CONFRONTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A gathering of men from a range of ages and backgrounds recently shed light on the issue of violence against women, as well as provided some hope and inspiration.

STORY SNR SGT MICHAEL GRACE
MACQUARIE FIELDS LAC

On Thursday 13 September, more than 130 youths and men from the local community gathered the second Community Men’s Evening, which included a traditional hangi and barbecue dinner.

The event was strongly supported by Macquarie Fields LAC as well as local high schools, Mission Australia and Wests Tigers Rugby Leagues Club.

Opened by retired Commissioner Ken Moroney, the evening featured a powerful and emotionally engaging question and answer style interview with a reformed domestic violence offender and his son, conducted by Youth Liaison Officer Snr Cst Michael Azzopardi and Domestic Violence Liaison Officer Snr Cst Phillip Jenkins.

This was followed by an inspirational discussion from a panel of NRL stars including Shannon Williams and Clint Sironen from Wests Tigers, Penrith’s Clint Newton, and Nigel Vagana who has retired from the Warriors.

To end the evening, Mr Peter M’aa from NSW Corrective Services spoke intimately of some personal experiences involving domestic violence.

Macquarie Fields Commander, Supt Sean Gersbach said it was a definite success, with double the attendance of the first evening held earlier this year.

“We heard first hand how one family helped each other defeat the cycle of violence, and the impact of this story on those present was tangible and emotional,” he said.

“Seeing the men in our community come together and commit to making a difference towards combating domestic violence was something to behold. I congratulate all involved in putting together such a successful and inspirational evening.”

Plans are now underway for the next evening in March 2013.

Newcastle City LAC has received a thank you letter from a woman whose son was assaulted last year.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my appreciation and sincere gratitude to your department, and in particular to Cst Maurice McSpadden for his invaluable support and assistance following an assault on my son in August last year.

My son sustained serious injuries as a result of the assault, and these are still causing him severe pain.

Thanks to Cst McSpadden’s unfailing support, kindness and professional command of the situation, our family was able to withstand the stress of the past 11 months and the gruelling experience of court proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

JB

Below: Reformed DV offender Lucky and his son Harley take part in the second Community Men’s Evening, hosted by Macquarie Fields LAC in partnership with local high schools, Mission Australia and Wests Tigers Rugby Leagues Club.

Mitchell Mark Ian

I’d just like to thank Tweed Heads police for the effort they made in regards to [the bashing murder of] David Mitchell. Without you all the people responsible could be still roaming the streets and maybe this could have happened to someone else. A special thank you to Det Snr Cst Donna Tutt of Byron Bay LAC for her support to our family. I may never see you again but I thank you so much. Mitchell family.

Matt Zarb [re missing boy Riley Martin]

I cannot imagine any post on here not directly giving thanks to our police in general. They work hard keeping peace in our country. And finding little boys like Riley through sheer hard work and determination. Great work all of you and good stuff on the social network stuff!

Ros Divall [re $1.2 million Nexus seizure]

Great work guys and gals very pleasing work Police Force and all involved.