

Crime Stoppers

MEDIA RELEASE

19 December 2017



INTERNATIONAL CRIME STOPPERS FOUNDER VISITS TASMANIA

Crime Stoppers founder and ex-Albuquerque New Mexico Detective, Greg MacAleese visits Tasmania in his only Australian appearance. Joining him will be current Crime Stoppers International President, Mr Bryan Roach.

The media is invited to attend a once-only media event to welcome Mr Greg MacAleese and Mr Bryan Roach.

1.00pm - 1:30pm, Tuesday 19 December, 2017

Riviera Room, Wrest Point, Sandy Bay

Media Liaison: Ron Franks, 0417 525 855

The tragic and senseless murder of 19-year-old Michael Carmen in Albuquerque, New Mexico was the catalyst for launching a revolutionary crime-fighting program in 1976.

Despite the hallmarks of a solvable crime, no witnesses came forward and the murder remained unresolved. That was until investigating officer; Detective Greg MacAleese decided to create a re-enactment of the crime, offered a reward and ensured that those with information would remain anonymous.

Within 72 hours the perpetrators were apprehended and Crime Stoppers was born.

Forty years and over 1,700 worldwide Crime Stoppers programs later, Mr MacAleese has arrived in Tasmania for a once-only Australian stopover, in order to share his story.

“Crime rates had skyrocketed and in 1974 and 1975 Albuquerque had the highest per capita crime rate in the United States” said Mr MacAleese. “I made it a personal challenge to try and make a difference in the community. I knew that a reward-based, anonymous reporting system that was accessible to the public would be well received.”

“With the support of the media, we ran weekly public appeals to help solve cases. Soon after the Michael Carmen case, our third Crime-of-the-Week related to a ruthless rapist who had sexually violated 13 women after abducting them from a shopping mall car park. For four months the

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community had been shaken by these incidents and the Albuquerque Police Department was under tremendous pressure from the public to put an end to the attacks. One victim, who clearly saw the rapist's face, did assist police artists with a composite sketch and Crime Stoppers was tasked with creating a re-enactment. Within hours, we received a call from a tipster and the rapist was arrested."

"Without Crime Stoppers, there would have undoubtedly been other victims. It showed the value of Crime Stoppers, the media and the community working together" said Mr MacAleese.

"Tasmania truly is a wonderful and relatively safe part of the world and Crime Stoppers Tasmania is doing a tremendous job here in partnership with the community, police and the media. I encourage the whole community to continue working with Crime Stoppers to keep this one of the world's safest places to live and to raise a family"

Crime Stoppers Tasmania CEO, Ron Franks, said "We are thrilled to have Greg visit us here in Tasmania. This tops off a great year for our program, having recently won two prestigious International awards, and now welcoming the founder of this hugely successful international organisation."

"Without the tremendous foresight and commitment that Greg has shown over the years, Crime Stoppers would be nothing like it is today. We are grateful for his insights and willingness to share his passion for what has become one of the world's most recognisable brands," he said.

2017 has been a big year for Crime Stoppers Tasmania with a range of community projects and campaigns being rolled out. "The hard work and dedication of our volunteers is what makes the program so successful and we can only be further inspired given this opportunity to meet with the founder", said Mr Franks.

"It is essential that we all work together, in order to keep our communities safe. Everything we do is to help create a better world for ourselves, our families and for each other."

If you see something, say something.

www.crimestopperstas.com.au.

For all emergencies call triple zero (000).

Media Enquiries

For media inquiries please contact Ron Franks, CEO, CRIME STOPPERS TASMANIA on 0417 525 855 or ceo@crimestopperstas.com.au