



# NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE FORCE

Albury Local Area Command  
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## Minutes – Community Safety Precinct Meeting Albury Police Station Thursday 5/3/09 Start: 10:10am

Attendees:

Name	Organisation	Title
Sgt Paul Gay	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Intelligence Supervisor
D/Insp Brad Blanchard	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Crime Manager
Sen Sgt Les Nugent	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Crime Coordinator
Mr Bruce Holmes	Greg Aplin's Office	Advisor
Ms Tanya Hall	Albury & Northside Chambers of Commerce	Business Manager
Mr Gavin Grant	Albury Chamber of Commerce	Member
Ms Maralee Vogel	Albury City	Team Leader – Community Development
Ms Heather Webster	Albury City	Community Safety Officer
Ms Kate Kohne	Albury City	Road Safety Officer
Ms Denise Osborne	Greater Hume	Mayor/Cllr
Mr Gary Poidevin	Corowa Shire	Mayor
Mr Peter Routley	Urana Shire	Mayor
Mr Karl Tymkiw	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Manager
Ms Patricia Gould	Albury City	Mayor
Supt Gary Commins	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Local Area Commander
Mr Peter Prentice	NSWPF, Albury LAC	Intelligence Analyst

Apologies: Mr Arthur Fraunfelder (Northside Chamber of Commerce)

Convenor: Supt Gary Commins.

Welcome to attendees by Supt Commins.

Adoption of minutes of previous meeting moved by Mr Poidevin and seconded by Ms Hall. Carried with no dissent.

### Actions Arising:

- ACTION:** NSWPF to make contact with Department of Education regarding alcohol education.
- ACTION:** Mr Prentice to inform Insp Peirce of dates for events calendar. Contacted Hume Shire Council to determine dates. Completed 12/3/09.
- ACTION:** Statistic to be included in next meeting (Sgt Gay).
- ACTION:** Meeting to be organised between Crime Manager and Chambers of Commerce representatives.

### Business arising from previous meeting:

- Item 2: Prompt graffiti removal**, Chambers of Commerce to canvas rapid graffiti removal.
- Discussions have occurred with State Member Aplin; real estate agents; business owners and owner of graffiti removal company.
  - Plan in draft format, proposed to generate small fund to pay for removal and lead by example. It is hoped businesses will come on board.
  - Legalisation changed regarding possession of marker pens. Now considered an offence to possess with intent to cause malicious damage (graffiti).

### **Item 3: Promote Police customer service**

- Corowa: Promote use of Eagle phone.
- Discussion of Police pages in local print media.
- Comment made regarding Albury station staff management of transferred calls.

No further action items.

### **Presentation by Sgt Paul Gay – Snapshot of business plan target compliance (year to date targets)**

- Crime categories:
  - Assault below targets.
  - Robbery above target. Majority have been drug related, some home invasions.
  - Sexual Assaults above target. Possible hotspot in Noriel Park & Botanical Gardens, indecent exposures predominantly.
  - Break and enter – dwelling slightly above target.
  - Stolen vehicles below targets.
  - Malicious damage above target, increases in graffiti. Rapid removal discussed. Discussion regarding changes to legislation.
  - Steal from motor vehicle above target. Community members still not locking vehicles and removing valuables.
  - Stealing consistent.
  - Drug detections below target. Police tasked weekly to hotspots to combat street level use and supply. Covert operations targeting mid to high level supply.
  - Person searches above target. Albury LAC consistently completes more person searches than required. Comment made by Supt Commins regarding drug detection/person search correlation, results may indicate that there are fewer drugs on street. General discussion regarding drug supply in Albury LAC and recent effect of Police intervention.
- Discussion of assaults; factors, strategies implemented and effects.
  - DV assaults – hard to predict, under reported.
  - Good interaction between DVLO and external agencies.
  - Issues well resolved.
  - Supt Commins is regional sponsor for Domestic Violence issues.
- Break and Enter dwelling:
  - YTD above target due to extremely bad month in August 2008. POI was targeted and removed from play. Significant drop in break and enter since POI bail refused. Juvenile associates were dealt with via legal process, several were first time offenders.
  - New groups of offenders have started up; police are targeting suspects with resources and hoping for quick results.
  - Many POIs come into town, offend and then go back home (usually due to bail conditions).
  - Discussion of recidivist offenders, learning and improving their MOs.
- Break and Enter – Non Dwelling:
  - Targeted by patrols.
  - Fences around schools have increased. Operation Vacation patrols are implemented to target offences during school holidays.
  - Discussion about spatial hotspots and types of business targeted.
- Steal from Vehicle:
  - Average 72/mth, top ranking areas Albury, Holbrook and Culcairn.
  - Opportunistic crime. Owners leaving vehicles unlocked causes majority of problem. Victims leaves vehicle unlocked on street, in driveway or in garage. POI enters vehicle and takes property, may enter house via garage to take property including car keys.
  - Occasional break out in carpark, most incidents occur in residential areas.
- Stolen Vehicles:
  - Stealing newer vehicles by stealing keys.
  - Stealing older vehicles using jiggle keys

- Major Traffic Crashes:
  - Not benchmarked on all crashes, only on serious incidents
  - Discussion of loci and factors.
- Drug Detections, need better result from Police, problem needs to be targeted better.
- Discussions about offender demographics, what crimes are committed by adults and by juveniles.
- Discussions regarding targets, how/why set, interaction with State plan.
- Rankings: 1/40 in level 2 commands for assault legal action rate and 2/40 in level 2 commands for break and enter legal action rate.
- Discussion regarding legal actions, legal action rates, POIs. Classification of fire lighting (what incident type?).
- Command crime focus
  - Reduce opportunity for crime; community needs to lock/secure property. Trail bike security is a significant issue.
  - Malicious Damage: rapid graffiti removal.
  - Drug Detection: Promote and target street level supply.

### **Commander Commin's Observations**

- Albury is suffering growing pains.
- Resolving problems requires interaction/input from all agencies and the community.
- Albury is not outside the norm in regard to crime.
- Albury crime rate is calculated just on the population of Albury, not the combined Albury and Wodonga population.
- Fire lighting: Increase may be caused by publishing fire period. All fires recorded on COPS, tracked by operation in Sydney.
- Glenroy assault problems, report based on 2005-07 BOSCAR data. BOSCAR data is outdated; strategies were implemented at time of incident to resolve underlying issues.
- Discussion of crime stats in general and the way they are recorded/reported.

### **Around Table**

#### **Mr Grant:**

- Concerns raised regarding the reduction of fine for alcohol consumption in alcohol free zone.
- Drinking at bus shelter.
- POIs on roofs in Albury CBD. Comment by NSWPF, report incidents at time, business owners need to secure their properties.

#### **Albury City Council:**

- Design features of QE2 addressing some of the problems raised, interaction between ACC/NSWPF required.
- Public perception of crime a problem.
- AFZ law changes, believe fine and confiscation more appropriate.
- Involvement of Dept of Education in alcohol education. SLO does touch upon this in presentations.
- **ACTION:** NSWPF to make contact with Department of Education regarding alcohol education.
- What can be done about influence of alcohol in residential/family disputes? There is a relationship between NSWPF and other agencies regarding criminal damage.
- DV group preparing report of factors in Albury.
- How many police are trained in the use of cycles (response 6, regularly tasked). Activities include events and targeting canals.

#### **Ms Osbourne:**

- Neighbourhood Watch: Who replaces S/C Frendo? Response: Will be announced in 2 weeks. CPO will attend neighbourhood watch meetings.
- Bushdance in Jindera. **ACTION:** Mr Prentice to inform Insp Pierce of dates for events calendar.

#### **Mr Poidevin:**

- Police numbers in Corowa are good.
- Problems with graffiti, council are attempting to clean it off as soon as possible.

**Peter Routley:**

- New Police residence plans going well. Police working environment not air conditioned. Evaporative air conditioning system not working the best. LAM and LAC organising refrigerated air conditioning.
- Police presence has improved traffic management in town, heavy vehicles are slowing down.

**Mr Tymkiw:**

- ACLO, process moving through corporate, out of local hands until recruitment.
- Other position, agency liaison is moving ahead. Funding provided by FACIA, Wagga.
- Whether position could be recruited locally was queried. NSWPF, Albury LAC plans to recruit for both positions locally.

**Sgt Gay:**

- Corowa Autofest: Outcomes?  
Good result, good police pressure.  
Good crowd.  
9670 persons went through gate.

**Sen. Sgt Nugent:**

- Discussed events calendar. Asked all attendees to forward request that Police be informed of upcoming events.
- Crime prevention strategies by council, NSWPF would appreciate knowledge of plans, will be able to assist.
- PCYC is under utilised and could be involved in crime prevention by juveniles. Youth problems not being properly targeted, organisations need to come together.

**Ms Kohne:**

- Can this meeting be informed about alcohol related crashes in future? **ACTION:** Statistic to be included in next meeting (Sgt Gay).
- Can an officer attend road safety meetings and present statistic son alcohol related crashes, PCA etc.

**Albury/Northside Chambers of Commerce:**

- Police station at Lavington, still topic of interest. Lavington achieves Albury, adequately resourced to attend incident at Lavington.
- Graffiti-wish to continue discussions regarding graffiti and reducing impact. Graffiti watch, promote reporting, establish fund to assist businesses.
- Fake Credit cards: Wish to encourage Police to use chambers of Commerce to assist in the identification of offenders. Can assist by mass emailing issues.
- **ACTION:** Meeting to be organised between Crime Manager and Chambers of Commerce representatives.

**Greg Aplin's Office:**

- Graffiti/Bullying handout to be sent to all households. Purpose to educate victims. MP Aplin will be able to fund another brochure if the content is provided to his office.
- Fines: AFZ, MP Aplin has made opinion known, fines should have been increased.
- Domestic Violence: Dialogue between DOCS/Housing NSW/Aboriginal Elders. Housing NSW is dealing with a lot of social issues on their properties. DOCS were citing privacy issues.
- Commander commented that there was need for greater interagency consultation.

**General Business**

Next meeting: Wednesday 10/6/09, 10am.

Chamber of Commerce meetings for Albury and Northside: Police attendance would appreciate Police attendance.

Meeting closed 12:20pm