

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT ROTORUA

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2013-2014

Committee:	Pauline Evans, Jan Owen, Keith Granger, Earney Searle , Luke Martin.
Co-ordinator:	Bruce Quedley.
Sub-co-ordinator:	Ron Taylor
Office Manager/ Treasurer:	Jannette Brown
Police Liaison:	Senior Sergeant Denton Grimes, Constable Sam Parata
District Council Liaison:	Carole Parker– Rotorua District Council

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for Neighbourhood Support Rotorua (NSR) for the 2013 / 2014 year.

Personnel

- There have been no changes in personnel in the past year.

Administration

- Neighbourhood Support Rotorua is fortunate to have a capable and energetic team. Our co-ordinator Bruce Quedley and his sub-coordinator Ron Taylor have worked hard to ensure that the key performance indicators of our District Council contract were met, which included this past year in the enrolment of 391 new households..
- In addition the team has ensured that 11 of the groups which had become inactive have been met and brought back up to speed. The task to maintain and update our street co-ordinators lists and their group members details is ongoing .
- NSR has continued its liaison with Civil Defence and other emergency organisations including the Fire Service, Red Cross and the Police to strengthen our roles in the event of a major civil emergency.
- It is to be noted in this regard that the data and personal details of NSR members are not available outside the organisation except in the event of a declared Civil Defence emergency and then only to the Police or Civil Defence. These details cannot be used for any other purpose.
- Currently Ron Taylor is designing a simplified template to enable street contacts and groups to set up their own localised emergency plans to suit the specific needs of their suburban group within the wider district.

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Bruce and Ron have attended numerous evening meetings with prospective groups ,and groups in need of support in the city and suburbs and in Kaharoa /Hamurana / Mamaku and Koutu.

- Whilst Murupara township is not within the Rotorua District it is within the Rotorua Police District. NSR has been requested by the police and the community that we assist in establishing a Neighbourhood Support group in the town. Bruce is currently providing advice and mentoring. It does not involve us in significant expenditure.
- Ron Taylor who operates from the Ngongotaha policing centre continues as sub co-ordinator in the Ngongotaha, Kaharoa, Hamurana, Mamaku areas. Ron has established a number of new groups in the area and remains a valued member of the Ngongotaha “welfare” community.
- Collectively the staff prepare and produce the now quarterly newsletter which is distributed to members via the street contact persons. You will have noticed that in the interests of economy the newsletter is now printed and folded to A5 size.
- Jannette Brown, the office manager/treasurer assists with the distribution of E Crime Alerts via the internet. It is to be noted that in areas where no crime has been reported or incidents of crime are on the decrease that you will not necessarily receive regular reports.
During the year we sent out 44 alerts to residential and business addresses as provided by the police, warning of criminal activity.

Police Liaison

- Senior Sergeant Denton Grimes and Constable Sam Parata have been our Police liaison officers and they take a keen interest in our work .
Our relationship with NZ Police in Rotorua remains strong thanks to the mutual respect that the officers and our teams have for one another. Without the support we receive from the Police our principal focus on the prevention of crime and the support that the organisation can provide to the public, could not be achieved. Likewise the information that is able to be passed on to the Police by our members is equally invaluable .As you are aware the new policing centre is now open and NSR is operating from an open plan room on the ground floor close to the reception desk. Whilst space is at a premium we are fortunate to have been accommodated in the shift.

Rotorua District Council

The Rotorua District Council has financially supported us for the past few years. Our current contract with Council ends on 30 June 2015 and we are hopeful that it will be reviewed upwards and renewed at that time.

- However since 2009 our level of funding has reduced from \$80k to its current level of \$50K per annum. We will not be able to function effectively or to fulfil our Council contract requirements and the additional requirements expected of us by Council with respect to civil defence emergency duties, without the injection of at least an additional \$48k per annum.
- In order to highlight this concern we again made submissions to the 2014/2015 Annual Plan. Hopefully the Council will see the wisdom of restoring our funding when the contract is renewed.
- In the interim however we have been fortunate to have received increased funding from the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust (now \$20k), and from Southern Trust, First Sovereign Trust, Infinity Trust ,COGS and the Lotteries Commission (\$28.5k). We also received a generous donation of \$5000 from Rotorua Rentals towards the sign replacement project.
- Our thanks go to our liaison people from Council, Ann Esler and Carole Parker. Carole attends our monthly Committee meetings.
- Looking ahead we must continue our close partnership with the Council to ensure a successful contract renewal into the future.

Projects.

During the year NSR undertook three major projects in addition to our normal work. Namely:

The renewal of 850 street signs,

The delivery of 8500 invisible marker pens and pamphlets to our members.

The Safe as Houses project in Koutu.

- (1) Street signs. We purchased 850 new NS street signs and currently, with the assistance of our own staff and a number of service clubs have been replacing old and damaged signs and putting up new signs where necessary. This project is almost complete.
- (2) Invisible marker pens. We purchased 8500 invisible marker pens and infra red readers. The pens are currently being distributed via street contacts to all member households. Members are urged to mark their valuable items to assist recovery in the event of a burglary .Readers are held by street contact persons.
- (3) The Safe as Houses project was undertaken as a joint venture in the suburb of Koutu.

It was a multi agency project working under the auspices of Treasure Rotorua to make Rotorua a safer and more caring city , the agencies involved were : Fire Service ,NSR. ACC, RDC ,Maori Wardens, and community leaders ,including Mayor Steve Chadwick and local MP Todd Mc Lay.

The teams visited 620 houses in the Koutu area and provided information regarding crime prevention. fire and accident prevention, plus information on home insulation and heating schemes where subsidies are available.

All participating agencies consider the project to have been a success and are looking to carrying out a similar exercise in another suburb.

Conclusion

- The Committee met monthly during the year, however Pauline Evans and myself met with the staff at regular intervals during the month. It is still a concern to increase the numbers on the volunteers committee to enable some of the tasks currently undertaken by the staff to be carried out on a by the volunteers. Our thanks are due to Lynn Usher who manages the volunteers.
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- 2013-2014 has been a busy and productive year for NSR.
- Highlights have been the fulfilment of our Council contract requirements and an increase in the number of active groups and households.
- The success of the three major projects.
- The establishment of new groups in some of the more crime troubled areas of the City and wider District.
- Continuing strong relationships with Rotorua Police and with the Ngongotaha community.
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- Finally and most significantly ,thanks to Bruce Quedley and his staff for their significant efforts on our behalf.

Luke Martin.
Chairman
10 June 2014