

# Tāmaki Makaurau PREVENTION 101



March 2017

## Kia Ora

It has been great to see the community out enjoying the summer weather safely so far in 2017. Here in Tamaki Makaurau we are working hard to reduce crime by targeting high-risk locations and offenders and are continuing to achieve positive results.

We are working with our community

partners to reduce offending and with retailers and our intelligence unit to identify areas across Tamaki Makaurau where we can proactively deploy to prevent crime from happening.

While crime has trended downward over the last few years, we need our community to play their part to help

prevent crime from occurring. We can all reduce the chance of becoming a victim of crime by protecting our valuables as best we can. Please forward this newsletter on to your friends, family and colleagues and help us create safer communities together. ■

## Keeping Safe in the Water

Many of us are lucky enough to spend a lot of time on the water fishing, boating and swimming this summer. With a number of lives lost on the water already, we would like to encourage you to take extra care. There are a number of waterways around Tamaki Makaurau that are well known to be dangerous, but 'safe' beaches, swimming pools and paddling pools can be deadly.

While summer is technically winding down, there will still be many hot days to look forward to. If you're going boating, having adequate safety equipment on board your boat is absolute paramount. Every year a number of lives can be saved if people are adequately prepared for the water conditions, and often simply by wearing a life jacket. There's no excuse for going out fishing or boating without enough safety equipment for everyone on board. Appropriate equipment includes life jackets, flares and radios, depending on the type and size of the vessel.

Life jackets should be available for each person on board and should be appropriately fitted – every child or adult should have the right size jacket.

Paddling pools in the backyard are fun for young children and don't need to be fenced if the water level is less than 40cm, but children should always be supervised around water and the pool should be emptied once you've finished using it. A young child can drown in as little as 20 seconds. Check the Auckland Council website for more information on what is required from you as a homeowner if you

have a pool or spa on your property.

Tens of thousands of people converge on Auckland's beaches on long weekends and public holidays, but we're also concerned for people who are boating and fishing offshore and from rocky coastal areas. These can be dangerous places and you should take every precaution if you plan on heading out on the water this summer. ■





# Speed and Safety

**S**adly this summer we have been faced with the worst summer road toll in five years. The holiday period over Christmas and New Year finished with a total of 19 fatalities from around the country. This is a shocking statistic; there are 19 families who will never see their loved ones again and every summer holiday will serve as a reminder of the tragedy that occurred at Christmas 2016.

During 2016, 327 people were killed on our roads. We can – and must – do better than this. Recently there were some statistics released regarding wearing seatbelts. Almost a third of all people who die on our roads are not wearing a seatbelt, making it highly likely that their death was entirely preventable. In just the past four years, 61 lives were lost in the Auckland region alone as a consequence of not wearing a seatbelt.

There is no excuse for not wearing a seatbelt, and as a driver or parent it is your responsibility to ensure those in your vehicle are properly restrained. Seatbelts save lives – there is no doubt about this. Police all across the country will be putting extra effort into ensuring all



*Constable Daniel Sargent making it click*



vehicle occupants are wearing appropriate restraints, so make sure you buckle up every time. It could save your life.

**A**lso remember that speed is the number one factor that will determine the outcome of a crash. The severity of injuries resulting from a crash is directly related to the impact speed of the vehicle – whether or not speeding was a factor in the crash. You might have seen the latest NZTA advertising campaign start on TV recently – less speed, less harm. Remember this next time you get behind the wheel. The speed you travel at is not just a personal choice, it affects other road users as well. Make the choice to slow down, for the benefit of everyone who uses the road. ■



# Back to School

Now that term one is well underway we are putting an emphasis on truancy and ensuring our children are in school when they're meant to be. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that all children are attending school as it is a legal requirement until you are 16 years of age.

Once upon a time, skipping school used to be a risky and often one-off occurrence with the challenge of going undetected. You couldn't go out and do anything because you knew the shopkeepers, neighbours, and family friends were quick to report you to parents or school authorities.

Today, truancy has become a major problem that negatively impacts on the future of our youth. Truancy can be the beginning of a lifetime of problems for our youth. Those who routinely skip school fall behind in their school work and drop out because that's easier than catching up.

Truancy is also a stepping stone to delinquent and criminal behaviour. There is overwhelming evidence that chronic absenteeism is the most powerful predictor of delinquent behaviour. Truant students are at higher risk of being drawn into dishonesty, drugs, alcohol and violence.

As parents and caregivers, if you're in any way condoning or turning a blind eye to truancy, you are contributing to the problem.

This month we are undertaking a large operation throughout Tamaki Makaurau to target locations where we know truants congregate. With a focus on reducing truancy we will see a reduction of youth offending including daytime burglary and vehicle crime. Our efforts hope to see lower truancy rates, lower juvenile crime, and a heightened working relationship between Police, local schools and truancy services. ■

# Getting to School Safely

The safety of our youngest and most vulnerable community members is paramount and we take all suspicious approaches to children very seriously. This has been well covered in the media lately and is obviously of huge concern to us. Here is some advice that you can pass on to your children to help keep them safe:

- Avoid walking to or from school on your own.
- Don't be distracted by cell phones or other portable devices while you are walking.
- If someone is following you walk quickly straight ahead. Cross the road and see if they follow. If they are still following, go into a shop or approach a group of people and ask for help.
- Never get in the car with someone you don't know.
- If someone you don't know comes up to you and asks you questions, be polite but tell them that you won't talk to them. Stay a good distance away from them and walk away.
- If someone grabs you, yell and scream and kick out to attract attention to the situation.
- If you are scared, or someone has tried to harm you, as soon as you can go into a shop or approach an adult (even one you don't know) and ask them to call the Police on 111.

A walking school bus is a great way to get to school safely in a group. See if your school organises this service or talk with

other parents in your area who might be able to get a group together. A good thing to remind your children is "if mum and dad don't know; don't go".

Any suspicious approaches should be reported to Police immediately on 111 – don't delay. The faster we hear about it, the sooner we can respond and hopefully identify the person involved. ■



*Pakuranga Heights School on their Walking School Bus Day earlier this month.*



## Reporting a Crime

**W**hen a crime is reported, whether it is a stolen car or a burglary, we take the matter very seriously. When you report a crime, the information you provide will assist us to build a picture of exactly what happened, allowing us to get to work to get the best outcome for you and your family. Our priority is to reduce the number of victims of crime.

There is often a lot of work happening ‘behind the scenes’ – at your local Police station – to resolve the crime you have reported and prevent it from happening again. We have dedicated property crime investigation teams which work to resolve crimes such as burglary, and will regularly identify trends which will give us more information on who might be committing crimes, allowing us to solve as many cases as possible. A newsletter like this

gives us the opportunity to share some of our knowledge with you so that we can work together to reduce crime in our communities.

We are aware that there have been occasions where members of the public see some suspicious activity in their neighbourhood but do not call Police because the suspicious person has then left. It is vitally important for us to hear about this as soon as possible so we can respond and hopefully prevent any further crime from occurring. Call 111 when you see anything suspicious happening anywhere, anytime – before posting on social media about it. It’s important to share information with others in your neighbourhood to help keep everyone safe, but call 111 first just in case. It is possible that have already received a

similar report and your information could be the missing piece of the puzzle to help us solve or prevent a crime.

To help prevent burglary and the trade of stolen property, we want to know more about where that property is going. Receiving stolen property is a crime and if you know someone who is trading stolen goods, please let us know – if we reduce demand for stolen property, we will reduce crime. If you are offered something at a significantly reduced price and suspect it may be stolen, you are probably right. You can report information anonymously by calling the organisation Crimestoppers. ■



# Protect Your Home and Vehicle

**Crime Trend: Cars being stolen or broken into from residential driveways**

In a number of areas throughout Auckland, particularly South and East Auckland, Police are still seeing a large number of vehicles being broken into or stolen from the owners' driveways. Unfortunately we do see thieves who are brazen enough to enter your property just to tamper with your car. For this reason we want to reiterate how important it is to keep your vehicle secure even if you are at home. We know that many people still leave their car unlocked or leave the keys in the ignition when they are home. Don't become a victim of theft so close to home! Always secure your car and don't leave anything valuable in plain view. It's also a good idea to keep your car keys in a secure place inside – not just on the hallway table or the kitchen bench. A thief knows these common places and might look for an opportunity to whip inside and grab the keys and drive off in your car. ■



## Call Crimestoppers

Remember if you don't feel comfortable talking to Police you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 with any crime information. You can call Police or Crimestoppers with any information you have on crime, such as a suspicious looking person in your

neighbourhood or someone you know who is in possession of stolen property, or someone you know who is actively committing a crime. With Crimestoppers you can tell them what you know without telling them who you are. ■

**0800 555 111**  
**crimestoppers**  
speak up, it's anonymous

### Police on Social Media

 [www.facebook.com/nzpolice](http://www.facebook.com/nzpolice)

 [www.twitter.com/nzpolice](http://www.twitter.com/nzpolice)

If you have any feedback for me about crime in your area or working together please send us an email at [prevention101@police.govt.nz](mailto:prevention101@police.govt.nz)

**Superintendent John W. Tims**

District Commander Counties Manukau Police

**Superintendent Karyn Malthus**

District Commander Auckland City Police

**Superintendent Tusha Penny**

District Commander Waitemata Police

*Safer communities together - Haere pai atu, hoki pai mai (Travel safely)*

Please forward this email on to your colleagues, family and friends. The more people that see it, the greater chance we have of making sure Tāmaki Makaurau is a safe place to live, work and visit.

