

Brazen armed robbery highlights community safety shortcomings

The audacious armed robbery of the Nimbin hotel has brought into question the adequacy of the village's recent installation of security cameras.

In what appears to have been a carefully planned and cold-bloodedly executed felony, new licensee Wayne Duckworth was confronted by a man with a gun, who forced him to give him cash estimated at \$70,000 and then drive him towards Uki where he was freed, and soon after contacted police.

Mr Duckworth was later treated for shock at Nimbin hospital. He is not expected to continue his employment at the hotel.

The male offender was described by police as being of Islander or Maori appearance, with a solid to large build, and about 193cm tall. He was wearing a brown top, black beanie, big dark sunglasses and blue denim jeans. He was unshaven with a dark complexion, and is believed to be in possession of multiple firearms.

It is understood that the expensive surveillance equipment, funded by a special Council levy on businesses in the village zone, were unable to provide any detail on the movements of the perpetrator of what Inspector Glenn Gilbert described as "a major crime."

In the following week of specialist maintenance engineers conducted extensive work on the cameras, involving testing and replacement of parts using a cherry-picker, over a three day period. The contractors expressed their lack of confidence in the equipment installed, in off-the-record comments, and doubted whether they had ever been transmitting correctly.

The cameras installed after Council imposed a controversial special levy on businesses in the village zone amounting



Inspector Glenn Gilbert addressing the regional media outside the cordoned off hotel, where guests were detained until mid-morning. The hotel remained closed to the public until forensic police completed their investigations in the afternoon.

to \$8,000 a year for 10 years.

Council has approved a further amount of \$8,500 in its budget for 06-07 for monitoring of the cameras over a three-month period, which suggests a broadening of their original purpose. The long-awaited monthly CitySafe meetings, envisaged by the Code of Practice, also feature in Council's management plan for

the year.

Detectives from Richmond Local Area Command are appealing for public assistance. Anyone with information about this robbery is urged to contact Lismore Detectives on (02) 6623 1599 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. If anyone sees the man they should call 000 immediately.



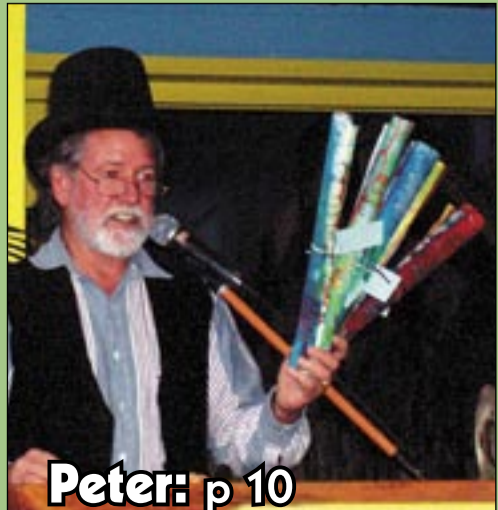
Policing concerns: p 5

Council budgets for Nimbin

- Specific projects funded in Nimbin:**
- the Sibley St footpath and pedestrian bridge (\$20,000)
 - monitoring of the CCTV for 3 months (\$8,500)
 - tourism market research (\$8,000)
 - replacement of the caravan park manager's residence (\$56,000)
 - waiving of the contribution for 3 car parking spaces for the new preschool (\$9,000)
- In the Management Plan outlining projects for each program manager are several items specific to Nimbin:**
- two new 'hoop' signs for the entrances
 - support for the implementation of a long term tourism, marketing and management plan
 - Visitor Information Centre
 - A new tourism market research study
 - monthly City Safe meetings.



Margie: p 5



Peter: p 10



Pam: p 10



Khadi: p 11