

THANK YOU NGAIRE

At our March Community Meeting Ngaire Harman retired as coordinator due to her husband's ill health.

Ngaire was responsible for the establishment of the Flame Tree Park NHW way back in 2004. She lead her team of volunteers with determination and vigor. She fought the battles and pushed ahead to ensure that this Flame Tree Park community was one of the safest in the Tweed Shire.

As a young working mother with two small children, one would wonder how she could fit the demands of NHW into her busy life, but she had amazing drive and determination, she was determined to make it work.

She established a team of Street Coordinators, affectionately known as 'Streeties'. These volunteers deliver the newsletter. She worked out delivery areas so that every household was certain to receive important information.

Her committee members were molded into an effective team under her leadership and her enthusiasm rubbed off.

Neighborhood Watch signs were erected at the entry to most streets in Flame Tree Park, stickers and letter box signs were distributed to homes.

The newsletter was one of her priorities, she knew it was the voice of the committee and the communication link with the community. The cost of printing was and is today the biggest expense that faces the committee, but still it was distributed. Ngaire is the first to say that she couldn't worked over all

those years without the dedicated volunteers who worked so diligently on her committee. There were many over the years and they each contributed greatly to our Flame Tree Park community.

Ngaire would still be there as your NHW coordinator, but her husband, Bob, is very ill and her attention must now turn to his needs.

At our March meeting she announced her retirement from the committee, but wishes to still be available as a 'streetie'.

Ngaire, we say thank you for efforts and dedication over so many years and we sincerely hope that Bob gets well again soon ... we promise to continue what you started.

Ray Payne will take over the coordinators position until the Community meeting and AGM in August.

The AGM will be held at 7:30pm on the 8th August at Banora Point High School in their library.



Ngaire Harman was presented with the inaugural NHW Certificate of Appreciation by the Combined Groups Secretary, Gordon Levenson, at our March Meeting.

REPORT ALL CRIME

It is extremely important that you report all crime. If you don't report even the smallest crime it does not get recorded in the statistics. When assessing the need for more police it is the crime statistics that determines the police allocation. Do not consider that you are wasting the police's time, your report may match with others and allow police to locate the offender. Your report will be appreciated.

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CONTACT

Coordinator - Editor - Ray Payne OAM - 5524 7742 - raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

All correspondence to: Secretary 2 Flemington St Banora Point NSW 2486



COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Ray Payne OAM

With the retirement of Ngaire at our March Community Meeting I have stepped into this position at least until our AGM in August. Hopefully at that time you will endorse my position.

I am pleased to advise that we now have a full seven member committee. The four new volunteers will make our tasks so much easier. We have held our first meeting, this was a totally informal gathering to allow members to get to know each other. Our next committee meeting will be all business and planning.

I have attended two Combined Neighbourhood Watch meetings so far this year and met with the coordinators of other groups here on the Tweed. As an area we here in Flame Tree Park do not have the serious problems experienced in other areas. We can count ourselves very lucky, but if we don't remain vigilant we can very easily slip into the same problems.

I have met the new Tweed-Byron Police Commander, Superintendent Stuart Wilkins and I will say that I was impressed with his plans for high profile policing on the streets within the Tweed-Byron area.

Supt Wilkins has come to us with a great deal of experience, he has been relieving commander of the homicide squad, acting assistant commissioner, and crime manager and then commander at Banks town, which was at the time the biggest command in the State.



Superintendent Stuart Wilkins said, "Recently statistics have been released showing crime in the Tweed Shire is falling, and Tweed police are keen to encourage this trend." "Police are increasing their visibility to combat instances of break-and-enter and sexual assault which were still on the rise" he said.

We also have a new Crime Prevention Officer, Senior Constable Jenny Poolman. I have met Jenny but not had the chance to talk at length to her. I will be asking her to attend our next Community meeting.

With the change of Government we can now look forward to assistance with funding and support.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS.

Their support helps make it possible to produce this community newsletter. Please show them your support and tell them you saw their services advertised in the newsletter.

HAVE YOU DONE EVERYTHING TO PREVENT A BREAK IN?

- Display street number at the front of the house to assist emergency services to locate your home;
- Ensure all perimeter fences are in good order and that gates are kept closed and locked to restrict unauthorised access to your property;
- Trim trees and shrubs from around doors and windows so as not to provide concealment to intruders and increase visibility to and from the street;
- Install quality security lights around the perimeter of your home to provide more effective illumination at night;
- The power board to your home should be housed within a metal cabinet secured with an electricity authority lock to restrict tampering;
- All perimeter doors to your home should be of solid construction and fitted with quality dead lock sets to restrict unauthorised access to the home;
- All perimeter windows should be secured with key operated locks to restrict unauthorised access;
- Glass within doors and windows should be reinforced by either adhering a shatter resistant film, replacing with laminated glass or having quality metal security grilles or shutters fitted to restrict unauthorised access;
- Record descriptions, models and serial numbers of all your valuables to assist in easy identification should they be reported lost or stolen;
- Engrave your driver's licence number prefixed by the initials "NSW" on all items of value again to assist in easy identification;
- Photograph jewellery and other collectables for easy identification.
- Consider having a monitored intruder alarm system installed. Obtain at least three quotes from licensed security companies;
- Garages should be locked to restrict access. Roller tilt and panel lift doors can be secured with additional lock sets in the form of hasp and staple or padlocks;
- Garden sheds should be securely anchored to the ground to prevent lifting. A suitable lock set should also be fitted; Garden tools, equipment and ladders should be locked away when not in use to prevent them being used to gain access to your home.

Newsletter Advertising

Do you provide a service to the Flame Tree Park community? If so, here is your opportunity to reach all 670 homes within Flame Tree Park with a business card size advertisement for merely \$25.00 per edition or \$80.00 for four editions. There is other sizes and options available. Contact Ray Payne 5524 7742 for more information. It's a great opportunity to show that you support your community.

A message from the Ambulance Service

We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as 'ICE'.

Take a few minutes to enter ICE numbers in your mobile and in any that your children have. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA THAT MIGHT HELP US PREVENT CRIME IN FLAME TREE PARK. IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT ME, RAY PAYNE 5524 7742

KNOCK & RUN IT'S FUN BUT!

As kids we probably all did it at least once. But I'm sure we didn't think about the frightening effect it may have on an elderly lady or couple.

It seems that we have some young teens who are just having a bit of fun knocking on doors and windows around Flame Tree Park at night.

Parents: If you have young teenagers don't condemn them it may not be them, but please impress on them just how much fear it may cause to our senior members of our community or even a wife alone while her husband is away ... think how frightening it may be to have someone banging on your window or door at night.

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GOOD NEIGHBOURS - BEST WATCHDOGS

Good neighbours are one of the best security devices you can have. It's important to know your neighbours, you don't need to live in each others pockets, stay in touch and together keep an eye out for any suspicious behaviour. It's a good idea to exchange home, work and holiday telephone numbers.

Report any unusual noises or suspicious behaviour to Tweed Police 5536 0999. Your quick action may prevent a burglary.

COMMUNITY MEETING & AGM
Monday, August 8th ... 7:30pm
The meeting will be held in the Library at
Banora Point High School

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SCAMwatch

Professional criminals are becoming more and more accomplished at designing scams. Every day hundreds of people are caught by various types of scams that look like genuine offers or opportunities, identity theft a big threat to all of us.

The ACCC has established a website that is very worthwhile that lists many of the scams that are operating. You can subscribe to the site and receive warning emails.

www.scamwatch.com.au

DONATIONS

Advertising does not cover the total cost of producing this newsletter, each edition cost in excess of \$230.00, money that the committee has to raise in order to keep this as our major point of communication with you. We plan to produce four editions each year, we do not want a lack of funds to cause a reduction.

We do ask for a small donation of \$5.00 per year per household. It is not a great deal of money, but it will keep us operational. Your donation is tax deductible. Donations can be made payable to Neighbourhood Watch and posted or delivered to: May Rushton 8 Flemington St Banora Point 2486.

Internet Banking for Donations

Donations may be made directly into our NHW account. We have had a number of requests to provide this donation method.

Acc Name: **Westpac Bank**

BSB: **032 563**

Acc: **188357**

Include your name in the reference line and save your transaction receipt for Tax purposes.

Please donate today

Email addresses: If you would like to receive current crime warnings, updates, newsletters and important information relevant to Flame Tree Park. You can register your email, and home address with our Secretary, strict privacy rules will be maintained. Simply send an email with **NHW** in the subject line, your name and home address to:

raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STICKERS

The more we advertise Neighbourhood Watch, the greater the reminder to prospective criminals that their activities may be watched and reported.

Letter Box plaques and window stickers are available, simply contact me and I'll get them to you.

Ray Payne on 5524 7724 or
raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS

Thieves' don't like stealing property that is clearly indentified. Believe me it's worth the time it takes, if you are burgled you'll wish you'd have taken the time. Marked property is very hard to dispose of and recent legislation regarding the operation of pawnbrokers has made it even more difficult.

Accurate records of all your property will not only deter thieves but will give the police a better chance of locating your property.

Here are some hints for record keeping:

- Engrave your electrical equipment and other property (including CDs) with your driver's licence number, prefixed by NSW.
- Keep photographic records of all your property, especially jewellery and works of art. Digital cameras make that much easier.
- Update jewellery valuation certificates with detailed descriptions of all items.
- Store records, certificates and photographs in a safe place. These records will be important if burgled, in case of fire or flood.

CRIME INCREASE

It has been announced that the Gold Coast has the highest crime rate in Australia. While we may not be classed as the Gold Coast we are not immune to the growing rate of crime. Here in Flame Tree Park we have experienced an increase in crimes over the past few months, crimes like; break enter and steal, theft from motor vehicles, stolen bikes, graffiti and malicious damage have all occurred.

The majority of the crimes that have occurred here over the past few months could have been avoided had more care been taken. We all need to be more aware that crime is on the increase and criminals will take advantage of our "It won't happen to me" attitude.



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