

Neighbourhood Support Community Newsletter



ISSUE 59

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

APRIL 2018

Kia ora koutou katoa... Greetings to you all

I do hope you have enjoyed a safe and restful Easter and are starting to get ready for the inevitable changes in weather that are not far away.

Talking about change.....

On a personal note I want to let you know that I am about to retire from the full-time position of Neighbourhood Support Coordinator with Hastings District Council, so this will be my last message as such.

That said, I'm most pleased to announce that John Roberts (known as JR) will be taking over this role from 23 April. I have included a brief introduction of JR below. He is an outstanding guy with heaps of experience and competence. I know he will be a great asset both to Neighbourhood Support (as a much needed community initiative) and to you as individuals who are committed to the vision and values NS represents.

I do want to commend him to you with every confidence in his capacities and ability to take NS to a higher level of contributing to community safety, cohesion and collective effectiveness. I know you will find his relationship with you to be warm, considerate and effective.

I will be continuing with the HDC for a day a week until the end of this year at least (amongst some other activities). I am delighted that over this period, I will be able to assist JR in becoming familiar with the role of NS Coordinator.

Finally I want to say a very sincere "thank you" to those who selflessly give time and attention to the important role of looking after a NS street group as well as those group members who, along with their Street Contact person are continuing to faithfully be Watchful, Caring and Resilient. None of the commitments you make are without impact....collectively they are a critical ingredient to the 'whole-of-community' culture Hastings District Council is very keen to foster across the District.

Many thanks to you each...the best is yet to come.

Warmest best wishes

John

IN THIS ISSUE...

NEW

Hastings District
Councils Community
Resilience
Co-ordinator

Keep warm & safe
this winter

Crime-Related
phone numbers



Safer Communities Together



Hi there! My name is John Roberts (or JR to some) and I will be replacing John Dawson as the Hastings District Councils Community Resilience Co-ordinator, from Monday the 23rd of April.

I am currently working as the Youth Connector with the Hastings District Council and have been employed here since January 2017.

Prior to my current position at HDC, I was employed with The Department of Corrections for nearly 20 years in various roles. I started as a Corrections officer in 1997 and worked my way up the ranks to Senior Corrections Officer, Acting Principal Corrections Officer and then finishing my career at DOC as the Community Employment and Education Officer.

One of my motives for applying for the Community Resilience Co-ordinator role was the interest I have in grass roots community engagement and improving safety and security processes to support a healthier and safer environment for us all to live in.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all in the near future.

John Roberts / JR



DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE 4 COMMUNITY PATROL NZ GROUPS OPERATING IN THE HASTINGS DISTRICT?

They are: Hastings Central, Havelock North, Flaxmere and Clive.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help, please contact Richard Sanko for further information on 0277700074 or email him at rpsanko1@gmail.com



HOW TO KEEP WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER



Around this time of the year the NZ Fire Service would remind us that there are more preventable fires in the colder winter months than any other time of year.

Sadly we know how many of these are preventable. Don't let the warmer weather cause you to be complacent; prepare for those colder months now with the following simple steps to being fire-safe this winter:

1

PREPARE YOUR CHIMNEY



- Swept chimneys are safe chimneys – fires make for warm, cosy homes but make sure your fireplace is safe to use.
- Sweep your chimney before you first use it – chimney fires are a common cause of fire in winter.
- When you are cleaning the fireplace, ashes from fires may look fine to throw out, but they can start a fire up to five days later. Put ashes into a metal bin and pour water over them before disposal.
- Check with the HB Regional Council to see if your fire place is compliant, if not, you may be at risk of not being able to claim insurance should a fire occur in your home.

2

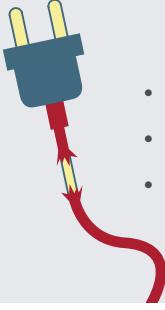
KEEP A METRE FROM THE HEATER

- Keep everything a metre from the heater - always keep furniture, curtains, clothes and children at least one metre away from heaters and fireplaces. It may be tempting to dry or warm up your clothes close to the heater but you are putting your home at risk.



3

CHECK YOUR APPLIANCES



- Cold beds are hard to hop into but be careful when using electric blankets. At the first sign of wear have your electric blanket checked by a qualified electrician and replace them every five years with safer heat-protected models.
- If you are using a portable LPG heater, check the hose has no signs of damage.
- Don't overload clothes dryers and clean the lint filter after each load cycle.
- In winter we use a lot more appliances but be sure not to overload power points which, in itself, can cause a fire. Use multi-boxes with circuit breakers instead.



DID YOU KNOW? In 80% of fires attended by the NZ Fire service, smoke alarms have either not been fitted or are not working. Check yours now!! If you or someone you know is elderly, disabled or has a community services card, you may qualify for a free home fire safety check. You may even qualify to have a free long-life, photoelectric alarm installed. Call 0800 693 473 to see if you are eligible.

HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS...

- What you do as a NS Street Contact person or NS Group member is very important. Please don't underestimate your worth and significance.
- Keeping connected, informed and up-to-date with what matters in your street is an essential ingredient of good NS networking.
- Everybody matters!! Yes...everybody!!
- Your willingness to 'support' can and will enhance the safety, protection and well-being of others in your street.
- Be quick to connect with new people moving into the street.
- Keep the street lists up to date, we can and will help you do that.
- Ask if you need help with any aspect of the NS group of which you are a part.
- Always keep in mind the three-fold focus of an effective NS group:

- 1 Crime prevention and deterrence
- 2 Neighbourliness and caring support
- 3 Resilience in times of civil emergency

**LET'S MAKE HASTINGS DISTRICT THE
BEST AND SAFEST PLACE TO LIVE IN NZ!!**

For more information, please contact:

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Visit us on the web at:
www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/community-safety



DON'T FORGET THE FIVE CRIME-RELATED NUMBERS YOU CAN CALL:

- If it's happening right now or has just happened or you or someone else is at risk? - then its Urgent!
CALL: 111
- If it's not urgent but it needs reporting? - call the Crime Reporting Line!
CALL: 06 831 0700
- If you want to remain anonymous? - call Crimestoppers!
CALL: 0800 555 111
- Reporting historic crime is always worthwhile -
CALL: 06 8730500
- If you have noticed or been a victim of some Traffic Offending?
CALL: *555

**Keep up the good work everyone
and together we will make Hastings
AS SAFE AS HOUSES!**



Safer Communities Together