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AVERT Newsletter

ISSUE 26

NOVEMBER 2009

THANK YOU, Barry and Dorothy

Barry and Dorothy McGhie have stepped down as the caretakers of the AVERT supplies and equipment after more than 11 years doing this vital task. They were, along with other long time residents of the valley, the prime movers for the setting up of our organisation. Their experience of living with the vagaries of conditions in the valley persuaded them of the need for such an organisation.

Friends have always remarked on Barry's strong sense of community, manifest not only in his contribution to AVERT but also other organisa-

tions such as Wellington Free Ambulance. Barry built a shed to provide safe storage for the Avert



trailer and all our equipment. More recently he built a Boatshed on his property and having sold his boat provided this

venue for committee meetings. Barry always said Dorothy's cooking was better than any chef in town and the committee can vouch for this as she always arrived at meetings with delicious freshly baked scones to provide sustenance for our deliberations and which were gratefully received.

The responsibilities of the Avert equipment caretaker go far beyond merely housing the gear. There are on-going checking, testing and updating that Barry assisted by Geoff, Matt and others have carried out religiously over the years. As Chairman Bruce said recently:

End of an era

"AVERT is based around the equipment and the knowledge of how to use it. The McGhies have done a grand job of maintaining and regularly testing the equip-

ment for the 11+ years the equipment was in their care. With the equipment handover also comes the ongoing disciplines of regular stocktaking, testing, and training. They have set

the standards, we now have to continue them."

New Committee



At the AGM in late August,

the 2009/10 committee was formed. The members, with Team Leader responsibilities shown where applicable, are Bruce McPhail (Chair),

Wanda Menchi (Secretary), Colin Green (Treasurer), Pam Ritchie (Liaison), Mark (Stock), Joe (Chainsaws and First Aid), Andre', Lawrence, Brenda, Garry (Vehicles), Geoff and Matt (CD). The AGM recorded a vote of thanks to committee members who stepped down from last year.

New home for AVERT equipment

Joe and Pamela have kindly offered to act as the next caretakers of the AVERT equipment. At its most recent meeting the committee resolved to investigate the suitability, purchase and fitout of a 20ft container

that would take all the gear and the trailer. Further details will be forthcoming to members as we make progress. The committee expressed its thanks to Joe and Pamela for this offer. One great advantage of the new

location is that the equipment is still fairly central to the membership.

Subscriptions now due

These are now due and you will have received a reminder from the treasurer in your letter box last month. Colin reports that there has been a slow response so far and he's looking forward to receiving outstanding subs asap. He also asks that you

check that your rapid number (on the blue stick at your gate) is correctly shown on the reminder notice to be returned with your money. Also make sure the blue stick is still at your gate. This will also make it easier to find places in the event of

an emergency. Glenda explained that our numbers are made up as follows 1 = live in the valley + distance from Gillespies Rd.



AVERT Christmas BBQ Dec 6th



Fire team
ready to
practice at
BBQ?

The social event of the year for Avert members is the annual BBQ in Karapoti Park. This year

it will be held on **Sunday Dec 6** from 3pm. Special attractions this year include the popular fundraising trailer of firewood raffle, Dixie Lix will be entertaining us with their great music, byo food to cook and

drink to drink. We need offers of portable gas BBQs to cook on so bring one along to help out. So put it in your diary now! Rainout day will be the following Sunday Dec 13. To cover costs there will be a nominal charge of \$2 per head or \$5 per family.

Unwanted visitors

The committee is still receiving reports of strangers arriving on members' properties and other reports of suspicious behaviour. We again remind everyone to watch out for strangers acting suspiciously in the valley,

make sure sheds and garages are secure and closed when you are not around. It's useful to phone or radio your neighbours and be ready to report unwanted visitors to the police.

Keeping your house safe in Summer

FMG are a good supporter of AVERT and provide subsidized insurance for out equipment. On the next page is their checklist recently sent out via Farmlands with advice on looking after your house and property

over the Summer when most of us like to get away for a time.





Make the most of summer.

Keeping your home safe this summer holiday.

At FMG we support a number of customers each year who return from their summer holidays to find their home has been burgled. While many items can be replaced, losing things of great sentimental value can be devastating.

FMG general manager insurance and investments Conrad Wilshire says, "FMG helps customers to prevent losses by recommending often very simple measures which can be highly effective." Below are five simple things you can do to reduce the risk of being burgled, and give you peace of mind while you're away.

1. Have your mail collected.

An overflowing letter box is a sure-fire way of attracting unwanted attention. If your friends or neighbours cannot collect your mail for you, talk to New Zealand Post about their 'Hold My Mail' service. If you've arranged for a neighbour to collect

your mail, let them know how long you'll be away, as well as your emergency contact details.

2. Make it look like someone's home.

Keeping selected curtains open, having your lawns mowed, and using a timer for inside lights and radio are all good ways to deter a would-be burglar who may be canvassing your neighbourhood. Turning on your sensor lighting and asking a neighbour to occasionally park a car up your drive are also simple but effective measures.

3. Locks, keys and alarms.

Lock gates, lock the doors and windows to your house, garage and implement sheds, and put your keys in sensible hiding places. Don't keep spare copies of your house key under the mat or in a near-by planter box – if you are providing a house key for a neighbour or friend, hand it to them in person before you leave. If you have an alarm make sure it's turned on, and

if it's monitored remember to tell your security company that you'll be away.

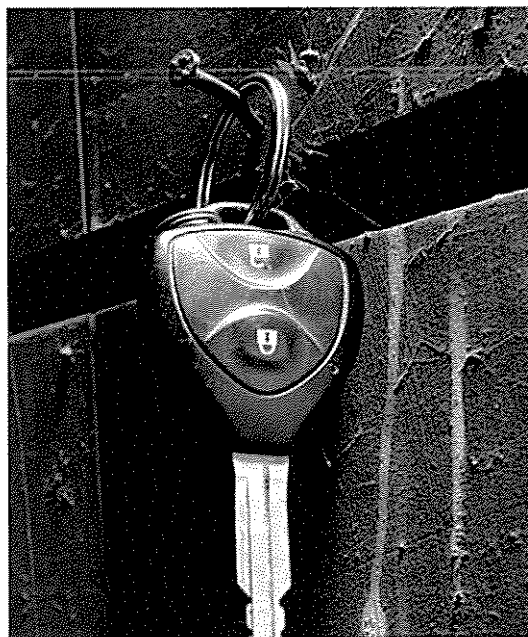
4. Don't invite burglars into your home.

Lock away ladders or other items that can be used to break into your home, and trim any hedges or trees near doors and windows that could provide a burglar with cover.

5. Contact your insurer.

Ensure you have adequate levels of house and contents insurance cover before you go away. You may find your cover needs adjusting to reflect items you have purchased and improvements you have made over the previous year. Contact your insurer if you intend to be away for 60 days or more, as this length of absence may affect the conditions of your cover.

To find out more about FMG's proactive approach to insurance, call 0800 366 466.



Putting them in
your pocket.
It's what we call
active insurance.

INSURANCE - INVESTMENT

OK, so it may not be the first place a thief will look for the keys to your ute, but it's most likely the second. And sure they've always hung on that nail and you've never had any trouble before, but our claims records show that you more than likely will. In fact, last year FMG paid out more than half a million dollars for farm vehicle thefts.

For a more proactive look at your farm insurance, call us on 0800 366 466 or visit www.fmg.co.nz

FMG
RURAL FINANCIAL SERVICES