

# Hume City #10 Safe Community – Redesignation October 2006

Hume City was first designated as a Safe Community in 1996 and 10 years later it was a great honour to be officiating at the redesignation of this innovative Safe Community programme. The site visit and redesignation ceremony occurred during the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2006. At the site visit the team from Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) witnessed the value of the Positive Ageing Team, the Broadmeadows Neighbourhood Renewal Safety Working Group, the partnership established between the Dianella Community Health Centre and the Hume City Council Safety Team. SCFNZ were impressed by the outstanding collaborative leadership demonstrated by the City Communities team at the Council, led by the Director Nicole Mahony ably assisted by the Manager of Social Development, Denise Shearer. At the meeting with members from this team, John Monaghan, Manager Traffic & Civil Design, demonstrated the integral role that road safety plays in improving community safety.

In addition to the Council Safety Team, Hume City Safe Community project has established the Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce that is responsible for providing leadership to ensure that Hume City is one of the safest places in Australia in which to live, work, learn and play. As stated by Frank McGuire, Chair Social Justice & Safe City Taskforce *“since its inception seven years ago, the Taskforce has been a key driver of major social justice and safety initiatives in Hume and has a very significant record of achievement”*. Achievements of this group include both buildings and programmes developed by multi agency teams such as: Employability for Life, Fit to Drive, and a Guide to Baby Safety video. This Taskforce also pursued the vision for the Hume Global Learning Centre and the Visy Cares Centre in Meadow Heights. Like any good vision, these landmark buildings were achieved with energy, commitment and goodwill from many people and organisations including Council, State Government, the Pratt Foundation and The Age. The SCFNZ team was impressed with the reach and uptake by Hume residents of the amenities and programmes available at the Hume Global Learning Centre ([www.humegloballearning.com.au](http://www.humegloballearning.com.au)).

Redesignation ceremonies are a celebration of past achievements and future directions. It was therefore pleasing to meet up again with Mark Hennessy, the original Safe Community coordinator for Shire of Bulla (now Hume City) and to hear of his involvement in supporting Safe Community initiatives. In addition the contribution of Cr. Moya White was acknowledged. The redesignation agreement was jointly signed by the Mayor of Hume City, Cr Adem Atmaca and the Chief Executive Officer, Darrell Treloar. Both reminded the audience of the significant National Awards that Hume City has won for its efforts in building *“a just, inclusive and safe city”*. The SCFNZ team was impressed with the involvement of the residents of Hume City, in the site visit and designation.

A Victorian Safe Community Networking (VSCN) forum followed the redesignation ceremony, thus demonstrating Hume’s ongoing commitment to participating in national Safe Communities Networks. The focus of the VSCN forum was ‘Safer Communities – Social Justice & Safer Design’ and the speakers were Denise Shearer, Hume City Council, Peter Boyle, Principal Urban Designer and Carolyn Coggan, Director, SCFNZ.



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