

**Every time we witness an injustice and do not act, we train our character to be passive in its presence and thereby eventually lose the ability to defend ourselves and the ones we love!**

## Being Ready for an Emergency

On 31 August there will be a national disaster practice to prepare for when a civil emergency does happen. Those taking part include specific people at a local and national level who respond in the time of a civil emergency. You as an individual will not be part of the exercise but you too need to be prepared for an emergency:

As a member of a Neighbourhood Support Group your details should be recorded with Neighbourhood Support through your Street/Group Contact. These should be updated at least once a year and include who lives at your house, contact phone, mobile, email address, emergency contact details, medical information that needs to be known in an emergency and skills & resource that could be used in an emergency. These details are kept on the Neighbourhood Support database. Update them through your Street/Group Contact or directly with the office.

Ensure you have emergency supplies at hand to last you 3-5 days as it may take that long for emergency services to reach you and don't forget your pets supplies too.

Have a household evacuation plan and make sure everyone in the household knows what to do in an emergency.

Have a Neighbourhood Support contact list at hand so you can check your neighbours are okay and they can check on you.

Have a working battery operated or wind up radio so you can listen to emergency broadcasts.

For tips and direction on what to do go to <http://www.getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready> this is the Civil Defence website page for household preparation. If you don't have internet access contact the Rotorua Lakes Council 348-4199 and ask for Civil Defence.

If you want to be involved as a volunteer for Civil Defence please contact Emergency Management Coordinator Linda Johnston, by email to [linda.johnston@rotorualc.nz](mailto:linda.johnston@rotorualc.nz), apply online at [rotorualakescouncil.nz](http://rotorualakescouncil.nz) or give the Council a call. Please note volunteers will be Police vetted.



**CRIME CAN'T SURVIVE IN A COMMUNITY THAT CARES!**

[www.ns.org.nz](http://www.ns.org.nz)



**NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT AREA**



**safer communities together**

## Over The Fence Lines – Issue 3 2016

The quarterly newsletter of Neighbourhood Support Rotorua Inc  
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### Burglaries In Rotorua

Recently in the local newspapers there was highlighted an increase of burglaries in Rotorua. Part of this increase has been due to a redefinition of "burglary" to now include incidents which previously were classified as "theft" or "theft ex-car". The redefinition has brought N.Z. Police into line with international definitions.

However it must be noted that less crimes does occur in a Neighbourhood Support Group area. Presently 37% of Rotorua occupied households are covered but less than 20% of residential crimes occur in those areas.

By establishing a Group, having signs posted on power poles and encouraging members to be security conscious, observant and willing to report crimes to the Police does have an affect. Although crime reduction is not 100% down it is reduced significantly

Please encourage friends and family to establish/join a Group.

Our Supporting Organisations:



## Precautions When You Go Out

We should take some very basic precautions regards safety and crime prevention when going out:

When travelling in a vehicle don't leave handbags, wallets, computers etc on the seat, a person could quickly open the door & snatch them.

Park your vehicle in a well lit place and don't park in isolated areas.

When parking your vehicle don't leave valuables in it or anything visible that may tempt a thief to break in to steal what they see.

Always lock the vehicle and have the windows closed even when leaving it for a short time.

When shopping don't leave wallets, purses, handbags or phones in shopping trolleys keep them securely with you at all times.

When walking on the street securely keep hold of your bags/wallets/phones

Be aware of who is around you and what they may be doing, especially when at an ATM machine.

## What do you do?

If there has been a car parked on your street and you wish to see if it is stolen go to the Police website at <http://www.police.govt.nz/stolenwanted/stolen-vehicles> and enter the registration number. Remember to report it to the Police as well as it may have been stolen but not yet reported.

**When to call in suspicious activity?** Suspicious activity can refer to incidents, events, individuals or circumstances that seem unusual or out of place. Call 111 immediately.

Some examples of **suspicious activity**: a stranger loitering in the area, a vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly, someone peering into cars/houses/windows, open or broken windows in a property known not to have anyone there, sounds of broken glass, screaming, fighting, someone interfering with a vehicle e.g. trying door handles, removing number plates.

## A Note From Bruce & Jan:

Thank you all who attended the AGM in June, it was the best attended for a number of years. As a result a new committee has been elected comprising 8 from the previous committee along with the addition of Ron Taylor. Our thanks go to previous members Jan Owen, Charlie Brown and to Sam Parata, who was Deputy Area Commander's Liaison Officer. Pauline Evans has been re-elected Chair for the coming year.

Area Commander Inspector Bruce Horne gave a challenging presentation and Hon Todd McLay and The Worship The Mayor, Steve Chadwick both expressed their thanks to members and the Police.

Taking up the challenge from Inspector Horne to have conversations with your neighbours is difficult if you don't know your neighbours. Encourage all in your Group to register as this helps with getting to know them and opens potential conversation starters.

Also in a time of an emergency we rely on the accuracy of our database to help Civil Defence. If contact details for members are not up to date or missing it would be very difficult to help plan response to your area. If you haven't updated or confirmed your contact details in the last year, then do it today! Give the updates to your Street/ Group Contact or send them to the office. Don't leave it or else you will forget to update.



## A Message From Courtney, Senior Sergeant Community and Youth Services, Rotorua Police



Hope the winter is treating you well. Two things I'd like to put a plug in for this month – bicycles and Community Patrols. Police have noticed a recent increase in the theft of bicycles, and with world-class mountain biking being right on our doorstep, many of the bikes being taken are of high value. A simple thing such as securing your bike with a lock will deter someone from seeing your bike as easy pickings. Please lock your bike – whether it's at home, in town, or on a bike rack on your vehicle.

Have you ever wondered how you can assist the Police in your community? Unfortunately Police can't be everywhere all the time, and Community Patrols do fantastic work by being an extra set of eyes and ears in the community. If you have a few spare hours a week and would like to know how you can become a part of this great team, please contact Sergeant Steve Sutton by emailing [steven.sutton@police.govt.nz](mailto:steven.sutton@police.govt.nz). Training and equipment are provided.