

Radio 2NVR editorial on 14th May 2007

Law and Order

Nambucca Shire Council approved the writing of letters to the NSW Attorney General and to the Chief Magistrate regarding the apparent lenient sentences being handed out by the Macksville Magistrate's Court and the fact that the community is fed up with the numerous instances of graffiti and antisocial behaviour as well as the more serious crimes of breaking and entering.

The present situation is so unsatisfactory that we all need to be lobbying and contributing to get the present situation remedied – whether by more employment opportunities, more police on the beat, smarter treatment of offenders, and yes, punishment appropriate to the crime.

There are a number of areas in the shire where the level of vandalism and antisocial behaviour has soared to the intolerable level. Gordon Park Nambucca Heads and its surrounds is one of those. The drunkenness and night screaming have worsened over the past few months and about 3 weeks ago the Fishbites restaurant, the Blue dolphin Motel, the Ocean View apartments, the tennis club and the public toilets all received the worst graffiti attack ever. This was followed up over the next few days by bottles being smashed in the toddlers play area and boards being ripped out of the boardwalk along the river. This is a fine community facility being trashed and taken over in the evenings by a very small but active minority.

The lobbying for action has begun in earnest. We may not be able to take a multipronged approach to the solution by providing jobs for the unemployed, activities for the bored and so on, but we can help to get more police based in the shire. For those with a concern for Gordon Park, as of last week there is a website providing information on what is happening there (positive and negative). Have a look at www.savegordonpark.com.au Just as importantly you can register your complaint there so that information can be collated for building the case for more police in Nambucca Heads. If you can assist some other way, use the comments section to relay that information.

And for all of us in the shire, we have the Police Assistance Line. Simply telephone 131 444. Tell the officer about the crime and ask for the “Cop Event Number”. The police force is as keen as we are to secure more officers on the beat.