

'YOUTH AND THE COMMUNITY'

Neighbourhood Watch Broadbeach 20 on the Gold Coast is pleased to report on areas of 'COMMUNITY FEEDBACK' received during a number of group activities undertaken over the past year.

It is not only important to record 'COMMUNITY FEEDBACK' where negative youth activities are involved but when the feedback is seen to be well over 92% in favour of engaging and educating youth on community values then this is a strong indication that there is a need for reform NOW!

Areas of activities, research and involvement in the Broadbeach, Mermaid Waters and Robina areas involving many members of Neighbourhood Watch have included:-

- Discussions with over 3000 local residents when handing out NHW Newsletters - (August 2008 and February 2009)
- Graffiti Audit and clean up (December 2008 and January 2009)
- G C Bulletin – Rescue Patrol Law and Order Panel(March 2009)
- Neighbourhood Watch Gold Coast District forum (March 2009)
- Gold Coast City Council Graffiti Summit (May 2009)
- Juvenile Justice Conferencing meetings – March, April 2009
- Neighbourhood Watch State Conference (October 2009)

As a very active community based organisation Broadbeach 20 Neighbourhood Watch has been represented at all of the above activities, meetings and forums and the single common area has always brought YOUTH matters to the fore!

The Gold Coast Bulletin Rescue Patrol forum at Griffith University earlier in the year discussed a number of important topics for improvement of the Gold Coast as a whole. The Law and Order panel headed by Gold Coast Police Superintendant Jim Keogh highlighted the need to engage and educate youth on the consequences of crime. The idea being to have a 'shovel ready' plan of action immediately with school visits by Police, Magistrates and community organisations and a follow up bicycle ride by youth in March 2010 - (*YOUTH – ride against crime – recommended by Broadbeach 20 Neighbourhood Watch*) to involve 1500 – 2000 young school students from all around the Gold Coast.

Feedback from the community at large has reflected an attitude that states that Society and the Judicial System (Courts) are too lenient with crime offenders and that tougher penalties are needed. **ZERO TOLERANCE** has been called for on numerous occasions and works in other areas around the world.

This does not necessarily always mean prison sentences but fines in dollar terms so that offenders feel a hurt in their hip pocket when paying for their misdemeanours. Recommendations include:-

Truancy

Parents are responsible!

And need to lose part of their Centrelink payments or pay some form of fine - \$ 100 each time!

Graffiti offenders	\$200 minimum EACH TAG to assist with clean up
Hooning	\$500 – first offence – loss of licence – 6mths
(50kmph over speed limit)	\$1000 – second offence – loss of licence-2 Yrs
	Loss of car and fine of \$1000 on third offence!
School Assaults	Lose school days and fines - \$200 plus Costs
	And Mobiles taken from offenders!
General Assaults	\$1000 PLUS costs of damage - hospital - court costs
(Punch ups to Glassing)	Second offence – \$1000 fine, costs and
	imprisonment! - -AND SO ON!!!!!!!!!!

Juvenile fines may be less but still need fines to be applied!
There has been too much talk for too long and the community is totally fed up with small talk and let's have another meeting!

THE COMMUNITY IS CALLING FOR ACTION!!!!

The Community wants offenders to pay for the costs of all damages and court costs as well as fines and this includes incidences with hooning, assaults etc. when victims are hospitalised because of reckless and violent behaviour. There are laws in place to cover these matters and the community is calling out loud for these laws to be properly administered.

WHY SHOULD THE COMMUNITY PAY THE COSTS???????
ALL OFFENDERS KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG!!!!!!!!!!

Other areas for change to include:-

More security with licensed venues – Venues to cover costs!
Venues to be FINED - \$200 with each excessive service of alcohol!
1am closing and raising patron's age to 19 years and over.

Improved public Transport!
Taxis to charge a late hour fee after 2am when patrons are collected at taxi ranks to cover security costs?

More police only means that the community pays again when security firms are able to cover costs by passing on costs to venues and users (user pays) who cause these problems in the first place! These recommendations could equally apply to Kings Cross Sydney, St Kilda Melbourne or Gold Coast and the Valley in Queensland!

This is not rocket science and the Judicial System, Magistrates and Judges need to know that the community is now demanding tougher court penalties. Please listen to the community who only ask for changes that will enhance life styles and return community safety and values to an acceptable standard.

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