

Celebrating a Safer Vincent

The 'Celebrating a Safer Vincent' column is designed to give you, as a resident, business proprietor or visitor to the Town, helpful information and practical advice on safety and crime prevention. These articles aim to provide an accurate picture of, and current information on, issues and safety activities within Vincent. It is encouraging to know that Vincent is indeed a safer place to live with the Town recording decreases in most crime offences since 2003 (Office of Crime Prevention). To assist in getting an accurate picture of issues in your suburb you can access current Police statistics from www.police.wa.gov.au and follow links to 'About us/facts and figures'.

Vincent's Ranger & Community Safety team have always been the eyes and ears on our streets and they have been involved in a number of programmes and projects over the years to enhance the experiences of people living in, working in or visiting our Town. Key focus areas have been parking and responsible dog ownership in addition to community safety.

The Town's commitment to community safety was strengthened with the appointment of a full-time Safer Vincent Co-ordinator. Over the years a number of initiatives have been introduced to support the goals of crime reduction and community safety – the Safer Vincent Programme.

Some of the achievements of the Ranger & Community Safety Services team over the last eight years include:

- Introduction of 'ACROD 2.5' Parking Bays in 2000. This recognised that not all ACROD Permit Holders required 'Easy Access' parking bays, which are 3.2 metres wide and that many Permit Holders could adequately use a standard width bay. The Town was the sole organisation using these bays until the programme was adopted and promoted by the Disability Services Commission in early 2008.
- SAIA Award for Innovation in Community Safety and Security for developing and implementing the Backpack Safe Programme. Police and City of Perth entered into a partnership agreement with the Town to maintain the impetus of the programme, with the material being reprinted for the second time in 2008.
- Signing with the WA State Government Office of Crime Prevention Partnership in 2004.
- Development of the strategic document – Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2007-2010.
- 2007 Town of Vincent Award for Outstanding Service to the Community by a Team – Provision of Excellent Service by Ranger Team.
- Commended by WA Police for the development of 'Business Beats' initiative – a partnership between the Town and Police to improve safety and security in businesses in 2007.
- Nominated for the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award for 'Vincent Light and Safe' in 2008.
- In 2007 the newsletter began featuring a dedicated page – 'Celebrating a Safer Vincent' – to inform residents and business proprietors about community safety initiatives and issues.

The Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership brings together the Town, Police, Office of Crime Prevention, Government agencies and community members to work towards a safer Vincent. Members of the Partnership are pictured here at the launch of the Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 2007-2010.



Above: In April 2008 the Eyes on the Street initiative was introduced in the Town. The programme provides training for field staff to help in identifying and effectively reporting suspicious behaviour in our streets. The branding of Town vehicles also acts as a visual deterrent and warning to would-be offenders.



Left: In 2007 the efforts of the team were acknowledged with the bestowing of the WA Rangers' Association Ranger Team of the Year Award. Photograph courtesy: Guardian Express.

Below: In 2008 the Backpack Safe Programme was re-launched with the support of the City of Perth. Photograph courtesy: Community Newspapers.



The Ranger & Community Safety Services team will continue to hone and refine its service to the community, with a comprehensive, integrated and co-operative service that is cognisant of statutory requirements and the evolving needs of the community for safety and security.

Vincent Light and Safe – Putting Safety in the Spotlight

As part of our on-going commitment to the safety and well-being of residents, and following on from last year's successful implementation of 'Vincent Light and Safe', the Town is again supplying and installing FREE motion sensor lights to victims of crime and those susceptible to crime. 'Vincent Light and Safe' is an initiative of the Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership, in conjunction with the WA Police Service, to assist residents of the Town in improving lighting outside homes and increasing levels of security and safety. The Town has secured funds to implement the 'Vincent Light and Safe Project' – with installation of motion sensitive lights available to residents who have been victims of anti-social/criminal behaviour in or near their homes within the Town. The lights and installation are provided free of charge to eligible applicants – holders of current pensioner or healthcare cards.

Vincent Light and Safe – Putting Safety in the Spotlight

Continued from previous page

The lights can be installed on owner-occupied properties or rental properties, providing that the property owner's permission is obtained. The lights are suitable for installing at front doors, right of ways or driveways.

There are only 30 lights in total offered in two rounds, so get in quick – it's first come, first served!

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Co-ordinator Safer Vincent on 9273 6032 and from www.vincent.wa.gov.au.


'Streetwise Steps' encouraged by the Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership

At the July Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership meeting the importance of residents and visitors exercising the following practical 'Streetwise Steps' whilst getting out and about enjoying all that the Town has to offer was raised.

Whether it is day or night:

- It is important to always let someone know where you are going and when you will be back
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend or in a group
- Avoid taking a shortcut through deserted areas
- Park in and travel through well-lit areas
- Alcohol can effect your judgement – 'stay alert'
- Plan ahead – when travelling give yourself plenty of time to allow for safe parking, public transport or use of a taxi. Have a 'plan B'
- Always ensure your doors and windows of your home are locked
- Keep valuables out of cars
- Be observant – if it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't – trust your instincts
- Report crime to Police

Do you have any further 'Streetwise Steps' suggestions?

For a free safety and crime prevention pack including a handy fridge magnet, key light torch, hat and 'Eyes on the Street' pen, send your suggestion to safer.vincent@vincent.wa.gov.au. If your suggestion is one of the first five received, you will get one of the packs. The suggestions received will featured in future 'Celebrating a Safer Vincent' columns. 

HELPFUL SAFER VINCENT CONTACT NUMBERS

- For your Local Police Station (i.e. Wembley or Perth Police Stations) contact 131 444
- Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
- Life Threatening Emergencies 000
- Town of Vincent Co-ordinator Safer Vincent 9273 6032
 - Report Graffiti 1800 44 22 55
 - Street Light Faults 1800 622 008



Should you have any enquiries about the above articles or need advice:

- on the use of an engraver to mark valuables
- on any general community safety and crime prevention issue
- if you are an individual or agency wanting to join the Safer Vincent overall partnership/network
- if you have any suggestions for topics for future Safer Vincent articles

please contact the Co-ordinator Safer Vincent on 9273 6032.