

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA
INCORPORATING NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND

Celebrating Achievements



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Steve Batterham 0408 488 821

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Steve Batterham
National President

From the President

I trust that you find Neighbourhood Watch Australasia's third magazine edition for 2013 extremely informative and that it provides you with some good project ideas to implement in your local community.

The articles have been sourced from across Australia and New Zealand and provide a snapshot of the important work being undertaken by local NHW groups working in and with their communities.

As the largest Australasian community-based crime prevention program, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia is committed in continuing to develop 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.

In support of this commitment, the NHWA Conference, AGM and Information Day for NHW NT volunteers was held in Darwin from 31 October – 1 November. All Australian states, territories and New Zealand were represented and I look forward in the next magazine edition to provide readers with some of the highlights.

I recommend that you take the time to visit our new and updated interactive website www.nhwa.org.au. The website provides an in depth overview of our organisation, our volunteers and other exciting news including our new online NHW E-Activity Learning series and the opportunity to subscribe and join the NHWA network so that you can become connected to our extended family. By joining you will receive our NHWA magazine for free and other periodic information alerts.

In conclusion, I would like to recognise Superintendent Ashley Lange from South Australia Police who has been a valued member of the NHWA Executive for the past few years. Superintendent Lange has recently been transferred to take up new challenges and his vast experience and strong relational skills will be sorely missed.

And as we move quickly into the Christmas holiday period, can I sincerely wish each and every one of you a happy and merry Christmas.



Ingrid Stonhill
Chief Executive Officer

From the Chief Executive Officer

Celebrating achievements is an apt byline for this edition of our magazine, as we are now exactly 18 months, this is half way, through our Federal Government Funding Agreement and have already achieved so many milestones.

It has been a pleasure to lead our organisation to translate our vision into reality through the development and management of our business. Starting from a vision, understanding our business to enable the development of our processes, procedures, major projects, relationship building and finding a path forward to success.

Vital to our establishment was our first ever significant research through our community survey which allowed us the opportunity to explore our own membership. Not only to understand how our communities currently operate but more importantly to understand how they want to operate in the future. This survey has enabled us to set the baseline for measuring our successes and/or failures in the future, and most importantly it has given us insight into how we need to develop our service delivery.

This last 12 months has been very

much focused on building on our preliminary successes through our significant programs: Our Community Funding Program, Community Awards, community survey, website development, communication networks, multi-lingual project and most importantly through our flagship project the Remote and Vulnerable Communities Trial Project. I call it our flagship project because of the overwhelming success and demand for this project.

None of this would be possible without the commitment and professionalism of our Executive Board. Their stewardship of our organisation, commitment to our vision, and who possess the core values, that bring the aspiration to make our collective communities a better place to live, through the introduction of the ideals of Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Support, have made our first 18 months

rewarding and successful. I wish to thank each and every one of them. I also wish to thank my wonderful colleague Caroline Campbell who has become a valued member of the NHWA family.

On a final note. Whilst it has been a year of highs it has also been a year of great sadness. Our friend, colleague and staff member Mandie Spall, tragically lost her fight with cancer on September 14, it took just four short courageous months. She fought hard and whilst her spirit remained strong, her body did not. Mandie died one month short of her 42nd birthday, she leaves two teenage children. We will remember our friend.

As the festive season approaches, remember to stay safe on our roads and in our homes.

Best wishes

Ingrid



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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.

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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).



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.

Council of Delegates

Australian Capital Territory

Mr Brian Schiller
Mrs Margaret Pearson

New South Wales

Inspector Carlee Mahoney

New Zealand

Mr Roger Eynon, Volunteer
Senior Sergeant Gaylene Rogers

Northern Territory

Ms Vicki Shultz, Volunteer
Senior Constable Tracy-Dale Middleton, Police

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Inspector Les Bulluss
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Mr Phil Tavender
Mr Dennis Obst, Volunteer

Tasmania

Ms Jan Dunsby, Volunteer

Victoria

Ms Gill Metz, Volunteer

Western Australia

Mr Bernie Durkin, Police
Ms Jenny O'Brien

NHWA 2013 Awards

This year we received nominations from every jurisdiction at a very high caliber. The nominations were assessed by our Awards Committee who we wish to acknowledge for their hard and difficult task. Thanks to those members, Brian Scully, Pat Leary and Dennis Obst (administered by Ingrid Stonhill)



NHWA Awards finalist certificates were accepted by representatives of the NHWA Board and will be presented in each jurisdiction. Pictured L to R: Steve Batterham, Ingrid Stonhill, Roger Eynon, Clare McGarth, Pat Leary, Lyndon O'Neill, Bernie Durkin, Dennis Obst.

The Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award is awarded to a community volunteer. It is given to recognise an individual who has volunteered their time through Neighbourhood Watch and or Neighbourhood Support to empower people and communities through the development of strong and effective partnerships that promotes quality of life, wellbeing and social inclusion.

The 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award Finalists are: (each receive a certificate of recognition. In no particular order)
David Hughes of Queensland
Geoff Puleston from the ACT
Ron Ward from New Zealand
Dawn and Neville Raxworthy, of Western Australia
Robyn Williams of South Australia
Wayne Burgess from Tasmania
Congratulations to all our finalists.

The winner of the 2013 NHWA Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award is

Geoff Klood of Victoria

Geoff is a tireless worker for NHW and is always searching for projects, schemes and opportunities to enhance the

program and contribute to meeting its objectives.

Geoff's commitment to NHW over the past 28 years has been outstanding.

Despite his workload as a senior public servant, he became involved in his local Area in Manningham in 1985 and shortly after that became Area Coordinator – a position he held for over 25 years.

He was active in the Manningham Sector and continued with the Region 4 Division 1 Committee as Chairman and State Forum Delegate after amalgamation. He introduced many innovations, including bike marking days in local parks, special street signs, one-way screw days and specific local window stickers.

With the Police restructure in 2010, he took the role of Chairman of the Manningham NHW and also became Divisional Vice-President when Manningham was transferred to Eastern Region Division 1.

He continues as the driving force behind the very active Manningham NHW and was also elected to the State Board in 2012 where he also provides drive and energy in strategy and planning.

Congratulations Geoff

The NHPWA Police Commissioners Award is awarded to a police employee or a police officer. The Award is to recognise a police officer or employee who has volunteered their time through Neighbourhood Watch and or Neighbourhood Support to empower people and communities through the development of strong and effective partnerships that promotes quality of life, wellbeing and social inclusion.

The 2013 Police Commissioner Award Finalists are:
(who will each receive a certificate of recognition.
In no particular order)

Leading Senior Constable, Joseph Clarke from Victoria Police

Sergeant Daryl Neit for the ACT Police

Sergeant Peter Benn from South Australia Police.

The 2013 NHPWA Police Commissioners Award for the police employee of the year, goes to

Acting Sergeant Fiona Barker from the New Zealand Police

Acting Sergeant Barker is a thorough, conscience police officer who always viewed prevention as a crucial element of daily policing. This was long before preventative policing had the momentum it has today. Her motivation for working hard is not driven by personal gain, but by a real desire to benefit the community in which she works. She goes the

extra mile and often exceeds any expectations people may have of her as a police officer.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team works in the lowest socioeconomic neighbourhood of Levin and it produces a disproportionately high level of calls for police service. It is a challenging area and one in which we traditionally have the least engagement.

Acting Sergeant Barker has developed an outstanding rapport with high risk families in the area, which has improved our standing in the neighbourhood. This has led to reduced calls for police service. Her status in the community has also assisted her to initiate some very effective projects improving community well-being.

Acting Sergeant Barker has also developed productive relationships with local schools, kindergarten, churches and social agencies, including the local Child Youth and Family Home. These relationships help us to identify and resolve issues before they get out of hand.

Acting Sergeant Barker has also been instrumental in the growth of Neighbourhood Support and in particular the Junior Neighbourhood Support Groups.

In summary, Acting Sergeant Barker has had a huge impact in the neighbourhood we work. She has driven many positive changes and the results of her commitment will be long lasting.



Accepting the award on behalf of Fiona Barker is National Manager of NSNZ, Roger Eynon. Presented by Steve Batterham and Ingrid Stonhill.



Innovation Award Winners: L to R) Gill Metz, NHW Victoria, Commissioner John McRoberts, Geoff Kloot, NHW Manningham.

The Federal Minister – Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Innovation Award is run in association with the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Community Funding Program. Every successful Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Community Funding Program application is automatically entered into the Innovation Award.

The Federal Minister- NHWA Innovation Award will recognize an individual and or NHW group who are striving to improve community cohesion through the adoption of innovative community safety and or crime prevention initiatives within their community.

This Award celebrates the efforts of an individual and or a NHW group who develops new approaches to address challenges and delivers positive results in their community.

By showcasing the successful Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Community Funding Program applicant's approaches to community safety and crime prevention, the Award seeks to raise awareness of innovative localised problem solving within the community. This is achieved by working together within the community and or in partnership with Police and or Local Government Authorities. Creating safer more vibrant communities.

The 2013 Federal Minister, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Innovation Award goes to **Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, for the Manningham Neighbourhood Watch project**

For their Inter-active Crime Prevention Computer Game for Children.



Sergeant Daryl Neit, winner of the Chief Police Officer's Award and Carol Vincent, District Delegate Tuggeranong.

Tuggeranong Sergeant wins ACTNHW Award

Tuggeranong Police Station's officer-in-charge, Sergeant Daryl Neit, has received one of ACT Neighbourhood Watch's major community awards for 2013.

Sergeant Neit was presented with the Chief Police Officer's Award,

recognising his outstanding service to the community organisation, at the recent ACTNHW annual meeting.

The ACTNHW citation said that Sergeant Neit consistently supported the group's activities and spoke with ease on crime prevention issues, fostering a two-way dialogue.

"His actions have reinforced the strong relationship which exists between ACT Policing and ACT Neighbourhood Watch," the citation said.

Sergeant Neit said he was honoured to receive the award and would continue to work closely with the community.

Geoff Puleston

ACT NHW Member of the Year Award 2013



Geoff Puleston, who was instrumental in the establishment of an active ACT Neighbourhood Watch presence in Gleneagles Estate, within the suburb of Kambah, has been honoured as the ACTNHW Member of the Year for 2013.

This award recognises individuals who have volunteered their time through NHW to empower people and communities by developing strong and effective partnerships

that promote quality of life, wellbeing and social inclusion. It exemplifies persons dedicated to voluntary service and who typify humility in all their achievements.

Gleneagles Estate did not have an active NHW presence until Mr Puleston, one of its residents, decided to change the situation and today the membership is the second highest in the ACT.

With dedication and enthusiasm, Mr Puleston successfully arranged

for partnerships with local groups such as the Murrumbidgee Golf Club and Lions Youth Haven.

He lobbied local business for sponsorship for the purchase of numerous ACTNHW signs that were subsequently erected around the Gleneagles Estate and which raised awareness and participation within the community. His lobbying talents have been present on a number of issues and only recently, in conjunction with Tuggeranong Police, have resulted in the closure of the Kambah Pool Road – a frequent problem area – after dark.

“Geoff’s contribution to Neighbourhood Watch has not been just at the local level,” the then president, Mrs Margaret Pearson said. “He took over as membership secretary and did the most amazing job with our records, laying a solid foundation for membership secretaries of the future.

“In this capacity he became a member of the board of management and his wise counsel, knowledge and experience, and quiet but firm contribution, was greatly missed when he stepped down from that position.

“Fortunately we have been able to use his expertise and communication skills in other ways such as at our recent area coordinators’ seminar.

“He is always one of the first persons to offer his services to assist with the numerous requests for NHW personnel to man stalls at the various shows that NHW participates in with ACT Policing. He never has to be asked twice – he just volunteers.

“His willingness to assist in a variety of ways makes him a worthy recipient of the ACTNHW Member of the Year Award for 2013.”

Operation Tabella

Irreversible number plate screws

A New South Wales Police Force Community Safety Initiative

Kristina Janjic, Eyewatch, NSW

A Local Area Commander from Campsie, Supt Peter Lennon APM identified stolen registration plates as an escalating crime throughout the South West Metropolitan Region (SWMR). The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) figures showed 12 per cent of items stolen from motor vehicles in the Sydney region comprised registration plates and many of these plates were used in the commission of other offences, including petrol theft, robbery, toll evasion, and related offences. In response, Operation Tabella was launched on 17 July 2009 by NSW Attorney General, the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, then A/Deputy Commissioner Frank Mennilli APM and Supt Peter Lennon. Tabella was funded by the NSW Department of Justice and Attorney General with additional funds contributed by Canterbury City Council. The Operation's aim was to fit 12,000 vehicle registration plates with irreversible screws by 30 September 2009. The Department of Justice and Attorney General also purchased 28 cordless drills so that each of the 20 fitting sites had access to drills to fit the irreversible screws.

A series of planning meetings and briefings were held at Campsie Local Area Command and initial analysis was conducted on region wide intelligence and statistics in relation to steal from motor vehicle offences. Tabella featured on Sydney television

stations and made newsprint in the major dailies and in local newspapers, it was advertised on the NSWPF internet and intranet. Members of the public could read the important information, view the fitting locations, and download the indemnity form. All Crime Prevention Officers (CPO) across the SWMR organised fitting locations and volunteers in their respective LACs and acted as field commanders on each fitting day. Along with the management committee, several CPOs were responsible for securing project sponsors. These were: Canterbury City Council, Roselands Centro Shopping Centre, KarPro Roselands, NRMA, Bunnings Warehouse, Beaurepaires and State Emergency Service (SES). Operation Tabella secured over 20 sites throughout the SWMR to conduct five fitting days in July and August. Members of the public were invited to attend any fitting location to have their vehicle fitted. Locations ranged from railway station commuter car parks, shopping centre car parks, council car parks, league club car parks and Bunnings car parks.

In addition, members of the public could attend any SWMR LAC to have screws fitted on the spot. The NRMA was also present at some sites to test batteries. Prior to vehicles being fitted, each driver was required to sign an indemnity form that released police from liability in the event that damage was caused to the vehicle. The indemnity form also recorded



the name and postcode of the vehicle owner, as well as the vehicle make and model. Importantly, every registration plate number was recorded directly onto a laptop computer set up at each location. All registration plate numbers were then forwarded to the NSWPF BTS for recording purposes. This aspect of the operation was critical because, for the first time, police are able to monitor if any fitted plates are stolen in the future. The Department of Justice and Attorney General can also track suburbs where the screws are fitted for impact analysis. A/Deputy Commissioner Mennilli said Operation Tabella has been a major success. "The NSW Police Force works hand-in-hand with the community. We knew we had to engage the community to be successful. "Thank you so much for the valuable time and the contributions our volunteers have made to our local community and to the dedicated police who worked very hard across the region. Due to the success of Operation Tabella there is a push to develop the program state wide.

Tabella 2 has been recently conducted in particular troublesome locations. Tabella 3 will no doubt also go ahead shortly.

Turning a city wide organisation into a Regional Office

Sarah Hexamer, Regional Manager, Otago Neighbourhood Support



Sarah – in the middle laughing.

Founded in 2003 in Dunedin, Otago Neighbourhood Support was operating as a small community organisation and with limited resources financially and physically. In 2008 membership was 600 households: 90 groups many had been carried over from Neighbourhood Watch in the 80s and 90s with a paper based system which was outdated and not quantified.

Otago Neighbourhood Support was a small area office. The Coordinator was the Southern District Representative for NSNZ, almost by default. Invercargill City Council ran the only other Neighbourhood Support service in the Policing District. Priorities were drawn up. Otago Neighbourhood Support had to raise its profile and established strategic

relationships. The aim was largely to be accepted as integral to local service delivery and recognised for contributing positive community impact.

The strategy was quite simple – get and about, be seen and collaborate with other organisations, demonstrating a professional public

profile to help engage the community. The journey was surprisingly easy and Otago Neighbourhood Support quickly gained respect and momentum in the city. Key partnerships were established with agencies such as Civil Defence, Council of Social Services, Presbyterian Support, Age Concern, Community Boards, Local and Regional Authorities, Methodist Mission, Red Cross, Fire Service, Community Patrol and of course New Zealand Police.

Soon Otago Neighbourhood Support was being invited to be guest speaker at meetings, invited onto Boards and to collaborate in community-based programmes with other agencies. Invitations also followed to be part of the Local Civil Defence Welfare Advisory Group. Otago Neighbourhood

Support had become a vessel for others to engage with the community.

Growth in the first year was steady. Membership was migrated to a database, was quantified and re-engaged with. NS Street Contacts were empowered and a measure of that was that they were attending training days in healthy numbers. As growth was steadily increasing, a team of volunteers was gradually introduced and they helped significantly with administrative tasks, making up member packs and helping door to door activity. Without this pool of valued volunteers Otago Neighbourhood Support would not be in the position it is in now, which is as a Regional Office.

The journey towards creating a Regional Office happened slowly but not planned. It happened organically, through the belief in the product and that Neighbourhood Support should be available in every community, not just as a crime prevention tool, but something that can meet expectations of other agencies and community needs.

The next area for growth came in supporting Cromwell in Central Otago establish Neighbourhood Support. In 2012 another member of staff was employed and this allowed us to focus on our local area – in particular an area of the City that had been historically hard to engage with. The introduction of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and their

Junior Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

Promoting a sense of pride, safety and community spirit in children and their wider school community

Kim Romeril, JNSNZ, NDC Representative



Junior Neighbourhood Support (JNS) has had an interesting and challenging year. The Junior Neighbourhood Support National Development Committee (NDC) vision is taking shape. Coordinators are delivering activities within schools and the wider community and are experiencing successes that demonstrate the value of the programme. Along the way, they are also providing strong learning points for future development of the service.

The programme is a valuable vehicle for the recognition of students and how they learn what positive impact is. JNS Coordinators are actively facilitating linkages between schools, community organisations and agencies to encourage the delivery and reinforcement of emergency preparedness education and protective behaviours within schools, in the home environment and in the community.

Families are supporting their children and schools by joining Neighbourhood Support groups in their communities.

The NDC continues to build a national framework for Coordinators to follow.



NDC members: left to right Kim Romeril, Kelsey Scarr, Louise Grevel and Andrea Haberfield.

Equally, they support new areas to set up programmes in their communities, providing resources and facilitating opportunities for Coordinators to develop their programme through workshops and support networks.

JNS is a valuable tool for embracing diversity, promoting social inclusion and community engagement. It reaches out to

future Neighbourhood Support members at a critical developmental stage.

Development of the programme is challenging and the NDC is considering how best to measure impact and value within the community. That is a crucial part of a sustainable programme and will evolve as the environment and influences also change.

remit to focus in this area was a perfect synergy for us to partner with them. Huge results were achieved during the six weeks undertaking surveys with residents and setting up groups. We now have a group on over 80 per cent of those streets.

Setting up Alexandra was the 'ah ha' moment where we realised that we must be able to make things easier or Neighbourhood Support would not grow in our District. The infrastructure and administrative systems were in place, so why not manage other areas on their behalf? Each community continues to promote and grow NS, and Otago Neighbourhood Support has a 'behind the scenes' role but it also means

that we have the membership data, brand and resource is managed and keeps the business focused. A strong overview good overview is kept on what is happening, the area is fully supported and we can deliver a professional service and resources to all in our region. Otago Neighbourhood Support now manages the databases of Lawrence, Cromwell, Clutha, Southland and Alexandra.

An operation package has been developed for areas wishing to affiliate with NSNZ but be managed under Otago Neighbourhood Support and we feel this is the way forward for many areas outside of the bigger cities, by enabling local resources to concentrate on the

delivery of the Neighbourhood Support concept rather than be bogged down with set-up tasks. Three other areas may be on board in the coming year.

The hours of the team increased to 30 and 35 hours during 2013 and funding was received from Neighbourhood Support New Zealand's Contestable Funding process towards the growth of the region late 2012 and in 2013. This has allowed us to commit resources and plan accordingly.

We intend to continue to be ambassadors for Neighbourhood Support New Zealand and deliver a clear, concise and easy to manage product to engage with communities.

Papamoa Junior Neighbourhood Support

The theme for the last two terms with JNS Papamoa has been “keeping yourself safe” and “being the eyes and ears in our community”.

Tania Williamson, JNS Coordinator - Papamoa

We organised community walks for both schools for the Year 5/6's, this involves taken them out into the local streets, along with teachers, where scenarios had been set up for the students to witness. The JNS team organised the following “setups” to encourage discussion about how to reduce opportunities for crime:

- mail hanging out of letterboxes (to indicate no one is home),
- a garage door up with a lot of household items, bikes etc. inside (to remind the students to keep the door down if they do not want their personal items stolen),
- an offender tagging and vandalising a community area
- a person who was potentially breaking into a vehicle

Questions were asked of the students throughout the walk and at the end, particularly in the case of potential offenders, we questioned the students as to what the offender looked like.



This exercise proved to be very interesting, with students providing valuable feedback and insight, learning a lot about what can potentially happen

out in their community, in particular crimes that could occur on their own property.

We are still at the early stages for JNS Papamoa, but from the school's point of view, they see their students starting to use their initiative more. JNS has assisted them to take ownership of their school, particularly through the guidance of our student leaders, to bring positive things to their school community and to stand up and be counted. To be rewarded for doing great things is also a great incentive and has assisted in this positive change. The flow on affect in our wider community is seeing these children recognising Constable Shane and myself, which in turn gets the message home. As JNS Papamoa is not funded, all of this is done on a voluntary capacity, so the support we have experienced, has been encouraging. “Papa Moa”, our mascot, continues to be a hit!!



Otago Junior Neighbourhood Support

Otago Neighbourhood Support launched into five Dunedin schools this, its first year. The launch day was filled with fun activities and BBQ, kindly organised by the Lions Club of Green Island with contributions from Veggie Boys Dunedin and The Mad Butcher Dunedin.

Kim Romeril, JNS Otago, Programme Coordinator

Partner agencies and sponsors were able to meet the students and staff and participate in activities, reinforcing the positive relationships facilitated by JNS Otago.

24 school leaders were invited to attend an exciting and challenging two days at the Dunedin Blue Light Leadership Programme camp held at Christian Youth Camps Waihola over the weekend of August 10-11. The weekend focused around learnings, making new friends and most importantly, to have fun at the same time. Activities were designed to push boundaries and encourage emergent leadership qualities that School Leaders could to embed into their roles

“The weekend focused around learnings, making new friends and most importantly, to have fun at the same time. Activities were designed to push boundaries and encourage emergent leadership qualities that School Leaders could to embed into their roles within schools.”

within schools. Funding obtained by Dunedin Blue Light ensured that there was no financial cost for students to attend – an opportunity

that the schools and families were very appreciative of as, quite often, financial hardship means students would not be able to attend similar programmes offered by other organisations.

2013 has been a year when JNS Otago has promoted and recognised positive choice making and youth participation. We have been working with our schools, developing specific programmes based around values and principals, and engaging our School Leaders in art projects that represent these values, to design their JNS letterboxes. School Leaders take an active role in JNS: participating in recognition assemblies when awards are made, promoting school values and positive choices, and working with the JNS Coordinator and schools when nominations come in – linking these with the school's value focus for the term.

Next year will be just as exciting as we build upon a very successful first year and gauge community impact from our service delivery.



CPTED Audit, Rockhole Community-Engagement

Members of NHWNT Central Region along with Katherine Police, Kalano Night Patrol and residents from the community conducted a CPTED Audit at Rockhole Community on Friday October 18.

Jessica Lee, Neighbourhood Watch NT Support & Liaison Officer



Kids at the community playing on the oval.



The community is primarily an aboriginal living area located about 10km west of the Katherine Town Centre along Florina Road, Cossack. The community is the home to approximately 200 – 250 residents however this number may vary due to seasonal fluctuations. Although the community is located within the local government area serviced by the Katherine Town Council this community is resourced by the Kalano Community Association.

After a brief introduction residents were invited to walk with the NHWNT volunteers and Police attendees and to make comment and observation of possible items and areas of interest relevant to perception of safety and wellbeing within their community.

After the audit NHWNT held a community barbecue and youth disco conducted by Katherine Police Youth Engagement team consisting of Constable Miller and Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer King. This was a successful program which will promote further interest in NHWNT to assist in minimising preventable crime, whilst keeping the community safe.

Crime Prevention through Environment Design (CPTED)

This enlightening course was held throughout May – June 2013, across the Northern Territory in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. The training course was conducted by the Chairman of the International CPTED association, Tony Lake. Participants engaged in the two day training program. The training encouraged participants in deterring criminal behaviour through environmental design, raising awareness to criminal activity in their local neighbourhood. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts by affecting the built, social and administrative environment. The course was highly informative and thoroughly enjoyed immensely by all participants.

NHWNT Treasurer Melanie Hall stated "This was an insightful course which encouraged me to look at my surroundings with a different perspective and consider options to prevent criminal activities occurring."

October-November events in the Northern Territory Neighbourhood Watch

Childrens Week in the NT

Neighbourhood Watch NT supported National Children's Week by providing a display at the Jingili and Palmerston Events. The general public who attended received vital information regarding safety in the community and crime prevention. Badgemaking, showbags and fingerprinting were just a small part of the great activities held at the event. As a result of the displays numerous people applied to become Safety House members, and even further interest in becoming Neighbourhood Watch members.

Information day

Neighbourhood Watch NT planned a successful Information day in Darwin supporting Neighbourhood watch Australasia. This informative event held on the 31st of October 2013 covered important topics from guest speakers regarding emergency preparedness, managing a successful meeting, Cyber Safety, completing successful funding applications, and effective communication. Guest speakers include NT Emergency Services, NT Police association, Australian Federal Police Agent James Braithwaite, NT local Government Renee Williams and NT Early Intervention Pilot Program Lauren Moss.

Online security for seniors forum

This informative presentation was held in Darwin on the 1st of November 2013. Highly qualified guest speaker Dr Cassandra Cross – School of Justice Queensland University of Technology, provided a presentation on online fraud victimisation and prevention. The Northern Territory Police High-Tech Crime Squad provided an overview of cyber safety issues and their response to online fraud. This Neighbourhood Watch NT Forum works in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

Northern Territory Neighbourhood Watch community meetings from Darwin to Alice Springs

November is an exciting month as Neighbourhood Watch will be extending an invitation for all members to attend to their local community meetings in the Northern, Central, Desert, and Southern Regions of the Northern Territory. The Neighbourhood Watch NT meetings will involve members and community leaders to broaden and support Neighbourhood Watch in promoting community engagement on safety and crime prevention.

Cyclones

Get ready get through

The cyclone season has begun for 2013-14 and it's important that Territorians are prepared for whatever the season brings. The last two years have been quiet and this can cause complacency amongst the locals. This can result in devastating consequences so please ensure you and your family are prepared and know what to do when a cyclone comes.



"Being hit by a gnome at any point is bad luck but with winds of up to 250km an hour, Ian's community of gnomes can become a dangerous angry mob in a matter of second."

Yard preparations

It's important that everyone considers the dangers in their yard. Fridges have been known to be moved great distances in a cyclone and in the Territory it's not a matter of if, but when. Ask yourself, is our yard tidy and safe, not just for me and my family but the, neighbourhood and the wider community?

NTES Public Education Officer, Kerrie McMahon said many people take a lot of pride in developing their gardens and often overlook the day to day elements of their yard. Prior to the cyclone season this year NTES set out to assess the backyards

of the Mayor of Darwin and Mayor of Palmerston.

The City of Palmerston Mayor, Ian Abbott, had an array of gnomes populating his picturesque yard. Being hit by a gnome at any point is bad luck but with winds of up to 250km an hour, Ian's community of gnomes can become a dangerous angry mob in a matter of seconds.

Household emergency plans

Now is the time to sit down with the family, friends or housemates and answer some important questions.

- Where will we shelter and is it built to code?

- Are we in a storm surge or flood prone area?
- What is my family requirement?
- What is expected from me at work?

These are important questions to answer and knowing the answers will allow you to prepare yourself and your family.

Household emergency kit

It is your personal responsibility to ensure you and your family have a sufficient emergency kit to sustain you for 72 hours or more.

For more information on cyclone preparedness, planning and shelters visit www.securent.nt.gov.au



Household Emergency Kit

No matter where you live in the Territory, an emergency kit is an absolute necessity for every household. Depending on your location, you may need to rely on your own resources to get through until the emergency or disaster has passed or help arrives. The most important thing to remember is to ensure that your kit is able to sustain yourself and every family member for up to 72 hours or more.

Your emergency kit should include:

- Battery-operated radio with spare batteries
- Torch with spare batteries, candles and waterproof matches
- First aid kit and manual with any essential medicines that may not be found in a basic kit
- A change of clothes for each member of the household (wind and waterproof, hats, leather gloves, strong protective closed-in shoes)
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Toilet paper and essential toiletries, including sunscreen
- Special needs for infants (food, formula, nappies, toys), the aged and people with disabilities
- Money, including change for phone calls
- Important family documents (birth and marriage certificates, driver's licence, passports, insurance policies and photos)
- Strong and sealable plastic bags (for clothing, valuables, documents and photographs)
- A mobile phone, spare battery and charger
- Extra car and house keys
- A copy of your household plan
- Pet supplies
- Non-perishable foods (dried and canned – label cans and don't forget the can opener!)
- 10 litres of bottled water per person (three days plus)
- Portable cooker (if using gas remember to have spare canisters or bottles)
- Cooking and eating equipment and utensils

Tips for kits

- Store your kit in a dry area of your household that is easily accessible without electricity
- Make sure every member of your household knows where the kit is stored
- Check the contents of your kit at least once a year to ensure items still work and consumables have not gone past their use-by date
- Batteries have expiry dates, water does go stale and non-perishables will perish over a period of time
- A household emergency kit can also double as a camping kit – stock your kit at the beginning of the wet season and use it in the dry each year season and use it in the dry each year

To view our Household Emergency Planning, go to www.emergency.nt.gov.au

Launch of Cairns Business Watch, September 3, 2013



In early March 2013 local police embarked on updating the key holder's index within the Cairns Central Business District (CBD). The key holder's index is a database held by Cairns Police Administration and Cairns Police Communications for the purpose of contacting business operators after hours, such examples might include in the event of a break and enter or fire at their place of business.

Article and photos by Senior Constable Heidi Marek, Cairns District Crime Prevention Office

As such the Cairns Crime Prevention Unit compiled a flier for officers from the Cairns Esplanade Police Beat. Police Officers and Police Liaison Officers commenced walking the beat in an effort to attend every business to obtain a contact to update the database.

After personally attending several businesses himself, Officer in Charge of the Esplanade Police Beat, Senior Sergeant Gary Hunter came up with the idea of also recording the existence of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera's at each business and their capabilities.

The CCTV camera information

would assist police to identify vision in and around the CBD which might not normally be first identified. This concept came about after the murder of ABC employee, Jill Meagher in a Brunswick laneway on September 22, 2013. Melbourne detectives were able to piece together her final movements through the CCTV vision of business in the area.

Over the past two years several police operations have focused on anti-social and violent behaviour in the Cairns CBD. In July 2012 police launched Operation Escalate which involved 20 additional police from other police regions in Queensland taking to the beat in the Cairns CBD.

The 'zero tolerance' approach to youth crime, public nuisance and alcohol related offences saw the success of this operation translate into the launch of Operation Escalate 2 and Operation Lima Oak which continue to place of focus on crime in the CBD.

The success of police operations has dramatically improved the crime rates within the CBD however a need was identified by police to establish stronger working relationships between police and the CBD business community in an effort to stay on top of crime in the area.

Cairns Crime Prevention Unit saw the keyholder database as an excellent

tool to generate an email database which could be used to distribute crime prevention information to local businesses. As such Senior Sergeant Gary Hunter and Constable Dan McEntee from the Cairns City Esplanade Police Beat were contacted with a view to combining the keyholder database with an electronic version of Neighbourhood Watch. After further discussions to ensure all aspects of operational and crime prevention policing were met, Cairns Business Watch was established.

Police Officers and Police Liaison Officer's continued to walk the beat not only updating the keyholders index and the CCTV database but to now pitch the idea of a Business Watch to the CBD business owners. The involvement of our Japanese Police Liaison Officer Keiko Berry proved extremely useful in bridging



some language barriers with local Asian business owners.

Police were met with an overwhelming response to the idea. Over the next two months, a Business Watch logo and slogan

was born, a Business Watch email address was established and the first Business Watch Newsletter was distributed.

Business owners continued to sign up to be a part of Business Watch,

Launch of Cairns Business Watch

Since March 2013, Officers/PLOs from Cairns City Beat commenced an operation to collect information from the key holders of businesses located in the Cairns CBD to establish a community-based project.

The Community Engagement Project, named 'Cairns Business Watch' (CBW) recently received local media exposure and is based on the framework of Neighbourhood Watch.

CBW will give police and businesses in the Central Business District (CBD) direct links to communicate with one another on a regular basis.

There were 632 businesses enlisted with CBW when officially launched on Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

CBW will empower the businesses, enhance their security responsibility and provide more effective means

to communicate with one another through the assistance of police.

This strategy it is hoped will stimulate ideas and innovation to further combat criminal and anti-social behaviour and positively contribute to Cairns CBD as a safe and friendly environment to work, live and visit.

To facilitate communication with and between the businesses, police have established an email distribution list, where police can send out regular newsletters, crime alerts, disaster management, BOLOs and tips on crime prevention.

Whilst the initiative is in its infancy it is envisaged it will evolve and develop further.

As police, CBW will assist your investigations greatly if an offence is to occur.

How it will help:

- Immediate contact (email) with over 600 businesses
- A list of all businesses within the CBD with internal/external CCTV
- A contact for each business enrolled with CBW
- Phone numbers to contact key holders after hours
- Translation of all material from English into Korean, Japanese and Chinese.

This is an excellent initiative of the Cairns City Police Beat greatly supported by the PLOs, DCPC, DSS Marty OTS.

It is our intent to progress this initiative to other locations throughout the District.

Paul Taylor, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Northern Region



over 630 members were recorded on the list when the group officially launched on September 3rd.

At the official launch business owners were introduced to the project and were given a rundown on how the program aimed to build a stronger working relationship between police and the CBD community.

The launch of Cairns Business Watch was strongly supported by District Officer, Chief Superintendant Paul Taylor, Member for Cairns Mr Gavin King, Member for Leichardt The Hon. Mr Warren Entsch and local councillor Richie Bates, all of which attended and spoke at the official launch.

"Cairns Business Watch will empower businesses, enhance their security responsibility and provide more effective means to communicate with one another through the assistance of Police"

"This strategy it is hoped, will stimulate ideas and innovations to further combat criminal and anti-social behaviour and positively contribute to Cairns CBD being safe and friendly environment to work, live and visit" said Chief Superintendant Paul Taylor.

Two business owners have stepped forward to act as representatives for the group, Mr Chris Van Dorssen and Mr Nick Loukas. The representatives have established a direct line of

"The business watch program is a fantastic way that business can integrate with police to improve the safety and security of our Cairns CBD. An integrated approach is needed to take advantage of social media and other new age communication options. Having the possibility of quick dissemination of important safety matters from police to business and visa versa is a refreshing approach to see."

- Nick Loukas

Managing Director, Retail Pharmacy Group

contact with officers at the local police beat and will work together to address issues of concern within the CBD.

"This is a great initiative that will not only help local businesses but the community in general. I'm expecting this will help improve communications between local businesses and the police and I'm very keen to be involved with Cairns Business Watch" said business owner Mr Chris Van Dorssen.

Whilst still in its infancy the establishment of the group looks set to be a very positive ongoing crime prevention initiative. Through the program not only is it intended that positive working relationships

will develop between police and the business owners but that closer links between business owners and their neighbouring businesses will also be established. The program aims to not only encourage the members to report crime and concerns within the CBD but to keep an eye out for one another.

The positive response from not only the business community but also police on the beat and senior executive indicates we are on a winner. At present we are planning on trialling the Cairns Business Watch project and aim at increasing the number of Business Watch's throughout the Cairns and surrounding areas.

Macgregor Neighbourhood Watch Revitalisation Project



From Left to right: Standing - Jenny Drake, Kwok Lui, Phil Wixted, John Fanning and John Drake (Area Coordinator).
Sitting - Estelle Cashman, Wynn Wixted and Ian Johnson.

The challenge facing the incoming committee for Upper Mt Gravatt NHW 6 in June last year was how to revitalise the activities of the group that was experiencing significant changes with the growth in Chinese population and increasing student residents in the Macgregor area.

A grant application was made to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) aimed at helping the new committee address these issues as well as to engage with key sections of the local community to promote

awareness about crime. The grant received enabled the Group to produce monthly newsletters in both English and Chinese. Pull-up banners in both English and Chinese were also purchased to help the Group conduct promotions in the local shopping centres. Information brochures on Neighbourhood Watch and the branch were also produced for distribution.

The Macgregor State High School and the Macgregor Primary School play a significant role in the Macgregor community. The Group joined with Macgregor State High School to conduct

an information session on cybersafety for Grade 9 students and parents in late February 2013. Assistance was also provided at the Macgregor State School Mayfest to manage vehicle access to the school oval area and promote NHW activities. With the help of a young engineer the Group now has a website with postings in both English and Chinese whenever possible.

Twelve months on while the numbers in the Group have not increased significantly, the Committee is continuing with the program initiated with the grant.

Think About It

South Australia Police's Youth Programs Coordination Section has developed a school holiday strategy to address issues of anti-social behaviour, shop theft and graffiti. The three topics comprise of imaginative and attention-grabbing electronic images and daily tweets for dissemination on SAPOL social media platforms. The 'Think About It' strategy challenges the choices young people make and encourages them to consider the consequences of their actions. This strategy was used during the September school holidays.



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Shoplifting is stealing, you could get a criminal record.
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Holden Hill electronic device marking day



Holden Hill Local Service Area's Crime Prevention Section offered a free electronic marking device day at the Enfield Community hall on 29 May.

The event was widely circulated through local Neighbourhood Watch newsletters and the SAPOL Facebook site. Members of the public attended with their lap-tops, iPads, mobile phones and cameras for police officers to engrave or UV pen mark. The message was simple 'Engrave it to save it!'. Items were marked

with the letter 'S', followed by the person's driver's licence number. Various personal and property security information brochures were supplied to all those who attended. The day was deemed a big success and Holden Hill police have already had numerous enquiries of when the next similar event will be.

New directions for Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania

Jan Dunsby, State President

Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania is taking a long hard look at itself from inside and out. Like many community organisations, we face a diminishing base of volunteers and a lack of engagement from younger members of the community. There is no magic formula (if there was we would be able to become philanthropic from the money we would make from selling it!) but we need to be changeable and adapt to the progressive ways that communities now live and work.



The changes faced by NHW and Police were highlighted to us by the guest speaker at our annual general meeting. Simon Overland, who is currently Secretary of the Department of Justice in Tasmania, shared his experiences around changes experienced throughout his working career in Police in several jurisdictions. From telex machines and card carriers to the latest investigative technologies,



Left to right: Wayne Burgess (State Treasurer), Jan Dunsby (State President), Simon Overland (Secretary, Department of Justice), Pat Leary (State Vice President/Secretary) and Peter Middleton (Community Relations, Tasmania Fire Service).

the story shared by Simon showed how quickly technology is carrying our community forward – whether we are ready to travel with it or not!

To assist NHWT on our journey of progression, we have engaged Malcolm MacDonald and Associates and given them a very extensive wish list of all the aims and projections we would like to achieve in an ideal world. Of course we can't realise them all, but the

journey will teach us as much as the outcomes.

All members were invited to a planning day in August and from that Malcolm has compiled an extensive document. The State Committee hopes to adopt the new plan before the end of the year.

Another role our organisation may have to adapt to in the future is providing assistance in times of emergency in our community. Peter Middleton, from the

Tasmanian Fire Service, also spoke at our AGM and highlighted how partnership arrangements in areas vulnerable to fire could assist those communities to be better prepared should we again be faced with fire extremes.

As we head into the festive and holiday season, I extend the very best wishes of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania to all the readers of this magazine and look forward to a great 2014.

Neighbourhood Watch Victoria update

2013 continues at a great pace Victoria. The last three months have continued to see Neighbourhood Watch grow across the State and the Neighbourhood Watch groups add significantly to their communities.



New groups have started in Point Cook (Wyndham LGA), Cardinia, Carlton and Frankston, with additional enquires on how to start a NHW group or join an existing one coming in weekly. The community in many of these areas is driving the revival.

The new groups bring a variety of ages and cultures to NHW and are expanding the community representation in the organisation. These groups have quickly embraced the NHW program delivering safety and crime prevention programs, developing online newsletters and social media pages. Established groups such as Manningham, Casey and Whitehorse have provided support and mentoring to the new groups and this is working well.

The new NHW in Carlton, a significantly diverse community of people from over 20 different nations has not only come together but recently completed their first major activity, a car park audit. With the support of the three local



Carlton volunteers and police at the car park audit.

police officers and their mentors from Manningham they checked over 400 cars with 8% of the cars found to contain valuables attractive to thieves.

NHW is working on translating program material to support the different CALD communities and also developing diagrammatic brochures that don't need translating. This is

an interesting project and is allowing NHW to develop skills in supporting a wider community.

At the beginning of September, the third State Forum for the year was held. The attendees (volunteers and Police) worked on reviewing our current programs and identifying areas that need updating and gaps that need filling in order to provide

complete, contemporary programs to reduce crime and increase safety. These updates will be shared on the website over the coming year providing a dedicated resource centre to support groups.

NHW has been working in partnership with Crimestoppers on two campaigns covering common and bushfire arson. It is also working



in partnership with Department of Justice on mobile graffiti kits.

NHW supported Victoria Police in an operation to target 10 municipal areas where the theft of number plates was high. Operation SAFE PL8 was launched on the 22 October and will run for three months.

Over 10,400 number plates were stolen last year. Offenders use stolen plates to avoid identification when committing serious offences such as petrol thefts, drug trafficking and burglary.

If your number plates are stolen, you will need to:

- Report the theft to your local police
- Report the theft to VicRoads
- Pay to have new number plates issued
- Change your registration details
- Change your car insurance details
- Change your toll road (East Link, City Link) account details

If you keep driving without number plates you could be fined \$144 and three demerit points.



What You Can Do

Help prevent serious offences and avoid the inconvenience and cost of replacing your number plates.

Secure your number plates with one-way, anti-theft screws. They cost only a few dollars and can be fitted with a standard flat bladed screw driver.

Park your car in a secure place. Park off the street in a garage or carport where possible.

Stay alert and report the theft of number plates to police as soon as possible.

The more motorists who secure their plates, the harder it will be for thieves to find a free ride. Step up to the plate, spread the word and tighten the screws on crime.

This operation fitted in well with October being Community Safety Month and the NHW volunteers were very evident in their communities, with many groups carrying out individual activities, as well as supporting Police, Local Councils and other agencies in joint activities.

Being neighbourly online Electronic crime fighting set for expansion throughout WA

The email-based community initiative ewatch has been expanded with the official launch at the Perth Royal Show. ewatch has grown in popularity since it was first developed by a metropolitan Local Government the City of Gosnells in 2002. WA Police and Neighbourhood Watch recognised the value in this initiative and launched the newly developed ewatch program on September 28, 2013.

The initiative enables community members to register for a free e-newsletter that features information on local crime trends and statistics, safety tips, emerging issues and information about community events. The officer in charge of each police station will produce these newsletters either weekly, fortnightly or monthly and invite their corresponding local government to also add community related information prior to being distributed.

The ewatch program complements WA Police's presence on Facebook and Twitter, and all three platforms are a means of reaching a growing audience of community members who use cyberspace to communicate.

“Community interaction with police has proven crime prevention and community safety benefits, and the ewatch model has been very successful in promoting this shared responsibility, justifying the need for State-wide coverage.”

ewatch is a way to promote engagement between local police, local governments and those in the community who are not currently using social media.

Crime Prevention and Community Liaison Executive Manager Bernie Durkin said the website was user

tested in two police districts to ensure it met the requirements of both local police and local governments, as well as delivering an efficient and engaging program to the WA community.

“Based on feedback from both local police stations and local governments,



changes were made to the site. The program officially launched at the Perth Royal Show on 28th September with all police stations state-wide preparing to send out their first newsletters this October," he said.

"Community interaction with police has proven crime prevention and community safety benefits, and the ewatch model has been very successful in promoting this shared responsibility, justifying the need for State-wide coverage."

State-wide training was conducted by all staff from the WA Police Community Engagement Division, Crime Prevention Community Liaison team who are photographed with this article. The training involved the local officer in charge of each police station and local government staff.

ewatch has also been identified as an efficient communication tool to keep Neighbourhood Watch members informed. Traditionally NHW groups have produced paper based newsletters then used volunteers to distribute these throughout their

"Traditionally NHW groups have produced paper based newsletters then used volunteers to distribute these throughout their local area. This process, although very effective for many years, has become expensive and very resource intensive to both produce and deliver."

local area. This process, although very effective for many years, has become expensive and very resource intensive to both produce and deliver.

ewatch will streamline this process and enable NHW members to receive timely information on what is happening in their local area. The question has been raised with regards to those members who do not have internet access and to address this, limited numbers of the newsletters will be available in hard copy at police

stations and Local Government facilities such as administration offices or libraries.

Those people interested in obtaining more information on the ewatch program can visit www.ewatch.com.au however only those people residing in Western Australia can register. Further information could be obtained by emailing info@ewatch.com.au or contact the Western Australia Police Crime Prevention Community Liaison Unit on 08 92221300.



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
- Free from drugs
- Free from anti-social behaviour
- and FUN!



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