



# CAIRNS DISTRICT NHWQ NEWSLETTER



December 10, 2009

Volume 4/2009

## AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT THIS CHRISTMAS



- When shopping, make sure presents left in the car are out of sight. If possible, put them in the boot.
- Look from the outside into your house, are presents easily seen under the Christmas tree?
- Lock It or Lose it
- Have valuable presents like bicycles and electrical items engraved or micro-dotted.
- Heading away? Leave your house looking lived in, have your lawn mowed, ask a neighbour to remove mail, cancel all deliveries and turn your phone down.
- If you are away for more than 7 days contact your local police station for a Home Holiday Safety registration form.
- Look out for your neighbours.

## DISTRICT DIARY

Merry Christmas

The end of the year is upon us already. This will be the final District Newsletter for the year; the next newsletter will make its way out in March 2010.

### What to look forward to in this edition:

- NHW Area news and events
- Solar powered house numbers
- Beware- ATM card skimming
- photos from the October NHW awards ceremony
- microdot update
- a report back from our two representatives from the state rally
- holiday safety information
- Christmas safety information

So far I have had the opportunity to attend Mt Sheridan, Edge Hill, Trinity Park, Freshwater and Whiterock NHW meetings. I must say that even though the level of support from the community for NHW groups is varied in terms of membership, I am impressed with the enthusiasm and hard work put in by the current members.

It is fantastic to see and hear about fundraising and projects undertaken by NHW groups and the pride that is taken by members in addressing a wide range of issues to make their community a better and safe one in which to live.

*From our office:* Cary Coolican has now headed off on leave to await the arrival of child number four and Russell Parker has now stepped into the role of Acting Sergeant.

On behalf of the Cairns District Crime Prevention Office, we thank you all for your commitment to making your community a safe one and wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas.

*Heidi Marek*





## NEW POOL FENCING LAWS

Stage one of the new laws took effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Pool owners must now display a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) sign that reflects the current CPR method adopted by the Australian Resuscitation Council.

For further information on temporary pool fences, general inquiries or to obtain a free CPR sign, click below.

<http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/poolsafety>

Penalties of up to \$16,500 and on the spot fines of up to \$700 can be imposed on pool owners if their pool fence does not comply with the law.

The Cairns Crime Bulletin is a fortnightly electronic publication filled with wanted suspects, crime prevention information safety tips and information about current crime trends.

Want to be added to the fortnightly distribution list for the electronic Cairns Crime Bulletin?



Email your request to:

[CairnsCrimeWatch@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:CairnsCrimeWatch@police.qld.gov.au)

# Area News

## TRINITY PARK:

16<sup>th</sup> Dec Xmas party for members and sponsors

10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010- Sausage Sizzle Smithfield Bunning's to raise funds for a bus shelter

**News:** NHW volunteers attended Steve Wettenhall's office to assist in wrapping Christmas puddings for the Senior's. Trinity Park are in the process of organising a CPR (Resuscitation) night, a chef to attend to show the group how to make some appetizers and a car mechanical basic's night for 2010.

## FRESHWATER:

Has secured a newly appointed Secretary and Treasurer. There was a keen response from existing members at the last meeting to keep NHW Freshwater running. Hopefully some new membership can be recruited in the new year.

**Next Meeting** Tuesday March the 9<sup>th</sup> 2010, 7.30pm Freshwater State School.

## EDGEHILL:

Edge Hill had some sad news with the passing of one of their loyal members, Betty Plath. Betty was a faithful supporter of NHW and will be sadly missed.

**Next Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March 2010



## TRINITY BEACH:

**Next Meeting:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010, this will be an AGM meeting and all positions will be open for nomination.

## EDMONTON:

14<sup>th</sup> December Xmas party

**News:** Edmonton NHW are continuing to address community issues concerning, trail bike problems, illegally parked vehicles and public housing issues.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

## WHITEROCK:

14<sup>th</sup> December Xmas party

**News:** Whiterock NHW are continuing to address issues concerning local drains and getting them cleaned prior to the wet season, wildlife issues and preparations for holiday's with regard to home and school security.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 at 6pm

## MOOROBOOL:

**News:** Continuing to address issues concerning local drains, fluoride, personal safety when walking, solar powered house numbering and guest speaker Boris Pointing will be attending a future meeting to speak on "Carbon Footprints".

**Next Meeting:** March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010

## CANOPY'S EDGE:

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December Xmas party





## Cyclone season information

CLICK ABOVE ICON FOR LOCAL INFORMATION



### CYCLONE EMERGENCY KIT

- Pack a fully functional **FIRST AID KIT**
- Do a **First Aid and CPR course**
- Purchase **tinned food and supplies for family and pets**
- Collect **drinking water for family & pets**
- Compile **emergency phone**
- **Batteries, radio, torches & tarpaulins**

### CYCLONE TRACKING UPDATES



Click icon above for cyclone movements

## STOP & THINK

### "LOCK IT OR LOSE IT"

Vehicles continue to be targets for opportunistic thieves. Remove valuables from sight and secure your car.



**Make it hard for criminals!** <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/pool>

## SOLAR POWERED HOUSE NUMBERS



A constant headache for Police, Ambulance and other emergency services is the lack or poor visibility of house numbers, especially at night time. Precious seconds and often minutes can be saved with the presence of visible and easy to read house numbers.

**DS Numbers Pty. Ltd** has provided a special offer to Neighbourhood Watch groups who order a minimum of 20 house numbers. At a special cost of \$35 each, delivery will be included and **\$5 per item will be donated back to the NHW area placing the order.**

The units are easily attached to any surface and can be removed if you move house. The unit comes with three sets of numbers from 0-9. They re-charge under ambient light and sunlight and one day of charge provides up to 120 hours of usage. For more information visit the DS Numbers website [www.dsnumbers.com.au](http://www.dsnumbers.com.au)

Pre-payment is required and orders must be at a minimum of 20 to receive the special price of \$35. Please access the website if you wish to place any orders.



Mooroobool NHW has recently acquired stock of these solar powered house numbers, please contact area coordinator Thelma Spelta for further information.

[thelmaspelta@bigpond.com](mailto:thelmaspelta@bigpond.com)

### **BEWARE- ATM SKIMMING**

*Detective Superintendent Brian Hay of the Fraud and Corporate Crime Group warns that while protecting your personal details is important at any time of year, the festive season is a popular time for fraudsters.*

Following a recent increase in card skimmers located on automatic teller machines (ATM) in the south east region, police are encouraging the public to remain vigilant this festive season. Skimmers have been fitted to ATMs in Capalaba, Brisbane and on the Sunshine Coast during the past month.



Commonly found fixed to the outside of an ATM, skimmers are electronic devices used to "skim" the owner's details off the back of the card. The reader takes the details as the card passes through the slot and can be accompanied by a camera mounted on the machine or a fake keypad fixed to the machine to obtain the person's pin.

"While ATM skimmers are on the increase once again, the public should always be careful when handing over their cards. We often see personal details stolen by offenders using simple card readers. It only takes a second for an offender to swipe a card through the reader which can be hidden under a desk or out of sight. When these devices are connected to a secondary device such as a phone or laptop, they can do as much damage as a skimmer," Detective Superintendent Hay said.

### **WARNING**

"When using an ATM, take a moment to look at the machine before you put your card or PIN in. Look for anything that doesn't look right, this includes any loose-fitting devices or equipment that appears to have been placed over the top of the existing keypad or card slot. Take the time to cover your hand as you enter your pin number and never let your card out of your sight," he said.

## CRIME STOPPERS

You can remain anonymous!

CALL **1800 333 000**

[www.gld.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.gld.crimestoppers.com.au)



## INFORMATION FROM STATE OFFICE

- New NHW documents have been completed and will shortly be sent out to regional areas. These include; welcome to NHWQ, Volunteer Guide, Policing Guide and District Support plan template
- The current NHWQ Internet/Intranet sites are being updated; links and NHWQ documents are now live.
- Metro South will be hosting the 2010 State Conference
- The new NHWQ Website (external to the QPS) is currently being developed with an expected launch in February 2010.
- An additional new minor Sponsor is to be announced in Feb 2010.
- An interim NHWQ Community President is to be selected and announce Feb 2010.
- NHWQ fact sheet currently being completed and will be available in Feb 2010.
- NHWQ Community Board Policy/Procedures being developed, to be discussed at 2010 Forums and it is anticipated to have these established by 2010 NHWQ State Conference.



Come and Support

Trinity Park NHW

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**



10<sup>TH</sup> January 2010

**SMITHFIELD BUNNINGS**



To raise funds for a much needed covered bus seat at Trinity Park.



## HOLIDAY SAFETY CHECKLIST



HAVE YOU	YES	NO
• Locked all windows with a key operated lock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Locked all external doors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Advised police if away longer than 7 days. Obtain a Holiday Home Safe Registration form by emailing <a href="mailto:DCPCCairns@police.qld.gov.au">DCPCCairns@police.qld.gov.au</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Locked away all tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Cancelled milk and papers deliveries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Cancelled or redirected mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Asked neighbour or friend to collect junk mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Disconnected electrical supply on electric garage doors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Locked valuables in a safe or bank safety deposit box	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Left some clothing on the clothes line	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Asked a trusted friend to park a car in your driveway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Arranged for a friend or neighbour to mow your law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Automatic timing devices switching lights on and off	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Turned down the volume on your telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Left the house looking like it was lived in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**CAIRNS BLOOD DONOR CENTRE**  
(on the Esplanade, just north of the  
Cairns Base Hospital)

**Open on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January from 08:00  
- 12:00.**

Do something special. Give blood.  
Call **13 14 95** or visit [donateblood.com.au](http://donateblood.com.au)



## Cairns Community Legal Centre Inc.

### SENIORS LEGAL AND SUPPORT SERVICE:

#### FOR SENIORS EXPERIENCING ELDER ABUSE OR FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

This organisation provides free legal advice and support to seniors who are at risk of and/or experiencing elder abuse or financial exploitation.

- TELEPHONE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE – FREE CALL 1800 650 931.  
By calling 1800 650 931 seniors throughout Far North Queensland may have the opportunity to obtain advice and assistance by phone.
- OUTREACH CLINICS IN MOSSMAN, MAREEBA, ATHERTON AND INNISFAIL.  
Seniors living outside of Cairns may also have the opportunity to access face to face advice and assistance via one of 4 outreach locations at Mossman, Mareeba, Atherton or Innisfail. To make an appointment at one of the Service's outreach locations seniors should call 1800 650 931.

**Cairns Community Legal Centre Inc.**  
1st Floor Main Street Arcade  
85 Lake Street (PO Box 7129)  
PH: 4031 7688      FAX: 4041 2134



## MICRODOTS



**The update:** As part of Crime Prevention Month in October Police Minister Neil Roberts and Acting Assistance Commissioner Katarina Carroll officially endorsed the use of microdots. "Following the successful trial in the Metropolitan North Region, the Queensland Police Service has now distributed microdot technology detection equipment to all police districts across the state" Mr. Roberts said.

**Cairns Police are in the process of rolling out the identifying equipment to local Police stations in the Cairns District.**

If you haven't heard already, Microdots are the latest tool in property identification. Each microdot is about the size of a grain of sand and is engraved with a unique identifying code invisible to the naked eye. The dots are applied using a clear water-based adhesive which also contains a UV trace to assist police to detect the location of micro dots. The dot is applied with a solution only visible under ultra-violet light. Microdot kits generally contain several hundred dots allowing enough to mark all property in the home including tools, electrical equipment, bicycles etc.

**What are the benefits?** Property marked with microdots is easily identifiable by security and law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies have controlled access to the Microdot National Register. Property that can be easily identified increases the likelihood of achieving successful prosecutions and the return of property to the rightful owner.

**Where can I get it?** At present there are a number of companies selling the technology. PCYC's in the southern region are selling this product at an average cost of \$60 per kit. NHW groups are encouraged to find the best deal for them to roll out to their area or even work together with other NHW groups in an effort to reduce the cost (at present Cairns PCYC does not sell the kits however they are expected to arrive there early in 2010).

**Once you have obtained these kits it is important to register your details and property identification numbers with the Police to enable the return of property.**

**The QPS supports the technology and strategy to identify property however it does not endorse individual companies.**

# **AWARDS CEREMONY**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October Cairns Police hosted the Cairns District Neighbourhood Watch Awards Ceremony. This awards ceremony was an opportunity for Assistant Commissioner Henderson and police from the Cairns District to thank our local community volunteers for their support and commitment to the Neighbourhood Watch Program.

In total 47 volunteers were presented a series of Bronze, Silver and NHW Lapel Badges, and a further 13 were presented with Certificates of Appreciation. Barry Donnelly from Edmonton NHW and Thelma Spelta from Mooroolbool Neighbourhood Watch were awarded the Gold NHW Lapel Badges for the exemplary efforts in promoting NHW and their individual communities.

Police would like to thank the Cairns Regional Council and the local members for their attendance at the ceremony and their continued support of the Neighbourhood Watch Program.



**Gold award recipients, Thelma Spelta and Barry Donnelly. (Photo courtesy of The Cairns Post)**



**Please note that the official Bronze and Silver certificates have arrived and award recipients should receive them in the mail shortly, apologies for the delay.**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STATE CONFERENCE

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October our two representatives, Barry Donnelly and Rebecca Tucker from the Far Northern region attended the NHW State Rally in Brisbane. Here are their thoughts on the conference;



**Constable Rebecca Tucker- Mooroobool**

I recently attended the Neighbourhood Watch State Conference, numerous guest speakers were invited to motivate members by presenting from each of their specific fields. I had the pleasure of listening to an inspiring guest speaker from Victoria Police. Inspector Tess WALSH captivated all members when speaking of the recent tragedy of the Victorian bushfires. The inspector provided a slideshow presentation of photographs taken by emergency services personnel of the devastation and destruction caught in the path of flames. Her role was met with great challenge and tragedy and what she took from it was a sense of belonging. Inspector WALSH'S message was that of positive communities working together with emergency services even during their darkest hour to achieve results. Members who attended enjoyed actively participating in team building and problem solving exercises. Lots of ideas were shared amongst Neighbourhood Watch groups across the state and networks were established between Liaison Officers. A much enjoyable experience and I will take from it numerous ideas and problem solving initiatives.



**Barry Donnelly – Edminton**

Firstly, let me say how pleased I was to be nominated & to be able to attend the Conference as the representative of the Far Northern Region. It was a wonderful experience to attend the Conference & to see what other NHWQ Groups are doing, & to hear from the State Coordinator about for the future.

On Friday we attended a NHWQ Work Shop at the Roma Street Police Headquarters. This was run by Act Snr Sgt Steve Batterham who outlined the direction NHWQ would take for the next few years. You may notice that I have added a Q to the normal NHW. This is the way that the organisation will be known by in the future so that Queensland's role can be identified. A new NHWQ brochure will be produced & state forums will be held during 2010 to explain the new direction. A new web site, which will be separate to the police, will be up & running by February 2010. If people from outside your traditional boundary wish to be involved with your Group, it is not a problem. However it is important to record their presence, at a meeting, working bee or wherever, so that those people are covered by the group insurance.

Lara Wilde, who runs a communication company, involved the group in an exercise to demonstrate how to find common ground with other organisations & then be able to work together. When common ground is determined, use that common ground to work together to find a solution to any problem the two groups may have.

Dominique Lumms, area co-ordinator, & the PLO for Oxenford, Coomera 3, NHWQ Group gave a presentation on how they carry out activities in their area. This group is very active, have their own web site, correspond extensively by e-mail between members, publish their own Newsletter & raise funds by selling advertising space in the newsletter. You can visit their web site by going to Google & then Oxenford NHW. The co-ordinator & PLO are in regular e-mail contact & this means of communication is used to spread the word quickly if the police or citizens have an issue that may require instant attention.

A discussion on Children Safety was carried out. A new Children Safety Kit has been issued & you can go to look at the kit. Schools can order the kits for free. Child safety is not only stranger danger, often the offenders are known to the victims.

On Saturday at the conference Act Snr Sgt Steve Batterham again outlined the new direction for NHWQ & that every Police Division would be mapped to a NHWQ area. He advised that if Groups are to be involved with children's activities, members must have a Blue Card. Also, office bearers of any NHWQ Group should have a Volunteer Search carried out to clear them to hold the position. NHWQ Groups should have outcomes & not exist solely for the purpose of getting Police reports or submitting complaints.

Some Observations & Ideas Heard:

- Collection tin in a local grocery store with the NHWQ name on it is a good means of raising funds.
- A good guest speaker is a person from Home Assist Secure.
- Most Groups seem to be active running projects. Xmas carols, morning tea for seniors.
- Group should have an AGM each year to summarize past achievements & elect office bearers.