

Gungahlin Joint Emergency Services Centre open day

The Canberra community was given a rare chance to see the inside of a police station recently – without the usual prerequisite of a brush with the law.

The Gungahlin Joint Emergency Services Centre opened its doors on Saturday April 19, with vehicles and equipment on show from ACT Policing, Neighbourhood Watch, Safety House, ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Rural Fire Brigade and ACT Ambulance Service.

The day was initiated by Gungahlin Neighbourhood Watch and featured NHW and Safety House displays. A/Sgt Anna Swain of Crime Prevention said this sort of joint ACT Policing and NHW event helped build on the already-strong relationship between the organisations.

“Having a day where the community can see police, NHW and Safety House working together is a great way to get our shared safety messages out there to Canberrans,” she said. “It also highlights the positive working relationship we share”.

To the delight of children, Constable Kenny Koala paid a special visit and members of the Specialist Response and Security (SRS) team demonstrated the latest in tactical gear.



The Police and Citizens Youth Club was also on site with information on its programs, and police volunteers helped raise almost \$1000 for the

upcoming "Picking up the Peaces" Kokoda charity trek by Canberra's emergency services personnel. More information on the trek can be found at www.kokodachallenge.com.

With an estimated 600 visitors on the day, Sgt Bob Muir, OIC Gungahlin praised the efforts of all involved in making the day a success, including the dedication of Neighbourhood Watch in ensuring the event went off without a hitch. "Open days such as this are fun for families, but they also help demystify police and emergency services for the community which can help build a stronger relationship," he said.

The AFP's Recognition and Ceremonial team (and horses) were also there on the day, along with the Collision Investigation and Reconstruction Team and Mobile Traffic Operations.

Source: ACT Policing