

Neighbourhood Support Community Newsletter

ISSUE 61

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

NOVEMBER 2018



IN THIS ISSUE...

TIPS TO PROTECT
YOUR HOME

NEIGHBOURS
DAY WORKSHOP

OUT ON THE
STREETS

Kia ora koutou katoa... Greetings to you all

I hope you have all had relatively good winter months and look forward to the fabulous summer ahead.

With the warmer weather approaching, it unfortunately also brings out some of our other nocturnal species of the criminal nature.

One of the best ways to improve the security in your neighborhood is to get the entire community involved. Set up a neighborhood support group by contacting your neighbours and asking them to join.

Keeping your home and valuables safe might be taken for granted when you're away during summer holidays. Overleaf are some simple tips to ensure that your home is protected while your mind is elsewhere.

John Roberts (JR) - Community Resilience Connector



KEEPING YOUR HOME AND VALUABLES SAFE



KEEP UP APPEARANCES

Nothing is more attractive to a burglar than a house that screams 'I'm empty'. It makes a home a prime target. So keeping up a lived in appearance is one of the most important precautions you can take. Here are some tricks to keep your home looking lived in:

- Leave curtains open, have mail collected by a neighbour, and even have them put bins out on collection day. Leaving your spare car in the driveway can be a good deterrent, as can be a lamp or outdoor lights on a timer switch to make it seem like someone's home in the evenings.
- Keep the garden tidy by having someone mow the lawns if you're away for a couple of weeks.
- Look at stopping your newspaper and other subscriptions from being delivered while you're away – or even better, have a helpful neighbour collect them so it looks like someone's home.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

Whether you're away from home or not, keeping attractive, desirable items out of sight could make the difference between a break-in or not.

- With Christmas looming, don't put presents on show under the tree until Christmas Eve. Cases of a house-load of presents being stolen are becoming more and more common.
- Try to keep expensive electronics out of sight – stash laptops and other devices while you're away, close TV cabinets so equipment can't be easily seen, and try to screen off a large TV from view.
- Take a walk around your yard and think like a thief. Don't leave implements outside that could make their job any easier...bricks, tools, ladders that could aid their entry.

FLICK THE SWITCH

This one may not be a burglar deterrent, but can keep your place safe all the same – make sure you turn off any appliances at the wall.

- Better safe than sorry when it comes to electrical fires, so flick the switch on all the electrical items you can before you leave home. A smoke alarm won't alert anyone if there is no-one staying in the house.
- Turning an appliance off can also save any appliance damage due to power surges.



DON'T ADVERTISE YOUR ABSENCE

Be careful about who you tell you're going away, and for how long.

- Don't advertise your absence on your answer phone, on Facebook or anywhere else that is public.
- Turn down the ringer on your phone so anyone scoping out your home can't hear that there's no one home to answer. Have your calls forwarded to your mobile instead.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

Getting someone to check in on your home is one of the best precautions you can take, particularly if you're away for a long period.

- Let a neighbour or relative know you're going to be away, or alternatively your landlord or property manager, and ask if they'd check by the property to see if all is well. This is particularly important if you live in quite a private setting. Leave an emergency number with them, and perhaps even insurance company details in the event something happens.

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

Seems rather obvious, but being even more thorough can make a big difference to the security of your stuff.

- Make sure you check everything – garden sheds, window latches, deadbolts.
- Remove that spare key. If anyone's set on getting into your home, it won't take them long to figure out your 'novel' hiding place.
- Another precaution that pays off is to put metal or wooden rods in ranch slider runners so doors can't slide open.

We hope your holiday season is a safe and very happy one.

Safer Communities Together



neighbours, day AOTEAROA

Time to Celebrate Neighbours

March 22 - 31 2019

As part of the push for Neighbours Day in March 2019, we are hosting Cissy and Dave who head this project from Wellington.

Neighbours Day Aotearoa is an annual community-led week-long campaign that runs from March 22 – 31, 2019. It is organised by Lifewise, Inspiring Communities, Neighbourhood Support NZ, and the Mental Health Foundation.

The purpose is to encourage everyone around New Zealand to make an extra special effort to connect with their neighbours during this period. With this in mind the Hastings District Council is hosting a community workshop for residents interested in planning a Neighbours Day event. Come along, share ideas and get the support you need to help create positive and great neighbourhoods in your community.

WHERE: Hastings District Council Chambers

WHEN: Friday 23 November 2018

TIME: 1 - 2.30pm

Please RSVP by 5pm Tuesday 21 November 2018 to Hastings District Council on 871 5000



Safer Communities Together



OUT ON THE STREETS!



I have been lucky to have two other staff members from our Community team join me in the Street by Street initiative, Debbie Northe and Junior Tuakana.

Both Deb and Junior bring a wealth of experience with them to their roles.

Deb as the Community Safety Coordinator within Council and Junior as the Council Community Connector supporting Community Plans, it is great having them as part of the Street By Street team.

Since our last newsletter we have had another four Street by Street sausage sizzles. One in Hood Street, Karamu Road, Sefton Street Havelock North and Oban Street Flaxmere.

In the meantime, "Let's be careful out there"

John Roberts (JR) - Community Resilience Connector

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Visit us on the web at:

www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/community-safety



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THE BEST AND SAFEST PLACE
TO LIVE IN NZ!!**



**HAWKE'S BAY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

GROUP

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