

Network News

Newsletter of Safer Communities Australia Inc

September 2008

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Safety Assist
sign of a
safer
community

Safer Communities Safety Expo

(combining Annual General Meeting)



Wednesday 24 September 2008

**at 7:00pm at SA Police Barracks, Port Rd,
Thebarton**

COME ALONG and join us for our special **Community Safety Expo**.

- * **Safety displays**
- * **Presentations** on home, personal and fire safety
- * **Goody bags** to take home
- * Chance to win **door prizes**

And of course there's supper and a celebration cake!

So spread the word and bring along family and friends. **Everyone is welcome!**

Please join us as we celebrate Safer Communities in SA.

Safety Ambassador Program

OUR STUDENT **SAFETY AMBASSADOR** program, unique to South Australia, has been operating since 1996. Participating schools appoint students whose role is to promote **Safety Assist** and other aspects of safety through their school communities. Our organisation supports these Ambassadors throughout the year with training workshops, newsletters, safety information, resources and other assistance - such as visits from our ever-popular mascot, **Safe T Hound**.



With nearly 100 participating schools and 300 students, the scheme (part of our **Stay Safe** program) has grown substantially over the years. This important safety program has been acknowledged by winning both the state and national awards in the emergency and safety category in the prestigious **National CommunityLink Volunteer Awards** in 2001, the International Year of Volunteers. The scheme also won a **National Child Protection Award** in 2005 and an **Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award** in 2006.

Awards for outstanding Safety Ambassadors are presented each year at Government House by the Patron of Safer Communities Australia, the Governor of South Australia.

We encourage schools to be involved in the Safety Ambassador program. Participation in this program will also assist schools in attaining the new **School Watch Level 1 Certification**.

Editor's Corner

THANK YOU to the huge numbers of members who have informed us of the need for street signs to point to their **Safety Assist** locations. We are following up all requests with the relevant Councils and will try to have them installed as quickly as possible.

Our annual **Children's Safety Celebration** will be held this year at **Mitcham Primary School**. This is one of the major events in **Children's Week** in October. Check out the Children's Week web site for information about other events that will celebrate our children: www.sachildrensweek.org.au

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, participation in our **Safety Ambassador** program will now assist schools in attaining **School Watch Level 1 Certification**. To reach this level, schools need to put in place additional safety measures and we are pleased that our Ambassador program can contribute towards this certification.

Our **Safety Expo** and **AGM** will be held on **24 September**. Please join us as we celebrate another year of progress and achievements. The evening will be informative and fun and your family and friends are also most welcome. *We look forward to the pleasure of your company at this function.*

Rona Sakko - Editor

Internet Safety

- ◆ PUT YOUR COMPUTER in a family area/study of your home, not in a child's bedroom.
- ◆ Spend time at the computer with your children and take an interest in what they are doing.
- ◆ Keep your password confidential and log on to the internet for your children rather than allowing them unlimited and unsupervised access.
- ◆ Encourage your children to tell you about unsuitable sites that make them scared or uncomfortable.
- ◆ Children should be encouraged to send emails only to friends and not to strangers.



Contact us for a set of our 5 safety brochures, or check out:

www.safercommunities.asn.au

NAB - lending a helping hand

ALL **NAB BRANCHES** are **Safety Assist** locations. They offer a community service by displaying Safety Assist signs as an indication that help is available when needed.

On the morning of 31 July, an elderly lady had a fall outside the NAB in Mount Barker. She had a bad cut and bleeding profusely. Bank staff rushed out to help, calling an ambulance and administering first aid until the ambulance arrived. The lady was taken to a doctor's surgery where she received 7 stitches. NAB staff then took the lady to her home, arranged to get her car home, waited while she packed an overnight bag and then took her to her friend's house where she could be monitored for the night.

We extend thanks and appreciation to the caring bank staff at NAB Mount Barker for their outstanding efforts in providing assistance.

NAB Mount Barker staff outside bank



School Watch Youth Council



THE **SCHOOL WATCH YOUTH COUNCIL** is made up of 20 students between 11 and 18 years of age (Year 6 to Year 12) from Government and non-Government schools across South Australia.

These students are responsible for running the Council (which is part of the **School Watch** program) with the support and guidance of adults from the **Department of Education and Children's Services** and the **South Australia Police**.

One of our **Safety Ambassadors** is included on this Youth Council and 2 representatives recently attended a meeting of our organization's Board of Management to report on their activities. *Their achievements have been impressive and have included:*

- ◆ Being featured on "**Behind The News**" (BTN) in a story about internet safety and cyber bullying.
- ◆ Conducting **Student Round Tables** at the National Safe Schools Week and having representatives attend a forum at Old Parliament House in Canberra.
- ◆ Making a presentation at the **2007 National Coalition Against Bullying** conference.
- ◆ Attending a camp at **Southend Noorla-yo-long**. This was based around teamwork and leadership and included surfing, high ropes, bush walking and team games.
- ◆ Participating in **Harmony Day** which included a trip around the harbour on the sailing ship "One and All".

Members of the Youth Council are currently working on a wallet-sized safety brochure from a youth perspective. The first brochure will be aimed at upper primary students with a further one being developed for secondary students.

Congratulations to the School Watch Youth Council for their outstanding work. Safer Communities Australia is proud to be involved in this Youth Council through our Safety Ambassador representative.

2008 Annual General Meeting

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Safer Communities Australia Inc will be held in conjunction with the **Safer Communities Safety Expo** on:

Wednesday 24 September at 7.00pm at SA Police Barracks, Port Rd, Thebarton

See front page for further details.



Board of Management Directors

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

Directors elected from membership

Three positions on the Association’s Board of Management will fall vacant at the AGM.

The retiring Directors are eligible to stand for re-election without nomination.

Corporate Directors

At the AGM, a vote will be taken on the six corporate organizations which will hold positions on the SCA Board of Management for the next 12 months. The Board will recommend: **SA Police, Victim Support Service, Dept of Education & Children’s Services, SA Metropolitan Fire Service, St John Ambulance and SafeComm.**



First Aid Post

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.

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

Congratulations to Whyalla Committee

MEMBERS OF OUR WHYALLA COMMITTEE have been outstanding in their efforts to promote the **Safety Assist** program in their town.

In June our organization held its second **Community Safety Expo** in Whyalla, with guest speakers, displays and hands-on demonstrations of CPR and how to extinguish a fire with a fire

blanket. *These fire blankets are extremely effective - and very cheap - and everyone is encouraged to have one in their kitchen, together with a fire extinguisher.*

Congratulations to **John and Rona Gebbie** and their committee on the Safety Expo which has helped to spread safety messages throughout the Whyalla community.



Kirsten Trenaman checking out the fire truck



Ramon from Fire Equipment Maintenance Group, Port Augusta, showing Leslie-Ann Gebbie how to extinguish a fire



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
KEEPING SA SAFE

National Police Remembrance Day Memorial Service



Monday 29 September 2008
11.00 am

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

**FORT LARGS
POLICE ACADEMY**
Strathfield Terrace, Taperoo

An invitation is extended for you to attend the National Police Remembrance Day Memorial Service, to honour those police officers who were killed in the performance of their duty.

The 40 minute service will be followed by morning tea served in the Academy Mess.

Parking will be available in the Academy Gym Car Park located immediately to the right, after entering the main entrance.

In case of wet weather, the service will be relocated to the Academy Auditorium, located upstairs in the Mess Building.

Enquiries to SAPOL Special Events Officer, telephone 820 42229.



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 could range from assault or home invasion to robbery or homicide. Support is provided for individual crime victims, their families, friends and the wider community. You do not need to have reported a crime to access the services which include 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.

Speakers are available to present community talks about victims of crime and the support offered through Victim Support Service.

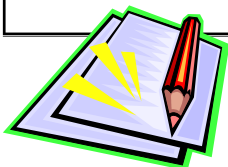
Contact details: ph 8231 5626 or
info@victimsa.org or www.victimsa.org



Successful Fundraiser

THANK YOU for your assistance with selling tickets in the recent Australian Central Community Lottery.

We didn't sell any of the winning tickets but the lottery was a successful fundraiser and we very much appreciate your support.



Incident Reports

EXAMPLES OF RECENT REPORTED INCIDENTS INCLUDE:

17/8/08 – **Salisbury**

6.00pm: 12 year old boy arrived at Salisbury Fire Station (a Safety Assist location) in a distressed state. After being dropped off home after a day out, no one was home and after an hour he was very worried and went to the fire station for help. Parent contacted.

8/7/08 – **Port Pirie**

2.30pm: Teenage girl was in a very distressed state, didn't have a phone on her and asked for help at Victim Support Service office (a Safety Assist location). Her family was contacted and came to collect her. Girl was most grateful for the assistance.

1/7/08 – **Exeter**

10.00am: Little 2 year old boy was found wandering down the street. He said his mum was at "the kindy". Police attended.

24/6/08 – **Oakden**

3.30pm: Elderly gentleman knocked on door asking for help as he was disoriented after going for a walk. Safety Assist member ensured his safe return home.

19/6/08 – **Paradise**

3.30pm: 2 young boys requested the use of a telephone as they needed to contact their parents to pick them up after a school event.

4/6/08 – **Salisbury North**

10.20pm: Teenager needed assistance as he was new to area, had become lost and needed directions.

PATRON:

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

Please report all incidents of Safety Assist use.