

BROKEN HILL COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE

Minutes for meeting held 10.00am Tuesday 17th November, 2009

Meeting commenced: 10.15am

ATTENDANCE:

Superintendent Ian DICKSON	Barrier Police – Commander
Inspector Michael STOLTENBERG	Crime Manager – Barrier Police
Senior Constable Janelle LYNCH	Police – Crime Prevention officer
Pim SCHAAIJ	Volunteer in Police
John WILLIAMS	State Member – MP for Murray-Darling
Pam McRAE	Office of Susan LEY-Federal MP
Robin EDGECOMBE	President –Business Broken Hill
Des BILSKE	Broken Hill City Council – Govt and Communities
Karren HOWE	Chairperson – Barrier Liquor Accord Manager – Barrier Social Democratic Club
Gavin BLOWS	Dept of Education and Training
Ken KENNEDY	Country Rugby League
Sue LINDSAY	Dept of Premier and Cabinet

APOLOGIES

Superintendent DICKSON opens the meeting. The following members have extended their apologies:

Judy PARR – Broken Hill City Council
David LEE – Broken Hill City Council
John GROENENDIJK – President Business Broken Hill
Kerrie STANDLEY – Aboriginal Community Justice Group
Senior Constable Jim WHEATLEY – NSWPF Youth Liaison Officer
Jill EDGE – NSWPF ACLO

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS

Supt DICKSON welcomes Ken KENNEDY from Country Rugby League and Guest speaker Sue LINDSAY from Dept of Premier and Cabinet

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING – 04/08/09

Fridge Magnet

LYNCH – updates members on the status of the fridge magnet. Funding for the magnet has been received from The Demo Club and a grant from BHCC. Both Karren HOWE and Des BILSKE are thanked for their support with this project. Discussion between members about what emergency numbers are listed on the magnet. Suggestion from McRAE to include after hours mobile number and/or most appropriate emergency number for the hospital.

ACTION: Follow up by Janelle LYNCH with hospital and Judy PARR with inclusion of hospital emergency contact number.

ACTION: Follow up by Janelle LYNCH with Judy PARR re: template/draft of magnet forwarded to members of CSPC for comment prior to production.

Crime Prevention Flyer

LYNCH reports to members the initial ideas about the flyer as discussed by PARR and LYNCH. Only preliminary work has been done with this project in regard to possible layout due to focus on fridge magnet project. Further discussions with PARR by LYNCH and Sgt Greg McMAHON in relation to layout and content. HOWE suggests applying to BHCC for a grant to assist with funding through the clubs for this project.

EDGE CUMBE suggests also including crime prevention information focussed at businesses in Broken Hill.

Also discussion about including information for rural land owners in relation to Vacant Premises checks.

BILSKE - Asked if rural property owners are victims of property crime when shifting into town to houses owned in town.

DICKSON – Vacant premises of property owners in town are not a noted target of property crime. Property crime reported on stations include the theft of solar panels, pumps, generators etc.

SCHAAIJ – reports to committee that the VIPs have attended recent Pastoralist's meeting and promoted two programs run by the VIPs - Operation SafeKeep (engraving of property) and Vacant Premises checks within Broken Hill.

ACTION: Follow up for funding - Broken Hill City Council and John WILLIAMS' office.

DV Transport Service

STOLTENBERG/DICKSON – report that the Wilcannia Safehouse are well funded now. Safehouse is more secure with the construction of a colourbond fence; A bus service is provided for victims with several drivers available. The call out service is funded by Central Darling Shire Council. If victims are required to be moved out of town for safety reasons, this is coordinated by the Safehouse. At this time assistance for DV victims in Wilcannia is not deemed to be an issue and is being dealt with adequately.

Footpath audits

SCHAAIJ – Reports to the committee about footpath audits that have been conducted by VIPS around Broken Hill since the last Broken Hill CSPC meeting in August 09. This consists of feedback being provided in the form of a flyer in the letterbox concerning the security of a residence as observed from the street. The VIPS have completed several hundred. Have received feedback from two residents with only a few residences deemed to have poor security of property.

BILSKE – suggests a log be kept of negative locations and a revisit be conducted in 6 months to see if there is a change.

ACTION: For VIPS coordinated by VIP SCHAAIJ to retain log of negative locations to be followed up after 6 month period to ascertain if any improvement has been made.

Media Release:

LYNCH – reports to committee that numerous media releases have been done by Broken Hill Police via Insp STOLTENBERG and also through John WILLIAMS' office since the last meeting in relation to the reduced crime levels in the city but the importance to remain vigilant of crime.

DICKSON – Thanks John WILLIAMS for his assistance.

WILLIAMS – reports that since the media releases his office has received reduced level of negative feedback from community members.

CRL – Tackling Violence

Ken KENNEDY from the Country Rugby League talks briefly about a program running in the league called **Tackling Violence “Domestic Violence – It’s Not Our Game”** and that since its inception in 2006 there has been a reduction in domestic violence and violence at games with only one incident reported at the Grand Final in Broken Hill for this year.

KENNEDY introduces guest speaker Sue LINDSAY from the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Gives a brief history of how the program was started in Northern Queensland and how it has grown to include 6 teams in New South Wales. There are plans to expand to 12 teams in the next season and to introduce the program to Broken Hill/Wilcannia. The Minister for Community Services, Minister for Women, the Hon Linda BURNEY MP wishes to focus on juniors.

DICKSON – indicates that the introduction of this program has the full support of police with possible funding assistance to be sought through the LACACC.

Discussion about promoting this program in the communities via council and licensed premises. There is also general discussion about the problems that may be faced introducing a rugby league program in Broken Hill due to the strong AFL following in the town. Suggestion from BILSKE about such a program being adopted by the AFL teams in Broken Hill, however KENNEDY reports that the AFL have already knocked back the program being introduced due to concerns about crossing football codes. KENNEDY has indicated that if a player is suspended, the suspension will be from all sports. There is further discussion about other sports in town like the soccer competition adopting a similar program.

STOLTENBERG reports that there the introduction of a rugby league competition in Wilcannia has already had a positive impact - there were no problems reported at the grand final. There are several initiatives currently being run in Wilcannia including

recent licensing restrictions that may also be favourably impacting on crime in Wilcannia.

LINDSAY reports that the program is not only focussed on Aboriginals, but across all races. LINDSAY also reports that due to insufficient funding there is currently no off season strategies in place to maintain interest into the next season. KENNEDY believes that the interest in the sport in Wilcannia is all year round so should not be a problem.

Powerpoint presentation – Crime statistics for Broken Hill July 09 – Sept 09

Reactive Crime

Presentation delivered by Insp STOLTENBERG. STOLTENBERG reports to committee about a recent spate of fences being knocked over and due to good work done by Youth Liaison Officer, S/Cst WHEATLEY three young offenders were identified and handed themselves in. All offenders will be dealt with under Young Offenders Act by way of Youth Conference.

Assaults

General discussion about assault figures and clarification by STOLTENBERG about what actually constitutes an assault and that the DV figures indicated would involve some level of physical violence. LINDSAY asked about the use of DVEK (Domestic Violence Evidence Kit) in this area. DICKSON and STOLTENBERG report that the DVEK is utilised in Barrier LAC and used very effectively in Wilcannia. Discussion about legal issues involved in the presentation of DVEK evidence at court. DICKSON indicates that the magistrate at Broken Hill is very good and will view DVEK footage, however he has put in submissions in relation to the admissibility of DVEK evidence in court proceedings.

BES

STOLTENBERG reports that there has been a noted increase in CCTV kits being purchased by residents in Broken Hill.

Malicious Damage

Majority of incidents reported occurring at residential premises. STOLTENBERG reports about the good rate of after hours school patrols performed by Broken Hill Police.

Stealing

“Other stealings” category mainly involve opportunistic theft of property from residential front yards/car ports. Stealing from Motor Vehicle involved theft of property from unlocked cars and tools from utes.

Assaults – Licensed Premises for the quarter July 09 – Sept 09

Statistics show that crime increases in licensed premises still trading between 12 midnight and 3am. Police are working with licensed premises in relation to service of alcohol, security staff etc between the 12 – 3am time period.

The incident of assaults on Thursday night could be attributed to Eight Ball competition. A link to a licensed premises involving legal action is viewed as a positive rather than detrimental link – indicates customers not complying with management, police directions are being dealt with by way of Infringement Notice/Summons for Fail to Quit offences etc.

GENERAL BUSINESS

BILSKE – reports that under new Local Government Legislation a minimum 10 year Community Strategic Plan is now being drafted which involves everything required by the community. Done on a yearly basis. The drafting of this plan will involve input from the CSPC and other State Agencies.

McRAE – Reports about recent coverage of a child locked in a vehicle in Mildura and suggests publicity about this offence be promoted in Broken Hill

STOLTENBERG – Has indicated he will email all media in town to issue a timely reminder in relation to locking children/pets in vehicles, particularly in the summer months.

LYNCH – Reports about information from S/Cst Jim **WHEATLEY** – YLO regarding graffiti around Broken Hill. This matter is currently under investigation and Jim would like to remind BHCC to ensure all incidents of graffiti are reported to police. Also, consideration be given for Broken Hill police to do a media release to community to report graffiti and remain vigilant.

BLOWS – Reports that there is a White Tie Dinner being held at the Astra Hotel on Wednesday 25th November to support Violence against Women. **McRAE** requests a flyer for the function be forwarded to her for display at her office in Argent Street.

DICKSON – Reports about State wide Firearms Audit is currently being run. It is expected to take quite some time to complete the audits. The licensing sergeant, Sgt Wayne **DEMERY** is currently doing audits on the remote properties.

Next meeting: February 2010. Time and venue to be confirmed.

Meeting closed: 12.10pm

ACTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP

- **ACTION: Follow up by Janelle LYNCH with hospital and Judy PARR with inclusion of hospital emergency contact number.**
- **ACTION: Follow up by Janelle LYNCH with Judy PARR re: template/draft of magnet forwarded to members of CSPC for comment prior to production.**
- **ACTION: Follow up for funding - Broken Hill City Council and John WILLIAMS' office.**
- **ACTION: For VIPS coordinated by VIP SCHAAIJ to retain log of negative locations to be followed up in 6 month period to ascertain if any improvement has been made.**

AGENDA ISSUES FOR NEXT MEETING

- Crime Prevention pamphlet/flyer
- Discussion with BHCC about Crime Prevention advertising either in the vicinity of caravan parks or upon entry to Broken Hill.