

Network News

Newsletter of Safer Communities Australia Inc

March 2009

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The Race is here!

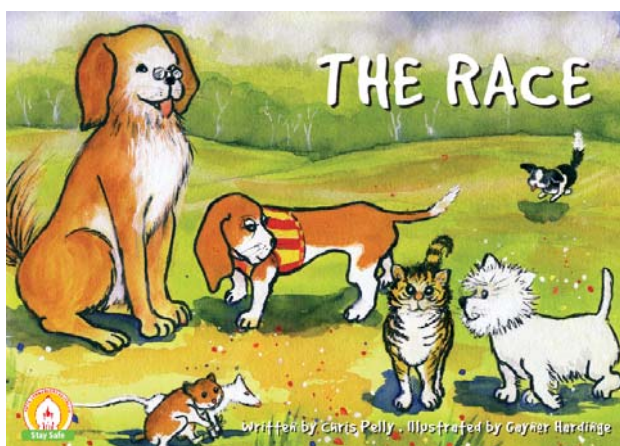
OUR STORY BOOK has arrived!

Through a grant from **Community Benefit SA**, our organisation now has a valuable new resource, a story book for young people about Safety Assist and staying safe.

Safe T Hound joins his adorable animal friends (including Ben Collie, Kate Tabby and Harry Hamster) for **The Race**. After practising for a race, poor Kate is scared by bullies so Safe T Hound shows her how to get help.

Our thanks go to author **Chris Pelly** (for the delightful story) and illustrator **Gaynor Hardinge** (for the bright and colourful drawings that help to make the book so appealing).

The Race is available from our office at only \$5.95 (or \$7.60 including postage).



**Safety
Assist**
sign of a
safer
community

Australian Central Community Lottery Bigger and better than ever before!

YOU COULD BE A WINNER of any of the 130 prizes valued at over \$260,000 in the 2009 **Australian Central Community Lottery**.

Let's check out some of the prizes:

A Mitsubishi Lancer, Jurgan Caravan, Boat Jet Ski, a \$25,000 Harvey Norman Shopping Spree and a \$20,000 International Bunnik Tours Holiday.

And ... Return tickets to Darwin in Gold Service aboard The Legendary Ghan, Toshiba Home Theatre System, computer package ... *the prizes just keep coming.*

This lottery has never been bigger or better! The prize pool has sky-rocketed – with many more prizes and increased value and variety.

Australian Central and its Business and Media Partners are picking up ALL the costs of the lottery – so for every \$2 ticket we sell, our organisation receives \$2.

This is our major fundraiser for the year – *and we want your help.*

Please support us by buying a book or 2 of tickets or selling them to family, friends or in your local community. Further details are on the address page that accompanied this newsletter – *or simply give us a call.*

**Community
Lottery**

Editor's Corner

SAFER COMMUNITIES AUSTRALIA extends sympathy to all who lost family and loved ones in the Victorian bushfires. Our thoughts are also with the hundreds who lost their property, including beloved pets. At this difficult time for our country, it is encouraging to see the overwhelming support flooding into Victoria from across the nation.

Too often we hear of elderly people in their homes who have suffered injury (or worse) and some time has elapsed before anyone has checked on their well being. In an effort to build stronger – and safer – communities, Messenger newspapers are currently promoting **Know your neighbour**. This campaign encourages everyone to get to know their neighbours and to extend a helping hand to those in your street. **Sunday 29 March** is designated **Neighbour Day**, an ideal opportunity to hold a street party or invite your neighbours over for a barbecue. As Safety Assist members you are already caring for you local community – but we can always do more. Introducing yourself to a new neighbour in your street is a start.

We received an enormous response to our December newsletter asking our members to check their **Safety Assist** signs and request new ones if needed. It is important that signs are clearly visible to anyone seeking help. Please also check your street sign for signs of damage. We are continuing to source funding for those areas that do not yet have Safety Assist street signs.

Our organization is planning yet another busy and productive year, with an emphasis on expanding our **Safety Assist** network. We have recently received a number of applications from businesses in Lonsdale and surrounding areas. This was the result of a recruitment campaign held in conjunction with *Noarlunga Towards a Safer Community* network and we thank them for their help and support.

We look forward to 2009 – and safer communities.

Rona Sakko - Editor

Board Position Vacant

WE CURRENTLY HAVE a vacant position on our **Board of Management**, the governing body of Safer Communities Australia. Board meetings are held in Unley every third Tuesday from 9.15am to 10.30am.

If you feel that you have the necessary skills and experience to join the Board, please contact our office for the criteria and application form. Expertise could be in areas such as marketing, publicity, finances, business and fundraising.



Thanks for Grant

LAST NOVEMBER, we were delighted to receive a letter from Hon Paul Caica, Minister for Volunteers, informing our organization that we had been successful in obtaining a grant through the **Volunteer Support Fund** to purchase a canvas shelter. When our volunteers are out at promotional events such as fetes and fairs, they have no protection from the sun, the wind or the rain. This much-needed shelter will provide protection from the elements as well as an eye-catching and professional display.



The Volunteer Support Fund was initiated by the Government of South Australia to provide financial assistance to community organizations to enhance their valuable volunteer programs and to help volunteers in their endeavours.

Our organization extends thanks and appreciation for this encouragement and support of our volunteers.

Walk Safely to School Day

CHILDREN ACROSS SOUTH AUSTRALIA will be urged to walk to school on **Walk Safely to School Day on Friday 15 May**.

This national, annual event sees tens of thousands of primary and junior primary school-aged children walking to and from school with their parents and carers. The Pedestrian Council of Australia will be distributing activity material and registration forms to every school to encourage participation. Parent clubs and teachers are invited to organise special events for the day, such as a healthy breakfast or a piece of fruit for every child.

The event aims to reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour and to promote the health benefits of walking.

For more information, visit <http://www.walk.com.au/WSTSD01/page.asp?pageid=260> or contact the State Co-ordinator, Chris Chalke, at chris_chalke@chalkepr.com.au



Parents, when walking or driving your children to school, point out any Safety Assist locations along the way so your children know where to go if they need help. Approach your school to feature Safety Assist information (available from our office) in a school newsletter to encourage parents to apply for Safety Assist status to help with safety around your school.



Congratulations, Block Parents!

THE BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM OF CANADA has been celebrating its 40th year. *What a magnificent achievement!*

Throughout Canada the red and white Block Parent sign is a symbol of a safe refuge where help is available.

Safer Communities Australia owes its beginnings to the Canadian Block Parent scheme. Keith Lomax, then Principal of Bellevue Heights Primary School, observed the program while on a visit to Canada and subsequently introduced

Block Parents into the school with a group of 20 parents in December 1980. After an initial trial period, the scheme quickly spread throughout South Australia.

Over the years our two organizations have kept in touch, sharing ideas and developments.

We have sent a congratulatory letter and a commemorative plaque to the Block Parent Program of Canada to mark this significant milestone.



Nominations for **POLICE OFFICER** of the Year

Do you know a Police Officer who deserves recognition for service to the community during 2008?

Here's your chance to say thanks for a job well done!

Just a few words and often richly deserved, but so rarely said. Every day in all sorts of ways officers of the South Australian Police are involved in outstanding acts of courtesy, courage, kindness, understanding, compassion and devotion to duty that goes way beyond the expected.

The **Police Officer of the Year Award** is the Rotary Club of Unley's way of highlighting on behalf of the wider community the services provided by the South Australian Police.

Conferred each year since 1978, the award can be made to an individual or group be they male, female, uniformed or plain clothed and regardless of rank. Sergeant Michele Smith from Port Pirie was, last year, the 2007 recipient for her outstanding contribution to victim support, drug action, road safety and to the broader community.



Nominations are now open for the 2008 award, and service clubs, community groups and individuals from any area within the State are invited to make a submission by Friday 27 March 2009.

Nominations should be a written submission detailing the reasons for the nomination and forwarded to:

"The Police Officer of the Year"

c/o Rotary Club of Unley

PO Box 18

Unley SA 5061

or email to pooty@rotaryclub.org.au

Telephone – 8379 7105

The 2008 winner will be announced at a ceremony in Rundle Mall at 12.30pm, Tuesday 12th May. Unley Rotary in consultation with the Commissioner of Police selects the recipient.

First Aid Post



HERE IS SOMETHING to keep in mind ...

Safety Assist members in private premises may extend their volunteer community service by also participating in **St Johns First Aid Post** program.

Check this out ... you receive **FREE** training for your **Senior First Aid Certificate** (full costs are reimbursed after 6 months in the program) and ongoing training updates are **FREE**. You will also receive the **FREE** loan of a **First Aid Kit** for the duration of your time as a First Aid Post member.

Consider the benefits ... ideally, we all should have first aid training – and you can achieve this at no cost. Plus you will have the skills to provide first aid to anyone who is hurt and knocks on your door for help.

Here's how easy it is ... training can be undertaken at a time and location to suit your requirements. Just give our office a call and we will send you further information.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK will be celebrated from **11 to 17 May 2009**.

Our next newsletter won't be issued until after that date so we will take this opportunity to say an early **THANK YOU!**

Our **Safety Assist** program would not be able to operate without our thousands of volunteers in private and public premises who display our sign as an indication that reliable help is available to anyone in times of need. The ongoing assistance given by our members continues to be so important in helping to keep our communities safe.

Be assured your efforts are much appreciated.

Safety Assist Statistics

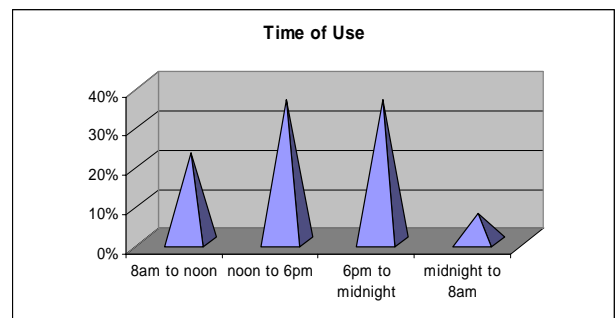
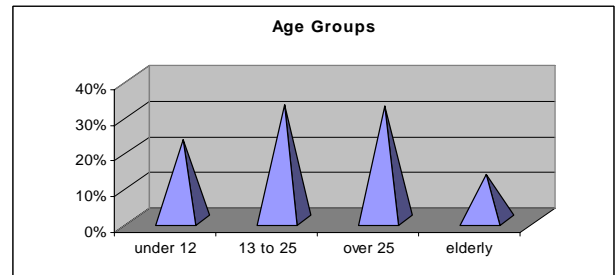
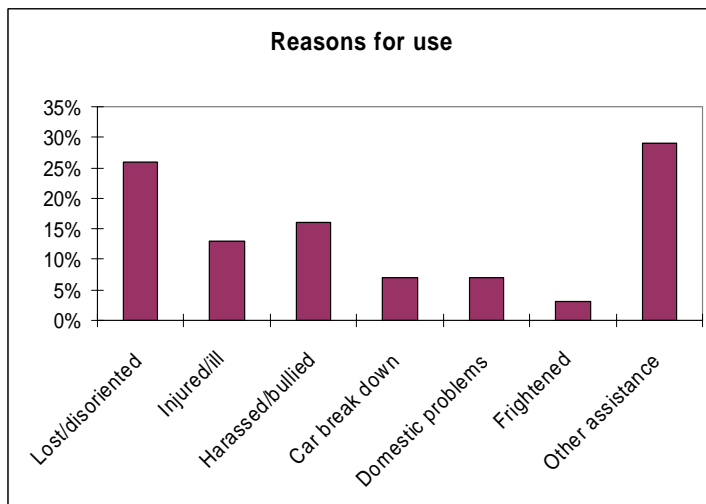


THESE CHARTS GIVE an overview of the **Safety Assist** incidents that were reported by our members in 2008. The statistics show that people of all ages are using Safety Assist locations. Being lost, bullied or injured are some of the main reasons that help is sought, with afternoons and early evenings being the most likely times.

A couple of the more unusual incidents have included a lost dog in distress in 40 degree heat and a little 2 year old girl lost and wandering down a street.

Many of our members may not have had someone call on them for help. *Remember ...* by simply displaying your **Safety Assist** signs you are playing a significant role in increasing the feelings of safety and security in your community.

Safety Assist – sign of a safer community.



Incident Reports



Some recent reports of Safety Assist use include:

2/1/09 – Loxton

10.10am: 2 frightened young girls sought help after domestic incident.

27/12/08 – Davoren Park

8.00pm: Young indigenous woman and her child asked for help to purchase baby food. Local care worker contacted.

13/12/08 – Edwardstown

4.00am: 21 year old man had been beaten and robbed in nearby park while drinking with friends. Ambulance and police attended.

10/12/08 – Hope Valley

4.30pm: Teenage boy asked for directions as he was lost.

Remember ... it is important that you report every use of your premises when someone seeks help. Reports can be made via phone, fax or email. An Incident Report Form from be downloaded from our web site or you can call our office to have one posted out.

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