



NHWA

Official Journal of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia
incorporating Neighbourhood Support New Zealand



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Neighbourhood
Support New Zealand



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Spring Community
Safety Series

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Cover photo: Oakey NHW Secretary-Treasurer Hennette Calitz, Diane Meredith, Rita Batzloff and Area Coordinator Ellisa Parker

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

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FROM THE CEO

MARIA BENNETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

Welcome to the first edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Journal for 2025! I'm delighted to share the latest projects and initiatives from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Neighbourhood Support NZ (NSNZ), and our valued partners.



NHWA 2024 Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner's Awards

The NHWA 2024 Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year and Police Commissioner's Awards have been announced, and the Awards go to... Amanda Draheim, Riverview NHW QLD, and Senior Constable Brittany Duncan, Bundaberg District QLD!

The NHWA Awards are judged by an independent panel, who have the difficult decision to select from all the highly deserving nominees. The Awards recognise those outstanding individuals who go above and beyond to create safer and more inclusive communities. The 2024 Awards recipients are responsible for many events and initiatives to bring their community together and raise crime prevention awareness.

The 2024 Runner-Up Award recipients are Ben Williams, NHW SA and Constable Anthony Bailey, TAS.

The dedication shown by all nominees is amazing, and highlights the inspiring people who are building stronger communities and reducing crime every day. Congratulations to all the nominees and recipients for their well-deserved recognition, and thank you to all the Volunteers and Police who do great work in our communities to keep us safe!

Malcolm Grant Volunteer of the Year Award Nominees:

- Christine Dorsey, Otago NZ
- Amanda Draheim, Riverview QLD
- Andrew Mooney, Riverview QLD
- Bill Jeffs, Morningside QLD

- Darren Buckley, Wondai QLD
- Joy Buckley, Wondai QLD
- Peter Brackstone, Shoreline QLD
- Rob Ormsby, Reedy Creek QLD
- Ben Williams, Whyalla SA
- Peter Vogelsanger, Greater Glenorchy TAS
- June MacDonald, Armadale WA

Police Commissioner's Award Nominees:

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



NHWA Board Meeting & AGM

In November, the NHWA Board met in-person for the AGM and Board meeting in Brisbane. The meeting was held at the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE). The ACCCE organised a tour of the ACCCE headquarters and presentations from the Online Child Safety Team, Operations Development and Disruption Unit and Intelligence Fusion Cell. The NHWA Board appreciated hearing about the extensive work of the ACCCE, of which NHWA is a stakeholder. Thank you to ACCCE Acting Commander Human Exploitation Frank Rayner, and the ACCCE staff for hosting us in the incredible ACCCE facility.

NHWQ Conference

While in QLD for the AGM and Board meeting, some of the NHWA Board and staff travelled to the Sunshine Coast for the Neighbourhood Watch Queensland

Conference at the Novotel Resort. It was fantastic to catch up with NHW groups from all across QLD, and the NHWQ State office staff. See page 26-27.



NHW Month 1 - 31 March 2025

In March, NHWA partnered with Crimsafe for the annual Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Month and 'Crimprovement', focussing on enhancing home security awareness and fostering safer communities. This collaboration equips homeowners with dedicated tools and resources to assess and increase their home security measures. This year participants went into the draw to win \$5,000 Home Crimprovement package from Crimsafe. See page 11.

Annual Report

The Annual Report demonstrates the performance of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia during the 2023-2024 financial year. The report details the achievements, projects and initiatives NHWA has delivered, and our continuing commitment to safer communities. To view the Annual Report go to: www.nhwa.com.au/about/annual-reports



Delivering Social Mission in Challenging Times

Recently I had the privilege of joining an insightful discussion at the University of Queensland (UQ) Brisbane. The conversation centred around the challenges social purpose organisations (SPOs) face in balancing their mission with financial sustainability. It highlighted the evolving landscape of social enterprise and the need for innovative, sustainable approaches.



2025 Upcoming Events & Dates

NHWA Award Nominations Open 1 July 2025

The NHWA Volunteer of the Year Award and Police Commissioner's Award nominations open on 1 July 2025. Go to: www.nhwa.com.au/news-media/awards



Secure September 1 - 30 September 2025

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

National Secure Your Home Day 27 - 28 September 2025

An annual event dedicated to checking and improving the security of your home.



For more information:

www.secureyourhomeday.com.au

Get Online Week 20 - 26 October 2025

Get Online Week (GOLW) is a great opportunity for NHW groups to receive a \$1,000 grant to hold an event, teach digital skills and improve online safety. Start planning your GOLW event today! Contact us for more information.

NHW Week November 2025

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia and Bunnings are partnering for the 7th consecutive year to present the combined Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Week. Dates to be announced soon, go to: www.nhwa.com.au/calendar

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

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

Together we achieve great things.

Neighbourhood Watch - the Power of Many!

Maria Bennett

Maria Bennett

Chief Executive Officer

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

maria.bennett@nhwa.com.au

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



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To donate go to 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.

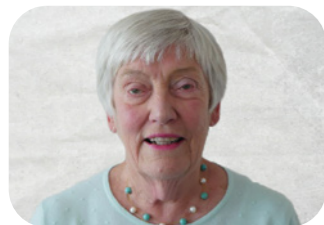
Commissioner Kershaw was a recipient of the NTPF Outstanding Leadership Medal, and was awarded the Australian Police Medal in the 2016 Australia Day Honours. Commissioner Kershaw was appointed as the AFP's 8th Commissioner on 2 October 2019.

The AFP is a strong supporter of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia with Commissioner Kershaw recently becoming Patron of NHWA. 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 NHW. In 1988 Bernie joined WA Police as a sworn Police Officer then switching to a Public Servant in 2008. In his current role Bernie manages a team of crime prevention community engagement staff and is extensively involved with NHW at both a State and National level. Bernie is currently the Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



Margaret Pearson - Company Secretary

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



Angela Di Pauli - Australian Capital Territory

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

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



Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale APM - AFP

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



Inspector Brett Callander - New Zealand

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



Superintendent Rob Fleischer - Queensland

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



Peter Edwards BM APM - Tasmania

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



Cheryl-Lee Fitzgerald ESM GAICD - Independent Director

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



Maria Bennett - Chief Executive Officer

Maria has extensive knowledge, management skills and leadership experience in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining NHWA 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 NHWA.



Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

Board Directors & Staff

www.nhwa.com.au/about/board-directors-staff



Build your digital skills

Tips From Be Connected to Protect Your Personal Information

Privacy Awareness Week is coming up in May, an annual event to raise awareness of privacy issues and the importance of protecting personal information.

Knowing where to start in protecting your personal information can be overwhelming, but Be Connected is making it easier with bite-sized courses and learning resources to help you.

The Be Connected website, managed by the eSafety Commissioner, offers hundreds of resources – including self-paced courses, online presentations, articles and even a games and skills practice area – to help older Australians and those who support them

to keep their online skills sharp and increase their confidence using the internet and digital devices.

New resource: Web tracking and data breaches explained

Be Connected's latest resource explores all things web tracking and data breaches to help put you in control of your personal information.

Discover how companies track your web browsing online to target you with ads, and what you can do to limit this. You'll also learn about data breaches, including what they are, how a data breach can affect you, and what steps you can take if your personal information has been involved in a data breach.

Protect your personal information:
beconnected.esafety.gov.au/web-tracking-and-data-breaches-explained

Upcoming free online presentations

Join a live online presentation to develop your digital skills and keep safer online. The eSafety Commissioner hosts free online presentations as part of Be Connected covering a wide range of topics every month.

Catch an upcoming session:

- **1 April:** Protect yourself against scams
- **29 April:** iPhone basics
- **30 April:** Useful tips for using your Android phone
- **6 May:** Protecting your personal information online
- **8 May:** Safer online shopping and banking
- **22 May:** Can you spot a scam?

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

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.



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

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



Neighbours Every Day Creates Year-Round Impact

Back row - Daniel Mancuso, Natalie Ahmat, Kate Mulholland, DJ Cooper Smith, Mandy Hose, Sophie Thomson, Julie Goodwin; Front row - Luke Mancuso, Karan Nagrani, Ruby Susan Mountford

Relationships Australia's social connection campaign is Neighbours Every Day.

The celebration of their annual day of action **Neighbour Day** on **30 March 2025**, marks another successful chapter in their ongoing commitment to fostering community connections and respectful relationships across the nation. Across Australia, people gathered in community halls, local parks, and suburban backyards to share meals, attend street parties, and foster connections through activities like community gardening and morning teas - all aimed at building stronger neighbourhood bonds.

A key contributor to the success of Neighbours Every Day (NED) is its year-round approach to community building. While Neighbour Day serves as an annual celebration, the campaign provides practical tools and support throughout the year, helping people across Australia create and maintain meaningful connections within their communities. This sustained engagement ensures that the benefits of community connection continue to grow over time.

As communities came together to create, share, and grow belonging with their neighbours, recent research has highlighted the remarkable cost-effectiveness of this program.

An economic evaluation conducted by researchers at the Australian National University and the University of Queensland has demonstrated that the Neighbours Every Day campaign, which includes the annual Neighbour Day celebration, delivers exceptional value in improving community health and well-being.

The evaluation used QALYs (quality-adjusted life years), which measure health outcomes by combining life length and quality into one score. One year of perfect health equals 1 QALY, while health issues reduce the score. Healthcare systems use QALYs to compare treatments and decide what to fund. **The study revealed that the NED program costs just \$4,667 per QALY gained – significantly below the Australian healthcare cost-effectiveness guide of \$28,033 per QALY.**

The research drew upon data from the comprehensive HILDA survey of over 17,000 Australians, and data from previous evaluations of the NED campaign, to compare outcomes between areas with and without active Neighbour Day participation. The results clearly showed that participants experienced reduced levels of loneliness compared to the general population, leading to measurable improvements in health and quality of life.

The program's success also lies in its flexibility, allowing people to engage in ways that suit their individual circumstances and community needs. From small acts of kindness to larger community gatherings, Neighbours Every Day supports various approaches to building social connections and fostering healthy relationships.

"As we reflect on another successful Neighbour Day, these research findings reinforce the value of investing in community connection. With its proven cost-effectiveness and demonstrated impact on reducing loneliness, Neighbours Every Day continues to exemplify Relationships Australia's commitment to building stronger, more connected communities across the nation," said Nick Tebbey, National Executive Officer for Relationships Australia.

Host of ABC's Gardening Australia and NED Ambassador Costa Georgiadis said,

"When you reach out to others, you get back much more than you give. Growing belonging is a real investment in everyone. Let's make every day Neighbour Day."

For more information about how to get involved in Neighbours Every Day or to access community connection resources, visit: www.NeighboursEveryDay.org

New Resources to Protect Children with Diverse Backgrounds

The Australian Federal Police (AFP)-led ThinkUKnow program launched a suite of new education resources to help culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) families have important conversations about online child safety.

ThinkUKnow and the eSafety Commissioner have translated the resources, which include advice sheets for parents and carers, and conversation cards for families, into simplified Chinese, Arabic and Punjabi.

The new resources aim to engage and educate culturally and linguistically diverse communities, as well as those who work with these groups, to help explain online child sexual exploitation and abuse, the warning signs and where victims and families can seek assistance or report to police.

AFP Commander Helen Schneider said the AFP worked closely with eSafety to develop the materials to ensure some of the largest non-English speaking communities in Australia were reached.

“Having open and honest conversations can help families feel empowered to tackle unsafe situations online,” Commander Schneider said.

“By helping these communities and families to better understand online child sexual exploitation, online grooming, sextortion and what child exploitation and abuse material is, we are giving them the power to protect their children and help police to do the same.

“Australia is a proud multicultural country and we want to educate

as many Australian families as possible to protect children from the threat of online child sex offenders. These resources help us get that vital message into the community.”

The AFP and its partners are committed to stopping child exploitation and abuse, and the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) is driving a collaborative national approach to combatting child abuse.

The resources are available online on the ThinkUKnow and eSafety Commissioner websites: www.thinkuknow.org.au/resources-tab/parents-and-carers



Advice sheet to parents and carers in Arabic

1

What do you like to do online?

Related questions


What games are you and your friends playing? What social media apps do you use?
What's the best and worst thing about social media?

Why this question matters?

Regularly talking with your child about what they are doing online helps create a safe, trusting environment to talk about more serious online safety topics, and can help you work out how best to support your child.

Take action together

Choose an online activity to do together, such as watching videos or playing an online game. This is a great way to connect as a family and learn together. Talk about how the apps or games work, if there is a chat option and what makes them fun.



Conversation card one in English



ThinkUKnow Launches 8th Edition Presentations

Online child safety team member running ThinkUKnow training in Canberra



Members of the Online Child Safety Team and ACCCE Executive at the ThinkUKnow launch

The updates included:

- Seven student presentations
- Two new student modules
- Parent/carer presentation
- Over 20 new videos
- Two presenter manuals

The updated presentations address topics including the importance of privacy, self-generated child abuse material, online grooming, sexual extortion and most importantly, help-seeking behaviours.

The updates were informed by current research in the areas of education and child wellbeing, intelligence, case studies and real-life reports made to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), AFP Child Protection Operations and Joint Anti Child Exploitation Teams around the country.

The content was reviewed by subject matter experts and tested with students to ensure the presentations provided appropriate

information to children and young people to help prevent online child sexual exploitation.

Following the launch, the Online Child Safety Team who develop and manage the ThinkUKnow program had the pleasure of visiting every state and territory to train new and existing volunteers and presenters as part of a national training rollout.

The team was motivated by the enthusiasm of its presenter-base, in their dedication to delivering this integral education messaging to the local community.

ThinkUKnow is an evidence-based education program led by the AFP delivered nationally in partnership with police and industry partners from Commonwealth Bank, Datacom, Microsoft and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The ThinkUKnow presentations are delivered by State and Territory police to students and by AFP, State and Territory Police and industry volunteers to parents and carers.

Student presentations are available from Foundation to Year 12 and are tailored to educate students on the safety issues each age group might face online.

The parent and carer presentations provide information and tools to create a safer online environment for children and young people, and empower parents and carers to feel confident in guiding their child as they access the internet and use technology.

Presentations for students, and parents and carers can be booked by schools and community groups at the ThinkUKnow website at: www.thinkuknow.org.au/request-presentation

If you are a member of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, or any of ThinkUKnow's partner organisations, and are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact the Online Child Safety Team at online-child-safety@afp.gov.au



How to Help a Child Experiencing Online Abuse



Online abuse can have serious impacts on children and young people, so it's important to know how to recognise when it's happening and what to do about it.

Research from the eSafety Commissioner shows more than two thirds of children tell a parent or carer if they have a negative experience online. But many children don't tell anyone they're experiencing online abuse. This can be because:

- they don't know they can report it and get help
- they don't believe anything will be done about it
- they think the abuse is their fault, or that others will blame them or get back at them
- they think that adults will take away their devices or limit their access to online activities.

eSafety has helpful information to ensure you can recognise the signs of online abuse and provide support to your child. Learn more at: [eSafety.gov.au/communities/child-safe-communities/help-report](https://www.esafety.gov.au/communities/child-safe-communities/help-report)

What to do if you know about or suspect online abuse

Check the child is safe from immediate danger - from other people and from self-harm.

Act quickly to understand what has happened. For example, you could start a conversation with, 'I can see that something on your phone is upsetting you. Is it OK if I ask some questions to try to help? Even if the problem seems embarrassing or seems overwhelming, we can get help together.' This is particularly urgent if you suspect a nude or sexual image or video of the child has been shared, as it's important to stop the spread of the material.

Reassure the child that they are not in trouble and that you can help them, no matter what has happened. Children may rely on devices for social and mental health support, so avoid taking away their device - or if it's necessary, let them know when they will be able to access it again.

Help the child to follow the reporting steps if the abuse is very serious or online content needs to be removed. A child or young person under 18 can report online abuse themselves, but they may need support. They can ask an adult to report it on their behalf. The child's parent or legal guardian can also report the abuse, even if the child doesn't ask them to.

Stay safe

If you are in Australia and someone is in immediate danger, call Triple Zero (000) now. If you are elsewhere, contact the police in your country.

Online child sexual exploitation, including online grooming and sexual extortion, should be reported to the Australian Federal Police-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE).

Reports can also be made in confidence to Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000** or at [crimestoppers.com.au](https://www.crimestoppers.com.au)

Crime Prevention Partners Work Together to Create Safer Australian Communities

Did you know that Australia's average Secure Score is only 55/100?*

During Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Month in March, crime prevention partners Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) and Crimsafe have been sharing practical tips and advice to educate and support communities about how to easily increase their Secure Score. People across Australia have visited the Secure Score website, a free online resource designed to evaluate the effectiveness of home security measures, to learn ways to live safer in their homes and see how they rate against their state's average score.



NHWA CEO Maria Bennett said there are many ways for people to boost their Secure Score and protect their home against unwanted intruders. "Practical actions all add points to your Secure Score, including securing bins away from easy access, leaving shoes by the front door and joining your local Neighbourhood Watch Group."

During NHW Month, those who used the Secure Score resource could opt into the running to receive a \$5,000 Home Crimprovement package from Crimsafe.

Natalie Hodgskin, Crimsafe's Head of Marketing, said "Thousands of entries have been received during Neighbourhood Watch Month."

"Entrants shared compelling stories as to why they should win the \$5,000 Home Crimprovement Package. Many had unfortunately been affected by break-ins."

"One deserving winner will receive the \$5,000 package that includes Crimsafe security screens, an ultimate security bundle, smart tags and cameras."

"Although there can only be one winner, there are many ways that people can secure their home and live safer - visit [securescore.crimsafe.com.au](https://www.securescore.crimsafe.com.au) to learn how."



2024 Home Crimprovement winner

Nadia D, who won the Home Crimprovement prize in 2024, said that winning the security package had made her and her family to feel safer in their home.

Nadia said that she was active in her Neighbourhood Watch group and stayed connected to her community.

"My Secure Score has increased from 57 to 83 with the newfound knowledge that I learnt during Neighbourhood Watch Month in 2024, and since winning the Home Crimprovement package."

Keep an eye out for the 2025 Home Crimprovement upgrade winner

The winner of the \$5,000 Home Crimprovement will be drawn on 14 April 2025, with their details published on the Crimsafe website [crimsafe.com.au/home-crimprovement/](https://www.crimsafe.com.au/home-crimprovement/) from 15 April 2025.

Visit [securescore.crimsafe.com.au](https://www.securescore.crimsafe.com.au) and see how you compare to your state's average score.

Partners in crime prevention

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

*Total average of Secure Scores from 2021 - 10 Jan 2025.



Scan the QR code to see who the lucky winner is

NHW ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

NHW ACT Marks 40th Anniversary

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in the ACT held a celebratory dinner to mark the anniversary of its founding which, surprisingly, was not by the NHW organisation itself but by the head of ACT police back in 1984, P.D. McConaghy.

NHW ACT Vice President (North) Clare McGrath, President Laurie Blackall, Vice President (South) Albert Orszaczky, and ACT Board Secretary Angela Di Pauli ready to greet their guests

CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, Maria Bennett, attended the 40th anniversary event along with NHW members, representatives of ACT Policing, local politicians and officials, and community entities.

The guest speaker on the night was the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, who spoke in support of Neighbourhood Watch's goals to prevent crime, reduce social isolation, and increase the safety, security and quality of life for all Canberrans.

Attendees were treated to a discourse on the birth and growth of NHW in the national capital by someone who had experienced it all, Ursula Macdermott. NHW ACT Board member Maria Adams also created an impressive montage of

photographs which were screened throughout the evening.

As for that unusual beginning of NHW, the bad guys 'brought it upon themselves' when, just five years after the Australian Federal Police (AFP) was formed in October 1979 (after the merging of the former Commonwealth Police and the Australian Capital Territory Police), NHW appeared on the scene.

At that time, AFP Assistant Commissioner McConaghy noted that burglaries in the ACT in 1984 had reached "epidemic proportions" and the success of NHW in the United States and Canada offered a "strong inducement for wide implementation of the scheme" in the ACT.

Assistant Commissioner McConaghy said "the police force alone cannot hope to arrest this startling crime

epidemic" and he sought "active assistance from the public".

The ACT's police-driven pilot scheme, "Kambah 1", was next and began in September 1984 - with full scale implementation in 1985.

Initially, the level of interest among residents was canvassed and a public meeting called. Volunteers were asked to assist with the implementation of the programme. To facilitate the launch, an area of approximately 600 residences was defined - the afore-mentioned "Kambah 1".

Residents of NHW areas were trained in crime prevention and, through four basic steps, became involved in an active way.

1. Participation in "Operation Identification" whereby valuable household items were marked with an identifying number.

2. Through receipt of Police crime statistics for their area.
3. Through training, residents improved their awareness of personal and household security; and
4. The deterrence of criminal activity by sign-posting areas where NHW operated.

Those four basic steps still apply, albeit modified to cope with changing circumstances over time... especially since the advent of the internet. Individual NHW groups now produce periodic newsletters and conduct letterbox drops, and NHW ACT has a website (nhwact.org.au) and a Facebook page (facebook.com/NHWACT).

The Police/NHW relationship has continued in the ACT, but NHW



NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall welcoming guests to the 40th Founding Anniversary gala



A special NHW themed cake was displayed to the anniversary guests by Vice President Clare McGrath, Ursula Macdermott, and President Laurie Blackall

has gradually developed into an independent - but symbiotic - organisation. Close ties have also been established with Crime Stoppers.

The heads of ACT Policing and NHW meet regularly, and a senior police officer (currently AFP Inspector Anna Daw) sits on the NHW ACT Board of Management.

What Assistant Commissioner McConaghy said 40 years ago in the police-issued "Manual on Working Together" still holds true, "The success of Neighbourhood Watch depends largely on a commitment to co-operation between residents and the police, but more importantly between residents themselves."



Laurie Leaves a Legacy

ACT NHW at Laurie's farewell dinner; District Delegate for Inner North Maria Adams, Secretary Angela Di Pauli, Interim President Jude Bowman, Laurie Blackall, Vice President (North) Clare McGrath and Vice President (South) Albert Orszaczky

Long-time Canberra resident, Laurence “Laurie” Blackall, has stepped down after four years as president of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT, as he is relocating to Queensland.

Laurie's parents had moved the family to the ACT in 1968, so Laurie has witnessed Canberra develop into the cosmopolitan city it is today.

He grew up in Ainslie and Rivett before joining the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 1977. After serving on Her Majesty's Australian (HMA) ships he returned to Canberra on posting in 1985. While in the RAN he developed a keen interest in project and program management.

Laurie later left the RAN and joined the public service in 1998, where he remained until retirement in 2013.

Laurie was first involved in NHW in 1989 when he established a branch in the Canberra suburb of Florey. After taking a break to focus on his career, in 1991 he re-established his connection, joining NHW in Casey and taking on the area coordinator responsibilities and becoming NHW ACT Board Treasurer.

In 2020, Laurie took over the presidency of NHW ACT when

Margaret Pearson stepped down to focus on her position as Company Secretary of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA).

Soon after taking up the NHW leadership position in the ACT, Laurie commented, “I look forward to the challenges of building capability in NHW to remain relevant in an increasingly connected and informed Canberra community.”

He predicted a great future for NHW in the ACT and stressed “I've seen the development of NHW and its place in the Canberra community cemented and grown.”

Laurie established strong relationships with ACT Policing, particularly the former Chief Police Officer Neil Gaughan, Crime Stoppers and other relevant stakeholders.

He is an advocate of community engagement through attendance at a variety of community events and has worked actively to grow

the organisation and ensure its on-going relevance.

Laurie has helped the organisation to embrace technology and invest in new ways of doing business, whilst maintaining a commitment to promoting safety and security across the community and building strong and effective relationships with key stakeholders.

Most recently, and in conjunction with his role as President, Laurie has been the ACT representative on the NHWA Board and continued in this role until March 2025.

The ACT NHW Board hosted a farewell dinner for Laurie and his wife, Sue, in February to give many a chance to say goodbye and celebrate his successes and achievements, particularly during his time as President.

We thank Laurie for his service to NHW and wish him all the best in the future.

New AFP Representative on NHW ACT Board

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT President Laurie Blackall welcomed Australian Federal Police (AFP) Inspector Anna Daw in 2024 as ACT Policing's new representative on the NHW ACT Board.

Inspector Daw brings 22 years' experience with the AFP - mostly in the ACT but also with postings to Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island - for her liaison role.



NHW ACT President Laurie Blackall welcomes AFP Inspector Anna Daw onto the NHW ACT Board

NHW Recruiting at ACT Seniors and Better Ageing Expo

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) ACT partnered again with ACT Policing to provide information on personal security and safety to visitors to the COTA (Council on the Ageing)-sponsored '2024 ACT Seniors and Better Ageing Expo' at the Old Bus Depot Building in Kingston, Canberra.

Members of NHW were rostered during the day to answer visitors' questions, hand out pamphlets and brochures on relevant topics, and help interested individuals apply for membership.

The Expo showcased over 160 exhibitors featuring their services, programs, advice and products about active ageing, wellness, lifestyle, retirement or legal and financial options.

There was also a variety of great food options and entertainment, including the Royal Military College Duntroon acoustic band and the “Seasoned Voices” choir.



ACT NHW Interim President and Membership Secretary Jude Bowman talking to an interested Expo visitor



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- Photograph and record details of expensive or essential bolt-on accessories.



NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

NEW ZEALAND

Creating Safe, Resilient, and Connected Communities

The Joy of Giving

Our Neighbourhood Support (NS) groups across the country have been doing some amazing work in their communities, with two in particular wrapping up 2024 with some incredible Christmas kindness!

Te Puna Aroha (based in Otiria, Northland Region) headed out on Christmas Eve to deliver hampers to all the whare (homes) in their local rural area. Then it was time for the annual mailbox decorating competition with a theme of 'whānau' (Māori for family, or those connected through community). Family members of all ages and abilities participated, including 'Big Mac' the cow who joined in on the fun!

Neighbourhood Support Māngere and Māngere Bridge (Auckland) held a Christmas Kindness Drive back in mid December. **They worked together with the help of local community partnerships to buy and deliver Christmas presents to 100 deserving local children, plus every family received a large Christmas Box full of pantry essentials and Christmas 'treat' boxes with goodies to enjoy on Christmas Day.**

"It felt so heartwarming... it was a huge effort, but we did it! Thank you so much to our wonderful Māngere Bridge Community who donated money, gifts and food and gave up their time to wrap presents." – Sarah Fair, Area Coordinator for Māngere Bridge NS.



An excited family receiving their Christmas hamper



Families were very creative decorating their mailboxes!



Mailboxes in Otiria and Moerewa decorated for the Christmas Mailbox Competition



Senior Sergeant Alasdair MacMillan with Kelsey Ardern (NSNZ)

Community Champ Bows Out: A Farewell to Mac

A fond farewell with sincere good wishes to Senior Sergeant Alasdair MacMillan (Mac) who retired in late January after 49 years in Police.

Mac has been a huge supporter and champion of all things Neighbourhood Support over the years. We were privileged to have Mac as the official Commissioners Representative, attending all NSNZ Board meetings and working alongside us at National Office. Mac holds a genuine passion for community and worked hard to ensure connections and resources were in place for our networks nationwide. We will miss Mac's candid personality, unrestrained humour and talented ability to bring people together and create opportunities.

Mac has officially been nominated for an honorary lifetime membership award to NSNZ which will be determined at the 2025 AGM, and we've sent him off with a personalised Retirement Survival Kit to ensure he's well prepared. Wishing you all the very best Mac for all that lies ahead. With love from the NSNZ Team.



AEM General Manager Adam Maggs and NSNZ CEO Louise Grevel co-signing the MoU in Auckland

NSNZ Sign MoU with Auckland Emergency Management

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ) have been working alongside Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) over the last several months to form a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The aim of this agreement is for NSNZ and AEM to work collaboratively at a regional and local level to achieve our mutual goal of increasing community emergency readiness.

The MoU outlines how we will work together with information sharing to support the community and our civil defence and emergency group response, before, during and after an emergency event.

Anna Wallace, AEM Head of Planning says, "I'm proud of this collaboration with Neighbourhood Support New Zealand. Civil defence and emergency management takes the efforts of the whole community and this agreement to work together is an important step towards a future that collectively increases our community emergency preparedness."

Look out, Reach out, Help out

A Neighbourhood Support (NS) street group in Nelson helped an elderly lady remain in her home independently, as she preferred not to move to a rest home. They assisted by mowing her lawns, helping with cooking, and checking in on her regularly. By providing voluntary assistance, this street group demonstrated the power of NS in enhancing people's wellbeing and contributing to the safety, comfort, and quality of life for vulnerable community members.

In South Taranaki, a NS volunteer assisted an elderly woman (a NS member) following a daytime robbery in the woman's home. The volunteer provided support and helped the woman



when Police left to phone her internet provider and bank. She drove her to town to purchase a replacement phone, security cameras and organised a builder to install more deadbolts, slide locks and security stays on windows at her house. The volunteer spent most of the weekend supporting the victim and stayed overnight at the request of the victim.

Two perfect examples of what Neighbourhood Support is all about.

Summer Street Smarts Campaign

From December to February every year, we promote our Summer Street Smarts Campaign. We put together a wide range of tips and advice into one dedicated page on our website, and we share those tips and advice in our newsletters and on social media.

Each week we focused on advice for different things like road safety, heading away on holiday, online shopping and scams, party planning tips and summer fire safety.

Here are some of our top tips:

- Make it click! Always wear your seatbelt
- Don't drink and fry

- Never give out your passwords, log in details, or account info
- Secure locks and fastenings on windows and doors when you're out
- Notify a trusted neighbour, friend, or family member, but don't tell the world you'll be away
- Look Out, Reach Out, Help Out - The most important action you can take to make your community safer is to get to know the people who live around you. People who know each other are more likely to offer, accept, and ask for help when needed.

Head to our website for our full list of tips and advice: www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz/summer-street-smarts



Staying Safe On Our Roads



Preventing Fraud & Scams



Masterton Mayor Gary Caffell, Rijwana Parvin, Pooja Soham Taskar, Epti Rusdi, Cathy Cameron, Geraldine Durrant, Arti Kadian, Celia Wade-Brown, and Christie Johnson - Photo/Lucy Cooper, Wairarapa Times-Age

Migrant Women Savour Success

The collaborative efforts of several community organisations, combined with the "hard work and courage" of a group of women from Wairarapa's Ahmadiyya and migrant communities, have culminated in a celebration.

The Wairarapa Women's Centre worked alongside the Red Cross, Neighbourhood Support, and Masterton District Council Welcoming Communities Advisor Arti Kadian to help 10 migrant women complete a food safety course.

The graduates of the course were presented with certificates at a small ceremony, attended by friends, family and supporters.

Kadian, who helped translate for the participants throughout the one-day course, acknowledged the role the qualification could play in their futures. In the spirit of providing ongoing support, Kadian has teamed up with Cathy Cameron from Neighbourhood Support to apply for funding to run a business 1-0-1 course.

Masterton Mayor Gary Caffell, too, applauded the women's achievements. "You are all going to contribute

marvellously to our town and we thank you for that," he said. "I hope I see a lot more of you all in the future."

Caffell also paid special tribute to the work of the Wairarapa Women's Centre in promoting the course and sourcing the funding, and took the opportunity to highlight Masterton's tradition in welcoming refugees, including those from the Ahmadiyya community, to the district.

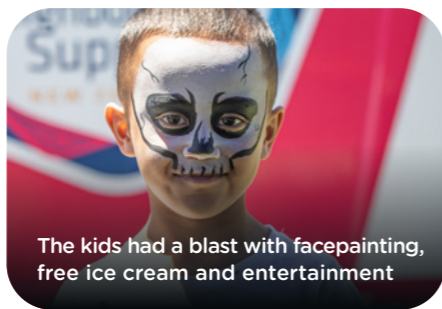
"We are absolutely thrilled with that - because the opinion of our council is that the more diverse your community, the better it is," Caffell said. "And we are very fortunate here in Masterton that we now have a widely diverse community."

Sirens and Services – A fun-filled community day in the sun

A Sirens and Services Koha Ice Cream Day in Gate Pā turned out to be a sunny celebration of community spirit, despite a rainy forecast the day before. Held in November at Anzac Park, the event was organised by Western Bay of Plenty NS and the Haeata Charitable Trust. The event brought together families, local services, and performers for a fun-filled day under sunny skies.

With the support of local businesses and emergency services, there was plenty for families to enjoy. Rebecca Larsen, event coordinator for NS said one of the coolest things about the day was seeing the youth of the community getting involved, especially with the singing.

The event also gave everyone a sneak peek of what's to come with the new community centre being built next to the park, with Tauranga City Council representatives there to talk about it.



The kids had a blast with facepainting, free ice cream and entertainment



Local Police and NS coordinators enjoying the entertainment



People had a blast collecting stamps at each stall, earning a free ice cream from Mr Whippy after filling their cards



Neighbourhood Support set up next to our partners at Fire and Emergency NZ

Rebecca Larsen said the day couldn't have gone better.

“The community came out, brought their kids, and really connected with the local services. It was a chance to learn about everything our community has to offer, and the atmosphere was just fantastic.”



Members of NZ Police, NS, CPNZ and Bunnings gathered for Bunnings Crime Prevention Week in Whakatāne

Safer Plates & Tool Engraving – Bunnings Crime Prevention Week collaborations

Back in November for Bunnings Crime Prevention Week, Neighbourhood Support (NS) groups such as Whakatāne, Taupō and Waitākere teamed up with Bunnings, local Police, and Community Patrols NZ to hold Safer Plates and Tool Engraving events for their communities.

Safer Plates is a nationwide, community-led project that aims to reduce the theft of number plates from vehicles by making it difficult for thieves to remove them.

Number Plate theft is a common tactic used for criminal activities such as petrol station drive-offs, so ensuring number plates are secured with tamper-proof screws is a simple yet effective measure that helps prevent your vehicle becoming a target.

Recording serial numbers and/or engraving your most valuable possessions can help in any efforts to recover your property if it gets lost or stolen. Engraving or marking those items makes them less desirable and valuable to potential thieves.

Taupō NS Coordinator Alivia Roberts says Safer Plates events are a great way for the community to come together and take action.

NHW QLD

QUEENSLAND

Daisy Hill NHW Halloween

Daisy Hill NHW held another successful Halloween event in 2024, with over 500 kids passing through. Halloween is proving to be a great event in terms of bringing the community together.

Thank you to Councillor Mindy Russell from Logan City Council for helping with funding, and thank you to Senior Constables Rob Crowley and Anthony Say for bringing along the Police Beat van, handing out treats and interacting with the younger members of the community. Thank you to John and Jill Devaus for organising the event, and Irene and Cliff Walker for assisting with set up.



Senior Constable Anthony Say from Rochedale South handing out some goodies

What a well-behaved bunch we had in Edera Court, Daisy Hill. Everyone remembered their manners, well done! A special thank you to Gabby Dantos for the Halloween map.

Plenty of photos were taken of the event, showcasing the amazing costumes and decorations. Over eight dozen cupcakes, hundreds of treats and 80 bottles of water disappeared early.

“The kids loved playing in the Police Beat van and kept police officers Rob and Anthony on their toes. This event just keeps getting bigger and better and is a great way of generating community spirit. Many families walked the map together, making new friendships along the way.”

Thank you again to everyone who participated, and helped the event be the success that it was.



Councillor Mindy Russell as Maleficent, with the NHW resources



Jill Devaus making sure all attendees got a treat!



Everyone at the Daisy Hill Halloween was dressed to impress (and scare)



Sharon Labudda with home away from home Antarctica pictured



Phil Thamm talking to Kumbia NHW



World record breaking parachute formation - if you didn't recognise him, Phil is on the left-hand side of the second bottom row

Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch 2024 Guest Speakers

For three of its meetings in 2024, Kumbia NHW had the privilege of hosting varied and interesting guest speakers – in February, Phil Thamm, a former long-term resident of Kumbia, in May, Sharon Labudda who still resides there when home from Antarctica, and in November, Glen Teske who is a retired police officer living in the area.

Phil grew up in Kumbia and spent his working life in the Army, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer Class One. Although now retired, Phil still works as a reservist and is currently the curator of the Australian Defence Force Parachuting School Museum. Some of the things he discussed was his life thus far and of his experience training personnel for parachute jumps.

Our second guest speaker Sharon has been involved in missions to Antarctica for over 20 years, and was initially employed as a qualified diesel fitter. Since then, she has filled a number of roles – including that of Field Leader, ultimately responsible for the welfare of people and equipment on expeditions.

As you can imagine, this can prove to be quite a challenge in such a remote area, and with such extreme conditions. Her experiences living and working there were a real eye opener for those of us used to the warm QLD weather!

In November retired police officer, Glen Teske, kept us enthralled with recollections of his time in the force, (including his roles in the Criminal Investigation Branch and the Stock Squad), and how policing methods have changed over the years. In his spare time, Glen writes amusing and entertaining stories for the local newspaper about his escapades, and these articles are always popular.



Retired police officer Glen Teske keeping the group entertained



While the Gold Council Disaster Management and Recovery app had warned of severe weather, it was found in the aftermath that many residents did not know of the app's existence and were left without information about river levels, evacuation centres, animal management and road closures.

As part of the recovery, the Gold Coast District Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Committee collaborated with the City of Gold Coast to provide a number of initiatives to the community during 2024, so they could be better prepared for future natural disasters. These included visits to the City's Disaster Management Centre and designing action plans that NHW groups could individually tailor to their own unique areas risks and community requirements.

The NHW District Committee was successful in securing the Good Thing's Foundations' Get Online Week (GOLW) funding, which gave a further opportunity to work with the local NHW groups that were heavily impacted by the disaster. The Gold Coast Disaster Management team and Queensland Police attended two workshops to provide residents with online information from the City's disaster management dashboard enabling them to find real time alerts before, during and after disaster



Queensland Police presentation at the Palm Beach NHW Get Online Week workshop

events, including flood warnings, severe weather warnings, road closures, and evacuation centres.

The Council Disaster team were also able to help attendees to navigate the main Council app, which allows them to report things such as graffiti, abandoned vehicles, damaged street lights, missed garbage collections, local by-laws regarding noise, and wildlife protection measures.

The Queensland Police Media Unit walked attendees through the online portals to report crime, lost/found property, hooning, stolen/found vehicles, graffiti and crime maps.

During the four-hour workshops, attendees were able to use their own devices to navigate the information provided by the speakers with plenty of help to assist with the process. Attendees were able to access and set up the Disaster Emergency Alerts on the Dashboard, and learned how to navigate the app to get the information they would need. Attendees were also able to chat directly to the speakers during breaks about individual needs, and how to prepare action plans for future evacuations and dealing with natural disasters.



NHW Queensland State Conference 2024

On 9 November 2024 the Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ) State Conference was held at Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort.

Back: Assistant Commissioner Glenn Morris, A/Sergeant Mick Simmonds, Senior Constable Lynda Whincup, A/Senior Sergeant Rachel Moffat, A/Sergeant Ricky Blanckensee, Sergeant Jodie Murray, Sergeant Crystal Moore, Senior Constable Peter Oxenford, State Award Winner Senior Sergeant Mitch Benson, and Deputy Commissioner Cameron Harsley
 Front: Ken Murphy, Edward Patching, Amanda Draheim, Claire Rehbein, Darryl Neild, William Nancarrow, David Guyatt and Jenny Masche



NHWQ State Office team at conference; Senior Communications officer Aimee Cadan, Sergeant Kelly Miles, Sergeant Alan Dixon, A/Senior Sergeant Holly James, Senior Strategy Officer Tim Webster, A/Senior Sergeant Susan Canniffe, A/Inspector Alice Carnes, Senior Prevention Manager Erin Hurley, and A/Sergeant Latisha Whalan

The conference had almost 100 attendees from NHWQ groups and Queensland Police Service (QPS) stations across Queensland. Each year the conference is an opportunity for NHWQ members to come together to network, celebrate the work of award winners, and learn about crime prevention techniques relevant to their communities.

This year's conference included a number of informative presentations from Knife Crime, Financial and Cyber Crime, the Illicit Laboratory Investigation Team, Digital Intelligence & Community Engagement, Operation Whiskey Legion, the Victim Response Framework and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA).

The Conference was also an opportunity to recognise and celebrate NHWQ members and police who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in their community. Their commitment and dedication help keep our neighbourhoods safe, connected, and thriving.

Community Member Award Winners 2024:

- **Lawrence Hill**
Capricornia District
(State Award Winner)
- **Ken Murphy**
Darling Downs
- **Edward Patching**
Gold Coast
- **Amanda Draheim**
Ipswich
- **Claire Rehbein**
Mackay Whitsunday
- **Darryl Neild**
Moreton
- **William Nancarrow & David Guyatt**
North Brisbane
- **Peter Brackstone**
South Brisbane
- **Jenny Masche**
Sunshine Coast
- **Vicki Whalan**
Townsville

Police Officer Award Winners 2024:

- **Senior Sergeant Mitch Benson**
Mackay Whitsundays
(State Award Winner)
- **Senior Sergeant Kain Brown**
Capricorn
- **Senior Constable Todd Armstrong**
Darling Downs
- **Acting Sergeant Mick Simmonds**
Gold Coast
- **Senior Constable Lynda Whincup**
Ipswich
- **Acting Senior Sergeant Rachel Moffat**
Logan
- **Acting Sergeant Ricky Blanckensee**
Moreton
- **Sergeant Jodie Murray**
North Brisbane
- **Sergeant Crystal Moore**
South Brisbane
- **Senior Constable Peter Oxenford**
Sunshine Coast



A/Senior Sergeant Susan Canniffe, MC Mark Plath and NHWA CEO Maria Bennett

Gold Coast NHW at the NHWQ Conference

Members from several Gold Coast Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups were pleased to attend the 2024 Annual Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ) State Conference, held on the Sunshine Coast.

It was great to catch up with other volunteers from across Queensland, as well as police and the NHWQ state office staff. It was also great to hear from the guest speakers, who presented of a range of topics.



Members from several Gold Coast NHW groups attended the 2024 Annual NHWQ State Conference, pictured is Edward Patching, Anne Cobcroft, Doug Ringham, Trevor Taylor, A/Sergeant Mick Simmonds, Vicki Colwell, Jean Greatbanks, Annette Moon, Robyn Cox, A/Senior Sergeant Scott Muldoon and Kevin Boyle



Gold Coast Officer of the Year winner A/Sergeant Mick Simmonds, and Willow Vale NHW Area Coordinator Anne Cobcroft



Oakey NHW Secretary-Treasurer Hennette Calitz, Diane Meredith, Rita Batzloff and Area Coordinator Ellisa Parker

Oakey NHW Update

Oakey Under 8's Day was held in August 2024. Oakey Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) were delighted to have received over 60 entries in their drawing competition themed 'Oakey 4401 Our Safe Community'.

Warm congratulations to the winners, chosen by popular vote. First, second, and third prizes were awarded in each of the three age categories, it was a showcase of emerging talent.

Oakey NHW also took part in Secure September, which ran alongside the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers.

Our initiatives included organising 'Coffee with a Cop' events and distributing safety and security information across the Oakey community.

We are grateful for the resources provided by Neighbourhood Australasia and Neighbourhood Watch Queensland, which are distributed to our community.

The Caves NHW Celebrates 30 Years

On 8 December 2024 The Caves Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) members gathered at The Caves Pub for a 6pm meeting. General business and discussions were wrapped up quickly as there was further business to take care of.

A cake displaying a large '30' was delivered, and visitors Tim and Jan McSweeney were invited to speak. It was interesting to hear facts, figures and stories from 30 years of The Caves NHW. Foundation member of The Caves group, Nina Thomasson, also told of her experiences with crimes affecting locals, and the huge task of the newsletter deliveries through the years which she was secretary.

Nina was then given the honour of cutting the cake accompanied by a shout of "Cheers" and a clinking of glasses. We shared cake and resolved to continue the work of NHW in 2025!



Bev, Allana, Nina and Kelli celebrating 30 years of The Caves NHW

Reedy Creek NHW Get Online Week

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Reedy Creek Get Online Week event on 14 October 2024.

A range of online topics and resources were covered, including fraud protection, online safety, options for training and help, and how to enjoy your online experience. Thank you to the presenters, Natasha Shuba from the Office of Fair Trading, Claire Robinson from Basic Tech, and Michael Mason from Retired Online for your presentations, and following up with hands on advice. Yula Harris from Yula's kitchen provided catering and refreshments for attendees, it was delicious as always!

Thank you also to Melissa from the Varsity Lakes Community Center for taking part, who provided further resources as well as emergency and disaster advice.



Reedy Creek NHW attendees at the GOLW event, diligently taking notes!



Reedy Creek NHW Area Coordinator Rob, Claire Robinson from Basic Tech, and Michael Mason from Retired Online



Cuppa with a Cop in North Rockhampton

Rockhampton NHW Cuppa with a Cop

In February, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) North Rockhampton #4's latest Cuppa with a Cop event began with much excitement.

One of the locals, Laurie Hill and his wife Allana from The Caves community, was at last presented with not only the Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHWQ) District Award, but also the State Member of the Year Award for 2024. Thank you to Sergeant Dave for presenting these Awards.

NHW North Rockhampton #4 meet for these Cuppas at our local Bella Via Café every two months, which provide an opportunity for people to have a frank discussion and offer feedback. It is encouraging to continually see new folk as well as our regulars take this opportunity to meet with local Police.

NHW North Rockhampton #4 maintains constant contact with the Queensland Police Service to keep up to date with any NHW issues, and who highlights the importance of taking appropriate crime prevention precautions, and the need to report all incidents no matter how minor they might seem.

Due to recent wet weather the group was smaller than usual, however much discussion was had about the latest scams and their effects on those being targeted. Everyone learns more during these discussions, and the morning was a great success. Any member of the public is welcome to attend to discuss problems, and seek practical advice in an informal setting.



Laurie Hill receiving his NHWQ District Award and NHWQ State Member of the Year Award from Sergeant Dave with Allana helping to hold all the awards



Back - Kate O'Sullivan, Debra Teekens, Sandra Smrecnik, Jocelyne Harris, Lydia Teekens, Duchense Broad, Amanda Draheim; Middle - Santa (Greg Broad), and his elves Thomas, Jake, Frankie; Front - Katherine Smith, Senior Constable Lynda Whincup, Shaun Johnston

Riverview Neighbourhood Watch Twilight Market

Riverview NHW ended 2024 on a high note, partnering with Wisser Pasifika Communities Inc. for a festive Twilight Market.

In December the Riverview Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteers partnered with local group Wisser Pasifika Communities Inc. to hold a very successful Twilight Market for their final event of 2024.

“The community was invited to enjoy the local vendors markets, food stalls and entertainment, as they mingled and caught up with neighbours during the busy holiday season.”

The community was invited to enjoy the local vendors markets, food stalls and entertainment, as they mingled and caught up with neighbours during the busy holiday season.

Riverview Police Beat Officer Lynda Whincup delivered Santa and three of his littlest elves to the event, where they distributed gifts of children's books, bubble wands and candy canes to the awaiting crowd. The Riverview NHW group set up a 'Santa Selfie Studio' to give families the opportunity to snap their own family photos with Santa. Attendees to the event were also treated to dance and vocal performances arranged by the Wisser Pasifika crew. The steady stream of

families passing through the doors of the Riverview and District Community Centre was a welcome sight for the community groups, whose aim was to bring local residents together and build on the already strong sense of community that is being supported.

The Riverview NHW volunteers took the opportunity to get their own Santa photo on the night, before pausing for a well-deserved rest over the holidays.

Partnering with their local community groups gives Riverview NHW the capacity to hold bigger and better events, while reaching more residents in their community. The workload is shared, and the enjoyment is multiplied!



Ken Rehbein and A/Inspector Mitch Benson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Josh from Coles Rural View

NHW Mackay Northern Beaches Cuppa and Chat

On 9 October 2024 Mackay Northern Beaches Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) held a Cuppa and Chat at Shoal Point Park.

Acting Inspector Mitch Benson and Acting Senior Sergeant Tanya Cashin Officer in Charge attended and reported on activities in the Northern Beaches. It was pleasing to hear that there has been a continuing reduction in property crime. There had been 19 recent arrests, which covered the whole Mackay Police District. It was advised during the meeting that Project Booyah was progressing well, and that 11 Police Districts now had this program in operation.

Acting Inspector Mitch Benson and Sergeant Tara Murnane gave a detailed presentation on how to 'Secure Your Home', reminding the group of simple steps that can make a big impact. A quantity of Neighbourhood Watch and National



Mackay Northern Beaches NHW members promoting 'National Secure Your Home Day'

Secure Your Home Day material was distributed to members.

Local issues were discussed, including hooning problems occurring in the Northern Beaches area. Acting Inspector Mitch emphasised that if there is an emergency situation call 000, otherwise submit a Hooning Report

on the Queensland Police website. Information about 'how to make a report' has once again been widely distributed through the Mackay NHW Facebook pages.

During the meeting Josh from Coles Rural View was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Mitch and Ken, for his support.

NHW SA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Marino and Kingston Park NHW

Member for Black Alex Dighton MP, Premier of South Australia Peter Malinauskas MP and Marino Park NHW Area Coordinator Darren Bailhache

Marino Railway Station Safety and Security Upgrade Has Been Achieved – A Win For Our Community.

It is a great pleasure to advise that on 26 October 2024 Darren Bailhache, Area Coordinator for Marino Park Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) met with the Premier of South Australia Peter Malinauskas MP to announce the successful implementation of the NHW safety and security campaign for Marino Railway Station.

The South Australian Government has announced it will invest \$2,000,000 to upgrade the Marino Railway Station. The upgrades

will include CCTV cameras, an emergency phone, a new fit for purpose all weather shelter, and platform modifications.

Work will commence during the first half of 2025.

The campaign was launched over two years ago. A huge thank you to the NHW Committee and support team. Darren would like to thank everyone who signed the House of Assembly Petition, and the local businesses and community organisations that joined the campaign.

Your support and encouragement has resulted in a significant win for the community.

Darren advised it was fantastic to meet members of the community,



Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Tom Koutsantonis MP and NHW Area Coordinator Darren Bailhache

listen to your stories and thank the countless number of families that invited him into their homes for coffee. There will be further updates for the community as work commences on the safety and security upgrade.

Thank you again to the community and congratulations on getting the job done.



Remembering 40 years of NHW in South Australia - Retired Detective Senior Sergeant David and Senior Sergeant First Class Sharon with residents in a NHW area
Photo courtesy the South Australian Police Historical Society and South Australia Police

Grants Program to Support SA NHW Groups

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) SA is celebrating its 40th birthday this year with a \$10,000 grants program.

NHW groups statewide are able to apply for up to \$2,000 to undertake a project aimed at reducing local crime or increasing community connections. The funds are being provided through a partnership agreement between the South Australia Police (SAPOL) NHW Program and the NHW Volunteer Association of South Australia (VASA) Board of Management.

According to Board President Ben Williams, the program is a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge and show appreciation of NHW volunteers for their dedication over four decades. President Ben Williams said, "Many of our volunteers have been committed to the program and creating safer communities for a very long time. Usually, they need to fundraise before they can get cracking with a project. That can be a barrier that prevents groups from being active in their community."

NHW groups need to complete a simple application process to be considered for a grant. This involves explaining how their proposed project will either benefit the safety of their community or build community connections.

SAPOL NHW State Coordinator Kirsty Mudge said, "The selection panel would be looking for two different types of projects, community crime prevention initiatives, and local events and activities that bring community members together."

"Many people don't realise how important having a connected community is in reducing crime," she said. "Research shows that communities where individuals know each other tend to be safer communities," said Ms Mudge.

All South Australian NHW groups are encouraged to apply for a grant, including those that are struggling due to low membership numbers. A grant project can assist in reinvigorating NHW areas and piquing the interest of new people.

The initiative gives NHW volunteers the opportunity to try something new, be creative, share ideas and learn new skills. Grant initiatives can range from providing lighting for a secluded area to hosting a street party or completing a public art project.



South Australia's first NHW group, Flinders Park, marches down King William Street before gathering in Elder Park to celebrate the program in 1999
Photo courtesy the South Australian Police Historical Society and South Australia Police

NHW SA 40th Anniversary Calendar Shares Volunteers' Words

A Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) SA 40th anniversary calendar featuring photos from throughout the history of the South Australian program has been distributed throughout the State to improve awareness of the program and encourage involvement.

"NHW SA turns 40 on 1 May 2025 and many of its members remember the early success of the program."

Each month of the calendar includes a quote from an existing volunteer or a South Australia Police officer who has been involved in the program:

- "I get an enormous sense of satisfaction from helping to make the community a lot safer." - Jenny, NHW Volunteer.
- "Neighbourhood Watch brings together people from all walks of life who want to live in a safe and crime-free area." - Lynette, NHW volunteer.
- "Neighbourhood Watch is important to create opportunities for gathering and connecting to our neighbours and the wider community." - Senior Constable Keren.
- "I am privileged to be involved with such a proactive and successful group. Through Neighbourhood Watch, they all have a shared interest in creating a safe and connected community." - Senior Constable Randal.

NHW SA turns 40 on 1 May 2025 and many of its members remember the early success of the program.

The first group, Flinders Park, was featured in The Advertiser in 1986, which stated, "The bare statistics are compelling. Housebreakings in the area have slumped dramatically, down 30% on the previous 12 months."

NHW TAS

TASMANIA



NHW Tasmania Awardees and Drawing Competition Winners



Winners with their families at the NHWT Awards and Prize Giving Morning Tea



Winners with their families at the NHWT Awards and Prize Giving Morning Tea

NHW Challenge to Engage Younger Generations

A challenge for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is how to improve engagement with our younger generations.

The Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Journal is a valuable resource for learning about initiatives that have been successful in other places across Australia and New Zealand. This article is about some success that Neighbourhood Watch in Tasmania (NHWT) has had in recent years engaging with younger children and their families.

For many years NHWT has produced a calendar to promote its brand and activities which it gives away for free at events and forums. The calendar has been popular with our members and friends, perhaps because it is free, perhaps because their photo may have appeared in it, or perhaps because it was a handy size for recording important dates and events.

However, it became increasingly more difficult for the calendar to project the true dynamics and worth of our organisation within its pages.

These factors were taken into account when it was proposed to present primary school children's drawings on

“Our first effort was so successful with the theme of Safer Neighbourhoods, that we did it again the next year and more than doubled the entries received.”

NHW themes as feature pages within the calendar. Our first effort was so successful with the theme of Safer Neighbourhoods, that we did it again the next year and more than doubled the entries received. Our 2026 calendar will again host a children's drawing competition with the theme, 'how to be a good neighbour' when we celebrate 40 years of NHW in Tasmania. Winners receive \$100, a NHW showbag, a Certificate of Achievement and copies of the Calendar at a prize giving ceremony that companions our NHW Awards event at the Launceston Country Club each October.

Some of the benefits that have been realised in the process of this competition include:

- Children and their families have researched the theme and the purpose of NHW creating a greater understanding of our brand and objectives.
- Runners-up have also had their drawings included in montages throughout the calendar, which has become a prized possession for them, their families and neighbours who were lucky enough to get a copy.
- NHW members have actively championed the competition and promoted it to younger people and local schools contributing further to community engagement.
- Our Awards event is now a wonderful social event across generations celebration with the winning children and their families celebrating everything that is good about NHW.



Joint Anniversaries and a Serendipitous Donation!

In Tasmania, Somerset is a small town located on the estuary of the Cam River, between Burnie and Wynyard.

Constable Natasha Daniels with locals at the pop-up Cuppa with a Cop in Somerset

The Cam Somerset Neighbourhood Watch (CSNHW) celebrated its 30th anniversary in the latter half of 2024. As coincidence would have it, this was the very same year that the Somerset Volunteer Fire Brigade also celebrated its 75th anniversary of providing an emergency service to their township and the surrounding farms and bushland.

As is often the case in rural areas, there has been a real connection between the Fire Brigade and the CSNHW team, to the point that NHW meetings have been regularly held in the Somerset fire station. This arrangement was no doubt facilitated by the Fire Chief, Robert Dawes, who also found time to be the NHW zone leader and newsletter deliverer. Along with his wife Marilyn, the Dawes team were original members of the CSNHW and recently, both were recognised with State NHW Awards for their service to their community.

To help celebrate the joint anniversaries, CSNHW joined with

Tasmania Police to host a pop-up Cuppa with a Cop (CWAC) outside the fire station. Many locals enjoyed the hospitality of a free coffee. Not to be outdone, Constable Natasha Daniels from Police Recruiting seized the opportunity to promote the police service as a career opportunity for prospective coppers!

A nice aside to this event was that the coffee bill was paid by a visitor from Victoria who had been a local Fire Brigade Cadet in the 1990s. Although wanting to remain anonymous, the donor shared how he wanted to give back to the Somerset Brigade for how they had helped him when he was growing up. His family had little money, and the Brigade got him involved in their Cadets' Program and assisted him travel around the state with their running team. He never forgot the generosity he received then, and was happy to demonstrate that on the day. Just another example of how a good turn can unexpectedly be repaid in spades!



Commander Kate Chambers presenting Marilyn Dawes and Robert Dawes their NHW Certificates for Outstanding Service

NHW WA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Spring Community Safety Series

City of Kwinana's Spring Community Safety Series is fast becoming a key annual event, with 35 safety activities.

Spring Community Safety Series pop-up event

The City of Kwinana held its Spring Community Safety Series, which is fast becoming an annual celebration, with a total of 35 events with a community safety element including:

- Disaster Preparedness Forums
- Summer Sounds: a real celebration of culture, food, and showcasing community spirit, spearheaded by our amazing events team
- Constable care and bike safety
- Cyber safety for youth
- Pool safety at home and all things water safety
- Free CPR training
- Numerous pop-up events with police officers, fire and emergency services, waste education officers, place leaders, engagement team, and literacy officer
- Pop-up engagements on traffic calming
- Engagement at five local parks regarding upgrades and encouraging community involvement
- Pop-up on illegal dumping, how to report, and even adopt a spot
- Pop, Lock, and Leave: an initiative to encourage securing belongings out of sight in vehicles
- Responsible dog ownership
- Junior Neighbourhood Watch
- Youth & Safety pop-ups at the skatepark
- Street by Street and much more!

Additionally, there were also a number of initiatives open such as:

- Secure PL8 - an initiative by City of Kwinana supported by WA Police and Neighbourhood Watch, providing free anti-theft screws

- for number plates as well as an option of free installation
- CCTV/sensor light subsidy
- Safe and Found subsidy

Community feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with residents expressing appreciation for the initiative and enthusiasm about getting involved.

The City's marketing team also launched a comprehensive online marketing campaign featuring videos, social media posts, and in collaboration with our local Officer in Charge at Kwinana Police Station highlighted key community safety practices, initiatives for residents to engage in, and opportunities to chat with police face-to-face.

This was very well received with numerous community members commenting at events and sharing on local Facebook pages.



WAPOL Members, NHW Asian Group Volunteers and Welcome to Country performers



Performers and NHW Asian Group Volunteers at the Community Harmony Day

Neighbourhood Watch Asian Group Community Harmony Day 2025

On 26 January, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Asian Group volunteers and members of the Western Australian Police Force (WAPOL) gathered for the Community Harmony Day Event hosted by the Neighbourhood Watch Asian Group.

Lisa Li, president of the organisation, facilitated the event, bringing together diverse community members to reflect on their shared Australian experience.

Bernie Durkin, Chair of NHW WA and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, and Inspector Don Emanuel-Smith from the WA Police Force, delivered keynote speeches. They shared local perspectives on community policing initiatives, highlighting the work of Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and the importance of community connection in maintaining Western

Australia's safety. Also in attendance was the NHW State Coordinator, Shelby Rideout-Andrews, and a representative from the diversity engagement unit within WAPOL, Sonny Mohn Hashim.

The event acknowledged Australia's complex history while fostering mutual understanding, embodying the "Reflect, Respect, Celebrate" campaign. Dancing performances and inspiring speeches created a space for cultural groups to share experiences and work towards a more inclusive future.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

Merchandise Shop

Outfit your Neighbourhood Watch group with some great polo shirts and merchandise from the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Shop

Take a look at what's on offer at the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia shop



Mens (Unisex)
NHW Polo Shirt
\$35 Each



Womens
NHW Polo Shirt
\$35 Each



Satchel /
Laptop bag
1 for \$32 2 for \$42



Water Bottles
Stainless Steel
1 \$20 2 \$30 3 \$40



LED Mini
Torches
5 for \$35



Rain
Ponchos
10 for \$30



NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH
AUSTRALASIA

www.nhwa.com.au/nhwa-shop





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TASMANIAN CHINESE BUDDHIST ACADEMY OF AUSTRALIA



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TASMANIAN CHINESE BUDDHIST ACADEMY OF AUSTRALIA

To ring in the Lunar New Year in accordance with Chinese Buddhist tradition, Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia invited the community to Jin-Gang-Dhyana Temple to ring the giant Peace Bell at Campania, Tasmania. This signifies good fortune for the year ahead.

We wish all readers a healthy and prosperous year, unite with family and all wishes come true.