

OVER THE FENCELINES

April—May 2013

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT ROTORUA



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Hidden Treasure Hunt

The inaugural Neighbourhood Support Hidden Treasure Hunt has successfully been completed raising \$241, thank you all those who contributed. Supported by 10 tourist attractions the organisers wish to thank the following for getting behind this fun fundraising effort:

Agrodome, Agroventures, AmazeMe, Mamaku Blue, Paradise Valley Springs & Wildlife Park, Railcruising, Rotorua Canopy Tours, Wingspan, Off Road NZ, Zorb Rotorua

Thanks also must go to Rotorua Police, Rotorua Rentals and Lakeside Café for assisting with the event.

On Saturday 23rd March 2013 the entrants lined up for the start of the Hidden Treasure Hunt. Each team required a visit to 10 tourist attraction sites which were off the main roads. At each attraction a photo of one of the group was taken in front of the entrance or a specific object. Additionally two questions about the site were answered. The winning team was closest to the pre-determined secret optimum time. As no motorcycles/trikes were entered the organisers were able to award prizes to the first three finishers.

The winners were Bruce and Christine, The Chosen Ones were second and Philippa, Earle & Fleur were third. Congratulations everyone! All the participants asked when was the next one to be held. The organisers are going to review the event and will look very carefully at the possibility of running it again.



Funding

We are very pleased to have received Grants from Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust (RECT), Bay Trust and First Sovereign. The contributions from these providers have helped to bridge some of the gap to cover our operational costs between the funds provided by Rotorua District Council and actual operational costs.

We are sincerely thankful for these providers and for Rotorua Police who allow us office space at the Police Station from which we run Neighbourhood Support Rotorua operations over all of the Rotorua District and Murupara. Further funding is being sought.

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

A Note From Bruce



It is great to see the reported crime figures reducing through direct Police action of Prevention First and applying resources to areas of concern. Neighbourhood Support Groups also assist with these reduced crime figures through ensuring neighbours look out for neighbours and suspicious activities or people being reported directly to the Police before crime occurs.

Thank you for your efforts in helping reduce the level of crime. Prevention is better than cure as those who have been on the receiving end of criminal activity will tell you, it is not a nice feeling, you feel invaded and your life tarnished.

Now is not the time to rest on our laurels, what has been started needs to continue. Neighbourhood Support Rotorua covers over 8,300 households but there are over 22,000 households in the area. New Groups need to be established in areas without coverage and Groups who lose their Street Contact Person need to find a new one otherwise the households in that Group will not be getting up to date information from Neighbourhood Support.

I encourage everyone to be wise, don't leave open doors for criminals to enter your street. Be security conscious for your property, home and vehicles. Keep your eyes open and report anything suspicious. As I have said in the past the Police would prefer to receive 10 calls about the same suspicious activity rather than none. If you see something do something, don't wait for others to report it, immediately report it to the Police.

Recently you may have seen me in your street while I have been inspecting Neighbourhood Support signs. My finding from this audit of Rotorua and Ngongotaha streets has found many signs are missing or in disrepair. I will be applying for funding to start a sign replacement project, Operation Sign Up.

By having signs visible it tells those in your street you are concerned for your neighbours and visitors to your street will know neighbours will be looking out for neighbours. It also is a way of promoting your Group to the street you are in. Watch this space!

AGM Notice



4.00 pm Tuesday, 11th June 2013

RSA, Haupapa St, Rotorua

Guest Speaker: Rotorua Police Dog Handler.

Tea/Coffee to follow

Neighbourhood Support

**Gratefully acknowledges
the support of these
Organisations:**



Neighbours Day Aotearoa

On the weekend of 23-24 March 2013 Neighbours Day Aotearoa was held. This is an annual event and Neighbourhood Support is one of the organisations behind it.

A number of Street Groups held barbeques and got to know their neighbours, one even had their own Street Treasure Hunt. If your Group didn't get together we would encourage you to plan a time when you can gather and get to know your neighbours.

The following Groups that we are aware of held street barbeques:
Day Pl, Awatea Tce, Phillip St, Rimuvale Rd & Euan St.



Rural Groups

Neighbourhood Support is not only for cities, towns and suburbs, it is also a vital tool in crime prevention in the rural area. Large parts of the Rotorua District are rural and are subject to criminal activity just as those in towns. Most rural areas are well organised and on long sparsely populated roads neighbours get to know neighbours. This is essential as suspicious activity noted can quickly be notified to neighbours up and down these roads can help track suspects until Police are able to arrive.

Recently one farmer noted suspicious activity by a group of farm bikes accompanied by two vehicles. He was able to obtain registration numbers and provide Police with details that enabled the return of stolen farm bikes, vehicles and equipment.

Just as with city/town Groups it is essential that contact lists are updated regularly and even more importantly when share-milkers move on each year. From these lists telephone trees can be established that ensures notices of suspicious activities to be relayed quickly. Telephone Trees work by one person contacting 2 or 3 others and they in turn contact 2 or 3 others. Very quickly the message gets out.

Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date as possible!

Street Contact Training

Invitations will be sent to new street contacts and their deputies to attend a Street Contact Training Course in May/June. Spaces are very limited if you would like to attend email/write a request to the office.

Things To Watch Out For & Remember

Door Knockers: Strangers, young and old knocking on your door asking for someone who doesn't live there or for jobs. Some of these people can be genuine but it is also a ruse used to gain access to your property to steal small items such as purses, keys, money, laptops, tablets, mobile phones and handbags. They can also be used as a prelude to a future burglary. If you have door knockers report it to the Police. If you have jobs needing to be done get legitimate trades people to do them for you.

Large Youth Parties: Often young people have a party which can get out of control due to gate crashers. If you note a large number of young people gathering in your street let the Police know as it may head off the potential for disorder.

Your Property: Be security conscious! Don't leave windows open and doors unlocked when you go out. Ensure garages, sheds and out building are locked and all your gardening equipment is secure. Don't leave your children's bikes insecure, put them away.

When On Holiday: Continue to be security conscious when on holiday. Don't leave valuables in sight when your car is parked. When staying at holiday accommodation keep your possessions secure and don't tempt thieves by leaving windows open and doors unlocked.

School Holidays: Know where your children are and ensure they have adult supervision. Organise for appropriate supervision of your children when you are at work.

When Shopping: If you use a hand bag keep it closed and with you. Don't leave it on a shopping trolley if looking for something. It takes only a second for it to disappear when your back is turned.

Suspicious Activity, Vehicle or People: If you see something do something!. Note appearance of people, registration number and make of vehicles. Report it to the Police if it doesn't look or feel right, they will make the decision what to do.

Group Contact Lists

It is very important that Group Contact Lists are updated regularly. No one knows when a civil disaster will occur through earthquakes, volcanic activity or adverse weather. The Neighbourhood Support Rotorua database will be used in any of those declared disaster times. Information contained in the lists need to be as accurate as possible for Civil Defence to direct resources based on information regards household numbers, medical problems and available resources in each part of affected areas.

Your street could be in the area affected. The information at hand is relied upon for helping with decision making. For your own sake ensure your Street Contact Person is provided with updated information immediately. The data contained in the Household Detail List is what is used so please ensure all your information is accurate. Either download an update form from: www.nsrotorua.info/form/household-detail-form.pdf or contact the office for a copy. Complete it, forward it to your Street Contact Person or directly to Neighbourhood Support Rotorua.