

RECORD OF MEETING

Monaro Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting, Cooma – Monaro Shire Council, Commissioner Street, Cooma.

Attendance List		
Name	Representing	Present/Apology
Superintendent Gary Merryweather	Commander, Monaro Local Area Command	Present
Detective Inspector Shane Box	Crime Manager, Monaro	Present
Mr. Daryl Hagger	Cooma - Monaro Shire Council	Present
Mr. Vin Good	Mayor Cooma - Monaro Shire Council	Present
Mr. Ian Frost Mr. Paul Greer	Representative of School Education	Apology Apology
Mr. Bob Frost	Snowy River Shire Council	Present
Mr. Steve Whan	State Member of Parliament	Present
Mz Philippa Moss	Representative of Safer Communities and Neighbourhood Committee/ QCC	Apology
Mr. Bob Stewart	Member for Bombala	Apology
Mr. John Vucic	Representative for Cooma- Monaro Shire Council	Apology
Mr. Dugald Mitchell	Representative of Cooma Unlimited.	Present
Mr. Allen Hogan	Representative of Department of Housing	Apology
Mr. David Rawlings	Bombala Council	Apology
Senior Constable Adam Sutton	Liquor Accord Queanbeyan	Apology
Senior Constable Naomi Nemec	Community Drug and Alcohol Action Team Queanbeyan/ Monaro Crime Prevention Officer.	Present
Mr. Tim Overall	Mayor Queanbeyan City Council	Present
Mr. Chris Gibson	Representative of Queanbeyan Business Council	Apology
Mr. John Cahill	Mayor Snowy River Shire Council	Apology
Mr. Robert Sailer	Representative of Bungendore Chamber of Commerce	
Mr. Jim Maclachlan	Member for Palerang Council	
Mr. Les Hart		

Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC) 5th August, 2009 Agenda

Agenda

Time: 10 am

Venue: Cooma Council Chambers,
81 Commissioner Street, Cooma

1. Welcome

2. Introductions & apologies

3. Crime review

- Crime trends & Hotspots
- Police visibility and deployment in the LAC

4. Previous meeting Actions

- Philippa Moss to report on progress with council reporting and fixing malicious damage within Queanbeyan area.
- Any questions in relation to information sheet sent out by Senior Constable Naomi Nemec on how/when to report incidents to Police?
- Superintendent Gary Merryweather comment on the progress of Inspector Rooney in relation to 24 hour restaurants complying with their conditions etc in Cooma. (McDonalds and KFC)
- Superintendent Gary Merryweather comment on Senior Constable Charles Gannon's progress with concerns re the Church at Michellago and the practice of witchcraft.
- Mr Tim Overall update on the situation with the BMX Park at Queanbeyan. Including the repair and moving status.
- Senior Constable Naomi Nemec to comment on the progress of the Crime Prevention Partnership Committee commenced in Cooma.
- Mr John Vucic comment on the progress and placement of the alcohol free zones within Cooma.

5. General business

- Issues

6. Next meeting

- 4th November, 2009, Monaro Crime Management Unit, Queanbeyan

Minutes

The meeting opened at 10.04am

Welcome

Superintendent Gary Merryweather, Monaro Local Area Commander.

Apologies

Apologies as per attendance sheet.

Previous minutes

Superintendent Gary Merryweather spoke briefly about the content of previous minutes.

Action: Previous minutes accepted.

Mr Steve Whan began discussions stating he received complains from resorts and others re police using the breathalyzers at Jindabyne on operations as it impacted on the traffic.

Response: Superintendent Merryweather stated the issue was raised at end of last snow season. Police have trialed other locations but they have not been effective. Highway Patrol vehicle video taped the traffic issues experienced during last operation. Traffic jam occurred after the operational stopped. Possible due to the volume of people traveling to the snow. On Saturday the operation was deliberately not conducted and there was a traffic jam which occurred due to the nature of the traffic lanes. Police got good results at the location. Although hard to measure, police believe operations like these have great deterrent value.

Mr Steve Whan: Will respond by supporting Police operations. Asked how Police get this feedback to people.

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: Inspector Nicholson has spoken with 2XL and delivered a press release this date, 5th August, 2009.

Superintendent Merryweather: If possible the RTA need to look into the road dynamics near the SCEGGS School and roundabouts within the zone and look at the plausibility to extend the length of the two lanes along Kosciusko Road.

Response: Mr Bob Frost: There has been a proposal to widen that area. Saturday was the biggest day for the snow fields this season.

Mr Bob Frost: Asked if Police had projections on the number of RBT operations to be conducted at this location.

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: Stated will not be every weekend. Operations of this kind are necessary due to alarming number of RBT's including detecting early morning drivers. Local Police will still conduct their RBT.

Mr Bob Frost: Agree.

Superintendent Merryweather: Speed and alcohol are still issues. A P driver was recorded of a speed between 136-145KM/H recently.

Detective Inspector Box: Reported some results from last weekend. 6 positive drug incidents and some 40 infringements plus a number of PCA offences.

Response: Mr Steve Whan: Stated Operations may have mild inconvenience but the results and detections are worth it.

Mr Bob Frost: Traffic re the operations was posted on U Tube. Asked if timing something we can look at and do Police have advice for travelers?

Response: Detective Inspector Box: We need to do it early to catch those who are still over from the night before. **Superintendent Merryweather:** We have also asked over the local radio for visitors to leave early to get to the snow fields so they are not rushed and take regular breaks.

Mr Steve Whan: Received concerns re drug issues in several streets in the Queanbeyan area.

Response: Detective Inspector Box: Police are aware of the matter and are looking into the issue.

Action Item: Philippa Moss: Malicious Damage:

Addressed by Mr Tim Overall: Council are still addressing the issue and cleaning up graffiti as best as they can.

Mr Tim Overall: Council received a grant for \$50,000 in which people will be trained in CPTED including council staff, licensees, and health services. Council can use the money to assess hot spots within the area, help prevent crime issues and address Safety Issues.

Action Item: Reporting to police procedures: Any Questions in relation to report that was sent out earlier in the year on reporting lines to police.

Nil Questions:

Action Item: Progress on MacDonald's abiding by rules being open 24/7.

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: It is still open 24 hours a day. They have opened the toilets for use which seems to be working O.K. The issues are still being monitored by police and the toilet issue could change when customer numbers decline after the snow season.

Action Item: Issues with witchcraft being practiced at Michellago.

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: The officer at Michellago has reported he has issued a CIN to a person on one occasion. 5 people were spoken to and moved on another occasion. Charges for Trespass and Malicious Damage have been made. The location is still being monitored and appears to be worse on full moons.

Response: Senior Constable Naomi Nemeč: It appears due to a civil legal issue the current owner is reluctant to do anything to the premises to help prevent the crime occurring at the location.

Response: Mr Steve Whan: Cooma heritage council and Mr Steve Whan are looking into how to improve and use this area.

Action: Report on the progress of this location. (Mr Steve Whan)

Action Item: Update on Skate Park Queanbeyan:

Response: Mr Tim Overall: Work started late last week at the location. The area has been bulldozed. Workers are trying to remove the rocks as they come across them; however all can not be removed. Still receiving some complaints that kids are throwing the rocks. The area should be landscaped shortly. Still issues to look into re this.

Action Item: Alcohol Free Zones within Cooma:

Response: Mr VIN Good: Alcohol free zones passed last council meeting. Signs will be going out including Skate Park, Alpine Hotel and in the main street.

Crime Review

Detective Inspector Shane Box:

Assaults are up in the Alpine area. Not serious assaults, mainly alcohol related. Break, enter and steal offences in dwellings are the steady, however increase in non-dwellings. Bombala - few incidents where suspects have been identified. Jindabyne - increase in stealing ski hire and clothing. Some incidents of smash and grabs out of windows. Always an increase at Jindabyne during the snow season. Queanbeyan has remained as normal. Steal From Motor Vehicles are not currently a concern. Alcohol related assaults are up at Jindabyne and Queanbeyan, these are minor assaults. Police are addressing by increase in patrols of licensed premises over past and coming weeks. Frauds are on the up mainly due to Lift Tickets at the snow. Fail to pay for fuel is up in Queanbeyan. Four areas have been identified and addressed by the Crime Prevention Officer. Managers still opposed to the pay before you pump initiative for a few reasons. Police can not make them start pay before you pump. Malicious Damage is on the increase. A new trend seems to be scratching windows, not smashing them. There have been some smashed windows though, graffiti and some reports of cars being kicked -

increase in numbers over the snow period. Queanbeyan is up slightly due to a conflict between two families. Police will conduct Vikings operations right up to the end of the snow season. Last weekend - drug dog was used with good results. Licensing audits and premises have been breached for licensing issues.

Statistics on incidents total across the Monaro Command.

Assaults Non DV– 37
Break and enter - dwelling - 24
Stolen Vehicle – 10
Assault – Alcohol related – 33
Break and enter – non dwelling – 22
Fraud – 36
Malicious Damage – 128
Steal from Motor Vehicle – 31
Stealing – 113.

Superintendent Merryweather: New trend of graffiti windows with Tags using diamond cutter or sharp implements particularly in the Jindabyne area and police are monitoring these offences.

Detective Inspector Box: Serious Crime: Death of a young girl at the snow skiing. Shooting at Berridale - person has been charged with serious offences. Fatal motor vehicle accident at Berridale.

General Business

Mr Tim Overall: Asked about stats for steal from motor vehicles in the Rutledge Street Car Park, Queanbeyan.

Response: Detective Inspector Box: Steal from motor vehicle offences are low within Queanbeyan. **Senior Constable Naomi Nemec:** Police will assist council in assessing this area with the funding from Queanbeyan Council. **Superintendent Merryweather:** Anti theft number plate screws are good practice. Senior Constable Naomi Nemec initiated this promotion last year, Bankstown Police promoting this now with good media attention.

Superintendent Merryweather: Our Licensing officer is working well within the snow area, including using licensing operations covert and overt. **Detective Inspector Box:** He will be looking into Cooma more after the snow season. **Both:** agree that the Alpine area is cleaning up its act and working well with each other.

Mr Dugald Mitchell: Issues with the Skate park at Cooma. Rotary agree not enough bins, rubbish is everywhere. Kids misbehaving at location. Request Police patrols.

Response: Senior Constable Naomi Nemec: Issue will be raised at the next Crime Prevention and Community Safety Working Party meeting for Cooma (CPP Cooma).

Action: Report on progress of committee re skate park issues. (Naomi Nemec)

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: Police are already and will continue to patrol the skate park at an increased level. The local police have been very proactive and have detected steal from motor vehicles offences whilst on their patrols. Cooma Police Station is suffering some staff issues due to officers on sick report and leave.

Response: Mr Vin Good: Apologies over the bins, will support Dugald. Incidents have been reported re the filling of rubbish bins.

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: Lights are out at the moment at the skate park and police can not effectively see what they are patrolling.

Action: Items to be raised by Senior Constable Naomi Nemeč at next CPP Cooma. (Naomi Nemeč)

Senior Constable Naomi Nemeč: Youth activities were discussed at last CPP Cooma meeting i.e. skate park competition.

Response: Dugald Mitchell. Asked if publications of this go to the community?

Response: Senior Constable Naomi Nemeč: Media releases have been discussed and will place in the local paper; however it has been dominated by CCTV discussions currently.

Mr Vin Good: CPP Cooma are looking into the rules about CCTV.

Mr Dugald Mitchell: CCTV presentation last night at business council. Asked if the public need to know where the cameras are placed.

Response: Mr Vin Good: supported by Mr Daryl Hagger: Yes. There are large costs involved in the implementations of CCTV and large responsibilities for council. Business have less responsibilities than Council when it comes to CCTV. Council may assist business with CCTV. CPP Cooma are looking into this one.

Mr Dugald Mitchell: Are their studies on other CCTV locations.

Response: Detective Inspector Box: CCTV can mean public have large expectations on the investigations of crime and the areas may not be covered for whatever reason. Cities have 24/7 manned CCTV and parts are monitored.

Superintendent Merryweather: Cooma and Queanbeyan Police Stations will be receiving a computer for our VIEW program. This program allows Police to easily view business CCTV.

Mr Tim Overall: Queanbeyan City Council in conjunction with Senior Constable Naomi Nemeč will run a BizSafe seminar in October in Queanbeyan aimed to help prevent and reduce crime to businesses.

Mr Vin Good: Action: Could Senior Constable Naomi Nemeč raise this at the CPP Cooma for one at Cooma.

Action: Senior Constable Naomi Nemecc to report on this issue.

Mr Dugald Mitchell: Requested he be listed as a representative of Cooma Unlimited only. Could David Shelly be added as a Chamber of Commerce representative.

Mr Vin Good: Cooma Unlimited and the Chamber of Commerce are now quite separate entities. David Shelly to be added to the committee if there are no objections.

Action: No objections entered

Action: David Shelly to be invited to next CSPEC meeting. (Naomi Nemecc)

Mr Bob Frost: Are there Domestic Violence Liaisons within the community in the Snowy Region.

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: Domestic Violence officer for Monaro covers the snow and the offences there are listed at Cooma Court. We liaise with the Attorney Generals department and there is court support at Cooma. Infrastructure of councils could work with the community on how to improve Domestic Violence services within the community.

Response: Detective Inspector Box: Not a lot of work with the council in Queanbeyan but work with the refuges and court staff. Advised to contact the Domestic Violence Officer for Monaro.

Response: Mr Bob Frost: Will look into neighboring councils and communities for ideas.

Mr Bob Frost: Delivered thanks to police from the Carl family re police action in relation to a serious assault at Berridale on Anzac Day.

Superintendent Merryweather: Mark Tangy from Berridale has a back injury long term. Staffing issues are being addressed. Staff from Jindabyne are looking after Berridale at the moment. Cooma now has a new Sergeant. (second one).

Mr Bob Frost: Great to see the police on Skidoo's, great to see detectives up there in plain clothes. Concerns raised in relation to how police are going to police the next season and how their presentation is delivered. Wish to meet with Detective Inspector Box re this issues soon.

Response: Detective Inspector Box: This season they were informed of rules for this year. Some didn't adhere and breaches have been made.

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: Police can improve on meetings. Police will work with you.

Superintendent Merryweather: Police rescue: Since 1978 Police Rescue was established here. Numbers now are low re qualified officers. The community need a 24/7 response therefore Police now have the secondary role in rescues. The SES have the primary role and have enough staff and equipment to specialize in rescue as the primary

response. SES response is great. The last incident they were on the scene within 8-9 minutes. The SES have primary roles elsewhere in the state.

Response: Mr Bob Frost: SES at Jindabyne do a good job.

Mr Vin Good: Will this cause any cost shifting to the community?

Response: Superintendent Merryweather: No.

Mr Tim Overall: Queanbeyan Show 21st – 22nd of November. The show society to address issues from last show. Queanbeyan City Council have rescheduled to meet with Inspector Nicholson and Adam Sutton.

Response: Detective Inspector Box: Licensing will put forward some rules, including alcohol free zones. **Superintendent Merryweather:** We will increase the police as well for that day.

Mr Vin Good: Our race day has similar issues that we have been addressing.

Superintendent Merryweather: We all need to work hard to promote that it is a family day.

Mr Bob Frost: Commented on changes in Jindabyne have been good.

Next meeting; Wednesday the **4th of November**, 2009, 10am, Monaro Crime Management Unit, Level 3 Morisset House, Morisset Street, Queanbeyan.

Meeting closed 11.30pm