

Bonny Hills Progress Association News.

The AGM of the BHPA was held on 16 March 2010 and the following office bearers were elected:

President – Roger Barlow
Vice President – Bill Howell
etc

The President's address covered the activities and achievements of the Committee and aligned community organisations during the previous year and went on to consider the challenges and opportunities for Bonny Hills and the community. One of the big opportunities is for us to get involved in helping to shape 'the Bonny Hills of the future'. This future has been broadly described by the community's Vision Statement but now more flesh is needed on these bones.

As part of this future one of the challenges facing us is maintaining law and order. Awareness of this need was heightened recently by unfortunate incidents at Rainbow Beach Reserve on Australia Day. Sergeant Wayne Sainsbury (Intelligence Supervisor), NSW Police Service, and PMH Council Officers, Christine Bannister () and Beth Flynn () were present as guest speakers to provide perspectives for the discussion.

Sergeant Sainsbury spoke about community concerns with regard to anti-social behaviour on 26th January. Bonny Hills was not alone in having a serious incident on that day along the adjacent coast [15 calls to Local Area Command out of a total of 157 on the day]. It appears that this is part of a spreading phenomenon involving young Anglo Saxon males and increasingly females. There is little doubt that alcohol was heavily involved and that most of the perpetrators at Rainbow Beach were local to the area, though it was considered that most were not Bonny Hills residents. [He made an observation that without alcohol half the NSW Police Force could be out of a job].

A tempting solution could be to ban alcohol at such venues but clearly this is not without some downsides for law abiding community members. Similarly convening an organised activity on the day might help [the example of Pilot Beach was ventured] but is not guaranteed to work and there can be downsides at nearby beaches.

The police convened a debriefing session following the Australia Day incidents and have canvassed a number of possible solutions. They now want to engage with the community to develop an agreed way forward. Wayne's presentation was a first step in this direction. Christine said Council was highly supportive of this approach.

And for the good news Beth Flynn announced that Council had come up with a grant of \$1500 for the Community Strength Group to use as part of Youth Week – April 10 to 18th.

Monthly committee meetings of BHPA are open to all residents and minutes and important notices are emailed to all on our database. If you are not on email, minutes are on display at the BH Post Office. Annual membership is only \$10 per household and can be paid at any meeting or c/- the PO. Fees for 2010 are now due.

Contact us: PO Box 44 Bonny Hills, email: bhpa@bonnyhills.org.au or phone:

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Vice President: Bill Howell 6584 8680
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