

Neighbourhood Support Community

DECEMBER 2022

Newsletter



KIA ORA EVERYONE,

I hope all is well with you all and you're all starting to get ready for some well-earned rest and relaxation with Christmas just around the corner. 2022 has certainly gone by fast!

I would also like to pay respect to the families of some of our residents and Neighbourhood Support whānau who sadly passed away in 2022.

There were also a number of changes with some of our street leaders due to retirements and some moving out of the district. Fortunately, we have had a number of able volunteers who put their hands up to cover these opportunities. I thank and congratulate them for taking on this important role.

One of the highlights during 2022 would have to be the project we are currently working on around creating cluster groups of street co-ordinators in areas and communities, where we have a number of Neighbourhood Support groups all within the same range. We believe these specific groups can create a better-informed community by combining their knowledge and experience as a collaborative cluster.

It has also been great to welcome new groups, as well as the re-establishment of former groups, to Neighbourhood Support this year.

Requests to speak to residents and members of Age Concern, Enliven, Summerset in the Vines and Grey Power about Neighbourhood Support and community safety alongside our partners, the NZ Police, have increased over the past 12 months. These

presentations are always a highlight on our calendar and always a pleasure to be invited to speak at.

With community safety in mind, I have included some useful information about general cyber scams and the various types that can be easily identified as scams.

Lastly, on behalf of the Hastings District Council, I would like to personally thank you all for your support over the past 12 months and wish you, your families and your friends a safe and merry Christmas.

**Ngā mihi,
JR**



Out and about.....



Due to some local concerns, we have recently held street and park meetings with a number of our Neighbourhood Support members.

As a result of these, we are working with our partners, community organisations and local council to continue to improve services including public safety, better street lighting, identifying road maintenance concerns, traffic calming measures and more police presence outside schools, to name a few.

We continue to work with our older people, advising them on how to keep themselves safe within their homes and in the community. Not only is this an important role that we all play a part in but is also very rewarding and fulfilling.

Look out for us over the next couple of months, as we will be at Beech Road and Tudor Ave in January and Cape Coast and Flaxmere in February.

What's ahead for 2023?

Looking forward to 2023, one of our focuses will be on supporting our rural sector with Neighbourhood Support.

We will also help to support the National Neighbourhood Support Office with their youth engagement strategy. This strategy aims to target youth aged 13-18 years old to encourage greater participation within Neighbourhood Support. A large part of this is empowering them with all the right skills and resources to successfully contribute to Neighbourhood Support and help them

to enhance it from a youth perspective.

We will also look to expand the cluster group model throughout the district to bring the street coordinators in the same locations together.

One of our bigger goals for 2023 is the opportunity of going online with NZ Gets Ready. This is a community database that stores community household contact details, skills, needs and resources. It then provides powerful tools to filter and communicate with the community via email and SMS.

This database will eventually replace our current outdated Excel spreadsheet.





SCAM ALERT!

With the increase in cyber scams recently, particularly targeting our elderly, I was sent this link from a colleague of mine in the Police.

The Little Black Book of Scams outlines how scammers target their victims and trick them into parting with their money, gives tips on how people can protect themselves, points out the 'red flags' that give away a scam, what to do if you've fallen for one, and the various agencies to which you can report different types of scams.

WIRE TRANSFER

Many scams involve a request to wire money electronically using a money transfer service, like MoneyGram, Western Union, or using cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin. Remember that sending a transfer through these services is like sending cash—once the amount is picked up, it's almost impossible to get your money back.

OVERPAYMENT

When you're selling something—especially online—be wary of how you get paid. A fraudster may

send you a counterfeit cashier's, personal or corporate cheque in an amount in excess of what they owe. You'll be asked to deposit the cheque and wire the excess funds immediately back to them. Once your bank realises the cheque is a fake, you'll be on the hook for the money withdrawn

SPELLING MISTAKES

Be sceptical of emails, messages or websites that contain misspelled common words; grammar errors that make it difficult to read or expressions that are used incorrectly. Email and web addresses should also be examined closely to see if there are subtle mistakes or differences.

PERSONAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Fraudsters may ask potential victims to provide more personal or financial information than is required for the transaction or discussion. Be suspicious if someone asks for copies of your passport, driver's licence or birth date, especially if you don't know the person.

UNSOLICITED CALLS

You might get a call from someone claiming that you have a virus on your computer, you owe taxes or there has been fraudulent activity in your bank account. Hang up and call the organisation yourself using the number from a trustworthy source, such as the phone book, their website, or even invoices and account statements.

UNSOLICITED FRIEND REQUESTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know until you review their profile or ask your real-life friends if they know them. Does their profile look fairly empty or have posts that are very generic? Do they seem to be promising more than friendship? These are some red flags that point to a scam. Delete that request and block future ones.

ASTOUNDING MAIL OFFERS

You received a scratchy card in the mail. It guarantees you will or have already won. Prizes might range from money to cars and trips. If you have not entered a contest, throw that card away. It's probably a scam!

IT'S JUST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Everybody loves a great deal. But shocking offers, unbelievable discounts and unreal rates may signal that the offer isn't quite what it seems. Cheap prices usually equal cheap products, or counterfeit goods. Free offers may require providing your credit card for shipping. Small tactics like these can lead to big profits for scammers.

CONTACT FOR HELP:

Netsafe: <https://netsafe.org.nz> | **New Zealand Police:** www.police.govt.nz/advice/email-and-internet-safety |
New Zealand Bankers Association: www.nzba.org.nz/2018/05/22/protect-onlinefraud |
Crime Stoppers NZ: www.crimestoppers-nz.org

Christmas
IN
HASTINGS



MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2023



HASTINGS
HEART OF HAWKE'S BAY

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O HERETAUNGA