



Manningham Neighbourhood Watch Inc.

ABN: 77 830 580 322 Registered Charity Incorporation No: A0103727J

2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

1. Covid 19

The first half of the financial year was badly affected by the Covid 19 lockdowns and there was a very limited number of activities that Manningham NHW could undertake. Even as we entered 2022 and the restrictions were progressively lifted there was a degree of hesitancy within the community so our NHW was not able to return to the level of activity experienced in 2019. A census of our volunteer force in March 2022 indicated that we had probably lost about 60 volunteers from both natural attrition and the break in activity generated by the pandemic.



2. Recruitment has Been Growing Recently

Before the pandemic, Manningham NHW had for some years maintained a team of about 700 volunteers. As such it was understood to be the largest NHW group in Australia. Despite the difficulties over the last financial year we recruited 43 new volunteers, the majority of whom joined our NHW in the last four months of the financial year.

3. Passing of the Warrandyte NHW Manager Ian Logan

In February 2022 we received the sad news that Ian Logan, Manager of Warrandyte NHW, had passed away. Ian had been a member of that NHW for 15 years, ten of which as manager. Towards the end of his life, Ian had been concentrating on getting his employer's agricultural chemicals through the various Covid 19 blockades to farmers in Queensland. Turning his fertile mind to this challenge was similar to his approach to keeping the Warrandyte NHW operating. He was 80 when he died and will be missed by his NHW colleagues.

4. Training New NHW Managers

Faced with the situation that almost all of our Management Team members were over 75 and many were in their 80s, we approached Eastern Volunteers for help in recruiting some younger people who are interested in a management role in a not-for-profit organisation. Two people were identified; Praveena who is training to take over the management of Sector 6 and Zen who will take over Sector 4. Both of the trainees are about 30 years old and

undertaking a training course to assist them into their new roles. They are being guided by the managers who are stepping down from the positions.

5. Keeping Community Informed

Our NHW distributes about 28,000 of our printed newsletters in the community every two months. This distribution covers about 70% of the homes in Manningham. The newsletters contain information on crime and how to prevent it and are distributed by our volunteers. In the second half of 2021 we were only able to distribute the newsletters in November but in 2022 we reverted to the normal distribution schedule.

The loss of a number of our members (see above) meant that we had a number of locations where we were missing volunteers. In typical NHW fashion a group of our remaining volunteers stepped up and filled the gaps, in addition to delivering newsletters in their normal area. Their help was very much appreciated.

There are now nearly 1,500 followers of the Manningham NHW Facebook page and over 400 subscribers to our monthly E-News. Fortunately, the Covid 19 lockdowns had no effect on these sources of NHW information which continued without interruption. Our NHW also had a full page article in each Park Orchards Community News, which is published about eight times a year and had occasional articles on crime prevention topics in the new community magazine, Manningham Life.

6. Major Community Programs

a. As always, a key task of Manningham NHW is to provide information to residents to help them secure their property and reduce the chance of them becoming a victim of crime. Most of our volunteers are involved in **delivering the printed newsletters** widely in the municipality.

b. **Operation Safe Plate** involves fitting car number plates with theft-resistant one-way screws to reduce the chances of the plates being stolen for use in other crimes. This financial year we only managed to hold one event rather than the normal two. In May 2022, we had 15 NHW volunteers from Manningham and Boroondara and six Manningham SES members assisting at the Safe Plate Day. Once again the crew from Donvale Lions were on hand to run the sausage sizzle. The feeling from the attendees was that it was great to be back doing crime prevention activities in the field after a very frustrating couple of years.

c. Each month the **Letterboxing Team** travels to crime hotspots identified by the Manningham Police to distribute crime prevention



brochures to the homes in the area. Over the last four years we letterboxed about 800 homes each month in the area that covers the crime hotspots. Based on some preliminary results from research being done by the Police in Metro South Region, we are now more closely targeting the street lengths immediately adjacent to the crime location. We are liaising with the Police undertaking the trial with the aim of refining our approach even further. The team is managed by Ian Morris.

- d. Some 20% of the population of Manningham speaks Chinese at home. Therefore, there would be real benefits from **introducing NHW principles to the Chinese-speaking community**. To date our NHW has given several presentations on crime prevention to Chinese community groups. Discussions are continuing with representatives of such groups to establish the best way to provide their members with information on reducing crime.
- e. Having worked for so long on ways of reducing crime in Manningham, the members of our NHW are almost certain that there are some better ways of doing this. So we have established an **Operational Improvements Committee** managed by Angie Lew, which is working up possible projects to both improve our operations and reduce crime in the community. A specific aim of this committee is to have a number of project proposals outlined so that we are in a position to take advantage of external funding if a grant program comes along.
- f. As indicated previously, over the Covid 19 period we lost quite a number of volunteers from Manningham NHW. We are currently recruiting replacements. The recruitment drive brought into focus the issue of "why do people join NHW". So who better to answer this question than the people who have already made the decision to join our NHW. During June 2022 we distributed a **survey to all volunteers** for whom we had an email address. When the survey ended on 30 June we had received responses from 30% of the recipients of the survey. We are currently analysing the survey responses.
- g. It was noticed that throughout Manningham, there quite number of bus shelters that didn't have advertisements ie they only display a notice seeking advertisers. With the help of NHW Victoria, we have managed to secure spots on three of these **bus shelters for a NHW advertisements** six month trial. We will review the response to the NHW advertisements at the end of the trial.



7. Our Service Partners

The main reason for the existence of NHW is to support the crime prevention activities of Victoria Police, particularly by undertaking community education on crime and how to prevent

it. There has been a long standing partnership with the Manningham Police since NHW started in Manningham in 1985.

In comparison with many other NHW groups in Victoria, our group has a good relationship with the Police. The support of the Police for our NHW activities is very much appreciated. For our part, our NHW is constantly looking for ways that we can assist the Police by doing “unskilled” tasks which frees them to do the technical work for which they are trained.

Manningham City Council and our NHW work together on a number of projects eg Getting to Know Your Neighbour, and a good relationship exists both at officer level and with Councillors, as several of are or have been, NHW volunteers.

Our NHW is also a member of the a number of committees that involve Eastern Volunteers, the organisation that Manningham Council employs to support the not-for-profit sector that operates in the municipality. These committees have enabled the representatives of the member organisations to exchange information on ways of making best use of volunteers. In addition, several joint projects involving members of several of these organisations are currently being explored.

As indicated previously, we also have strong working relationships with the Manningham SES and the Donvale Lions Club. We wish to acknowledge the considerable assistance that these organisations provide.

8. Our Community Sponsors and Partners

For nearly ten years local Real Estate Agents Hudson Bond has generously supplied Manningham NHW with all of our newsletter paper. We use about 170,000 sheets of paper annually to produce our newsletters which would be impossible for us to fund from our own resources. Our NHW is extremely fortunate to have the company as a major supporter.

However, Manningham NHW still has to fund the \$9,000 annual cost of printing our newsletters. Our Partners Program was established to finance this printing. Our partners obtain certain marketing benefits for a fee which funds our newsletters. Warrandyte Riverside Market, The Pines Shopping Centre and Baptcare – The Orchards Community have continued as partners from previous years. This year long-standing advertiser, Bond Security Group became a partner. We are extremely grateful to all of these organisations for their support of our crime reduction activities in Manningham.

For over 30 years a number of local businesses have advertised in our various newsletters. Special mention



Newsletter Sponsor



Partners



should be made of Aussie Home Loans and Bond Security Group who advertised in a number of editions of our newsletters. The income from these advertisements generally covers the normal running costs of our NHW such as printing crime prevention brochures and the hire of meeting venues.

Finally, mention should be made of the support provided to us by NHW Victoria. For the first time this year, they have paid the premium for our volunteer accident insurance policy saving us nearly \$800. In addition, for many years our NHW has been covered by NHW Victoria Public Liability and office-bearer insurance policy, saving us further expense. The organisation also provides articles and other relevant information which we include in the Manningham NHW newsletters and E-News.

9. Business Plan

We continue to produce an annual Business Plan to guide our activities over the year. The plan also gives us a basis for determining our budget. The combination of the Covid 19 restrictions and a significant degree of community hesitancy after these constraints eased meant that much of our Business Plan was not able to be achieved.

Having said that, we are quite flexible with our plan and comfortable with making changes to accommodate new activities if the needs of the community and/or the Manningham Police change during the year.

A copy of our current Business Plan is available on the Manningham NHW web page at <https://manninghamnhw.wixsite.com/manningham/news>

10. Conclusion

Despite the frustrations of the past year, Manningham NHW has continued with its crime prevention activities to the extent that Government restrictions and sensible risk management permitted. I want to thank our members for their enthusiasm and dedication; a major reason why our NHW is successful. I would also like to acknowledge the support and guidance provided by the members of our Management Team, particularly our office-bearers. Their efforts made my job much easier.

We all look forward to the new financial year which hopefully will be less disrupted and more productive than the past few years.

Geoff Kloot
Chairman