



Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

eNewsletter #375 - 18 December 2018

This weekly eNewsletter is compiled by Neighbourhood Watch volunteers as a service for residents in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby council areas. The eNewsletter is a new type of Neighbourhood Watch; utilising the available technology to keep people more connected and up-to-date with local crime and safety issues.

The eNewsletter includes a selection of posts from the [Ku-ring-gai LAC Facebook page](#) (also known as 'eyewatch'), primarily for those not familiar with Facebook. We add anything interesting from a Neighbourhood Watch point-of-view - this could be a local newspaper article, a roadwork warning, crime prevention tip(s), an upcoming Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Q&As from residents, or an item from an other Police command ("Crooks know no boundaries!").

✉ Have you seen anything we should share with the community? [Please email](#) our NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby volunteers. We do value your contributions. Thank you for your support.

✉ Please feel free to [share/forward this eNewsletter](#) with your friends, family,

colleagues and neighbours.

➲ Reading our eNewsletter for the first time? [Click here to subscribe.](#)

18 December, from Live Traffic



A STOP sign with three black dots is only seen at traffic lights. It means that if the lights are not working or are flashing yellow and you are approaching this sign, you must stop and give way to traffic as though you are at an intersection with a stop sign UNLESS the intersection is being managed by Police or traffic controllers, in which case you must follow their directions.

18 December, from Crime Stoppers NSW: ☺ SCAM WARNING ☺

Crime Stoppers is currently being inundated with callers wanting to report Tax Scammers.

With tax time over, be on high alert for phone calls demanding the payment of fake tax debts. Stay vigilant and warn your friends and family so they don't get tricked.

Please share this post so all your friends and family are warned!

Be suspicious if someone contacts you demanding payment. Remember, we would never:

Ø Request the payment of a tax debt via prepaid gift cards (eg iTunes or Google

Play)

- ∅ Ask for direct credit to be paid into a personal bank account or via an ATM
- ∅ Demand immediate payment, use aggressive behaviour, or threaten you with arrest or deportation.

These are typical scammer tactics!

If you're unsure about a call you receive, hang up immediately. Phone the Australian Taxation Office scam hotline on 1800008540 to check if the call was legitimate or report the scam. [Find more info here.](#)

*Information obtained from ATO.

18 December, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV

It's a busy time of year for emergency service workers. If you see them driving with their lights flashing these holidays, remember to slow down, safely move out of their path and give them space. If you see a stationary emergency vehicle with their lights flashing, remember to slow down to 40km/h when you pass.

[Watch video here.](#)

16 December, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV

Mobile phone detection camera technology in NSW is a world-first and is now ready for a three-month pilot.

The pilot is planned to start early January 2019 and conclude April 2019. No infringements will be issued to motorists during this pilot phase.

[Watch video here.](#)

14 December, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV

The number of fatalities and serious injuries can be reduced through safer vehicle choices.

See more [here](#).

14 December, from NSW Road Safety - NSW Gov

Double demerits are in force Friday 21 December to Tuesday 1 January inclusive.

Get caught speeding, using a mobile phone illegally, or not wearing a seatbelt or motorcycle helmet this holiday period, and you'll face double the points.

[Watch video here.](#)

14 December, from Crime Stoppers NSW: What is your Plan B?

When alcohol is involved, we need to keep the equation simple:

Driver = Nil Drinkies

Drinker = Nil Drivies

What's your plan B?

13 December, from Traffic and Highway Patrol Command - NSW Police Force

A message from Boolaroo Uniting Church:



09 December, from NSW Police Force [Edited]

More than 110 drivers were “nabbed” during a high-profile impaired driver operation focusing on Sydney’s north and west

Operation Nabbed, a high-visibility traffic operation, ran on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 December 2018, with officers from Traffic and Highway Patrol Command conducting random drug and alcohol tests between the Sydney Harbour Bridge, North Sydney to the M7 Motorway, Kings Park.

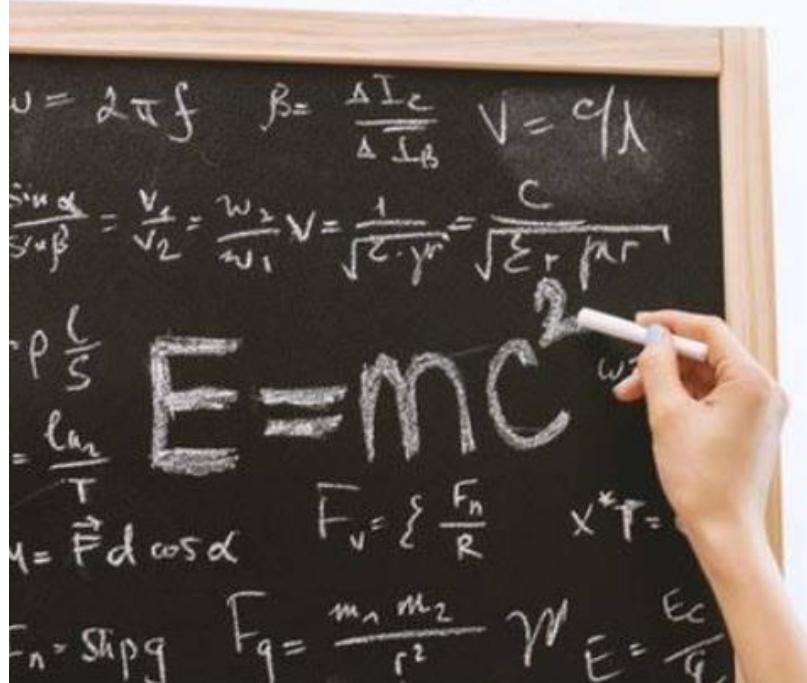
Operation Nabbed has been conducted on four previous occasions. A total of 232 drink driving offences were detected during past operations.

Police conducted more than 16,850 breath tests over the two-day operation and a total of 110 drivers were charged for driving under the influence of alcohol.

13 December, from the NSW Police Force

Make life simple. If you're planning to have a drink at the work Christmas party, don't drive. 

Trying to figure out how many drinks you can have at the work Christmas party and still be right to drive



13 December, from the Office of the eSafety Commissioner: What to do if you have been scammed

Learn how to protect yourself from modern scammers and keep your information safe. [Click here.](#)

12 December, from The Hills Area Police Command: Holiday Safety

Safety tips for the **holiday** season

- Slow down, give yourself time to get to your destination.
- Don't drive if you have been drinking.
- On long trips, take regular breaks and pull off the road if you feel fatigued.
- In bad weather, slow down and remain alert.
- Ensure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition.
- Remember – don't talk on your mobile phone or text whilst driving.
- Always lock up – even if you are in the backyard, or just going out for a couple of minutes.
- Don't advertise your valuables – keep items out of sight and dispose of packaging carefully.
- Remember to lock garages and garden sheds as they contain valuable items too.
- Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your property and even park in your driveway.
- Ensure your home looks lived in – mow your lawn, put your lights on timers, get your mail collected.
- Avoid packing your car too early, or in view of possible thieves.
- Ensure your home insurance is adequate and up to date.
- Whether staying in a caravan, tent or unit, remember to lock away valuable items.
- Lock your car and don't leave bags or valuables in sight.
- Phones, wallets and iPods are prime targets for thieves.
- When at the beach, alternate swims with friends and family, leaving someone to look after your property.
- Secure bikes, surfboards and any other recreational equipment when not in use.
- Leave contact details and destination information with trusted family or friends.
- Check your portable items coverage on your home and contents insurance is adequate and up to date.



12 December, from The Hills Area Police Command

Slow down, pedestrians about.

Travelling speed and pedestrian survival



Hit at 40km per hour **25%** of pedestrians will die



Hit at 50km per hour **55%** of pedestrians will die



Hit at 60km per hour **85%** of pedestrians will die

12 December, from The Hills Area Police Command:

Did you know that you will lose 10 demerit points if caught using a mobile phone whilst driving over the Christmas/ New Year period? Now you do.



Neighbourhood Watch
Creating Safer Communities

From Hornsby Advocate, 13 December [[link here](#)]

War on wayward trolleys: Council to force retailers to pay for trolleys' return
[Page 5 Edited]

HORNSBY Council workers have used the cover of darkness to impound more than 450 trolleys left abandoned across the CBD.

The council and Westfield Hornsby retailers have been locked in a years-long stalemate over who is responsible for the retrieval of the wayward trolleys, which end up in creeks, parks or blocking footpaths.

After failed promises to install wheel locks on the trolleys from the retailers, the council decided to take action on Sunday night.

Its officers hit the streets, collecting more than 450 abandoned trolleys, impounding them at its Thornleigh depot.

“This was our last resort and it is unfortunate it has come to this but something had to be done,” Hornsby Mayor Philip Ruddock told the Advocate.

“We have spent more than two years negotiating with the supermarkets and other corporations who have allowed these trolleys to litter our streets but, unfortunately, the talks have not resulted in any change.

“Westfield and its retailers have agreed to install wheellocking mechanisms on their trolleys, yet nothing has been done.”

Cr Ruddock promised ratepayers would not be left to foot the bill for the retrieval, saying retailers would be forced to pay a fee to get their trolleys back.

“We are confident the retailers will conclude it is in their best interest to collect the trolleys themselves, as they should have been doing all along,” Cr Ruddock said.

“This is a significant issue, one that is high on the list of priorities for many community members.”

The council will continue to collect the trolleys until they are regularly collected by retailers.

Street Watch [Page 7]

BEROWRA

A young girl has been discharged from hospital following a nine-hour fight for her life after she fell from the back of a moving Tarago van on Saturday. Kate Waterworth, 11, is in a stable condition after she fell from the four-door people mover at 10am while the van was travelling along Boundary St, hitting her head on the road. Kate’s parents, John and Jo Waterworth, of Berowra Heights, were by her bedside at 7pm when doctors finally stabilised her. NSW Police Inspector Jane Hansford said the driver of the vehicle was subjected to mandatory alcohol and blood testing. Charges have not been laid.

BEROWRA CREEK

A 68-year-old woman suffered serious injuries to her head and back after falling 15m down a steep embankment in a secluded area of Berowra Creek, before being helped by a passing kayaker. Police said the woman was collecting firewood

outside her home about 6.45pm on Friday when she lost her balance and fell, landing in shallow water. The woman's neighbours heard the kayaker's calls for help and rang emergency services. The woman was rescued by boat and ferried across the river to a jetty, near Berowra Waters Rural Fire Brigade. Police gave her first aid until paramedics arrived and she was taken to Westmead Hospital in a stable condition.

HORNSBY

A 63-year-old Hornsby man has received a caution from police after visiting Thailand and sending himself a package containing an air gun and ammunition. The man bought the gun at a shop in Thailand and sent it home in a package declaring it was "carvings and silk sarongs". Australian Border Force officers discovered and seized the gun. The man did not have a firearms licence or a licence to import firearms.

MT KURING-GAI

Police received a call about an aerosol can on fire near the intersection of Pacific Highway and Alicia Rd last Wednesday. A man was spotted walking away from the area about 5.30pm. Fire crews and police attended.

THORNLEIGH

Golf clubs were stolen from Thornleigh Golf Centre in Dartford Rd about 3.20am on Friday. A glass panel was smashed to gain entry to the shop, setting off an alarm. The offenders were two males wearing hoodies and baseball caps. They are also suspected of attempting break-ins at supermarkets in Turramurra and Berowra on the same morning.

WAHROONGA

A pile of building waste was suspiciously set on fire at a home under renovation in Water St about 11.40pm last Thursday. Fire crews found a large pile of building waste on fire about 30m from the home. Police found a plastic jerry can nearby,

which had previously contained diesel. They believe the pile was deliberately lit. No buildings were damaged.

SOUTH TURRAMURRA

A sinkhole about 1m wide and 1m deep appeared on The Comenarra Parkway about 2pm on Friday. Police cordoned off the area and contacted the council.

Dates for the Diary:

2019:

Tuesday 05 February: Safer Internet Day [Info](#)

Tuesday 19 February: Ku-ring-gai Council's Everything for Seniors Day 10am-3pm @ St Ives Village Green & Community Hall. NHW Crime Prevention stall, with info and goodie bags.

Friday 08 March: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter fundraiser - Strength is her Superpower. International Women's Day 2019.

Sunday 07 April: Lindfield Rotary Fun Run.

From the North Shore Times, Thursday 13 December [online edition here]:

Middle Harbour awash with issues [Page 4 Edited]

A MIDDLE Harbour boat enthusiast has warned of the danger of injury and even death from the surflike wash created by large cruisers.

He says the lack of "etiquette afloat" is also wreaking environmental damage as the wash erodes the shoreline, causing sea grasses and mangroves to retreat and desecrating Aboriginal middens, or domestic sites, of historical importance.

John Vaughan, of Castlecrag, has called for a maximum speed in Middle Harbour of eight knots for vessels over 6m and for "no wash" restrictions to be vigorously enforced.

“The excessive wash is dangerous for users of kayaks, dinghies and rowing sculls,” he said. “The wash from large vessels driven at speed or without proper trim often creates surf-like, multitudinous waves.

“It has become unbearable for users of many small and medium-sized boats.

“The lack of etiquette afloat coupled with the increasing usage of the Middle Harbour waterways has created a most dangerous situation where someone could be hurt or killed.

“As the population and prosperity of greater Sydney increases, the toll on waterways such as Middle Harbour is becoming disastrous.”

15 Drug Arrests

Police have charged a 22-year-old Potts Point man with drug offences after he was stopped by plain clothes police officers in Gas Lane, North Sydney, over the weekend. On Sunday night, police conducted an operation targeting the sale and use of prohibited drugs at a music event in North Sydney. Police made 15 drug-related arrests including that of the Potts Point man, who they allege was found in possession of a bag containing a white powder, several capsules believed to be MDMA and a bag of green vegetable matter believed to be cannabis.

16 December, Shared from Thornleigh, Westleigh and Normanhurst Community group yesterday:

I was absolutely in shock this morning when I witnessed a man being bashed in the Hornsby Westfield carpark over a car space. I hope the man is ok and the moron was charged for such a disgusting and unnecessary act of violence. Didn't think this kind of thing happened in our area.

There were about 15 people who ran to help, plus security.

15 December, from Stay Smart online



Read up on store reviews so you know who you're buying from and don't get more than you bargained for when shopping online. More tips in our online shopping checklist, visit [here](#).

15 December, from 9news.com.au: Tasmanian woman latest holiday scam target [Edited]

A Tasmanian woman narrowly avoided forking out almost \$5000 to scammers thanks to a quick-thinking Target employee.

Ashlee Carey from Longford, south of Launceston, was nearly tricked by the latest scam that's swindling Australians.

Ms Carey received an automated voicemail earlier this week claiming her tax return was done incorrectly and she needed to call them back immediately.

“It was a Melbourne number. Seemed legit,” Ms Carey posted on Facebook on Wednesday.

When the 28-year-old called the number, a man named “John” told her she had been paying tax incorrectly for three years.

He claimed there was a warrant out for her arrest and Federal Police would come after her if she didn’t pay her debt.

Panicked, Ms Carey advised “John” she had an accountant and she would get them to sort it out.

“I then received a call from my accountant telling me it was legit and it was their mistake,” Ms Carey posted.

The scammers had accessed Ms Carey’s entire contact list when she returned the initial call. They were then able to disguise themselves as her actual accountant Tim, supposedly calling her to confirm the mistake.

“The phone number that showed up on my phone was from my accountant,” she said.

Assistant Commissioner Kath Anderson said when the ATO do call you, the phone number will be private and will never show on your caller ID.

“Taxpayers should be wary of any phone call, text message, email or letter about a tax refund or debt, especially if you weren’t expecting it,” she said.

Read details [here](#).

15 December, from Burwood Area Police Command

**DRIVER: "WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
WITH THIS SPEEDING TICKET?"**



**OFFICER: "KEEP IT, WHEN YOU COLLECT
FOUR OF THEM, YOU GET A BICYCLE."**

15 December, Shared from Pymble/West Pymble Community group:

School is out and also seems so are the idiots. Arrived in the park this morning. Glass everywhere in the children's play park by the pool, plant pulled out of ground, sparklers everywhere. Who does this stuff? Not to mention damaging a trailer.

And in the comments:

That's awful. There seems to be a gang of them roaming around W Pymble at night. They jumped on the roof of a Yaris when it was parked in Lofberg next to the cricket nets some weeks ago - HUGE dent - and broke off a windscreen wiper. The police said they thought they knew who had done it but couldn't prove it.

As somebody said, at what point do they change from playing in the park, to wrecking it for everybody else?

13 December, from 9news.com.au: Delivery driver allegedly touched Sydney teen's breast

A 13-year-old Sydney girl was allegedly touched on the breast by a delivery man while she was home sick from school.

Dinakar Tayi has been released on bail a day after he was arrested in Wetherill Park and charged with intentionally sexually touch a child and aggravated enter dwelling with intent.

The 44-year-old allegedly touched the young girl's breast in the doorway of her Hornsby home, in Sydney's north west, before trying to enter the house on December 4.

She was at home sick from school that day.

More [here](#).

OUR 20 FAVOURITE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR: THE FESTIVE SEASON

Tip #1. Check the NSW Fair Trading website for product recalls as we approach Xmas,

eg toys, Xmas tree lights, etc. www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

Tip #2. Lock all windows when in the open position with a maximum 10cm gap.

Please

don't plug Xmas decorations inside the house and pass the cable through the window for outside display!

Ensure you know of the available fire prevention advice regarding trees, overloading, candles etc

www.fire.nsw.gov.au

Tip #3. Please remove parcels from display inside your car. Covering with a blanket

may not work.

Tip #4. Before Xmas, don't leave the Xmas presents under the Xmas tree if they can be

seen from the windows, or by visitors when you a

nswer the door. After Xmas,

remove from view any packaging that came with any new expensive items.

Tip #5. If you go away, make your home look lived in: Lights on timer, washing on

the

line, TV (Note: a timer plug is available which emits light to emulate a TV), radio on timer, etc.

Leave your normal answerphone message on the phone.

Tip #6. If you go away, ask a neighbour or friend for their help: park on your driveway,

put out/take in the bins, empty the letter box, clear the freebie newspapers from in front of the house, mow the council strip, etc. Inform the neighbours and share emergency contact numbers.

For a full set of tips for the festive season, email us at

NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

IMPORTANT CONTACTS & LINKS

Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance): 000

NSW Police - Kuring-gai Local Area Command (LAC): 9476 9799

Hornsby Police Station, 292 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby 2077

Kuring-gai Crime Prevention Officer: 9476 9723

Local Police Facebook page: [@Kuring Gai LAC](#)

Non-emergency two-way communication

Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000

Report crime anonymously

Report suspicious activity asap

Police Assistance Line (PAL): 131 444

For non-urgent minor crime

NSW Police Community Portal

Online reporting of non-emergency minor crime: lost property, intentional damage, graffiti or theft.

Interpreting & Translating Services: 131 450

NSW Police - website for crime prevention advice

Never be afraid or embarrassed to report a crime, concern or fear you have to the Police. The Police are here to help you.

Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby:

 **Website** NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au

 **WatchOut!** WatchOut.org.au - our one-stop-shop for crime prevention

 **Facebook** @NHWKuringgaiHornsby

 **Twitter** @NHWKRGHornsby

 **Email** NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

Local Facebook pages:

 Our Crime Prevention [WatchOut! Facebook page](#)

 **Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara**

 **Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon**

 **Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby**

 [Neighbourhood Watch - Killara](#)

 [Neighbourhood Watch - Normanhurst](#)

 [Neighbourhood Watch - Pennant Hills](#)

 [Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives](#)

 [Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga](#)

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