





90 ARRESTED BY NEW POLICE REACHINIT

The Peninsula's new "Starsky and Hutch" beach patrol has arrested more than 90 people for offences ranging from drugs to nude bathing.

The success of the squad could see it being trebled during the summer season.

The two-man squad works only in the busy summer season at present.

But because a great deal of crime is stemming from activities along the beaches, moves could be made to have the beach patrol working all year.

The arrests were made by Det Bruce Taylor and Det Geoff Hagger.

And to catch those breaking the law, they had to cover the Peninsula's 34 beaches and 11 pools

Dividends

They operated in close liaison with the senior beach inspector for Warringah Shire, Mr George Mullins, and other beach staff.

The "Starsky and Hutch" approach to policing has paid dividends as the two have been able to get close to the "scene" of criminal activity.

Stronger squad to meet rising crime

By DOUG RYAN

They have busted homosexual activities at North Head, arrested nude bathers at a number of beaches, worked in liaison with other police to arrest people on drug charges and have grabbed thieves redhanded.

They dress casual, thongs being an important part of the garb, have long hair and sport strong beards.

They don't have cars fitting their casual attire, so they park their police vehicle and walk to the beach under surveillance.

Twenty-four people have been arrested by the squad for offences relating to nude sunbathing, 16 on drug offences and 12 for break and entry offences.

There has been a falling off of thefts from beaches — an estimated 3500 in 1972, when it was decided to tackle the problem with the patrols, to a minimal number.

Senior police officers put this down to the vigilance of the beach patrol in catching some prime offenders.

"They did a top job," Det-Sgt W. Cooper, head of the Manly CIB, said yesterday.

Thefts

Det Taylor is of the opinion that a full-time squad is needed to patrol the many beaches along the coast.

He felt more arrests could have been made if more police had been assigned to the work.

"Some good criminals are making a living off the beach by selling drugs and stealing," he said.

Ages of those arrested range from 11 to 65.

