

Network News

Newsletter of Safer Communities Australia Inc

June 2009

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Safety Assist
sign of a
safer
community

Welcome to our new President, Brenton Keen

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the appointment of our new President, **Mr Brenton Keen**, replacing Bryce Saint who recently retired from our organization.

Brenton has had a long association with our organization. During his 30 year career in SA's emergency services sector he has served in senior positions in the SA Metropolitan and Country Fire Services and the State Emergency Service. He is currently managing whole-of-government emergency management projects with the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission which is represented on the Board of Safer Communities Australia.

"I feel privileged to take on the role of President of Safer Communities Australia, particularly at such an exciting and important time in our organisation's history," said Brenton on his appointment. *"Over the next several months the Board of Management and I will be conducting a strategic review and planning process that will set the direction of Safer Communities for the next 5 years. We will also identify opportunities to expand services and programs to increase our organisation's contribution to making SA a safer community. During the review and planning process we will consult with and provide regular progress updates to our members and stakeholders."*



President Brenton Keen presenting the 2008 Award if Merit to Vice President Bill Prior

Our incoming Vice President is **Bill Prior**. Bill is a Detective Chief Inspector with the South Australia Police Internal Investigation Section and he has been with our organisation since its incorporation. Throughout that time, he has made substantial contributions to the development of Safer Communities Australia. He is also a past President and Life Member.

Congratulations to Brenton and Bill on their appointments.

New Safety Assist Locations

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME two businesses that have recently joined our Safety Assist program:

Sandvik Mining and Construction of Melrose Park, and

Southern Powder Coaters of Lonsdale.

These companies are helping to increase the feelings of safety and security in their local areas. Anyone who is lost, hurt or

feeling unsafe can seek reliable help at these and other locations that display the Safety Assist sign.

We are currently processing a number of new business applications and hope to have these on board shortly. *Do you know of any community-minded businesses in your area? Let us know and we can follow up to see if they would like apply for Safety Assist membership.*

Editor's Corner

AS YOU WILL SEE in this newsletter, Safer Communities Australia has some challenging and exciting times ahead! We will be undertaking a review of our organisation and setting in place plans to continue the expansion of our programs.

An urgent priority for the Board is our **office accommodation**. We have been renting two rooms in one of the City of Unley cottages on Edmund Avenue for the past 20 years. This space is now grossly inadequate (to say the least!) for our current needs and is causing substantial difficulties. We are currently assessing options.

Please consider nominating for one of the two positions currently vacant on our **Board of Management**. The Board is moving to a more strategic role and we are seeking expertise in a number of areas.

We are now calling for nominations for our **annual awards** which recognise individuals, companies and organisations that have given exceptional assistance to Safer Communities Australia. Think about those in your local area who might be worthy of an award – it might be a Safety Assist member in either private or business premises, an organisation that has provided service or anyone else who has given particular assistance.

Our organisation has been operational for almost 30 years now. Our beginnings were at the **Bellevue Heights Primary School** which recently held a twilight function for its 30th anniversary. We were delighted to be a part of those celebrations and we congratulate the school on its initiatives and enthusiasm.

Finally - thank you to our many members who have sold lottery tickets on our behalf. We sold over 200 books of tickets which is a magnificent effort for which our organisation will gain \$20 for each book sold. These funds will go towards much-needed resources.

Rona Sakko - Editor



Annual Awards

SAFER COMMUNITIES AUSTRALIA presents awards annually to recognize deserving people and organisations that have provided outstanding service to our Association. *We are calling for nominations for the following categories:*

The Association Award – for an individual, company or organisation that has assisted our Association through significant sponsorship, contributions or services at either a local or state level.

The Award of Merit – for service of an outstanding nature as a member of the Association.

Safety Assist Award for Exemplary Service – for exceptional service to the Safety Assist program.

Criteria for the Awards and nomination forms are available on request from our office. Nominations close on 30 September 2009.

Thanks, Noarlunga Committee

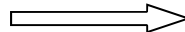
ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL local community committees has been operating in the Noarlunga area since 1991.

The hard-working members of this committee have achieved substantial successes since that time: gaining new memberships, conducting regular audits of Safety Assist locations, undertaking promotions and talks and, in particular, ensuring that Safety Assist street signs are a visible presence throughout their area.

The members of this committee recently retired. Our organisation extends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to **John Liersch, Kay Langton, Steve Highet** (*who will carry on his work in the Aldinga area*), **Norm Lee**, and **Norm and Fiona Andrew**. John (President) and Kay (Secretary) are founding members of the committee and retained their roles throughout the past 18 years.

Their efforts have been outstanding!

Steve Highet, Kay Langton, John Liersch, Norm Andrew and Norm Lee



Can you help?

ARE YOU INTERESTED in starting up or joining a small committee in your local area? Our committees undertake a range of activities like promoting the **Safety Assist** program to schools and the community. For further information, please give us a call or check out our web site at:

www.safercommunities.asn.au/VolunteerPositions.pdf

There are also ideas on how **Neighbourhood Watch** areas can help, from featuring regular newsletter articles about Safety Assist to monitoring signs and encouraging membership. The Safety Assist committee could also be a small sub committee within your local Neighbourhood Watch Area Committee.

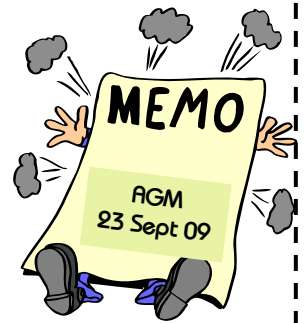
Advance Notice of AGM

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Safer Communities Australia Inc will be held on:

Wednesday 23 September 2009 at 7.00pm

Guest Speaker: **Mary Safe**, speaking on bicycle safety and the life of her daughter, **Amy Gillett**, who was an elite track cyclist and rower

Venue and further details will be included in our next newsletter. *Mark this date in your diary now!*



Calling for nominations for Board positions

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT of Safer Communities Australia Inc comprises 12 Directors – 6 elected from membership plus 6 corporate Directors.

Member Directors

DIRECTORS serve a 2-year term on the governing body. Three positions will be declared vacant, with retiring Directors being eligible to stand for re-election.

Do you believe you have skills that will be beneficial to the Board? Examples of relevant expertise include the areas of business development, communication, marketing or fundraising.

Contact our office for an application form and information on the role of a Director.

Corporate Directors

AT THE AGM, members will vote to decide the 6 organizations that will be represented on the Board for the following 12 months. Current representatives include SA Police, Department of Education and Children's Services, SA Metropolitan Fire Service, SAFECOM, St John Ambulance and Victim Support Service.

You are invited to nominate any organisations that you believe will assist our Association.

Nominations for Corporate and Member Directors close on 14 August 2009.

Safe T Hound is 10 years old!



OUR MASCOT, **SAFE T HOUND**, has just turned 10 years old. We will be celebrating this special milestone at our **Children's Safety Celebration** to be held at **Coorara Primary School** in October.

Some years ago we approached the Douglas Mawson Institute of TAFE to assist in the development of a promotional character that would appeal to children and adults alike. Our future mascot became the project for students undertaking their final year of an Advanced Diploma of Advertising/Graphic Design course.

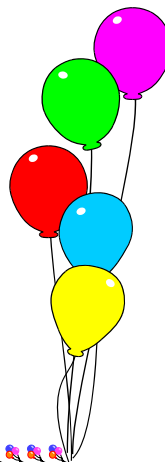
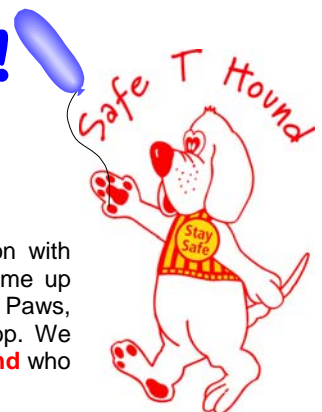
Each student produced a possible character, from space creatures to dinosaurs and bees – over 20 options! We finally chose a cute little dog designed by **Prue Anderson** (who graduated dux of her class).

Rick McGill from the Centre of Performing Arts brought the character to life by making the costume that faithfully reflected the adorable puppy of Prue's drawings.

Next step: training sessions. Our new President, Brenton Keen, will well remember when he drew the short straw and became the first operator of the character. Brenton was taught how to "doggy" walk (without falling over!) and he helped to create all the necessary movements to bring the

character to life. *No doubt Brenton includes this valuable learning experience in his CV.*

What to name our lovable character? We held a competition with our Safety Ambassadors who came up with such wonderful proposals as Paws, Sir Chew-A-Lot and Safety Snoop. We eventually settled on **Safe T Hound** who was "born" on 5 May 1999.



Happy Birthday, Safe T Hound!



Thanks for Grants

SAFER COMMUNITIES AUSTRALIA would like to thank the **City of Marion** and the **City of Mitcham** and the **City of Victor Harbor** for recent grants to support the purchase and erection of Safety Assist street signs in these Council areas.

The bright yellow signs are important indicators to highlight the location of Safety Assist premises so anyone in need of help can find a safe haven as quickly as possible.

Reminder: If you have a street sign pointing to your Safety Assist house or business, please check it regularly and let us know if it is faded or damaged so we can organise a replacement.

10 is Too Old!



SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S FIRE SERVICES advise that **all** smoke alarms need to be replaced after 10 years. Both hard-wired (mains powered, 240 volt) and battery operated smoke alarms are only manufactured to a standard that requires them to perform for 10 years.

The limited lifespan of smoke alarms applies to **ALL** smoke alarms regardless of power source (battery or 240 volt) or the type of smoke alarm (ionisation or photo-electric/photo-optical).

Further information: www.samfs.sa.gov.au

Organisational Review & Strategic Planning Process

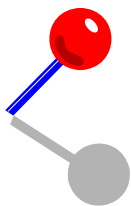


SAFER COMMUNITIES AUSTRALIA evolved from the previous *Safety House* program in 2003 and, six years on, it is an appropriate time for the organisation to review its governance and operations. We have contracted **Timbs Consultancy Services** to assist with this review which will analyse and monitor SCA, assess how the organisation is tracking and undertake a program evaluation. The performance of our organisation needs to be measured to ensure the Board is operating purposefully and effectively and that the organisation is achieving its goals.

We will also undertake the development of **Strategic Directions** for the next 5 years as well as an annual Action Plan. This will take the form of a continuous improvement plan which will be constantly reviewed and modified throughout each year.

This review and forward planning will herald an exciting new era for our expanding organisation and will ensure that Safer Communities Australia continues to make a valuable contribution to **building safer communities**.

Incident Reports



These are examples of **Safety Assist incidents** that have been reported to our Association. It is important that we are notified of every use of a Safety Assist location, no matter how seemingly trivial the incident might appear to be.

15/5/09 – Valley View

8.00pm: Teenage girl was being followed down the street by a gang of youths in a car. Car was very noisy and had metal trailing from it and sparking on the road. Police contacted.

Feb 09 – Enfield

1.30pm: A lady new to the area went to a nearby Safety Assist location. She was unwell and in a very distressed state. Ambulance called.



Victim Support Service



HAVE YOU BEEN a victim of crime?

There is help available through **Victim Support Service**.

Professional staff provide a comprehensive range of services for adults who have suffered as a result of a criminal offence. This includes individual crime victims, their families, friends and the wider community.

Victim Support Service provides a range of services including information about your rights, counselling, assistance with court matters, support groups and resource centre.

Services are confidential and free of charge.

There are offices in the main regional areas as well as Adelaide.

Contact details: ph 8231 5626 or info@victimsa.org or www.victimsa.org

PATRON:

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