



# **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN VICTORIA**

**A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE**

**1983 - 1987**

**Tom Newman OAM**

# A History of Neighbourhood Watch in Victoria

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## Document Control

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# A History of Neighbourhood Watch in Victoria

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## Table of Contents

DOCUMENT CONTROL .....	1
FOREWORD .....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	4
LOGO AND IDENTITY .....	9
MEDIA .....	12
OPERATION IDENTIFICATION.....	15
SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING .....	17
OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES.....	17
CHIEF COMMISSIONER MICK (S.I.) MILLER.....	18
DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME.....	19
FAREWELL TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER SI MILLER.....	40
CRIME STOPPERS (1987) .....	43
STATE AWARDS COMMITTEE.....	44
CONCLUDING REMARKS.....	45
APPENDIX A: SEMINAL DATES .....	46
TABLE OF FIGURES.....	47

# A History of Neighbourhood Watch in Victoria

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## Foreword

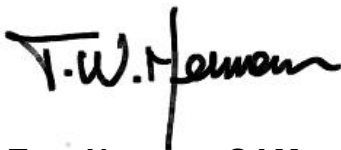
This is a story of my experience with the early development of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Victoria. I have included scanned copies of documents in my possession for interest and to preserve the record for the future.

This is an initial contribution to documenting the history of the programme.

Of course, this presents a civilian partner's viewpoint and it is my intention to later add records that may become available from police archives and from other participants at State, Division and Area levels.

In the early days, the typing of all minutes and correspondence was performed by my late wife Joan, who supported me and the programme in so many ways without receiving public acknowledgement. I was very fortunate to have her support.

I welcome contributions to the NHW History in the form of scanned copies of records and stories of the people — police and civilian — who have made the programme the great success it has become over more than 25 years.



**Tom Newman OAM**  
**Historian NHW**

Email: [twnewman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twnewman@optusnet.com.au)

## Introduction

**June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1983** — the first meeting of the NHW pilot programme was conducted in partnership with members of Victoria Police and local Frankston/Kananook community. This meeting was arranged under the auspices of the Police Community Involvement Programme (PCIP).

Prior to this meeting, a great deal of work had been undertaken by then Senior Sergeant David Smith of PCIP to provide the platform upon which a design programme could be implemented in a local community. Senior Sergeant Smith went overseas in 1982 to study crime prevention programmes, visiting 16 major police forces in Britain, Scotland, Japan, Canada and the United States, which included a review of American NHW programmes.

Seven Frankston areas were studied using Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data and local crime intelligence. Kananook was chosen as an area which represented an average socioeconomic profile. The Belvedere area in Seaford was chosen as a control area to compare crime statistics with Kananook.

David Smith's work was supported by a man with outstanding foresight in the initiation and development of police and community co-operative programmes: then Chief Commissioner Mick (SI) Miller.

The initiative was undertaken to reduce the incidence of preventable crime, and principally to address the rapidly escalating rate of burglaries in Victoria.

The initial pilot programme was conducted in Frankston City, in Kananook, an unofficial suburb of Seaford. 600 homes were included in the "Zebra 1" area, Zebra being the police district to which Frankston belonged at that time.

A crime questionnaire, published by PCIP and distributed in the pilot zone area, is pictured overleaf.

I had the privilege of being elected Area Co-ordinator of the design programme, which was supported by 24 civilian committee members, and police. Police were represented by Senior Sergeant David Smith from the Research and Development Department, and Senior Sergeant Michael Friend and Acting Sergeant Chris Coster, both of whom represented PCIP.

During that first year we were able, as a team, to develop the basic format for a NHW area structure. We met fortnightly as a Zone Leader Committee at the Kananook Primary School hall, and weekly at times, in sub-committees, mostly at the homes of Area committee members.

The pilot area comprising approximately 700 homes was allocated to 24 zone leaders and, in the initial period, zone leaders called on their residents to explain the programme. Later, communication was by letterbox-drops of the regular newsletter and phone contact to the zone leader or area co-ordinator by residents.

Frankston City Council manufactured and underwrote the cost of street signs and erected them at the boundaries of the pilot area. The original signs can be identified by the police hat in the NHW logo excluding a checked hatband.



# Crime Survey Questionnaire



## KANANOOK

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- (1) In your opinion is crime one of the major problems facing this community. YES   
NO
- (2) Thinking of your own neighbourhood, would you consider it,  
a very high crime area.....   
a somewhat high crime area.....   
a low crime area.....   
a very low crime area.....
- (3) Do you consider it is safe for members of you family to walk alone in your neighbourhood at night. YES   
NO   
SOMETIMES
- (4) Have you or any member of your household been a victim of crime within the last year. YES   
NO
- (5) Was the crime reported to police. YES   
NO
- (6) A program is being developed which will involve the residents in your neighbourhood who will watch for crime and report suspicious activities. Would you be interested in learning more about this program. YES   
NO
- (7) Would you be willing to participate in this neighbourhood program. YES   
NO
- (8) Do you have any special comments to make regarding crime in your neighbourhood. your experience with the police or the courts. YES   
NO   
(Write comments on the reverse please.)

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
PHONE.....

Please return this questionnaire to either the Kananook milk bar in Mc Culloch Ave or the milk bar at Wells Rd and Boonong Street by Tuesday the 3rd of May 1983.

\*\*\*If you have any further queries about this program please ring 781 4466.\*\*\*





FIGURE 2 - KANANOOK PILOT AREA (MELWAYS MAP 99)

KANAMOOK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ZONE LEADERS.

<u>ZONE.</u>	<u>NO. OF HOMES.</u>	<u>NAME.</u>	<u>ADDRESS.</u>	<u>PHONE.</u>
1.	34	BRIAN TURNER.	31 KANAMOOK AVE. SEAFORD.	786 1460.
2.	30	MAX STARK.	8 BARDIA AVE. "	786 1536.
3.	41	FRED JONES.	1 MORESBY AVE. "	786 1945.
4.	39	ROY EVANS.	23 ROSSLYN AVE. "	786 8951.
5.	30	TERRY JAMES.	3 MORESBY AVE. "	786 6859.
6.		COLIN OGDEN.	11 KIRKWOOD AVE. "	786 6895.
7.	27.	GRAHAM WILSON.	76 FORTESCUE AVE. "	786 5361.
8.	30	PAT TOOMEY.	94 KIRKWOOD AVE. "	786 6146.
9.	25	GEORGE GILLARD.	28 KIRKWOOD AVE. "	186 1480.
10.	37	ANDREW FORD.	107 FORTESCUE AVE. "	786 0181.
11.	38	KAY NICHOLL.	97 FORTESCUE AVE. "	786 2658.
12.	30.	DIRK SMIBERT.	112 FORTESCUE AVE. "	786 6804.
13.	40.	ALAN BEAMAN.	26 McCULLOCK AVE. "	786 6570.
14.	40.	JOHN HORSTRA.	122 ROSSLYN AVE. "	786 6825.
15.	26.	RUSS GRAY.	1/75 KIRKWOOD AVE. "	786 7426.
16.		FRANK HUGHES.	98 KIRKWOOD AVE. "	786 5892.
17.	31.	DON STEVENS.	136 ROSSLYN AVE. "	786 6246.
18.	26.	RON SPRY.	149 ROSSLYN AVE. "	786 6308.
19.	30	BARRY KITSON.	43 DUNCAN AVE. "	786 6775.
20.	14.	NICK BYRNES	60 KIRKWOOD AVE. "	786 9383.
21	32	JOHN MACDONALD	16 LEVUKA ST. "	786 3097
22	31	DAVID LEASHMAN	3 FORTESCUE AVE. "	786 9730
23	27	ALAN SLOANE	10 FORTESCUE AVE. "	786 5663
24	39	DIGBY GLASSBOROW	13 MAHONY CRS. "	786 2904.
<b>ASSISTANT ZONE LEADER:</b>				
		MARGARET KITHER	129 ROSSLYN AVE. "	786 9830
		MARGO SHEARER	137 KANAMOOK AVE "	786 6397
		NOLA YOUNG	114 FORTESCUE AVE.	786 0831
<b>AREA CO-ORDINATOR.</b>		<b>TOM NEWMAN.</b>	<b>74 FORTESQUE AVE. "</b>	<b>786 1167.</b>

FIGURE 3 - THE HARDWORKING ZONE LEADER TEAM OF THE PILOT PROGRAMME



KANANOOK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

ZONE LEADER'S MEETING 4.7.83

A G E N D A

Chairman	Tom Newman.	
ITEM 1	Open meeting, apologies.	Tom Newman.
ITEM 2	Explanation and distribution of zone folders.	Tom Newman.
ITEM 3	Clarification of police phone numbers. Emergency information. Non emergency information.	Michael Friend.
ITEM 4	First contact with residents, explanation of reporting methods, chain of command etc.	Michael Friend.
ITEM 5	Neighbourhood Watch Logo, selection of.	Tom Newman.
ITEM 6	Finance.	Tom Newman.
ITEM 7	Frequency of meetings.	Tom Newman.
ITEM 8	Crime Report for June 1983	Kevin HAWKINS
ITEM 9,	Next Meeting	Tom Newman
ITEM 10	General Business	
	CLOSE OF MEETING.	

FIGURE 4 - FIRST ZONE LEADER MEETING AGENDA - JULY 4TH, 1983

I formed the team into sub-committees, which met weekly in most cases. These were organised under the titles of: "Logo", "Finance", "Information and Publicity" and "Operation Identification". It was all very frenetic but an exciting period in our lives: after all, we had an opportunity to design a programme that was entirely innovative to Australia, and one which was unequivocally worthwhile.

## Logo and Identity

We designed the “four heads” logo which is seen throughout Australia today, and which has become a highly recognisable symbol of the programme. I asked the Logo Committee to design a logo with the police member represented as a person rather than as a badge.

The PCIP *Working Together* logo being used up to this time is pictured below.



FIGURE 5 - POLICE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME (PCIP) LOGO

We needed to be consistent with our objective to facilitate a friendly and accessible rapport between police and community in the fight against residential crime, and the representation of police as a member of the community was preferable.

The Logo Committee comprised Kay Nichol (school teacher), Don Stevens (graphics designer), and residents Rod Lane and Mike Davey. The Committee, chaired by Kay Nichol, designed the “four heads” logo, as we see it today. My only contribution was the addition of an eye in the leading face! The checked hatband was later added to the police officer’s hat, when the logo was subsequently copyrighted.

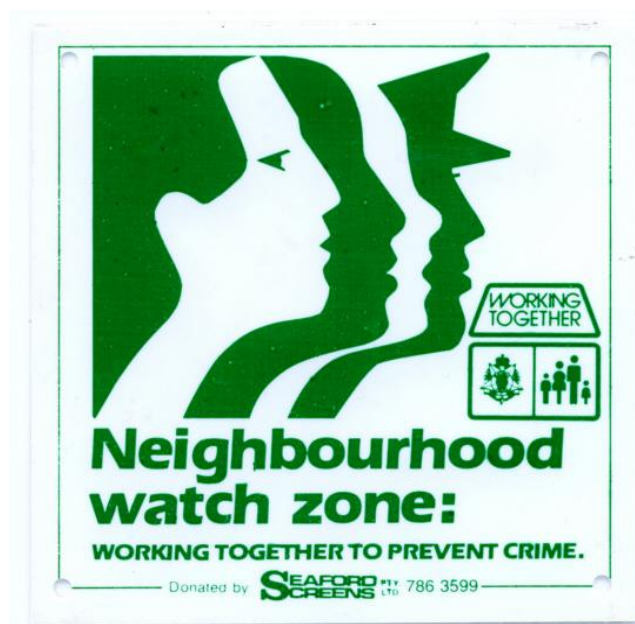


FIGURE 6 - THE DESIGN OF THE FIRST NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GATE PLAQUE

The original suggestion was that the yellow colour of the PCIP *Working Together* logo be adopted as the colour for the NHW logo. After deliberation, the Committee unanimously agreed that the colour was to be the then official “Garden State Victoria” green. That this colour continues to be used far and wide is testimony to the origin of the programme in the State of Victoria, a fact of which Victorians can be justly proud. The green logo is a treasured symbol representing the programme. It has been the flag and banner since 1983, under which the residents and police of Victoria and beyond have together fought the fight against residential crime.



FIGURE 7 - THE DESIGN OF THE SECOND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GATE PLAQUE

AGENDA ITEM 7.

Logo

DON STEVENS exhibited a suggested logo embodying the outlined heads of a family group together with one of a police officer. He commended the assistance given to the logo sub-committee by neighbours ROD LANE and MIKE DAVEY. He estimated that costs for the logo would be in the order of twenty dollars for signs and two hundred dollars for five hundred bumper stickers.

Following discussion the meeting agreed that:

- a. subject to the inclusion of an eye the logo as presented be adopted for Neighbourhood Watch,
- b. The provision of street signs be given first priority with house and bumper stickers following in order,
- c. the logo sub-committee be congratulated on their work,
- d. the wording on street signs be " Neighbourhood Watch Zone",
- e. the wording on house and bumper stickers be "Neighbourhood Watch - Working together to prevent crime"
- f. street signs to be square shaped, on metal, and approximately 550mm x 450mm,
- g. House stickers to be plastic screw - on type, 100mm square,
- h. car stickers to be 200mm x 60mm.

It was also agreed that apart from denoting corporate assistance signs and stickers be free of all other messages. The logo sub-committee was requested to follow up the provision and costs of signs and stickers.

**ACTION:** Logo sub-committee.

FIGURE 8 - EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE THIRD PILOT MEETING ON JULY 18TH, 1983



## Media

We designed a basic informational newsletter, which included a crime report, for distribution to residents. Our first publication is a far cry from the professional newsletters being delivered today.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER  
No. 1. 74 Fortescue Ave.  
Senford.  
7861167.

Dear Zone leader,

please convey the following contents to your neighbours within the zone allocated.

For the early part of June 1983, the following crimes have been reported within our area,

BURGLARIES (Daytime).....	Kananook Ave (2)
.....	Fortescue Ave(1)
BURGLARIES (Nighttime).....	Wells Road shops(2)
TREPTS...	Rosalyn Ave, Wells Road
CAR THEFT....	KIRKWOOD AVE (1)
SNOWDROPPINGS....	McCulloch Ave (1)
WILFUL DAMAGE...	Wells Road (1)
TREPT FROM CAR...	Kananook Primary School. (1)

HIGHLIGHTS:  
House Burglaries committed at Kirkwood Ave, Boonong Ave and Fortescue Avenue between 10/6/83 and 13/6/83 involving goods to the value \$1221.00.  
Entry by forcing side windows. Are your windows secure?  
Two females aged 14 and 16 apprehended for these burglaries as a result of neighbour observations and contacting police. (Daytime burglaries.)  
Another member of the Neighbour Hoof Watch contacted police after watching 4 youths loitering near back fences of houses bordering the Kananook Creek.  
Magic mushrooms seized (drug of addiction) and other minor matters dealt with.

Above information from Sergeant HAWKINS, Frankston Crime Car Squad.  
(Patrolman for area.)

A zone leader meeting will be held very shortly to discuss a number of matters in relation to communication, chain of command, identification markers, and other matters. Dont forget the numbers of Police, 11 444 or 7845555.

(Tom NEEMAN) Area Co-Ordinator.

FIGURE 9 - THE FIRST NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

We also developed and circulated leaflets focussing on the topics: "Vacation Security" and "Crime Prevention" in order to raise awareness amongst residents of the measures they could take in reducing the incidence of crime.



FIGURE 10 - EARLY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH "VACATION SECURITY" LEAFLET

The badge pictured in the above leaflet belonged to then Constable Mick Glowaski, who is still assisting the programme more than 25 years later. This document used the "Working Together" logo as the now more familiar "Four Heads" logo was yet to be designed and adopted.

The printing of the newsletters was ultimately undertaken and sponsored by Rolls Printing Seaford and the production and distribution of NHW newsletters continues today.

We were required to operate the pilot programme in Kananook with a minimum of publicity and avoided over-exposure by restricting media coverage to the local newspapers. This was necessary to evaluate the programme on its fundamental operating merits and not on popularity and perceptions created by an enthusiastic media.

**FOR YOUR PROTECTION  
IN THE HOME**

CHECK DOOR LOCKS, MAKE SURE THE  
LOCK IS ADEQUATE AND FIRMLY FIXED.

ENSURE DOORS ARE KEPT LOCKED.

INSTALL A DOOR VIEWER OR PEEP HOLE IN  
THE FRONT DOOR. THIS WILL ENABLE YOU  
TO IDENTIFY THE CALLER WITHOUT  
OPENING THE DOOR.

CONSIDER A PERSONAL ALARM SYSTEM  
AND A SECURITY DOOR.

AVOID MAKING IT OBVIOUS A FEMALE  
LIVES ALONE - CHANGE MAIL BOX AND  
TELEPHONE LISTINGS TO M. SMITH RATHER  
THAN MARY SMITH.

**NEVER ADMIT TO  
CALLERS THAT YOU  
ARE ALONE**

YOU ARE MOST DEFINITELY NOT BEING  
ASKED OR ENCOURAGED TO FORM A  
VIGILANTE GROUP.

There is no place for vigilante  
groups in our community. It is  
the job of the police to apprehend  
criminals. Don't take risks.

YOU ARE SIMPLY ACTING AS THE EYES  
AND EARS OF YOUR ABSENT NEIGHBOUR.

The police cannot be everywhere  
at once. Your help can be very  
helpful to the police and to  
yourself in preventing crime.

**DO NOT HESITATE  
TO RING POLICE**

**ON**

**11444**

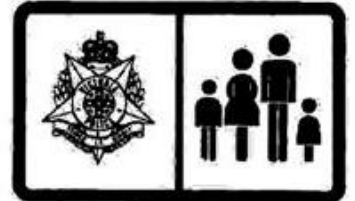
**OR**

**FRANKSTON POLICE**

**784.5555**

Published in the interest of crime  
prevention by the Frankston Police  
in association with the Kananook  
Neighbourhood Watch project team.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH**



**Preventing**

**Crime**

**in our**

**Community**

**KANANOOK**

FIGURE 11 - EARLY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH "CRIME PREVENTION" LEAFLET



# Operation Identification

We designed and implemented the Operation Identification programme, which involved the marking of residents' valuables with their driver's licence numbers, and photographing valuable items for the purpose of identification.

**POLICE  
ATTENDANCE  
NUMBER**

☆☆ **11444** ☆☆

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**FOR ROUTINE  
ENQUIRIES PLEASE  
TELEPHONE :**  
Frankston Police on


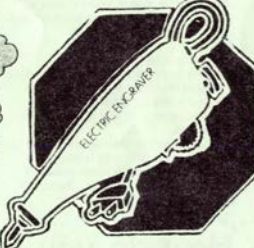
**7845555**

**Working Together  
To Prevent Crime**


WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME. WORKING TOGETHER

**OPERATION  
IDENTIFICATION**

Your No. is: V \*  
\* Use your drivers licence number.

**Insure Against  
This!**



**SAFGUARD**

◀ **YOUR  
VALUABLES**

A community venture into a property identification and inventory system that works to protect you and your property.

### What is Operation Identification?

Operation Identification is a program designed to discourage theft of valuables from your home and other locations and provide a way to easily identify stolen property.

Marked articles are difficult to dispose of and easily traced. Thus, if it is advertised that your valuables are protected by Operation Identification, you will less likely be victimized.

Operation Identification works whether your property is stolen or lost. Proper identification makes it easier for police to return personal property.

### How do you participate in Operation Identification?


To participate in 'Operation Identification' please contact your Zone Leader for details on the availability of an Engraver and engraver.

## What number do you use?


In marking your household items we suggest that you use your driver's licence number, preceded by the alphabetical prefix 'V' for Victoria. This will assist police in easy identification of any property belonging to you in the event that it is lost or stolen.

### Helpful hints on Operation Identification

- Don't put stickers on your doors or windows unless you have engraved your property.
- Be sure to make a record of your property. Keep it in a safe place.



- When engraving, hold the tool straight up, not on a slant.
- The engraving tool has a depth adjuster. The harder the surface adjust the knob to a louder position.
- For deterrent purposes, the identification number should be readily visible, without marring the appearance of the item. A second hidden number can be applied if required.



**Remember:**  
There are other citizens waiting for you to return the engraver.

**Be considerate:**  
Complete your marking and return the engraver within the loan agreement time.

**Take the offensive:**  
Operation Identification is one basic step to prevent theft. Good lighting, good locks, and other security precautions can be taken to prevent crime in your community.

Items listed below are traditionally stolen. Mark as many items as possible regardless of value.

## Check List

**Home**

<input type="checkbox"/> Adding Machines	<input type="checkbox"/> Power Mowers
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles	<input type="checkbox"/> Radios
<input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars	<input type="checkbox"/> Record Players
<input type="checkbox"/> Cameras	<input type="checkbox"/> Stereos
<input type="checkbox"/> Clocks	<input type="checkbox"/> Stereo Speakers
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Toasters
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Clubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Televisions
<input type="checkbox"/> Guns	<input type="checkbox"/> Typewriters
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Tools	<input type="checkbox"/> Musical Instruments
<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Appliances	<input type="checkbox"/> Power Tools
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Lock Boxes	<input type="checkbox"/> Antiques

**Vehicle**

<input type="checkbox"/> Mag Wheels	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio
<input type="checkbox"/> Tape Decks	<input type="checkbox"/> Hub Caps
<input type="checkbox"/> Speakers	<input type="checkbox"/> Battery

**WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BE PHOTOGRAPHED.**

- Jewellery
- Silverware
- Furs etc.
- Watches
- Antiques

• Camera and film can be made available for a nominal fee. CONTACT YOUR ZONE LEADER.

**Crime Prevention . . . it's up to you!**

A minimum donation of \$1.00 would be appreciated to cover the cost of the engravers and Operation Identification sticker

FIGURE 12 - "OPERATION IDENTIFICATION" LEAFLET



**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE OPERATION IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 8/8/83.**

**PRESENT: A. Ford, R. Grey, M. Glowaski, J. Horstra, T. Newman (Chairman)**

Being the In-augural Meeting of this committee no fixed agenda was adhered to, but wide ranging discussions took place on the necessary procedures and ramifications of the introduction of Operation Identification by the Neighbourhood Watch Team. It was generally agreed that the following recommendations be made to the next Zone Leaders meeting.

1. That we endeavour to work in conjunction with the existing Operation Identification promoted by the Crime Prevention Bureau, Victoria Police in order not to affect this existing program and also to reduce costs by using existing stickers. Mick Glowaski agreed to provide information on the current Operation Identification program by the Crime Prevention Bureau.
2. To hold Community meetings to explain Operation Identification.
3. That a nominal charge of \$1.00 per household be charged for the use of the engraver.
4. To produce a pamphlet explaining the purpose of Operation Identification incorporating a return section to be handed back to the Zone leaders indicating the residents acceptance to join in the program. The return section to show the Name, Address and Phone No. of the resident.
5. The method of distribution of the Engravers to be organized after receipt of the return section. The engravers then distributed in blocks of 5 residents requesting each one to pass on to the next allowing 24 hours at each home. This was considered a desirable alternative to having the engraver returned to Zone Leaders after each residents turn.
6. User instructions to be supplied with the Engraver.
7. The photographing of other items of value for identification was also noted and would be a subject for further consideration by the committee.
8. John Horstra volunteered to accept the Chairmanship of the project committee and his acceptance was unanimously supported by all present.
9. Meeting was closed at 9PM, to be reconvened at a time and date to be determined.

**FIGURE 13 - MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE "OPERATION IDENTIFICATION" COMMITTEE (1983)**

## Sponsorship and Funding

The Finance Committee — Kay Nichol and the late Andrew Ford (Assistant Co-Ordinator) — was instrumental in obtaining donations from the commercial sector of the Kananook area, principally Rolls Printing (Mr Tom Potter) and Seaford Screens (Mr Robert Klein), and a myriad of small businesses in the area.

Without their support, we would have had great difficulty in producing the gate plaques, window stickers, bumper stickers and newsletters promoting the programme.

## Objectives and Outcomes

The focus of the programme on reducing the incidence of residential crime required a substantial shift in the mindset of residents. Previously, life was not so complicated that we had to be concerned about such issues as locking doors and windows. Who would come into our homes to rob us? In past times, we were used to our neighbours dropping in to *leave* something like food or gifts or the like. Burglar alarms were things that residents only read about: they were installed in commercial premises or used in other countries — we didn't need them...once!

But our turn had come and residential crime — particularly burglary — was escalating at an alarming rate and innovative solutions to this burgeoning problem had to be formulated.

The NHW programme alerted residents to lock up and be watchful for suspicious activity and the community responded enthusiastically. We had a number of success stories. In one case, a young lady was observed alighting from a window of a neighbouring home by a NHW resident who promptly phoned the police on the promoted emergency number: 11444. The response was immediate and, before the young miscreant could get to the end of the street with her loot, she was apprehended by police and arrested. She was ultimately charged for not one but numerous burglaries in the area.

There was also the man trying to walk quickly without bringing attention to himself. Unfortunately for him, his demeanour — together with the VCR tucked under his arm — did nothing to suggest a respectable endeavour, and residents duly phoned the police: another robber was successfully prosecuted.

Progressively, residents heeded the message and began to lock doors and windows and look out for their neighbours.

Frankston City supported the pilot programme with the erection of street signs in October 1983. In fact, Frankston City is the only municipality which still — after 25 years — has some original signage showing the “four heads” logo without the checked police hatband.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, we held our first security seminar at the Kananook school hall and Channel 10 recorded the event with celebrity newsreader David Johnston as the presenter. This was broadcast later, after the state launch of the programme.

The pilot programme continued until December 1983 and, as it had been so successful, a comprehensive manual for future expansion was written by Victoria Police— principally Dave Smith, Mick Friend and Chris Coster; and plans were made to release the programme to a wider constituency.



## Chief Commissioner Mick (S.I.) Miller

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1984, the State NHW programme was launched publicly by Chief Commissioner Mick Miller and Mr Race Mathews, Minister for Police and Emergency Services. In their speeches, both commended the valuable work contributed by the police and committee members of the pilot programme.

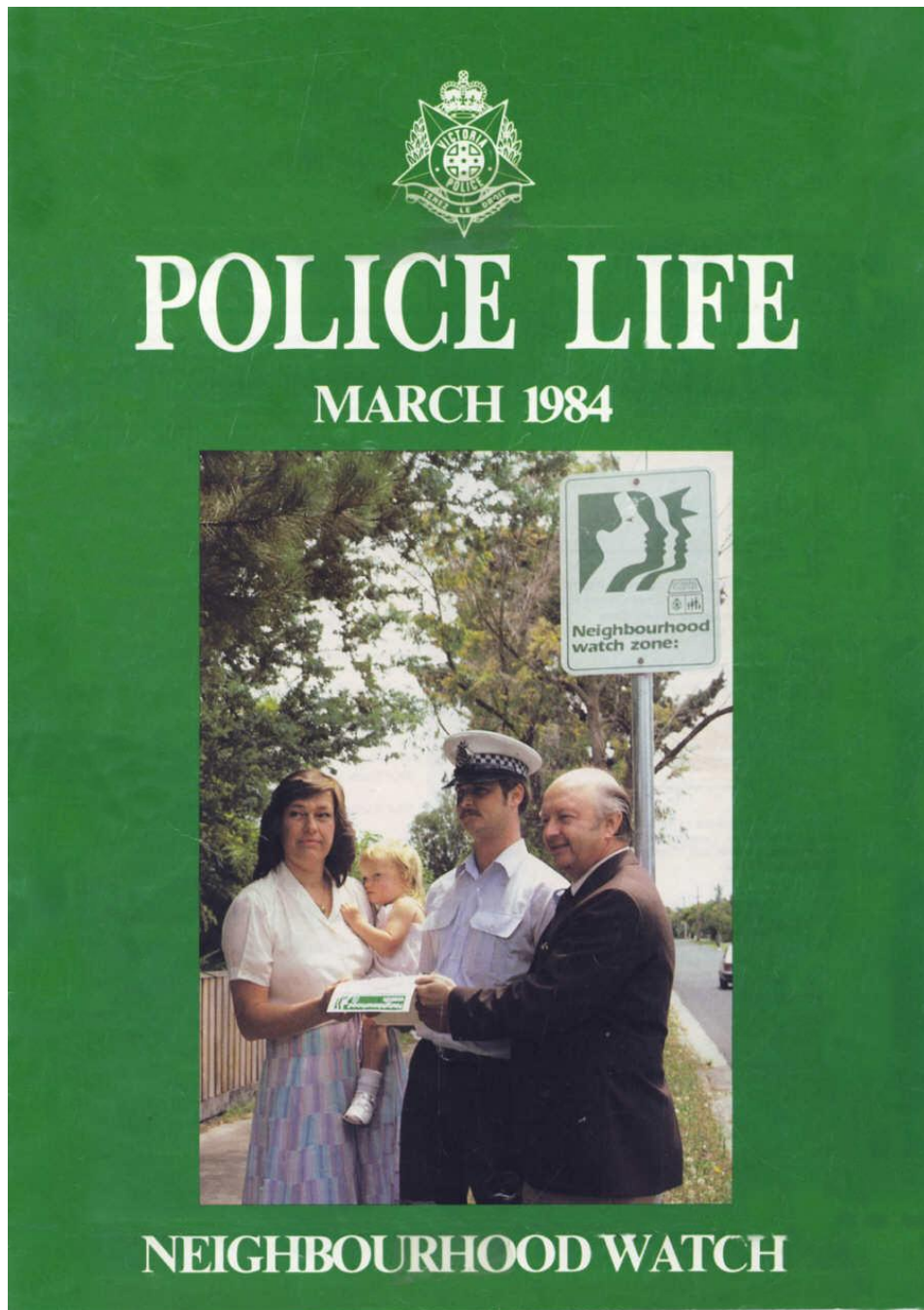


FIGURE 14 - FRONT PAGE OF "POLICE LIFE" (MARCH 1984)

The above photo appearing on the front page of "Police Life" was taken in Fortescue Avenue, Seaford (Kananook) to commemorate the launch of the programme.

18

Pictured are (from left): Mrs Kay Nichol, her daughter Rochelle, Constable Mick Glowaski and myself.

## Development of the Programme



Neighbourhood  
Watch



# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No.9

Police Emergency No.11444

June 1984

### Area Co-ordinators Report A.G.M. 1984.

*Kananook N.W. is 1 year old and when we look back over our first year we can proudly say a great deal has been achieved.*

*The residents of Kananook and Frankston City can be justly proud of the results of the work by the Kananook Zone Leader Committee and Frankston Police Community Involvement program members, in the design and operation of the 1st Neighbourhood Watch program.*

*Without their valuable effort Neighbourhood Watch and its successful expansion would not be taking place as it is today, now into 12 new areas including Frankston North the latest in our own district.*

*We would like particularly to acknowledge the financial sponsors who supported us from the beginning while the program was in its project stages. They came forward to get behind a Community project without any guarantee of success or performance and we are grateful for that support. Our two major sponsors are still assisting us - Seaford Screens and Rolls Printing.*

*Since our initial public meeting on 8th June 1983, your Zone Leader Committee with Victorian Police P.C.I.P. representatives set out to design, implement and test Neighbourhood Watch.*

*The logo you see on the street signs in Kananook and now spreading throughout Melbourne was designed as a first step, then the introduction of operation identification (the engraving of valuables), the publishing of a monthly newsletter, distribution of security information to householders, and the basic organisational structure of the Neighbourhood Watch program, at Community level - designed by your Zone Leader Committee. As Frankston City Residents we should make no excuse for being parochial in pointing out that the program as described has been adopted in its entirety for introduction into the new areas, a proud achievement for the residents of Kananook and the members of the Frankston Police District, P.C.I.P. and Frankston City Council.*

*N.W. has shown itself to be a very worthwhile program, not only can this program help to reduce crime, but, by its basic co-operation nature it can be instrumental in bringing neighbours together, providing a forum for closer Police-Community relations in the common cause of maintaining and improving our quality of life style.*

*There are several members of your Zone Leader Committee and Police members who deserve special tribute for their valuable work during 1983/4 they are: Mrs. Kay Nichol ; Andrew Ford, John Horstra, Alan Beaman, Nick Byrnes, Don Stevens and Russ Gray.*

*Police Members: Inspector David Smith, Snr. Sgt. Mick Friend, Sgt. Chris Coster, Sgt. Bob Martin, Snr. Constable Elsie Keizer, Constables Mick Glowaski and Colin Macaffer.*

*Tom Newman. Area Co-ordinator.*

### Office Bearers for 1984/5

*Area Co-ordinator - Tom Newman. Asst. Area Co-ordinator - Andrew Ford.*

*Treasurer - Mrs. Kay Nichol. Minute Secretary - Nick Byrnes.*

*Executive Committee Members - John Horstra, Ron Spry, Pat Toomey*

FIGURE 15 - JUNE 1984 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



In July 1984, the position of Inspector, Special Projects Implementation Office (SPIO) was created, under which NHW State Co-Ordination, Community Policing Squads (CPS) Co-Ordination and several other proactive programs were located. The position was held by Inspector Bill Robertson who later became Assistant Commissioner in Victoria Police.

The position of Special Projects Implementation Officer was later filled by Inspector Michael Friend.

The State NHW Co-ordinator position was formalised and Sergeant Chris Coster became the first person to hold this position.

In February, 1985, the members of the pilot area were presented with commemorative plaques to acknowledge the work undertaken by the Z team in the design of the programme. The esteem in which the pilot programme members were held is illustrated by Inspector Dave Smith's statement which is reproduced below.

### Presentation

*A Commemorative Plaque has been prepared for all the founding members of the Kananook Neighbourhood Watch, and the Chairman asked Inspector Smith to conduct the presentation.*

*Inspector Smith at the presentation, commented that the importance of these plaques should not be under-rated. The Kananook N.W. had been the first in Australia, and the work that they had done in solving the problems and setting up the organisation had been so comprehensive that the pattern had been handed over almost unaltered to every corner of the Australian Continent, and that included the N.W. motif designed by Mr. Don Stevens which had been universally adopted. Kananook N.W. had made a contribution to Society out of proportion to their numbers.*

*The Chairman then made a presentation in turn to Inspector Smith with the comment that a great deal of the success of the Kananook N.W. was attributable to the advice, support and patience of the Inspector who had led them through many of the difficulties they had encountered in the early days when the groundwork of police and public co-operation was being laid down.*

### Closure

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.*

*T. W. Newman*  
 Tom Newman  
 Chairman

*D. G. Leishman*  
 David Leishman  
 Minute Secy.

FIGURE 16 - EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 23RD MEETING OF KANANOOK NNHW (FEB. 11TH, 1985)

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1985, the first meeting of NHW Area Co-ordinators was conducted. Approximately 70 areas were in operation at that time. At the meeting, I put the motion to elect a design committee for the District and State Committees of the programme.

**First meeting of Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-Ordinators 14<sup>th</sup> March 1985.**

MOTION.

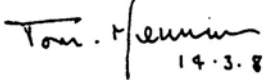
An Interim Committee be nominated to meet and formulate a suggested District and State Neighbourhood Watch Organisation structure for discussion and eventual ratification at the next Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators Conference.

The purpose of this Committee and the projected District and State Organisation is to enable effective communications to take place between all Neighbourhood Watch Groups.

Enable Neighbourhood Watch areas to have a collective voice in the top level decision making process in consultation with the Police Neighbourhood Watch Organisation.

The Interim Committee to meet and consider means by which the opinions of individual Neighbourhood Watch Areas can be brought together, in the areas of funding, constitution, future direction, maintenance of interest, and the possible combining and rationalisation of activities.

I would suggest a figure of five to seven members be nominated to form this Interim Committee, to meet at a time and place to be decided.

  
14.3.85

**FIGURE 17 - EXTRACT OF MINUTES - MOTION TO ELECT DESIGN COMMITTEE FOR DISTRICT AND STATE COMMITTEES**

The Motion was carried and I was subsequently elected as the Interim State Chairman and Chair of the State NHW design committee. The elected members of the committee were: Mr Les Truex (H District), Inspector Michael Friend and Sergeant Chris Coster. We set about our task with the purpose of arranging to have NHW districts formed to coincide with police districts. Ultimately on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1986 the State Committee was formed.

NHW was well represented in the *Police Life* publication – as it is today 25 years on. The April 1985 edition commemorated the first birthday of NHW.

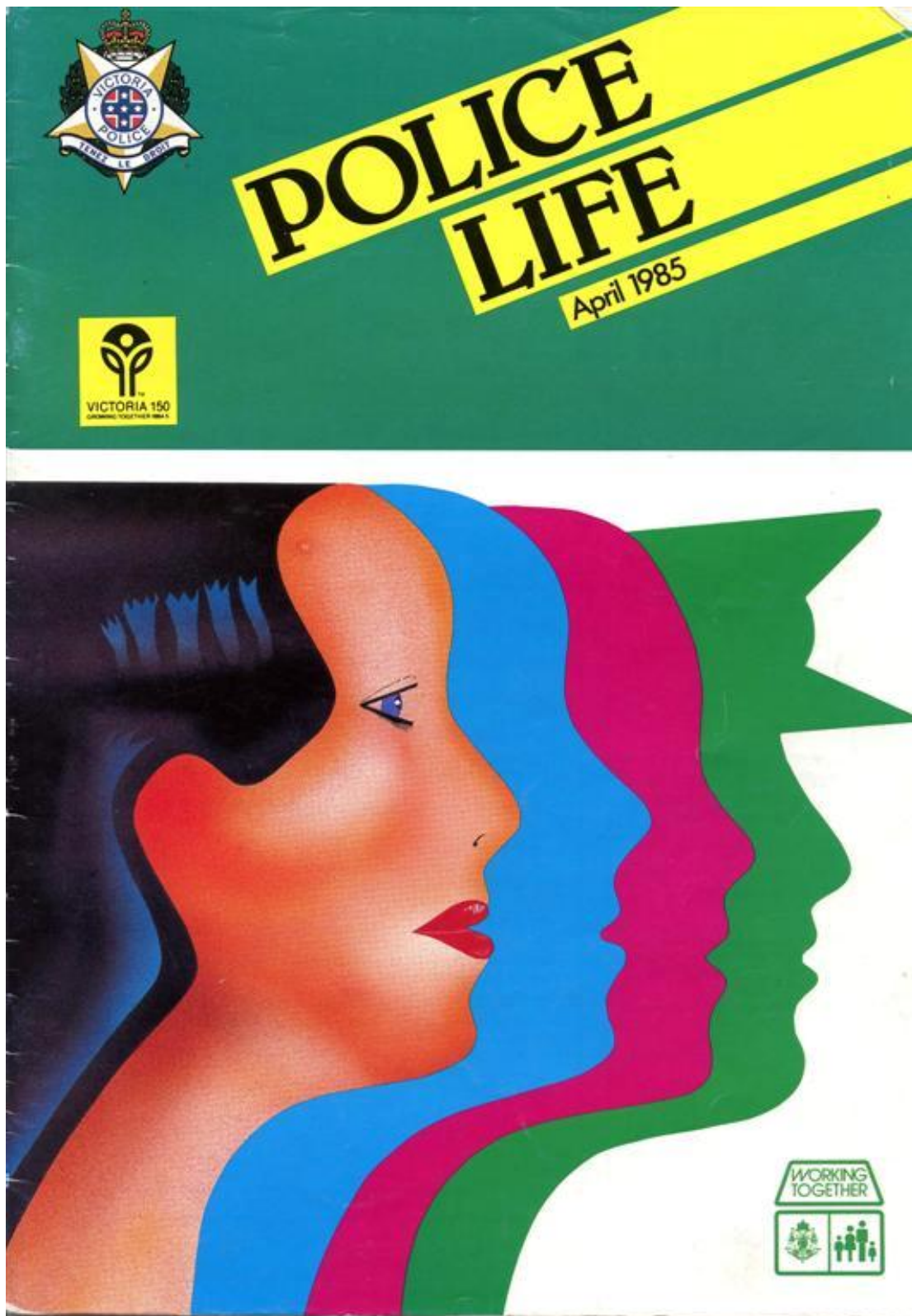


FIGURE 18 - FRONT COVER OF *POLICE LIFE* (APRIL 1985)

In November 1985, a summary of the standing of the programme's 16 districts was produced, with the number of programmes then totalling 210. Those programmes in their early stages generally resulted in a very high initial lowering of burglary and crime which averaged out more realistically as the programme progressed.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHSUMMARY BY DISTRICT

District	Number of Programmes	Number of Houses Av.		Attendance at Public Meetings Av.		Burglary Inc/Dec	All Crime Inc/Dec
"A"	11	7,092	Av. 644	739	Av. 67	-24.12%	-16.40%
"B"	17	10,786	Av. 643	2,386	Av. 140	-24.63%	-14.50%
"C"	2	1,430	Av. 715	336	Av. 168	+24.00%	-15.68%
"D"	1	650	Av. 650	160	Av. 160	-42.42%	-32.55%
"G"	2	1,847	Av. 923	735	Av. 367	-87.03%	-41.95%
"H"	22	16,681	Av. 758	3,576	Av. 178	-40.17% *	- 4.41% *
"I"	20	13,888	Av. 694	2,355	Av. 130	-25.00%	- 9.06%
"J"	6	4,034	Av. 672	882	Av. 147	-12.90%	+ 5.47%
"M"	20	13,734	Av. 686	2,869	Av. 143	-11.51%	-12.06%
"P"	11	7,825	Av. 711	2,089	Av. 189	-34.75%	- 7.76%
"Q"	23	13,556	Av. 589	3,214	Av. 139	-37.43%	-24.17%
"S"	1	750	Av. 750	150	Av. 150	-80.95%	-61.40%
"U"	19	14,702	Av. 773	3,451	Av. 181	- 8.44%	- 5.61%
"V"	9	6,293	Av. 699	1,340	Av. 148	-42.70%	-29.84%
"Y"	33	23,082	Av. 699	6,347	Av. 192	-36.59%	-24.51%
"Z"	13	8,382	Av. 644	1,626	Av. 125	-22.54%	-12.99%

STATE SUMMARY

Number of Neighbourhood Watch programmes	210	
Number of houses in Neighbourhood Watch areas	144,732	Av. 689
Number of people in Neighbourhood Watch areas	435,000	Approx. Av. 2,071
Attendance at Neighbourhood Watch public meetings	32,255	Av. 156
Burglary reduction in Neighbourhood Watch areas	Av. -27.50%	
All crime reduction in Neighbourhood Watch areas	Av. -15.77%	

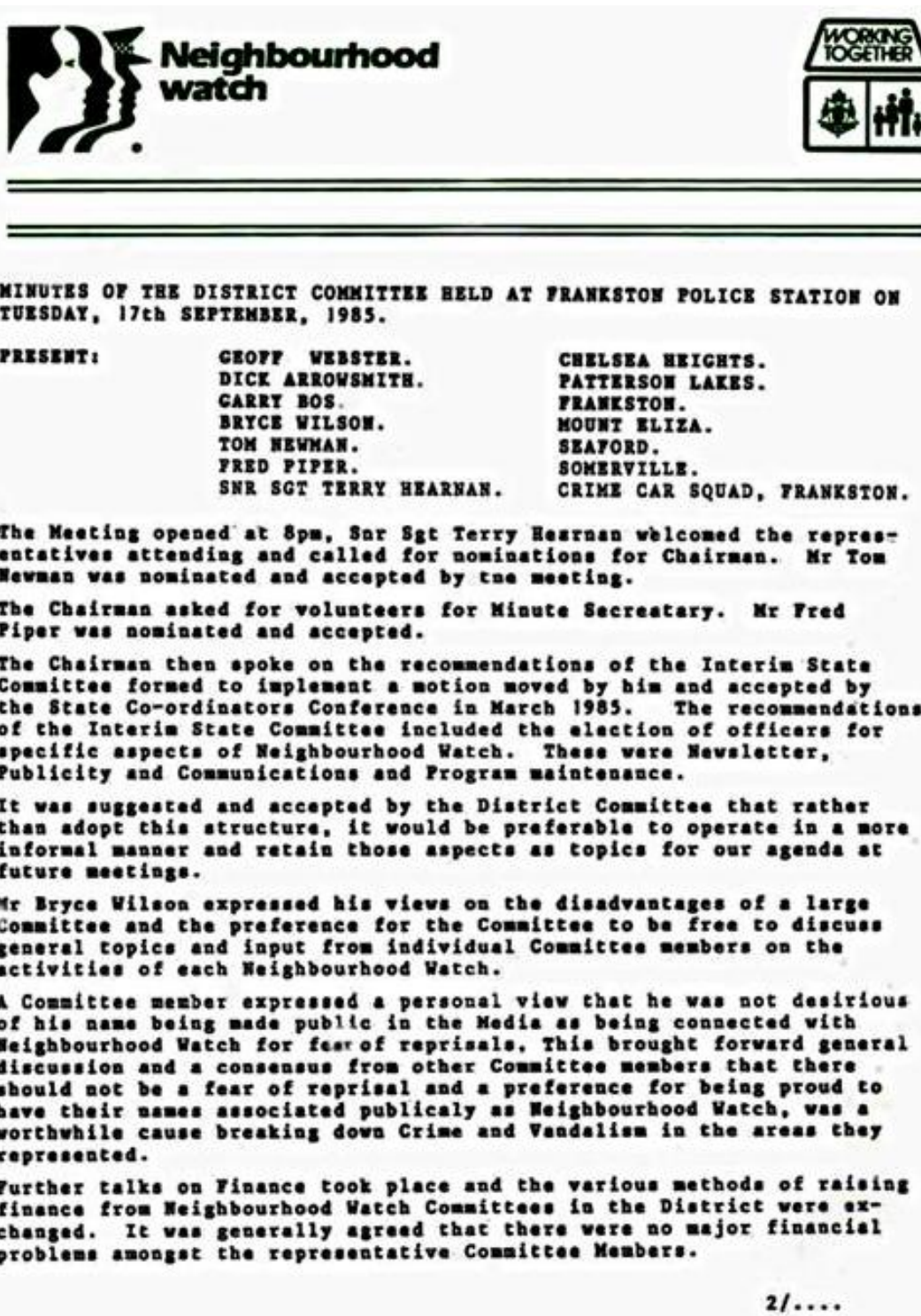
\* Denotes incomplete data

FIGURE 19 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUMMARY BY DISTRICT (AS AT NOVEMBER 15, 1985)

In approximately June 1985, the interim State Committee had put together the basic infrastructure of districts and the State Committee.

As the State Committee would comprise delegates from District Committees, the first requirement was to ensure that all areas got together within in each district and formed a District Committee to elect a District Chairman, who would be the delegate to the State Committee.

This was in the hands of SPIO and District Police Co-ordinators throughout the then NHW areas in Melbourne metropolitan police districts. In Frankston — Z District — this was Sergeant Terry Hearnan who organised the first District Committee meeting for Z District. The meeting was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1985 at Frankston Police Station.





2/....

The agenda and date for the next District Committee meeting was discussed and resolved that the agenda comprise Finance, Publicity and Newsletter, Operation Identification, Programme Maintenance and General Business. The meeting date is the 14th of October at the Frankston Police Station.

The Chairman then brought to the notice of members the need to elect a State Committee Delegate, the Chairman Tom Newman was nominated elected.

Snr Sgt Terry Hearnan thanked all delegates for their attendance and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Minute Secretary: Fred Piper.  
Chairman: Tom Newman. 786 1167.

**FIGURE 20 - MINUTES OF THE FIRST Z DISTRICT MEETING - FRANKSTON (SEPTEMBER 17TH, 1985)**

On looking back on these minutes, the statement by the unidentified committee person regarding his reluctance to be identified for fear of reprisals is strange indeed— but it was a view which was quashed by all present.

Ultimately other Districts elected their own District Committees and the first State Committee Meeting of NHW, represented by delegates from NHW Districts, was held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1986.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

FIRST STATE COMMITTEE MEETING

30TH JANUARY, 1986

PRESENT John Dean "B", Les Truex "H",  
Charles Laycock "I", Ron Bell "J"  
Anne Hurley "M", Geoff Pederson "P",  
Peter Wister "Q", Harold Brown "V",  
Barry Hayward "Y", Tom Newman "Z"  
Inspector Michael Friend, Sergeant Chris Coster

APOLOGIES Nil

Meeting opened 7.35 p.m.

OPENING

Inspector Friend opened the meeting and welcomed all present. All participants then introduced themselves. Inspector Friend summarised the introductions and congratulated everyone on their awareness of crime and combatting strategies in the local areas/districts.

Inspector Friend emphasized the importance of the State Committee and that he considered it to be the final piece in the Neighbourhood Watch communication jigsaw. He reminded everyone that they are representing their respective districts (465,000 people approx.) as well as their own areas.

STATEMENT OF POLICE ROLE ON STATE COMMITTEE

Inspector Friend explained that largely the Police role on the State Committee would be determined by how the State Committee operates. Inspector Friend detailed the six guidelines of the police role explained to the Interim State Executive and sought ratification of the guidelines for the new State Committee.

The six guidelines are:-

1. The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and assistant will be ex-officio members of the State Executive.
2. Police representatives will not have voting rights on the State Executive.
3. Police representatives will not chair State Executive meetings.

../2

**FIGURE 21 - PAGE 1, FIRST STATE COMMITTEE MINUTES (JANUARY 30TH, 1986)**

Those attending this meeting were: Anne Hurley (M District), Geoff Pederson (P District), John Dean (B District), Les Truex (H District), Peter Wister (Q District), Harold Brown (V District), Barry Haywood (Y District), Charles Laycock (I District), Ron Bell (J District), Tom Newman (Z District), Inspector Michael Friend and Sergeant Chris Coster.

The first election took place and the outcome was: Tom Newman - Chairman, Anne Hurley - Deputy Chairman.

Our first State seminar was held at the Dallas Brooks Hall in Melbourne, in September 1986. On that occasion, some 1800 NHW members attended and that was all we could accommodate. The following year we changed venue to the Melbourne Town Hall and had to restrict attendance to 2000!

The first edition of the *Sentinel* was printed and distributed at the seminar.



STATE SEMINAR EDITION

CONGRATULATIONS TOM!

At the 1986 Victorian Neighbourhood Watch Seminar the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch State Committee, Mr. Tom Newman was presented with the inaugural "Outstanding Contribution to Neighbourhood Watch" award.

Tom's Neighbourhood Watch achievements include:

- First Area Co-ordinator in Victoria
- First Chairman, "Z" District Neighbourhood Watch Committee
- Chairman, Interim State Executive
- First and current Chairman, State Committee.



Mr Tom Newman.

Together with a dedicated team of zone leaders in the very first Neighbourhood Watch area, Kananook, Tom has made a very significant personal contribution to Neighbourhood Watch as it is today. In those early days there existed no logo, no gate plates, no stickers, no brochures, no manual, and no programme, other than a promising concept. Tom's leadership at that time was outstanding in helping Neighbourhood Watch off to a great start.

His dedication to the reduction of crime has been evident from day one. It was therefore most appropriate that he was elected the first State Committee Chairman. Once again his leadership through the development stages has provided great encouragement for all of us.

For Neighbourhood Watch to continue to succeed it requires people who demonstrate one special quality - a strong commitment to improving our quality of life.

Tom Newman is one of those people, and with his continuing support and assistance we can be assured of "securing our future". He is a most worthy recipient of this award.



COMMERCIAL UNION INSURANCE - COMMUNITY CARING



# SENTINEL

- 2 -

## SPONSORSHIP

The Commercial Union Insurance company announced at the state seminar that they will be continuing to sponsor Neighbourhood Watch for 1987 to the tune of \$180,000. This brings Commercial Union's total sponsorship to approximately \$500,000. Commercial Union are now the largest sponsor (for all time) of any police/community programme in Victoria.

It has been said often that Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership between the police and the community. The sponsorship of Commercial Union shows that the corporate sector is also a vital member of that partnership. There is no doubt that Commercial Union has "seen us through".

## GROWTH

Neighbourhood Watch continues to grow in a strong and relentless manner. The following table provides a national overview of the programmes at the end of September 1986:-

State	No. of Areas	Approximate No. of homes in N.H.W. areas	Approximate No. of people in N.H.W. areas	Percentage of population
Victoria	480	350,000	1,051,000	25.37%
A. C. T.	79	48,750	146,240	56.50%
New South Wales	890	712,000	2,136,000	38.80%
South Australia	16	11,200	33,600	2.45%
West Australia	12	200,000	600,000	14.06%
Queensland	1	600	1,800	0.07%
Tasmania	2	1,250	3,750	0.84%
National Total	1,480	1,323,800	3,972,390	25.05%

# SENTINEL

- 3 -

## BURGLARY STATISTICS

The primary objective of Neighbourhood Watch has been, and continues to be, the reduction of residential burglaries. Neighbourhood Watch areas and police are encouraged to develop strategies to combat this and other forms of preventable crimes.

Over the past few months a great deal of time has gone into a full statistical review of every Neighbourhood Watch area up to the end of June 1986. The results have been collated and combined in booklet form and are now available to each Neighbourhood Watch area. If you were not at the seminar and would like a copy please contact the Police Co-ordinator for your District.

We are pleased to disclose that at the end of June 1986, the average reduction in burglaries for all Neighbourhood Watch areas since commencement was 24.58%. Other crime in those areas fell by 12.01% during the same period, resulting in an average reduction in ALL CRIME in Neighbourhood Watch areas since commencement of 16.49%. These results are a testament to the success of Neighbourhood Watch and are the reward for effort for the many thousands who participate. CONGRATULATIONS.

## VOLUNTARY WORKERS INSURANCE

Commercial Union have provided the Neighbourhood Watch programme with a public liability insurance cover at no cost. It should be understood that this cover is not a personal accident policy. In response to many enquiries, we sought a quote from Commercial Union on a personal accident policy for zone leaders. The information sought is now available. At a premium of \$1.00 per person per year, Commercial Union will provide a cover of \$200.00 per week for injuries caused by accident, with a death benefit of \$20,000. The cover is applicable whilst carrying out Neighbourhood Watch duties.

Commercial Union have requested that this cover be co-ordinated through the State Committee. It is proposed that if your Neighbourhood Watch Committee wishes to insure zone leaders against personal accident, that the number of official volunteers and a cheque for an amount consisting \$1.00 for each person, be forwarded to your State Committee delegate. The State Committee will then take out one policy on behalf of all those areas which choose to participate. Further enquiries should be made with your State Committee delegate.

FIGURE 22 – THE FIRST EDITION OF *SENTINEL* (OCTOBER, 1986)



By this stage, we had a major financial sponsor in Commercial Union Insurance and, by September 1986, the programme had grown to 480 areas in Victoria and was operating in all States of Australia.

We have had a great relationship with our sponsors over the years; after Commercial Union came the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV), then four retail electricity companies, Tattersalls and now The Good Guys.

By October 1986, the burglary rate for all NHW areas recorded a 25% reduction; other crime reduced by 12% with all crime reduced by 16%.

In October 1986, we launched *The Watch* magazine, a 20-page colour production with a print run of 150,000, holding the record for the largest circulation of a free community publication. Issue 2 in 1987 was a 200,000 print run! Only two editions were printed due to prohibitive costs.



FIGURE 23 - COVER OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF *THE WATCH* MAGAZINE



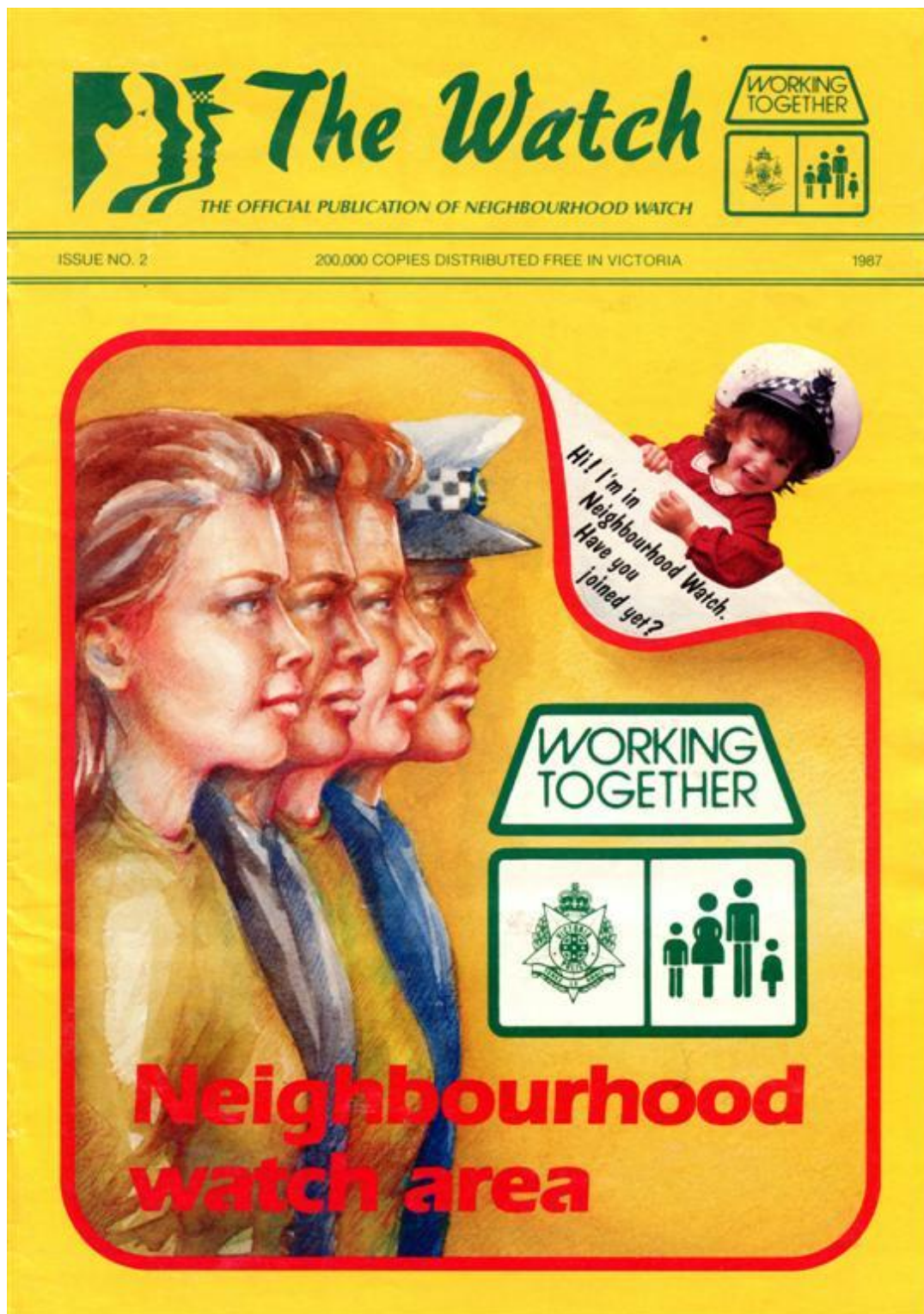


FIGURE 24 - COVER PAGE OF THE SECOND ISSUE OF *THE WATCH* MAGAZINE

## Profile - Police Commissioner Miller

Chief Commissioner "Mick" Miller talks to 'The Watch' Committee Chairman and State Committee member Charles Laycock. (This is the first part of a two part interview which will be completed in the next issue of 'The Watch'.)

**Charles Laycock:** Mr. Miller, has Neighbourhood Watch justified its existence?

**Mr. Miller:** The answer is yes for the following reasons. The State Disaster Plan which came into existence in an embryonic form in 1956 is an example of co-operation of the community as a whole. It shows the exercise of goodwill and self-help in the disaster combatting area. Volunteers displayed a true communal interest and sense of commitment. In fact if there were calls for help from the community for volunteers to supplement the resources of the Fire Brigade, I'm sure they would be inundated. Such is the willingness of our community. There has never been a shortage of volunteers when they were needed!

This is what was happening with Neighbourhood Watch in the metropolitan area.

### "A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY"

The problem we face is that when the population density increases, human interaction becomes more anonymous and people become very insular. Neighbourhood Watch however, succeeds in helping people break out of their encapsulation and gives them a sense of purpose and civic responsibility.

There are now 650 Neighbourhood Watch areas encompassing 474,500 homes and 1.4 million people, which comprises at least 30% of Victoria's population.

CONTINUED PAGE 6



## More about Neighbourhood Watch

'The Watch' is just one example of the considerable work carried out by the State and District civilian Committees who are heavily involved in the maintenance and development of the Neighbourhood Watch program.

### DISTRICT COMMITTEES

There are now 12 District Committees meeting regularly throughout Melbourne and Geelong. Each District corresponds with a Police District. The committees comprise a delegate from each local Neighbourhood Watch area who meet together with the District Police Co-ordinator to discuss matters of mutual interest, exchange ideas and liaise with the State Committee. District Committees often provide the impetus for new initiatives and assist with program maintenance.

### STATE COMMITTEE

The State Committee, which consists of delegates from the 12 districts, meets monthly with members of the State Neighbourhood Watch Police team. This committee provides a forum for the interchange of information between District Committees, communications with the Police administration and plays a general role of collective problem solving.

### SUB-COMMITTEES

Additionally and equally important the State Committee carries out a number of vital functions in the development and maintenance of Neighbourhood Watch through several sub-committees. These are:-

- i) 'The Watch' sub-committee  
Chairman - Charles Laycock
- ii) Publicity and Communications sub-committee  
Chairman - Tom Newman
- iii) Program Maintenance sub-committee  
Chairman - Geoff Shaw

- iv) Manpower, Resources and Law Reform sub-committee  
Chairman - David Lentin
- v) Computer sub-committee  
Chairman - Tony Santamaría
- vi) Railwatch sub-committee  
Chairman - Tom Newman
- vii) Drug Awareness sub-committee  
Chairman - Barry Hayward

### GRASS ROOTS INPUT

If you feel you have something useful to input or would like to join one of our sub-committees, please contact the appropriate sub-committee chairman, whose telephone number can be obtained from your local Area Co-ordinator, District Police Co-ordinator or Neighbourhood Watch office at Police Headquarters in William Street, City.

### CO-ORDINATION AND LIAISON

There are many issues arising from time to time confronting all levels of Neighbourhood Watch. The State Committee, by representing all areas, is able to co-ordinate input on these issues and with liaison with our Police colleagues at all levels is able to effectively resolve most of them. For example the State Committee organises and administers the Personal Accident Insurance Policy for Zone Leaders and their deputies.

### ONGOING SUCCESS

The work carried out voluntarily by district and State Civilian Committees is vital to our ongoing success. The structure is unique to Victoria, again leading the way nationally with Neighbourhood Watch initiatives.

**Tom Newman - Chairman State Committee**

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THE WATCH 3

FIGURE 25 - CONTENT PAGE FROM THE SECOND EDITION OF *THE WATCH* MAGAZINE



The letter advised me that the Chief Commissioner would like to meet the State Committee on a formal basis and with members of police command. He suggested that, together with his commissioners, he would attend the next State committee meeting to be held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1987 and indicated a personal inclination to see the establishment of a police/NHW liaison committee.

I responded in the affirmative and the inaugural Police/NHW Liaison Committee meeting took place at William Street Headquarters on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1987. The meeting was jointly chaired by Chief Commissioner Mick Miller and myself, and set the scene for meetings in the years that followed. These meetings continued quarterly for several years and illustrated the great commitment of Chief Commissioner Miller to the NHW programme.



**FIGURE 26 - POLICE/NHW LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Pictured above, from left to right: Chief Commissioner Mick Miller, Tom Newman, Acting Commissioner R Baker R&D, Mrs Anne Hurley*



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STATE COMMITTEE MEETING

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5th March 1987

AGENDA

Chairman Mr Tom Newman.

- |    |   |                  |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Opening, welcome, introductions.                | Tom Newman       |
| 2. | Suspend normal business.                        | Tom Newman       |
| 3. | History of civilian infra-structure development | Inspector Friend |
| 4. | Address by Chief Commissioner                   | Mr Miller        |
| 5. | Questions from delegates to Commissioners       | Tom Newman       |
| 6. | Questions from Commissioners to delegates       | Tom Newman       |
| 7. | Resolutions of meetings.                        | Tom Newman       |
| 8. | Summary of police position.                     | Mr Miller        |
| 9. | Close meeting.                                  | Tom Newman       |

Refreshments.

Commissioners attending.

Mr S.I. Miller.	Chief Commissioner
Mr K. Clare.	Deputy Commissioner (Operations)
Mr J. Frame.	Assistant Commissioner (Operations)
Mr R. Baker.	Assistant Commissioner (Research & Devel)
Mr V. Werner.	Assistant Commissioner (Crime)
Mr W. Horman.	Assistant Commissioner (Traffic)

**Opening Address by the State Chairman**

**Inaugural Police/Liaison Meeting**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1987**

Chief Commissioner Miller, on behalf of the State Neighbourhood Watch Committee, may I welcome you and your commissioners to this historic meeting. I say historic as the assembly of the senior members of our police administration joining with the State Committee is indeed one of great importance and a milestone in the progress of the Victorian Neighbourhood Watch program,

The great success of Neighbourhood Watch is due very much to the involvement of police members throughout our programs and this particular meeting reinforces that successful formula and more especially indicates to our Neighbourhood Watch committees the importance that your administration places on Neighbourhood Watch police/community liaison now and in the future. We welcome your participation this evening

The continued road to success with our Neighbourhood Watch programs can only be accomplished by the closest co-operation with our police members at all levels, from local areas through to senior administration.

With 600 Neighbourhood Watch areas "around the corner" with one and a half million residents and 15,000 committee members, the maintenance of that liaison becomes an essential yet daunting task for police administration.

Without a police representative at our area meetings 50% of that meeting is missing and consequently, a diminishing of effectiveness begins. The maintenance of police presence is one that we, as civilian committees, need to address ourselves to in order to find ways in which we can help and facilitate this important liaison.

Our meeting tonight has enabled all of us to indicate our serious commitment to closer liaison between the Neighbourhood Watch community and police administration, and we are very appreciative of the initiative of our Chief Commissioner in bringing this meeting about.

For Neighbourhood Watch to continue its great success, we can't go it alone - we need each other, the community at all levels and our police departments, similarly, at all levels.

Our meeting tonight is just the beginning of an on-going liaison that will help to maintain that partnership.

Tom Newman  
State Chairman  
Neighbourhood Watch |

**FIGURE 28 – OPENING ADDRESS - INAUGURAL POLICE LIAISON MEETING**

**ADDRESS BY INSPECTOR MICHAEL FRIEND**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION OFFICE (SPIO)**

**Inaugural Police/Liaison Meeting**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1987**

**HISTORY OF CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Inspector Friend (S.P.I.O.) stated that N.H.W. commenced in Victoria on 14/3/84 and, by 29/11 that year, 45 areas had been established.

On that date, at an initial area co-ordinators meeting, the civilian infrastructure was expanded to obtain a cross-flow of information and a subsequent conference in early 1985 resulted in an interim State Executive report on this subject proposing guidelines which were adopted, with N.H.W. developing along a 3 tier system of local, district and State committees, to improve communications and confirm the autonomy of local N.H.W. areas.

By June, 1985 more than 100 such areas had been established and when the State Committee was formed in January, 1986, approximately 227 were in operation.

At its monthly meetings many relevant topics were covered including Police attendance at local N.H.W. meetings; ethnic and media liaison; the 11-444 tariff; role of area co-ordinators, submission on victims' rights, vehicle related crime, the N.H.W. magazine and many others, proving that the State Committee was an important forum for interchange of information and for collective problem solving.

Inspector Friend concluded by stating that N.H.W. is a unique policing innovation now adopted across Australia, but only Victoria has developed the necessary civilian infrastructure and community involvement as shown by the existing 578 N.H.W. areas involving 422,000 homes and 1,265,000 residents, which is 30% of the population of this State.

**FIGURE 29 - HISTORY OF CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - INAUGURAL POLICE LIAISON MEETING**



**ADDRESS BY CHIEF COMMISSIONER SI MILLER**

**Inaugural Police/Liaison Meeting**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1987**

Mr. Miller stated that the Commissioners held N.H.W. in high regard as it had, after initial doubts in the community when introduced, proven to be an even greater example of community self-help and co-operation than DISPLAN.

It is unrealistic for the community to expect a crime-free society and because Police resources are finite, active concern for our neighbours and ourselves is the positive way to resist crime.

The Victoria Police is at present 2000 members short of the estimated 11,000 needed to provide a basic level of service (incl. to N.H.W.) but, as there is no likelihood of any Government funding such an increase and, under our P.C.E.T.S, processing those numbers of recruits would in any case take the mandatory two years to train The community's expectation of an increased police presence to counter rising crime rate cannot be met.

Statistically, with a Police budget of \$435 million p.a., each member of the Victorian public bears the cost of \$100 p.a., which is approximately .27cents per day.

Mr. Miller stated that he had instructed O/C's of Police Districts to co-operate with N.H.W. area co-ordinators and they in turn had been requested to report directly to him their perception of the N.H.W. concept in operation and of their local Police service.

**FIGURE 30 - ADDRESS BY CHIEF COMMISSIONER MICK (SI) MILLER - INAUGURAL POLICE LIAISON MEETING**

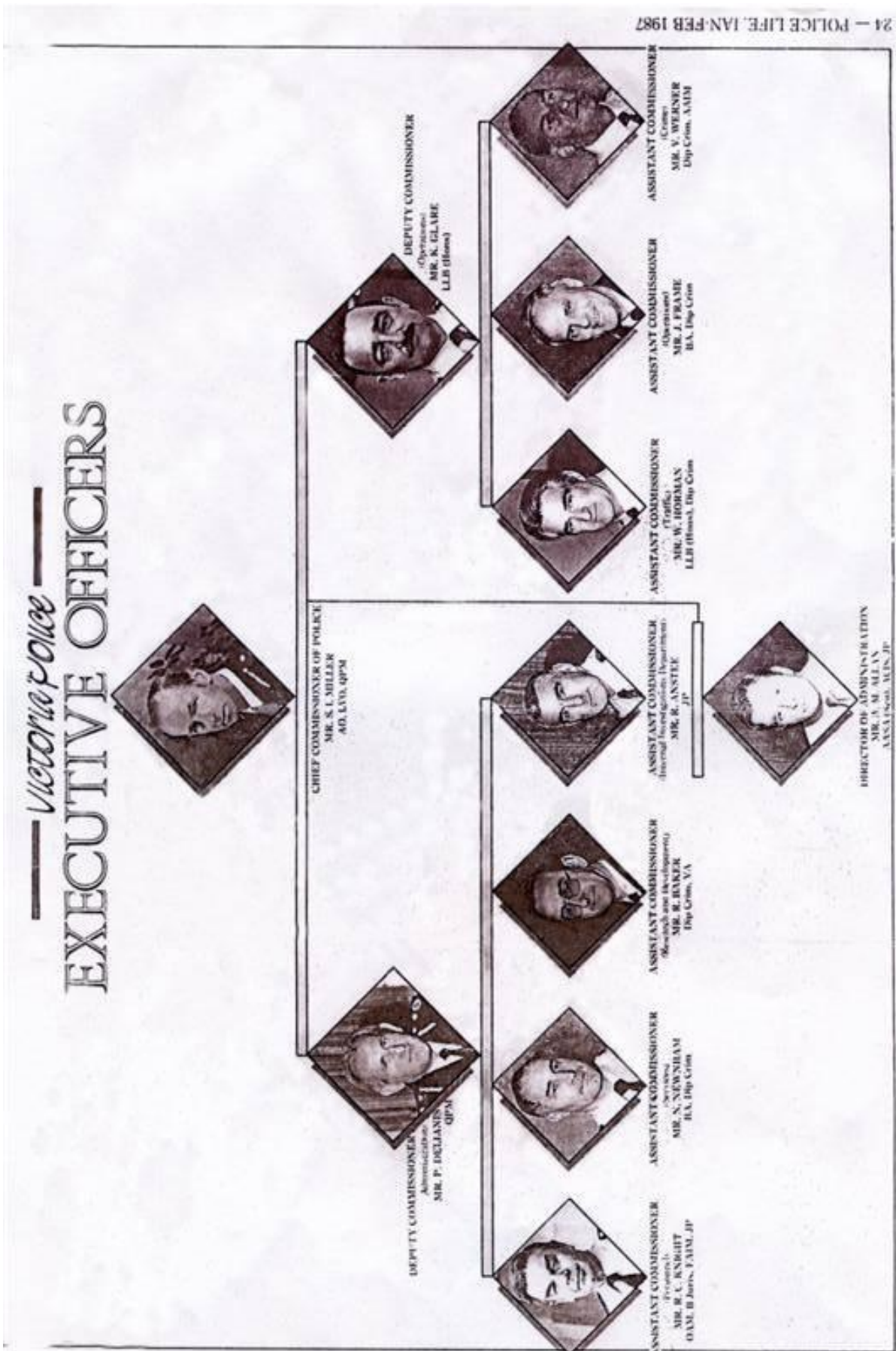


FIGURE 31 - POLICE COMMAND (FEBRUARY 1987)

## Farewell to Chief Commissioner SI Miller

At the 1987 NHW seminar at the Melbourne Town Hall, I had the privilege of presenting a plaque, on behalf of the State Committee and all members of the programme, to Chief Commissioner Mick Miller on his retirement. The words on the plaque are: “for his foresight in implementing NHW and for his continued support”.

The press reported the event and the Chief Commissioner’s response as follows:

---

*Chief Commissioner Miller farewells 2,300 attendees at the Melbourne Town Hall with the words, “May the Force be with you”.*

---

In April 1987, I put several proposals forward at an Extraordinary Meeting called with the intention of modifying the State Committee infrastructure procedurally with the experience we had gained over the past two years.

These are reproduced on the following pages.





MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON APRIL 22nd 1987.

This Extraordinary meeting was convened by the Chairman Tom Newman with the specific aim of reviewing the present State Committee structure and to put submissions for approval for re-organisation of the State Committee and its Sub Committees. Attached is the statement and proposals made by the Chairman.

The meeting was attended by all District Delegates and/or representatives and the Police Co-ordinators Department by Inspector M. Friend, Sgt. Coster and Sgt. Da' Saiv.

The following proposals were adopted:

1. That each District have One Principal Delegate.
2. That each District elect a minimum of One Deputy Delegate.
3. Recommend, where possible, that Principal Delegates not be District Chairmen.
4. That Principal Delegates be the Chairman of State Neighbourhood Watch Sub Committees.
5. (a) That all Sub Committees formed have a minimum of five sub committee members drawn from Neighbourhood Watch members.  
(b) that all Sub Committees elect a Deputy Chairman.  
(c) all Sub Committee meetings be minuted.
5. The State Committee comprise the Twelve District Delegates in discussion - Deputy Delegates and Sub Committee members to attend as Observers.
6. That each District have an equal vote:- that is the Principal Delegate or in their absence, the Deputy Delegate.
7. Sub Committee reports be tabled at the State Committee meetings as required.
8. That the State Committee continue to meet monthly, including regular meetings with Senior Administration and District Co-ordinators.

The following Sub Committees were confirmed:

1. The Watch Sub Committee.	Chairman.	C. Laycock.
2. Publicity & Communications.	" "	T. Newman.
3. Program Maintenance.	" "	L. Truex.
4. Manpower & Resources.	" "	D. Lentin.
5. Computer.	" "	H. Brown.
6. Railwatch.	" "	T. Newman.



Commercial Union Insurance - Community Caring

.....2/-

2/ cont....

7. Youth Involvement.	Chairman.	B. Hayward.
8. Legislative Review.		To be nominate next meeting.

It was agreed that the responsibility to co-opt the members of the Sub Committee would rest with the relative Chairman.

T. Newman requested that he and A. Hurley, as Deputy Chairman and ex officio members of Sub Committees, be advised of their meeting dates.

David Lentin advised of a prospective major commercial supporter for the Youth Watch program.

Barry Hayward advised of the launching of the Youth Program this day.

Discussion arose regarding the Bona Fides of Advertisers using Neighbourhood Watch newsletters, particularly Security System Distributors. David Lentin advised of the possible introduction of Legislation relating to security products. It was recommended that the usual disclaimer be added to newsletters advising that advertising does not mean endorsement of products or services.

Discussion took place regarding the advisability of obtaining a Minute Secretary to free Anne Hurley as "M" District Delegate and Deputy Chairmen. This was to be discussed at a later meeting.

The Committee extended best wishes to Sgt Chris Coster prior to his departure to United States of America on a Churchill Fellowship and that we look forward to his return.

The distribution of Secure Living publication was discussed, highlighting some problems with deliveries and the absence of invoices. T. Newman advised that after discussion with Marsec all invoices will show the following details; the amount charged to the District, Sale or Return, Sales Tax paid and Delegates acting as Agents only, any variation from this to be advised.

Discussion took place regarding the distribution of Minutes to all State Committee Attendees. A. Hurley pointed out the increasing work load in this regard, particularly as eight Country Areas are on the list. If the number increased further than at present consideration should be given to the purchase of a Copying Machine for the State Committee use. This was deferred until next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

T, NEWMAN.  
Chairman.

FIGURE 32 - MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING (APRIL 22ND, 1987)

## Crime Stoppers (1987)

In June 1987, I received a letter from Acting Chief Commissioner Kel Glare seeking support from the NHW State Committee for the new *Crime Stoppers* program.

All communications should be addressed to  
Chief Commissioner of Police  
G.P.O. Box 2763Y  
Melbourne, Vic. 3001

Telephone: 320 3333



CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
380 WILLIAM STREET  
MELBOURNE

5 June, 1987

Mr. Tom Newman,  
74 Fortesque Avenue,  
SEAFORD, Vic., 3198

Dear Mr. Newman,

I am writing on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Miller, to formally seek your support for CRIME STOPPERS, a new community-based policing program the Victoria Police hope to introduce in this State later this year.

To fully explain the CRIME STOPPERS concept, and the need for it, I have enclosed:

- a Crime Stoppers International briefing summary
- a media release
- newspaper articles about the proposed Victorian program, and
- current Victorian crime figures

CRIME STOPPERS, like the Neighbourhood Watch program, provides a means for the community to extend their involvement in the fight against crime.

CRIME STOPPERS was created in the U.S. to combat two of the major problems faced by law enforcers everywhere - fear and apathy. To combat the fear of "getting involved" and criminal retaliation, the program establishes a system which guarantees confidentiality. To combat apathy, rewards of up to \$1000 are offered to citizens who ring CRIME STOPPERS with information which leads to the arrest and prosecution of serious crime offenders.

We believe that a CRIME STOPPERS program in Victoria will formalise the process of gathering information, bring it up to date with modern technology and create a mechanism by which people can provide specific information with a minimum of fuss and inconvenience to themselves - and with a maximum of benefit for the society in which they live.

FIGURE 33 - EXCERPT OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM CHIEF COMMISSIONER KEL GLARE RE CRIME STOPPERS

Mrs Patricia Rhodes was appointed by the State Committee as NHW delegate on the Crime Stoppers Board with Bruce Mynott as Deputy Delegate. Later, Alan King took on this role, subsequently giving many years of exemplary service.



## State Awards Committee

In 1987, I trialled an awards programme that I had designed for Delta District. As this was successful, it was approved by the State Committee that I would introduce this programme to the State NHW programme.

The Award was given for outstanding service to the Programme and was in the form of a brass plaque, the presentation being made at our annual seminars.

Presentations were made to ten NHW members annually. The adjudication committee comprised:

- The Chairman
- Three civilian committee members: one State Council member and two NHW members
- Two police members: one police representative from SPIO and one external (NHW) police member

In the beginning, we received nominations directly from all Victorian areas. In the second year, nominations jumped to over 100 and became an impossible task to adjudicate.

I believed the best way to handle this was to ask all districts to form their own Awards Committees to recognise worthy members at a local level, with the district being the only body able to nominate individuals for an award. I also added the requirement that a State Award nomination must have received a District Award to be eligible.

I had been aware for some time that there was no award category to recognise district projects. As a result, in 1997, I put the motion that the David Lentin Award be added to the awards program to acknowledge district initiatives and the service from Past President David Lentin.

The awards program has proven to be a great success and still continues today, acknowledging those members who deserve recognition for outstanding service to the programme.

## Concluding Remarks

Perhaps the greatest advantage of Neighbourhood Watch that I experienced in my positions as Co-ordinator, District Chair and subsequently State President was the facilitation of communication between police at all levels and members of local communities.

Residents now have an opportunity to liaise directly with their local police officers and also gain a better appreciation of the task that police face in reducing crime in our suburbs. The job of preventing crime cannot be left to police officers to fight the battle alone: it must be a co-operative effort and should never be otherwise. Conversely, police officers have an opportunity to hear questions and concerns from their residents and are able to respond to their fears and desires; to work together to keep neighbourhoods free of crime as much as humanly possible. We must never adopt the apathetic attitude that it is “not my responsibility” and “leave it to someone else”.

Neighbourhood Watch is all about maintaining the quality of life of our families and neighbours. It assists in informing our residents to become aware of what is occurring in their local environments; to be watchful and to support neighbours and police in the reduction and prevention of residential crime.



**Tom Newman OAM**

**Foundation State President  
Neighbourhood Watch Victoria**

*This completes the first instalment of the Programme's history from 1983 to 1987, as experienced personally.*

*In many cases, the pages which have been scanned and incorporated into this history are abridged versions of more comprehensive documents. Copies of source documents are available from the writer by application.*

*Email: [twnewman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twnewman@optusnet.com.au)*

## Appendix A: Seminal Dates

**May 1983:** Crime Survey Questionnaire

**June 8<sup>th</sup> 1983:** Public meeting at the Southern Umpires Association Hall, Kananook

**June 15<sup>th</sup> 1983:** First Zone Leader Meeting at Davey Street Frankston Police Station (limited number of zone leaders at that time)

### Important Events from Minutes:

**July 4<sup>th</sup> 1983:** Zone Leader meeting (full complement) Kananook Primary School Hall

**July 18<sup>th</sup> 1983:** NHW Logo adopted at the third zone leader meeting. (Colour green adopted Sept 1983)

**August 8<sup>th</sup> 1983:** First meeting Operation Identification Sub-Committee

**August 15<sup>th</sup> 1983:** First NHW letterheads Courtesy of Rolls Printing Seaford (Tom Potter)

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1983:** First financial supporters Seaford Screens (Robert & Lyn Klein)

**September 26<sup>th</sup> 1983:** First NHW newsletter approved

**September 5<sup>th</sup> 1983:** Operation Identification begins

**October 17<sup>th</sup> 1983:** First gate plaques accepted for distribution

**October 20<sup>th</sup> 1983:** First street signs completed and erected in Kananook Pilot Area

**October 25<sup>th</sup> 1983:** First security seminar Kananook School hall

**November 17<sup>th</sup> 1983:** Bumper stickers and Operation Identification window stickers approved.

**March 14<sup>th</sup> 1984:** Public launch of NHW by Chief Commissioner SI Miller and Mr Race Mathews, Minister for Police and Emergency Services

**February 11<sup>th</sup> 1985:** Presentation of commemorative plaques signed by Chief Commissioner S.I. Miller to all foundation members of the programme

**March 14<sup>th</sup> 1985:** First meeting of NHW Area Co-ordinators. Motion put to elect a design committee for the District and State Committees of the programme.

**September 17<sup>th</sup> 1985:** First District Meeting, Z District, 6 areas represented.

**January 30<sup>th</sup> 1986:** First State Committee meeting at William Street Police Headquarters

**October 1986:** First State Seminar, Dallas Brooks Hall; approximately 2,000 in attendance

**November 1986:** Issue No 1 of *The Watch*; 150,000 copies distributed

**March 5<sup>th</sup> 1987:** First meeting of the Police and State Executive NHW Liaison Committee, co-chaired by Chief Commissioner S.I. Miller and NHW State Committee Chairman

**June 5<sup>th</sup> 1987:** Invitation to State Committee to support Crime Stopper programme.

**January 1987:** State Awards Programme commenced



## Table of Figures

Figure 1 - 1983 Crime Questionnaire Published by PCIP.....	5
Figure 2 - Kananook Pilot Area (Melways Map 99).....	6
Figure 3 - The Hardworking Zone Leader Team of the Pilot Programme .....	7
Figure 4 - First Zone Leader Meeting Agenda - July 4th, 1983 .....	8
Figure 5 - Police Community Involvement Programme (PCIP) Logo.....	9
Figure 6 - The Design of the First Neighbourhood Watch Gate Plaque.....	9
Figure 7 - The Design of the Second Neighbourhood Watch Gate Plaque.....	10
Figure 8 - Excerpt From the Minutes of the Third Pilot Meeting on July 18th, 1983 .....	11
Figure 9 - The First Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter.....	12
Figure 10 - Early Neighbourhood Watch "Vacation Security" Leaflet .....	13
Figure 11 - Early Neighbourhood Watch "Crime Prevention" Leaflet.....	14
Figure 12 - "Operation Identification" Leaflet.....	15
Figure 13 - Minutes of the First Meeting of the "Operation Identification" Committee (1983).....	16
Figure 14 - Front Page of "Police Life" (March 1984).....	18
Figure 15 - June 1984 Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter .....	19
Figure 16 - Excerpt from the Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of Kananook NNHW (Feb. 11th, 1985).....	20
Figure 17 - Extract of Minutes - Motion to Elect Design Committee for District and State Committees .....	21
Figure 18 - Front Cover of <i>Police Life</i> (April 1985).....	22
Figure 19 - Neighbourhood Watch Summary by District (as at November 15, 1985).....	23
Figure 20 - Minutes of the First Z District Meeting - Frankston (September 17th, 1985).....	25
Figure 21 - Page 1, First State Committee Minutes (January 30th, 1986).....	26
Figure 22 – The First Edition of <i>Sentinel</i> (October, 1986).....	30
Figure 23 - Cover of the First Issue of <i>The Watch</i> Magazine .....	31
Figure 24 - Cover Page of the Second Issue of <i>The Watch</i> Magazine .....	32
Figure 25 - Content Page from the Second Edition of <i>The Watch</i> Magazine .....	33
Figure 26 - Police/NHW Liaison Committee Meeting.....	34
Figure 27 - Agenda for the Inaugural Police Liaison Meeting (March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1987).....	35
Figure 28 – Opening Address - Inaugural Police Liaison Meeting.....	36
Figure 29 - History of Civilian Infrastructure Development - Inaugural Police Liaison Meeting .....	37
Figure 30 - Address by Chief Commissioner Mick (SI) Miller - Inaugural Police Liaison Meeting.....	38
Figure 31 - Police Command (February 1987).....	39
Figure 32 - Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting (April 22nd, 1987).....	42
Figure 33 - Excerpt of Correspondence from Chief Commissioner Kel Glare re Crime Stoppers.....	43