Seasons greetings and welcome to the last issue of the Safe Community Network News for 2015. Many thanks to you all for your dedication and innovation in making your communities a safe, vibrant, resilient and connected.

We look forward to working with you all again next year and wish you all a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and holiday season.

Reminders:
- 2015 Community Coalition Surveys are being analysed and the reports will be sent to the Safe Community chairs and co-ordinators, if they haven’t already.
- 2015 Annual Safe Community surveys need to be e-mailed to SCFNZ by 31 March 2016.
- The SCFNZ office will be closed 23 December to mid January. If you have an urgent request during this time, please e-mail us and a staff member will respond to you.

SC Re-accreditations

Congratulations to Rotorua and Hutt Valley Safe Communities who have been re-accredited as Safe Communities in the last few months. Rotorua was re-accredited in November and Hutt Valley in December. The re-accreditation process gives Safe Communities an opportunity to show what a coalition of key government and community stakeholders can achieve in terms of reducing harm and improving community safety. 

Click here for further information on the Rotorua accreditation and click here for further information on the Hutt Valley accreditation.

12th AIPSP Conference

The 12th Australasian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (AIPSP) conference, held in Sydney (25-27 November), provided many opportunities, including sharing research-focused work and practice, building relationships, learning from Australian approaches to injury prevention, particularly in indigenous populations, and about the power of social media in communication. The importance of collaboration and learning from the community, particularly in terms of what will work for them, were strong themes running through many presentations. Teresa Gordon (New Plymouth Injury Safe), Chris Webber (Treasure Rotorua) and Graeme Barber (Waimakariri SC) won SCFNZ scholarships to attend the conference, and Tessa Sturley (Waimakariri SC) attended as the NZ community representative of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network. Chris, Tessa, Graeme and Tania Peters (Director, SCFNZ) also presented.

For further information on the conference, to view the presentations, and read about the key learnings from the SCFNZ scholarship attendees, click here.

NZ Crime and Safety Survey: Latest Results

Rates of personal and household crime have decreased by one-third between 2008 and 2013, according to results from the New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (NZCASS) released in October. Furthermore,
people appear to feel safer in their neighbourhoods; 69% of people reported that they did not think there was a crime problem in their area and 72% felt safe walking alone after dark. The survey provides valuable information about victimisation in New Zealand which will further assist in placing victims at the centre of the justice sector, said Amy Adams, Justice Minister. “This information can now be used by public sector organisations, particularly those in the justice sector, to ensure services are targeted where there are needed most” she said.

For the full results of the survey, click here.

`It’s Not OK’ Campaign

NZ communities and organisations are taking ownership of reducing and preventing family violence. It happens in homes, businesses, neighbourhoods and communities throughout NZ. Crisis services, such as Police and social services usually get involved after violence has occurred. Communities and organisations have a significant role to play in preventing violence and making it not OK, just as they have with smoking and drink driving. These campaigns can bring family violence out into the open through media, billboards, posters, street events, community champions or signs on buses.

Together, communities, sports clubs, businesses and councils can take a stand and make family violence not OK, declare themselves violence free, and move forward to be vibrant and safe places to live in.

The ‘It’s not OK’ campaign can support organisations, networks and communities to find local solutions to standing up to family violence together. Campaign staff can help with idea formulation, grant funding, networking, research and toolkits, training, as well as showing what other community-led solutions have looked like.

For access to free resources and to research, please visit [www.areyouok.org.nz](http://www.areyouok.org.nz), and to talk about ideas for your community get in touch at areyouok@msd.govt.nz

Safer Napier Commitment Ceremony

As part of its re-accreditation process, the Safer Napier team organised a recommitment ceremony for the organisations involved in the programme.

On Friday November 6, over 40 organisations signed a new Memorandum of Commitment – over double the number that were part of the original accreditation application. Mayor Bill Dalton, Safer Napier’s Ambassador, congratulated all of the signatories for the work they do to contribute to a safer Napier and spoke of the value the Safe Communities model is as a vehicle to work together.

Micheal Mills represented SCFNZ and commended the Safer Napier coalition for the leadership and drive it shows in the implementation of the programme. The ceremony offered another great opportunity for groups to network and and connect with each other.

For further information on Safer Napier, click here.