

Co-ordinator's AGM Report 2014

This last year has been a time of challenges and achievements. Challenges due to the tough funding climate we find ourselves in and achievements with the success of projects being undertaken.

The projects undertaken have been:

- 1) **Safe As Houses:** a multi-agency door knock campaign in Koutu visiting 620 households and providing information on crime, fire and accident prevention. Although the door knocking lasted just one week it took over 12 months planning. It resulted in over 100 enquiries for further Neighbourhood Support information.
- 2) **Operation Sign Up:** a project to replace damaged signs and mounting of missing ones. Also included in this was the removal of signs in inactive group areas. Notices were distributed announcing the proposed removal programme and these resulted in the re-establishment of 11 groups who had been inactive for over 1 year. Our thanks is extended to the service clubs who have helped with this project: Rotary West, Lions Ngongotaha, Lions Rotorua East, Kiwanis Roto Whenua, Neighbourhood Policing Team. This project has yet to be completed but should be around June or July. This project was funded by Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust and Rotorua Rentals
- 3) **Operation Marker:** a project to distribute invisible marker pens and letterbox labels to registered households. Distribution has started but will take a short while to complete. A result of this has been the updating of Group records with additional households being registered. This project was funded by the Crime Prevention Fund of the Rotorua District Council.

All projects undertaken have resulted in additions to the database which have included groups being re-established or new groups formed. Our coverage of the households in the District sits at over 8,800 households which represents approximately 36% of the total number of households.

During the year it was necessary to look very closely at operating costs. As a result it was decided to reduce the size and number of issues of the newsletter from 6 to 4 issues a year. A small number of groups receive their newsletters by email, which is a help in reducing costs. We are open to placing Groups on the email only newsletter list but it must be all the Group as they all need to be on email.

Again this year we have worked very closely with the Police. I attend the crime meetings Monday and Wednesday to help identify where Neighbourhood Support can help. The best way is to continue the reporting of suspicious people or activity. This must be done by the person who observed it and not through the Street or Group Contact as the Police wish to speak with those who observed the person or incident, not second hand.

Senior Sergeant Denton Grimes and I have visited a number of retirement villages/seniors groups to give crime prevention advice.

Every Monday and Wednesday notifications are sent to Street Contacts of Groups who are close to where criminal activity has occurred. It is hoped the Street Contact forwards these advice notices on to the rest of the Group. If you haven't received a notice recently it most probably means there has been no activity in your area.

Thanks needs to be extended to Ron for his ongoing work in Ngongotaha and the rural north plus additional work he undertakes in other areas. Jannette hasn't be as involved since last June as she has been undertaking a role with prosecutions which will be finishing soon.

The committee are to be thanked for their role in the oversight of the running and in particular the Chair Luke Martin and the Deputy Chair Pauline Evans both who contribute many additional hours on top of the committee meetings.

All our volunteers are to be thanked, those who help with the newsletter stuffing and those who act as Street/Group contacts. The work of Neighbourhood Support would not be able to be achieved without your voluntary hours.

The Police are to be thanked also for the close working relationship we are allowed to be part of and the provision of accommodation in the Police Station.

We also have a close working relationship with the Rotorua District Council. Not only are they major funders of Neighbourhood Support Rotorua but they also invite us to be involved in a number of committees to help make Rotorua a safer more caring place. We are also working with them in preparation for crime prevention initiatives with the retail business community.

One aspect that we are working closely with RDC with is in the area of Civil Defence and the preparation of Local Area Emergency Plans in case of a civil emergency. A number of these have already been produced and made available to the specific communities. Thanks go to Pauline Hitchcock for the great working relationship enjoyed enabling the production of these plans.

Our funders also need to be thanked Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust, First Sovereign, BayTrust, COGS, Lotteries, Infinity Foundation, Rotorua Rentals.

A big thanks also goes to you as members of Neighbourhood Support Rotorua. Your efforts have helped the Police's Prevention First Strategy by reducing crime by 11.4 % last year. Keep up the great work. Continue to report suspicious activity and people. Continue to encourage neighbours and friends to be involved in the Neighbourhood Support Group. Those areas covered by Neighbourhood Support Groups have approximately 10% less crime than other areas.

Let us all continue to make Rotorua a safer more caring place.