



Dear Omaha Residents

September 2012



Welcome to spring! The garden is blooming with spring flowers and the birdlife around the place this year is just fabulous. Can I encourage all of you gardening folk out there to really get into planting the Pohutakawas, Kowhais and other native flowering bushes around your properties? The birds just adore them. At the southern end of the beach we are now starting to develop a healthy local population of Tuis and other songbirds in addition to the quail.

I recall visiting a northern end property a couple of years ago which had a beautiful well

established garden full of flowering trees. With the owner present we managed to count a total of fourteen Tuis in his trees- all having a glorious feed on the nectar and pollen.

Driftwood on the Beach

Last year I was out on a mate's forty foot boat heading home one afternoon after a day's fishing. As we were coming around Cape Rodney at about 20 knots, we struck a massive log just floating beneath the surface of the water. The damage to the boat was significant and we were very lucky that we weren't holed.

Since this experience I am now very aware of floating logs and the danger they can prove to boaties.

This winter we noted that large pieces of driftwood were gathering on Omaha Beach as some of the big easterly winds kicked in. Rather than let these beasties continue on any further sea voyages, my neighbor across the road, Graham Painter, and I, have been cutting up these logs and dropping off trailer loads of firewood to needy families around the district. (TK you don't count as a 'needy family' and I am still looking forward to a nice bottle of Merlot out of that glorious wine cellar of yours)

I would encourage residents to pick-up driftwood they see lying around the beach. Many of the pieces look great in the garden and it prevents the wood from going back out to sea and endangering boats. Another benefit is that it reduces the amount of material available to persons for illegal beach bonfires.



Why should I have my Omaha alarm system Monitored by Insite?

Insite Security presently monitors & responds to the alarm systems of about 450 Omaha properties all monitored from our office in Warkworth. There are significant benefits to this service;

1. **Peace of Mind** – many properties around Omaha are not used or occupied for months at a time – especially over the winter months. On at least six occasions, we have had burglars take up residence in unoccupied Omaha homes. These homes did not have even basic alarm systems for protection. The resulting damage to the property and the owners' feeling of total violation of their holiday retreat is heart breaking. This is often only discovered when the owners walk in the door on a Friday night - sometimes weeks after the crime has been committed. If these properties had a monitored alarm system installed, we would have been there within five to ten minutes of these break-ins occurring AND would then have a good chance of catching the burglars.

2. **Power cuts** are a common occurrence in Omaha. In a number of cases when the electricity supply is restored, the resulting power surge may pop the mains fuse to your home. Within 24 – 36 hours all of the contents of your freezer have melted and after a couple of days there is a horrible smelly mess all over the kitchen floor. Bait freezers are the worst! A monitored alarm system tells us if power has not been correctly restored to your property and we can take action immediately before a disaster like this can occur.

3. **Insecure doors and windows.** After a great weekend up at Omaha, packing up and heading back to Auckland when everyone is tired, it is hardly surprising that doors or windows at your Omaha residence can sometimes be left unlocked or even left wide open. Subsequent wind or rain can then enter the house and cause damage. We have incidents of this fairly frequently and are only alerted to the fact that there is a problem at your place by the fact that curtains, etc blow around inside the house actually set off the alarm system. We immediately dispatch a Patrol to check out the cause. I have become rather expert at mopping up flooded rooms when these sorts of events occur.

4. **Fire** – our total of saved properties at Omaha where the house is actually on fire when our Patrol arrives, now stands at three. In all cases, each house involved was worth well over a million dollars. We were then able to get the Fire Brigade on site and rescue these homes without further significant damage being caused. In all of these cases our Monitoring Centre in Warkworth was instantly aware of the situation because the smoke detectors inside these homes were integrated into the alarm system, and Insite was monitoring the property.

5. **Weekly Reports** – each week we can e-mail a report to every property owner giving them the activity that has been processed through their alarm system over the preceding week. This information includes details of any alarm activations, Set & Unset times (particularly handy if you are renting your Omaha property out and want to check that your tenants did in fact leave when they were supposed to) and other alarm related matters. There is absolutely no charge for this service from Insite if we monitor your home.

6. **Peace & quiet** – the alarms that go off incessantly in the middle of the night or day and disturb your holiday break with their noise, are the ones NOT monitored by Insite.

7. **Investment** – as most homes around Omaha must be worth at least \$500,000+ a combined cost of around \$1000 a year for a phonenumber and our full alarm monitoring service is a pretty small investment in ensuring your beach home remains safe, secure and all ready for your next visit. Most insurance companies now offer a very respectable discount on your premium if you have a monitored alarm.

Omaha Crime

For the most part it has been a fairly quiet couple of months aside from the usual boy racer activity and a bit of wilful damage about the place.

I note though that two weeks ago a house under construction at the southern end of Omaha was broken into and a brand new plasma television stolen. This TV, and the other expensive electronic goods which were not touched, had only been on-site for a day or two which would make it unlikely that this was merely an opportunist crime.

A property in the northern end also had its garage broken into about a month ago and surfboards & fishing gear stolen.

At this time Police do not have suspects for either of these offences

Teenage Parties

Within the past couple of weeks I have already had to go out twice late at night to sort out Omaha teenage parties that were getting out of hand.

I realise the pressure that teenagers can put on their parents to be allowed to have unsupervised soirees at the family bach at Omaha, is quite daunting. In my experience there is just



soooo much that can go wrong at these events, usually from factors outside of the host's and invited guests' control. I refer of course, to gate crashers.

Most Friday and Saturday nights at Omaha , and it will become more prevalent as summer nears, we have carloads of local idiots cruising the streets looking for a party that they can invite themselves into. Once inside they will help themselves to food, alcohol and make full use of the facilities, with little care for the legitimate visitors. In this situation the young host suddenly finds himself/herself and friends outnumbered by the gate crashers. They will then struggle, usually unsuccessfully, to find a solution that won't cause a personal injury or damage to the home. This is compounded by the fact they definitely do not want to ring you, the parents in Auckland, to ask for help, as this was exactly the sort of problem which was promised that they could deal with.

Last year a home down the northern end of the Beach had around \$30,000 worth of damage done to it, simply because a teenage party got way out of control. There was no adult presence to diffuse problems before it became unmanageable.

The solution is simple – DO NOT allow your teenagers to have unsupervised parties. Have a responsible adult or adults present at the party at all times

OR give Insite Security a call. We will arrange for one of our trained guards in a marked vehicle, to be present at the party to resolve any issues and unwanted “guests” before they become a problem. The parties supervised by Insite are remarkably incident and idiot free. Everyone can have a great evening knowing “Insite is on site”.

Alarm Service Special!

We have had a lot of power cuts this winter out at Omaha and a number of alarm systems are suffering as a result. Near my place there are at least 4 (unmonitored) alarms that go into loud activation every time the power goes off. This is because their main system batteries are now flat and require replacement. The noise drives us, and other residents, to distraction. It is a situation that can be easily prevented with regular maintenance of your alarm every couple of years or so.

For the months of September and November we are offering a full service of your alarm, including the upgrade of your main CPU battery for **\$115.00 + GST** (normally \$145.00 + GST)

If you would like to have your alarm serviced please call Aimee on **09-425-7113** or e-mail aimee@insitesecurity.co.nz and she will book in one of our qualified technicians to perform your service.



New homes – alarm systems

If you are in the process of building a new home or planning to build out at Omaha in the future, please give Insite Security the opportunity to design and quote on your alarm system.

Because we install literally hundreds of alarm systems every year with our five fulltime technicians, we are very cost competitive and up to date with the latest technology. Please do not use unlicensed electricians to pre-wire or install your alarm system. Anyone working on security systems **MUST** be fully licensed by the Ministry of Justice and there are now huge fines for non- compliance.

Fishing Report

After last year's totally forgettable fishing season I am

seriously thinking of taking up needlepoint. Well maybe not, as there is some good signs out there that things might be a little bit better this year. There are recent reports from local fishermen of snapper up to 3.5kg being taken on plastic baits just out from Takatu Point. Also friends of mine who are "fishing nuts" have in the past week started to pick up good pannie snapper to 45cm, in and around the Kawau Bay area.

Shortly the big male snapper will begin to muster for the breeding season and in previous years we have done fantastically well catching a few of these bigger fish at dusk, about 500m out from the mouth of the Pakiri River – this spot works particularly well after a heavy rainfall. There must be a lot of tasty stuff being washed out into the sea that brings the snapper around for an easy feed.

Scallop season started on 1 September and already there have been a few boats out there dredging for a feed on the large bed to the right of Ti Point. If last year's scalloping experience was anything to go by, this bed runs at a fairly consistent depth of about 27 meters across the Bay.

Over the winter months my kids and their mates have been out at night with torches and spears, nailing bucket loads of paddle crabs in the shallows of Omaha. The boys then trade a bag-full of these crabs with one of the guys from Hunting & Fishing in Warkworth (who swears by them as great snapper bait) for an hour of free shots on the air rifle range at Hunting & Fishing - a prime example of the black economy at work!



Another great benefit of these expeditions has been the capture of a couple of very decent sized flounder whose presence on an ocean facing beach came as a surprise to me. I always thought they were more estuary based.

I also use some of the paddle crabs to make up gourmet berley by mixing in a bag of rolled oats and a pint or so of fish oil. I put all the ingredients together in a plastic bucket and apply the garden

spade in a chopping motion for a few minutes and soon have a delicious berley ready for bagging and into the freezer. My original plan to use the kitchen blender to do the mixing was met with a distinct lack of support from my wife, Anita – I have found that women can be incredibly selfish like this at times!

Boat mooring for rent

Finally after a couple of years of trying I have managed to purchase a Boat Mooring at Omaha. Trying to get one of these is like the old 'hens teeth' analogy! Unfortunately right at the moment I am 'in between boats' and likely to remain this way thru Summer unless the right boat comes along. The mooring will handle vessels up to 16 tons and is in the block of moorings about 200 – 300m of to the left from the wharf. If you would like to rent this mooring on a casual basis over this forthcoming Summer I am advised that \$25.00 a day is about the going rate. Give me a call if you would like to discuss?

Insite Security Coverage

Insite now has a 24/7 Alarm Monitoring & Patrol coverage area from **Silverdale/Whangaparaoa/Orewa in the South right through to Waipu in the North**. If you have a home or business in this area or have friends that live or work in this district who would enjoy having the Insite service package, please let me know and we would be delighted to make contact?

Well that's about it from me at this time. Summer is on the way and I believe that we can expect a long hot one this year.

Have a great time when you come up to Omaha. Please remember how your activities can have an effect on other people's peace and quiet.

Look forward to seeing you around the beach sometime

Best Regards

Chris



"INSITE SECURITY"
KEEPING AN EYE ON
OMAHA

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