IN OUR HOOD

Stories & Projects from Neighbourhood Watch groups across Queensland

Dalby

Dalby Neighbourhood Watch worked with local police to distribute property safety information to every household. This project ran from September 2014 to February 2015. Positive feedback from households was received as well as a corresponding drop in property crime.

Townsville

After an incident NHW Townsville and the DCPC distributed 200 whistles to the joggers as a portable personal alarm. The whistles were distributed at a common meeting and river crossing point at 5:00 am and again at 4:30 pm over 4 days, and to assure joggers the area was relatively safe.

Kumbia Rural

Kumbia Rural Watch had a presentation by Kingaroy Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad at its last meeting. Over 50 people were in attendance.

Sunshine Coast

Coffee Cup Project

“Personal safety is everybody's responsibility” and “Domestic Violence is not ok. Not now. Not ever” were the two messages printed onto coffee cups. The aim was to promote Neighbourhood Watch, domestic violence issues and personal safety.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia provided some funds with the balance funded by Neighbourhood Watch groups in the area. The groups are approaching local cafes and coffee providers to gauge interest in the project who then receive 500 or 1000 eco cups.
Innes Park
Facebook Page

Innes Park's Facebook page was established in 2011 to advertise events and activities. Though the group was a vibrant one at the 2014 AGM only eight members were present and no one nominated for Secretary.

A social media convenor was then appointed to make the page more active. Under this guidance the page became more popular and the average age of its followers was 25-45. It was then decided to focus more on social media. Members attended training provided by the local council, and transferred knowledge from Elvis’s blog training.

Three administrators were appointed to the page including an Advanced Paramedic and a NHW Area Coordinator.

The page is aimed at maximising likes and comments on posts. To make the page interesting topics are from worldwide sources. Topics are varied as possible and include humour.

Mackay
Men’s Breakfast

As a result of poor attendance to regular bimonthly meetings the decision was made to transition to informal ‘get togethers’ during late 2014. This proved much more popular with some attendances exceeding over 40.

The most successful function was a Men’s Breakfast held in conjunction with organisation Shed Happens at Shoal Point Beach, part of the Northern Beaches NHW area in March 2015. Over 45 men attended ranging in age from mid-teens to mid-80s. A number of new blog members were signed up and Area Coordinator Ken Rehbein was interviewed by Shed Happens Coordinator Frank Cowell (also an active NHW Member). Ken also used the opportunity to give a report on NHW and its activities.

The event was so successful another Men’s Breakfast was held in late July again in partnership with Shed Happens at Eimeo Beach.
Mount Isa
Sun Block Crime Block

Mount Isa Neighbourhood Watch were successful in receiving a Safer Communities Grant from Suncorp for this project. The aim being a reduction in the opportunist crime of break ins to cars and subsequent theft of items. Car sun shades with a message printed on them of “no cash or valuables in this vehicle” were distributed to the Mount Isa Community at a launch event. Given the sunny days in Mount Isa, the shades have been extremely popular in the community and are also moving advertisements for Mount Isa NHW. The shades also act as a reminder to vehicle owners to remove their cash and valuables from their car.

The launch event was in a local car park and with both members of Mount Isa NHW and QPS present. Popular activities such as face painting, jumping castle, fairy floss and a sausage sizzle were all given free to attendees. The event was well attended due to the successful social and traditional media campaign including Facebook, radio and newspaper.

In the months following the project, there was a measurable decrease in car break ins. The project has peaked interest in other NHW groups with Crestmead asking to borrow the idea for their area.
Townsville

Kidz ID

The Townsville District NHW has supported the Kidz ID stand at the Townsville Show for the past nine years. Kidz ID is aimed at preventing children from getting lost at the show or other major events by giving the child a short simple talk on what to do if they realise they cannot see their parents.

“Stop, look for Mum and Dad, if you cannot see them look for a Police Officer.” Each child is registered via a form filled by the parent, giving a brief description of the child and clothing, a wrist band is the selected and the parents phone number is written on the inside of the band.

If lost a Police Officer will take the band off and ring the parent, informing them that the child is safe and where to meet to re-unite. This initiative reduces the time to re-unite child and parent down to minutes.

In the nine years over 55,000 children have participated in the program. Kidz ID is also part of the V8 Supercars Safety Plan for Townsville.

Brinsmead

Helping Neighbours

Brinsmead Neighbourhood Watch revisited the NHW roots of helping neighbours by assisting the Bears Baseball Club after their clubhouse was destroyed by fire.

Brinsmead NHW, local businesses and the community rallied together to raise funds for the club by hosting a movie night in conjunction with Council. It was hailed as the biggest movie night ever with over 500 people present. The night was so popular they sold out of sausages 3 times!

A cheque of $961 was formally presented to the baseball club in December 2014.
Crestmead

Road Safety Expo

Crestmead Neighbourhood Watch was the lead organiser for the second Road Safety Expo in the Logan area. The event was held in October 2014 supported by the Queensland Police Service, Safe Roads 4 Logan, and local businesses. Acting Chief Superintendent Noel Powers opened the event with an estimated 3000-5000 attendees over the day. Attendees were able to ask plenty of questions around road rules, crossings, speed limits, school zones, cycle safety distances, traffic lights and more!

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services demonstrated cutting up a crash vehicle. Other displays included Australian Trucking Association, Kidsafe, Crime Stoppers, PCYC, Cycling Queensland, Rotary, Logan City Council, SES, Logan Village Rural Fire Brigade. Among the serious stuff there was kids safety activities plus a jumping castle and face painting!

There is interest in the events future with organisations and individuals confirming their support.
Pine Rivers
Crime Prevention Collaboration

The biggest success from Pine Rivers in 2015 has been the networking and teamwork across all Crime Prevention Groups in the District; Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Stoppers, PCYC, and domestic violence. This is a direct result of the hard work, communication and drive of the District Crime Prevention Coordinator, Acting Sergeant Sharnelle Harris.

Sharnelle has driven the NHWQ blog and sign ups through her many promotions and email updates. She has coordinated meetings where all of the NHW Groups can meet, network and hear the updates from the OIC’s in the District helping to put faces to names and make contact in person.

Also organising numerous one-way screw events and shopping centre promotions in our district where members from different groups have worked together. She has shared the events from different areas and groups to encourage our participation in them and also sharing the ideas so that we may reap inspiration from them in our own groups.

An effective communicator, she provides timely advice and information to the groups which brings consistency and teamwork to this District.

Strathpine
Neighbour Day 2015

The Strathpine Neighbourhood Watch Neighbour Day event in March 2015 was a great success. The Watch covers 500 houses in Strathpine which centre around Douglas Park. The aim of the event is then focused on bringing our neighbours together at this park to connect.

This year there was a Carboot Sale (for locals only) to sell their goods - secondhand, handmade and fresh produce. It was free for stall holders to book a site and everything they made on the day was theirs. The locals loved it as it was a great morning out for all ages - free Jumping Castle, BBQ brekky and sausage sizzle and coffee. Everyone was within walking distance or bring their car down to get their free one-way number plates. Celebrity Chefs included a local Councillor and the State MP; who sold out of the delicious Bacon and Egg Burgers!!
Murgon
Police Collaboration

Murgon Neighbourhood Watch commenced in Murgon in March 1998. The success of the Murgon Neighbourhood Watch is mainly due to various members of the local police who over the years have been very helpful and have attended our meetings presenting a police report each meeting. Senior Sergeant Steve McReight and Senior Sergeant Lance Guteridge kept the group going and kept confidence up when we lost members and low meeting numbers.

During this time the volunteers have been involved in various promotional displays including the local show, town markets, library and stories in the local newspaper. Members have also attended various Neighbourhood Watch conferences both district and state level.

Today average attendance is about 20 usually who come to bi-monthly meetings to find out about safety and security which can then be passed on to the public. Members of Murgon NHW realise that by working together as a community that the outcomes benefit all. Through assisting Police, the community can hopefully live in a ‘safe and crime free’ environment. Murgon NHW has received great assistance from Senior Constable Anne Johnston from the Dalby Police Station.

CONGRATULATIONS to all active Neighbourhood Watch groups across Queensland who have implemented projects, initiatives and events over the past year!