



### **Taradale S.A.F.E (Smoke Alarms For Everyone)**

Consider, if you will, the idea of every household in a community 100% owning a fire alarm in their home. A big task maybe, but when you have the backing of a strong leader and the champion assistance of community members, that small idea can become a massive achievement.

At the Taradale Volunteer Fire Brigade, Senior Station Officer, Paul Hughes developed this concept to grow strong partnerships in addressing community needs and risks. Forming a relationship with Napier City Council, they initially found 12 community patrol volunteers who were keen to be educated in taking up the challenge to deliver our key fire-safety messages and Home Fire Safety checks to ALL HOMES in Taradale.

Recently the Inner Wheel club of Ahuriri held a Movie evening to raise funds to help Paul with his goal of a fire alarm in every home. Inner Wheel is an International service group with women around the world working together to make a difference and improve lives. "This year our theme is 'Leave a Lasting Legacy' and after a visit to the Taradale Fire Brigade where we learnt about Paul's pet project, we felt Paul and his group of volunteers more than meet the criteria for our support" said Jill King, Club President.

The group of volunteers working on this project are made up of mainly retired legends who had the capacity to do meaningful work in making a real difference to their local communities, these folks beat the path so much that they are nearing the 1000 hit mark – and are only getting stronger! The workers have become so motivated and enthusiastic for more work that they now take referrals for Home Fire Safety checks from neighbouring paid brigades allowing those brigades to free up time to focus on operational tasks.

A first for Hawkes Bay and an innovative approach that engages our brigades and community together, S.A.F.E has been an absolute success thus far and is now reaching community schools, businesses and more targeted work to meet our key risk groups.

Bravo Taradale!

