



KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
 Department of Public Health Sciences
 Division of Social Medicine



**WHO COLLABORATING
 CENTRE
 ON
 COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION**

SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

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***** LETTER FROM THE EDITOR*****

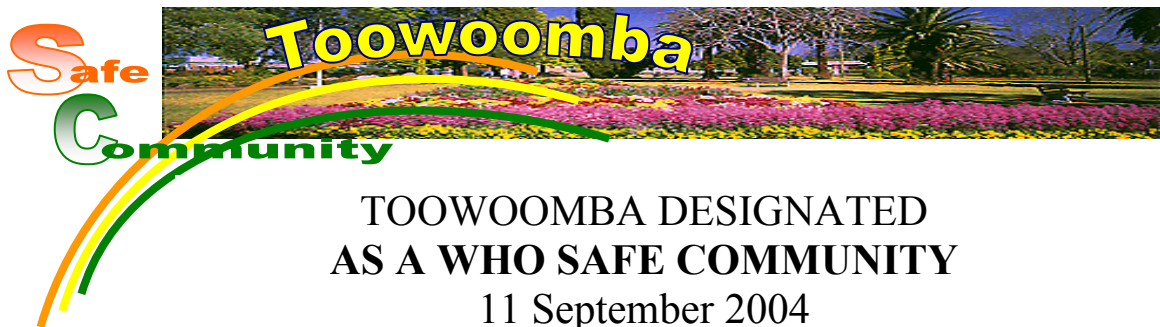
Welcome to the thirty-second issue of Safe Community Weekly News in 2004, the electronic Safe Community Weekly News is edited by the Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre- a WHO CC Affiliated Safe Community Support Centre on behalf of Safe Communities Network.

WHAT IS NEW AT SAFE COMMUNITIES?

In this issue:

DESIGNATION: Toowoomba designated as a WHO Safe Community, Australia

CONFERENCE: 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference, Australia



**TOOWOOMBA DESIGNATED
 AS A WHO SAFE COMMUNITY
 11 September 2004**

The beautiful garden city of Toowoomba, situated atop the Great Dividing Range, in South-East Queensland, Australia, was designated as a WHO Safe Community on 11 September 2004.

A large contingent of the local business sector supported Toowoomba City Council, government agencies and community groups involved in the Toowoomba Safe Community Task Force, and those involved in local community safety and crime prevention programs, to celebrate this special community event at a formal dinner.

The designation ceremony was conducted by WHO CC representative, Associate Professor Carolyn Coggan, Director of the Injury Prevention Research Centre, School of Population Health, University of Auckland. The Mayor of Toowoomba City Council, Cr Dianne Thorley, and Chair of the Toowoomba Safe Community Task Force, Cr Michele Alroe, were co-signatories of the WHO Safe Community Agreement with Associate Professor Carolyn Coggan. The document was previously signed and endorsed by Professor Leif Svanstrom from the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion in Sweden.



Cr Michele Alroe; Mayor Dianne Thorley;
 Assoc. Prof. Carolyn Coggan

The community celebrations continued the following day in Queens Park with a number of bands, school groups, youth from the Police Citizens Youth Club and choral groups performing prior to a short official ceremony. Peace doves and balloons were released as a symbol of peace and safety for the City of Toowoomba, following short speeches by the Mayor, Cr Dianne Thorley and Task Force Chair, Cr. Michele Alroe. A number of safety displays were provided by Emergency Services agencies. Celebrations were topped off with a free sausage sizzle that gave the gathered community an opportunity to chat and enjoy the glorious spring weather.



The Toowoomba Safe Community Task Force Seated at front: from left: Cr Michele Alroe (Task Force Chair); Assoc. Prof. Carolyn Coggan (WHO Representative); Ms Dyan Currie (Safe Community Program Manager).



Nearly 200 delegates from as far as field as the United Kingdom, Egypt, Canada, USA, Hong Kong, Vietnam and New Zealand along with practitioners and researchers from all around Australia attended the 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference and the 2nd Pacific Rim Safe Communities Conference held recently in Mackay. Entitled “Safe Living on the Edge” the conference aimed to facilitate a dialogue between Injury Prevention Researchers and Safety Promotion Practitioners as they explored the impact of risk on our lives and how we can work together to effectively manage risk in our communities.



The scientific program was complemented by an energetic social program with strong local flavour. There was hardly a dry eye during the opening ceremony featuring a performance by the Northview Primary School Signing Choir after which keynote speaker Paul Kells set the scene for the conference during a brief discussion with choir members in which he clearly demonstrated the impact of injury on our most precious social resource - our children.



Keynote speakers included; Carolyn Coggan from the Injury Prevention Research Centre of Auckland University, Paul Kells from the Canadian Safe Communities Foundation, David Sleet from the Centre for Disease Control USA, and Rob Lee Director of the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation. Over 100 papers were presented along with eight workshops exploring topics as diverse as research methods, working with the media, violence in gay and lesbian communities and using musical drama to convey safety messages to teenagers with live performances by the Central Queensland Universities Conservatorium of Music.



Playgrounds not safe enough

Lawrence Edmondson
 CHSLSLHS were called last week to investigate a playground safety issue. The playground was built in 1980 and had a number of safety issues. The playground was built in 1980 and had a number of safety issues. The playground was built in 1980 and had a number of safety issues.

The conference had a strong media impact, with ABC Radio Tropic North broadcasting live from the conference foyer. Delegates were often seen sitting in the corner conducting interviews with print, radio & TV media from around the nation. The conference achieved the front two pages in the state broadsheet newspaper and an item on a national TV current affairs program.



Queensland Health Promotion Practitioner Kathryn McFarlane's outstanding work within the Mackay Whitsunday Safe Communities Project received national recognition when she accepted the biennial Australian Injury Prevention Network award for Excellence in Safety Promotion Practice.



Congratulations to the Conference Organising Committee, Conference Partners; Australian Injury Prevention Network, Mackay Whitsunday Safe Communities Project, Department of Emergency Services and Queensland Health, Major Sponsor; Australian Government Department of Health and Aging and Sponsors; Toowoomba Safe Communities, James Cook University, Queensland Safe Communities Support Centre / Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit and the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission.



Please send your activities, programs and reports via post/ e-mail to the editor: [Yousif Rahim](mailto:Yousif.Rahim@norsafety.no) rahim@norsafety.no

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