



North Gidgegannup Rural Watch Group

The group was formed mid last year in response to a series of incidents, particularly focused around Paruna Sanctuary on Clenton, Ewing and Avon Roads. A local community meeting was held with Police participation and a coordinator appointed to keep the information flowing around the neighbourhood. We now have about 30 neighbours participating, covering the North West of Gidgegannup from O'Brien Road, through to Berry Road, including Clenton, Ewing, Avon, Copleydale, East and North East Road's.

Essentially, the basis on which we set up was to:

- Make contact with our neighbours & exchange telephone numbers, email and any other contact details.
- Keep a small notebook and pen in our vehicle/s, so suspicious events, descriptions of people and particularly registration numbers of vehicles can be written down when observed - IMPORTANT TO NOT RELY ON MEMORY.
- REPORT anything suspected of being either illegal or suspicious IMMEDIATELY to:
- Police on 131 444 (alternates - Mundaring Police 9295 1000 Mon - Fri 8am to noon & Midland 9250 0333)
- City of Swan 9267 9267 (Customer Service) or 9267 9000 (General Contact Number).
- Be cautious about confronting suspicious persons directly, but make sure they know you are around and have backup arrangements with your neighbours for help if needed.
- Let your local area coordinator know about incidents, so that general information can be distributed to the group by email to keep awareness levels up.

This year there have been a number of incidents in our area, including burglaries, marron poaching, damage to gates and property, illegal pig hunters in Paruna, hoon activity on the roads, illegal tree and timber cutting, a suicide, an attempted suicide and of course the ever intrusive and dangerous motorcycle speedsters, especially on weekends. Numerous reports have been made to Police and the City of Swan with some similar suspicious vehicles noted and reported.

Like any community group, some people want to be more actively involved than others, but everyone in our area is encouraged to participate and keep their eyes and ears open.

You can get more information on the Neighbourhood Watch / Rural Watch Organisation from the website at <http://www.nhw.wa.gov.au/>

If you would like some further advice on forming your own local group or any additional information, please contact Peter Jensen by email - pjensen@activ8.net.au or telephone 9574 7257.

Please also be aware that the Gidgegannup Progress Association is planning a Community Safety evening on Monday 18th May 2009 with representatives of local Police and Volunteer Fire Brigades attending to provide information and advice.