

Over The Fence Lines – Issue 4 2018

The quarterly newsletter of
Neighbourhood Support

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Our Supporting Organisations:



**ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL**
Te kaunihera o ngā roto o Rotorua

**Rotoruaenergy
charitable Trust**



ROTORUA RENTALS
ROTORUA INVESTMENTS LTD HIRIENZ

**CRIME CAN'T
SURVIVE IN A
COMMUNITY
THAT CARES!**

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD
SUPPORT
AREA**



**safer
communities
together**

Christmas Preparations



With Christmas nearly upon us and the New Year just around the corner it is the time for families to enjoy the great outdoors and have some holiday time. It is also the time to remember your neighbours, some may not have the opportunities of holidays and family gatherings. So make all those in your neighbourhood feel they are part of your neighbourhood family.

When you do go away don't turn your brain off before you go, ensure you leave your property secure, doors locked, windows closed, all equipment put away, outbuildings and garages locked.

Advise a trusted neighbour that you will be away and ask them to keep an eye on your place, there is a Holiday Emergency Contact form available on our website at www.nsrotorua.info/forms so you can leave contact information with them. If you don't have access to the internet contact the office to have some sent to your group.

Enjoy the
Christmas
break by
keeping safe
and secure!

Drive safely,
think ahead
and watch out
for the other
drivers on the
road!



While on holiday remember to keep security conscious, don't leave valuables in a vehicle, thieves don't go on holiday!

Know where your children are and ensure they have a safe, fun and memorable holiday!

Holiday Security Tips

Shut and lock all doors, even if you're only going out for a short time.

Close and lock all windows - burglars don't like to smash glass.

Do not "hide" keys outside your home, nor leave them in an obvious place near doors or windows.

Make sure your valuables - including televisions and stereo systems - cannot be seen from outside.

Make your home look occupied when you're away by using timers on radios and lights

When you buy new items like DVD players or video recorders, don't advertise by leaving the empty boxes out for recycling, turn the boxes inside out and fold them down.

Hide or lock away passports and official documents

Don't leave car keys near doors or windows - car theft through burglary is also on the rise.



When Going On Holiday

Cancel all regular deliveries such as newspapers

Have someone clear your letterbox every day

Make a trusted neighbour/friend has your contact details while you are away

Lock away all tools, garden furniture and valuable garden items

If away for a long period arrange for your lawns to be mown.



Christmas Office Closure

Please note that the Office will be closed from Friday 21 December to Monday 7 January. Any urgent crime reports call the Police. Other matters leave a message and it will be attended to when we re-open.

A Note From Bruce & Richard: Looking After Each Other!

In the news recently was a story of two elderly people in Napier who died alone and no one noticed for a couple of weeks. This scenario was similar to my first presentation to the selection committee when I was interviewed for the my position back in 2012.

A distinct difference that Neighbourhood Support has is that it encourages people to get to know one another face to face. If we do that it will be noticed if a neighbour hasn't been seen or they are not following their normal daily routine. We will also notice strangers hanging around the area.

In today's society you can be very alone in the midst of the suburbs. There are neighbours all around you but no one gets to know you. Neighbourhood Support encourages you to be known by your neighbours because in an emergency your neighbours are the closest at hand to help or to contact the authorities if you cannot.

Make your Group function so as to make it a more caring section of the society. Don't be a nosy neighbour be a caring neighbour who can help when asked or notices things are not right. Help each other, care for each other, be a good neighbour.



Hello From The Chair: Pauline Evans

It seems every year the Christmas decorations seem to go up earlier, with some shops displaying Christmas as early as October.

It is at this time of year that we send you reminders to be extra vigilant, as the weather is warming up, historically so does the night activities of the criminal fraternity. Remember that some of the more brazen criminals will happily visit our homes and help themselves, no matter what time of the day it is.

When was the last time you took a good look around your house? I did recently at my home and collected a few garden tools, that I had forgotten to put away. Not only are they attractive, they could have been easy to walk away with, they could also have been used to break into my home.

Letting your neighbours know if you plan to be away and what cars should be at your home over this period, is an excellent idea and so easy to do. It is a really good way of keeping in touch with your neighbours too. Please don't forget your elderly or disabled neighbours at this time, is there anything you could do for them?

Recently we had another fairly strong earthquake, may be you felt it? Neighbourhood Support urges everyone to be ready for any disasters with an emergency response kit, a few days of tinned food, water, radio, torch and batteries. We don't know when or where the big will happen, best be prepared.

On behalf of the Committee, our Co-ordinators and Volunteers may you have an enjoyable and safe festive season.

Senior Sergeant Graeme Hill, Community and Youth Services:

There is nothing new about the advice, but we still see people being complacent about their security. You wouldn't put a burglar on your Christmas list, so don't gift them something they don't deserve. Remove the opportunities and temptation by securing windows and doors and keeping wrapped presents and valuables out of sight. In addition to the tips on page 1 here are some more:

- Invest in an alarm and security lighting.
- Make sure plants and trees, particularly close to doors and windows are well trimmed - don't give thieves a place to hide.
- Mark your property so it can be easily identified if recovered
- Make a list of property and record serial numbers
- Take photos of unique items such as jewellery and ornaments
- Keep important documents and valuation certificates in a safe place. If possible store copies with a trusted friend or relative.
- Have home insurance but remember no amount of insurance money can replace those items of sentimental value.

Getting to know your neighbours and then looking out for one another can be effective fight against criminals.

- Consider starting up or joining an existing Neighbourhood Support Group (0800 4NEIGHBOURS)
- Exchange emergency contacts with your neighbours.
- Let neighbours know when you're going away and see if they can collect your mail and newspapers and maybe open and close the curtains and park a vehicle on the drive.

Sometimes would-be thieves will knock on the door of a property to find out if anyone is in. If someone answers the door they may use a ruse to justify being there, such as looking for a lost animal or thinking it was their friend's address.

- Install a peep-hole in your front door and a door chain.
- If someone arrives unannounced try to ask them who they are and their reason for being there before you answer the door.

