



FEBRUARY 2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do the job or get someone else to do it!

Well we are off and running once again; mind you Perth still has, irrespective of our rapidly expanding population and urban spread, the feel of a very large country town. About mid-December Perth starts to shut down with people gearing up for the long awaited festive season, many also grabbing the family and heading off in all directions for several weeks. So here we are; January already gone and with so much to be done in this our year of reckoning.

Your Executive met on the last day of January and has set a range of priorities to keep us on track and improve the lot of our members. History was also made at this August gathering with the inclusion, for the first time in the 30 year history of the SAIWA, of a member of the fairer sex one Lynn Ellison, from the RAC's Security Division joining the merry crew. Apart from a sharp reduction is the usual colourful conversation that bounces around the table at these monthly gatherings, Lynn fitted straight in and will be taking over the task of reinvigorating the Doors and Windows sub committee.

As most of you are fully aware there has been a changing of the guard at Commercial Agents once again! The previous OIC 'Jock' Robinson was promoted to an Inspector and, in keeping with WAP's head in the sand, bloody minded policy of transferring people on promotion, off he went and we had to accept the new incumbent Senior Detective Sergeant Kim Gage. Along with Kim came a new Superintendent Geoff Maloney and Inspector Dale Bell, all of whom have a combined knowledge of our industry you could print on the back of a 50 cent stamp!

This is a very unhappy situation all round as the three aforementioned gents are now on a huge learning curve along with endeavouring to implement a complete revamp of the whole service delivery arena, not only within our industry, but across Firearms and the Pawnbrokers also; no mean feat.

So, here we are, once again, having to start virtually from scratch after several years 'educating' previous incumbents. To compound the problem and in spite of promises made by 'Jock' and Greg Trew to consult with our industry prior to making any major changes, this has gone by the board with the 'new brooms' making decisions that, from where we sit, seem to make little or no sense plus giving the perception out here in the real world these resolutions are knee jerk and made on the run.

The rapport between the security Industry and the Commercial Agents is at an all time low, so bad in fact that during late December and January the Joint Executive Team (JET) met to discuss the predicament. From these meetings a list of questions directed at the WAP police was presented to the Minister's Security Industry Advisory Council meeting on the 17-01-'08. These questions have been posted on our website.

It's ironic when one contemplates the Commercial Agents sworn and unsworn staff is paid out of the public purse and are there to service our industry for which we pay licensing fees. Yet we are treated in a manner that borders close to contempt. Closing the office without notice for several days is a classic example.

We are no longer going to accept this off-handed attitude and will take 'them' head on going through to the Premier if necessary. The attitude among our members has slumped to the point where there is a suggestion of not bothering to pay any further licence fees seeing that many unlicensed operators are out there openly providing security services to the community.

Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan APM is often heard to talk about the core business functions of his thinly stretched troops; perhaps he should take a sharp look at his people having anything to do with regulating our industry or, in having done so and deciding to continue to perform this function, at least provide the necessary human resources to do the bloody job!

See you around the traps.

Jim King AM

President

SAIWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008

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