



Motueka Districts Neighbourhood Support

Creating safe, resilient and connected communities - Kia haumarū, kia kaka, kia kotahi hoki ngā hapori



Kia ora koutou and Welcome to our MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER

It is such a huge relief to many of us to be able to freely see our families and friends and to be able to take part in things we want to do. Keeping connected with family, friends and taking part in things helps us to feel good and helps our well-being.

It is most encouraging to see our communities throughout New Zealand engaging in regular activities, events and sports with others. Compared to other countries we are so fortunate to have the freedom to be able to participate. However, we all have a part to play to continue to keep us safe from the Covid 19 Virus.

The roll out of the Pfizer vaccine has already started in our health district and soon a good proportion of our community will have received both their vaccines which will help all of us but more especially those with ongoing health problems and our elderly.

TIPS FOR KEEPING SAFE

- The most important action you can take to make your community a safer and caring one is to get to know the people around you. Neighbours who know each other are more likely to offer, accept and ask for help when they need it. We need to not only look after ourselves but those around us as well.
- Criminals can scout out a place or a street. In a Rural area it is much easier to spot a stranger or a vehicle acting suspiciously than in urban areas. However, this is when you can help your neighbours and the Police. Note down the registration, date and time of vehicles (colour and make if you are able to) acting suspiciously. Tell your Group Contact Person as other neighbours may have noticed the same vehicle. If they have, either phone the Police **105** non-emergency number or Barbara on 021 187 9286 or 526 7827 who will ensure the Motueka Police are informed about your concerns.
- Always securely lock up doors and windows. Burglars can enter through unlocked doors and windows. Don't forget to lock all vehicles. Thefts from vehicles continues to be a problem in our district.
- Securely store away ladders and tools which could help a burglar to break in.
- Always securely lock all sheds and your garage.

- Keep your house secure when you are outside your home, in the garden or in your yard.
- Guard your keys. Don't label the keys with your name, number or address on them.
- Don't leave your house keys with your car keys when your car is being serviced.
- Consider making security changes such as installing better locks, window stays, sensor lights and alarms. Burglars can take advantage of weak locks. *However, do remember you must be able to escape easily in a fire or other emergency. That means **keep keys in deadlocks**.*
- Photograph, mark or engrave your valuables and record your serial numbers.
- Don't give burglars places to hide. Keep your hedges or plants around doors and windows well-trimmed.

Don't invite burglars in by leaving a note on your door stating you are out! When you go away, make the place look lived in.

- If you plan to be away for an extended period, tell a trusted neighbour who can look after your place, collect mail and report any suspicious behaviour.
- Before you go away turn the Ringer Tone down on your phones and consider putting a lamp on a timer.

WINTER IS ON IT'S WAY

Make sure your home is fire safe. Use the fire safety checklist on the Fire and Emergency website to find out what might be putting you at risk.

<http://fireandemergency.co.nz/at-home>

- Have you had your chimney cleaned before lighting up after summer and autumn?
- Did you have your electric blankets checked by a qualified Electrician before using this winter? Never leave heavy objects on the bed when the blanket is switched on. This could cause a build up of heat and a fire.
- Make sure the electric blanket is flat on the bed and that control cords are not twisted or caught between the mattress and the base of the bed. Twisted cords are a common cause of electric blanket fires.
- Electric Blankets storage after use – **Roll it don't Fold it!**
- Fire and Emergency recommends **photoelectric smoke alarms** in every bedroom, living area and hallway in your home for best protection. This type will provide 10 years of smoke detection. However, if your alarm has a replaceable 9-volt battery, **replace the alarm with a Long Life Photo-Electronic Alarm.**

*If you need assistance to change your smoke alarms, contact Fire and Emergency on **0800 693 473** and they will organise a visit for you.*

*However, please do be patient as this service relies on **volunteers using their own time** to complete this task for you. If you are going to buy new smoke alarms Fire and Emergency recommends Long Life Photo-Electric Smoke alarms which are available from hardware stores, The Warehouse, supermarkets etc. Please do ensure your new smoke alarms are long life*

(battery should last up to 10 years). At Daylight Saving remember to give them all a good vacuum to prevent the dust from causing false alarms!
Please be aware that Fire and Emergency no longer replace batteries every year or install alarms with only one-year batteries.

Instal **Heat Alarms** for kitchens, bathrooms, laundry and garage.

- Check connections of gas heaters for leaks and have safety guards fitted.
- Remember to keep gutters, decks and entries free from leaves and twigs. (Remember where leaves gather so could embers)

MAKE AN ESCAPE PLAN FOR YOUR HOUSE and property. Make sure all household members understand what to do and where to meet.

If you have a young family turn the escape plan into a fun game. Practice.

www.escapeplanner.co.nz to make your escape plan from your house.

Rural Property Owners

Fire safety is a community concern. It is important we all understand the risks and take the necessary action to prevent a fire from starting. Do consider your neighbours too. Have you any flammable vegetation or materials near your neighbour which could pose a fire hazard for them?

Your Fire and Emergency staff can advise you and help to explain these risks.

To report a fire hazard, call 0800 347 346 or visit www.firehazard.nz

Winter is a great time to fire smart your property. Don't forget to check the safety of cables, pumps and other machinery and equipment. Rats find machinery a warm place to nest! Watch out for rat damage.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Apply this to all your activities. Do you know the safety requirements for your activity? Is your gear fit for purpose?
- Check conditions for your planned activities for the entire involvement or period you are away.
- Have you the correct clothing, safety gear and emergency supplies?
- Have you told someone or recorded where you are going and when you plan to return?
- Consider bringing a Locator Beacon and or GPS
- Have you the required means of communication for your activities?
- Think about a **getaway kit - survival pack for your vehicle**. Major events can strike without warning. You could become stuck for several days. Kaikoura is a good reminder to us all what can happen. Have you the basics to survive? 3 litres of water per person per day.

Go to Never Happens? Happens. www.happens.nz

This site will remind you about disasters, keeping safe, how to create and practice a household emergency plan, how to assemble and maintain emergency survival items. Do refresh your understanding.

MDNSS HAS A NEW BANKER - NBS MOTUEKA

The Treasurer, Deputy Chairman and the Secretary were impressed by the professional of the staff in dealing with our required documentation. They dealt quickly with all our needs in one visit. We employ one part time person, Barbara Tapper our Coordinator who sets up groups or individuals and she looks after the Top of the South Data base.

If you would like to help us continue the service, we provide in the community we would be most grateful for any donation into our bank account. Motueka NBS 03 1354 0567 455:00 We are a registered Charity and are Incorporated. If you wish to claim a tax refund our Treasurer Heather Davis will issue you with a receipt.

GROUP CONTACT PEOPLE SURVEY (GPS) – SURVEY

A special thanks to the 32% of participants who completed the survey. We have taken up some of your suggestions. Peter Lucas, Deputy Chairman, is currently developing a training programme for those GCPs who require on skills to enable you to communicate with your groups. He is also including training on the Top of the South Gets Ready Data base. He along with Barbara will arrange morning and evening sessions where you can meet up with other GCPs and some of the committee to exchange ideas, as requested in the survey results.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY THE MOTUEKA DISTRICTS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT COMMITTEE...

Keep Safe and keep well

Hilary Carson-Campbell - Secretary MDNSS

SUPPORTED BY....

NBS | **Community**
We believe. We invest.



HORRELL FARMS

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