

Neighbourhood Support Community Newsletter

ISSUE 60

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

AUGUST 2018



Kia ora koutou katoa... Greetings to you all

Firstly, thank you to all those people who have welcomed me into the new role with open arms, it is appreciated.

As you can expect when commencing a new role, there have been a number of new learnings and experiences that I have had to take on board. Responding to the needs of our residents has been very rewarding. I have met with a number of very passionate and focused residents who have done and are doing amazing work in their communities.

I have also noticed in my short amount of time how Neighbourhood Support is contributing to generating stronger, connected and more comprehensive neighbourhoods in our local communities. Having visited some of our elderly residents recently, I am more than happy to report back that they are undertaking some simple but excellent security measures keeping themselves safe. Regular check-ins or phone calls to each other ensuring that they are ok are a common feature that occurs weekly. There is also the community morning tea and coffee get together happening weekly that's keeping everyone informed and updated of any curious or suspicious activity in their community.

Warmest best wishes

John Roberts (JR) - Community Resilience Connector

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WHO BURGLERS A HOUSE AND WHY?



An understanding of how a burglar thinks and operates could help you take the necessary steps to prevent your home from being targeted.

To help protect your property and possessions from the risk of burglary, New Zealand Police and Neighbourhood Support New Zealand have developed the following information about who burgles a house and why.

Who am I?

- I can be male or female and I take advantage of easy targets or tempting opportunities
- I burgle houses day and night - especially when I can see no one's home or the risk of being seen or caught is low
- I may operate alone or with other people
- I may be on foot or could use a vehicle to check out your neighbourhood
- I often burgle one or more nearby houses in the neighbourhood
- I generally don't stray too far from my home. I like familiar territory
- I won't burgle too close to home in case someone recognises me
- I may look out of place in your neighbourhood, but few people take note of my car licence plate or ring the Police to report suspicious activity.

Why do I pick your place?

- I like houses where it looks like no one's home - lights aren't on at night, curtains may be closed during the day, or mail and newspapers have been left to accumulate in the letterbox
- I like houses where a window or door is left open or unsecured
- I like houses where people can't see what I'm doing from the street, where trees and shrubs may block the view
- I like houses that have alleyways running beside them or back onto parks, reserves or green belts
- I like houses where items of value are left outside overnight, like a bike
- I like houses where the garage door is open, I can see your car isn't there and there's something valuable inside, like a lawnmower
- I like houses I've been to before. I know the layout, what's in them and how to get out.
- If I've burgled a house once, it's likely I'll try it again when valuable items have been replaced.

How do I operate?

- I'm usually looking for cash or small, valuable items I can quickly convert into cash such as jewellery, electronic and portable digital equipment
- Often I'm stealing to order and may have a car nearby to help with my 'get away'
- I usually sell stolen property to people who like to buy things cheaply without asking questions
- I may go onto a property and knock on the door to see if anyone is home
- If someone is home, I normally make up an excuse for being there. For example, "I'm looking for my dog, or a nearby street, or is so and so in?"
- I may try to make you leave me on my own at your open front door by making a request such as to use a phone book you go and get
- I try to get in and out of your home as quickly and quietly as possible
- Sometimes I hide your property nearby and come and get it later.

What don't I like?

- Houses with alarms
- Houses with security lighting
- Neighbours who support each other, talk to each other and take an interest in what's going on around them, particularly people they don't know or haven't seen before
- Neighbours who report suspicious activity to Police and are able to give good descriptions of who and what they've seen
- Dogs or guard dog signs on fences and gates
- Houses with good locks on doors, windows and other entry points
- A vehicle in the driveway
- Lights on or TV or radio left on
- People who take the time to mark valuable property with identification details and keep a written description or photographic record in a safe place for future reference.



REDUCING THE BURGLAR'S OPPORTUNITIES



Knowing how a burglar thinks and operates is good background information to help put things in place to prevent you or someone you know becoming a burglary victim.

The following information outlines some practical and simple steps to reduce the risk of being burgled:

- Set up or join a Neighbourhood Support Group in your area and advertise the fact by displaying Neighbourhood Support signs and stickers.
- Make sure doors, windows and other entry and exit points from your house have good quality, effective catches and locks - deadlocks if possible. Get into the habit of always using these locks
- Always lock doors and windows at night, if you're out in the garden or going out or away. Don't leave a door key hidden outside - burglars know all the places to look
- Keep garden sheds and garages secure and lock away tools and ladders
- Have an alarm system professionally installed and consider having it monitored by a reputable security company
- Install sensor lights on access paths or around main external doors
- Install a 'peep-hole' in a front door so you know who's visiting you
- Ask unannounced visitors who they are and what they want. If you're not satisfied with their answer, don't open the door to them
- Trim trees or remove shrubbery which might 'hide' a burglar's activity
- Get to know your neighbours and develop plans to deal with problems or suspicious activity. Exchanging phone numbers or emergency contact details is a good start
- If you're going away, neighbours can collect your mail or newspaper and make your place look occupied, for example by turning on lights, parking a vehicle in your driveway, hanging washing on your line or mowing lawns
- Mark valuable property with serial numbers and keep a record of these numbers
- Consider placing "Beware of Dog" signs on gates or fences
- If you have an answer phone, don't record a message that suggests you're out or alone
- Police are always interested in suspicious activity. Don't hesitate to call Police to report something out of the ordinary and, if you see a crime being committed...

DIAL 111

Above all, remember burglars like easy, tempting opportunities.

DON'T overlook the obvious and **DO** all you can to reduce the risk of being burgled.

If you, or someone you know has been burgled, it is best to take immediate action to improve the security of your home and reduce the risk of being burgled again.

If you do see someone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood ask yourself the following questions:

- Have I seen this person in the neighbourhood before? (If you live in a cul-de-sac or a more rural location a non-local will be immediately obvious)
- Does s/he look comfortable doing what they're doing?
- Is there a sense of purpose to the person's activity? Do they look like they're going somewhere? Are they hesitant or even loitering?
- What does the person appear to be looking at and why?
- How did the person come to be in the area? Is there a car nearby, and if s/he is some distance from it, why? What's the car registration number?



Answering these questions and even taking notes about the person's appearance, clothes, height or other distinguishing features can go a long way toward identifying a crime suspect and making your neighbourhood a safer place to live.

Safer Communities Together



OUT ON THE STREETS!



To date we have completed Street by Street events in the following areas, resulting in two new Neighbourhood Support Groups:

- **Birkenhead Crescent, Flaxmere**
- **Sussex Street, Mayfair**
- **Bledisloe Street, Raureka**
- **Chatham Road/Stanley Streets, Flaxmere.**

Ongoing support and work is being provided for the two other streets to form their respective groups.

Of the more interesting requests I deal with are the phone calls from concerned residents relating to children riding scooters on the footpaths, missing dogs, missing or damaged property, boy racers, music being played too loud, graffiti, dogs on leashes in parks, dogs not on leashes in parks, school children kicking fences upsetting pets,



Street by Street Sausage Sizzle, Birkenhead Crescent Flaxmere.



Street by Street Sausage Sizzle, Sussex Street Hastings.

through to my most unusual request so far....providing a group of disgruntled residents with sausages for a street party!

With the warmer months approaching it is the ideal time for me to look at meeting with those interested, to discuss any queries or requests you may have, so please feel free to contact me at any time.

I am also very keen to hear what you would like to see more of in these newsletters. So if you have any thoughts or ideas, I would be happy to discuss either on the phone, by email or face to face.

In the meantime, "Let's be careful out there!"

John Roberts (JR) - Community Resilience Connector

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Visit us on the web at:

www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/community-safety



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



**HAWKE'S BAY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

GROUP

Safer Communities Together

