

Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

eNewsletter #435 - 11 February 2020

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 <u>Ku-ring-gai PAC Facebook</u> 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.
- A Reading our eNewsletter for the first time? Click here to subscribe.

APPEALING FOR ASSISTANCE

Hornsby Detectives are appealing for information following an incident at Hornsby Mall last month.

Just before 1pm on Saturday 25 January 2020 a group of bike riders were riding in the area near the George Street footbridge.

At the time there were several pedestrians in the area.

Police have been told there was an interaction between one of the pedestrians and an 11-year-old rider.

The boy has fallen from his bike and suffered a fractured arm.

Police are now investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident and are appealing for anyone in the area who witnessed the incident to contact Detective Sergeant FEUERSTEIN or Detective Senior Constable HAMMOND from Hornsby Detectives on 94769704, or Crime Stoppers on 188 333 000.

9 February, from Ku-rin-gai SES



*** UPDATE*** We have had such a demand that we are now out of sand! We still

have empty sandbags that you can collect and fill with your own sand.

We will advise when we have more sand - so please keep following Ku-Ring-Gai SES for updates.

If you require sandbags (empty sandbags and sand for you to fill) or tarps we have a number available. Please come to SES Ku-ring-gai Unit, Golden Jubilee Field, 7 Esk St, North Wahroonga NSW 2076. Website <u>here</u>.

8 February, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV

Severe weather will continue to affect parts of NSW this weekend. Stay safe if you're travelling on the roads, slow down and don't enter floodwater. Find an alternate route and avoid unnecessary travel.

7 February, from NSW SES Waverly Woollahra Unit Be flood safe and never enter flood water



6 February, from Crime Stoppers NSW

Did you know that it is a crime if you make, send out, or have an "offensive" image of someone under the age of 18 (including of yourself) who is:

- Showing their private parts, which includes a person's genital area, anal area or female breasts
- Posing or acting in a sexual way; in the presence of another person involved in sexual activity or pose, or
- Involved in a sexual activity.

The law calls these images CHILD ABUSE MATERIAL, or more commonly – Child pornography.

If you are found guilty of a sexting crime, you may be placed on the Australian National Child Offender Register.

It is important to protect yourself by deleting any pictures you are unsure or uncomfortable about straightaway. It is really difficult to keep images private and once they are shared, you will never be able to delete those pictures forever. Never share it online or through SMS, and only show it to a trusted adult.

If you know or suspect someone is producing, downloading or sharing child sexual abuse material you can make a confidential report to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit site here.

6 February, from Northern Beaches Police Area Command - Tree Scammers About - Forsetville

He came dressed in a hi-viz top saying he wanted to cut down the big gum tree in the 88-year old's Salerno Street back yard.

She was reluctant and told him she'd speak to her daughter.

He turned up the next day and pushed hard for her to agree:

"Your neighbour's on board," he insisted.

"They'll even pay \$500 towards the cost."

She asked to see the council paperwork; he left in a car with two others.

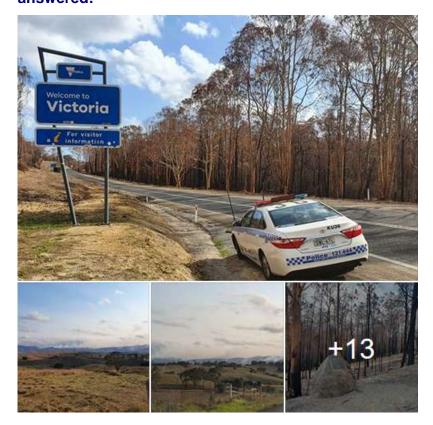
The quote was \$6,500.

The man is described as being in his early 30s, Islander appearance with large build, a sleeve tattoo and wearing black shorts, a black hat and the orange high-viz top.

Please politely close the door on people offering to do work of any kind; fixing roofs, chopping down trees and repairing driveways are just some examples.

It's highly likely they'll take a lot of your money, do little or nothing in return and disappear.

5 February, from Kuring Gai Police Area Command - Prayers have been answered!



5 DAYS IN THE NSW SOUTH COAST FIRE REGION in a nutshell ~ (Kuring-Gai Police Area Command).

A huge thank you to the SES, VRA, the Army and in particular the NSW RFS for the tireless work you are all doing.

A colleague and I had the privilege of spending the last 5 days working down south with our colleagues from other Police Area Commands and the organisations noted above. We drove to the NSW South Coast and had the opportunity while there to speak with those who have been both directly and indirectly affected by

the fires over the last few weeks and months.

We worked closely with the SES, RFS, VRA and the Army. It was not only wonderful, but an eye opener, to see all the agencies working so closely and effectively together.

When speaking with teens, couples, families and their kids, senior folk, shop owners and staff of business and shops, and giving little toys to kids, we found they all had a story they were happy to share.

We heard stories of heartfelt sadness and upbeat stories, were told of the constant feeling of being "on edge" for months. Some have been evacuated five and six times from their homes. This same gentleman who has a mate who lost his home said, "well you just have to be grateful eh!"

We were directly involved in warning the residents of the pending danger with fires in the Merimbula, Pambula and Bega Valley areas, looking for potential looters and backing up our police colleagues in the South Coast and Bega Valley areas.

We patrolled from Bega right to the Victorian border and back again; drove through the devastation around Batemans Bay and Mogo on our way down and saw the black ash sludge on the waterfront in Merimbula.

When patrolling through the Cobargo area we came across a vehicle parked near a property which used to have a home on it. Hoping it wasn't looters we approached the three brick chimneys still standing tall but with the corrugated iron roof now twisted and scorched, lying on the ground covering the remnants of a much loved home. We spoke to the family sitting on camping chairs looking at a laptop placed on a card table under the shade of a tree directly beside their raised home. They were taking stock of their situation and yet had a positive outlook on their temperarily halted lives.

We saw the burnt fields blackened by the fires that had raced uncontrollably over the land, enveloping trees along with homes; no discernible pattern, just random destruction.

We saw the fires glowing in the night and the smoking firefront on the mountainside above Candelo.

The locals are strong and positive but it will take a long time for them to get their lives back to some sort of normality.

The fires are still threatening in this area and other areas around our country.

We can only hope and pray for heavy rains to come soon. Both my colleague and I truly appreciated the opportunity given to us to do a little bit for the South Coast Region.

5 February, from Kuring Gai Police Area Command

We've created a new online form for people impacted by the NSW bushfires.

The form allows people to report damage to structures, vehicles and vessels, as well as household property.

Completing the report generates a reference number that can be used when speaking with police and insurance providers.

For more information, visit this site.

Remember that Triple Zero (000) should only be called for emergencies and lifethreatening situations

5 February, from PCYC Hornsby / Ku-ring-gai

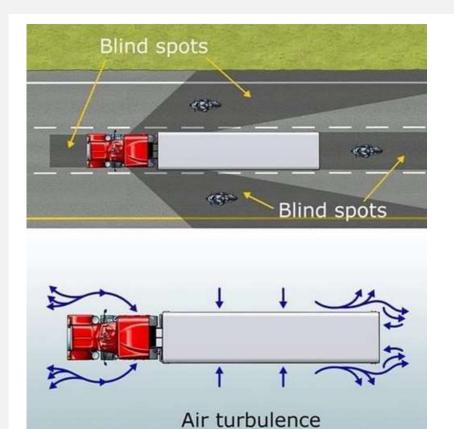
Keeping young people safe online is very important to us and to the NSW Police Force. Safer Internet Day is a chance for us to raise awareness about online safety.

PCYC NSW CEO, Dominic Teakle, encourages everyone to join us at a PCYC NSW club near you for a FREE session on how to be respectful and safe online.

Every one of us has a role to play in contributing to an online environment we can all share and enjoy.

Watch video here.

5 February, from Motorcycle Council of NSW-MCCNSW-#lookoutformotorcycles



Attention, newer riders: when around heavy vehicles such as trucks, stay out of their blind spots (darker shaded areas) and be aware of turbulence that can upset your bike's stability.

4 February, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV



No text, email or Facebook notification is worth risking your life or someone else's. These tips will help you avoid the temptation of using your mobile phone illegally while driving. ®

There are different rules for using your phone depending on your licence. Find out more <u>here.</u>



From Hornsby Advocate, 5 February [Link here]

A HORNSBY man allegedly spent Australia Day taking several videos up women's skirts at Woolworths Town Hall.

The 37-year-old man was arrested on Sunday and taken to Day St Police Station where he was charged with film person's private parts without consent.

It came to officers' attention while they were patrolling the Sydney CBD area about 3.20pm when a confrontation unfolded between the man and security staff at the supermarket on Park and George streets.

Police were told a shopper had witnessed the man "upskirting" a woman in the store and reported the incident to security.

As a result the officers were able to search the accused's phone and it's alleged seven videos had been discovered involving the women who were shopping in the supermarket on the day.

The man, from Hornsby, has been granted strict conditional bail and he is set to appear at Downing Centre Local Court on Wednesday, March 3.

ST IVES

Police are searching for five males involved in an altercation with a teenage boy who was whacked with a tree branch, stabbed and robbed on Australia Day eve. The incident happened about 6pm on Saturday at Barra Brui Oval, Burraneer Ave. According to police reports, a group of five males suddenly set upon the 17-year-

old who was hit with a big tree branch, stabbed twice in the shoulder and a metal object was thrown at him. The group of male offenders stole his phone before fleeing the scene. The 17-year-old victim was sent to Hornsby Hospital for treatment with reports he is recovering. Officers from Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command are investigating the incident and searching for the five males involved. The males have been described as caucasian with one in his early to mid teens and the others in their mid to late teens. Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers

ASQUITH

Police are investigating two robberies which happened at different addresses on Heath St between 5pm on November 22 and 10am on January 22. It was reported two water meters worth \$300 each had been taken from the ground in the front yards of vacant blocks.

BEROWRA

Berowra Public School was the target of graffiti vandalism between 5.30pm on January 24 and 6am on January 28. An unknown person or persons caused malicious damage to a wall on one of the toilet blocks and on the wall of the canteen. Illegal tags and pictures were seen in yellow spray paint with no tools left at the scene. It comes after another incident between January 2 and January 6 where an unknown person or persons damaged signage and the footpath adjacent to the administration building by producing graffiti with chalk and black texter. It's been estimated the cost of damage is \$400. During this same incident offenders pulled down external electrical conduit and exposing wires attached to the hall walkway. The estimated cost of the more recent damage is \$200.

HORNSBY

On January 27 there was a small grass fire reported at 3pm on Quarry Rd. It's believed it started about 50 metres past the locked gate leading into the quarry. Firefighters extinguished the small fire within minutes. Investigators do not believe the blaze was suspicious but rather accidental. Police canvassed the scene and located an array items such as a sleeping bag, burnt clothing and a jerry can. Police seized a jerry can as evidence. Investigations are ongoing.

WAHROONGA

A man was arrested and taken to Hornsby police station after he was stopped for a random breath test about 4am on January 25. The man was on the Pacific

Highway when he was pulled over. He returned a positive reading and when he was tested again at Hornsby Police Station a reading of 0.061 was returned, which was classified as low-range. As a result he was issued with an infringement number and his license was suspended for three months.

WEST PYMBLE

Police were conducting random breath tests when they attempted to stop a male driver who didn't pull over while travelling in a northerly direction on Ryde Rd. The incident happened at 12.45am on January 24. Officers followed him and found him on Andrews Rd in West Pymble, 1.5km from the RBT site. The driver was tested and returned a positive result. He was later arrested and taken to Gordon Police Station where he was tested again. He returned a midrange reading of 0.084. As a result he was issued a licence suspension notice.

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 11 February: Safer Internet Day - Top 6 Tips for Online Internet Safety presentation by NSWPF Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command 7-8pm @ Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai PCYC 1 Park Ln, Waitara

Thursday 13 February 2020: PCYC, 1 Park Ln, Waitara Driver Education Program, Safer Driver Course. 4:30pm-7:30pm Info & bookings here.

Tuesday 18 February: 'All Areas' NHW coordinators & volunteers meeting. 6-9pm in upstairs meeting room @ PCYC, 1 Park Ln, Waitara.

Thursday 20 February: Hornsby Council Seniors Week celebration. Info & bookings here.

Thursday 27 or Friday 28 February: 10am @ Hornsby Police Station - Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC) Email us any issue you'd like discussed.

Wednesday 26 February: Hornsby Council Tech Savvy Seniors - Korean @ Hornsby Library 10:30-12:30. Bookings <u>here</u>.

Sunday 19 July: **Note date change - new date tbc** NHW NSW Inc Inaugural AGM 1-5pm @ Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club

Sunday 29 March: Bobbo - the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic

Tuesday 31 March: Gordon/Killara/East Killara/some St Ives Neighbourhood Watch AGM 7-9pm @ Gordon Library meeting room #2. Everyone welcome. Bring a plate and mingle with like-minded neighbours. Pick up a Neighbourhood Watch goodie bag and learn more about crime prevention. Speakers: Snr Cst Colin

Mitchell (Crime Prevention Officer with Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command based at Hornsby police station) - giving an update on crime in the area and appropriate advice; Chris Pitts (Bridge Mediation Pty Ltd) - Neighbourhood Disputes - "Finding Solutions".

Sunday 19 July: NHW NSW Inc AGM 1-5pm @ Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club.

10 February, From the ACCC Scamwatch radar alert [Edited]: Romance scammers move to new apps, costing Aussies more than \$28.6 million

Scammers are using new online platforms to take advantage of their victims, with dating and romance scams making up one fifth of losses across all scams reported to Scamwatch in 2019.

Australians reported almost 4,000 dating and romance scams in 2019, with losses of more than \$28.6 million, and these numbers will be just the tip of the iceberg. Around 37.5 per cent of reports resulted in a loss, with an average loss of more than \$19,000.

Beyond traditional online dating websites, the highest losses were from romance scams originating on Instagram and Facebook. Conventional dating platforms, such as Tinder or Match.com, also had high losses.

A new trend emerging in 2019 was scammers increasingly turning to apps like Google Hangouts, or online games such as Words with Friends and Scrabble to con their victims.

"We've seen an increase in reports from people who did not originally seek an online relationship but have been caught up in a dating and romance scam," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

Facts and figures:

31.4 per cent of dating and romance scams occurred via social media and online forums.

The highest losses (over 33 per cent or \$9.1 million) occurred via social media. Instagram was the most common social media website totalling 8.8 per cent of dating and romance scam reports.

Facebook was the social media website that incurred the highest losses totalling 7.3 per cent of all losses.

People aged 45-64 were most affected with 1470 reports and over \$18 million in

losses. This represents 63 per cent of total losses to dating and romance scams. Women reported 54.9 per cent (2165 reports) of all dating and romance scam reports, with the remainder 43.3 per cent (1707 reports) made by men, and 1.8 per cent (74 reports) did not specify gender.

Women reported the highest total losses of \$21.5 million (75.3 per cent of all losses). Men reported \$7 million or 24.6 per cent of the total losses.

The majority of losses occurred via bank transfer, totalling 33.8 per cent or almost \$9.7 million. This was followed by 'other payment' method such as iTunes, Steam and Google Play gift cards, which totalled \$8.8 million or 30.8 per cent of all losses. Dating and romance scams by most common websites/apps in 2019 - see the table in the Media Release here.

Dating & romance

Scammers take advantage of people looking for romantic partners, often via dating websites, apps or social media by pretending to be prospective companions. They play on emotional triggers to get you to provide money, gifts or personal details.

8 February, from Choice

Insurance companies are failing Australians with confusing fire cover.



Right now, there is no standard definition of 'fire' across insurance policies. This means insurance companies are free to define 'fire' however they like – and you may be paying for cover that has loopholes when it comes to natural disasters.

CHOICE experts have revealed the worst 'fire' definitions and exclusions hidden in insurance contracts. Sign the petition to close this shonky loophole now.

Details here.

8 February, from NSW Food Authority: Just the one new addition in our area: DURAL TERRACE CHINESE RESTAURANT

NAME & SHAME LIST

Weekly update to our list of alleged breaches of NSW food safety standards:

- 15 premises added
- 20 premises publication period expired

Visit this site.

8 February, from 7news.com.au: Elderly Adelaide woman's Telstra scam warning after losing \$11,000



An Adelaide pensioner has been left distraught after falling prey to a scammer, saying she "feels like a fool".

The fraudster pretended to be a Telstra technician and hacked into her computer and mobile phone, gaining access to thousands of dollars.

Glynis Randall, 74, received a phone call on Wednesday afternoon from a man claiming to be a Telstra technician, calling to fix a virus on her computer.

Randall says the man told her personal details including her address and how much her monthly fee was with Telstra, leading her to believe his legitimacy.

"Then he said, 'I'd like you to download an app'," she said.

She did.

Read details here.

7 February, from NSW Police Force

A man will face court today after Criminal Groups Squad detectives seized more than 13kg of MDMA as part of their investigation into drug supply across Sydney.

In 2019, detectives from the Criminal Group Squad established Strike Force Medgun to investigate the activities of a criminal syndicate believed to be involved in the supply of prohibited drugs.

As part of their investigations, strike force detectives executed search warrants at St Clair, Wentworth Point, and Zetland from 9.45am yesterday (Thursday 6 February 2020).

During the searches, police seized 13.2kg of MDMA in various forms, 240g of cocaine, items consistent with drug supply, about \$6000 cash, a Ford Ranger Wildtrak, a Mercedes C63 AMG, and various items suspected of being the proceeds of crime.

In total, the prohibited drugs have an estimated potential street value of more than \$650,000.

Following further inquiries, a 29-year-old man was arrested by investigators on the Pacific Highway, Pymble, about 3.30pm.

He was taken to Hornsby Police Station and charged with drug supply (large commercial quantity), drug supply (commercial quantity) and knowingly deal with proceeds of crime.

The Zetland man has been refused bail to appear at Hornsby Local Court today (Friday 7 February 2020).

A 33-year-old woman was arrested after being found in possession of amphetamine when she returned to the Wentworth Point property.

She was taken to Auburn Police Station and charged with possess prohibited drug. She was granted strict conditional bail and is due to appear at Burwood Local Court on Wednesday 19 March 2020.

Investigations under Strike Force Medgun are continuing.

Anyone with information in relation to the supply of prohibited drugs in the community is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <u>visit this site</u>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages.

7 February, Shared with permission from Thornleigh, Westleigh and Normanhurst Community Group yesterday:

Some grub has just stolen my Stihl 461 chainsaw from beside my ute as I went to get paid for the job I have just completed. Quarter sessions rd north side of the roundabout. Please, if anyone hears of a. Saw going cheap, let me know. It is a professional arborist saw that I use to make a living to provide for my family. Was around 2:45.

6 February, from NSW Police Force

A man has been charged following an investigation into a series of alleged thefts involving vending machines at train stations across Sydney's north-west.

Officers attached to the North/Central Sector of the Police Transport Command have been investigating multiple reports of thefts and damage caused to vending machines at train stations in West Ryde and Rhodes last year.

Following inquiries, police attended a house in Ryde and arrested a 48-year-old man just before 10am yesterday (Wednesday 5 February 2020).

He was taken to Ryde Police Station and charged with three counts of larceny and three counts of destroy or damage property.

It will be alleged in court that on Saturday 4 May 2019 and Wednesday 2 October 2019, a man allegedly broke into a vending machine at West Ryde Railway Station and stole items including earphones, adapters and sim cards.

It will be further alleged on Tuesday 18 June 2019 and Wednesday 29 October 2019 at Rhodes Railway Station, another vending machine selling electrical items

was broken in to, with cash stolen on one occasion.

The man was granted condition bail to appear before Burwood Local Court on Monday 17 February 2020.



5 February, from Crime Stoppers NSW



Did you know that Australia has one of the highest rates of illegal use per capita of

drugs in the world?

You can help. Call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 (24/7) to report information about drug dealers.

5 February, Shared from North Shore Mums group with permission from yesterday:

Just a reminder to lock the doors/ garage etc. Our entire apartment block was hit by thieves last night with a lot of storage units broken into. The police said there have been mass break-ins throughout the Wahroonga area over the past few days.

5 February, from Rajiv Rattan - Neighourhood Watch Wahroonga

This was a message from an East Wahroonga resident, keep your eyes open!

Hello friends,

This is a local community announcement.

We were burgled around 10.30pm last night WHILE WE WERE HOME, sitting in the front room. Snuck in thru an open window in sunroom and stole my handbag and Rod's work bag. Bags found abandoned minus Rod's wallet and my cash. Detectives and forensics have each been this morning and the word is 'Wahroonga is getting smashed'. Junction Rd, Carrington, Coonabarra, Woonona. Houses and unit cages. They are staying in the area all day and night. While finger printing just now, 2 more Wahroonga break-in's were reported. One was a car close to the station.

Like others in the area, we had opened up the house to let the cool breeze in. Bastard got in before we locked up before bed. Keep an eye out and let others close by know to lock up.

Rrrrrrr

IMPORTANT CONTACTS & LINKS

Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance): 000

TTY: 106

NSW Police - Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command (PAC): 9476 9799

Hornsby Police Station, 292 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby 2077

Ku-ring-gai Crime Prevention Officer: 9476 9723

Local Police Facebook page: @Kuring Gai PAC

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

NHW in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Facebook Group

Twitter @NHWKRGHornsby

Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

Local Facebook pages:

WatchOut! Our Crime Prevention WatchOut! Facebook page

- Neighbourhood Watch Berowra (technical issues)

 Neighbourhood Watch East Killara
- Neighbourhood Watch Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia, Dural (Rural Areas)
- NHW Glaston, Glenorie, Arcadia & Dural (Rural Areas) Facebook Group
- Neighbourhood Watch Gordon
- Gordon (NSW) Community (incl NHW) Facebook Group
- Neighbourhood Watch Hornsby
- Neighbourhood Watch Killara
- Neighbourhood Watch Mt Colah
- Neighbourhood Watch Normanhurst
- Neighbourhood Watch Pennant Hills
- Neighbourhood Watch St Ives
- Meighbourhood Watch Turramurra
- Meighbourhood Watch Wahroonga

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This email has been forwarded to you by Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please share the information with anyone you think may be interested, and encourage them to join our Distribution lists. Thank you. If you live outside the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai area, please contact your local Crime Prevention officer for similar information for your locality. If you are unaware of an active Neighbourhood Watch group in your area, please consider starting one.

Our mailing address is:

Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby c/o Crime Prevention Officer, Ku-ring-gai NSW Police PAC - Hornsby Police Station 292 Peats Ferry Road Hornsby, NSW 2077 Australia

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