

PAPATOETOE CRIME WATCH PATROL INCORPORATED

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VISITING INDIAN TEMPLES IN OUR AREA WITH POLICE

First Temple Visit – Kolmar Road, Papatoetoe



Recently I was contacted by Acting Inspector David Glossop telling us that, a Police Team was going to be visiting the Indian Temples in the Counties/Manukau West area; and there are five Indian Temples in the Papatoetoe area. Asked if he wanted our assistance and he replied 'you catch on quick'!! He was invited to our next Committee Meeting (two days later) where he and Mandeep Kaur outlined to us what they were planning; this was to visit a different Temple each Sunday to let them know that the police were their friends, as it has come to their notice that these people do not bother advising of any illegal activity that happens to them or in their homes, street, areas and also that Papatoetoe Crime Watch Patrol Incorporated and Neighbor Support were there for them as well. Dave Glossop had got permission to speak at each one of the Temples and also would be having a spot on Spice Radio at least once a week as well.

Well Sunday 13TH April, dawned a lovely day, 4 patrollers (Flora, Linda, Jose, Karnail and myself Joy) from Papatoetoe Crime Watch Incorporated arrived to find the police – Acting Inspector David Glossop / Sgt Pam Dravitski / Mandeep Kaur and Lavleen Kaur (not related), and Neighbourhood Support Pam Walford (one of the founding members of our patrol) already set up with a table of brochures and interacting with the people as they arrived, they got us to park our Patrol car in front of the doors, and we were also greeted warmly as the people arrived. We seemed to be photographed many times



Photo one - (Sgt Dravitski/Constable Lavleen Kaur/Constable Mandeep Kaur and Acting Inspector Glossop (obscured with patrol members and Temple Members)

Our first visit coincided with Vasakhi the Sikh Festival; this I had been told as some of our members are part of this community. After a short while were invited inside to have some food, so we took off our shoes covered our heads with the bandana's supplied washed our hands and went inside. We were told the protocol by Mandeep and some lovely food was enjoyed.

On going back outside we went looking for our shoes and could not find them, only to be signaled to by some men sitting on the floor that our shoes were being cleaned – mine were just a pair of strappy sandals. We were all amazed at this, in fact Dave Glossop said the mark on his had been cleaned right off and you could almost see your face in them. We all decided that each week we will wear a different pair of shoes – our police said they would be wearing their number twos. We were apologized to for them not being able to tell us verbally where our shoes were but they were praying at the time; (it was suggested we bring all our shoes in the car and swap them over after each pair was cleaned). At note to those wearing closed shoes make sure you are NOT wearing your Holy socks!!!! – yes somebody had a small hole in theirs.

Sgt Pam Dravitski found we had some **Kiwi Kop** stickers so we started giving these out to a few of the children; who promptly went and told their friends – and we were swamped by children for stickers. When we ran out we checked and found in the box some Neighbourhood Support stickers – and these were gratefully received as well.

Inspector went in and gave his talk to them inside the Temple whilst the Patrollers stayed and 'manned' the outside table; but soon there was a call for us all to go inside as they wanted to take photographs of us all





We were approached by several who wish to apply to join our patrol; one of whom has applied to become a police recruit. Inspector also got asked about a person's burglary as the man was able to say that with GPS Tracking he knew where his stolen laptop, and cell phone were – in Kerikeri.

One of our patrollers decided that she would love to take home ALL the children as they were so polite, respectful and a delight to talk to – from little toddlers to the teenagers.

Due to other commitments our Patrollers left at around 2pm; only to find out later from the Acting Inspector Glossop they got very busy after we left and ran out of all brochures and him asking that we please stay longer as our Car was a draw card as well.

You can gather from this story that those that were in attendance were well received and very willing to help out again as this is also a way of getting people interested in joining our Patrol and Neighbourhood Support. It was also great to be able to 'work' with our Police helping in the positive things they are doing in our Community.

Next Sunday (Easter Sunday) we are off to visit the next temple – rest assured we will make sure we have our own camera – complete with CPNZ Pull Up Banners. I already have one lady patroller who went to the first visit upset that she will miss this week as she has to go to Rotorua for a wedding, but if she is home early enough on Sunday she will still stop by.