

Safety @ Mentone Station

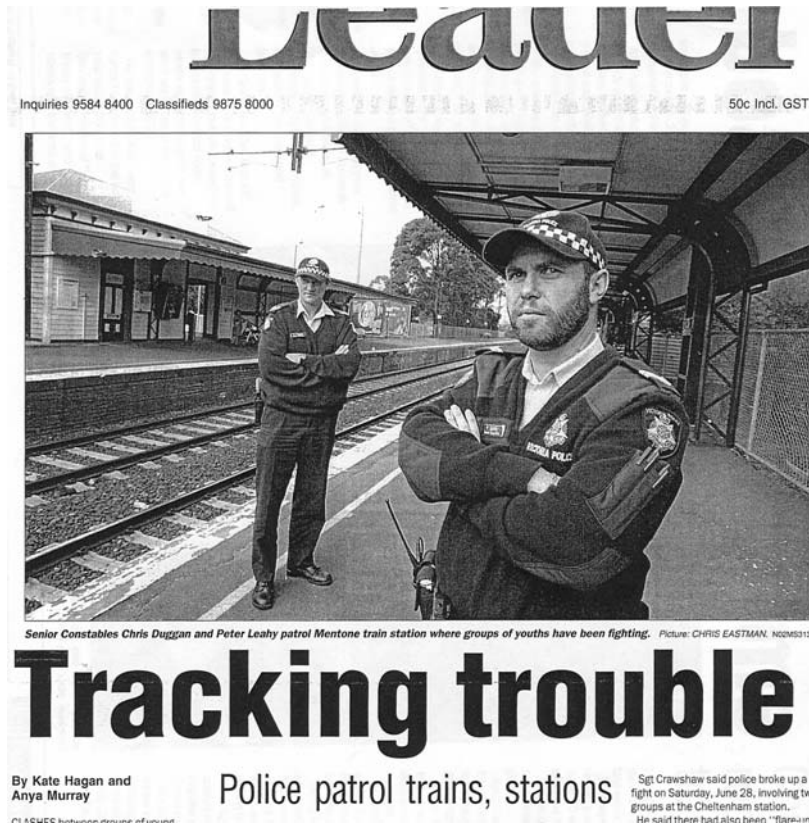
Mentone Station Working Group



Welcome!

Belinda Rice (Eva Foster)
Community Safety Officer
Health & Social Planning

The Issue



Article summary:

- Alcohol & drugs
- Anti-social behaviour
- Assaults
- Graffiti
- Gangs
- Pro-active police response

The Setting

- Transit Hub
Bus + Train
- 4 Secondary
Schools
- 7,500 students/
school day



Process

- Step 1:** Create forum for information exchange (Working Group)
- Step 2:** Clarify & specify the concerns
- Step 3:** Identify & implement actions within resources
- Step 4:** Raise community awareness
- Step 5:** Relationship building



Step 1: Create forum for information exchange

- Identified + invited all key stakeholders
- Meeting facilitated by Council
- 30 representatives including:
 - Friends Group
 - Kingston Village Committee
 - Moorabbin Transit
 - Secondary Schools
 - Traders (Chamber of Commerce)
 - Victoria Police + Transit Safety



Step 2: Clarify & specify the concerns

- **The stated concern:** *drug & alcohol issues at the station*
- **The actual concern re-stated:** *the safety of students & other commuters at the station, due to the sheer number of students (~7,500) using the station, & more specifically the risk taking behaviour of some students*



Step 3: Implement actions within resources

Initiatives included:

- Greater police presence
- Introduction of piped music @ station
- Part-time staffing of station
- Safety audit
- Underpass lighting audit
- Improved underpass drainage
- Investigate infrastructure changes?



Step 3: Implement actions within resources

Were all the solutions proposed by the Working Group feasible?

NO

- If not...relevant authorities were invited to present to the Working Group & provide explanation as to why not currently feasible.
- Pride of Place Funding \$30,000



Step 4: Raise community awareness

- Received broad media coverage (Kingston publications + local newspapers)
- Police reported on specific issues
- Student + parent education & awareness
 - Safety issues at the station
 - Students responsible for own safety + that of others



Step 5: Relationship Building



- Schools & schools
- Police & schools
- Council & schools
- Friends Group & Schools

At Local
Area Level

City of **KINGSTON**



Key Achievements

- Maximised Council resources
- Application of community development principles to a real concern
- Funding Pride of Place Project
- Clearer demarcation of lines of responsibilities between Council internal depts and external agencies



Why successful?

1. Council accepted leadership role
2. Council was only one stakeholder
3. Time invested in analysing the issues
4. Involved community in both
identifying issues & possible solutions
5. Collaborative approach
6. On-going community commitment



A Long-term Solution

1. Strong on-going relationships between different community sectors
2. Real changes to infrastructure
3. Real changes in actual safety + perceptions of safety
4. Sustainable outcomes by involving community in decision making



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Thank You!

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