

called meeting to consider several... and leadership being publicly debated," he said. projects such as Darling Harbour, the monorail, the redevelopment of

Police Inaction While Bashers Strike

SYDNEY, 29 April - NSW Police are investigating allegations that St Marys' police failed to act immediately on reported bashings in Victoria Park, St Marys.

On Wednesday night 23 April about 10.15pm two men were attacked by a group of youths in Victoria Park. They narrowly escaped serious injury but their car received a battering from the youths wielding lead pipes and a tyre brace.

The two men reported the attack to St Marys' Police station. One of the men later told the *Star Observer* the police had shown little interest in their complaint, only asking them to return the next morning with a costing on the damage caused to their car.

"The attitude of the police was very rude," he said, "They just weren't interested in helping us."

The man said he was confident they could identify at least two of them, having seen them quite clearly before and during the attack. Because of the police inaction, the men returned to the park themselves to warn others that bashers were about. When they returned, they saw the bashers leaving a house near the park. The bashers attacked the men's car again, with baseball bats and

bricks. The men left fairly quickly, unable to warn anyone else of the danger. The men later learned that two others were attacked between 11.30pm and midnight. One escaped, but the other had his jaw broken by a baseball bat.

Star Observer staff spoke to Sergeant Debus of St Marys' Police Station at midnight that night. He was unaware a report had been made or any action had been taken as a consequence. Upon being informed their were still threats of violence against other men in the vicinity he gave assurances that a patrol car would be sent to the Park immediately.

One of the men later contacted the convenor of the Police-Gay Liaison Group, Greg Tillet. He immediately raised the matter with the police and was advised that allegations of police inaction would be investigated.

Tillet told the *Star Observer* that the group was considering an apparent increase in violence on beats and in Oxford Street and was considering appropriate recommendations.

"The problem really is increased in-

creased presence leads to complaints of increased harrasment and intimidation, but lack of police presence leads to complaints of inaction by the police," Tillet said, "We would welcome comments from people in the gay community as to whether there is an increasing level of violence and if so, how they would like the police to deal with it."

He said a person who believes that they've received inadequate service from the police should make a complaint. this could be done by writing to the police commissioner, Police Headquarters, College St, Sydney, in which case the matter would be investigated by police internal affairs.

"Or, if they believe they have been discriminated against, they can complain to the Anti-Discrimination, 11th Floor 8 Bent St, Sydney," Tillet, "If they don't want to make a formal complaint, but just want to talk about a problem, they contact a member of the police gay liaison group."

The group can be contacted through Tillet on 240 4332 or group member Terry Goulden on 332 2202.

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