



Newport Residents Association Inc.

PO Box 1180

Newport Beach NSW 2106

President - Gavin Butler (gebutler@aapt.net.au) 0409 395 102

Hon. Secretary – Peter Middleton (peter@midboyd.com)

Hon. Treasurer - Kyle Hill 0412 221 962

www.newport.org.au

Minutes of Special General Meeting **Held 15th April 2014 at Mona Vale Memorial Hall**

Meeting commenced at 7.05 PM

Members present:

President

Treasurer

Secretary:

(Approx 50 members, guests & Councillors)

Gavin Butler

Kyle Hill

Peter Middleton

President announced suspension of normal business & welcomed all present:

President, Gavin Butler, then welcomed and introduced special guest, Police Superintendent Dave Darcy, Commander of the Northern Beaches Local Area Command, outlining his experience in other precincts prior to leading the recently formed Northern Beaches LAC.

Address and Q&A session

Supt Darcy added that he lives within the LAC area and that this was the first such community meeting he had been invited to address in his current role. It was a forum he would like to repeat at 6 or 7 month intervals.

Supt Darcy's address, taking questions as they arose covered a wide range of areas of interest including:

November 2013 Amalgamation of Manly & Northern Beaches LACs

- Largest in NSW with c320 employees.
- Has made policing more efficient eg, has allowed a focus on the buses, to own the problem and work with community to achieve desired outcome.
- Has been able to calve off 30+ police to "terrorise the hoodlums". This allows police to get out and be innovative, including plain clothes officers plus random bus boardings by uniformed officers at troublesome times (Fri & Sat nights). Since this commenced, there have been zero bus driver assaults and missiles thrown at buses much reduced.
- New technology will shortly be employed to allow a patrol car to have real time vision and sound access to the interior of a nearby bus.
- Response times have reduced since amalgamation.
- Enforcement and reduction in domestic violence has also vastly improved.

Investigative areas

- Amalgamated resource has allowed Supt to devote approx half his 40 detectives to "roam & hunt" in the areas they see necessary. This facilitates deeper probing and follow through.
- A massive drug bust at 5 locations is a recent result of redeployed resources.

Greater understanding of our needs

- Amalgamation is facilitating more visible policing.
- Meetings such as this afford a regular sounding board.
- PWC has formed a regularly meeting Reference Group with police representation.
- Social media is giving police significant northern beaches feedback.
- Supt Darcy wants to concentrate even more on youth behaviour and buses.

Newport Crime Snapshot, Dec '13 – Feb '14, including:

- 23 recorded stealing instances, mostly vehicles (but many more may not be reported); 16 malicious damage; 2 graffiti; 15 assaults; 8 street offences; 1 armed robbery (Chambers Cellars); 50 move-ons; 19 searches; 23 transport-related (mostly buses).
- Peaks are Fri, Sat, Sun, 10.00pm – 1.30am.

Further questions, answers & discussion covered:

- Newport school parental desperate concerns re groups of drunken teenagers roaming, swearing, crossing private property, damaging property eg, in Seaview Ave / Foamcrest Ave / 7 eleven area. **Supt Darcy requested concerned parents contact him (in writing) to sit down and discuss the specifics of the problem.**
- **He added that ours was one of the most socially advantaged areas in NSW, wherein c95% of parents shoulder responsibility for their children. A call from police to confront parent and child with the problem most often results in no repeats of the activity.**
- Cars stopping frequently at location in Barrenjoey Rd retail strip, with occupants entering units behind, and returning & driving off within 5 minutes and never a police presence re likely drug dealing. The questioner confirmed to Supt Darcy that she had not reported to police. **Supt Darcy outlined both the need for citizens to report all suspicions (with as detailed time and descriptive information as possible – take notes) and the legal constraints on police to get a search warrant granted, without such information already provided.**
- A Clareville Beach family picnic was disturbed c6.00pm by a group of youths, mostly under 18 and armed with several bladders of wine and inviting trouble. **Supt Darcy urged that if you see something which makes you or your group uncomfortable, call 000.**
- A question was raised re threatening motor cycle groups in the Church Pt area. Supt Darcy believed recent police targeting of such groups in that area had been effective but invited further reporting if it arose again. He **exampled police “pruning” of such anti-social presences, where the participants mostly tire of the police interference and move on.**
- **Supt Darcy referred to his experience in formal Planning & provision of social spaces, especially for youth.** The community needs to be involved in identifying the zones which are likely to be the most acceptable. This is better than “giving them a skate park, whose attractiveness will pass in time”. A Dept of Health Group has done a detailed study on this subject.
- Reference was raised about a derelict house in Foamcrest Ave, congregated by youths, with noise and likely drug/alcohol activities. Supt Darcy concurred that when police are called in such situations, it’s “for a hit not a cuddle”. (In Pittwater, police do noise enforcement, whereas in Manly it is done by Council.)

Important Points:

Throughout the meeting, Supt Darcy reiterated two important requests of community members:

- **If you are in a situation where others’ unreasonable activity is making you uncomfortable, ring 000.** (This is by far the police-preferred action to phoning a local police station, as 000 always has the capacity and it has built-in monitoring and follow-up which may not be available at an individual police station at all times.)
- **If you suspect that a crime is based at a location** (eg, drug dealing), collect as much detail as you can (dates, times, vehicle makes/colours/registrations, description of persons) and put it in a **letter to:**
Superintendent Dave Darcy
Northern Beaches Local Area Command
NSW Police Force
cnr St David Ave & Fisher Rd
DEE WHY NSW 2099

Meeting Closed at c8.30pm

**Next Ordinary General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 20th May at 7.00 PM,
at Newport Community Hall**