

And you have a Good Neighbourhood!

By Mal Gill

LOCAL Member and Community Services Minister, Mrs Kay Setches, has fulfilled a promise to try and get Ringwood a \$5000 seeding grant to fund a Good Neighbourhood Community Committee.

Mrs Setches' office last week confirmed Police and Emergency Services

Minister, Mr Mal Sandon, agreed to Ringwood joining the Good Neighbourhood program.

Mr Sandon also agreed to Ringwood getting the \$5000 seeding grant pro-

vided to Croydon and other communities which joined the initial pilot program last year, a spokesperson for Mrs Setches said.

Arrangements are

underway for Mrs Setches to hand over the Good Neighbourhood cheque to Ringwood Council next Wednesday.

Council is due to meet next Wednesday night to select a new mayor.

Council has now agreed to auspice a community committee under the Good Neighbourhood program, provided it is accepted into the program on the same funding basis as other auspicing councils.

Follow-up funding of up to \$40,000 is available under the program, but the actual amount allocated depends on the quality of

projects proposed by the community committee.

Good Neighbourhood guidelines require projects funded with the money to come from the community committee.

Council's chief executive, Mr John Paech, said council was "very pleased" to have been accepted into the program, and to have the initial seeding grant provided to allow the community committee to investigate possible programs for Ringwood.

After two earlier meetings in Mrs Setches' office of people interested

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transport, finances, health and general community support, and accommodation and employment.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 7pm next Wednesday at the Skillshare office at 227-229 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood, and any interested person is invited to attend.

Mr Robert Menzies or Ms Lisa Aston at Skillshare can provide further details on 870 2401.

One of the priorities of the Ringwood committee is likely to be an extension of the Croydon Good Neighbourhood Committee's safe trains to include "platforming" - adults meeting the Saturday night safe train - at Ringwood and Ringwood East stations.

in forming a committee, Ringwood's Good Neighbourhood Committee was formed on July 19.

It includes representatives from the Plight of Ringwood Youth committee, council, Ringwood-Croydon Skillshare, Maroondah Social and Community Health Centre, the Office of Corrections, Community Services Victoria, Mrs Setches' office and members of the community.

The committee has five sub-committees to look at issues of entertainment,

Post 8/8/90

Youth grant cops Honeywood flak

THE handover by the Member for Ringwood, Kay Setches, of a \$5000 seeding grant to enable the Good Neighbourhood Program to be launched in Ringwood has been greeted with qualified praise by the Member for the neighbouring electorate of Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood.

Ms Setches handed over the \$5000 grant to Lillian Rosewarne, Mayor of Ringwood, at Ringwood railway station.

The grant was intended for use in establishing a Ringwood Good Neighbourhood committee, undertaking an analysis of juvenile crime in the area, developing a strategy to tackle the causes of crime and aiding the community in developing programs to help overcome juvenile crime.

Up to \$50,000 further funding may be available under the Good Neighbourhood program for any specific programs which may be developed by the committee.

Mr Honeywood said he was a key member of the Liberal Party's youth affairs task force and as youth problems in Ringwood affected his own electorate so he felt qualified to comment.

He challenged the Minister to come out with him



Ringwood station master Dick Novella Member for Ringwood Kay Setches and Ringwood Mayor Lillian Rosewarne

"any time and meet some street kids".

Acknowledging the need for the grant and the effectiveness of the Good Neighbour program in Croydon, Mr Honeywood said he complimented Ms Setches on her initiative in securing the grant.

But he said the youth problem was severe in Ringwood as it was a transport focal point with late night shopping which attracted young people.

He said the \$5000 was not adequate, considering the scope of the problem, but it was a start.

He was a bit cynical about the Government's "window dressing attempts".

"Five thousand dollars can ensure a good press run in local papers, but it

is not enough," he said.

He hoped the committee would be representative of the entire community and would not be a "Labor party front group."

Youth accommodation crisis housing facility was needed. This would cost a lot more than \$5000, or even \$50,000.

He said only a small number of councils in Victoria had been funded for Good Neighbourhood programs and all of them were in marginal Labor electorates.

Ms Setches claimed that 51 councils had been funded for the program.

"The program has been a very successful initiative in preventing crime and increasing safety and security in Victoria," she said.

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THE man who introduced Neighborhood Watch to Ringwood, Snr Const Ray Jenkin, with (from left) Melena McKaskill, Allison Whiting and Kellie Cook, Norwood High school's representatives on the youth council.

Youth needed for 'Watch' program

22/4/87

RINGWOOD has been selected as the pilot area for the world's first Neighbourhood Watch youth program and it is hoped up to 1000 youths will become involved.

The organiser of the program, Snr Const Ray Jenkin, a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, said the program was designed to involve the youth of Ringwood in crime prevention.

Youth's image

Its other aims were to "enhance the public image of the youth in the community and foster a better level of understanding and respect between police and the youth," Snr Const Jenkin said.

"The program is an innovation which has never been tried before and has no parallel anywhere in the world."

Snr Const Jenkin said much

interest had been shown in the program which would be closely watched by senior police including Chief Commissioner Mick Miller.

The chairman of the program, a Ringwood High School student, Dean Jackson, said if the program was successful it would become the model for similar programs throughout the state.

It would be run by a committee of students from the area's schools who were elected at a meeting held earlier this month.

At this stage, Ringwood Tech and Ringwood, Parkwood, Heathmont and Norwood High schools and Tintern are represented on the committee.

Vacancies

However, Snr Const Jenkin said there were vacancies for three delegates from Yarra Valley Anglican School and

Aquinas College and two from Heathmont High and one each from Tintern and Parkwood High schools.

Snr Const Jenkin said the youth committee would be self governing.

"But as the program expands the police will pass on information regarding crime in the area in the hope that the youth will keep an eye out in their area and report anything that looks suspicious," he said.

The police will also organise youth activities in conjunction with Neighborhood Watch leaders and the youth committee.

This would include numbering street kerbs to enable emergency services to find individual houses quicker, Snr Const Jenkin said.

The youth committee will meet monthly to discuss business and interchange ideas and information and organise activities.



FROM front: Good Neighborhood Program committee member Veney Bognar, member for Ringwood Kay Setches, former Ringwood mayor Cr Lillian Rosewarne and Ringwood railway station master Mr Dick Novella await the arrival of Ringwood's safe train.

Crime under attack

RINGWOOD will join the Good Neighborhood Program in an attempt to reduce juvenile crime in the area.

and develop a program to help overcome juvenile crime problems.

Up to \$50,000 further funding is available under the Good Neighborhood Program for specific projects developed by the Ringwood Good Neighborhood committee.

"I am pleased that Ringwood Council has agreed to auspice the good neighborhood committee and to join in partnership with the Government to encourage the community to develop and implement so-

lutions to local problems," Ms Setches said.

"The Good Neighborhood Program has been a very successful initiative of this Government in preventing crime and increasing safety and security in Victoria".

There are 51 Good Neighborhood councils in Victoria.

Ringwood's Good Neighborhood committee will consider expanding the safe train project to Ringwood and Ringwood East stations.

It will also examine entertainment.

Cr Rosewarne said that with more than 25 per cent of Ringwood's population in the 14 to 25 year age group, the council recognised the need for a positive approach to youth problems.

"Although there are many facilities available for youth in Ringwood, the grant will provide the impetus to get a variety of programs up and running," Cr Rosewarne said.

She said the council's new youth worker, Ms Christine Brooks, would play a major role in the program.

"The council is currently undertaking a new direction in youth work with the emphasis being on a community development approach," Cr Rosewarne said.

"Already Ms Brooks has established a forum of youth service providers who will meet on a regular basis to discuss ways of co-ordinating service provision, recognising gaps and minimising duplication."

A Good Neighborhood program has operated successfully in Croydon for a year.

Croydon's program offers a safe train, safe bus and discounted cinema tickets.

8/8/90

'Watch' in strife

by FAYE MICHELSON

SEVERAL Maroondah Neighbourhood Watch areas are under threat because of falling numbers of volunteers.

District Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Sgt Angela Rust said areas F34/35, which take in the region from Heathmont to Canterbury roads, including Wantirna Rd, Reilly and Great Ryrie streets, could fold unless a new co-ordinator was recruited.

"Gordon Parker has just retired from the position after numerous years of dedicated service to Neighbourhood Watch," Sgt Rust said.

"This Neighbourhood Watch area has been operating for about 13 years and its members have done a great job reducing crime

in their region. But like many organisations, people become complacent; we're trying to encourage more people, especially young people, to become involved."

One of the area's founding members Peter Glavimans said most of the members were aged over 70 and did not want to take on the responsibility of co-ordinator.

He said during recent visits to about 40 houses in his zone, only two houses displayed the insignia he gave them.

"I find that incredible," Mr Glavimans said. "I'm very disappointed in the attitude of people."

John Weymouth, of East Ringwood, is also concerned about the future of the program.

Eleven years ago, he was one of 600 residents who went along to his district's first Neighbourhood Watch meeting. He was also among the five loyal members who attended the group's meeting last month.

"Our meeting attendance reached an all-time low in February," he said.

Mr Weymouth, the dual area co-ordinator for areas F42/43, (which take in Ringwood East and Heathmont) said the program desperately needed new members.

"Many of our zone representatives were volunteers from the program's inception 11 years ago and several have dropped out recently for health reasons," he said.

Mr Weymouth said the

program was "about improving the quality of life for residents by residents in co-operation with the police".

"Figures show that crime in Neighbourhood Watch areas is considerably reduced," he said.

"Perhaps there is growing apathy, perhaps the younger generation are not volunteers. Nevertheless, while the current situation is not good, we're not about to give up. But there is a limit to what we can carry."

Sen.-Constable Dennis Thom from the Ringwood police station said many Neighbourhood Watch programs were suffering from a slump in volunteers. He said he had helped establish a number of committees and there was no doubt it was an effective way to prevent crime.

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