

SANDON POINT COMMUNITY PICKET

PRESS RELEASE
Friday, August 9, 2002

BULLI RESIDENT ASSAULTED MANNING THE PICKET

A Bulli resident was assaulted by three intruders while staying overnight on Thursday 8 August 2002 at the Sandon Point Community Picket. The attack occurred shortly after midnight.

Arthur Montgomery, 53, a lifelong resident of Bulli and local surfer at Sandon Point, was disturbed in his sleep by the noise of someone breaking the two flagpoles at the front of the picket. The Australian and Aboriginal flags that were flying at the picket were both stolen.

“When I got up to find out what was happening, I saw the shape of someone through the green mesh.”, Mr. Montgomery said. “I stepped out towards the cycleway calling out ‘What’s going on?’. Then someone else hit me in the back of the head. He must have been hiding, crouched down behind the billboard beside the picket.”

Mr. Montgomery described the assault which followed. “I found myself faced by two or three males, one of whom started swinging at me with a combination of punches. I got hit hard in the side of the jaw, and my false dental plate broke and flew out of my mouth.”

“I fell down on the cycleway and rolled across to the grass. The three men kept punching and kicking me, swearing at me and saying things like ‘That’ll teach ya...now get the f___ out of Bulli!. One of them hit me across the back of my ribs with a piece of bamboo, and I fled.”

Mr. Montgomery escaped the assault by running down the grass embankment towards the sea. He then circled back round towards the picket via Point St, and raised the alarm with neighbours. The three assailants are believed to have left the area in a vehicle left in the carpark near the Sandon Point Surf Club. They are described as being two tall and one short and stock young men, in the age range of 25 to 30.

He sustained a variety of bruises to his face, head, and back, as well as abrasions to one hand, as a result of the assault. Police interviewed him while he was being treated at Bulli Hospital.

Members of the Sandon Point Community Picket are deeply concerned by this violent incident. “This is clearly a premeditated assault”, said Hamish Brown. “Local residents who care about their community are being attacked in an obvious attempt at intimidation.” Previous incidents at the picket include two attempted arson attacks while people were rostered overnight at the picket in February and June this year. Further security precautions will be undertaken by the picketers in an effort to prevent any more violence taking place.

The Sandon Point Community Picket is in its 77th week of continuous protest against the residential subdivision currently being built by Stockland. Members of the picket feel that pressure is increasing for the picket to be removed before the first lots of land become ready for the property market later this year.

Arthur Montgomery, the victim of this assault is willing to be interviewed by the media. For further details please telephone Boni Martin on 0404-253-565.