

Andrew Eppelstun

copy of narrative event E 38773838

BANORA POINT FOOTPATH SAFETY AUDIT

Time: 10.:30am 25/9/9

*Loc : Footpath running between Honeymyrtle Dr
Monterey Avenue, and Gold View Drive
BANORA POINT, NSW, 2486*

The Tweed/Byron CPO attended Honeymyrtle Dr Banora Point in relation to community concerns regarding a footpath system running between house blocks in the stated area.

A group of 20 persons met police to voice concerns, the group was led by Mr Don KEATS of 72 Honeymyrtle Drive (Ph. 07 55242395) as well members of the Banora Point residents association and other individuals.

The footpath system in question runs commences at its southern point on Golf View Court where it runs between numbers 7 & 8 Golf View Cc footpath then runs behind the blocks from 62 to 72 Honeymyrtle on the west of the path and is bounded by the block 17-21 Monterey on the eastern side of the footpath.

There are access points between 60 & 62 as well as 72 & 74 Honeymyrtle. There is an access between 23 and 17-21 Monterey Ave as well.

The footpath runs between a series of 1.8 metre fences at the back and sides of these blocks and there is no casual surveillance of the footpath area from either residences or the streets.

The sheer majority of the length of the path is not able to be seen from the roadway or any other public place.

The footpaths are not streetlit and are well shaded from incidental light making them very dark during hours of night.

The back fences of residents in the area are covered in graffiti, the footpath itself is littered with food wrappers as well as numerous beer bottles and other empty alcohol bottles and cans.

The footpath has numerous grated pits that lead to stormwater drains set some 2 to 3 metres underground.

It is apparent that the footpath is simply an easement to allow easy access to the drainage system, the function of the footpaths apart from that purpose is questionable as each of the streets in the area has its own roadway and nature strip.

In fact in the hour that this officer was at the path talking to residents the only persons to use the path were locals youths who appeared to be the hooligan element.

Local citizens report that kids on unregistered "pit bikes" use the path on a regular basis and the noise is excessive, larger vehicles including police vehicles are excluded from the area by bollards.

The local citizens report that Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoon and night are the peak period for use, with activity starting in the area as early as 5pm on some afternoons. The activity carries on through to 1 to 2am generally. The residents report bad language, smashing bottles, vomiting and drunk teenagers, sexual activity, graffiti as well as interaction with youths in cars who then commit driving offences in the area.

In short the path appears to have little purpose other than that of a drainage easement, its design would not be considered to have any positive features of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and it is basically a haven and gathering point for youths inter-committing offences and destroying the quiet and good order of the neighbourhood.

The Police will be forwarding the narrative of this event to the Tweed Shire Council with a recommendation that the path be closed at each of its entrances with a high gate, with signs indicating that entry is trespass, and that the area is reserved for drainage management only and not for pedestrian access.



BANORA POINT & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Inc.



Tree- Removal / Lopping
LN: 34623, 34624

President: John Sweeney 5524 5282 Secretary: Pat Tate 5524 2957 Treasurer: Warren Shardlow 5523 1357
Vice President: Rod Bates 5524 2761 Vice President: Bill Pinkstone 5524 5217 Mobile: 0432 333 653
Correspondence: The Secretary, P.O. Box 936, Banora Point, NSW 2486
Website: www.banora.webs.com

POLICE

Friday, 2 October 2009

Mr. M. Rayner,
General Manager,
Tweed Shire Council,
P.O. Box 816,
MURWILLUMBAH, NSW. 2484



VANDALISM SN: 611 & 839

TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL	
FILE No:	PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
DOC. No:.....
REC'D: -2 OCT 2009
ASSIGNED TO:	RAYNER, M.
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Dear Mike,

526 7996

On the 10th September 2009 we wrote to you seeking assistance from Council in relation to a problem of youth vandalism in the Honeymyrtle Drive/Monteray Avenue area of Banora Point and are very disappointed that we have not had any response to this correspondence.

We also wrote to Superintendent Michael Kenney advising him of incidents in this same area which were police matters. As a result of this, Senior Constable Andrew Eppelstun arranged to meet a delegation of residents on Friday morning the 25th September which was also attended by our President John Sweeney and myself.

After hearing from the residents and seeing first hand the graffiti, damage to private property and broken glass strewn around the area, Andrew made the recommendation to the group that he write to Council requesting the walkway between Honeymyrtle Drive and Monterey Avenue, together with the walkway connecting Honeymyrtle Drive to Golf View Avenue, be closed off with a 2 metre high gated fence to block access. This would still allow council staff access to inspect/maintain the easement running along the back of these houses which connects the two walkways. This recommendation was supported by the residents, and this association fully supports that this course of action be taken by the Council.

To give you an insight into what these residents have had to put up with, listed below are the incidents which have occurred over the past two weekends:-

19/9/2009: At approximately 6.30 p.m. the police were contacted as a group of youths had gathered in the walkway and proceeded to pull palings off the fence and pull branches off palm trees. Beer cans were scattered around the area.

20/9/2009: Around 6.30 p.m. motor bikes were being ridden up and down the walkway.

21/9/2009: Rang the Tweed Heads Police and spoke to Sergeant Crawford to report the previous night's activities who stated they would keep patrols going in the area.

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23/9/2009: Around 5.45 p.m., a motor bike was again in the walkway, more palings were broken off fences, and a tree on the nature strip in Honeymyrtle Drive was vandalised.

24/9/2009: At approximately 5.15 p.m., motor bike again in walkway and more beer bottles and cans were strewn around the area.

25/9/2009: Met with Senior Constable Andrew Eppelstun and following an inspection of the damage etc. in the walkway, made the recommendation to the delegation that a request be sent to the Tweed Shire Council to close both walkways.

26/9/2009: Three motor bikes were screaming around the streets all day from 8.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. doing "donuts". Phoned the Tweed Heads Police at 8.50 p.m. and spoke to Constable Shamano to report youths were yelling and using offensive language. The police arrived around 9 p.m., spoke with the youths (who had been drinking beer from around 4.30 p.m.) and moved them on.

27/9/2009 At 9 a.m. two motor bikes started and continued all day. Palings were again torn off fences and they tried to break down a letter box, and left broken glass from empty beer bottles strewn over the road which had to be swept up before a resident could drive his car out his driveway.

28/9/2009: A council employee arrived to clean up the rubbish in the nearby park which was also trashed over the weekend, and after being approached by a resident, proceeded to clean up the broken glass etc. from the walkway for which the resident was most grateful.

At approximately 4 p.m. this same day, youths were walking around carrying a plastic bucket. They then threw a bucket of water over the fence at the exact spot where my wife had been standing only seconds before. This left her very shaken.

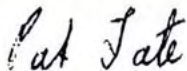
29/9/2009: Around 2 p.m. two males and one female tried to pull more palings off the fence.

In a prior incident, two of the residents confronted the youths as they had had enough of being deprived of sleep and having to clean up broken fence palings and broken glass. The police were called and fortunately diffused the situation before it accelerated into a more serious incident.

As you can see, the residents in this area have put up with disturbances like these for quite some time and some have already left the area because of this. The closure of the two walkways in question will give these people some respite from the continual harassment by these youths, and it is hoped that in time the police will be able to restore some law and order to the area.

We urge the Council to seriously look at this closure and to treat it as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs.) PAT TATE

Secretary

c.c. Geoff Provest MP

The Mayor, Councillor Warren Polglase