



## **Community Policing Services Report**

### **NHWT AGM - 21 November 2020**

What a year we have had.

Mr Edwards, as the NHWT President, has done a fabulous job of keeping in touch with all groups, and their communities. His newsletters have been a valuable source of information for Watch's and their members.

For Tasmania Police it has been a very interesting and challenging year and our officers have responded in a professional manner with compassion, although somewhat overwhelmed with information and confused on occasions with the fluidity of the changes.

During the height of the pandemic all Community Policing Officers were redeployed to assist with COVID compliance. During this time most community events and engagements were either cancelled, postponed or were moved online.

All District officers were involved with the Bunnings campaign and were involved with the numerous Cuppa with a Cop's that were held across the state prior to the pandemic taking hold.

With the lifting of some restrictions, and officers returning to their substantive positions they have been busy reengaging with the community. Officers have attended various community groups such as Probus, Rotary, schools etc, providing information sessions.

Think U Know (TUK) (AFP Cyber Safety program), despite being closed/shut down during the COVID outbreak in March, the requests for TUK presentations in schools has virtually doubled. This spike has resulted from the intensive use of electronic devices since the COVID outbreak and has led to many secondary requests for follow up visits for individual students in the company of their parents.

Rotary Young Driver Awareness (RYDA) Program, which is held every year across the state for year 10 students was able to proceed with COVID related restrictions. This program requires an intensive commitment from our Community Policing Officers presenting on road safety on consecutive days for a number of weeks.

Across the state there have been celebrations, gatherings and events, all complying with COVID restrictions.

For Southern Tasmania Neighbourhood Watch grew, with three new groups – Southern Beaches (Sorell area), Margate area, and Geeveston. Officers provide ongoing support with the preparation of Crime Reports for all watches.

In the North they celebrated a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, happy birthday Betty Wright from Ravenswood NHW. Also there was a presentation of a NHWT certificate to Peter and Pirjo from Elphin Continental Cakes who have supported northern NHW's for 30yrs by donating delicious treats for meetings, both local and state.

In the Western District Cam/Somerset NHW celebrated 25yrs which was well attended by members and local Officers including Commander Debbie Williams.

Who knows what the coming year holds for the State, however, it is important to stay informed and engaged with your community, watching out for your neighbours and report to police if you have any concerns.

000	Emergencies
131 444	Police assistance (non emergencies)
1800 333 000	Crime Stoppers (information relating to crime)

**Constable Marita Osborn**

**State Community Policing Services**

(Individual District Reports are shown on the following pages)

## **Southern District Community Policing Report**

### **NHWT AGM 2020**

As you are aware – the role of community policing is part of the Youth Crime Intervention Unit – so duties are split between early intervention and community policing.

This year has seen,

- Neighbourhood Watch grew – with three new groups – Southern Beaches (Sorell area), Margate area, and Geeveston. There is also the ongoing support with the preparation of Crime Reports.
- Think U Know (TUK) – This forms a huge part of the Community Policing work load. Despite TUK being closed/shut down since the COVID outbreak in March – The requests for TUK presentations has virtually doubled. This spike has resulted from the intensive use of electronic devices since the COVID outbreak and has led to many secondary requests for follow up visits for individual students in the company of their parents.
- Rotary Young Driver Awareness (RYDA) Program – This program takes an entire month out of the year and is an intensive commitment for the Community Policing Officer.
- Cuppa with a Cop – This program, coordinated by NHW was successfully held in all three Bunnings Stores this year. As the Community Policing Officer, I attended each event, which was supported by local police as well as myself.
- Community Engagement – As part of ongoing duties, I meet regularly with Rotary Groups, PROBUS Groups and Scout groups across the Southern District.

Finally, with the outbreak of COVID-19 – I performed a three month secondment out of this office.

**Simon Jones**

**Senior Constable 1833**

## Northern District Community Policing Report

### NHWT AGM 2020

In the last 12 months Northern NHW groups have continued to be involved in a variety of community activities. President of NHW Tasmania Peter Edwards, also the Tasmanian Representative on the NHWA board kept groups up to date on national activities and introduced many interesting ideas and opportunities for groups to engage within the community and enhance connectedness.

NHW partnered with Bunnings last November holding stalls and *Cuppa with a Cop* events at Bunnings North and Bunnings Kings Meadows. It was great to see many of the watches, including Newnham, Riverside, George Town and Southern Launceston Community Development groups working together at these events. Thank you to Malcolm Cash for taking the lead in organising the Bunnings North events and Andrew Doyle from SLCD for rallying the troops for the Kings Meadows events.

Smaller *Cuppa with a Cop* events were held also providing further opportunity for community members to have a positive conversation with police in an informal setting.

In late 2019 the Ravenswood NHW celebrated a very special birthday of one of their founding members, Betty Wright who turned 90. Betty has been instrumental in keeping locals abreast of happenings in their area and has in fact, remained the secretary since the group's inception 23 years ago. A surprise birthday party was held in Betty's honour.

Recently several NHW groups successfully accessed grants, via NHWA to be involved in National *Get Online* week assisting Australians keep connected online, which has become very important this year with many feeling isolated due to the pandemic.

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Southern Launceston Community Development Get online week event held at the YMCA recently. It was great to see community members taking up the opportunity to get face to face assistance with their mobile phones and computers and learn what services they can access from their devices. Mowbray NHW also held a wonderful event at the Mowbray Community Centre which was very well attended and was a lot of fun.

Peter and Pirjo Elliot from Elphin Continental Cakes have supported NHWT by donating delicious treats for meetings for local NHW groups, District and State group meetings for almost 30 years. The business closed recently after 35 years with the owners having worked a six and a half day week throughout this time. We presented Peter with a certificate from NHWT in June, thanking them for going above and beyond for their community. They deserve a well-earned rest and are looking forward to spending quality time with their family.

As we all know 2020 has been a challenging year with the pandemic affecting individuals and businesses across Tasmania, Australia and in fact, the world. I would particularly like to thank Peter Edwards for becoming the sole NHWT liaison person during this period. Community Policing and other areas were redeployed to the Road and Public Order Section (AKA COVID Compliance Unit) for six months, and without Peter's regular updates and availing himself to support groups and individuals, members may otherwise have felt neglected during this period.

Community Policing has now returned to normal duties so it has been wonderful to get back into schools and visit liaise directly with community members and groups. Cyber Safety programs have resumed in schools and the state-wide Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program for grade 10 students, was able to go ahead with restrictions lifting in time.

Many thanks to everyone for your patience and resilience during what has been an interesting year.

**Annabel Shegog**

**Senior Constable 1651**

## **Western District Community Policing Report**

### **NHWT AGM 2020**

Cuppa with a cop events held at Bunnings Burnie and Devonport where Bunnings donated free coffee vouchers to members of the public during Neighbourhood Week (I think?)

Cuppa with a cop held at Crowded Lounge Coffee shop for Latrobe NHW. This was a huge success with Peter Edwards attending as well as local officers from Latrobe and Devonport.

Bunnings BBQ held at Bunnings Burnie for Neighbourhood house week. Members from Latrobe, Cam/Somerset and Central Wynyard ran a joint BBQ to raise funds for their respective groups. Bunnings donated a safe for a raffle which was won by a Bunnings Customer. This was supported by Community Policing and EIYAU police from Burnie. Great day had by all and over \$1000 in funds raised.

Cam/Somerset NHW celebrated 25 years of NHW. A celebration evening was held at the Pink Pepper Cafe in Somerset. There were many past and present watch members to celebrate the evening. The local police Commander Debbie Williams was in attendance to thank the group for their contribution to the community along with officers from Community Policing in Burnie.

Community policing continued to grow over the last twelve months with presentations for Think U Know, RYDA, as well as scam, safety and road rules presentations to a number of community groups in the Western District.

Several visits were made to schools and community groups such as Probus, Rotary, Social Clubs and scout groups.

Due to COVID a number of resources from our section was redeployed. Community policing took a back seat until restrictions lifted and police were able to engage with the community again.

**Annabel Shegog**

**Senior Constable 1651**