

# NSNZ Newsletter



## December 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

## Well, that six weeks went fast!

It's hard to believe that it's already been six weeks since I started my role with Neighbourhood Support NZ. I still feel that I've got a lot to learn, and am trying to ration the number of annoying questions I ask in one day, so I don't drive everyone nuts!

It has been hugely beneficial in the last few weeks to have had the opportunity to get out and about and to meet Neighbourhood Support groups in their own communities. Kelsey and I have visited the Central Districts team for their end of year meeting in Hawera, and spent a day in Auckland meeting with groups and NS partners.

It has been great to hear directly from people about what they are doing, their challenges and how NSNZ can best support them.

So, I thought I'd share some of what I've learned and observed so far....

- There's no such thing as a 'typical' Neighbourhood Support member. Everyone appears to be organised slightly differently and in the way that best suits their area and community. This is entirely as it should be. The challenge for us is to respect and support that local flavour but still maintain consistency and equity in our supports and systems at a national level.

- Funding is a challenge. Many areas have experienced a reduction in the amount that philanthropic trusts are prepared to provide in funding grants to community groups, and a number of City and District Councils have cut back on-going support for community programmes. Neighbourhood Support groups are not alone in this. Many community groups across New Zealand are struggling. We are fortunate to have the Contestable Funding available through our Outcome Agreement with NZ Police. We are also fortunate to have the interest of a number of local and national partners, such as Civil Defence agencies, who are keen to support and promote us. We have some great opportunities to grow and develop these partnerships.
- Our people and our network of households and communities are our biggest assets. I've been so impressed by the passion and dedication of the wonderful co-ordinators, staff and volunteers I've met so far. The stories in this newsletter highlight a fraction of the great work you are all doing, and we are keen to provide more opportunities for us all to share and celebrate what we do.

I wish you all the very best for a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to meeting more of you in 2018!

Tess Casey  
Chief Executive  
Neighbourhood Support NZ

### Chief Executive Out and About

Read about Tess Casey's first six weeks in her new role, what she has seen and found out already.

### Get Ready Week 2017

Read about the involvement of Neighbourhood Support groups across NZ during the campaign.

### Get to know...

Our new section where we will have a chat with someone involved with our NSNZ family.

### What's been happening across NZ

Read what other NS Groups are doing around the country.

### Outcomes, it's about working together

An update from Sharla Arnold, NSNZ National Chairperson

### Don't forget....

Things to remember coming up in the New Year

# Get Ready Week 2017

During October Neighbourhood Support groups from across NZ were encouraged to be involved in the annual 'Get Ready Week' campaign run by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM). The aim is to educate and encourage households and communities to be better prepared for emergencies such as floods, storms and earthquakes which can happen at any time.

Neighbourhood Support groups bring local people together to create safe, supportive and connected communities. Therefore, being involved in Get Ready Week is the perfect opportunity to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Support (NS) and help encourage resilience amongst neighbours.



*Margaret Faed, Rodney Neighbourhood Support Coordinator manning the stall at Silverdale Bunnings*

Bunnings partnered with MCDEM and Get Ready Week again this year by providing information and DIY advice on emergency preparedness in stores across NZ. They extended the opportunity to NS groups to be in store and take part in activities, and speak to customers about getting to know their neighbours and preparing for emergencies.

A number of groups took part in the campaign and partnered with their local Civil Defence, Bunnings and other partners to hold successful events both in store and in their community to promote the event.



*Lois Scott, Otago Neighbourhood Support Coordinator speaking with interested customers in Otago*

If you haven't already, please complete the Get Ready Week evaluation which has been sent through to each area requesting feedback.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Kelsey.

## Wairarapa's involvement in Get Ready Week

The three Neighbourhood Support coordinators in the Wairarapa were very active during "Get Ready Week", working closely with CD and their local Councils.

With hundreds of commuters taking the three commuter trains into Wellington every day it is very important that they are prepared for a disaster on both sides of the hill.

During the week there were very early 5.30am starts for the Neighbourhood Support coordinators who chatted to commuters at Masterton, Carterton and Featherston railway stations, gave out local and national brochures and displayed the emergency water tanks sold at the local Council offices. Commuters were encouraged to form Neighbourhood Support groups on the Wairarapa side of the hill because if there is a large earthquake or Tsunami it could be a few days traversing the Rimutakas to get home. With a Neighbourhood Support group, they would be assured that someone would be looking after their property, family and pets.

During the week the shoppers at Pak n Save in Masterton and Pain & Kershaw in Martinborough were given the opportunity to discuss their emergency preparedness with both a Neighbourhood Support Coordinator and Civil Defence. It was

pleasing to see that people are definitely taking a more proactive approach to being informed and prepared. The children loved to talk about what they knew and what to do in earthquakes, so disaster education is definitely getting through to the younger generation. The 200 litre emergency water tanks are a great talking point when on display and people are generally surprised that they fit in any medium sized car. We suggested they would make great family Christmas presents so hopefully there is plenty more installed throughout the Wairarapa this summer.

*Lynette Juno  
Masterton Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Connecting Communities Wairarapa*



*The Stevens family from Masterton chatting about "being prepared" with Lynette Juno, Neighbourhood Support Coordinator for Masterton.*



**NSNZ would like to acknowledge and thank Community Post for their recent donation of pre-paid envelopes which have been distributed to the areas of NSNZ who requested them.**



## Get to know...

In each issue of the NSNZ newsletter we will be doing a 'Get to Know' column, where we will have a chat with someone involved with our NSNZ family.



Our first 'Get to Know' is **Senior Sergeant Alasdair Macmillan aka Mac.**

Mac is the Commissioner's Representative on the NSNZ Board and has a wealth of knowledge and experience, along with being a big fan of Neighbourhood Support.

### How long have you been in Police, and what was your motivation for joining?

I joined the Police as a cadet in 1976, completing 12 months of training at the old Police College in Trentham. In January 2018 I will have been in for 42 years.

### If you hadn't been a Police Officer, what career would you have been in?

I honestly have no idea. I had no real passion for any particular occupation. With 3 months to go before I ended secondary school I was asked what I wanted to do, I didn't know. I was then asked what I wanted out of a job; I said, "a job that was outside and could help people". I was told to be either a stock and station agent or a Police Officer. I nearly fell off my seat, "A cop! No way". And the rest is history.

### What have you seen develop within Police since you first started?

Police have had a mind-set change away from the old style of command and control to have more of a prevention focus.

### Where did your passion for Community Policing come from?

I am a people person and I enjoy the interaction with people that comes with Community Policing.

### How can the partnership between NZ Police and NSNZ be strengthened?

NSNZ has a pivotal role to support all members of the community and ensure 'safer connected communities'. Police need to ensure that they physically get out into the communities and reassure the members of NSNZ that we are all working together.

### What is one quote that you always remember and assists you when working in the community?

"Crime cannot survive in a community that cares".

## What's Been Happening...



### Waimea NS are you prepared?

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, Neighbourhood Support Waimea held an information evening for their Street Contacts to come along and learn about preparing for a natural disaster.

The evening helped to educate and update Street Contacts, so they could in turn go back to their streets and pass on practical tips about how to be prepared.

Neighbourhood Support Waimea Coordinator, Marty Price, has a great working relationship with the local Nelson Tasman Civil Defence. He recently completed the Supervisor's course to manage a welfare centre if an emergency occurs. Marty is currently going through a selection process to be part of the NZRT2 Team which is a Voluntary Urban Rescue Group with Civil Defence.



A group of residents at the information evening hearing from Civil Defence

## BBQ trailer sparks interest in Nelson

A community BBQ trailer recently launched by Neighbourhood Support Nelson is proving to be a great tool for connecting with the community.

The custom-built trailer is available for anyone to use for neighbourhood or community gatherings. It is already proving popular with Neighbourhood Support groups, as well as community and sports organisations wanting to use it for events.

Neighbourhood Support Nelson Co-ordinator, Karen Clark, said the trailer was very eye-catching, and attracted a lot of interest wherever it went.

"It's generating a lot of discussion about Neighbourhood Support and what we do. It's going to all sorts of events; neighbourhood BBQs, sports fixtures, community events, marae gatherings, and even weddings. It is enabling us to connect with sectors of the community we haven't really connected with before."

The BBQ trailer cost \$13,500 to build and fit out and was funded through grants from Neighbourhood Support NZ, the Nelson City Council and Pub Charity.

It has a six-burner BBQ, two gas bottles, and two 65-litre chilly bins. Two sides of the trailer lift up to provide shelter for the cooks from the rain or sun. There is also a fold-out table, to put food and other items on.

Neighbourhood Support groups can use the BBQ trailer for free and other users pay a hire fee, to cover operating costs. Some operating costs are also being met through sponsorship.



The shiny new trailer that Nelson have purchased to be used for neighbourhood or community gatherings.

## North Taranaki BBQ success

North Taranaki Neighbourhood Support (NTNS) recently teamed up with New Plymouth Community Patrol and local Police to run two BBQ's for north Taranaki residents.

The BBQ's were held outside The Warehouse Bell Block and The Warehouse New Plymouth and ran for approximately 4 hours at each site.

The NTNS team and Police offered shoppers an expertly cooked sausage with all the usual extras for free. The Community Patrols group was also able to assist shoppers by fitting anti-theft number plates on their vehicles for a small fee.

Both days were very successful with many residents visiting the NTNS stand for the free sausage and a chat to our team. This resulted in new appointments for the Field Officers to attend to set up new neighbourhood support groups. It raised NTNS's profile and interaction with the community and demonstrated their strong relationship with local Police and the Community Patrol group.



*Great turnout by community members, and the team didn't let the weather dampen their spirits.*



*Sergeant Johnson on BBQ duty*

## Waikawa Stream Recreation Reserve

An increase in 4WD vehicles and Quad Bikes visiting Waikawa Stream Recreation Reserve in Horowhenua has resulted in the once pristine campsite and Reserve being turned into a muddy mess.

Horowhenua Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Deborah Campbell, along with the Department of Conservation, Police and members of the community arranged a working bee to clean up the Reserve during October.

Following media attention and the community getting together to clean up the Reserve a local resident says "the word has got out to the offenders that neighbours are actively keeping an eye on the reserve. People are now coming down and enjoying it for its intended purpose. It's one of the few free campsites in the country".

The working bee was part of Conservation Week, which aims to encourage Kiwis to get out in their own backyards and convert their love of nature into action.

## Masterton, 'most beautiful city in NZ'

Masterton has been voted New Zealand's most beautiful city and Masterton Neighbourhood Support Groups are helping keep it that way.

Masterton District Council has created an amazing network of recreational trails for both walkers and cyclist at the northern entrance to Masterton and is aiming at enhancing the beauty and water quality.

Volunteers make a huge contribution to the beautification of a City Neighbourhood Support Masterton has close to 30 groups in the Lansdowne area with a lot of enthusiastic members who are keen to keep improving their area. Recently they joined with Council and other organisations to dig holes, and plant and stake over 300 native trees along the new trails. These trees have been planted by the creek so will help cool the water resulting in better quality water before it flows into Henley lake and wetlands, where the trails also continue.

These planting days follow the last three years of activity where they have helped on the committee to revamp the local Lansdowne shopping Village and surrounding area including liaison with Council during the planning, painting, promotion, gardening and ongoing maintenance.

Across the other side of town, the Cole Street group annually clean the creek running past their houses which stops the weed choking the area and enhances the beauty of "The Crossing". Of course, there is a cuppa and wonderful homemade goodies to follow.

A large group of Neighbourhood Support members with lifestyle blocks on the outskirts of town annually walk the road verge and pick up rubbish. They have a social gathering after to chat with neighbours, along with a few drinks and a bit of merriment.

Not only has Masterton been voted the most beautiful city in NZ, 30 mins down the road is Greytown voted the most beautiful small town in NZ. There are now some enthusiastic Neighbourhood Support groups in Greytown and more on the way to help with local projects.



The Crossing, The Cole St B group (known as the cheese group-Colby) is a very active group led by Brian and Morea Stevens. The group's homes all border the area and they have taken ownership of keeping it clean and feed the eels that enjoy the fresh water.

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## Outcomes, its about working together!



It has been a busy last few months in NSNZ whilst we have been finalising the Outcome Agreement with Police, holding our Annual General Meeting, introducing new Board members to how we operate, and welcoming our new Chief Executive Officer, Tess Casey.

In this edition, I wanted to talk to you about the Outcome Agreement, what it means, and how it will help you.

Police, on behalf of the government, engage Neighbourhood Support New Zealand to provide social services that contribute to a shared outcome of "New Zealand communities are safer, connected, thriving, and resilient". This outcome aligns with our NSNZ vision: *Safe, supportive, and connected communities*.

The services that are part of the Outcome Agreement are a high-level summary of what we do as a national organisation:

- Grow a connected national network of Neighbourhood Support champions (support affiliates to grow Neighbourhood Support in their areas, and work with communities to establish Neighbourhood Support where it does not exist)
- Support and nurture Neighbourhood Support champions (the NS groups affiliated with NSNZ)
- Connect national service providers, government, and community catalysts in collaborative nation action.

In plainer language, we see it as our role to:

- Raise the profile of Neighbourhood Support nationally to make it easier to expand NS.
- Work with communities where NS doesn't currently exist and help them to establish Neighbourhood Support.
- Deliver contestable funding to help you do your work growing NS.
- Provide you with the support you need to do your work.
- Work with Police and other agencies, organisations, national campaigns to progress opportunities that raise the profile of NS, and make it easier for you to do your work.

You've told us of the difficulties you have locally with raising awareness of NS; you've told us about how you would like us to

support you; and you've told us about the communications difficulties you have.

Therefore, the next year's work plan for Neighbourhood Support NZ is an ambitious set of deliverables and targets to achieve this that have been included in the Outcome Agreement as performance measures. We need to deliver and achieve these targets as part of our accountability, but we also made sure that these were the right things to do, and that they could ultimately contribute to the outcome.

We need to communicate better, market ourselves better, expand who we work with, and look for more opportunities to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Support. We need better ways to work with you to help you and support you. With a CEO now on board, and a savvy and experienced one at that, we believe we're in a stronger position now to achieve what we have set out to do.

*"We need better ways to work with you to help you and support you"*

Over the next six months you will start to see changes in how we communicate, support you, and work together. We have a team committed to making improvements and moving our organisation forward. This is a journey though, and we're not perfect, so if you have ideas or feedback, please feel free to contact Tess or myself.

One of our aims is to better communicate why we do our quarterly snapshots, and why we need the information we ask for. The information from these go into our accountability reporting to Police, and help us to prioritise what you need from us. Like any other funding arrangements, we need to prove that we are successfully delivering what we said we would (the snapshots are one way of measuring this), but we also have to prove a return on investment. Without the funding we receive from Police, we wouldn't be able to run a national organisation, so we take this seriously. If you still have questions about why affiliates need to complete the quarterly snapshots, or have ideas for how they can be improved please do not hesitate to contact Tess or I.

The Neighbourhood Support focus is about more than just crime reduction and crime prevention, it's about helping people connect in communities across New

Zealand to be a better local support for each other. To help them be there for each other and look out for each other, in good times and in bad times. A connected community is more resilient, and is stronger for that connectedness.

*"A connected community is more resilient, and is stronger for that connectedness"*

We aspire to model that connectedness, and thrive as an organisation that supports you, and cares about creating safe, supportive, and connected communities.

Sharla Arnold  
Chairperson  
Neighbourhood Support NZ



- Round 1 Contestable Funding Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2018
- National Office will be closed from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, and will re-open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.
- If you have not completed your snapshot report through Google forms, please complete this ASAP.
- For funders open in the New Year, Check Julie's email sent last week for funding opportunities open in the New Year.
- Neighbours Day Aotearoa (NDA) 2018 is 24-25 March 2018. It is a good time to start thinking of what your street, neighbourhood or community is going to do for NDA 2018. For further information visit [www.neighboursday.org.nz](http://www.neighboursday.org.nz)

**Wishing you the gifts of the season  
Peace, Joy & Hope**

**Best wishes for 2018  
Neighbourhood Support New  
Zealand**

