

# OVER THE FENCELINES

June July 2013

## NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT ROTORUA

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### A Note From Bruce



There is an old proverb that states: "A nearby neighbour can help you more than relatives who are far away". This applies to your street and your Group. We rely on our relatives, but most live away from where we live. Those who are there to help us are our neighbours.

This is the essence of Neighbourhood Support, Groups improve the community spirit of their area by neighbours getting to know their neighbours, by keeping an eye out for criminal activity, by helping neighbours, by warning them of suspicious activity or persons and also

by working together in a emergency.

Neighbourhood Support Rotorua (NSR) is about to undertake a major upgrade of signs around the Rotorua urban area called Operation Sign Up. Funding is being sought and once received a programme of replacement of old and worn out signs, the mounting of missing signs and the distribution of letterbox stickers to all registered Group Members will be undertaken.

By having street signs mounted identifying that a NS Group is present and by having a NS sticker on your letterbox you are telling your neighbours you care about your neighbourhood. It also tells the criminal element who live in the area or pass through it to watch out because the people in this street will immediately report suspicious activity or people.

In today's society we are constantly being encouraged to become tolerant of differences however be intolerant to the crime and I encourage you to be so. Crime cannot exist in a community that cares. If you see something do something, contact the Police and report what you see.

Help prevent crime from occurring in your area. Invite new arrivals to your street to join your Group. Look out for each other and encourage members of your Group to get to know each other.

They will be the ones close to you in a time of crisis before your relatives can get there.

**CHECKOUT WWW.NSROTORUA.INFO FOR IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION REGULARLY UPDATED!**

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



**Our newsletters are printed by the awesome team at**

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## From The AGM

On Tuesday 11 June the AGM was held at the RSA and was attended by 35 people.

Constable Colin Robson and Police Dog in training Kaino, Colin talked about police work and what Kaino can expect in his training.



The following was reported:

- Income has dropped in the last year and a number of applications for further Grants have been made to cover operational costs
- Over 8,300 households are covered by 530 Groups which represents 34.8% of the District coverage
- Funds for a sign replacement & mounting project Operation Sign Up is being sought from sponsors. Once funded plans are in place to progressively replace damaged/old signs or mount missing ones.
- Long term Groups with no Street Contacts will have their signs removed if the Group does not find a new Street Contact.
- Thanks was given to all funders, Street Contacts, members, staff, Committee and especially Pauline Evans who undertook the role of Chair in this last year giving many hours of
- voluntary time.

### Committee:

Luke Martin was elected Chairperson of the Committee, Pauline Evans, Jan Owen, Keith Granger & Erney Searle were elected to the Committee

## Helpful Hints



**Group Telephone Tree:** Get information out to your quickly, set up a Telephone Tree. It works by the Street Contact Person phoning 3 or 4 others with information to pass on. Those who receive that message pass it on to another 3 or 4 each. So very quickly a large number of people can be contacted. Set one up for your Group, Telephone Tree forms are available on the website under Forms.

**Advising Change of Details:** If you have a change of household details such as telephone, mobile, email address etc. get the information to your Street Contact Person who should advise the Office. A Household Detail Form is available from the website under Forms or phone the office and ask for a copy to be sent out. **All Groups should update their details at least once a year.** Set an annual update time e.g. for rural Groups 1st July, once share-milkers have changed farms.

**E-Version Newsletter:** A PDF file copy of the newsletter is posted on the website and can easily be downloaded. The latest newsletter has a link to the PDF file on the Home page or can be found under the Newsletter tab. If a whole Group requests an email with the e-version of the newsletter attached can be sent to the Street Contact who in turn can send it to the Group. Only whole Groups can this otherwise the administration becomes a nightmare.

**Group Emergency Plan:** Established a Group plan to handle an emergency, such as an earthquake. Part of this planning is knowing if anyone has medical or physical problems that could be of concern in an emergency and what resources or skills you have in your Group? This information should be stored with your contact details on the NSR database and with your Street Contact Person who has a hard copy in case communications are lost. If you need help with a plan contact Ron or Bruce.

## Protecting your vehicle

Vehicle crime is made up of a number of different but often related activities. Theft **of** vehicles and theft **from** vehicles are the two most common crime types in New Zealand.



Vehicles can be stolen for a number of reasons, including 'joyriding', to commit other crimes or to be broken up for parts for sale on the black market.

Theft from vehicles, also known as 'theft ex car', involves the theft of property such as wheels, stereos and personal items - bags, briefcases, laptop computers, g.p.s., ipdos, mp3/4s, wallets, parking meter money...etc.

**Thieves gain entry to vehicles primarily by forcing locks or smashing windows.**

### **Reduce the opportunity of having your vehicle stolen or broken into:**

- Keep your vehicle keys with you. Keep spares keys at home or work.
- Don't hide a spare key on the car - thieves will find it.
- Always lock your car, including the boot and, if applicable, the sunroof.
- Park in busy, open, well-lit areas.
- Use an attended, secure parking building if possible.
- If you garage your vehicle at home, ensure the garage and car is locked.

### **Protecting car contents:**

- Don't leave things on display.
- Keep valuables (money, mobile phone, cheques, credit cards) on you or at home - not in the glove box or under a seat.
- Keep bags, luggage, coats etc locked out of sight in the boot.
- Keep a record of car stereo serial numbers.

### **Additional security options:**

- Install a car alarm and electronic engine immobiliser (which prevents the vehicle from being started).
- Use a steering wheel club or lock, lockable fuel cap and wheel nuts.
- Etch your registration or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on windows, windscreens and headlights.

### **Preventing motorcycle theft:**

- Keep your keys on you at all times.
- Use an ignition or steering lock.
- Use a strong, thick chain and 'U' lock. Keep the chain off the ground to make it harder to cut.
- Secure your motorcycle to something solid that can't be moved.
- Keep your helmet with you or use a helmet lock.
- Install an alarm or other anti-theft/immobiliser device.
- Etch or mark your motorcycle with your registration or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).
- Garage your motorcycle and lock both.
- Use a motorcycle cover.

Follow these simple tips and you can reduce the opportunity, frustration, expense and inconvenience of vehicle crime. Your insurer may also give you premium discounts for doing so.

# Serial Number Action Project (SNAP)

Help protect your property and help police fight crime.

Every year many New Zealanders are affected by burglary. Not only do they lose treasured possessions, but are also often left feeling that they have been invaded and their own personal security threatened.

The sad thing is that many burglars get away with it because the police are unable to match property they suspect is stolen, with an actual burglary. This is because in the majority of cases they are given a description of what has been stolen, but no serial numbers to match with the stolen items.

Operation SNAP (Serial Number Action Partnership) is an initiative of the New Zealand Police, aiming to prevent New Zealand burglary and property offending, and make it harder for criminals to sell stolen goods in New Zealand. The initiative helps to protect property in a number of ways.

The SNAP website (<http://www.snap.org.nz>) allows you to enter and maintain details of all of your important possessions or assets. You can then access this asset list from anywhere, anytime. If your items are stolen, you can instantly retrieve your asset list details, and forward these on to the Police and your insurance company.

You can take action by recording your appliance serial numbers. If you don't have internet access, a Serial Number Form is available from the office or if you can get someone to download it for you this is available on the website under Forms. The way SNAP works is simple;

- Record your property serial number
- Store this copy in a secure place. With a hard copy take some care to ensure that it is secure, because it could become a shopping list for burglars if you mislay it.
- As additional security, you may wish to keep a duplicate copy with a relative or trusted friend..
- If a burglary occurs, you should supply a copy of your form to the police.
- The police will use this information to identify your property and to help catch the offenders.
- A copy of the form can also be given to your insurer to assist the processing of your claim.



## What is CPTED?

Some may have heard of the term CPTED and wondered what does it mean and what's it all about? CPTED means Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. Simply put it means reducing environmental contributions that allow crime to occur. For example; a property's front door or entrance porch may be blocked from being seen through overgrown shrubbery. The CPTED solution for that situation would be to reduce the shrubbery height so the front door/entrance porch could clearly be seen from the road otherwise the shrubbery may give someone attempting to break in a shield.

When police attend a burglary they will look at the environment factors that could have contributed to the crime being committed. In addition to door and window security they may also suggest removal or reduction of items blocking the property from being viewed.

Criminals will often not attempt to break into a door or window if they can be easily observed by neighbours or people passing.