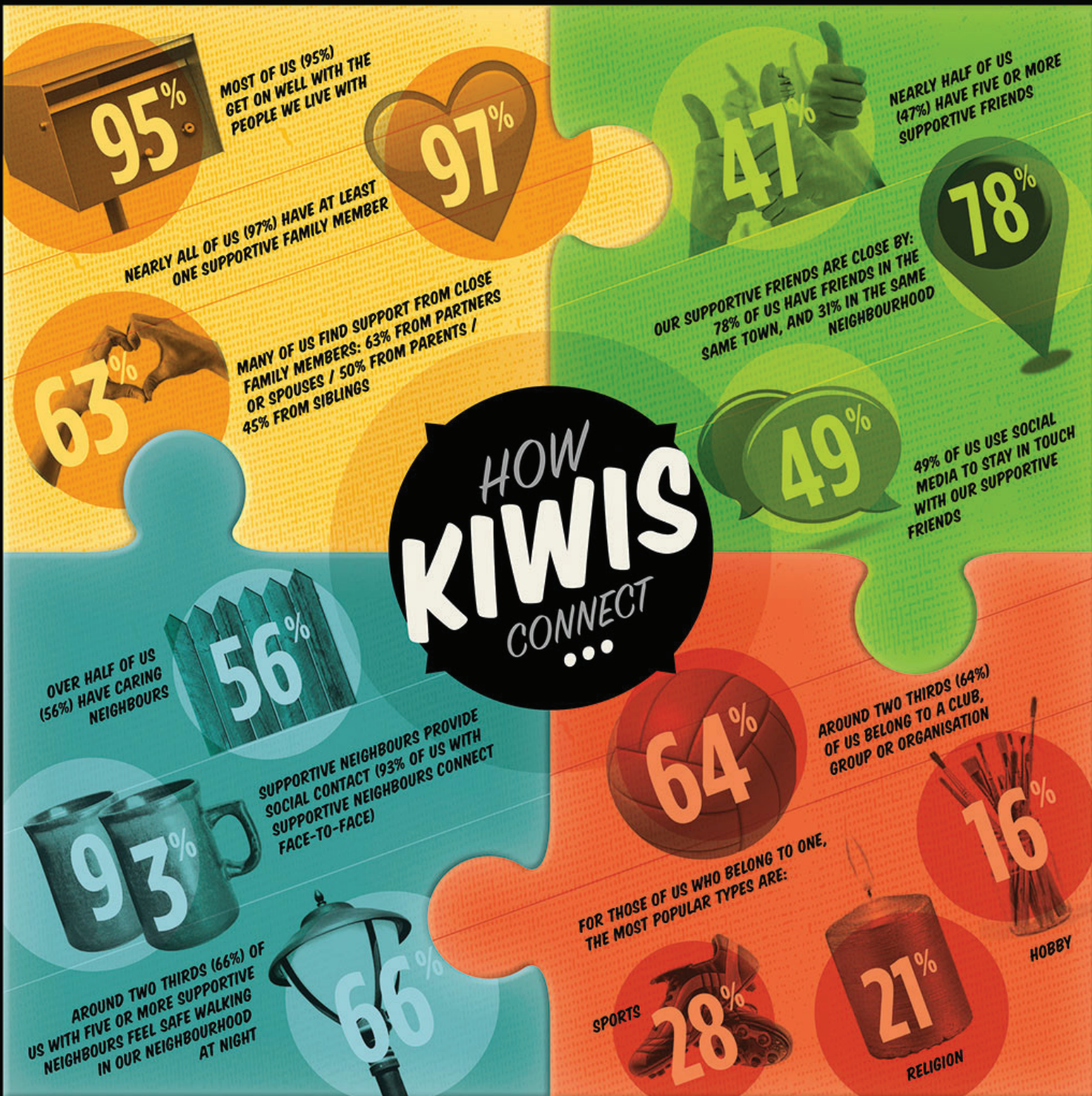


Invercargill

Neighbourhood Support NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the February 2016
Issue of The Neighbourhood
Support Newsletter!

Recently we had our biannual meeting and I would like to use this opportunity to thank contact people for taking the time to meet me and other contact people from Neighbourhood Support Groups. I enjoyed meeting you and I am glad we had an opportunity to catch up. I greatly appreciate your commitment to making Invercargill a better place to live in.

Saniya Yuzipova



SOUTH *alive.* OPERATION ZERO RUBBISH



South Invercargill residents have long told us that having rubbish free streets and parks is really important to them. So, in 2012, South Alive set up our Operation Zero Rubbish project and all sorts of people are taking part, including young families, retired people, beneficiaries, children, businesses, individuals and couples. But people are always on the move, or circumstances change, and so we need new volunteers all the time. You can adopt just a block, or a whole street or more and do your clean-up whenever it suits you. In terms of frequency, volunteers usually check their areas about once a week.

If you're able to adopt a street for Operation Zero Rubbish please call Jackie, the project co-ordinator on 216 0992, or email her: operationzerorubbish@gmail.com. You can also adopt a street online at www.southalive.nz/operationzerorubbish. We can supply gloves, and a high viz yellow vest like the one Trevor is wearing in the photograph.

We look forward to hearing from you, and welcoming you to the Operation Zero Rubbish team.

Adopt a street project

South Alive is looking for more South Invercargill residents to adopt a street in our Operation Zero Rubbish project. It's an easy way to contribute to your neighbourhood and, as part of a Neighbourhood Support Group.



Taking the initiative

One Invercargill Neighbourhood Support group recently helped to sort out a problem when a new shop opened on their street. The shop's rubbish bins were being put out on Saturday lunchtime after the shop closed and left out until collection day. The bins were tipping over causing the rubbish to blow down the street. A member of the group contacted the shop owners and now puts their bins out early on the proper collection day - which is great for everyone!

Civil Defence Emergency Management



There have been a number of changes in our organisation in the last 12 months.

We have a new Manager, Angus McKay. Angus comes to us from the Auckland Civil Defence Emergency Management team. Neil Cruickshank and his wife are doing their OE and are in England where they are both working.

Before his Civil Defence Emergency Management role, Angus was in the Police both here in NZ and in the UK.

We also now have a part-time administration assistant. Janelle Ladbrook works four hours each day doing a lot of the admin tasks for us. Janelle has previous experience in Civil Defence Emergency Management as she worked in administration at Environment Southland and was part of the response team before Emergency Management Southland was born.

We also have Delia Riley doing some part-time work for us as a Volunteer Co-ordinator. Her main work is around a project to look at volunteers, how we engage with them more effectively and the management of volunteers during an emergency using suitably qualified people.

There has been much discussion in Invercargill about the old Civil Defence sirens being removed. There are a number of reasons for this.

- Modern building standards made the sirens less effective in alerting people. Double glazing and household insulation prevented sirens from being heard.
- We looked at the system that was in place and found that it was not as effective as was thought. There were major variations in their effectiveness based on weather/wind and location of the households. This made the system less than effective and there were no guarantees that people had been alerted and who had been alerted.

- The old system was activated using a radio link system. As of November 2015 this radio system was declared redundant due to changes in the Radio regulations. That meant that the whole system need to be upgraded at some considerable cost.
- When the system was introduced there were very few sirens in Invercargill. Now there are building and car alarms throughout the city (which everyone tends to ignore) which sound remarkably like the old civil defence sirens.
- Nobody had a clear understanding of what to do when the sirens sounded.



Invercargill was the only area in Southland that had a Civil Defence alerting system so we need to come up with something that had the potential to alert everyone. We have set up the Civil Defence Text alerts. It is very simple to sign up. Text Start to the number 219. Whenever we have an alert to send out it goes to everyone. We have used it 3 times since we have set it up once for a tsunami warning and twice for severe wind warnings.

We do realise that there are a number of elderly out there that do not have cell phones. We are encouraging families to be the source of information for them by contacting them by other means when we send out a text.

Remember to keep those Get Ready kits and plans up to date. You did some great work in the sessions we did in 2014 to encourage your teams to get better prepared. I have already spoken to Saniya about doing something again in the future.

All the best,

*The team at
Emergency Management Southland.*





Welcome to: Waverley Street, Vernon and Brown Street in Invercargill & the first groups in Bluff, Gregory Street, Tone Street & Henderson Street!

Janet Street

Selwyn Street

Neighbourhood Support Group:
Selwyn & Janet Streets



Jessie gave great tips for our nine attending residents, including one tip that involved the use of black plastic bags for your weeds. As long as the bag is tied up well with the weeds inside, the generated heat will kill the seeds, after which the compost that has formed can be put back on your garden.

She also demonstrated how pots can be used as veggie gardens by bringing her own pots housing carrots and other easily grown veges. The pots are ideal when you



have a small space or can't manage a large garden. Each of the residents were able to discuss any issues.

Some residents who don't have a veggie garden have been able to share their produce with their neighbours. The Neighbourhood Support group really appreciated Jessie taking the time to visit them. It inspires others to try growing their own food, providing monetary and health benefits, and helping to connect neighbours.

BLUFF

Bluff Neighbourhood Support meeting



A warm welcome to the first Neighbourhood Support Groups in Bluff. Three new groups were established at the end of last year and their initial meetings were held in the cosy ICC caravan.



Invercargill
Neighbourhood Support

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