

Thanks to those who were able to make it to our first Quarterly Members' Forum for 2018. We covered a lot of information on the night and I hope it sparked discussion and new ideas. We ran over schedule so I aim to be more disciplined around our timing for the next Forum.

For those who were unable to attend here is a summary of what we went through on the night.



Brian Welch welcomed us all. This was his first time to address a Members' Forum since taking on the role of **NHW Victoria President**. He acknowledged that we are undertaking a fresh approach to rejuvenating NHW. He spoke of his belief that NHW membership could exceed the previous highest number of participants of 30,000. This will be possible by utilising social media and promoting our new volunteering opportunities.

Our success to the future will be, as always, predicated on working closely with police and having active NHW members at a grassroots level. An active state office is crucial in providing the policy and marketing cohesion that will facilitate such an outcome.

Angela McGuigan from Eye Watch, Victoria Police's Facebook initiative across the State, shared with us how the development of Eye-Watch is going. Within a few short weeks Eye Watch will be in every Police Service Area across Victoria. The benefit for NHW is that we can use these Eye Watch pages to speak to VicPol Followers, in particular in areas that we don't have an active NHW Group.



Stephanie Kelly from the Crime Statistics Agency shared the most recent crime statistics for Victoria and demonstrated how we can all access crime stats on the Agency's [website](#), to source the data relevant to our local communities. If you haven't used the [website](#), please check it out – It is simple to use and you can drill down to data about specific suburbs, which is content you can share via your own social media, newsletters or email.



We have two presenters from the Victoria Police Priority Communities Division – firstly **Rebecca Jolly** gave us an overview of the [Community Safety Networks](#): VicPol and the Department of Justice are working with Councils and community members across 12 Local Government Areas who will each be funded to undertake crime prevention initiatives in 2018 and 2019. This program will run in Wyndham, Melton, Whittlesea, Cardinia, Latrobe, Ballarat, Brimbank, Dandenong, Frankston, Knox, Shepparton and Geelong. If you are in any of those areas I encourage you to get involved with the Community Safety Network Committee local to you, to participate and to have your say. There is more info [here](#).



Also from the Priority Communities Division **Mark Nichols** shared with us what Victoria Police are doing with regard to the issues around crime and the African Australian community and how NHW can help. Mark encourages us to be part of the solution and to work with the African Australian community members, many of whom are humanitarian migrants and experienced substantial hardship.

You may know that I have met with some of the African Australian community members and pledged the support of NHW Victoria to them. That support could be sharing their positive role models and messages via our social media channels, to having individual groups invite the local African Australian community members attend your meeting, or even setting up NHW groups.

It was a big Forum and as promised we will ensure that we don't go over-time at the next, to allow for feedback from you and news from our Groups across the State

Regards

Bambi Gordon

CEO NHW

Please Note: Photos courtesy Joan Bungar