

Holiday Security Tips

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.

Remember:

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.

Hide or lock away passports and official documents.

Don't leave car keys near doors or windows

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.

Don't leave valuables in vehicles even at home.



When you go on holiday

- Use timers on radios and lights.
- Cancel milk, newspaper and mail deliveries.
- Have a neighbour stop by to collect junk mail, and open and close curtains.
- Make sure your neighbours know where they can contact you in an emergency and when you will be home.
- Invite neighbours to use your driveway and clothesline to make it look like someone is home.
- Lock away garden tools and ladders that could be used by a would-be thief to gain access to your house.
- Make arrangements for family pets to be looked after.
- If you are away for more than a few days, arrange to have your lawns mown.
- Consider inviting a relative or friend to house sit for you.
- Whatever you do, don't leave a message on your answer phone that you away. Instead, clear the messages yourself or arrange to have a friend check them regularly for you.

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SURVIVE IN A
COMMUNITY
THAT CARES!**

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD
SUPPORT
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ROTORUA RENTALS
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Over The Fence Lines

The quarterly newsletter of Neighbourhood Support Rotorua Inc
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A Note From Bruce:

The year is drawing to a close and many will be having their holidays soon. It is at this time all of us have to ensure our dwellings, vehicles and property are secure due to opportunists using this time to take what is not theirs.

The article on Holiday Security Tips will remind you of what you should and shouldn't do.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Street/Group Contacts and their Deputies who voluntarily look after the Groups, distribute the newsletters and crime updates.

Those who are members of Groups can help their Contact Person out by not relying on them to do everything, share the load. If your Group wants to have a gathering one of the Group could organise it.

The Team at Neighbourhood Support and the Police wish everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas & New Year.



19-20 March 2016 For ideas go to: <http://neighboursday.org.nz/>



Our Supporting Organisations:



A Note From The Chair, Pauline Evans:

Hello Supporters – as I sat down to write this note I was thinking fondly of how I love living in Rotorua. Apart from our geographical location, stunning scenery and interesting attractions, we have, in my opinion, the best people and it is the people that are the heart of any City.

We were struggling with funding, again. The ability to fund a second part time co-ordinator was simply not viable and we were facing further financial stress and headaches knowing that our future was not secure.

However it is with great pleasure that I can report we have managed to secure funding to see us through to 2017. This has not given NS total financial future security, but has ensured that we can build up our presence with a second co-ordinator allowing us to cater for the needs of our current membership while remaining attractive to prospective new groups. Shortly we will be advertising for the role of assistant co-ordinator, a part time job, maybe you, or someone you know could be a good candidate?

RECT, Lotteries and Rotorua Lakes Council, combined with assistance we receive from the Police and the generosity of our members, either individually with volunteer support on projects, or through donations, has given NS a strong position in our community. While working through the recent funding issues we have been very encouraged by the support and positive affirmations that Rotorua wants and needs NS.

As we draw closer to Christmas I take this time to personally thank my committee for their efforts, especially our serving

Safer Plates Project

The Safer Plates Project aims to reduce the amount of number plate thefts by criminals who then use the plates on other cars to commit crimes including petrol drive offs.

Also included in the project are trailer number plates, as they are often targeted for theft and then altered. Having tamper proof screws on the trailer provides a barrier to make changing the appearance of the trailer difficult. There is a pamphlet now available on preventing trailer theft from the office.

The combined Police and volunteer teams have been undertaking the screw replacements at Countdown Fenton St and New World Old Taupo Rd during November.

Further sessions will be advertised when planned.



Police officers – Alana, Rowan, Courtney, Mike and Sam, acknowledge Erney for taking up the position of Treasurer, and to Bruce Quedley who has carried a huge workload recently especially in organising the successful Safer Plates programme.

Stay safe and remember that if you see something that does not look right, report it, better it is checked out and found to be innocent, than to ignore it and allow crime to go unchecked.



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

Kia Ora,

Well the warmer weather has certainly arrived, and if you're anything like me, the BBQ has had it's first outing for the summer already!

Along with warmer weather comes open doors and windows as we try and keep our houses cool. This presents opportunity to those who would like to relieve you of your valuables, so If you have window latches or door screens, make sure you use them!

Why not also take the opportunity to reconnect with your neighbours over a summer BBQ – whether you are part of a formal neighbourhood support group or not, we can all be a valuable set of eyes and ears in the communities in which we live.

Police and the Neighbourhood Support Group Staff have been hard at work securing number plates with the 'Safer Plates' project – so make sure you come down and see us at your local supermarket on the dates advertised!

Until next time...

Scam Warning!!!!

Have you received a letter from Malaysia recently offering you a chance to win a holiday with a scratch and win card? The offer is made in many names and now appears on the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) Postal Scam web page (got to <http://www.dia.govt.nz/> and search from Scams).

Never allow yourself to be put under pressure to sign up, to make a payment or to provide your bank details/passwords etc. Check it out first!

Beware of offers too good to be true they are most probably not true. Check them out on the internet using the DIA website or similar. If you don't have internet access please call the office, 349-9470, and we can check them out for you.