



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #588 - 17 January 2023

This weekly eNewsletter is compiled by Neighbourhood Watch volunteers as a service for residents in Kuring-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 our local police at the <u>Ku-ring-gai PAC Facebook page</u> (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 another 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 and thank you for your support.
- A 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.

13 January, from NSW Police Force: The NSW Police Force has unveiled an enhanced online reporting option to allow victims of sexual assault to provide information without having to take part in a formal police investigation.

While police always encourage victims of any crime to make a formal report, it is acknowledged that for a number of reasons, victims of sexual assault often do not wish to speak about their experiences nor speak with police and go through the legal process.

From today (Friday 13 January 2023), the SARO is accessed through the online Community Portal and is available in 12 languages, making the reporting option more accessible to victims. This replaces the old process of printing and completing a 14-page document and emailing the State Crime Command's Sex Crimes Squad.

The SARO questionnaire can be located on the NSW Police Force website: https://portal.police.nsw.gov.au/adultsexualassault/s/sexualassaultrepo

READ MORE: https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/news/article?id=104982

16 January, from the NSW Police Force: Friendly reminder to practice bike safety at all times 👍

This includes:

- Muse the bicycle lane where available unless it is not practical to do so.
- Stopping at red lights and not riding on the footpath (unless under 16 years old or supervising a rider under 16 years old).
- Securing your bicycle when not occupied a good quality lock should always be used to secure a bike, both at home and in public.
- Make Removing all valuables from the bike.

And have a wheelie good day!



: The Hills Police Area Command

16 January, from the NSW Rural Fire Service: A Total Fire Ban is in place from midnight tonight for the Lower Central West Plains (15) area, due to forecast warm, dry and windy conditions.

Know your fire risk and what you and your family will do if fire threatens. Report all unattended fires to Triple Zero (000) and stay up to date by visiting www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fnm or checking the Fires Near Me NSW app.





17 January, Summary Notes from the Neighbourhood Watch Gordon/Killara/E Killara/some Pymble/some St Ives AGM and get-together held on Wednesday 30 November 2022 at the St John's Anglican Church, Gordon.

Neighbourhood Watch Gordon/Killara/E Killara/St Ives/a teeny bit of Pymble? AGM

7-8:30pm on Wednesday 30 November 2022

@ St John's Anglican Church, Gordo

Present: Anne Ridley, Barbara Ward (part), Bronwyn Whiteside, Bruce Edwards, Diana Tyne, Edward Tyne, Ellen Lu, Eva Ford, Gay Balasabramanian, Joyce Edwards, Julia Eagles, Katle Perich, Michael Bark, Richard Whiteside, Viraf Hathiram, Wal Knowles, Xiang Liu and Zoya D'Sousa

Apologies: Amabelle Playoust, Anthony Krkak, Graham Birch, Kanak Kiran, Kente O'Brien, Patrick Windbury.

1. Meet 8 greet and Make your own Goodle Bag to 7.30pm.
Julia welconed everyone, introductions. She explained the connection between NHW Gordon/Killara/E.
Killara/part 51 hee/gart Pymble with Meller Age 18 Hornsby, because of the use of the Gordon NHW bank account for NHW Ku-ring-gal 8 Hornsby funds, as well as the very our volunteers satisf across the

Crime Report from Constable German Walker, Crime Prevention Officer (CPO), Nu-ring-gal Police Area Command. German seri apologies. Day mad from German's Crime Report (distributed with these notes).

3. AGM Coordinators' reports

- a. Julia spoke for NHW Gordon Area 24:
 - Not having insurance is stopping us from having more events we can attend. However, a lot continues online, on Facebook, weekly effecters and the NEW Yorks as & Horrsby website. and the research for new 20 Tips and FAQs.
 - . Anna McMamis, NHW volunteer, passed away this year.
 - Tim Brown has asked if he can aponsor a new rope banner. The current one is outside Gordon East P.S. and has out-of-date information. Everyone was pleased with the offer. Julia to thank Tim and laise regarding quotes, logos etc.
- A Kerb Numbering project is being undertaken by NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornstey, supported by the
 local police and emergency services. A request was due to be made to Gordon NHW to estaint
 financially with \$480 for the purchase of three acrylic stercil sets. However, Burnings, Pyroble have
 offered to donate a supply of cardboard stencils. Attendees agreed to support the Burnings offer and review the attuation. Attendeet also felt it it better to charge a refundable \$10 deposit for each use, rather than ask for a gold coin donation. Julia to consider approaching Yu-ring-gal Council for assistance/support. b. Bruce spoke for NHW Gord

- Bruce Estwards said he has little to report now that police provide no crime stars. He is in favour of getting more recent crime stats.
- . The BOCSAR stats are usually four to six months old.
- . Police have said that crime stats:

 - Can alarm people unnecessarily
 - Should be taken in context, ag versus other areas for comparison, or versus the same time for the previous year.
- c. Wal spoke for NHW East Killara Areas 25/26:
 - Wal related an incident in Berry Street, where CCTV had helped with identifying a vehicle, where a
 young girl was offered a lift from a stranger.

- Jule suggested everyone register their CCTV with the police. https://www.police.now.gov.au/orline_nen/ces/register_my_business_cats_details
- . Suggestion to let phone calls go to answerphone, as a method of screening for spam.
- d. Unfortunately Warren was not present. Julia mentioned Gemma has offered to try 'Cocoo will possibly cover the St Ives area. Germma can give us warning fivers to distribute to the local residents surrounding a break in or steal offence within a particular area/street, just to make people aware of protecting themselves and their home. NHW volunteers will be involved with the letterbox drops.

4. AGM Treasurer's report

- a. Gordon Area 12/24 Treasurer, Patrick sent apologies. The Treasurer's report was given by Julia. Balance = \$6188.82 = Gordon (\$3805.64) + Ku-ring-gai & Horrsby (\$1902) + E. Killara (\$462.15) + ex-Area 23
- b. Repayment to Julia Eagles for Ku-ring-gai/Hornoby WordPress website hosting expenses \$329.00 to be refunded from the Ku-ring-gal & Hornsby bucket (eined) ratified at NHW Ku-ring-gal & Hornsby volunteers meeting held 27 Oct 2022). Hosting expires 27/58/2023.

 c. Note, Voden Domain registration 536.50 is the 18/05/2023.

5. Activities for 2022, new con

- a. Gordon Shopping Centre was mentioned. Bronwyn offered her assistance if any crime prevention stall was to be organised.
- h. East Undfield has a regular market possibly approach them?
- c. St John's Anglian church, Gordon annual fete we have had a stall in the past request to be included

6. Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC) meeting report: Gay Balasubrams

- a. Gay referred to Gemma's report (attached) and spoke about CSPC members.
- 7. Any Other Business
- a. Julia described the updates currently being made to the NHW Ke-ring-gai & Hornsby website https://au-rhokurnggalhamaky.org/.
- B. Viral Hathirans IT Security Specialist answers your questions. Viral spoke about security risks and what we can do to social them. Julia had a number of questions from the community. Viral answered each question, with others also contributing, and a number of related discussions ensued.
- Q. How do I protect my many online accounts from being hacked?
- A. Use 2FA where available, either SMS or an Authenticator app. Use different pactwords for each site. Use passoord management software if you cannot remember all your passoords. People often have a few tiers of accounts if not hundreds. If a website is breached, hackers will try your logic ID and passoord from that website against all major sites, some of which you may have accounts on
- Q. Are my Google Drive files safe from ransomware?
- A. Stop 'auto-cync' into the cloud. Instead copy them once a month yourself to the cloud or to a USB stick, all stored in different places.
- Q, is it safe to use public Wi-Fi hotspots?
- A. Do not use public Wifi for anything important. Avoid using hotel, sirport, café Wi-Fi. Consider who is behind that Wi-Fi? They can break into your phone. Use mobile data rouming instead, or purchase a local sim card.

- $\Omega_{\rm c}$ How can you stop the sharing of yuk photos and spam files to your google drive?
- A. You cannot. Anyone who knows your email address can share files with you.
- Q. And on Linkedin? Eg *... added you to a private conversation*.
- A. There is nothing you can do to stop people approaching you on social media. If you are targeted, they will try and build your trust before attampting to compromise you. Sewers friending a new profile.
- Q. How to stop a fake Facebook profile being set up?
- A. Nothing you can do
- Q. How can you spot a fake messenger chat request?
- A. As for any messages received email, IAMS, Facebook, Linkedin, etc. bewere of strangers and unexpected messages from known people/companies. Don't clock on any links in messages just visiting a malicious webpage can compromise your computer/phone. Set virus protection, even for your mobile. Set independent contact details and phone them to check that any information is genuine, e.g. a warning from Microsoft that your small has been compromised.
- Q. How can NFW Ku-ring-gal S. Homsby stop effects from bouncing because of people's filters? Egials to include our email address in their email system as a good one? le explicit instruction.
- A. To enable emails to get through spam filters, users must add to the 'whiteist' for individual admissible sentlers (ours is NHWKuring-golflomsby@gmoil.com).
- Q. Can scammers hijack the links in our effewsletter?
- A. No. The links in our eNewsletter are safe provided they belong to NMW or to well-known sites. Readers can house over the links to read them before circling or use https://VirusTotal.com to double-check the links are safe.
- Q. Router modern password is on a sticker underneath. Is it QK to leave at the factory setting?
- A. These days there is no need to change from the factory setting since belacom companies have a different password on each router. However, if you know how, you could change the course password.
- Q. When we use Wi-Fi, how important is it to 'target' old ones from the peat!
- A. Forget' Wi-Fi networks when you are finished, in order to avoid a melicious Wi-Fi network, do not check 'Auto reconnect' when connecting to other their your own home Wi-Fi connection. It is possible for anyone to set up a familiar looking Wi-Fi hotspot, e.g. Homsby Westfield & you wouldn't know it is take.
- Q. Please critique 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips to Protect Your Identity'.
- A. Viral double-checked 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips to Protect Your Identity' is still current.

 These years to Viral.
- Q. Should we worry about sitting/standing close to people and them 'sniffing' data on your phone?
- A. Your phone is safe. Use Skimguard or similar RFID products to protect your physical credit card, pastport, etc. in your wallet, bag etc. from skimmers and hackers.
- Other Do auto-updates on your PC and other smart equipment like TVs.
- 9. The meeting closed at 8.30pm. DONM to be a similar late-November evening 2023.

Distributions to include: Cst Gemma Walker's Crime Report, Link to Wal's Tafe Breaker's stary on website.

17 January, from NSW Police Force: You've come across an advertisement or received an email, letter or phone call offering you a guaranteed income or job.

Too good to be true right? Because it is.

To find out more about how scams work, how to protect yourself and what to do if you've been scammed, visit the <u>Scamwatch website</u>.



My Pets are Home Alone Emergency Card (Credit card size)

If you were involved in an accident, medical incident or emergency what would happen to your pets?

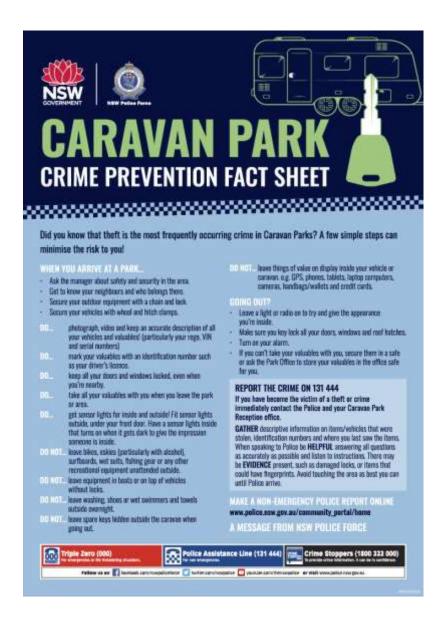
More information here.



Note: Neighbourhood Watch cannot endorse any product or service. We can simply bring it to your attention. You must do your own research.

16 January, from Campbelltown City command:

Email NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby here for a copy in your Inbox.



14 January, shared with permission from the Hornsby Heights Community group: A big thank you to a very special person!

I had my friend visit today and she left her bag under the table at the Corner Cafe 156 Galston Rd. An hour and a half later she realised she had left it there. She was not convinced she would get it back. I replied this is Hornsby Heights; the community is awesome and honest. A really big thank you to the beautiful person who handed it in to the cafe and to the cafe for returning it and the neighbouring businesses for caring. Friday 13th was her lucky day. Our community is the BEST!

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 19 January: Introduction to Email (Tech Savvy Seniors) 10.00 am - 12.20 pm. Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Community College. Free!

Friday 20 January 2023: Mt Colah PROBUS 11-12pm @ Asquith Golf Club - Speaker: NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby. NHW Crime Prevention stall.

Wednesday 08 February 2023: Seniors' Expo at 10-2pm @ Turramurra Uniting Church hall & community centre. NHW Crime Prevention stall.

13 January, shared with permission from the Turramurra and Wahroonga Community group: Hey everyone...

Anyone who lives on any street that leads onto the Pacific Highway in the area, make sure you get out all your mail from your mail box tonight. We live in Munderah Street, Wahroonga and a lot of the mail boxes were broken into last night... rumour is that it's some gang lurking around... heads up for everyone!

13 January, from NSW Police Force: Don't get caught out. If you're buying, swapping or selling items through online sites, do your research when meeting someone in person and always arrange to meet in a public place.

To find out more about how scams work, how to protect yourself and what to do if you've been scammed, visit the <u>Scamwatch website</u>.



Online marketplaces like Gumtree and Facebook are becoming popular trading forums and they're becoming even more popular among thieves and scammers!

- Know who you're dealing with by taking some time to do a bit of research.
- Never send money to anyone you don't know!
- Always make cash transactions in public, in person. Also, it's a good idea to take a family member or friend with you.
- Use payment methods with buyer protection, such as PayPal or Afterpay.
- You should inspect the item carefully, in person, to ensure it is as described in the ad and any issues are known upfront before you exchange any money.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true!

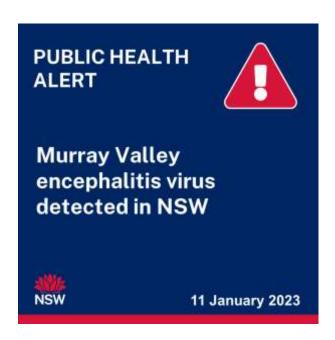
13 January, from NSW Health: Communities across NSW are encouraged to take measures to protect themselves against mosquito bites following the detection of Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus in a mosquito in Menindee [edited]

People in NSW are urged to take actions to prevent mosquito bites to protect against all mosquito-borne viruses. Protect yourself and your family by:

- covering openings such as windows and doors with insect screens and checking there are no have gaps in them
- removing items that might collect water (such as old tyres, empty pots) outside your house where mosquitoes can breed
- improving drainage on your property so that water does not become stagnant
- wearing light, loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts, long pants and covered footwear and socks, especially around dusk and dawn
- applying repellent to all areas of exposed skin, using repellents that contain DEET,
 picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- re-applying repellent regularly, particularly after swimming, being sure to always apply sunscreen first and then apply repellent
- using insecticide sprays, vapour dispensing units and mosquito coils to repel

mosquitos (mosquito coils should only be used outside).

For further information and ways to protect yourself visit the NSW Health website here.



13 January, from NSW Fair Trading: Consumers are being warned not to deal with Trent Travis Reid who is understood to trade through business names including Transitions Roof Restorations, Toppride Roofing, Reids Roofing, Reids Roof Restoration and Triple A Roofing.

Mr. Reid does not hold a licence under the Home Building Act 1989 authorising him to contract for or perform residential building work.

Consumers have reported that work done by Mr. Reid is left in a defective and incomplete state, that Mr. Reid has caused damage to property, has taken excessive deposit monies, has provided misleading representations about guarantees on his work and failed to refund his customers when they complain. The information we have suggests that the trader has been working in around the Central Coast region.

Anyone who has had dealings with Mr. Reid should contact NSW Fair Trading on 13 32 20 to lodge a complaint.

Be wary of tradespeople and always check for a licence via the online register <u>here</u> and never hand over money without first meeting your tradesperson.





12 January, shared with permission from the West Lindfield and Killara group: My son's mate had this car stolen from Lindfield Library yesterday around 8:30pm.

Please let us know if you've seen it.



11 January, shared with permission from the Berowra Community group: Missing box

- Corelle plates & cups

We were unpacking our camping gear yesterday and hubby left a heavy plastic container on the edge of our garden as it was too heavy for him to move. This morning it wasn't there. Would appreciate it back if possible. **Lingellen Road.** Thanks. 10 January, Shared with permission from the Berowra Community group: Hi, if you were parked in the underground parking at the village shops around 4:30 this afternoon.

I saw a man hop out of his car and check yours, then drive off. If this damage is new to your car, please dm me for more information.





From Ku-ring-gai Council: A reminder you can dispose your old Christmas tree by cutting them into smaller pieces and placing them in your green bins for collection.

From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for Pedestrians'

Tip #14: PLEASE DO NOT CLIMB OVER FENCING, if pedestrian fencing is in place to direct pedestrians to better crossing points.

Tip #16: CROSS DIRECTLY ACROSS THE ROAD, not at an angle. This is shorter, quicker, and is the route that drivers will predict you as using.

Tip #17: BE CAREFUL AS A PEDESTRIAN when you have consumed alcohol. Your judgement is impaired. Your decisions may not be good, so be extra extra careful. Go with a friend, share a ride, or ask for help.

Tip #18: AVOID WALKING ON THE ROAD. Use a nature strip, or footpath if available. If you must use the road, walk FACING the oncoming traffic, and as close to the side of the road as possible.

Tip #19: AT NIGHT USE A TORCH. Try and keep it pointing down and away from drivers, so as not to blind them.

For more tips and translations, look at our website 'Tips' page <u>here</u>. Or try our WatchOut! website <u>here</u>, for links to some great information available on the internet. Or request a copy in your inbox here.



Thanks to The Sage Quotes and Humour.

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

Local Police Facebook page: @Kuring Gai PAC

Non-emergency two-way communication

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.

Crime Stoppers NSW: 1800 333 000

Report crime anonymously Report suspicious activity ASAP

Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby:

Website au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org

Facebook @NHWKuringgaiHornsby

Facebook Group NHWKuringgaiHornsby

Twitter @NHWKRGHornsby

Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com



WatchOut! - the NHW NSW one-stop-shop for crime prevention links:

Website WatchOut.org.au Facebook @NHWWatchOut

Local Facebook pages/groups:

Neighbourhood Watch - Berowra

Brooklyn Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara

Neighbourhood Watch - Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia, Dural (Rural Areas)

NHW Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia & Dural (Rural Areas) Facebook Group

Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon

Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby

Neighbourhood Watch - Killara

Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Colah

Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Kuring-gai

Neighbourhood Watch - Normanhurst

Neighbourhood Watch - Pennant Hills

Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives

Neighbourhood Watch - Thornleigh

Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra

Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga

Neighbourhood Watch - Warrawee

Face-to-Face/printed newsletter groups:

Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara

Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon (part)/Killara (part)/Pymble (part)

Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby (Jubilee St)

Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Colah

Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives (Lynbara Ave)

Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra (The Chase)







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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
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