ACT Policing's Talia Cattuzzo, has created a valuable opportunity to connect with**

**community groups. This initiative which is hoped to become a regular event, fosters ongoing engagement and support for local safety.**

The sessions are sometimes held with the assistance of an interpreter for seniors in the Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Serbian, Italian and Korean community groups who meet socially each week as part of the MCCI program.

The combined input of Neighbourhood Watch, ACT Policing and MCCI have provided for some lively and positive interaction.

Seven sessions ranging from 30 to 60 minutes - depending on the size of the group and the questions raised - were conducted between July and September, and the groups have averaged some 30 to 40 participants with varying degrees of English proficiency.

NHW ACT's Board Secretary, Angela Di Pauli, and Membership Secretary, Jude Bowman, have also attended selected sessions to support Clare, Talia and Le Hoa.

Jacque introduced the NHW and ACT Policing representatives, who promptly made their presentations and fielded questions from their Italian-Australian audience.

Booklets and pamphlets from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and NHW on personal and community safety were distributed, along with UV pens for marking personal property, a small plastic package, and information on how to become a NHW member.

Noticing that many in the audience were unsure about the small packages being handed out, Membership Secretary Jude Bowman playfully opened one and modelled the 'NHW poncho' inside, much to the delight of everyone present!

# ACT Launches 'Outsmart the Offender' Campaign

Following on from Neighbourhood Watch Australasia's 'Target Hardening Support Offer' for victims of home burglary, the ACT government launched an Outsmart the Offender campaign.

The official launch was addressed by ACT Chief Police Officer (CPO) Scott Lee and ACT Minister for Police and Crime Prevention Mick Gentleman MLA. They were supported by NHW ACT Board Secretary Angela Di Pauli, and Chair of ACT Region Crime Stoppers Oliver Forrester.

**The campaign aims to raise awareness about crime prevention strategies for securing cars, homes, and valuables, while encouraging Canberrans to complete 'missions' to outsmart offenders. It directs participants to the ACT Policing website for more information on effective crime prevention practices.**



Chief Police Officer Scott Lee, NHW ACT Board Secretary Angela Di Pauli, ACT Police Minister Mick Gentleman, and Chair of ACT Region Crime Stoppers Oliver Forrester at the campaign launch

The classic saying, 'Lock It or Lose It' still holds true. Locked cars and bikes are much harder to steal, especially when equipped with an alarm. Here are some key tips:

- Keep your keys with you or in a secure place at home.
- Park your bike in a well-lit spot or a secure garage or shed.
- Keep valuables like wallets, phones or spare keys out of sight, or take them with you.

When it comes to protecting your home, the message is clear: 'Keep Out a Break In!' The harder it is to break in, the less likely an offender will try.

- Always lock doors and windows, even when you're at home.
- Make sure your home's entrances are visible and not hidden by shrubs.



- Consider installing CCTV cameras, security system signs, or motion-sensor lights.
- Leave spare keys with a trusted neighbour or friend rather than hiding them outside.
- Use high-quality locks on storage cages or cupboards.

Connected communities are better equipped to identify suspicious behaviour and protect property during high-risk times, such as holiday periods.

Get to know your neighbours, look out for each other, and share crime concerns with them and the police. If you're away, have someone trusted collect your mail.

- Mark your valuables and record the make, model, and serial numbers of vehicles and bikes for easy identification.

**The key message: Everyone has an important role to play in keeping our communities safe.**

# NDIS Cooking classes

Learn to cook easy  
and delicious  
recipes at our school  
or in the comfort of  
your home.



One-of  
a kind  
cooking  
classes!



Learn more here

Meet Chef Emma!

"Let's get cooking!"

Morning & Afternoon  
classes available at  
the school or at home!

## Give our featured visual recipe a try!

All recipes are copyrighted by Sticky Fingers Kitchen and cannot be copied or repurposed without permission.

### BREAKFAST "PIZZA"

This makes: 2

### Shopping list

- 1** Pre-heat the oven to 220 degrees. Using 2 wraps.
- 2** Add tomato paste. Transfer to a oven rack. Add 1 cracked egg to the middle of each wrap.
- 3** Sprinkle with cheese. Top with sliced cherry tomato.
- 4** Cook in the oven for 5 minutes. Top with sliced avocado, spinach & rocket.

# NHW NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES

## Remote Access Scams

### Scammers impersonate:

- Telecommunication,
- Computer/Tech, Banking,
- Investment Companies or
- Government agencies

to gain remote access to your computer via phone, text or email.

Genuine companies will never ask for remote access to your online banking.

### PROTECT YOURSELF:

- Never give callers remote access to your computer.
- Never share passwords.
- Never click on unusual links, pop ups or attachments.
- Hang up, call organisations back using trusted numbers from their official website.
- Never provide personal, credit card or online account details over the phone unless you have made the call and it's a trusted source.
- Ensure your computer is protected with anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall. ONLY purchase software from trusted sources.

### REPORT TO:

Scamwatch [www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam)

### IF SCAMMED:

Contact your bank immediately!

Call Police Assistance Line on **131 444**.

Or report at [www.cyber.gov.au/report-and-recover](http://www.cyber.gov.au/report-and-recover)

### SCAMMERS MAY USE REASONS SUCH AS:

- Your computer is sending an error message.
- Internet connection problems within your area.
- Your computer has a virus.
- Fraudulent bank account activities have been suspected.

Tricking you into downloading software providing the scammer with full access to your computer and personal information.





**RUOK?**<sup>TM</sup>  
A conversation could change a life.

# First responders aren't immune to life's ups and downs

## How to support those from our community who care for our community

**Phil is the Deputy Controller - Community Engagement at VICSES Chelsea Unit and has been a volunteer for over 20 years. After experiencing a life changing health scare, his orange family rallied around him. He shares his story in the hope to encourage everyone to look out for their peers and make R U OK? conversations a part of their everyday.**

For 20 years I have worn the orange uniform and put my heart and soul into helping others on their worst day.

In 2021, on a regular Sunday morning, my worst day came.

I got out of the shower and felt a little light-headed. Looking in the mirror I noticed my mouth was slightly lower on the right side.

My training with SES made me well aware of F.A.S.T - a quick test to recognise common signs of a stroke (F-ace weakness, A-rm weakness, S-peech problems and T-ime to call 000). I attempted to lift my arms, but the right one was struggling. Not wanting to take any risks, but also attempting to remain calm, I called my wife and through slurred speech asked her to call our lovely neighbour who happened to be a nurse.

Within a flash she was there, and immediately called an ambulance. After nearly 24 hours in hospital and numerous tests, it was finally confirmed, I had had an Ischemic Stroke on the left-hand side of my brain stem.

It felt absolutely bizarre to me that normally I am the one rushing to help and be by someone's side and now it was me that couldn't move, and I was the one needing help.

The recovery road was rough, especially because it was during COVID-19 restrictions, so no visitors were allowed.

After a month of intense speech therapy, physio, and occupational therapy, I was able to go home!

### What kept me going?

The unwavering support and frequent check ins from family, friends, my orange family, and my extended orange family (the hundreds



of people on our Facebook page who sent comments of support) kept me motivated. They weren't just checking in on physical progress - but my headspace too. Being able to talk about what had happened helped me process my emotions and stay positive.

Something as significant as a stroke affects more than the person involved. It affects everyone around them. The wonderful orange family checked in on my family daily which gave me permission to concentrate on my recovery, without feeling guilty about not being home.

That's what makes the SES so special. We are from so many different backgrounds and cultures, but as soon as we put on the orange, we are one - one family, one team, a single unit, and as such, we all care about one another.

Family can mean different things to different people, but for me it's about care, support, and trust, and knowing that through them, someone will always have your back.

Even though I couldn't put the orange uniform on, they continued to care.

### Why am I sharing this story?

Because my health scare is a stark reminder that emergency services workers aren't immune to life's ups and downs, and there will be times when we need support too.

Now that I'm back working, with a new lease in life, I am more determined than ever to remind people just how important those small (but mighty) conversations are.

At any time, emergency services workers and volunteers can be called on to attend some horrible scenes. We meet people that are going through incredibly stressful times and see things that most people will never see in their lifetime. These jobs can have an accumulative effect on a crew member's mental health, and in some cases lead to burn out and major health concerns.

Having a connection with fellow members means that you can more easily pick up on subtle changes, small alarm bells and even asks for help, that you wouldn't see if you didn't have that connection with them. Which is why conversations matter - it's what builds those connections!

But this doesn't just apply to SES, it applies to everyone.

Life can be tough, and we all have our ups and downs. We don't have to wait until R U OK? Day to check in on someone. It can be done any day, and every day.

Before you ask, you must be ready and willing to listen. To really hear what they have to say without judgement.

### Be supportive and never dismissive.

'You'll be fine mate' doesn't allow someone the time and space to talk. Sometimes the issues are deeper.

My top tip is to be present in the conversation because the opportunities you give someone to speak while really listening, the more chance you have of unearthing the problem and getting them the help they need.

### So, here's your reminder to check in on:

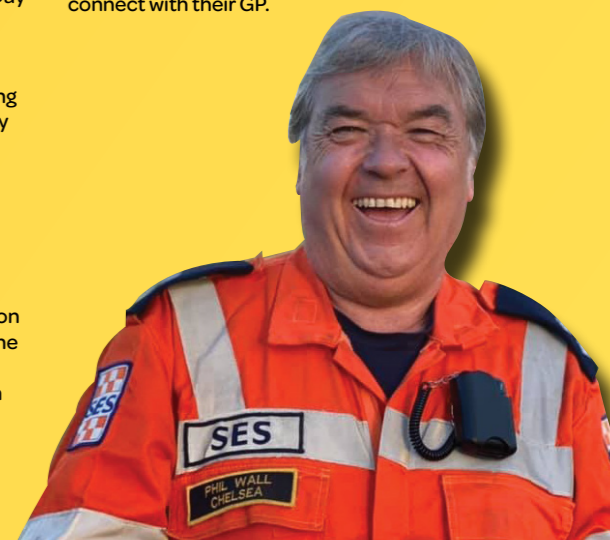
- Your colleague who is off sick
- Your emergency service friend who's responded to back-to-back jobs
- Your neighbour who lives alone
- Your sibling who started a new job
- Your mate who just became a parent

And so on...

If conversations helped me bounce back from a stroke, imagine what it could do for others.

Phil's story can be found at ruok.org.au along with the free 'Are They Triple OK?' resources for police and emergency services workers and volunteers, as well as their family and friends. These include a conversation guide, a podcast and other personal stories.

If you're worried about someone, encourage them to contact their Employee Assistance Program (EAP), agency support service or connect with their GP.



# NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

## What's New with Neighbourhood Support NZ

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

### Celebrating Volunteering in Our Communities

Back in June NSNZ took part in #TheBigShoutOut – a campaign run by National Volunteer Week NZ – to recognise and thank all the wonderful volunteers in our organisation.

We asked our Member Organisation Coordinators to nominate volunteers who go above and beyond through their passion and commitment to their local NS community. We then selected one per week in June to give a special shout-out to on our website, social media and Hapori (newsletter); we also sent a thank you gift for their contributions on behalf of NSNZ.

- Our first volunteer was Lois from Selwyn: "Lois has been a member of the local Lincoln Community Response Team (CRT) for the last 10 years and is very active in supporting her community in all sorts of roles. She is also always there helping when the CRT responds to emergency events. She has helped open and run evacuation centres for people impacted by flooding and wildfires on several occasions. She attends every CRT monthly meeting and recently came up with an initiative to promote joining our Neighbourhood Support by holding Saturday morning



Giving a shoutout to Neighbourhood Support Volunteers in National Volunteer Week

- Our week two volunteers were Grant and Pam from Te Awamutu: "Grant and Pam are farmers in a rural community that have been proactive against crime in their area. They have a first aid team in the community, equipped with a defibrillator, that is readily accessible to all neighbours if required. They volunteer all over the community, including monitoring an area of DOC

land. Together, they manage a database that connects local residents, including the school and the surrounding rural community. Grant and Pam are closely connected with the local Police and CommSafe. When they're aware of any crime in the area, they help keep an eye on the community. They maintain an up-to-date contact list and are always ready to support others who need a hand. This dynamic duo is essential to the strength of this rural community, ensuring it remains resilient." – Mandy Merson, CommSafe

- Our week three volunteer was David from Taupō: "I had planned to nominate David already, and when members of his NS street group also reached out to nominate him, I knew I had made the right choice! David keeps an eye on everyone's properties while working in his garage and makes a point to greet neighbours as they come and go. He has been active in creating a neighbourhood fishing club, organising fishing trips and as a street group they pool funds to make annual donations to local charities. As well as hosting street parties at his home, David goes above and beyond the normal duties of a street group coordinator, driving people to appointments at Rotorua Hospital (an hour or so away) and has delivered library books to those stuck at home. He has helped out numerous other charities in the community as well as Neighbourhood Support. David is an iconic personality in his street and an all-round community champion. He really deserves to be recognised on a national level for his dedication to Neighbourhood Support and contributing to his street being such a safe and connected place to live." - Alivia Roberts, Neighbourhood Support Taupō

- Our week four volunteer was Shirley from Taranaki: "Shirley is one amazing lady, she lives in Kaponga, Taranaki and for over 10 years she has been personally visiting everyone who moves into the small rural town to sign them up to be part of the Kaponga NS group. This isn't a small feat for Shirley, she suffered from Polio as a child and unfortunately lost both her legs and is confined to a wheel chair. She doesn't drive so all her volunteer work for the community is completed in her wheel chair. Shirley has recently given up this community role in June due to her health deteriorating." - Di Gleeson, Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust

Congratulations to all the amazing volunteers!



Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support manager Sue Abel, Base Youth Centre members Lere Groenewald and Anahera Tahapehi, and Base coordinator Jenny Rae



Celebrating our volunteers; Lois, Grant and Pam, David, and Shirley

### From empty foil chip bags to emergency blankets

Empty foil chip bags have been gathered by Base Youth Centre and Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support (ADNHS) to be turned into survival blankets.

Base co-ordinator Jenny Rae said hundreds, if not thousands, of chip packets had been collected. Young people at Base cleaned the bags in preparation for a survival blanket-making session for volunteers.

ADNHS manager Sue Abel said by recycling the bags they were being saved from landfill. "It takes 70 years for one bag to break down, so we are saving the planet and the blankets may save a life," she said.

To make a single bed-sized blanket takes about 60 bags. The blankets will go to Ashburton District Civil Defence, who in an emergency situation work with Ashburton District Neighbourhood Support to look after the community.

District Council compliance and development group manager Jane Donaldson said the district council applauded any activity that helped reduce waste and make the district more sustainable.

# 20 SECURITY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## 1. Away From Home

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

## 2. Safe Package Delivery

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

## 3. Home Security

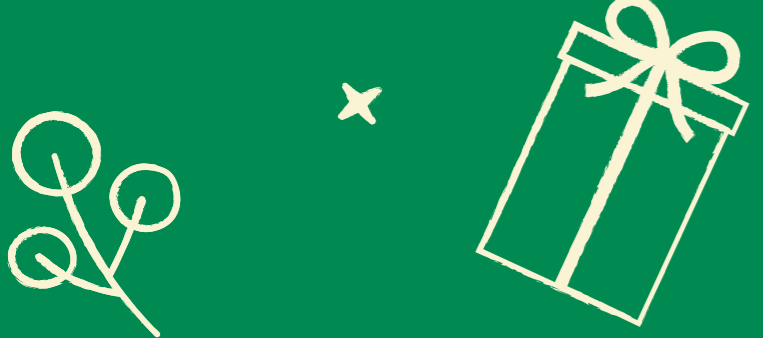
If you have Christmas light cords running through a window or door, **ensure the window or door can still be securely locked**. Be vigilant about locking doors and windows when you leave home, and make sure your garage door is closed completely before you drive away.

## 4. Motor Vehicle Theft

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

## 5. Presents

Do not display gifts so that they can be seen from outside your home, and ensure they are out of sight if they are in the car. Easy access to presents will tempt thieves!

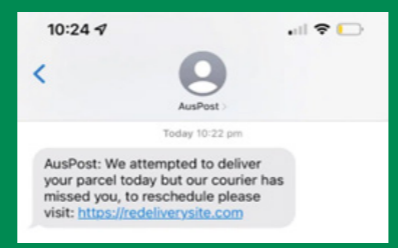


## 6. Be Alert

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

## 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. Drive Safely

Many people during the festive season will want to send Happy Holiday messages and call you, and this can be a dangerous distraction while driving. Set your phone to 'Do not disturb' when going on road trips, for everyone's safety. **Always obey road rules, and remember it's never ok to drink and drive**.

## 9. Child Online Safety

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

## 10. Holiday Decorations

When selecting house or Christmas decorations, be sure to choose ones that are flame resistant, flame retardant, and won't shatter into sharp pieces if broken. Be careful if hanging decorations from a height, and ask someone to assist you to avoid injury.

## 11. Scams

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

## 12. Social Media

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

## 13. Shopping Safety

If shopping in the evening, remember to park in well-lit areas not too far from the shops and keep your car locked. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash while out and about.

## 14. Fire Prevention

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

## 15. Secure Your Devices

Ensure smart devices are **protected against malware and viruses** by installing the latest updates and running up-to-date anti-virus software. This includes on new digital devices, which may be gifted over the holidays.

## 16. Travel Safety

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

## 17. Remember the Safety Gear!

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

## 18. Pet Safety

If you're going away for the Holidays and can't take your beloved pets, look for a pet-sitter or ask a trusted neighbour or friend to look after them. Pets should not be left alone for extended periods.

## 19. Join Neighbourhood Watch

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

## 20. Report

**Report any suspicious activity to the Police. In an emergency or when a crime is taking place call Triple Zero (000). If a crime has already happened call Police Link 131 444. For anonymous reporting call Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000. All are available 24/7.**

HO  
HO  
HO



### Random Acts of Kindness

In September, our national theme was **Random Acts of Kindness** – *Spreading joy at home, work and in our communities-one random act of kindness at a time.* We ran a giveaway on social media for 10 care packages and asked our followers to nominate a neighbour and tell us why they'd gift a care package to them. We had an influx of nominations, mostly wanting to recognise people in their community who often did random acts of kindness themselves. Here are some of the lovely nominations we received.



The gift bags were sent with either anonymous messages or were personalised

Damage in the reserve and along the riverbed from vehicles and fires



Stage 1 developments completed



The before and after photos of Stage 1 at Mangatutu Reserve

### Crime Prevention through Environmental Design in Te Awamutu

Over the last 10 months, CommSafe (Neighbourhood Support in Te Awamutu) have worked with concerned residents, the Police, Otorohanga Council, Department of Conservation (DOC), Waikato Regional Council and local Councillors to understand the issues that had developed in Mangatutu Reserve. There was ongoing concern from the community about wilful damage caused by vehicles and public using the area. Rubbish was being dumped, fires were being lit,

vehicles were destroying the reserve with reckless driving and private property was being damaged.

Once all the stakeholders had information about the area of concern, CommSafe organised a meeting onsite with all stakeholders in May. Everyone was open to changing the area to prevent future incidents from taking place. Otorohanga Council discussed a plan of work that could be completed in a reasonable time frame. Residents and stakeholders all had a say and agreed on an action plan.

In early September, Mandy from CommSafe went to check

the area and Stage 1 is already completed. The area has been cleared (providing visibility to the reserve from the road) and new gravel laid for a large car park. Access to vehicles has been prohibited to prevent further damage along the river.

"If the community all work together and maintain positive communication, we can achieve change! Having a connected neighbourhood surrounding the area and a plan does help. My role in supporting locals and bringing together the stakeholders was a learning curve for me, and I would do it again! Great result." – Mandy from CommSafe.



Pasifika leaders meeting at council to discuss Neighbourhood Support opportunities for their communities



Neighbourhood Support meeting with one of our urban groups in the HSDC



Rural Neighbourhood Support meeting in Puketapu

### Community Support and Resilience in Hastings after Cyclone Gabrielle

Hastings District Council have been working closer with their community connectors team to emphasise the importance of Neighbourhood Support in communities. This has become more evident as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle and the work they have and are doing in our rural communities who were hit hard because of this.

"Along with work we are doing in our rural communities, another project around community resilience and safety specifically targets our Marae's, Pasifika

Communities and the elderly. In collaboration with our Risk Management Team, Civil Defence and the Police we are looking at how best we can support these communities through their Marae, Churches, Halls and senior housing facilities with Community Resilience training and resourcing. Neighbourhood Support is a big part of this, and we have already had some excellent response from a number of these communities." – John Roberts, Hastings District Council Coordinator

Above are a few photos from over the past 3-4 months of some of the work happening in the Hastings District.



New NSNZ Community Advisor Katie, and Activators Tahi, Tiffany and Andrew

### NSNZ Welcome New Community Advisor and 3 New Activators

NSNZ in conjunction with the NZ Police, Auckland Council and the Albert-Eden, Puketāpapa, Ōrākei and Howick Local Boards are very pleased to announce that we have hired our new Activators for these areas.

Tahi Moppborren will be covering the Albert-Eden and Puketāpapa Local Board areas, Tiffany Crombie will cover the Ōrākei Local Board area, and Andrew Poon will cover some of the Howick Local Board area.

We are also thrilled to announce the appointment of a Community Advisor for the Top of South Region Neighbourhood Support (TSNS) – welcoming the lovely Katie Thompson who will bring passion, energy and creativity to the newly established role. We'd like to acknowledge the efforts of the outgoing TSNS Board in ensuring the very best outcome for the existing membership, along with the overwhelming support of local partners and stakeholders who have pledged ongoing collaboration under this new model.

It's exciting to see our organisation growing as we work towards bringing people and neighbourhoods together, street by street, to create safe, resilient and connected communities.

# NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND



## Bli Bli NHW and Local Community Leaders taking the Lead in addressing Youth Crime

Senior Constable Greg Newman (far left), Area Coordinator Edith Blanck and Superintendent Criag Hawkins (centre) with Project Booyah supporters

Over the past few years Bli Bli Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has been a strong supporter of Project Booyah, which is a Youth Program led by the Queensland Police Service.

This initiative aims to reintegrate disengaged teenagers into their community, guiding them towards education and ultimately meaningful employment.

Bli Bli NHW Area Co-ordinator Edith Blanck has taken the lead in her community by approaching community leaders to help out Project Booyah.

Senior constable Greg Newman had this to say about the support he has received:

**“We simply cannot do what we do without the support of the local community including Bli Bli Neighbourhood Watch who have provided breakfast to all of the cohort since 2019. Local businesses are also involved including Bli Bli Priceline Pharmacy where manager Kam Shirzadi has donated a host of toiletry items for male and female participants and we have also had significant financial support from the developers of Parklakes Central Peter Shadforth and Robert Flipp.”**

Area Coordinator Edith Blanck said Project Booyah was playing



Lachie Zettl, Kam Shirzada from Priceline, Constable Newman, Edith Blanck, Robert Flipp, Peter Shadforth, Kevin Covey and Sam Williams

an important role assisting young people in the community.

“This program is truly unique, and I am not surprised it has achieved a success rate of up to 80 percent. It’s been wonderful to see another crop of graduates complete the program and re-engage into further education or employment. There’s also a female programme which will begin after these school holidays and participants will graduate in late September.

“As always, funding for these types of programs is limited so it’s great that local organisations like Parklakes Central contribute to the overall success of young people within our

community. Peter Shadforth and Robert Flipp have been involved in the Parklakes developments for many years and their ongoing support has included working with us on our Bli Bli Unite Fun Run in aid of Victims of Domestic Violence and with our Youth Program Skate Park competition. They’ve always been very supportive of the local community, and they have indicated they will continue to do so into the future.”

We extend our gratitude to Priceline Pharmacy and Parklakes Central for their generous support of this program. It is heartening to see the community unite to help these young individuals on their journey to a brighter future.

## Riverview NHW Cuppa and Chat receives a caffeine hit!

A number of Riverview Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group volunteers have been supporting their community Cuppa and Chat Group since the groups’ inception in January 2018.

The group meets weekly and encourages anyone from the wider community to drop in and enjoy a free tea or coffee, and have a chat with their neighbours.

**There have been hundreds of people over the six years the group has been running stop in and connect, not only with Riverview NHW but with the services that the Riverview and District Community Centre offers.** The Riverview NHW volunteers also lend a hand with various internet and social media concerns that attendees have, acting as digital mentors to keep the connections alive and the community safe from scams.



Amanda Draheim, State Member for Bundamba Lance McCallum, Sandra Smrecnik, Cornelia Warnaar and Jocelyne Harris

Recently the Community Centre experienced a change of management and the group found itself without tea and coffee, and uncertain of their future. Riverview NHW stepped up and have taken on the role of

hosting the group each Wednesday from 9am-11am. The team approached their State Member of Parliament Lance McCallum who was more than happy to donate some tea and coffee to keep the group buzzing into the future.

## Bribie Island Neighbourhood Watch Secure Disposal Day

It was a fine day on Bribie Island for their first secure disposal day on Saturday 24 August 2024, and a successful day too!



Chris and Leith from Shred-X, with Jerry, Kay, and Peter from Bribie Island NHW at the Secure Disposal Day

With the aid of Shred-X, which provides this service as part of their community engagement program, and Charter Hall, which administers the Bribie Central shopping centre, the local NHW filled almost 50 wheelie bins with personal correspondence, financial records, and any documents on which there was confidential information. There was also one

(very heavy!) bin of x-rays. And all for recycling in a commercially viable way.

This project was one designed to promote the image of NHW across the island in addition to improving safety, as three local groups have already collapsed.

**Involvement of the community in spreading knowledge about NHW, and the importance of neighbourliness in diminishing crime, are the two outcomes we were seeking from this initiative.**

# Greenslopes NHW Coffee with a Cop Creating Community

We know we're safer when we know each other, and what better way to get to know your local network than to stop for a cuppa and a chat?



The 'Coffee with a Cop' events bring the community together - we safer when we know each other

The local Greenslopes Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group frequently collaborates with local service providers to hold 'Coffee with a Cop' mornings. This provides the opportunity for community members to discuss topics that are important to them, as well as a location to seek guidance and support.

These events, which include police, Crime Stoppers, local government, and service providers, help to break down barriers and engage in mutually beneficial interactions. They promote local businesses by spotlighting local cafés and eateries, as well as providing opportunities for citizens to engage in informal and approachable conversation.

Some attendees come for chats and company, while others come to express problems or seek guidance. The Greenslopes NHW team aligns each event with the larger Neighbourhood Watch Australasia calendar, such as the National



Cr Fiona Cunningham, Greenslopes NHW Secretary Sarah Lavelle, Mr Joe Kelly MP, and Coorparoo Police

Secure Your Home Day project and Domestic Violence Prevention Month, providing additional chances to raise awareness and attention to these critical areas of need.

These simple coffees have become well-known in the community and serve an important role in outreach to Greenslopes and the surrounding districts.



Online Crime Map tutorial with Coorparoo Police

# The Places Neighbourhood Watch Can Take You!

Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has had several varied and interesting outings recently.



Sgt Allyson Sanewski setting up the joint QPS and NHW display in Kingaroy Shopping Mall

With May being Domestic Violence Awareness month, the first event was a very successful joint display with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) at the Kingaroy Shopping Mall. While the QPS focus was raising awareness, reduction and prevention of Domestic Violence, the display also incorporated Coffee with a Cop. For their part, Kumbia NHW members had the opportunity to spread the word about neighbour and community safety, engaging with and answering questions from locals and travellers.

The second outing was also a combined display with QPS, this time with their recruitment staff in Memorial Park, Kingaroy, where the South Burnett Cherbourg Regional Aboriginal and Islander Community Controlled Health Service (CRAICCHS) hosted a Family Fun Day as part of NAIDOC Week 2024. Visitors to the display were given valuable information on both becoming police officers and security/safety in general, and



QPS Officers from Kingaroy and Nanango chatting with Deadly Choices Ambassador, Petero Civoniceva, near the combined QPS and NHW display at NAIDOC Family Fun Day



Kumbia NHW Volunteers Sheree, Shirley and Morris waiting to hand out goodie bags

the children had a host of stickers, activity books and other giveaways from which to choose. July saw a visit to the Kumbia Primary School with the local Officer in Charge (OIC), Senior Constable Todd Armstrong. He spoke to both the upper and lower grades about a range of topics including safety (at home, in public and online), stranger



Senior Constable Todd Armstrong speaking to children at Kumbia Primary School about safety

danger, obeying pedestrian crossing and street rules. The NHW members then handed out a goodies bag to each child in which were activity books/colouring sheets, rulers, pencils/pens, and brochures for their parents to read about the goals of NHW and how to join.

We look forward to seeing where the next few months will take us!





## Successful Anti-Theft Screw Day held by Carseldine Group 4 NHW

On 2 March 2024, the Carseldine Group 4 Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in collaboration with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) hosted a successful Anti-Theft Screw Day at the Carseldine Shopping Centre, underscoring the strength of community cooperation.

From 1pm – 3pm, volunteers and police officers joined forces to install anti-theft screws on vehicle license plates. These screws serve as a simple yet effective deterrent against the theft of license plates, which are often misused in criminal activities. The event drew a strong turnout, with many local residents taking advantage of this important security enhancement.

**The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive. Residents not only secured their vehicles but also took the opportunity to connect with neighbours, further strengthening the community ties that make Carseldine a great place to live.**

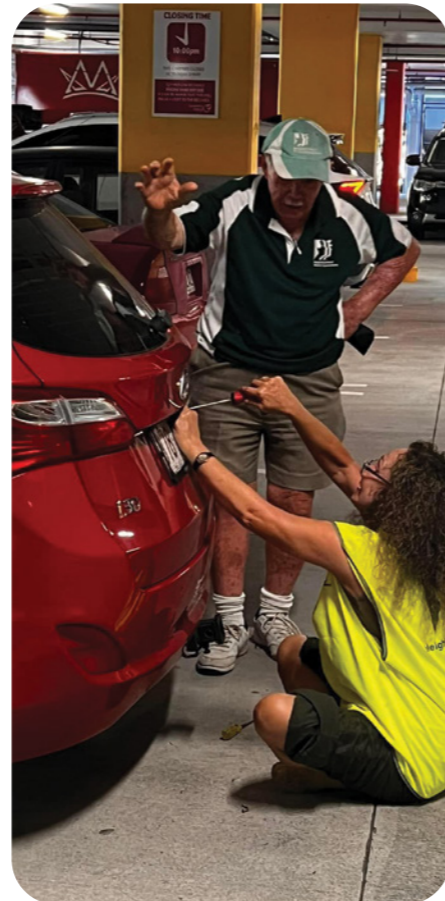
The success of this event highlights the commitment of the Carseldine community to maintaining the safety and security of its members. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated, especially the volunteers and QPS for their hard work and dedication. Events like this one are a testament to the vibrant community spirit in Carseldine, and we look forward to more initiatives aimed at keeping our neighbourhood safe.



Sergeant Jodie with a young QPS supporter!



Jeremy enjoying the day out with his grandfather, Denis Houston – a NHW member and former Police Inspector in the Carseldine area for many years



Carseldine 4 NHW Committee Member Fiona installing anti-theft screws with Ken Beer, a long-standing Carseldine 4 NHW member

## The Busiest Winter Season Ever for the Gold Coast Hinterland NHW Groups

Being blessed with mild winter days on the Gold Coast means that there were plenty of community events for the local NHW groups to lead and participate in over the cooler months. Here is a recap of this busy and exciting time!

In early June Reedy Creek NHW delivered a successful Movies in the Park event for local families. Over a hundred parents and children turned up to Kingsmore Park with their picnic blankets and camping chairs to enjoy the open-air movie experience and meet their neighbours. The NHW team was well supported by local police, food trucks, and Cr Glenn Tozer. Cycling Without Age trishaws and volunteers helped transport people with mobility challenges and gave free rides to kids. It was a hugely successful evening, and Rob Ormsby, Edward Patching, and the team should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

On the last weekend of June, the iconic Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show played host to a record 25,000+ visitors from across the Gold Coast and wider Queensland. The country met the city and our NHW volunteers from Mudgeeraba Creek, Clover Hill, Glenwood Park, Reedy Creek, and Springbrook met with members of our community. Our stall was extremely popular with the locals, and we talked to many people about safety tips while giving away free and useful NHW merch.

The Bonogin Valley Rural Fire Brigade hosted their annual community open day on the last Sunday in July, and once again our stall was a popular choice with the families. Our safety message aligned perfectly with the theme of the day. Special thanks to



The busy NHW stall at the Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show



Rob and Diane proudly show off the NHW banner in the show parade



John and Annette guide Seymour the Owl through the show parade

Annette Moon and John Kiss for running the stall and chatting to so many people.

The bi-monthly Mudgeeraba Police Community Consultative Committee continues to be well attended by the local hinterland population, and we are grateful to all participants and guest speakers who come along to raise their concerns with local police officers, NHW, and politicians. It's always a healthy discussion

where solutions are brainstormed, and police are made aware of the priorities of the people. Special thanks to Beth Brennan and John Kiss for their efforts in publicising these meetings.

Here in the hinterland, we are very much looking forward to what the warmer months bring and how we can meet more of our neighbours and communicate safety messages further out into the community.



The August Mackay Northern Beaches NHW Cuppa & a Chat was well attended by new and regular members, and police



Sergeant Tara Murnane and OIC Acting Senior Sergeant Tanya Cashin gave an update from police

# Mackay Northern Beaches NHW Cuppa & a Chat

After several days of inclement weather, the day broke with full sunshine just in time for the Mackay Northern Beaches Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Cuppa & a Chat.

Held on Wednesday 14 August 2024 at Shoal Point Park, there was not a jumper in sight!

There were a few new members, in addition to the returning members and regulars present. Police officers from the Mackay Northern Beaches Station, Sergeant Tara Murnane and Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Acting Senior Sergeant Tanya Cashin gave the group an update and fielded questions, before their busy schedules dictated they be elsewhere.

### Some of the highlights:

- The 3 day 'Operation Red Dragon' with co-operation between the Northern Beaches and Mackay Police
- Northern Beaches Station fielded many complaints from residents

regarding youths riding off-road motorcycles, in a noisy and unsafe manner. Descriptions of the bikes provided by the public assisted in the apprehension of the young offenders.

- In general, crime statistics have remained relatively lower since the completion of 'Operation Whiskey Legion' which occurred approximately 6 weeks prior. Police acknowledged this is a cold comfort to those who have been, and are still, victims of crime.
- Police manning levels was addressed; although numbers of officers have increased, many are fresh out of the academy and continue to learn only that which experience teaches.
- Suitable E-scooter legislated usage is still under review.

Mackay Northern Beaches NHW is blessed with the support and involvement received from the local police. It is a point all members acknowledge and are thankful for.

LNP candidate for Mackay (and Mackay Northern Beaches NHW member) Nigel Dalton, along with Shelley, secretary to Member for Whitsunday Amanda Camm, were both present. Thank you to Nigel and Shelley for attending, answering questions from the members and providing their feedback.

6 December 2024 is the date tentatively set for the annual Mackay Northern Beaches NHW Christmas Party at Shoal Point, with more information to come to members.



# Mackay Police District Honours and Awards

Some of the award winners; Les Bunt, Ken Rehbein, Claire Rehbein, Rose Christensen, Doreen Zammit, Mal Zammit, Carol Wright, Allan Wright, Jenelle Schembri and Gerri Kissner, with Sergeant Nigel Dalton and Sergeant Steve Smith

Several Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) members were recipients of the Gold Lapel Badge and Certificate at the Mackay Police District Honours and Awards Presentation, on 7 March 2024 at the Ocean International Hotel. While some were unable to attend, Mackay NHW had a clear presence at the Awards!

### Congratulations to...

#### Gold Certificate

- Les Bunt
- Frank Cowell
- Gerri Kissner
- Ken Rehbein

- Jenelle Schembri
- Jo Walker
- Russel Walker
- Carol Wright
- Alan Wright

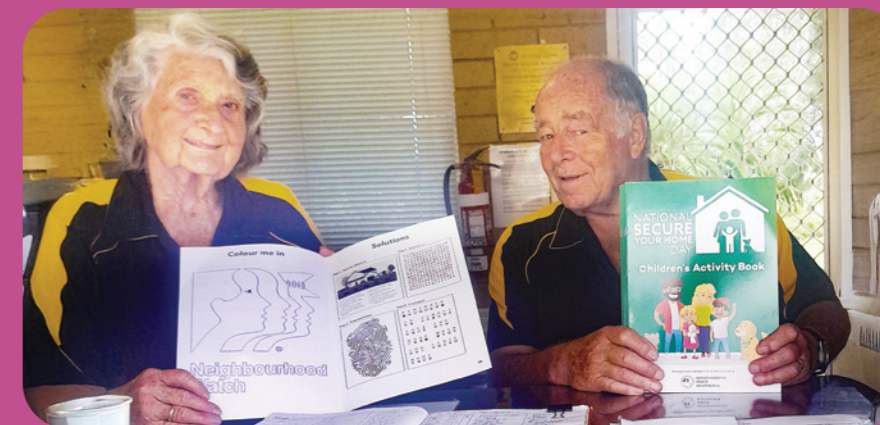
- Doreen Zammit
- Mal Zammit

#### Silver Certificate

- Rose Christensen

# Wondai Driver Reviver

At the start of the school holidays Wondai Neighbourhood Watch delivered some of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Kids Activity books to the Wondai Driver Reviver. Families passing through can grab some colouring books for children to enjoy over the holidays, and hopefully keep them entertained while in the car! If you are interested in receiving some of the NHWA Kids Activity books, contact [admin@nhwa.com.au](mailto:admin@nhwa.com.au)



Eileen Beer and Doug Wells with the NHWA Activity books, at the Wondai Driver Reviver



Members of the Gold Coast District Neighbourhood Watch Committee and other local NHW members at DEMC

## NHW visits the City of Gold Coast Disaster and Emergency Management Centre

Recently, committee members from Gold Coast NHW groups were invited to visit and learn more about the structure that has been put in place for the Gold Coast to manage weather related disasters. Sixteen committee members attended, including three from NHW Robina Waters and Robina Woods.

**The Disaster and Emergency Management Centre (DEMC) is extremely well designed and purpose-built to be able to withstand a very powerful, sustained storm events such as Category 5 cyclone. It is fully self-contained and resourced to be able to stay operational for a considerable time in the event of power outages, water supply issues and transport disruptions.**

The centre is continuously staffed by members of various government and non-government organisations. In the event of an emergency, teams from a range of organisations move in to pre-planned and carefully defined positions in order to provide management information to aid in decision making and resource allocation by these agencies.

Our visit and briefing was the first to the DEMC, by a non-state-based group. After a 30 minute informative briefing with opportunities for

questions, Heidi Turner, the Coordinator for the Disaster and Emergency Management Unit, gave a tour of the facility. It was a most impressive walk through, especially noting the Centre's continual readiness and the communications capacity of the whole organisation.

The points covered by Heidi and the description of the work that is done at the DEMC were very encouraging. It reinforced that we have a Council that has thoughtfully considered the welfare of the community - particularly in the event of an emergency - is well resourced, and prepared for any climate emergency.

**In answer to the question, "What can local NHW groups do to assist?" Heidi said that we can help make our communities aware of the need to prepare for climate related emergencies, such as fire, severe weather, heat wave right through to cyclones. We can do this by making sure that our meeting attendees**

**know the City of Gold Coast Council produced disaster preparedness resources that are available online at: [www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/Services/Emergencies-disasters-outages/Get-Ready](http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/Services/Emergencies-disasters-outages/Get-Ready), the "My Plan - Preparing for Natural Disasters" brochure, and additionally the large red waterproof plastic satchels for keeping important documents safe and dry. The brochure "Disaster Management at Home" is another good resource. NHW groups are also encouraged to invite a representative from Disaster and Emergency Management Unit to come and address meetings.**

Heidi encouraged everyone to go online and make ourselves familiar with the City of the Gold Coast Disaster Management Dashboard at: [www.dashboard.goldcoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.dashboard.goldcoast.qld.gov.au). It contains a huge amount of current information about weather, power outages, road closures and other potential hazards; plus advice on what to do if disaster strikes.



Councillor Dan Doran, Barry, Doug, Kevin, Jenni (Treasurer), Trevor, Hermann Vorster (former Councillor), Ping and Benny

## Changing of the Guard at Robina Waters and Robina Woods NHW

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 27 August 2024 for Robina Waters and Robina Woods NHW marked changes to the Committee and a farewell to the previous Gold Coast City Councillor, who stepped down to enter a larger political arena.

**The AGM marked five years since Alan Howard (the founder of our group) passed away and the area-coordinator's role was accepted by local Parents and Citizens (P&C) President Sascha Voevodin. This role is now in the hands of Trevor Taylor who had been the Assistant Area Coordinator since Robina Woods was added to our area. Doug Ringham accepted the nomination of Assistant Area Coordinator to replace him. Most decisions over the past five years have been handled by Trevor, Doug and Kevin Boyle (Secretary). We appreciate the great help and guidance Sascha has given the group over this period.**

It is essential for NHW groups to have support from the local Councillor, who will champion the group and also guide the group to council funding for community projects. Your local councillor is also the liaison between the two parties and will act on suggestions from



Hermann Vorster receives his Certificate of Appreciation, in recognition of his support of NHW over the years



Councillor Dan Doran reporting to the group

your members for improvements to parks and facilities. Hermann Vorster has been a great supporter, attending all of our meetings and delivering thousands of newsletters. His Robina and city-wide updates have been very informative for our members, and eventually replaced the Town Hall-style meetings Hermann used to run regularly. Hermann has been particularly focussed on hooning and improving the openness of public spaces to deter criminal or drug-related activity.

**We thanked Hermann with a Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) certificate and presented him with a bottle of Pinot Noir. Our new Councillor Dan Doran has now attended two meetings and is determined to keep up the standard set by his predecessor.**

Our meeting concluded with lucky door prizes, knitted slippers and rugs from Julie, wine and goodies from Ping, and torches from NHWA, followed by a delicious supper and lots of mingling and discussion.



NHW North Rockhampton #4 volunteers John, Gloria, Lana, and Kelli at the 30 year celebration

## NHW North Rockhampton #4 Group Keeping Watch for 30 Years

In response to a crime spike in North Rockhampton in April 1994, a community meeting was coordinated by respected educationalist Kevin Rowen, resulting in the launch of NHW North Rockhampton #4 on 13 July 1994.

At its beginning NHW#4 covered 450 houses, 2 schools and a handful of small businesses. With approval to extend its coverage area on several occasions, it now covers about 1,700 houses and 40 businesses, plus two retirement villages, 3 schools, 2 churches and 4 Day Care Centres.

**NHW#4 maintains constant contact with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to keep up to date with any NHW issues, so that the community can be made aware of the importance of taking appropriate crime prevention precautions and the need to report all incidents no matter how minor they might seem.**

The NHW committee and interested members of the community meet with the Officer in Charge of North Rockhampton Police Station at Bella Via café every two months for a 'Cuppa with a Cop' event, where honest two-way feedback is exchanged.

NHW#4 chose to celebrate this 30 year milestone by holding a display in Kershaw Gardens on Saturday 27 July to share useful crime prevention and personal safety information to passers-by, along with colouring-in sheets for the kids who also had a chance to be photographed with Seymour the Owl - the NHW Queensland 'Watch and Report' mascot.

With the valuable assistance of the Rockhampton Lions Club, we also funded a very popular free "sausage sizzle" to families enjoying a day in the park. Our thanks go to Noel Baxter and the Lions BBQ crew, to QPS Senior Sergeant Jode Fernie for her supportive presence on the day, and to Councillor Shane Latcham for his ongoing financial support of our various projects.

**Nowadays, 1,900 NHW#4 newsletters containing a Police Report and articles on home and personal safety and security get delivered to every house and business in the area every two months.**

### Some projects organised by NHW#4 in recent years worth mentioning include:

- Safety Audits undertaken every few years to identify problems of broken Telstra pits, uneven footpath surfaces, or damaged road signs, poor street lighting and the like that get reported to the responsible authority.
- Drink Rite Nights run regularly with the assistance of QPS officers with the generous support of Frenchville Sports Club to educate attendees about alcohol-related risks and harms and how to drink responsibly.
- Volunteers in Policing carrying out radar surveys of vehicle speeds after complaints from residents, which resulted in the installation of '50 IN MY STREET' signs on rubbish bins in the worst affected streets.
- Purchase and distribution of one-way security screws to prevent vehicle number plates being stolen.

# NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## Neighbourhood Watch SA growing support at the Royal Adelaide Show

The 2025 Royal Adelaide Show provided an opportunity for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) SA to promote the upcoming 40th anniversary of the program, capitalising on nostalgic feelings related to the program, which was launched in 1985.

The South Australia Police (SAPOL) NHW team and NHW volunteers gave away 40th anniversary branded, daisy seed-infused postcards that can be planted to grow flowers. **They shared the message with visitors that NHW has spent 40 years growing community connections and the postcards were intended to keep the tradition alive by being handed on to neighbours.**

SAPOL staff and volunteers encouraged showgoers to follow NHW SA on Facebook or join a Facebook group for their area. They also shared plans for NHW, which include creating more local Facebook groups throughout the State and providing more safety and community connectedness information via online platforms.

According to NHW SA State Coordinator Kirsty Mudge, visitors to the display were interested to hear about the future of a program that many of them grew up with.

**"People respect the Neighbourhood Watch brand because it has been around for a long time and has that strong connection with South Australia Police," she said. "They are generally really pleased to hear that the program is still around and that we are working hard to ensure its future in a format that better meets the needs of today's communities."**



NHW SA State Coordinator Kirsty Mudge and NHW SA Volunteer Association of South Australia Board of Management Secretary Andy Constantinides spruiking NHW at the Royal Adelaide Show



S/C1 Simon enjoys working with Dernancourt NHW

## Celebrating Simon's journey with Neighbourhood Watch

Simon Lloyd, Senior Constable First Class at Holden Hill Police Station in north eastern Adelaide, says Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteers are the “eyes and ears of the community”.

Simon, who has been actively involved with (NHW) for more than six years, assists Dernancourt NHW by providing monthly crime reports and attending the group's committee meetings held every three months.

He sees NHW as an opportunity to build relationships with the community. “On a regular day, we tend to lose connection with the community as we are either handing out a ticket or telling someone off for their inappropriate conduct,” he said.

“NHW gives me a chance to interact with the community and build positive relationships.”

Simon enjoys attending the Dernancourt NHW meetings, he said “These meetings are a great platform to spend time with the community, gather information and discuss SAPOL's community safety initiatives.”

**Simon believes volunteers are important for community safety. “They are always out there keeping us informed about local issues,” he said, “We rely on them to call us when things go wrong.” He feels appreciative of their efforts. “Doing something out of free will for the community when you could be doing so many other things is great,” he said.**

Simon feels NHW works only if people come together to make their community safer, and they are constantly supported by their local police.

It provides a way for a community to engage with the police, and is a medium to provide crime prevention tips and other useful information to the communities.

Simon's favourite NHW memory is when he attended his first Dernancourt NHW meeting and didn't know what to expect. He was pleased to receive the warmth and love of the community members. “They were the sweetest, kindest people,” he said. “It's great how NHW brings these people together.”

# NHW TAS

TASMANIA

## Neighbourhood Watch, it's all about community!

There are many words and phrases that we use to describe what Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is all about.

In this edition we recognise Peter Vogelsanger who was recently announced as a nominee for the Local Hero Award and joint winner of the Glenorchy City Council Senior Citizen of the Year Award for 2024.

In 2021 Peter Vogelsanger offered to help coordinate Montrose/Rosetta NHW. From day one he immersed himself in promoting the benefits of NHW in his area. He actively distributed information and promotional materials to letterboxes. He participated in NHW activities, and engaged with the State Coordinator to promote the objectives on NHW.

Peter fielded regular enquiries from other residents about how a NHW group could be established in their respective neighbourhoods.

**Peter offered to trial a Greater Glenorchy NHW, which he volunteered to coordinate - primarily through the use of social media. This trial was quickly embraced and is now a model for other local government areas to use.**

**In a few years Peter has actively engaged with Bunnings Glenorchy where he has single handedly run raffles and a promotional desk during NHW Week. In addition, he regularly contributes to other community events at Bunnings as the NHW representative on occasions throughout the year.**



Peter Vogelsanger at Bunnings during Neighbourhood Watch Week

NHW champions *Cuppa with a Cop* events within our local communities as a forum for community members to meet their local police. Peter has organised a number of these events at Claremont Plaza, Northgate Shopping Centre and Glenorchy Plaza. He does this in partnership with his local Inspector and the shopping centre managers to ensure the events are well publicised and attended.

**Many NHW groups across the country have their version of our Peter Vogelsanger, we can't enjoy the success that we do without volunteers such as these. So, it is appropriate that we recognise their achievements. They don't do it for themselves, but for the opportunity to make their respective neighbourhoods safer places to live and play.**

Congratulations Peter, you and your clones across Australasia do us all proud!



Peter Vogelsanger with his awards in company of former Glenorchy City Council Mayor Stuart Slade, Mayor Sue Hickey and Deputy Mayor Russell Yaxley



Peter Vogelsanger hosting a Cuppa with a Cop at Claremont Plaza with Inspector Semmens and former Glenorchy City Council Mayor Bec Thomas

## New Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch – A Case Study in Progress

Peter Edwards, President of NHW Tasmania, presenting the 'NHW Area' sign to Shemi, Ray and David from New Norfolk NHW

This article is a first impression of how Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) can play a meaningful role in helping to reduce crime and improve community wellbeing.

This can happen through a program of engagement with the key players and working within their community structures and capabilities. In fact, it is an example of the NHW ethos of doing something to make a positive difference – as opposed to not doing anything!

New Norfolk is a picturesque town towards the upper reaches of the Derwent River, about 35 kilometres from Hobart. It is the business hub for the immediate community and the local government centre for the Derwent Valley Council which boasts a population of 11,000. Many people liken New Norfolk to their image of a quaint English village.

Neighbourhood Watch was re-established in New Norfolk in 2018 to improve the connection between residents and the local police and grow community relationships. It also sought to educate and inform residents about crime rates; how to protect themselves and their families and encourage people to report any suspicious behaviours to the Police.

In late 2023 Tasmania Police conducted a community survey, "...to get feedback on local crime and safety concerns, police performance and other issues..." across the state. There are 29 local government areas in Tasmania, and despite its tranquil setting, and the efforts of the previous NHW committee, the Derwent Valley did not fare well in community concerns expressed in this survey. In a nutshell, the significant community concerns were:

Although one in ten Tasmanians wanted police to be available for more hours (night policing or 24/7 police stations) this sentiment in the Derwent Valley was the highest in the state at 39%.

With regards to the community perceptions of community safety, people in the Derwent Valley rated the highest in Tasmania with 38% who felt significantly less safe.

The survey found that people in the Derwent Valley were significantly less likely to agree that Tasmania

Police were accountable, with this belief being recorded for 36% of people reporting from that area.

This was not a glowing report card for this small community. However, to give Tasmania Police their due, it was a brave and honest effort to get an accurate perspective from the people they serve to guide planning and the allocation of police resources, efforts and tactics into the future.

Whether by fortune or design, the survey report was released only a short time before the change in NHW committee leadership. The new Coordinator Shemi Rubin, supported by a fresh committee, proposed that a more active approach to garner community attention and action was needed. The intention was to have a plan and then work with the key community leaders to monitor progress, report on the successes and highlight where there were perceived weaknesses.

The plan identified four key and linked factors that could

have a direct impact on the wellbeing of their community, particularly if each of the links were working towards a common goal. The committee recognised politicians as the elected community leaders who had a lawful ability to resource the police whose role it is to prevent and investigate crime and offences. The fourth component of the model is the community which is the ingredient that NHW have a very real opportunity to harness and legitimately influence the three other factors.

In a matter of just a few months, NHW in New Norfolk have done the following things to pursue their objectives – lawfully, respectfully and within the scope of their plan. The NHW team also identified their own key performance indicators to build community awareness and contributions to the things that they can legitimately do.

Their list of activities so far is provided as a record of what can be activated in a short period of time – but also as a ready reference for other communities who might want to do things that can generate a collective conversation and subsequent change for the better.

**The objective to increase the NHW membership to 10% of their community has been advanced by the following activities that also promote the purpose and intentions of Neighbourhood Watch:**

- **Forming a small working committee to drive their planning and activities.**
- **Documenting their plan and listening to their community feedback.**
- **Requesting 3,000 Join Neighbourhood Watch Today Pamphlets from Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) for a letterbox membership drive.**



Jessie, Mandy, Robert, David and Shemi representing the New Norfolk NHW

- **Applying for a \$500 grant to fund a Join Neighbourhood Watch Today mail out to 2,500 local homes, the remainder were hand delivered by volunteers.**
- **Designing their own street signs and applying for a separate community grant to fund ten new signs to be erected throughout the town.**
- **Inviting all local politicians, to attend their committee meetings.**
- **Inviting their local police and Community Engagement officers to their meetings.**
- **Promoting the use of Crime Stoppers to their community through many communication forums and using those statistics as further evidence of community concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour.**
- **Promoting their activities through their website, social media sites, local schools and newspapers, the New Norfolk Times and the Derwent Valley Gazette, and using those forums to publish regular police crime reports.**
- **Designing a specific NHW sign to go in the windows of shops and businesses throughout the town to promote their support for each other and the desire to reduce offending within their community.**



- **Promoting use of the Snap, Send Solve App as a simple but effective way for anyone to help keep shared spaces safe, clean and great to be in.**
- **Reinforcing the importance of community members being prepared to call out bad behaviour by repeating the quote from Lieutenant David Morrison that, The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.**

And this is just the beginning. At the time of writing this article the Minister for Police has accepted an invitation to meet with the NHW team, additional police officers have recently been assigned to the station, and extra police patrols have been reporting on their activities. This article has been headed as a Case Study in Progress to highlight good work and contribute to a longitudinal review of the contribution that an active NHW can make to the wellbeing and safety of their neighbourhoods. There is no finish line to improving the place where you live!

# NHW Tasmania 2025 Calendar Sneak Peek!

For many years Neighbourhood Watch in Tasmania (NHWT) has published an annual calendar for its members.

The calendar has become a flagship activity with the new year edition eagerly sought by our friends and followers.

Challenged each year to make the feature pages interesting and relevant, in 2023 NHWT devised a drawing competition for primary school students on the theme of *Safe Neighbourhoods*. Winners were invited to a prizegiving event with their family, and the runners-up were also included in the publication as a montage of stamp size miniatures. The calendars quickly became a popular acquisition for presents under the Christmas tree and as a family keepsake.

The drawing competition proved to be an effective way to promote the NHW brand and stimulate community conversations about what factors contribute to a safe neighbourhood. Because the competition was for primary school students, it automatically engaged families with younger parents and younger children - many of whom got to attend the prize giving and refreshments that followed.

We were so happy with the success of the initiative that we decided to do it again in 2024 for the publication in 2025. This year we doubled our entries. In order to fit the runners-up in the edition, along with the winning entries, the montage pages have also doubled. There are some fantastic efforts throughout the document. We are so excited about it that we wanted to provide a sneak peek of what to expect,



Chelsea Wang (7 years) January 2025



Ava Barstow (9 years) Front Cover 2025

prior to the official release. We expect the new calendar to quickly become a collector's item, and rationing coupons are being considered!

Congratulations to all the children who entered. Who knows what is in store for the 2026 calendar? Watch this space - but in the meantime - enjoy this sneak peek!

# NHW WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Burswood Peninsula's 8th Annual Community Fiesta: A Celebration of Connection and Safety

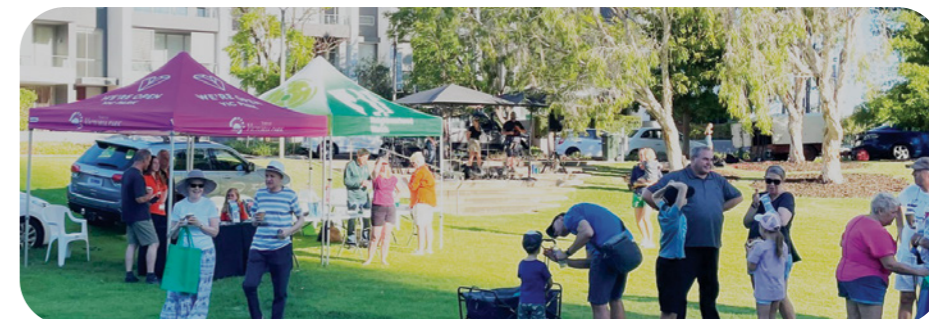
On 24 March 2024, the Burswood Peninsula Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group hosted its 8th Annual Community Fiesta, a well-loved tradition that has brought the community together since its inception in 2017.

The event, held in partnership with the Burswood Residents Association, WA Police, and the Town of Victoria Park (TOVP), aimed to strengthen the safety, wellbeing, and inclusivity of the Burswood Peninsula neighbourhood.

This year's Fiesta was a resounding success, drawing a record crowd of over 200 residents and families. The atmosphere was lively, with activities for all ages ensuring everyone had a great time. From the Swan Valley Farms petting zoo and face painting to the bouncy castle and bubble stations, children were particularly delighted. The day was not just about fun; it was a testament to the community's commitment to staying connected and safe.

Mayor Karen Vernon graced the event with her presence, delivering an engaging speech about the vital role of the TOVP in promoting community safety and wellbeing. Her participation, along with her mingling with the residents, was much appreciated. The Town of Victoria Park's stand provided valuable information on safety, security, and general community matters.

The Fiesta also served as a platform for promoting NHW initiatives. The



Town of Victoria Park and Burswood Peninsula NHW Group Gazebo's working hand in hand promoting safety and security



Jenny O'Brien, Acting Community Partnerships Coordinator WA Police, with Chris Quinn and Alan Graham from Burswood Peninsula NHW

NHW Gazebo was bustling with activity, distributing information and signing up new members to their WhatsApp group, a critical tool for reporting incidents and fostering community vigilance.

Despite competing with an Eagles AFL home game, the Fiesta exceeded expectations, demonstrating the strong community spirit of Burswood Peninsula. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the event's organisation and the variety of activities offered.

As the day concluded, it was clear that the 8th Annual Community Fiesta had not only been a fun-filled day but also an important step in building a safer, more connected community. The event's success reinforces the importance of such gatherings in fostering a sense of belonging and mutual support among residents.

# Melville NHW Events – Good for NHW Volunteers and the Local Community

## NHW Stall at Hawaiian’s Melville Shopping Centre

Lyn Cuthbert, who has been a Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) committee member for the last 10 years, has regularly organised a NHW promotion stall at the Hawaiian’s Melville shopping centre. More than 200 community members visit our stall at this occasion and each one of them recognises Lyn Cuthbert very well - as if they wait to see her! Despite having some medical issues, Lyn has continued with her community duty and coordinated the annual NHW stall at Hawaiian’s Melville Shopping



Melville NHW Chairperson Atul Garg, NHW Volunteer Deb Ferraro, and Committee Members Sebastian Mann and Lyn Cuthbert at Hawaiian’s Melville Shopping Centre

Centre on 27 July 2024. The event was supported by NHW Chairperson Atul Garg, Committee Member Sebastian Mann and NHW Volunteer Deb Ferraro.

Plenty of NHW information material and fresh fruits were handed out, which were highly appreciated by the members of the public.



Melville NHW Chairperson Atul Garg and Committee Member Lyn Cuthbert at the Father's Day celebration at Bunnings Melville

## Father’s Day Celebrations at Bunnings Melville

As the Chairperson of the City of Melville’s NHW team for the last 16 years, Atul has initiated several signature events. One of them is the promotion of NHW in the local Bunnings Melville. Every year Bunnings Melville organise celebrations on Father’s Day and invite the NHW team to install anti-theft screws. The Melville NHW presence is highly appreciated by Bunnings, as well as the local community.

Atul Garg and Lyn Cuthbert participated in the recent successful Father’s Day event on 29 August 2024, with more than 100 people visiting the stall and actively engaging with the team. As always, the most popular items were the NHW bin stickers. Other popular items were the safety alarms - especially with the seniors and the elderly people. The stall adjacent to NHW stall was the ‘Birds of Prey’ stall, who had a falcon with them. Atul used this excellent opportunity to get a picture with the falcon!



Atul making friends with another attendee, the ‘Birds of Prey’ falcon!

FREE GUIDES

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

ARE THEY TRIPLE OK?

An R U OK? conversation guide for emergency services workers and volunteers

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RUOK?™  
A conversation could change a life.





2024 澳大利亞塔州中國佛教學院

Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia delighted children and families with traditional lion dances, bookmark-making, and chopsticks games at the Heritage and Bullock Festival, held over two days in Oatlands, Tasmania. It was a vibrant celebration of history and culture, filled with fun, food, and festivities.

Visitors were immersed in Tasmania's rural heritage, enjoying attractions like traditional bullock teams, vintage farm machinery, and handcrafted goods.