

CMN130 Task 2

Writing a news story

Main point of the story: Drunken violence.

News value: Conflict and proximity.

Police and hospital staff are fed up with drunken violence following a violent 40-person altercation outside Mooloolaba surf club late Friday night.

Six officers were called to the local surf club last night to break up the 40-person brawl that had started inside the club, before spilling into the surrounding area. One police officer was struck in the face with a closed fist by a brawling man. The incident resulted in multiple arrests for assault and minor injuries to participants in the fight. This incident follows a growing trend of alcohol and drug related incidences in the area. Due to incidents like this, Sunshine Coast clubs have had warnings issued for the danger of tourists from the wild behaviour.

Queensland Police Sergeant Bryan Thomsen said,
“Yeah, we worry, really. There is blood in the streets. There are people being hurt and others being affected because these things are spilling into the streets”

Police are not the only ones worried for safety related to these events. Hospital staff that assist with victims of these disputes, alike last night, are often attacked while helping. A 23-year-old university student, Scott Johnson, was knocked unconscious during the brawl which resulted in head lacerations, nose fracture and a trip to the Nambour Hospital. The student lashed out at the officers once he had regained consciousness however no officers were harmed.

The Queensland Ambulance Service spokesman, Graeme Greene, remarked that it's not that unusual for violent acts to happen to their officers and that they have learnt to deal with it.

Johnson remains in hospital for his injuries while the three people who were arrested in relation to the brawl are held in police custody. They will face court on Monday with charges of public nuisance and assault.

Interviews:

In addition to the interviews I've already received, I would interview the owner of the Mooloolaba surf club as the cameras inside the club may have recorded the start of this fight to disclose the underlying cause. Furthermore, investigating into how the club manages alcohol in relation to violent acts may assist in prevention. An additional valuable source of information would come from the City Council to assess how drunken street fights could be avoided, such as additional security on the streets and if any cameras could be installed to catch further altercations from taking place.