

## A Message From Denton

On behalf of the Rotorua Police I hope everyone has an enjoyable, exciting and safe Christmas and New Year.

The Christmas and Holiday period is a time to enjoy the company of family and friends and to take a well-earned break after a busy year.

We still must be very Crime Prevention focused as those responsible for committing offences are never on holiday and are always looking for opportunities to steal or cause harm to others.

We must continue to make it hard for these thieves and criminals by ensuring we secure our property. If you are going away, have someone check your house regularly and have your home look like it is being lived in and occupied.

If you are travelling over the holiday period remember the speed tolerance is lower (4km/h), plan your trip and take regular breaks if driving long distances. Also from the 1<sup>st</sup> December the new Alcohol level comes into effect. The level has been lowered to 250 micrograms/litre of breath. How many standard drinks is that? Well every individual is different and there are various circumstances and variables to consider, but two standard alcoholic drinks would be close to this new legal limit. (this is only a guide)

Finally I would like to recognise and acknowledge the many Neighbourhood Support Groups who are active in the Rotorua Area. A lot of what you do goes unnoticed, but by reporting suspicious activity, sharing information on crime trends and prevention advice, enables our communities we live in become a safer and better place to live.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Denton Grimes, Senior Sergeant Rotorua Police.



### NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT ROTORUA

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Website:

[www.nsrotorua.info](http://www.nsrotorua.info)

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING  
DO SOMETHING  
RING THE POLICE, DIAL 111**

#### Support Organisations



## OVER THE FENCE LINES

ISSUE 4 2014

### A Note From Bruce

The year has certainly passed by very quickly and it is nearly Christmas already.

Over this last year there has been continued growth of Neighbourhood Membership with now close to 9,000 households being members. This covers nearly 37% of the households in the Rotorua District.

With the growth comes some losses due to Street Contacts retiring from their roles due to health, age or moving on and replacements not being found. So far this year 17 Groups have been unable to replace their Street Contact.

Street Contacts perform a valuable and appreciated role in distributing the quarterly newsletter, updating the contact details of Group members and distributing notices about crime in your area.

Street Contacts are to be applauded for their voluntary work to ensure Groups are kept informed Thank you for all your work.

Over this year the level of offences in Neighbourhood Support areas has continued to decrease. This is partly due to members reporting suspicious activity immediately and Police following the Prevention First policy. Keep up the excellent work which you and your Group are doing, making Rotorua a safer more caring place!

In closing on behalf of the team, staff and committee we wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas/New Year. Drive safe and be safe at all times!



### BEFORE YOU GO ON HOLIDAY COMPLETE AND HAND TO YOUR NEIGHBOUR OR CONTACT PERSON.

I am away from \_\_\_\_\_

and come home on \_\_\_\_\_

Holiday contact details \_\_\_\_\_

Other relevant information: \_\_\_\_\_

A more detailed Holiday form can be downloaded from the website: [nsrotorua.info/Forms](http://nsrotorua.info/Forms)

Our newsletters are printed by the awesome team at DUDFIELD BRYCE Printers.

## Get Ready For:

Each year neighbours are encouraged to get together at least once a year.

Neighbours Day Aotearoa sets a date for neighbours to have the gathering and publishes tips and ideas on their web site: <http://www.neighboursday.org.nz/>.

Start planning for your Group to have a gathering. It could be a Group barbeque or lunch or just a get together over a cuppa. The weekend to aim for is 28-29 March 2015.

Remember there are 365 days in each year and your neighbours are there all the time. So don't limit getting to know neighbours to one weekend a year, support each other throughout the year!



## Be Firewise

For many years now it has been one of the Fire Services goals to reduce the incidents and consequences of fire. If we can attend any local group meetings we can give advice and answer questions first hand. To arrange contact Station Officer Geoff Carter 348-3197.



### Over Christmas & New Year Fire Prevention Tips:

- Have a working smoke alarm, regularly check that they are working
- Be safe around BBQs, be careful lighting them and keep children away from hot surfaces
- Remember real Christmas trees need to be watered often. A dry tree may not tolerate the temperatures of tree lights or electrical decorations
- In placing your Christmas tree position select a place that is cool and away from busy areas, stairs and doors
- Don't put trees in front of doors or exits especially those that lead outside.
- Secure the tree so it won't be knocked over.
- Check tree lights for fraying or broken wires before they are used especially if being stored over the year.
- Turn tree lights off before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Use candles in a secure candle holder with a wide flat base.
- Keep candles away from decorations, paper, curtains and anything that burns easily.
- Don't allow children to play with candles or be unsupervised in a room with a lit candle.
- Put candles out before going to bed.

## Preparing For The Holiday Season

Most burglaries are opportunist and happen when owners are away. Unfortunately it is necessary to be especially careful at Christmas time, as homes are more often empty with many people out shopping, socialising or on holiday. Burglars are also aware that most houses have presents to steal. While enjoying the festive season and your holiday, please don't overlook your home security. Taking a few simple precautions will help to deter all but the most determined burglar.



- Shut and lock all doors, even if you're only going out for a short time.
- Close and lock all windows - burglars don't like to smash glass.
- Do not "hide" keys outside your home, nor leave them in an obvious place near doors or windows.
- Make sure your valuables - including televisions and stereo systems - cannot be seen from outside.
- Make your home look occupied when you're away by using timers on radios and lights
- When you buy new items like DVD players or video recorders, don't advertise by leaving the empty boxes out for recycling, turn the boxes inside out and fold them down.
- Hide or lock away passports and official documents - identity fraud is on the rise.
- Don't leave car keys near doors or windows - car theft through burglary is also on the rise.
- Consider engraving your property - this puts thieves off because it makes it harder to re-sell.
- Ensure you have an up to date list and photographs of your valuables and keep copies in a safe place.
- Homes with good security are much less likely to be burgled than those without.
- Keep presents out of sight.

## Operation Sign Up—Update

Sign replacement has continued, often interrupted, reaching a point with the following areas still to be done:

Springfield, Tihiotonga & Owata.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Rotorua Lakes Rotary Club for undertaking putting signs up in Glenholme.

Thank you to those who have offered to help. If others want to help out let us know by contacting the office 349-9470.

Please note rural areas were not covered in this project but there will be some signs available for them.

