

Schools page for web

ACT Policing has launched a new page on its website developed especially for schools. The site contains a downloadable guide for schools about how and when to contact police, as well as information about presentations at schools by police. There are also some useful links for students including Constable Kenny Koala and the PCYC. You can visit the site at www.afp.gov.au/act/for_act_schools.html.

Blue Light Dance Party

ACT Policing's Crime Prevention team and the PCYC held a Blue Light Dance Party in April. The event was held at the Lake Ginninderra College gym and included dance competitions, soccer and basketball competitions, a jumping castle, face painting and temporary tattoos. This is the first of the new Blue Light Dance Parties to be held on the north side of Canberra, and all attendees gave excellent feedback on the event.

The next dance party is scheduled for Saturday June 28 from 6pm to 9pm at Thoroughbred Park and will feature special guest Hayley Jensen from Australian Idol! Blue Light Dance Parties are open to all primary school-aged children and are fully supervised by police and PCYC staff.

Keep an eye on the PCYC website for ticketing details – www.pcyg-act.org.au .

Switchback



RecLink and the PCYC have introduced a new mountain biking program called 'Switchback', which is funded by ACT Policing. ACT Policing's Shannon Prior helped develop the program and said that after a successful pilot program in 2007, the program is now running right across 2008.

"Switchback provides young people with an opportunity to develop socially through mountain biking. It's about the participants, the partners, the perks and the pedals," she said.

"The community support we've received has been great and we all look forward to Switchback helping more and more young people as the program develops".

Ten young people are participating in the program, and are already achieving great outcomes. RecLink hopes to introduce a girls-only Switchback program in term 3 2008. For more information visit www.switchback.org.au.

Beijing Torch Relay

ACT Policing was busy this month with preparations for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay conducted in Canberra on April 24.

ACT Policing received praise from across the Canberra community for its efforts in managing and conducting security on the Australian leg of the relay.

The 16-kilometre torch relay proceeded relatively unimpeded, with the security provided by the AFP enabling runners to run unencumbered by the close security that has marked earlier legs of the torch relay.

The efforts of police ensured there were very few problems with the estimated 40,000 people who lined Canberra streets along the relay route, despite large crowds of pro-Chinese and pro-Tibetan protestors.

Police made seven arrests using the special powers of the Major Events Security Act.

Warning about not-so-squeaky cleaner

ACT Policing is warning the community about a man posing as a window cleaner before making off with unsuspecting residents' property.

Police are investigating two separate incidents in Pearce since April 5, where occupants have been approached by a male offering to clean the windows of their homes.

On both occasions the window cleaner has been engaged to carry out the work, occupants have subsequently discovered the theft of cash and/or wallets.

In the second incident on Sunday April 13, a 91-year-old victim arrived home to find a male — who had cleaned her windows the previous day — in her house, claiming he had left property behind. The victim reported her wallet missing the following day.

Police believe the male offender distracts his victims, including luring them outside as a means of gaining undetected access into their homes and to their property.

The male is described as Caucasian in appearance, approximately 30 years of age, 183cm (6'0") tall, clean-shaven, with a solid build, short blond hair and a fair complexion.

Superintendent Alf Turketo says Canberrans should be aware of the man's activities and report suspicious behaviour immediately.

"This male appears to be preying on unsuspecting elderly people in our community," Supt Turketo said.

"Residents should be alert to unsolicited door-knock approaches from strangers offering domestic window cleaning services and it would be prudent to decline such an offer."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Source: ACT Policing