

BARWON LAC

Community Safety Precinct Committee Minutes 14 July 2010

Report to Crime Prevention Partnership July 2010

Moree Police Station Training Room, MOREE

Participating Agencies/Community members

Bob	Tremain	Mayor	Gwydir Shire Council
Max	Eastcott	General Manager	Gwydir Shire Council
Katrina	Humphries	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
David	Aber	General Manager	Moree Plains Shire Council
Kevin	Humphries MP	Member for Barwon	
Phil	Alchin	President	Moree Chamber of Commerce
John	Charles	School Education Director	Dept Education & Training
Don	Coote		Warialda Chamber of Commerce
Rick	Hutton	President	Vision 2020
David	Quirk	Manager Mehi Cluster	New England Health
Rohan	Vaughan	Manager Client Services	Community Services
Fran	Dobson	Team Leader	Housing NSW
Scott	Beers	Fire Captain	NSW Fire Brigade
		Station Manager	NSW Ambulance
Robert	Barnett	Superintendent	Barwon Local Area Command
Tim	Beattie	Crime Manager - Inspector	Barwon Local Area Command
Greg	Lamey	Duty Officer - Inspector	Barwon Local Area Command
Alexis	Taylor	Acting Local Area Manager	Barwon Local Area Command
Jo	White	Intel Analyst	Barwon Local Area Command
Crystal	Jones	Constable – Youth Liaison Officer	Barwon Local Area Command

Attending Agencies / Community members

Katrina Humphries – Mayor, Moree Plains Shire Council
Tony Baxter-Tomkins – Youth Co-ordinator, Moree Plains Shire Council
Ros Laws – Housing NSW
Bob Coote – Warialda Chamber of Commerce
Glen Crump – Mirray Birray
Stewart Potter – Community Member
Peter McLennan – Community Member
Bob Barnett – Superintendent, Barwon LAC
Alexis Taylor – Acting Local Area Manager, Barwon LAC
Senior Constable Clinton Oxenbridge – Rural Crime, Barwon LAC
Senior Constable Aaron Burgess – Rural Crime, Barwon LAC
Constable Crystal Jones – Youth Liason Officer, Barwon LAC
Jo White – Intel Analyst, Barwon LAC
Helen Zilm – GASO, Barwon LAC

Apologies:

Kevin Humphries – Local Member for Barwon
Rodney Brazel – Moree Plains Shire Council
David Aber – General Manager, Moree Plains Shire Council
David Quirk – Manager, New England Health
Dawn Barlow – Mirray Birray
Rohan Vaughan – Community Services
Allana Vrieling – Drug & Alcohol Councillor, Moree District Hospital
Fran Dobson – Housing NSW

Meeting Opened: 2:10pm

Priority Crime Category

Supt Barnett welcomed everyone to the meeting, giving an introduction to people present from the Barwon LAC attending the meeting.

Barwon LAC Overview

Barwon LAC covers 39/883 km sq and consists of 15 townships - Moree (24hour station), Narrabri, Bellata, Boggabri, Boggabilla, Bingara, Boomi, Mungindi, Pallamallawa, Pilliga, Garah, Gravesend, Gwabegar, Wee Waa & Warialda.

Barwon LAC covers three (3) Councils – Moree Plains, Gwydir & Narrabri Plains Shire Councils.

Authorised Police numbers across the Command – 102 Police.

Community Safety Precinct Meetings

Supt Barnett gave a rundown on what the objectives of Community Safety Precinct Meetings.

Local Crime Type Priorities

NSWPF State Plan

The NSWPF State Plan sets out the goals the community wants the NSW Government to work towards.

The NSWPF State Plan covers various areas which Police look at relating to

- Reduce Rates of Crime
- Reduce Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour
- Increase Customer Satisfaction.

What are we doing in the Barwon LAC

- Increase community engagement – LACACC Meetings – Toomelah & Boggabilla – PLACE Meetings
- Operations Viper & Vikings
- Target Anti-social behaviour – high profile and/or related Alcohol Behaviour
- Traffic Enforcement – Barwon's pro-activity is up in this area.
- Increased communications

Crime in Moree

Supt Barnett gave a snapshot of Moree crime 1/4/10 – 30/6/10 and the crime pro-activity Police are doing to address this crime.

General discussion regarding some of the hot spot areas identified in the overhead presentation.

Police are working with Housing NSW to reduce crime occurring in vacant houses as well as Housing NSW occupied houses.

With the presence of CCTV in the main street of Moree there has been a visible reduction of main street violence. Katrina Humphries replied that she was pleased to hear the CCTV is working.

Katrina Humphries enquired as to whether fatigue was a concern for Motor Vehicle Accidents within the Command? Supt Barnett replied that not all accidents are caused by fatigue. Often fatigue is put down as the cause of an accident but this is not necessarily true.

Continuing Supt Barnett gave a breakdown for Moree Charges during the quarter 1/4/10 – 30/6/10. General discussion regarding the levels of assaults and the different variation of assaults. Supt Barnett said alcohol assaults continue to be an area of concern; we have a very proactive Licensing Sgt who works well with the towns licensees to address these concerns. 21% crime is alcohol related. 40% of alcohol related charges are assaults.

We have seen a downward trend for assaults and malicious damage compared to previous year.

At the moment break and enter dwelling and stolen motor vehicles are our top crime concerns. There has been a trend in Moree of Young Persons breaking into houses especially while people are at home. Police have arrested and charged various groups of offenders which Supt Barnett referred to as “crews” who are committing these crimes. This can be seen as a good effort on Moree crime reduction and the good work by Moree Police.

Crime Statistics were presented for Boggabilla, Mungindi & Warialda sectors.

Youth Liaison Officer (YLO) – Constable Crystal Jones

Cst Jones gave a rundown on her role as the YLO with the main aim being to reduce crime amongst the Youth. Primarily her target group is Youth attending primary schools as the Police School Liaison Officer (SLO), based in Armidale meets with High-school students.

Cst Jones described some of the different programs available to combat strategies for youth offenders. Most common offences are traffic & stealing.

Peter McLennan asked how we can get pushbikes off the streets. The corner near Webb & Boland (Balo & Albert Streets) is often quite dangerous for youth on pushbikes.

Cst Jones said there are only two signs up in the main street that she is aware of. Katrina Humphries, Mayor MPSC said she will take this on board to address with Council.

Supt Barnett indicated that he had also received a similar concern from a member of the community about bike and skate riders in the main street and police were being tasked to conduct foot patrols of the main street to deter this and move them on to the skate park.

Truancy

Cst Jones showed the figures for Truancy in Moree over the past three (3) years. 2007 – 31, 2008 – 22 & 2009 – 9. Good to see these figures reducing. General discussion covering the issues for Youth when they are suspended from school as the average suspension is 21 days.

Rural Crime Investigators (RCI)

Senior Constable Aaron Burgess gave a rundown on rural crime in Barwon. Generally this covers anything which happens outside the town. Issues such as fuel thief, equipment stolen, trespass, stock thief . RCI are continuing to liaise with Farmers & people out of town to give people knowledge that the RCI can help with as they have an interest in rural issues.

Supt Barnett commented on this being a specialist area and we are fortunate now to have two (2) RCI people with Clint & Aaron now in the Barwon LAC. The networking they are doing creates awareness for rural people to report crime.

Indigenous Employment Development Course

Supt Barnett spoke on the various NSW Police Force Indigenous Employment Strategies such as: NSW Police Force & Australian Defence Force Partnership.

This is an eight (8) week development course to develop people to a level where they can enter the ADF.

After joining the Defence Forces, they can learn a trade and in four years time or more may consider joining the NSW Police as a mature age entry if they choose to leave ADF.

A successful program has been run at Dubbo. The planned program for Moree has been cancelled for due to no suitable accommodation and lack of police resources to support the program. However the ADF were planning a development program which would be conducted at Singleton.

Supt Barnett reported that other programs - IPROWDP & the Murra Program are also encouraging Aboriginal people to join NSW Police Force in sworn & unsworn positions.

Firearms Audit

An audit on all firearms within NSW has begun which will be a four (4) year project. This means that every person with a firearms licence will be contacted and checked. Barwon LAC has started checking our area.

Community Safety Precinct Meetings

Supt Barnett indicated that he last held a meeting in Moree back in September, 2009 and after sending out invitation and publicising the meeting in the local media only two agency representatives turned up. In comparison Narrabri meetings have been well supported by the community. However after today's meeting Supt Barnett was encouraged that with today's attendance that the Moree meetings could be progressed.

General Business

Supt Barnett invited comments from the meeting participants for any issues they would like discussed.

Katrina Humphries – not too many issues. Pushbikes on the Streets in Moree. Generally Moree is doing pretty well. Pleased that Police are focusing on traffic.

Bob Coote – Commented on having two (2) good Police Officers in Warialda, Jack and Nathan. Looking at the crime figures presented earlier Warialda is not doing to bad. Rural Crime is on the rise. Difficulty with this is often farmers don't realise there is a crime until some time after the event so this makes it very difficult to investigate.

Peter McLennan – As discussed earlier – pushbikes on the streets in Moree.

Stuart Potter – No real issues at this time – asked the question if we have more issues with Youth during the school holidays. Supt Barnett replied that generally this is a perception rather than the reality. YLO and Analyst supported this view.

Tony Baxter-Tomkins – MPSC Youth Council may be able to work with YLO with some possible funding for youth programs. Tony invited Cst Jones to contact him. Also invited the RCI team to contact Tony to get information out to the public through MPSC networks.

Ros Laws – Housing NSW working with community and NSWPF. Housing has a good working relationship with the Barwon LAC.

Glen Crump – Congratulations to Cst Jones Barwon YLO for the great work she is doing. Glen informed Supt Barnett that he has a regular radio program on 2VM the local radio station called 'Mission Beat' and extended an invitation to getting messages out to the community through 'Mission Beat'.

Closing Comments

Supt Barnett closed the meeting thanking everyone for coming. We are trying a number of things to interact with the Community to consult and discuss the real issues so that people know what Police are doing to address the issues in the community. Its good to see the response from the community to this meeting and hopefully this will continue to grow.
The minutes from our CSPC Meetings can be found on the NSW Police Force Web site under Community Issues

Meeting Closed: 15:30pm

Next Meeting: Moree – To be advised.

Agreed updates to Crime Prevention Action Plan

Intended Outcome	Agreed Strategies	Partner Agencies/Community member	Timeframe