

NHWA

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA
INCORPORATING NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND



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Steve Batterham 0408 488 821

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Steve Batterham
National President

From the President

Welcome to the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia magazine's second edition for 2013. The articles from across Australia and New Zealand provide a snapshot of the work being undertaken by local communities, Government and non-Government organisations to enable safer and more vibrant communities.

As the largest Australasian community-based crime prevention program, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia is developing a stronger and more supportive framework and network for each Neighbourhood Watch program (Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand) and their key sponsors, partners and stakeholders.

The most basic and universal mission for policing is to prevent crime and disorder. In fact, five of the nine Sir Robert Peel principles of policing (often referred to as the father of modern day policing) include specific reference to the public (or community).

Those principles relate to ensuring public approval of police actions, seeking and obtaining willing co-operation of the public, ensuring the respect of the public, seeking and preserving public favour and a clear understanding that the police are the public and the public are the police.

With these principles in mind, it is my contention that both Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Support

exist not only to achieve their respective visions and missions but to ensure that they work closely and in harmony with the police.

From my experience this can be difficult at times, therefore, can I encourage every local Neighbourhood Watch and Support Group across Australasia to communicate (letter, phone, email, Facebook or other social media devices) with your local police to let them know of your support for them and for the vital work that they do to make your community safer.

In conclusion, our new and updated interactive website www.nhwa.com.au provides an in-depth overview of our organisation, our volunteers and other exciting news including an executive summary of the first ever NHWA community survey, outcomes from our 2012 community funding round, details about our 2013 community funding round, award nominations, our 2013 strategic business plan and our 2012-2013 annual report.

Can I encourage you to take the time to browse through our webpages and specifically this magazine.



Ingrid Stonhill
Chief Executive Officer

From the Chief Executive Officer

Greetings

It is hard to believe that we are over halfway through the year already! We at NHPWA have been so incredibly busy that the time has just flown by.

We have just completed our first year of three, as a federally funded organisation, and to demonstrate all that has been achieved throughout our first year we have produced our first ever NHPWA Annual Report, which is available on our website if you haven't already seen it.

The second half of the year looks to be an equally busy time. We are currently calling for nominations for our NHPWA Awards. We would really like you to take the time to acknowledge a member of your committee or community for the work

they do in making your neighbourhood a safer place to live. Please send us your nominations (available from our website, details below).

August will also mark the commencement of 2013's Community Funding Program. Details are on page 9. This year the focus of the funding is on projects addressing Speeding and Hooning, Burglary and Theft, Vandalism and Graffiti, Litter, Alcohol-related harm in youth, Loud Music and Parties.

This edition of our magazine demonstrates how some of these issues are already being tackled throughout our communities. The ACT article outlines a project addressing hooning (page 10), the NT addresses binge drinking and reducing the harms of alcohol in our youth (page 20).

In WA they highlight their anti-graffiti program (page 35) whilst in SA we hear of the successes of last year's Community Funding projects (page 25).

In Tasmania we launched our inaugural NHPWA Information/Training Day (page 28). You will see from the article it was a huge success and we look forward to holding a similar event in all our jurisdictions. The next one will be held in the NT in October later this year.

We are constantly up grading our website with more information and tools. Please check it out and access the award nomination forms and community funding applications. www.nhwa.com.au

Stay Safe

Ingrid

NHPWA AGM and INFORMATION/TRAINING DAY

The 2013 Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

Annual General Meeting

will be held in Darwin, Northern Territory
on Friday 1st November 2013

The NHPWA Northern Territory Information and Training Day

will be held in Darwin on Thursday 31st October 2013.

All members welcome.

For further information about the AGM and or Information Training Day contact NHPWA at (email) admin@nhwa.com.au or check out the website www.nhwa.com.au



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Executive Committee Introductions



Steve Batterham - President

Steve Batterham commenced with the Queensland Police Service in 1989 after spending some time working in the banking sector. The career move was motivated by his desire to serve the community and the variety of work that a policing career provides. Steve initially worked in general duties before moving to major and organised crime. In 2000 Steve decided to move into the crime prevention field and initially worked as a school based police officer before moving to a neighbourhood police beat role and then to his current position as a program coordinator within the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch. Steve is the President of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



Bernie Durkin - Vice President

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 Vice President of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



Gill Metz - Treasurer

Gill is the State Manager of NHW Victoria. Gill has significant experience in the fields of community engagement, community development, community safety, administration and governance, having worked in local government both in Australia and overseas. Gill is formerly a regional executive with the Country Fire Authority and today maintains an active voluntary role as a country fire fighter. Gill is the newly appointed Treasurer of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



Ingrid Stonhill - Chief Executive Officer

Ingrid has extensive experience in local government, federal government and non government agencies. For the last 15 years Ingrid has been predominantly focused on community development, crime prevention and community engagement - within the voluntary, policing and government sectors.

Ingrid has been an elected local body politician, an advisor to a senior Member of Parliament, run her own Public Relations and Marketing business and spent two years as a volunteer in the Pacific Islands. Ingrid brings to NHWA an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the organisation as a founding member and administrator of the board. Ingrid was the inaugural National Manager of Neighbourhood Support New Zealand prior to immigrating to Australia.

continued on page 6



Margaret Pearson - Secretary

Throughout Margaret's career she has made a significant contribution to the voluntary sector by being involved with numerous community organizations. For the past ten years Margaret has been an instrumental member of Neighbourhood Watch in the ACT. She has held a variety of positions within the organization and currently is the President of the ACT NHW Association Inc.

Having lived overseas for a number of years Margaret returned to Canberra to work at Parliament House. Whilst Margaret has retired from full time employment, she continues to follow her great interest in local and international politics. Margaret is currently the secretary of NHWA.



David Wardrop - Executive Officer

David Wardrop commenced with the South Australia Police in September 1975. He has worked as a General Patrol Officer and Supervisor in country and metropolitan areas, as a Research and Project Officer, Police Youth Officer and as Crime Prevention Section Manager. He has extensive experience in project and change management and has undertaken two separate State wide reviews of Neighbourhood Watch in SA. David has been a Police Coordinator in Neighbourhood Watch for 23 years and has held the position of WatchSA State Coordinator since 2003.



Clare McGrath - Board Member

Clare is currently the Vice-President and Board Member of the ACT Neighbourhood Watch Association. Clare has been an active member of NHW since 1985, primarily in the Ainslie Suburb of Canberra where she has lived since 1962 after moving from Melbourne.

Clare is employed with the Australian Electoral Commission and although this is a busy role, she also finds time to be a member of the ACT Safety House Association. Clare is a self professed sports lover and a one eyed Hawthorn supporter.



Roger Eynon - Board Member

Roger Eynon is from Wirral in the United Kingdom. Both he and his wife moved to New Zealand together in October 2006, quickly settling in Wellington and have been lucky to integrate whole-heartedly in the Kiwi way of life.

Roger originally spent 21 years working for HSBC and then moved on to manage a community centre in Merseyside that hosted 47 service providers, a secondary care unit and a crèche. He moved to Merseyside Police as a Financial Investigation Officer in 2005.

After a brief stint with ACC, he commenced as National Manager of Neighbourhood Support New Zealand in February 2008.



Dennis Obst - Board Member

Dennis Obst hails from rural South Australia and has served as a clergy person in Cooma, Hobart, Melbourne, Barossa Valley and Adelaide. He joined NHW in 2004 to lead it's relaunch in Felixstow and now is the President of the Volunteers Association in South Australia. Dennis is a DiSC and Leadership workshop facilitator and also enjoys 'working' in the shed and home maintenance. He is an avid Adelaide Crows Supporter and has also been in love with Sandra for over 40 years.



Michael Hebb - Board Member

Michael Hebb commenced with Victoria Police in 1988, working in General Duties, Traffic Policing and plain clothes Investigations units in metropolitan & rural locations. In 2008 he joined the Northern Territory Police Force, and has been positioned in Darwin since that time. He has worked in General Duties, Violent Crime Policy Section & the Remote Policing Command. Michael is currently the Officer in Charge of the Darwin City Police Station.



Pat Leary - Board Member

Patricia Leary is currently the State Secretary/Vice President Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania Inc. Pat has professed to recently retiring, and indeed has stepped down from being the Deputy President Fair Work Commission (and its predecessors) for some 28 years; a Member/President Tasmanian Industrial Commission some 12 years; a Member/President Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal over a 20 year period.

However Pat still serves as the Chair of the Northern Territory Police Arbitral Tribunal (since 2002); Chair of the Tasmanian Police Review Board and Member (since 2004); Deputy Chair Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (since 2006); Chair Red Cross Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal Fund Distribution Committee; and Chair of the Centenary of ANZAC Steering Committee (Tasmania).



Ashley Lange - Board Member

Ashley Lange is a Superintendent in SA Police and is currently the Officer in Charge of Community Relations Section, Commissioner's Support Branch. He has 40 years of policing experience in country and metropolitan postings including specialist policing areas, HR/training, and overseas deployments through the Officer Exchange Program (Singapore Police Force) and East Timor (United Nations Mission in Support of East Timor).



Carlee Mahoney - Board Member

Carlee Mahoney is a Detective Inspector within the NSW South Wales Police Force with over 17 years experience in law enforcement, including working as a Detective in the NSW Police, a lead investigator with Australian Crime Commission and recently assisted in the development of the Social Media Policy within her role at the Professional Standards Command, NSW Police.

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Mrs Margaret Pearson

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Kelly Kortlepel, Police
Inspector Carlee Mahoney

New Zealand

Inspector Morris Cheer, Police
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An Australian Government Initiative

The NHWA Community Funding Program for 2013

Applications will open for the 2013 NHWA Community Funding Program on 2nd August 2013 and close 5pm 30th August 2013.

What is the NHWA Community Funding Program?

The Neighbourhood Watch Australasia CFP is in its second year and has been created to:

- continue to engage and strengthen local communities in relation to crime prevention and community safety;
- promote the exchange of information and further build partnerships between the police, local communities and government;
- enabling safer and vibrant communities.

What is the 2013 funding for?

The 2013 funds will be focused on dealing with incidents of anti social behaviour in communities. Applications received that focus on dealing with or educating your local community with a focus on anti social behaviour caused or influenced by alcohol misuse are desirable.

In our Australasian Community Survey, you told us that the issues you would most like to address in your community where:

- Speeding and Hooning
- Burglary and Theft
- Vandalism and Graffiti
- Litter
- Alcohol-related harm in youth
- Loud music and Parties

What can I do in my community?

We would like you to facilitate the development of a community initiative aimed at improving your community safety and reducing and preventing crime and the fear of crime. Through this initiative we would like you to promote community participation and a shared responsibility for community safety through the exchange of information and partnership building between you and your local police.

If you get together with members in your street/neighbourhood to address anti social behaviours or crime that is affecting you all, then it will help strengthen your communities capacity to create local solutions for local problems.

We will be publishing on line some information and resources that will help get you started!

Funding amounts and time periods

Funds will be available to a maximum of \$3,000 per application for your community to develop and implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives. Funding applications for small grants of under \$1 000 are encouraged. Your initiative can be for more than six months in duration, but funding will not be provided for more than 6 months.

Who is eligible to apply to the NHWA Community Funding Program?

All applicants must be either:

- A NHW incorporated not-for-profit organisation OR
- An organisation sponsoring an unincorporated NHW not-for-profit organisation OR
- A Local Government Authority working in partnership with NHW OR
- A Member on behalf of an Australian Police Force/Service working in partnership with community.

**Go to the NHWA website to get more information www.nhwa.com.au
or contact Ingrid Stonhill, CEO, NHWA on ingrid.stonhill@nhwa.com.au**

NHW ACT areas tackling hooning and anti-social behaviour

Neighbourhood Watch groups across Australia work to create a sense of local community, promote safety information, and help build relationships with police and local government. Often the local Neighbourhood Watch group makes the forum in which residents can work together with police and local government to find practical solutions to problems. Neighbourhood Watch groups in the ACT have been able to lobby for practical solutions to combat anti-social behaviour and to mitigate traffic problems and anti-social driving behaviour, known as 'hooning'.

Recently, work by the Gleneagles Neighbourhood Watch group resulted in local government acting to restrict evening access to the Kambah Pool recreation area as a way to reduce anti-social behaviour in that location.

Kambah Pool Road is a long straight stretch of semi-rural road on the outskirts of suburban Canberra. It runs alongside the residential area of Gleneagles then further on to the Murrumbidgee River and the Kambah Pool recreation area. The recreation area had been open 24 hours a day and, due to the lack of lighting and nearby houses, the area was a hotspot for vandalism, anti-social behaviour and hooning. Police Crime Statistics for the period between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2013 had reports of 50 offences in the area including 20 vandalism offences, a sexual assault, 13 stolen vehicles and six serious traffic



The Kambah Pool Road runs alongside the residential area of Gleneagles. The road is often used by hoons, as the tyre marks demonstrate.

offences. This total didn't include minor traffic offences resulting in fines.¹ A fatal traffic accident occurred on Kambah Pool Road on March 16, 2013.²

Gleneagles Neighbourhood Watch became a point of contact for residents concerned about the high

number of serious offences in the area, particularly the high incidence of dangerous driving and anti-social activities close to Gleneagles itself. The Area Coordinator Mr Geoff Puleston and the Gleneagles Neighbourhood Watch group raised



The Gleneagles NHW – from the left: Rob Bilderbeek, Jess Garnett, Terrylea Reynolds, Helen Allen, Arthur Allen, Nola Puleston, Geoff Puleston.

residents' concerns with police, ACT Parks Service through public meetings. Through these meetings, the group came up with a number of practical solutions to reduce the anti-social behaviour and hooning: restricting unnecessary access to the recreation area and its road approaches, installing street lighting and better traffic management for Kambah Pool Road in general. Gleneagles Neighbourhood Watch put the case for these solutions to local government, writing to the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA.

On May 6, 2013, the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services announced that the recreation area would, from July 1, 2013, be closed between 6pm and 8am (9pm and 8am during daylight savings).³ Mr Puleston, interviewed for this article, described the decision as an excellent start to combating anti-social behaviour in

the area. Mr Puleston was pleased that Neighbourhood Watch, local residents, police and local government had been able to work together to achieve a solution.

"This is the first part of addressing the issues with Kambah Pool Road," Mr Puleston explained. "Gleneagles Neighbourhood Watch is building on its relationship with local government and police to continue to lobby for other changes, including installation of street lighting and traffic management devices and a dedicated footpath on Kambah Pool Road." The group are also pushing for there to be monitoring of crime statistics in the area since the restricted hours were imposed. This will help to verify whether the number of offences has dropped.

Mr Puleston encouraged other NHW areas to tackle their neighbourhood problems, "It seems hard, but when we have a good community, we can work together to get our voices heard."

Mr Puleston said that Gleneagles NHW area's success was down to:

- good local knowledge – understanding the causes of the problem and being able to identify a practical solution to put to police and local government;
- commitment from local residents and from the local NHW committee;
- ongoing local NHW involvement and support;
- NHW building and maintaining positive relationships with police, local government, local media and local government representatives; and
- good regular, consistent communication with residents.

Above all, Mr Puleston's message for any areas working to solve neighbourhood problems was: "Stick with it and keep moving forward – these things generally take time to resolve but working together you can get a solution."

1 <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/call-to-close-kambah-pool-at-night-20130318-2galv.html>

2 <http://www.police.act.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/act/2013/march/police-investigating-fatal-collision-in-kambah>

3 http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/rattenbury/2013/kambah-pool-gates-closed-at-night-to-prevent-vandalism



NHW NEW
SOUTH WALES



The NSW Police Force has woven a tighter thread in its relationship with international students through a new partnership with Macquarie University.

Story: Esther Tang, Corporate Communications Unit

Photo on this page: Reuben Ennor, Public Affair Branch

Article courtesy of Police Monthly June 2013



Since launching in January, Detective Superintendent Gavin Dengate's Facebook and Weibo page have burgeoned under strong support from the Chinese community.

Weibo is one of the most popular social chat sites in China, used by more than 30% of internet users.

With the corporate Weibo page now host to more than 10,367 followers, the NSWPF is directly involving international students in translating updates for our Chinese audience.

The project was borne out of a need to provide accurate and timely messages in the native language of thousands of international students in NSW.

Postgraduate students in translation at Macquarie University who are fluent in Mandarin Chinese are placed on a roster to receive messages from Superintendent Dengate's support team.

The university's Translation & Interpreting Office Administrator, Alice Wu said these students translate the messages under the

guidance of unit coordinators, with these translations forming part of their course's practical component.

"This partnership has been very beneficial to our students," she said. "It has aroused interest not only in current students, but also students studying other units and alumni.

"Former students have been telling me they wish they could have been involved in such a positive activity with NSW Police."

Corporate Spokesperson for International Students, Superintendent



Gavin Dengate said this partnership demonstrates the organisation is continually flexing its adaptability and finesse.

"We need to communicate the way our community communicates," he said. "We know that our students connect close to 24/7 on social media, so we need to as well."

Underpinning this proactivity is an effective use of Weibo, achieved through a collaborative relationship with the Chinese social networking site itself.

In March, Superintendent Dengate met with the Weibo Australia team

in Melbourne to discuss ways to maximise participation in the platform's macrocosm of 503 million users.

"This is about us working with Weibo to improve the quality of life for all people within the Chinese community," he said.

"We learned that we can reach more people and improve perception of our messages by interacting with influential Weibo users."

The NSW Police Force's efforts to engage with the Chinese community has seen positive results due to a strong link between online and offline service.

It is working

Earlier this year, Superintendent Dengate received encouraging feedback through his Corporate Spokesperson's Facebook page from the International Student Officer at Stella Maris College, Jiani Chen.

Jiani had asked the Manly Youth Liaison Officer to present to the international students at the college.

Senior Constable Tui Ormsby gave the students personal safety advice, tips on how to report a crime, and phone numbers for local police.

"There are about 25 international students in our school and most of them come from a Chinese-speaking background," said Jiani.

"Many have families in Ashfield and Hurstville, so my concern is that they are vulnerable travelling a fair way on public transport to visit them.

"The students responded very positively to Tui's talk and expressed a lot of interest in the police equipment she was carrying."

Stella Maris College student Jojo Qian said Senior Constable Ormsby's visit went beyond providing advice.

"I believe her talk has not only had an educational effect on me, but also created a close and trusted relationship between the police officer and us," said Jojo.

With the International Students portfolio expanding, collaboration with Chinese speaking students has set the standard for synergy with other ethnic student groups.

Consultations with internal staff and external agencies have resulted in the development of a draft: NSWPF International Students Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

"We have had some fantastic feedback," said Superintendent Dengate. "I know with the small but committed team that help out, we will only get better, and if we get better, our community will get safer."

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand Executive members honour and award

NS NEW ZEALAND

June 2013 was an exciting time for a couple of our Executive members. Both Ross McKinnon and Dorothy Lomas were presented with an honour and an award respectively.

Roger Eynon, National Manager, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

Ross McKinnon has been the Treasurer for Neighbourhood Support New Zealand for a year. We were lucky to recruit him and he is an extremely well sought after man in relation to his financial skills and governance experience.

He has been active in the community for many years and has made a difference wherever he has been involved, both in raising funds and overseeing the governance for the organisations he has volunteered to support. His list of achievements seems endless.

He was included in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for New Zealand and was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for services to the community.

A morning tea was held in Lower Hutt to mark the occasion along with friends and colleagues from all areas of his involvement.

Dorothy Lomas has been Secretary for Neighbourhood Support New Zealand for over four years and is currently the longest serving member of the Executive. She was nominated for the Inaugural Public Safety Volunteer award.

Dorothy was one of three public



Morning tea for Ross McKinnon: Ross (striped jumper) is standing next to the Mayor of Lower Hutt, Ray Wallace.

safety volunteers to be chosen and Minister of Police, Hon Anne Tolley, presented the award during the NSNZ Board meeting in June.

The Minister's Public Safety Volunteer Awards recognise the contributions of volunteers who assist both Police and Corrections in their critical role of keeping our communities safe.

The inaugural presentation of the awards was scheduled to coincide with National Volunteer Week, New Zealand's largest celebration of volunteering and civic participation.



Dorothy Lomas receives her award: Dorothy Lomas and Hon Anne Tolley, Minister of Police.

Q & A with Thierry Mahe

I met Thierry a couple of years ago and have caught up with him in both Wellington and New York as he is a New York resident. I knew he had been caught up in hurricane Sandy and I had a few questions to ask him about his experience. This is the result:

What's your name?

Thierry Mahe.

Where do you call home?

I live in New York City.

Why are you in New Zealand?

I'm in NZ to spend time with friends and also to visit a country which I like very much.

How many years have you been on the planet?

I've been around for fifty years.

Before we get on with your interview – I know you took part in a Neighbours Day Aotearoa activity in Ngaio. What do you think of this approach to help connect community?

To me it makes a lot of sense to have a "Neighbours' Day" in any community but especially in one like Ngaio. Because of the ubiquitous use of cars, unplanned opportunities to interact with neighbours probably seldom take place. By comparison, I come across my NYC neighbours very regularly as I wait for or use the elevator, for example.

As a New Yorker – Hurricane Sandy must have been quite a shock to the system:

Hurricane Sandy was a shock, but not at first. Because of the local government's tendency to err on the side of precaution and the media's tendency to over dramatise; it was not until after the storm that I understood the extent of the damage.

How did you feel when you knew things were going to get a bit on the hairy side? How did people around you react?

People in my neighbourhood (mid-Manhattan, near Columbus Circle)



Left to right: Thierry Mahe, Roger Eynon and Roland Goos.

reacted, as I did, by stocking up on water, food and batteries.

What was the first thing/s that you thought about?

The first thing I thought about was my parents' safety. They live in a house in another part of the city which was greatly affected by a tornado a couple of years ago. Living on the eighth floor of an apartment building, I felt much less vulnerable.

Did evacuation affect you? If it did/didn't – what did you end up having to do?

Because I live on somewhat of a hill, I was not asked to evacuate prior to the storm but I was almost forced to evacuate during the storm: on a nearby construction site, a crane broke and dangled seventy-five floors above the street. Fearing that a falling

crane might cause an explosion by crushing underground gas pipes, the police forced residents within a certain distance to leave and the gas lines were shut down. I was lucky that I live just far enough to avoid evacuation.

How did you arrive at that decision?

All I really had to do was wait and hope that there would not be a blackout. The lights did flicker on several occasions, but the electricity remained on.

From what I observed, people in the neighbourhood were mostly nonchalant until they learned of the dangling crane. After that, they seemed to take the recommendation to stay indoors much more seriously.

Were you prepared for an event like this?

I think that I was as prepared as I should have been.



Would you have been able to rely on neighbours or other people living close by?

Based on my experience during a blackout about ten years ago, I'm fairly certain that I could have relied on neighbours if in need.

Did you feel under pressure and did you at any time feel helpless?

I did not feel any pressure other than to avoid going outside and therefore to walk the dog as quickly as possible. I did at times feel helpless, especially when the wind gusts were strong enough to make me think that the windows might blow out (they didn't).

What active contribution did you make?

I did not actively contribute to helping others until about ten days after the storm hit. At that point, I went to the Rockaways, a community in Brooklyn which was severely damaged (and a neighbourhood to which I had never been before). There I helped to deliver food, water, blankets and batteries in twenty-storey buildings that housed senior citizens. All power was out, and most residents would

have had trouble going up one flight of stairs, let alone twenty. These people had been advised to evacuate but had chosen not to.

Why?

The reason I decided to volunteer was my keen awareness of the plight of many who were not as fortunate as those living in my neighbourhood.

How did you know where to go and what to do?

Not knowing where to go or what to do to help was the reason it took me over a week to actively contribute. I kept hearing or reading about an excess of volunteers in certain areas and goods being turned away. Finally, thanks to City Meals on Wheels, an organisation through which I regularly volunteer, I learned of another organisation (JASA) that was actively seeking help.

Was it easy?

Getting to the Rockaways was not as easy as it was prior to the storm, which knocked out the subway line, but it was not difficult. The work itself was not very demanding physically, though some did opt to avoid having

to walk up 20 flights of stairs. What was unexpectedly challenging was communication: well over 90 per cent of the residents spoke only Russian, and only one of the 30 or so volunteers did. *(Rog note - Thierry did tell me that he was not advised beforehand that the residents of the apartment block would have language issues. It meant that they had to reassess some of the responses given.)*

Did the organising authority make it easy for you?

JASA (the organising authority) was very organised. Then again, they had been doing this for at least a week before I joined them.

Was everyone useful?

From what I could tell, everyone in this particular case was useful, despite language barriers.

What did you learn as both a normal community member affected by Sandy and also as a volunteer?

I can't say that I learned anything from the Sandy experience, though it did reinforce the notion that the community can be stronger thanks to volunteers, and not just in times of crises.

Would you have changed anything that you did?

Had I known the kind of volunteer work I would be doing, I would have dusted off my very old Russian language textbook.

What would you change about the people who were organising you?

The organisers were effective and grateful. I suspect that they did seek Russian speakers. If they did not, then that is what I would have changed regarding their efforts.

This interview was conducted both face to face and via email between Roger Eynon, National Manager, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand and Thierry Mahe, proudly, of New York City.

Thierry was invited to participate in the Fox Street and Iwi Street Neighbours Day Aotearoa gathering on March 23 2013.



Commissioner Peter Marshall (centre) presents the inaugural Problem-Oriented Police Award to Waitemata District Commander Superintendent Bill Searle (left), and Inspector Mark Fergus. Photo courtesy of Ten One Police magazine.

Award for projects that POP

A new police award recognising excellence in crime prevention through problem-oriented policing has been hugely successful, with quality projects submitted by nearly all districts.



The Problem-Oriented Police Award – known as the POP Award – recognises and rewards excellence in the skills needed to support long-term sustainable crime prevention and reduction. Districts were invited to put forward local projects that met the criteria in October. In many of the projects NHS featured integrally as part of the problem-solving approach and sustainability of the solutions.

In an exhaustive judging process, entries were assessed by a panel of senior police officers, Intelligence managers and Gloria Laycock, Professor of Crime Science at University College London.

The 11 entries were whittled down to the top three, which were from teams in Wellington, Waitematā and Counties Manukau districts. The finalists presented to a large audience at Police National Headquarters in March, after which Police Commissioner Peter Marshall announced the winner: Waitematā's Kaipatiki Community Policing Project.

The project centered on the working class suburbs of Beach Haven and Birkdale on Auckland's North Shore. 80 per cent of North Shore's population lives in the two suburbs, but they were suffering 16 per cent of the burglaries.

The common assumption was that the area had a burglary issue. After two months of analysis and talking to the community, it became clear the root problem was actually youth crime, which demanded a different type of response. A carefully selected team of five led by Sergeant Sundip Patel (now Senior Sergeant) moved into the area in January 2011. They tackled the problems innovatively, systematically and from all sides. NHS North Shore featured prominently in the project.

The North Shore NHS Coordinator,

Mr John Stewart, and Rebecca Harrington, a community development worker with Lifewise Trust, formed a dynamic duo to lead a project within one of Beach Haven's streets. The project, titled Know Your Neighbours, introduced residents to each other based on points of commonality, eg identifying neighbours with similar aged children.

Residents were coached to work in their street to bring people together and build connections. This led to a whole-of-street action: residents taking pride in their street frontages and grass verges, the forming of an after school group and the formation of a residents' committee. The street was empowered to approach the Council and to redesign their street park which was shabby and run down. The residents designed their own park and the Council funded the realisation of their dream.

In the first year, the result was a 45 per cent drop in burglaries in these. This has been sustained over two years and still continues.

A stunning trophy, commissioned especially for the award, was presented to Waitematā Police. A ceremony was later held at Beach Haven primary school to present the award to the community, in recognition that this was not just about the police, but about everyone working towards the vision of safer communities together.

Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program

The Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program (NTEIPP), an Australian Government initiative under the *National Binge Drinking Strategy*, has been operating out of Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs since 2011.



Take control, limit the alcohol.



The NTEIPP's youth tag.

The program is all about reducing the harms of alcohol for young people under 18, encouraging community solutions to community issues and increasing referrals to health services – everyone has an opportunity to have a more positive conversation! Interactive tools and resources to engage with young people are introduced through monthly workshops in both urban and remote areas, and the program's main resource is introduced: a glow-in-the-dark wristband, featuring the number for the NT Alcohol and Drug Information Service (1800 131 350) and the youth tag *Take Control, Limit the Alcohol*.

One of the NTEIPP's defining features is the level of youth involvement in its ongoing development and operation. The youth tag was created as part of a National Youth Week competition; everything from the colours to the wristband were created in consultation with young Territorians. These discussions continue to this day and are vital in making sure the



Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program

An initiative under the Australian Government's National Binge Drinking Strategy

program remains effective and relevant to communities and the needs of young people.

The program has seen young people connect with services through youth workshops, police and community services sharing knowledge and experiences on a regular basis, peer to peer messaging and improved relationships!

In February 2013 the NTEIPP joined Neighbourhood Watch NT at some of its stakeholder meetings around the Territory and look forward to opportunities

to work more closely together to provide opportunities for people to come together to discuss issues. Members and region coordinators of Neighbourhood Watch NT are encouraged to attend NTEIPP Kit Workshops to gain new networks, learn more about alcohol use in the youth and NT context, and some great resources to engage.

If you are in the NT and interested in attending a workshop, you can contact NT Police NTEIPP on (08) 8936 4841 or check out their webpage for more information.

Going on holidays?

During school holidays, many families take advantage of the break and get away for a holiday. The following are some simple tips to reduce your risk of your home being broken into while you're away:



- Ask your trusted neighbours to keep an eye on your property. If you have an alarm, tell them what to do if the alarm is activated.
- Secure all doors and windows before leaving.
- Lock all garden tools and ladders away securely so they cannot be used to break into your home.
- Turn your telephone and doorbell volume down to low.
- Never leave a holiday message on your answering machine.
- Turn off unnecessary appliances.
- Use timer switches to turn on lights and radios. Tune to talk back programs as it gives an impression of people at home.
- Cancel all regular deliveries.
- Hang some old clothes on your clothes line.
- Leave your curtains and blinds partially open. People will not be able to see straight in and you will create doubt about whether someone is home.
- Ask a trusted neighbour to park their car in your driveway.
- Take all spare keys with you when leaving the house.
- Arrange collection of mail from your letterbox, by a trusted neighbour or friend. Alternatively organise for Australia Post to hold your mail until you return.
- Have junk mail collected daily or place a 'No Unauthorised Mail' sign on your letterbox.
- Have your rubbish bins put out on the correct day by your neighbour or friend and brought in on the same day.
- Leave emergency contact details with your trusted neighbour.
- Ask neighbours to report any suspicious activity to police.

Theft from motor vehicles can be averted

A large number of reported vehicle break-ins happen because doors are left unlocked with valuables in full view of offenders.

Oppportunistic thieves walking past can see what you have in your vehicle.

Even if you know it is just an empty backpack without any valuables, remove it from sight. If it needs to stay in the vehicle, put it out of sight in the boot.

Members of our community need to take responsibility and play their part in crime prevention.

Lock and secure your vehicle and remove valuables from sight and make it harder for the criminals.

The following tips will help reduce the risk of vehicle and property theft from your vehicle:

- If you have off street parking, use it. If possible, park behind locked gates or in a locked garage. Parking on the street greatly increases the risk of theft.
- Remove temptation – always lock doors and close windows when your vehicle is unattended.
- If you must leave valuables in your motor vehicle keep them out of sight.
- Remove keys from the ignition if your vehicle is parked or unattended – even if only for a minute.



- Don't hide spare car keys in or on the vehicle as thieves know where to look.
- Take your vehicle keys with you if you are going out, even if you are leaving your vehicle at home.
- Keys should not be marked with personal or vehicle details – use your personal property identification code.
- Don't leave vehicle keys lying around on tables, benches, beside tables or key hooks at home – keep them out of sight.
- When parking in a garage, ensure both the garage and the vehicle are locked and the garage door remotes are secured.
- Use lockable devices such as lockable fuel caps, wheel nuts, spare tyre covers and roof racks.
- Secure your vehicle registration plates with one way screws.
- Consider using the following to help protect your vehicle: car alarm, ignition shield, steering wheel lock, window etching, microdots, GPS tracker or immobiliser.
- For older vehicles install an engine immobiliser that meets Australian Standard 4601:1999. This provides the most effective deterrent to opportunistic vehicle theft.
- However, it offers no protection if a thief has easy access to your car keys.

DV Connect – anyone can make the call

One Minute

stalking
threats
verbal abuse
controlling behaviour

The Next

assault
battery
rape
homicide

In responding to DV incidents it is critical that you remain vigilant in recognising non-physical abuse as domestic violence.
Make the call to the DVConnect service line (police only) on **1300 308 884** for advice and referrals.

DV Connect – anyone can make the call.

Queensland Police
Queensland Government

What is domestic and family violence?

Domestic violence is behaviour by a person towards another person in a relevant relationship that is:

- physically or sexually abusive
- emotionally or psychologically abusive
- economically abusive
- threatening
- coercive
- in any way controls or dominates the second person and causes that person to fear for their safety or wellbeing or that of someone else

Information and advice

DV Web Link is an internet-based resource that provides victims and families of those experiencing domestic violence with access to up-

to-date information and direction to local community support agencies.

This project is the result of extensive collaboration between the Queensland Police Service, Logan City Integrated Community Response Group and Beaudesert Coordinated Community Response Group.

DV Web Link is located at www.qlddomesticviolencelink.org.au.

Planning for your safety

Your safety and the safety of children is most important. You could make a plan for those times when you feel unsafe or at risk of being hurt. Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services has provided advice for developing a safety plan and provides examples of what you can do to prepare for a time when you are in

danger and need to leave quickly.

Access this site: <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/violence-prevention/about-domestic-and-family-violence-prevention/safety-plan>

Domestic violence is against the law. Make the call!

Police will support victims and hold offenders accountable for their actions.

Police encourage all victims of domestic violence to contact police on 000 (in an emergency) or Policelink on 131444 or Policelink.qld.gov.au for police attendance.

Anyone with information which can assist police should contact Crime Stoppers anonymously via 1800 333 000 or crimestoppers.com.au 24 hours a day.

Police Academy Open Day: NHW and a good use for a community funding grant

Phil Tavender, Vice President, Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers Association of SA Inc.

As part of the celebrations marking 175 years of South Australia Police, it was decided to unveil the recently completed new Police Academy to the public for the first time. This was held in conjunction with displays, many being interactive, from various areas of SAPOL.

When the WatchSA Coordination Unit and the Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers Association of South Australia Inc's Executive Committee first heard of this, we decided on a static information stand with giveaways of up to 15,000 Neighbourhood Watch brochures and pens. Surely, this would be a great opportunity to reach the general public, young and old, that may not normally come into contact with Neighbourhood Watch.

How to obtain these items? Where would the funds come from? Certainly an appropriate use of the Association's funds, but costing was put at a total of \$6,000 dollars! The WatchSA State Coordinator was able to provide funds for a 50/50 contribution. At the same time, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia announced its first national 'Community Funding Program' grants

of up to \$3,000 – what better way to fund the Association's 50/50 share!

The Association was obviously delighted when the news came through that we had been approved for a \$3,000 grant for this project. It was made even easier when the WatchSA Coordination Unit was able to place orders for NHW pens and brochures in conjunction with orders for their own supplies, leaving the Association with little else to do.

On the Open Day we shared a stand with Blue Light, in an annexe to the 'police station' in the training village. From a NHW point of view, the stand was attended by all three WatchSA members and three NHW volunteers. Two of the volunteers were young people, more able to relate to and communicate with the younger generations, while 'the old guy' (me) was more appropriate for the more mature visitors to the stand.

Educational handouts included a "Triple Zero" CD and activity book, and a "Bicycle Passport" for the younger generation, along with wristbands, stickers and NHW brochures. In all, from our perspective it was deemed a successful day with a large number of people being exposed to information about Neighbourhood Watch. Of course, the NHW pens were the highlight for our up-coming generations – and a number of adults, too!

One of the subjects that the volunteers were explaining to the public (all prospective NHW volunteers) was the intention for NHW volunteers to become more involved in community safety including taking an active role in emergency/disaster response functions. WatchSA Coordination Unit is currently working with state and local governments to this end.

Transit Watch update

Matthew Rodda, Community Relations Section, South Australia Police



Sergeant Mareolas, Crime Prevention Section in Transit Services Branch, looks after Transit Watch.

Officially launched in 2006, Transit Watch is a joint initiative by SAPOL, DPTI and major passenger transport providers to improve the security of depots, stations and interchanges and instil a sense of safety in commuters.

"The program involves police and local Transit Watch groups working together to keep the transit system safe by reducing crime and the fear of crime," said Sergeant Jo Mareolas from Transit Services Branch's Crime Prevention Section.

"Transit Watch has undergone a rapid expansion with 56 Transit Watch areas established since August 2012. This has seen a decrease in property-related crime at transit locations."

The frequent use of social media is just one way Transit Watch promotes

valuable crime prevention messages to the community.

"Officers undertake site assessments and security audits at service provider depots and identified transit crime hotspots and then raise awareness of any issues by distributing crime prevention information to commuters," Sergeant Mareolas said.

"We also conduct high visibility activities such as public displays where police can interact with the community and provide them with useful promotional literature



such as brochures, safety guides, and the new Metro Card holder which is inscribed with safety messages and police attendance contact numbers.

"Recently we have used the Band of the South Australia Police to entertain the public with random concerts at Adelaide Railway Station. This has allowed us to reinforce safety messages in a fun environment, which has been well received by the community."

Transit Services Branch is also working closely with the local taxi

industry with a soon-to-be-launched DVD to educate taxi drivers about the importance of reporting crime to police.

"Taxi drivers are on the road all hours of the day and potentially witness a range of crimes within the community. Therefore they can play a valuable role in reporting crime and assisting police," Sergeant Mareolas said.

"We are also looking at ways to become involved in taxi driver training to promote stronger relationships between drivers and police."

Tassie in winter - not such a bad place to be!

Just over six months ago raging bushfires were wreaking havoc in our community. In particular the Tasman Peninsula was hit with huge property losses, but luckily no lives were lost.

Jan Dunsby, State President

Many people, both those in the affected areas, and those of us with a constant ear on media for updates, were in shock and wondering what could be done to help. I talked to locals about what tangible efforts Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania could possibly provide. While we were short on the ground for volunteers to assist, we had funds that we wanted to contribute to the restoration of life in the Tasman Peninsula. This is how a donation of chainsaws and brushcutters came about. Please refer to the previous edition of this magazine for the full story.

At the same time I took a call from Ingrid Stonhill, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, asking what could they do to help. While we could not identify a project at that time, Ingrid expressed a desire to hold a future meeting in Tasmania to show support for our community. The date identified was June – in the middle of winter in the southern-most capital...my first



Lola Cowle from Department of Premier and Cabinet Tasmania . Presented on "How to complete a successful funding application".

thought was "they are going to feel the cold!"

And so it came to be that the Committee came to Hobart in June. We did manage to turn on one of our clear, crisp winter days, with the atmosphere

softened by the delightful views from the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. Along with the two-day committee meeting came a delightful gift – an information day brim-filled with guest speakers on a range of topics.



Left to right: Federal Agent James Braithwaite from Australian Federal Police and Paul De Araujo from Microsoft presented on "Think U Know".

More than 60 NHW friends gathered from all over the State to hear speakers on a range of topics that included emergency preparedness, cyber-safety, running an effective meeting, making the most of funding opportunities and how to communicate effectively.

Speaker Matt Healy, Director of the Bushfire Recovery Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet, spoke of individual and collective responsibility when it came to issues such as the January bushfires. Lessons learned in prior disasters were utilised and reviews will show that more can be learned from every disaster faced. The role of social media was also touched on, probably the first time in Tasmania when it has played out in such a way.

Rob Cooke, Vice President of the Police Association of Tasmania, enlightened us to the application of meeting procedures and how they are applied in that organisation. With a large and widespread membership, the Executive often has short time spans to communicate and receive information from its members, so the action of the Committee are pivotal in the success of this group.

James Braithwaite, from the Australian Federal Police, shared the podium with Paul De Araujo from the Microsoft Corporation, enlightening us to the positives and negatives of the internet and its effect in our lives. Of particular note was the information relating to children, their use of the internet and how they can be entrapped by not-so-savoury users



Mat Healy, Director, Bushfire Recovery Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet Tasmania, presented on "Emergency Preparedness".



Bernadette Ulbrich-Hooper from Volunteering Tasmania presented on "How to communicate effectively".

who use social media and other areas of the internet to bully and intimidate innocent victims.

Lola Cowle from the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF), provided some very useful information in relation to the availability of grants to community organisations and also the dos and don'ts of grant processes. As well as the TCF, other sources of potential grant funds were mentioned.

The final speaker was Bernadette Ulbrich-Hooper from Volunteering Tasmania. Using the correct "speak" in the correct situations was a very timely reminder that once words are committed on paper or electronically, you can never retrieve them, so make sure the intent of your conversation is relayed in the

written word. As well as briefing notes, Bernadette provided a range of links and references for members to follow up with.

So that was some sort of a gift for Tasmania – participants left with ideas and inspiration to take back and put to work in each of their local Watch Districts.

The idea of the Information Day was certainly very successful and will be used as a model to run in conjunction with future NHWA meetings.

Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania extends its appreciation to the National body for braving the cold, soaking up the wonderful atmosphere that is Tassie in winter and for the provision of the workshop that will bring benefits into the future.



Left to right: Ms Elise Archer, Shadow Minister for Police and Emergency Management; Commissioner Darren Hine, Tasmania Police and Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive – Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

Victoria update

2013 continues to be a very busy year for Neighbourhood Watch Victoria. The number of enquiries to establish new NHW groups continues to grow, as does our online membership. Our Facebook page membership grew another 17 per cent between April and June providing the potential to network with over 208,000 people.

In April NHW Victoria supported Victoria Police in the roll-out of 11 additional Eyewatch pages (a form of Facebook being used by Police in Victoria and NSW). NHW Victoria sponsored the purchase of the iPads to allow real time updates of the pages. The new Eyewatch pages cover the areas of Mildura, Bendigo, Latrobe, Boorondara, West Melbourne, Maribyrnong, Wyndham, Hume, Casey, Frankston and Stonnington. Mildura and Latrobe already have 3051 and 2531 followers apiece.

NHW Victoria had an opportunity to visit Neighbourhood Watch UK and meet a number of their key members and groups. This was very informative and many ideas and experiences were shared and exchanged. They currently have 3.8 million people signed up and are using electronic communications to keep their members informed and to link them with other safety organisations such as the police, fire brigade, local councils and trading standards. Their communication system is two-way and allows feedback from the communities. They are three years into their reorganisation of their NHW program and have faced and conquered many of the challenges we see here.

At the beginning of June NHW VIC gave a keynote presentation at the National Community Safety and



Security Conference 2013, on “NHW adapting to changing communities”. The presentation was well received with positive feedback and questions and requests regarding networking and supporting NHW.

All these taken opportunities and the hard work of the NHW volunteers across the state continues to put NHW firmly back on the map as a very important and valued community-driven organisation.

Neighbourhood Watch connecting with young and diverse communities

NHW groups have been discussing some of the ways they can interact with younger people. In Mildura, NHW volunteers and the police regularly assist with the walking bus and talk to parents, grandparents and children whilst walking them to school. Mildura and Gippsland have both been involved with the cubs and scouts, working with them to achieve their Neighbourhood Watch Scout badges.



The committee members left to right: Senior Constable Stuart Wright (Police NHW Coordinator), Miles Weidemann (Committee Member), David Goy (City of Casey Representative), Raph Even Chaim (Committee Member), David Hewitt (Editor NHW Casey Media), Sharon Wallace (Chair NHW Casey), Mandy Caslake (Committee Member), Ken Bailey (Treasurer NHW Casey), Jennifer Baird (Secretary NHW Casey) and Rita Hartney (Admin Asst NHW Casey).



Meanwhile, in Donald, the NHW group there purchased a new NHW trailer and involved the local school children in the design and painting of the trailer. All of these activities allow NHW to interact in a very positive way with young people and allow the opportunity to educate them on safety.

The Casey NHW Group connected the diverse community of Casey, a municipality in one of the growth corridors of Melbourne, by running



a Community Safety Family Fun Day. This event raised awareness about safety in a fun and interactive environment and was attended by

over 6,000 people. It brought together community groups, emergency services and businesses that specialised in community safety

activities and products, educational groups and entertainers. It was such a great event that NHW Casey received the 2013 Casey Volunteer Awards during National Volunteer Week in May 2013, to celebrate the work of outstanding volunteers. Councillor Stapledon (Casey Mayor) said the awards were a chance to recognise the volunteers' valued contribution, to acknowledge that the community was stronger for their efforts and most importantly, to thank them.

"These volunteers are the selfless heroes who dedicate their spare time and devote their energy to making the community a better place to live," Councillor Stapledon said.

NHW groups in the Geelong/Surf Coast area have been actively fundraising to support the Geelong Kokoda Youth Program. On September 14, 2013, a group of 10 teenagers from the Geelong and Surf Coast region, together with 10 mentors, will head to Papua New Guinea before heading off on an eight-day trek on the Kokoda Track.

The Geelong Kokoda Youth Program is an early intervention program to provide an avenue to assist young people to re-engage with school and break the current pattern of anti-social behaviour.

Some other objectives of the Kokoda Youth program are to:

- Provide a positive and life-changing experience
- Promote re-engagement with school, employment, family and the community
- Develop leadership skills to encourage them to be leaders within the community
- Break down any existing barriers between young people and police
- Promote positive interaction with local businesses and government agencies
- Learn the largely untold Kokoda

story and appreciate what young Australians did during one of the most important campaigns in our country's history

- Experience the local culture, which is vastly different to our lives in Geelong and have an appreciation of their lifestyle in Geelong.

The Geelong Kokoda Program includes an extensive training program which exposes the young people to positive experiences, including a meeting with a Kokoda veteran, which drives them in the training to walking the Kokoda Track. As part of the program the young people take part in a "Pay it Forward" charity initiative, whereby they raise funds or school equipment for a school in Port Moresby. This gives the young people the experience of doing something charitable for people in need.

The 10 teenagers have been chosen from 72 students who are involved in the youth Newstart program, which is run jointly by Victoria Police and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The trip will be funded through the generosity of local sponsors, including Neighbourhood Watch Geelong, who will assist in the funding of a student's trip. NHW has raised enough money to support several of the students' full cost of the trip.

The students will trek 115 kilometres on the Kokoda Trail over eight days.

Students will visit a school in Port Moresby and the Bomana War Cemetery before heading off on their trek where they will receive presentations along the trek at significant locations and will engage with local culture.

The 10 teenagers commenced a 17-week vigorous training program



Manningham NHW volunteers with State Manager Gill Metz at the Carlton Estate Harmony Day.

in May to prepare them for the trek – a trek that will prove to be a life-changing experience for these young people.

Back in March NHW Victoria was once again at work in a very diverse community in an inner suburb of Melbourne. NHW supported a Harmony Day event at the Department of Human Services Estate in Carlton. The high-rise estate is home to about 1,000 people from over 20 different countries and is a mixture of community housing and privately owned apartments.

The Harmony Day carnival is aimed at bringing the residents closer together and included entertainment for children and stalls where people showed their different customs and food. NHW was asked to show the residents how such a community group worked and how it could help their community.

"All these taken opportunities and the hard work of the NHW volunteers across the State continues to put NHW firmly back on the map as a very important and valued community driven organisation."

In early June a meeting was held with interested residents. NHW Victoria Board Member, Geoff Kloot, attended the meeting to support the group in setting up their NHW group. With the assistance of three different interpreters and the support of NHW Victoria and the local police the estate established their NHW group. This will be a very interesting project and will provide important learnings on how best to encourage

and support groups from diverse cultural backgrounds and also what improvements can be achieved in community safety and crime reduction in such a complex environment. Geoff and the local police will continue to support the group until they reach a point of self-sustainability and the Department of Human Services has pledged to continue to provide interpreters to support all future meetings.

THOR

CONSTRUCTIONS

18 Lionel St, Naval Base, WA, 6165

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Juvenile Clean-up Program



The Juvenile Clean-up Program is based on the principles of restorative justice and is intended to hold young graffiti offenders accountable for their actions by having them 'clean up their mess'. This is one of the strategic objectives of WA's Tough on Graffiti Strategy 2011-2015. Young people who have committed low level graffiti offences are referred to the program by Department of Corrective Service's Juvenile Justice Teams (JJTs).

A graffiti removal company won the tender to provide the graffiti removal component of the program, which involves collecting the young person from their home, educating them on occupational health & safety practices, and then engaging in the graffiti removal activity.

The program was run as a pilot from January 2010 to December 2010, and was independently evaluated. Evaluator Rosemary Cant said, "the completion rate during the pilot phase was exceptional: 98 per cent of those referred completed the program and sites were cleaned to a high standard." The positive evaluation provided the impetus to run the program across the metropolitan area.

The Program was further evaluated in 2012, where the same positive outcomes from the Pilot have been retained. The Program provides an environment in which program participants undertake restorative activities in the presence of an appropriate adult role model, providing insight into the effects of graffiti vandalism within their community, the costs involved in its removal and to repair some of the damage caused either by the young person or other graffiti offenders.

The Program also develops trade skills through exposure to trade-based professionals that may assist in identifying future career pathways or contribute to a positive lifestyle.

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The Program has proven to be successful in connecting the young person with appropriate community-based groups or professional development courses such as the MPA Skills pre-apprentice course. JJT Coordinators have received excellent feedback in regards to some of the young participants on the program achieving employment as well as apprenticeships. A young person from the South East Metropolitan JJT who completed eight sessions obtained an apprenticeship in signwriting.

The social impact of the program is evident through the positive outcomes for the participants. Through the use of a pre and post survey undertaken by all program participants, there is clear evidence of positive attitudinal change. An example from one participant's survey:

“Today I have learnt more about the other side of graffiti vandalism... I now believe that putting your name up on a wall can be troublesome to the whole community and is definitely not worth the consequences and removing it. Graffiti is not something I wish to do again.”

The program is currently available throughout the metropolitan area, for all referring metropolitan JJTs. Since the commencement of the pilot and the continuation of the program (from January 2010 through to June 2013) there have been 281 participants through the



program and 1992 sites cleaned. A participating council made the following comment:

“Just a really great program. Brilliant. It is something the community wants. It is not vigilante. It is well structured, educational and repays the community”.

The City of Joondalup's Mayor Troy Pickard provided the following comments through the city's media advisor, Mark McCrory:

Over the past year the City of Joondalup has continued its participation in the State Government's Juvenile Clean-up Program where juvenile graffiti offenders paint out tags on bus

shelters, pedestrian underpasses and other infrastructure assets within the City.

This restorative justice program not only aims to reduce and prevent participants from re-offending it also provides them with information on training and career opportunities.

In 2010-11, this program resulted in 470 hours and 5,354m² of graffiti paint out by juvenile offenders and saved the City approximately \$9,400 in graffiti paint out costs.

This program was also expanded to include the paint out of graffiti on assets controlled by the Water Corporation and Telstra in the City.



Blue Light brings police and youth together to provide young people with positive lifestyle alternatives and strategies to avoid becoming an offender or victim of crime. Visit www.bluelight.org.au and www.bluelight.co.nz for more info.

The underlying factors governing all Blue Light activities is that they must be:

- Free from alcohol
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- Free from anti-social behaviour
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