



TWEED POLICE NEWS

After speaking at a mass rally at the Cudgen Leagues Club organised by the Safer Communities Alliance group, Geoff Provest accepted and later lodged in Parliament, petitions signed by 3,000 locals demanding more police resources to tackle the area's growing youth crime problem. The NSW Labor Police Minister's extraordinary response was to claim the Tweed has TOO MANY officers and there is NO LOCAL INCREASE in youth crime.

An important element of local policing is cross border cooperation. Geoff Provest is pictured here working with his Queensland State counterpart, Jann Stuckey MP, Gold Coast Police Commander Des Lacy and Tweed/Byron Police Commander Michael Kenny. The group now meets with increasing regularity, and the days of the cross border blame game are definitely over.

Geoff Provest is extremely vocal in Parliament, when it comes to Tweed policing issues. He asks dozens of questions of the Police Minister and regularly speaks on the subject, holding the Labor administration to account over its failure to provide sufficient Tweed police resources. Geoff also uses Parliamentary speeches to recognise exceptional deeds by Tweed police officers, like the courage shown by Senior Constable Trent Elliott and Senior Constable Troy Hamilton (pictured below). These officers were recently awarded bravery medals for putting their safety at risk to help others during Australia Day riots in 2008.

Documents just obtained by Geoff Provest under Freedom of Information laws reveal the NSW Labor Government has again put off building the new Tweed police station it announced way back in early 2007. Construction will not now begin until March next year, and the station will not open until May 2012 at the earliest.



100% FOR TWEED



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Geoff Provest MP

A community newsletter from your Tweed Nationals Member of Parliament

June 2010

Backing Tweed cops

SPECIAL EDITION



Welcome to this special Tweed Police edition of my *100% for Tweed* community newsletter. Our local cops do a fantastic job - I know this because I have just again accompanied them on a night shift, as you can see by the photo - but there simply aren't enough of them. Our Tweed officers are constantly being forced to do more with less, often with consequences for their own safety. I need your help to convince the State Government to give the Tweed its fair share of officers - and that is what this newsletter is all about. I strongly value your support and feedback, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Geoff Provest



Tweed Neighbourhood Watch

www.tweedneighbourhoodwatch.org



Safer Communities Alliance

www.safercommunitiesalliance.org



Neighbourhood Watch Tweed Valley has been a voluntary arm of the Police Force since 1984, and would you believe we have members who have been with the organization since the beginning, and still work hard for the community!

Over the years NHW has been proactive in the community, and we are proud of the projects that we have carried out, such as a cash donation to Bilambil Rural Fire Service, money raised from the local community, Safety Expo at Tweed Heads, with the financial help of the Tweed Bowls Club, and a number of our members have attended the Aged Care Expo, held at Murwillumbah each year spreading the word of home and personal safety.

More recently we have started School Watch at the Banora Point High School. This is the first time that this program has been introduced in NSW by a Neighbourhood Watch, our main interest with this project is to learn how these young people think on youth crime and their concern with safety. At a recent combined meeting of the Tweed NHW Groups, four students from the school attended our meeting and gave great insight as to how they felt on personal safety issues. These young students did give our members a great feeling that all young people are not bad, just the few bad guys that cast a shadow on the rest.

In the last few months Neighbourhood Watch has been on the move, we have opened three new groups, Fingal, West Banora Point, and Tweed Heads. This now gives us a total of 15 groups in the Tweed/Brunswick.

Do we need more? Yes we do, we need all the help we can get to keep our communities safe, feeding information to our local police, AND REPORTING CRIME.

Also this year we are proud to announce that with help, we have developed our own website www.tweedneighbourhoodwatch.org. This has opened us up to our local community, and the world as to the happenings of Neighbourhood Watch Tweed Valley. We are proud of this project, and thank Pip Cleary for her ongoing support.

Whilst we are thanking folk that assist NHW, we must thank Rory Curtis Good Guys at South Tweed, for their continued support, without them life would have been difficult. I would also thank our local police for their support and assistance. Also our thanks to Geoff Provest Chairman of the Combined Groups NHW Tweed Valley.

Finally if you would like to join NHW or even start a group you can contact me on 0404 029 230.
Gordon Levenson
Hon. Secretary Combined Groups NHW Tweed Valley.

The Tweed's new Safer Communities Alliance is a great example of a community group uniting in the face of a common problem: violence.

The SCA's first public rally at the Cudgen Leagues Club in Kingscliff attracted more than 1,000 concerned residents.

Mr Provest spoke about that rally in Parliament:

The day of that rally will be remembered as the day when the Tweed stood up and said enough is enough. We are not going to have the wool pulled over our eyes by statisticians and politicians in Sydney. We need those adequate resources to make our streets safe.

“...the day the Tweed stood up and said enough is enough...”

- Geoff Provest in Parliament

I remind members that just on 30 per cent of the population of the Tweed is over 65. These are hardworking, New South Wales people who have given their life and soul to the greatness of this State and they are being ignored by this inept Labor Government, which starves the Tweed of adequate police resources. We need help now. We needed it years ago and we will continue to fight for it. That Safer Communities rally will not go away. The people will continue to hold rallies and will continue to get media attention until they get some positive action to ensure that the good citizens of Tweed Heads are safe in the community.

The broad objectives of the SCA are:

- To continue to call for increased police numbers and more high-profile policing for the Tweed area.
- To seek changes and solutions to the Tweed/Coolangatta cross-border policing issues.
- To seek changes to legislation in regards to the way young violent offenders are handled.
- To see an expansion of preventative programs implemented in local primary and high schools.

- To see an increase in the availability of youth services in the area, particularly in terms of crisis services.
- To provide support and information to parents of young people.
- To provide support and information to the elders of the community.
- To seek an increase in transport services for the Tweed/Coolangatta area.
- To provide a united front for individuals or organisations already working in any of the above areas who are seeking further support or funding.



Geoff Provest at work with Safer Communities Alliance represented here by David Field and Kristie Hedley

Police Association of NSW Tweed

www.keepourcops.org.au



The Tweed's hardworking police officers are represented by their local branch of the Police Association of NSW. Their spokesperson is long term local cop, Senior Constable Andrew Eppelstun.

He and his colleagues have been highly active in a number of community safety campaigns, including the all important bid to boost Tweed police numbers.

There are a number of ways of showing your support for your Tweed police officers:

- ✓ Firstly report all crime - this helps generate accurate statistics used for the allocation of police resources;
- ✓ Sign up on their website, www.keepourcops.org.au; and
- ✓ Join or support your local Tweed Neighbourhood Watch group.

CRIME STOPPERS
1 800 333 000

