



Neighbourhood Support , Rotorua
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OVER THE FENCE LINES



Hi All

I've now been in the hot seat for two months and in that time have had a chance of meeting a few of you and speaking to more on the phone. Thank you for making me feel so welcomed. Over these last two months the AGM has been held where Onno Van Raalte stepped down and was replaced by Jan Owens, the first Co-ordinator for Rotorua when she helped establish Neighbourhood Support here, welcome back on board Jan. Also Lynn Ussher has taken on the role as Volunteer Co-ordinator, thank you Lynn.

Good Results

I have received reports from groups who have been proactive in reporting suspicious activity. One group noted the fleeing suspects and how they left the area which resulted in apprehension of the suspects. Another Group's Street Contact person issued a warning to their Group regards suspicious activity by a group of juveniles in their street. Police were alerted and potential problems were thwarted. Great work Henare Street and Perkins Street.

We recently contacted a street and advised them there was 'issues' with a home on the street, and stressed the need to report suspicious or unsocial behaviour. As a result the occupants have been caught doing 'burnouts', disorderly behaviour etc. So well done, and keep up the reporting.

Group Warning Method

When visiting with the Okawa Bay Group we learnt about a Group Text warning system they had in place, a method also used in rural communities. Each member of the Group has pre-set messages in the texting section of their mobile phones that can quickly be sent to all their Group members warning of a problem or asking for assistance. A simple and quick method of getting a warning out.

Preventing Crime By A Simple Act

Christine Findon of Keep Rotorua Beautiful reminded me when I met with her that a simple act of putting your rubbish bags out days earlier, often a sign someone is away. So if you are going away have a neighbour put your bags out on the day of collection and stop potential crime in your street. This also keeps your street looking tidier.

I realise a number of you have been glued to the TV for the past couple of weeks with the g please also support our paraolympians who get neglected by the media.
Good luck to all our athletes.



Neighbourhood Support
Gratefully acknowledges the
support of these Organisations:

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND STREET CONTACT LISTS



How are your Disaster Emergency Plans?

Ron Taylor and I are working with RDC's Civil Defence Emergency Management Co-ordinator, Pauline Hitchcock, looking at Emergency Planning in the time of a Civil Emergency such as an earthquake or volcanic eruption. Neighbourhood Support collects vital information from Street Contact Lists which identify households, emergency contacts, resources and skills that may be needed in a declared Civil Emergency. It is very important that each Street Group keep their Contact List up to date with all information and pass this on to the Office.

The information gathered on this form is held securely by Neighbourhood Support Rotorua.

This information is only made available to Civil Defence, and, only in the case of a Civil Defence Emergency.

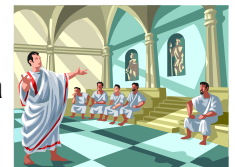
Visit www.getthru.govt.nz to register for ShakeOut and find out more information.



Meetings Attended

I attend regular meetings on behalf of Neighbourhood Support; Treasure Rotorua, Support For The Elderly Forum, Western Heights Community Association and weekly Police meetings, to ensure information is gathered and our voice is heard.

I have also had the opportunity of attending Street Group meetings such as with the Grey Street Group's Coffee Morning, and with service clubs such as the Ngongotaha Lions.



I welcome any opportunity to attend any meetings helping to establish new Street Groups and build up existing ones, or just to spread the Neighbourhood Support message.

Neighbourhood Support Rotorua recently changed all our crime alert's, general notices and group/street emails to a new spiffy system called MailChimp. This has meant a lot of work updating email address's etc., but has resulted in a state of the art, easy to use, technology advanced mailing

system. What this means to you, our NS people, is a more regular, more professional system to relay vital information.

We can now send out emails to any group of people, like, banks, industrial area, each suburb or street, Tourist location, accommodation providers and the list goes on.

You, can unsubscribe by simply clicking a link or forward the emails to your friends who can subscribe the same way, so much easier than before. We can even do urgent alerts out of hours because the system is web based so we can access anywhere. We had been receiving emails from people asking why they hadn't been receiving alerts, one of the reasons is the limit, by a major telecommunications company, of the number of emails we could send, we found this out by accident and hence the change in the system. This new system has also meant very few 'bounced' emails.

The first alert we sent to our entire database resulted in the following:

- 1635 emails sent

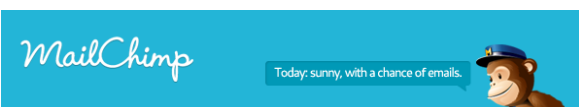
- 4 people unsubscribed (all 4 no longer living in Rotorua)

- 400 bounced (changed email address without letting us know)

- 14 emails opened overseas (14 people on holiday or business—Britain, USA, Aussie and Ireland) and before you ask, the system doesn't tell us who, just where.

And from that email, 16 people went on to look at our new website. So a very pleasing result. We have also been advised that the number of people, reading our emails is over 10% higher than the average of MailChimp users, so we must be doing something right.

We have also been working hard on getting the website up to scratch, which had been badly neglected, you can now read past newsletters, our crime alerts, and this will be updated on a weekly basis. Go and have a look www.nsrotorua.info



Back to basics

For some of you that have been involved with Neighbourhood Support Rotorua for years, this will be old hat stuff. But we felt it was needed to reiterate exactly what NS is all about, not just here in NZ but the same principles apply to Neighbourhood Support and Neighbourhood Watch all around the world.

In 2009 a British Neighbourhood Watch group hit the headlines with; “Turn your neighbourhood into Meerkat Manor”, over there some still use Meerkats in their logo and we, here, at NS Rotorua use them as well.

Sir David Attenborough put it clearly, “their strength is their unity”.

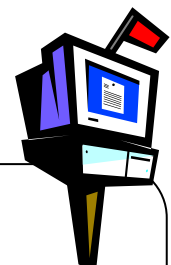
It really is this simple:

- ◇ Neighbours can work together in much the same way as Meerkats. Being vigilant, caring but not intrusive for the benefit of everyone.
- ◇ To implement crime prevention initiatives in the neighbourhood.
- ◇ As a local network to distribute local crime information and advice.
- ◇ To lobby councils and other local agencies for improvements to safety and security of the community.



A successful Neighbourhood Support:

- ◇ Brings people closer together.
- ◇ Creates a stronger community spirit.
- ◇ Helps to reduce crime and peoples fear of crime.
- ◇ Strengthens links with the Police.
- ◇ Develops closer relationships with local councils.
- ◇ Improves the local environment
- ◇ Creates a better quality of life.



GET INFORMED—KEEP UP TO DATE

Sign up for our email crime alerts - email us at nsrotorua@clear.net.nz
Visit our new improved and updated website at www.nsrotorua.info

And if your reading this and not in a Neighbourhood Support group—call us and find out how.



ROTORUA POLICE STATION

The demolition of the old police station has been completed. From Fenton street you can now see the custody block and the back workings of the station.

The finishing touches are being made to the detail design. Most of the staff know where they will be sitting in the new station.

The foundation work will start this month and the we are hoping to move into the new station by the end of next year. Below is a front view (from Fenton St) of the proposed new building.



Rotorua Red Cross



Situated on the corner of Lake Road and Rangiuuru St, the Rotorua Service Centre is active in several areas.

A comprehensive range of first aid training courses is delivered from the centre several times each month. Bookings may be completed by telephone, online or simply by dropping into the service centre.

'Exclusive' sessions which need to be prearranged and are dependent on numbers of participants, are held offsite for various organisations including schools and polytechnics, manufacturers, trades and other businesses. All sessions are conducted by fully qualified and experienced instructors who are recertified yearly. Items such as first aid kits, manuals and AEDS (automated external defibrillators) are sold from the centre.

The Service Centre has an emergency response team to support Civil Defence in case of a disaster. Members of the team must hold a current comprehensive First Aid certificate and attend regular meetings and training activities.

Programmes targeted towards younger people are coordinated from the centre. Specifically, there are SAM (Save-A-Mate) and People Savers. SAM focuses on teaching young people to prevent, recognise and respond to alcohol and other drug-related emergencies while People Savers (conducted in schools) introduces and familiarises students with basic hands-on first aid skills for emergency situations.

Adjacent to the Service Centre is the well-known second-hand store. Another, larger store, 'Urban Ore' is situated by the RDC recycling centre. Both manned by a team of dedicated teams of volunteers.

Rotorua Service center also assists with national appeals and supports NZ Red Cross in its mission to improve the lives of vulnerable people and communities both locally and internationally. The centre is overseen by coordinator Julie Forrest whose history with NZ Red Cross spans almost ten years.

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Thanks to all the staff and Police at the Rotorua Police station for their continued support. We couldn't do our job without them.

