

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. 30/7/2014.

As Chair Person of the Buderim Safe Committee I have been asked to represent our Independent Attendee Members at your Inquiry today to explain various issues and outcomes which can be achieved with the cooperation of diverse representatives from all levels of our Community.

Supporting the above comment I believe it is important to provide the Inquiry with a list of some of the Local Volunteers highlighting the Group they represent so it can be seen what is achievable by combining the mixture of knowledge and skills available.

Councillors, Council Staff, Emergency Services, (Police ,Fire)&(Local Ambulance Committee) Lion's Club, Buderim State School, NHW, Fusion, Senior Citizens, P and C Assn., Buderim War Memorial Community Assn, School Parents, Business people and local Residents. It is an effective group. Of course some members cover more than one heading. All have opportunity to present their opinions. The Local Media usually attend our meetings so our messages and actions obtain wide distribution.

Public Safety is our Main Mission Statement which covers many facets of ongoing studies and reports.

An investigation found that an Installation of a simple Pilot CCTV Video system is economically possible. We found the Businesses were most cooperative to allow their internal systems to be adapted providing external coverage offering 24/7 coverage.

As we have no funding, Grant Applications have been lodged. When installed there are virtually no Black Spots in Buderim CBD. This Grant request has been strongly supported by all groups. It is not a Council initiative. This approach may assist other areas to examine the process.

Our Wednesday Walk to School Program is conducted under the Buderim Lion's Banner with extended support of NHW members and local residents. Buderim School has now confirmed this initiative as part of their yearly School Program so all new Student's Parents are aware so they may take part in the exercise if they desire. The local Drivers comment "They know when it is Wednesday with the reduction of Traffic congestion". It is possible to have 200 children Walk to School regularly.

It has proved most effective as a Safety Training issue as well as an excellent method in establishing a Rapport with the Police Officers who "Walk" assisting Safe Road Crossings for the Children.. Other Schools have asked to be involved and the Lions Club have instituted programs at Sienna Catholic College in conjunction with Chancellor State School, Tuesdays, as well as Matthew Flinders College, Friday. This action removes many vehicles from these areas in peak periods.

Our interactions with the Walk to School Children, often exposes dire situations surrounding some Children's home lives. We treat these issues with great care trying to discretely pass our observations along to an appropriate person. In this way we can express our concerns knowing that they will be treated by the School Chaplin or Teacher in a sympathetic manner. This can be seeing a Child has warm clothing or something to eat as each case is different. Mentoring in some of the Schools being undertaken, can, long term produce benefits which would be difficult to evaluate.

The Fusion Group is run by Young people for Teenagers. They are taught many skills as well as providing a Safe Refuge where they can have Counselling in a compassionate environment. With the Assistance of the Lions Club and generous Business support, Fusion have modified and restored a donated Bus which operates at night visiting areas where Young People gather. A second donated Bus is being modified now.

The interior has amenities suitable for games, small catering facilities as well as an area for verbal interchange, once again offering a Safe Haven if required. The demand for this Facility and Service has been recognised by the Gold Coast Council after their close inspection expressed the concept of building similar units for Teenage use. Special qualified Drivers take the Bus to their destination but do not take active participation in any of the activities to ensure only youthful people man the operation.

This organisation raises its own funding seeking appropriate Grants as well as massive Volunteers time for the construction requirements.

Our close support by mutual agreement with the Local Police Officers, for Safety Audits presented to the Council and many more successful items have been conducted over the years. It is a team effort producing positive results.

We are endeavouring to provide support for the Buderim Police Beat by offering volunteers suitable to act as VIP approved persons. This action is being conducted with directions under formalisation currently.

On the subject of Domestic Violence, I am afraid I am of the 'Old School'. As the youngest of four boys, no sisters, my Mother made it very clear to all of us "You do not hit Girls". We have 3 daughters to whom I stressed that they should always demand respect. Our Five Grand Daughters have had their hands over their ears as I still continue to deliver the same message.

Information for Women and Girls must empower them that any mistreatment is not acceptable. We talk of Education but, in my opinion, it must begin at a very, very early age with the Boys being given the message that you do not hit or hurt Girls. If this is truly hammered home now, in 20 years time there may be an improvement on the tragic statistics which surface sadly from time to time. Children learn from their Parents.

Don Culley. OAM.

Buderim Safe Chair Person.

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