

Network News

Newsletter of Safer Communities Australia Inc

December 2009

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President's Message



I WAS HONOURED TO take on the Presidency of Safer Communities Australia (SCA) earlier this year, particularly at such a significant time in the evolution of our organisation.

The focus of the SCA Board of Management (BoM) in the latter part of 2009 has been on a **review and strategic planning process** that has included looking at ways to better support and consolidate existing programs and services, and exploring options to increase services and programs in the future. As part of the process we have completed a substantial update of our **policies and procedures** in line with the BoM's deliberate shift in focus to operate at a more strategic level.

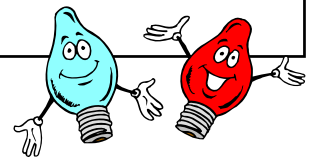
Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent survey. The results show very strong support for our organisation, and many constructive ideas and suggestions have been made that will be considered by the BoM. One point that came through loud and clear is that we should not spread ourselves too thin but rather build on our existing successful programs, increase support for the people involved in them, and develop strategies to promote those programs and raise the overall profile of SCA.

The next step in our planning process is to conduct a series of workshops early in 2010. The resulting **Strategic Plan** will establish the direction of our organisation for the next 5 years and identify the key activities that we will be undertaking. This may include a greater advocacy role for our organisation in areas such as crime prevention and community safety.

For an update on the progress of our organisation throughout 2009, I invite you to read my **Annual Report** at our web site: www.safercommunities.asn.au under "Newsletters – AGM Reports".

I would like to thank you for your encouragement throughout the year and I extend best wishes to you and your families for the festive season.

Brenton Keen, President, Safer Communities Australia Inc



Results of Survey

THROUGH **SACOSS** (SA Council of Social Service), our organisation recently conducted a survey of members, general public and stakeholders to gauge people's knowledge of, and vision for, the future of Safer Communities Australia.

Thank you to everyone who participated. The results are very encouraging and clearly indicate high regard and support for our organisation.

Some of the main challenges and goals that were identified include:

- Consolidating and expanding the two main programs, **Safety Assist** and **Safety Ambassadors**.
- Obtaining sufficient ongoing funding to properly resource these vital programs.
- Raising public awareness of Safer Communities and safety issues.
- Updating Safety Assist street signs.

We are certainly working on these issues and have made considerable in-roads, although obtaining increased funding will be a major challenge.

Regarding the installation of new **Safety Assist street signs**: this has been a very long process and it will be some time before all signs are updated. However, we have completed that process in over 40 Council areas (which is an enormous achievement!) and only have a handful to go. These include some of the larger Councils – but be assured we are working very hard to finalise these in the near future.

We are most appreciative of the support (both financially and in-kind) that Local Councils have been providing to help with safety within their communities.



Editor's Corner



Report on 2009 AGM

AS ANOTHER very busy and productive year draws to a close, it is an appropriate time to look back over some of the highlights of 2009:

** Earlier this year we wrote to all SA **Members of Parliament** expressing our view that there needed to be a greater focus and a more coordinated effort to address the causes of violence and crime in our society. We also asked them to inform us about existing and future strategies and programs.

** Our ever-popular mascot, **Safe T Hound**, made many visits to schools throughout the State, helping at presentations, talks and assemblies. He also celebrated his 10th birthday in May.

** Many areas are significantly increasing their number of Safety Assist locations.

** Our student **Safety Ambassador** program is thriving, with Ambassadors undertaking a large range of activities to promote aspects of safety throughout their school communities. We have commenced the development of a special **Kit** (which includes our story book and safety information) that will be an ongoing resource for these Ambassadors.

We have been facing some challenges: our current **office accommodation** comprises a mere 2 rooms (with most of our resources stored off-site) and we operate with a part time (22 hours per week) Manager plus a casual office assistant (3 hours per week), down from previous staffing levels of over 70 hours per week. *Despite this, we are doing remarkably well!*

So what will 2010 bring? Lots of exciting changes – including a pending relocation to larger premises. Our March newsletter will have further information about this, plus other initiatives that are currently in the planning and development stages.

We enthusiastically look forward to 2010 and the start of an exciting new era for our organisation.

On behalf of the Board of Management of Safer Communities Australia, we thank you for your support and wish you a merry – and safe – Christmas and New Year.

Rona Sakko - Editor

THE 2009 SAFER COMMUNITIES AGM was a most successful and enjoyable occasion.

The historic **Army Museum of SA** at Keswick proved to be a very interesting venue and we extend thanks to the wonderful volunteers who assisted on the night, not only in conducting tours of the Museum but also in organising a magnificent supper.

Our special guest speaker was **Mary Safe** who spoke about the life of her daughter, champion Olympic cyclist **Amy Gillett** who had been honoured as a torch-bearer at the Sydney Olympics. Amy was tragically killed in 2005 at age 29 in a road accident in Germany whilst on a training ride.

Mary spoke of the **Amy Gillett Foundation**: inspired by the life of Amy Gillett, the Foundation's goal is to help reduce injury and death between cyclists and motorists. Their educational and awareness campaigns include:

A Metre Matters – educating motorists to leave at least a metre of space when passing cyclists

AustCycle – encouraging and teaching cycling skills

Ride Right – helping everyone, young and old, to keep safe by purchasing the correctly fitting bike, helmet and safety accessories. *When buying a helmet, always check that it features the red and silver sticker to indicate that it meets the best possible standards of safety.*

Road Right – helping learner drivers understand how to safely share the road with cyclists

Sporting and Research Scholarships

Amy's Ride – fundraising rides held around Australia to spread the message about cycling safety. Recently there was a huge turn-out for Amy's Ride along the Southern Expressway, an exclusive ride where the road was specially closed to other traffic.

For further information about bicycle safety, check out: www.amygillett.org.au

Remember ... 86% of cyclist fatalities involve a motor vehicle. Take care!



Board Directors



FOLLOWING THE AGM, these Directors will serve on the Safer Communities Australia Board of Management for the next 12 months:

Brenton Keen (SAFECOM) – President

Bill Prior – Vice President

Rona Sakko – Secretary/Treasurer

John Gebbie - country representative

Clive Harrison – community representative

Supt Linda Williams – SAPOL

Michael Dawson – Victim Support Service

David Wuttke – Dept of Education and Children's Services

Allan Foster – SA Metropolitan Fire Service

Jo Bell – St John Ambulance Australia (SA)



New Safety Assist Locations

OUR RANGE OF BUSINESS and community **Safety Assist** locations continues to grow. Recent additions include the **Aldinga Central Shopping Centre**, The **Aldinga Community Centre**, **Adriatik Kafe/Grill** at Aberfoyle Park and **Ready Set Safe** (child safety products) at Morphettville.

We extend appreciation to these new members for their care of community safety.



Congratulations, Award Winners!

HIS EXCELLENCY Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia and Patron of Safer Communities Australia, presented the Association's annual awards at a ceremony at Government House in November. *We extend congratulations to the following most worthy recipients:*

The Association Award

The **Association Award** is made annually to an individual, company or organization that has assisted Safer Communities through significant sponsorship, contributions or services offered.

The recipient of this Award in 2009 is **Linda Warner**.

Linda has been involved with the organization for many years, both as a police officer and a previous Board member. She has provided invaluable assistance and support in many areas, particularly in the production of safety educational material for young people.

The Award of Merit

The **Award of Merit** is made for service of an outstanding nature to Safer Communities Australia.

The joint recipients of this Award in 2009 are **Kerryn and David Sakko**.

Both Kerryn and David have been volunteer helpers with the organization for as long as they can remember! **Kerryn** has helped at many levels over the years, from office work to database entry, presentations and numerous other major projects. The highlight of her university days must surely have been her many starring performances at schools throughout the state as the "body" in Safer Communities delightful mascot, Safe T Hound.

David is the computer and technology specialist for the organization, voluntarily devoting so much of his time over many years to dealing with any computer issues that arise – either software or hardware. David also developed the Safer Communities web site which he continues to maintain.

Safety Assist Award for Exemplary Service

This Award is made for service of an outstanding nature in assisting with the safety of a member of the community. The recipient of this Award in 2009 is **Barbara Corelli**.



Although not a member of the Safety Assist program, Barbara provided substantial assistance to a member of the community in June 2009. A very distressed youth was wandering the street seeking a Safety Assist location and Barbara went to considerable efforts to put him in touch with our organization, help him through his difficulties and call police to ensure his safe return home.

We extend thanks and appreciation to Barbara for demonstrating special skills in providing assistance to someone in distress.

Safety Ambassador Awards



Safer Communities Australia conducts a unique Safety Ambassador program where selected students in participating primary schools are supported and trained to spread safety messages through their school communities. *We congratulate these following award winners for their outstanding efforts throughout the year.*

<p>Safety Ambassador School Award 2009</p> <p>Houghton Primary School Ambassadors: Sophia Porteous, Maddi Pannell, Stephanie Davies, Courtney Bryant and Sarah Diment</p>	<p>Highly Commended School Awards</p> <p>Blair Athol Primary School Ambassadors: Holly Will and Alicia Coonan</p> <p>Elizabeth Grove Primary School Ambassadors: Jade Edwards, Steven Seery, Tyson Button, Kaleisha Crane and Tiffany Wakefield</p> <p>Freeling Primary School Ambassadors: Alex Hamlyn and Kristyn Beck</p>	<p>Safety Ambassador Teacher Award</p> <p>Suzi Vladimirov of Blair Athol Primary School</p> <p>Commendations to:</p> <p>Barry Stewart of Houghton Primary School</p> <p>Irene Rose of Seaford Rise Primary School</p> <p>Cammie Gale of Airdale Primary School</p>
<p>Merit Awards</p> <p>Maegan McDonald of Thorndon Park Primary School</p> <p>Eliza Palmer of School of the Air, Port Augusta</p>	<p>Appreciation Awards</p> <p>Natalie Reed and Clare Flaherty of Streaky Bay Area School</p>	<p>Outstanding Achievement Award</p> <p>Tayla Ross of Seaford Rise Primary School</p>



Children's Safety Celebration

OUR ANNUAL **Children's Safety Celebration** (now in its 13th year) was held recently at Coorara Primary School at Morphett Vale. This is one of the major events in **Children's Week** each October, and is conducted at a different school venue each time.

The event included students from Coorara and surrounding schools, as well as the local pre-school. Her Worship, **Lorraine Rosenberg, Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga**, launched the day's activities at a special assembly which included some delightful performances from the students. **Safe T Hound** came along to present certificates to visiting student Safety Ambassadors – and everyone loudly sang **Happy Birthday** to Safe T Hound who turned 10 years old this year.

After the assembly, students spent the rest of the day following a **Safety Trail** as they visited the many interactive displays that covered the oval. They learnt about fire and personal safety, burn prevention, safety in the water, first aid, asthma, waste and recycling, how to safely approach dogs and much more. Displays included



police cars and boats (as well as some early police vehicles from the Police Historical Society), ambulances and fire trucks – and the students even had the chance to have their fingerprints taken.

Exhibitors included:

Animal Welfare League, Asthma Foundation of SA, CFS, Julian Burton Burns Trust, Port Noarlunga Surf Life Saving Club, SA Ambulance, SA Metropolitan Fire Service, St John Ambulance SA, Safety Assist and the City of Onkaparinga, plus the following SA Police sections: Fingerprint Bureau, Historical Society, Water Operations and South Coast Crime Prevention Section.

Safer Communities extends thanks and appreciation to the following:

- Participating organisations, including their staff and volunteers
- Children's Week of SA for a grant that contributed to the event
- The teachers, students, Safety Ambassadors and members of the school parent bodies for their wonderful efforts in making the day such a success.

The Compassionate Friends

WHEN A SON or daughter dies, who can help? No matter what their age or cause of death, grief lasts for longer than society in general recognises. The death of your child is an unacceptable tragedy and it can take a long time before you regain any sense of normality in your life.

The Compassionate Friends (SA) Inc is part of a world-side organisation offering friendship and understanding

to families following the death of a son or daughter, brother or sister. TCF offers support, friendship and understanding in the grief and trauma which follows the death of a child at any age and from any cause.

Bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents may make contact at any time and a volunteer bereaved parent will help. TCF also have a range of helpful brochures available.

The Compassionate Friends

offers no miracle cure, just comfort and the consolation and hope that broken threads can be picked up again. Ph: 08 8351 0344, email: ffc@arcom.com.au

www.compassionatefriendssa.org.au

Thank you to Mary Safe for providing this information from The Compassionate Friends.



Incident Reports

THESE ARE some recent reports of **Safety Assist** use:

31/10/09 – Trott Park

3.30pm: 12 year old boy, walking to a friend's place for a birthday party, was followed by a man in a car. He was very scared and ran to nearby Safety Assist house for help. Family and Police contacted.

21/10/09 – Greenwith

3.45pm: Very distressed teenage girl went to Safety Assist location for help as a man was following her. Police attended.

19/10/09 – Whyalla

3.15pm: Safety Assist member witnessed teenager being assaulted while others stood watching, apparently taking photos with mobile phones. School and police contacted.

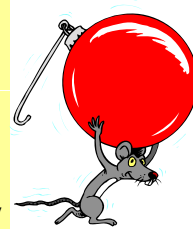
19/10/09 – Morphett Vale

7.30pm: Woman with a child sought help as she had been assaulted. Police attended.

2/10/09 – Hallett Cove

8.30pm: Man and his son knocked on door for help. They were exhausted, distressed and shivering in the cold weather. They had been at local skate park and taken wrong turning to walk home. Given hot drinks and taxi called.

Has anyone knocked on your door seeking help? Please let us know so we can monitor our program and its effectiveness.



PATRON:

His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin
Scarce
AC CSC RANR
Governor of South
Australia