



COUNTIES MANUKAU POLICE DISTRICT PREVENTION 101

28 March 2014

Neighbours Day Aotearoa – 29-30 March 2014

Many people are aware that they don't know their neighbours, but are unsure what to do about it. Neighbours Day is an annual nationwide campaign designed to honour the diverse and rich cultural heritage we have here in New Zealand. It aims to get all Kiwis to go one step further in getting to know their neighbours on one weekend of the year. The campaign is all about turning streets into neighbourhoods and strangers into friends.

From a Police perspective, it's very important that you get to know your neighbours and take the opportunity to connect with the people that live around you. When you're on holiday, a neighbour can keep an eye on your property and alert you or Police if they notice anything amiss. If you know who your neighbours are and who is normally in your street, you will also notice when you see someone or something that isn't normally there. This could be key information that we need to prevent or solve a burglary.

Take a look at neighboursday.org.nz for more information on the campaign. Many of our Neighbourhood Policing Teams are also taking part with community days in their areas. We hope you can take part.

Suspicious Activity – call 111

As you know, we want to prevent crime before it happens. That's why information that you have is particularly useful for us. If you see something in your neighbourhood that you consider to be out of the ordinary, please let us know as soon as possible by calling 111. This could include someone looking into car windows or a person loitering in the street who you think doesn't have any reason to be there. In many cases when we receive information like this it can prevent a burglary or the theft of a car.

Burglary Prevention

At risk of sounding like a broken record, I'd like to remind you again to ensure your home is secure to help prevent burglary. We are continually getting reports of burglary where doors or windows have been left unlocked overnight, while the house is empty or while occupants are in another part of the house (upstairs or out the back). This includes sheds and sleepouts – please don't neglect to lock all buildings on your property. Many burglars are opportunist criminals, meaning they will take the chance to enter a property when they believe it will be easy to get in.

We also advise you to ensure your valuables are recorded on SNAP – Serial Number Asset Partnership – which allows us to match stolen items with their rightful owners when they have been recovered. I'll tell you about a recent example in East Tamaki that demonstrates

why SNAP is such a useful tool. A vehicle was stopped after being identified as suspicious by someone in the neighbourhood – a Neighbourhood Support Group member. In the car we found a laptop and flatscreen TV which the driver claimed to belong to someone he knew. We were able to contact the real owner through a Neighbourhood Support Group database and return her valuables to her immediately because she had registered them on SNAP and taken photos of them and their serial numbers. This is a great initiative – please get involved as soon as you can.

Red Lights

The first week of April marks the start of a campaign with Auckland Transport focusing on dangerous intersections and red lights. The 100 most dangerous intersections (based on crashes and fatalities) in the country have been identified by NZTA and topping this list is the intersection of Glenbrook and Kingseat Roads here in Counties Manukau, at which 50 lives have been claimed in the past 10 years. There are also three other intersections in this District within the top 20. We'll be working hard with Auckland Transport and the other Auckland Police Districts this month to educate at intersections that are recognised as dangerous, and also enforcing with infringement notices for failing to adhere to red traffic signals.

Intersections can be deadly and we want you to stay safe on the road. Please remember the most simple of road rules – red means stop. Don't put your or anyone else's life at risk by making the dangerous decision to run a red light. Keep an eye out for us on the road during April.

Synthetic Cannabis

There's been a lot of talk in the media recently about synthetic cannabis and other legal high products that are available from licenced retailers. These products are currently available at a small number of stores throughout Counties Manukau District, and we are ensuring all are monitored for issues, particularly selling to minors or related disorderly activity. Some stores have been targeted in robberies or burglaries and we urge you to let us know if you see any legal high products for sale outside of a licenced retailer. If you're going to purchase synthetic cannabis or other legal highs, we'd like to remind you to ensure they are legal, regulated products from a store that has a licence to sell them. This is for your own health and safety.

It's important to note that knowingly receiving stolen goods is a crime. It is also a crime for a young person to be in possession of, buy or be sold these products. If stolen products are being sold on the street, online or at a market, there is a high chance that they will be sold to young people under the age of 18. If you know anything about synthetic cannabis being sold on the street, or about any stolen goods that are for sale, please let us know as soon as you can by calling your local Police station or Crimestoppers.

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 should 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.

If you have any feedback for me about crime in your area or working together please send me an email on john.tims@police.govt.nz

Remember 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 Counties Manukau is a safe place to live, work and visit.

Ngā mihi

Superintendent John W. Tims
District Commander
COUNTIES MANUKAU POLICE

**Manukau Police Station: Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 42 Manukau Station Road, Manukau.
Phone 09 261 1300**

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 111



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