



SHOROC Incorporating Manly, Mosman, Pittwater & Warringah Re-Designated #41-44 (Sydney, Australia)

The Shore Regional Organisation of Councils (SHOROC) which incorporates Manly, Mosman, Pittwater & Warringah Councils represents over 240,000 residents. SHOROC covers an area of 288 square kilometres and is bordered on three sides by water.



The SHOROC Safe Communities Programme was established in 1995, with formal designation occurring in 1998. In its 2006 application to be redesignated SHOROC identified a wide range of projects covering the areas of: senior, personal, sports, childrens, fire, road, water and community safety which incorporated crime prevention, anti social behaviour and assault. The conduct of the redesignation process highlighted the strong commitment of all these Councils to improve community safety. The professional coordination provided to all the Councils by the SHOROC executive director was evident throughout this process.

Certifying Centre and Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion. Affiliate Centre with Certifying Authority of the International Safe Schools Movement.

The SHOROC Board endorsed their re-application for designation and as part of this process a site visit was conducted by the Safe Communities Foundation of New Zealand on 24th November, 2006, commencing with Dr Coggan’s attendance at a White Ribbon Breakfast which is held each year on 25th November to commemorate International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. On this day men across the globe wear a white ribbon as a pledge to help end violence against women. At the SHOROC breakfast key-speakers highlighted the various ways that men in this region are working together to promote the message that: *“Some men’s violence gives all men a bad name. It makes women view all men as a threat and prevents caring and respectful relationships with women. Most men do not use violence. Most men treat women and girls with respect. It’s up to these men to help create a culture in which violence is unacceptable”*.



Following the breakfast meeting, a tour of the Warriewood Valley and Winererrey Bay areas of Pittwater highlighted the new design features of suburban development and community involvement. *“The Safe Communities programme is an excellent example of the SHOROC Councils working in partnership with regional Area Health Services and agencies to promote injury prevention and safety issues within our community”*, said Cr Alex McTaggart MP, Mayor of Pittwater and newly elected President of SHOROC.



At Freshwater Beach in Warringah, an outline of a comprehensive Beach Safety Education programme was provided, followed by a demonstration of the wide range of surf lifesaving equipment that is provided. A mock rescue ended the focus on water safety in this region. Some of the people involved in the current site visit recalled memories of the original site visit for designation and as Clinton Rose said *“please pass on our best wishes to the bus load of Swedes who descended on our beautiful beach”*.



Manly is one of the mega tourist spots for visitors to Sydney. During the site visit, a tour of ‘The Corso’ was made. This included viewing the CCTV system, the Alcohol Free Zones, Beach Lockers, Late Night Transport initiatives and the Code of Respect signage. *“Council staff have developed innovative ways of communicating injury prevention and safety messages”*, said Manly Mayor, Dr Peter Macdonald. *“For example, the ‘No Regrets’ Safe Party Tips booklet contains important information for young people and their parents about the responsible use and service of alcohol”* he said. *“Over 10,000 copies have been distributed to school leavers throughout the region and feedback has been very positive”*, he added.



The site visit concluded with participation in senior citizens falls prevention and an introduction to some of the ways in which youth are supported to improve their safety and social connectedness. *“We all need to manage risk in our daily lives and this (Safe Communities model) is an excellent programme to target key vulnerable groups within our community, particularly the elderly and the very young”* said Mosman Mayor Denise Wilton.



The redesignation ceremony and presentation of official plaque was held on Monday 27th November at Warringah Council chambers. Signatories to the agreement included official representation from each of the four Council areas of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah, Professor Leif Svanstrom and Dr Carolyn Coggan. During the ceremony we were all reminded that SHOROC is the only example of a regional approach currently committed to actively supporting the International Safe Communities Network in Australia.



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To view the SHOROC Safe Community application for designation visit www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc/shoroc