

# CANOBOLAS LAC COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE

**Held at Cowra**

**10 June 2009**

| Time | Item No. | Agenda Item   |
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|      | 1        | <b>Meeting open</b> 10.50am   |
|      | 2        | <b>Attendance:</b><br>Det Supt Mark SZALAJKO, Insp Peter ATKINS, Insp Anthony McLEAN, Hon Mr Russell TURNER Member for Orange, Mr Paul COX, Mr Bill WEST Cowra Mayor, Hon Ms Katrina HODGKINSON, Member for Burrinjuck, Sgt Yonneka HILL, Mr Mark WILLOUGHBY, Mr Nick JACOBS, Cathy SUTHERLAND.   |
|      | 3        | <b>Apologies:</b><br>Hon Dawn FARDELL, Ms Ellie BROWN, Mr Les LAURIE, Mr Reg KIDD, D/Insp Denise GODDEN, Mr Bruce MILLER, Mr David JONES.   |
|      | 4        | <b>Minutes of previous meeting confirmed as true and correct record.</b><br>Minutes not available.  |
|      | 5        | <b>Business arising from previous meeting .</b><br>Nil.   |
|      | 6        | <p><b>Commander's Address</b></p> <p>The strength at Canobolas LAC is 110 with current actual strength of 108. There are two sergeants' positions vacant, one in Orange and one in Cowra. Cowra's position will be filled on 28/6. Cowra currently has one over strength Sergeant working part-time.</p> <p>Crime within the LAC in 2008 was high. There have been 14 arrests in the past three weeks for break, enter and steal offenders and this has had a dramatic impact. Break, enter and steal, malicious damage and stolen motor vehicle offences are down.</p> <p>A couple staying at a Cowra caravan park have been recently arrested. They are being investigated for a large number of offences in NSW, Victoria and SA and we believe they are responsible for a large portion of break, enter and steal offences in Cowra recently.</p> <p>In Orange 7 juveniles have been arrested for break and enter offences.</p> <p>There is still someone in Cowra breaking into commercial premises and local police are working on catching this person.</p> <p>Canobolas Highway Patrol is currently at 65% strength due to sick leave. They are doing a fantastic job. They are one out of only two units currently meeting the business plan target. Cowra is one Highway Patrol officer down. This gap is filled by Highway Patrol units from Orange and the Lachlan LAC.</p> <p>The Commander is happy to provide more cars from Orange if Insp McLean believes it is necessary. If the community let Insp McLean know what areas they want targeted, operations can be organised and run.</p> |

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|   |  | <p>The LAC's budget is looking good and will come in on track. I recently approved \$10, 000 for an overtime operation on quieter nights. This operation has been successful with a number of arrests made.</p> <p>Reg Kidd is hoping to organise a summit in Orange.</p> <p>Planning is underway for the Cowra Picnic Races next month. It will be a user pays event with some operational support. I have applied for the Riot squad to be in attendance. There is no BYO alcohol this year and it is expected that the race goers will move into town earlier than usual. The alcohol free zones should be in place for the races.</p> <p>The HR report was discussed. The position at Gooloogong has been advertised. One officer attached to Canowindra is on restricted duties and has been replaced with an officer from Orange. One detective at Cowra is working part time and one detective is on sick leave. One highway patrol officer is on sick leave and there are numerous general duty officers working part time.</p> <p>Within the command there are currently 5 officers on restricted duties but still working, 4 officers on long term sick leave and one officer on maternity leave. We have one Sergeant in the command on secondment so that officially takes our strength to 104 officers.</p> <p>Insp McLean has made a very impressive submission to increase staff numbers at Cowra by 2 officers which I will be supporting.</p> |
| 7 |  | <p><b>Sgt Yonneka Hill – Crime Co-ordinator</b></p> <p>Sgt Hill made a powerpoint presentation of recent crime statistics.</p> <p>Comments from around the table suggest that some incidents go unreported and the community needs to be educated regarding the importance of reporting all crime, no matter how small.</p> <p>Nick Jacobs commented on how the local townspeople were reluctant to report matters when the phones were diverted to Orange and there was a perception that police would not attend.</p> <p>Sgt Hill commented that the Command came 5<sup>th</sup> in the state this month for bail compliance checks. A total of 246 checks were performed for the month of May.</p> <p>Vehicles and houses are still being left unsecured and police have just charged someone for leaving their keys in their vehicle.</p>  |
| 8 |  | <p><b>Insp McLean on behalf of Reg Kidd</b></p> <p>Mr Kidd wanted to pass on his appreciation for a very successful operation with the dog unit. He is also looking into an early warning system for malicious damage and a Summit for crime in Orange.</p>  |

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| <p><b>9</b></p>  | <p><b>Mr Paul Cox</b></p> <p>I recently had a tour of the new Orange Police Station with about 70 members of the local Rotary Club.</p> <p>It was great to see the high visibility of police over the weekend in Orange.</p> <p>We are going to trial a Real Estate sign in meter boxes of rental premises. I am hoping this will make it easier for Police to contact the correct Real Estate agency if there is an incident of malicious damage etc.</p> <p>I have had a member of the public approach me about cars driving dangerously in Matthews Ave and Burrendong Way in Orange.</p> <p>The Commander commented that he was hoping to get a contractor for graffiti removal.</p>  |
| <p><b>10</b></p> | <p><b>Mr Nick Jacobs</b></p> <p>Made a query regarding local crime statistics. Supt Szalajko commented that crime is down for Cowra and after a certain male had been arrested numerous times crime has slowed in Canowindra as well.</p> <p>Police visibility in Canowindra has dramatically improved recently.</p> <p>Mr Jacob commented that residents of Canowindra are reluctant to report crime when the phone diverts to Orange Police. The Commander commented that he would prefer the police to be out on the roads than at the police station answering the phones.</p> <p>I am concerned about the information Orange police are giving out to members of the public regarding when the Canowindra police are rostered on and off. Sgt Hill will mention this at the changeover meeting in Orange.</p> <p>I also think the police at Canowindra should be issued with work mobile phones for their safety. The Commander may be purchasing these next week.</p> |
| <p><b>11</b></p> | <p><b>Hon Russell Turner – Member for Orange</b></p> <p>I have noticed a change in the attitude of the Orange community and it concerns me. A general discussion regarding these comments followed.</p> <p>Could we look into the Parental Responsibility Act and the Bail Act next meeting.</p>  |
| <p><b>12</b></p> | <p><b>Hon Katrina Hodgkinson – Member for Burrenjack</b></p> <p>Could I ask at the next meeting that the Crime Statistics presentation be broken down a bit more. I would like to see statistics on motor vehicle accidents, assaults resulting in injury, domestic violence assaults, assaults in a public place, assaults on children, drug related offences and stock theft.</p> <p>Made a suggestion regarding minutes being made available on the internet.</p>  |

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|  | <b>13</b> | <b>Mr Bill WEST – Cowra Mayor</b><br><br>Could the police address the problem of trucks speeding through the main street of Gooloogong. Supt Szalajko suggested a truck operation could be run. |
|  | <b>14</b> | <b>Insp Anthony McLean</b><br><br>I am concerned that the Cowra branch of Neighbourhood Watch isn't working as well as it could be.   |
|  | <b>15</b> | <b>Next Meeting</b> – 16 September 2009 at Cowra, 10.30am for 11am.   |
|  | <b>16</b> | <b>Meeting Closed</b> – 12.30pm   |

**CANOBOLAS L.A.C. MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

**ACTION SHEET**

| <b>ACTION</b>  | <b>BY WHOM</b>                               | <b>OUTCOME</b> |
|--|--|----------------|
| Real Estate Meeting in Orange  | Insp McLean<br>Insp Atkins                   |                |
| Contact A/Sgt Heevers re Matthews Ave concerns                             | Insp Atkins                                  |                |
| Contact Ellie Brown re graffiti removal                                    | Supt Szalajko                                |                |
| Speak with staff about not giving out shift details to the general public. | Insp McLean                                  |                |
| Parental Responsibility Act  | Insp McLean                                  |                |
| Bail Act – amendment   | Hon Russell Turner<br>Hon Katrina Hodgkinson |                |
| Contact A/Sgt Heevers regarding possible truck operation in Gooloogong     | Insp McLean                                  |                |