



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby eNewsletter #630 - 07 November 2023

This weekly eNewsletter is compiled by Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) 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 our local police at the [Ku-ring-gai PAC 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 another Police command ("Crooks know no boundaries!").

The eNewsletter includes a selection of posts from our local police at the [Ku-ring-gai PAC 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 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.

🚗 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](#).

06 November, from NSW Police Force

Last Friday, we celebrated the 2023 Rotary Police Officer Of The Year Awards



The Rotary Police Officer of the Year Awards is the most prestigious event on the NSW Police Force calendar. The evening allowed our best to shine and be

acknowledged for their professional excellence and dedication. Congratulations to all the volunteers, civilian staff and sworn officers who were nominated 🏆 Police Officer of the Year was taken out by Det Insp Hassan El-Khansa from Incident & Emergency Management. A veteran of 24 years of policing, Det Insp Hassan El-Khansa has a passion for emergency management and ensuring that police provide the best response possible to help the community.



03 November, from NSW Police Force: This could be you!



If you want to join the best police force in the world, now is the time. By joining the NSW Police Force you'll get paid to train as a recruit, start your career and be part of an incredible team of new police officers making a difference in our community. So if you've ever thought about it, do it. Start your enrolment today. Find out more [here](#).

02 November, from NSW Police Force:

This week's episode of #RealCopsRealStories sheds light on the concerning surge in virtual kidnapping incidents. Virtual kidnapping is an extortion scam which involves people being told they have been implicated in a crime and are required to pay money to avoid deportation or being arrested.

The NSWPF has issued a warning regarding the alarming rise of "virtual kidnapping," particularly impacting international students who are frequently becoming targets.

Learn all about how this happens, why, and how we're trying to stop it.

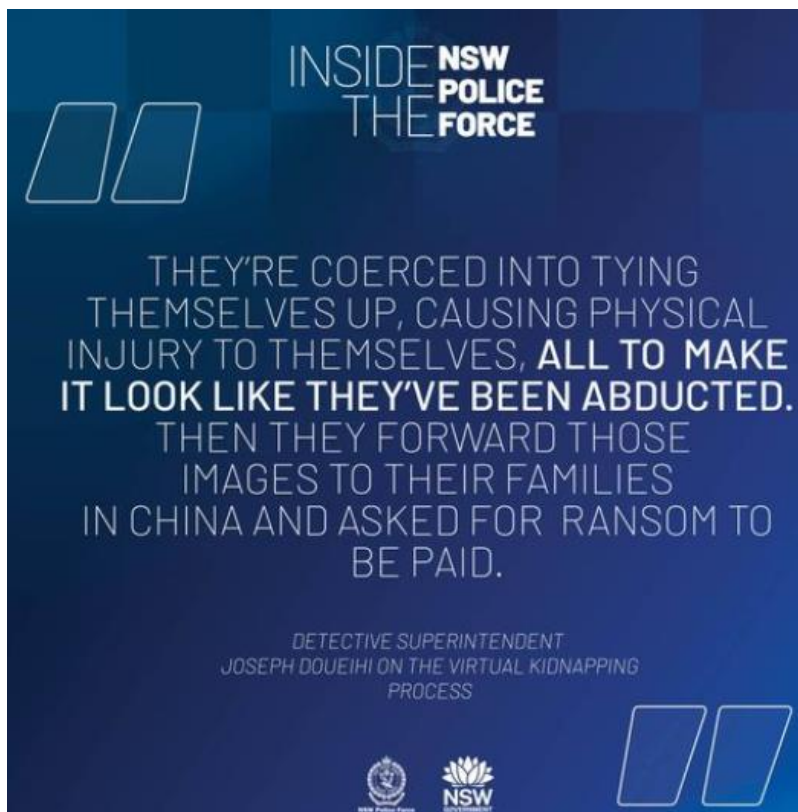
If you have any information related to these incidents, please reach out to Crimestoppers at 1800 333000.

If you have an interest in policing and becoming apart of the State Crime Command,

you can learn more [here](#).

You can sign up for the police Force today [here](#).

Download and listen via: [Apple](#) and [Spotify](#).





06 November, from Ryde Command: 🚔 Crime Prevention Week -
November 6 to November 11, 2023 🚔



**ARE GEL
BLASTERS
ILLEGAL IN NSW?**

It is an offence to possess or use a firearm, pistol or prohibited firearm unless the person holds the relevant licence or permit. This applies to Gel Blasters.
(Section 4(1) of the Firearms Act 1996 NSW)

A person who supplies, acquires or possesses an unregistered firearm could be arrested and charged for possession of a firearm.
(Section 36(1) of the Firearms Act 1996)



06 November, from Traffic Desk: Procedure at Roundabouts



06 November, from Ku-ring-gai Council

Attention Ku-ring-gai dog owners! ⚠️

A friendly reminder to keep your dog on a leash in public areas unless you're in a designated off-leash dog park.

Unfortunately we've recently had reports of an attack on a toddler at Echo Point, Roseville. Echo Point Park and the beach are not off-leash areas; watch for more signs and ranger patrols.

Keeping your dog on a leash means your dog is safe - and so are other people and animals. You can be fined if your dog is off leash in a public place. For advice contact the Council's Companion Animals Officer on 9424 0000.

For information on dog exercise areas, visit site [here](#).



Dates for your Diary

Monday 06 to Sunday 12 November: Neighbourhood Watch Week

Tuesday 07 November: FREE Red Cross - Get prepared Workshop @ Cowan Community Centre, Bujwa Rd, Cowan 6:30-8pm. [Bookings](#).

Tuesday 07 November: FREE Tech savvy seniors - Intro to computers 10:15am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. [Bookings](#).

Saturday 11 November: 12noon-2pm Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby Crime Prevention stall & kids activities at Bunnings, Thornleigh. Part of Neighbourhood Watch Week.

Tuesday 14 November: FREE Tech savvy seniors - Intro to Internet & Cybersafety 10:15am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. [Bookings](#).

Tuesday 21 November: FREE Tech savvy seniors - Intro to Tablets 10:15am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. [Bookings](#).

Wednesday 22 November: FREE Teaching your Learner Driver - Graduated Licensing Scheme (GLS) Presentation via Teams 6-7:30pm. [Bookings](#).

Tuesday 28 November: FREE Tech savvy seniors - Intro to Smartphones 10:15am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. [Bookings](#).

Thursday 30 November: Gordon/Killara/East Killara NHW AGM & get-together

7-9pm @ Gordon Baptist Church 'Garden Square' rooms, Park Ave. Speaker: Sgt Dean La Greca, NSWPF Highway Patrol - Random Breath Testing (RBT) & Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT). And speaker (hopefully): Snr Cst Geoff Moeller, Crime Prevention Officer with Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command based at Hornsby police station - current crime in the command and advice. General public very welcome. Bring a plate. Come and collect a personal goodie bag of literature and freebies.

06 November, from Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation

Know the signs

Online child sexual exploitation can be hard to spot.

Sometimes children who are being groomed become more secretive about who they are interacting with and how they are using their devices. This might be because they're being manipulated into keeping a secret.

They may also start to spend less time online or have a sudden change in behaviour or attitude with how they use their device.

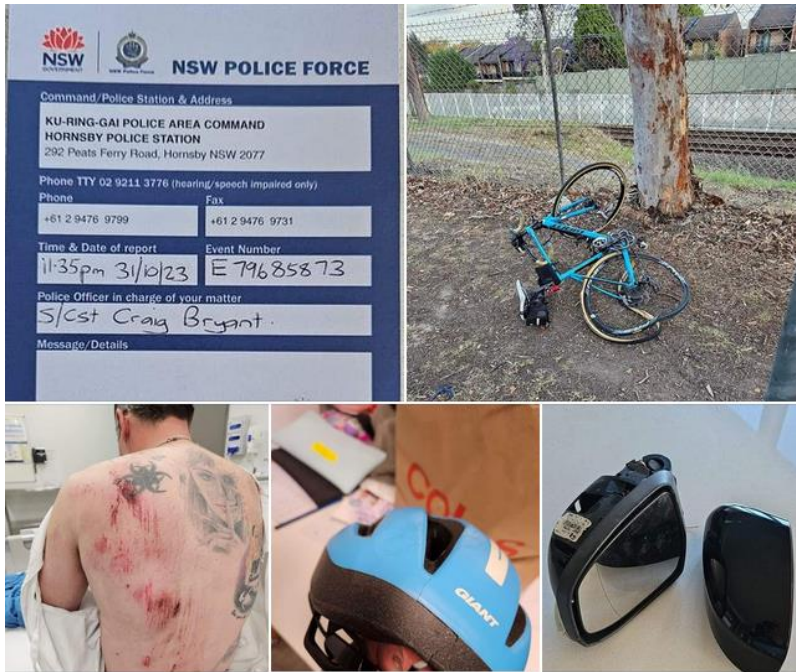
An open conversation that reassures your child they won't be in trouble for their actions, can help you find out what's happening and whether you need to seek help.

To report suspected online child sexual exploitation, including any form of inappropriate behaviour towards children online – visit site [here](#).

Watch video [here](#).

06 November, Shared with permission from Neighbourhood Watch

- Hornsby



Hey all. Just a post so people know what happened and if anyone knows any potential witnesses or anything. On Halloween 31/10/23 I was hit by a car while riding southbound in Asquith near the BP just before 7pm (approximately 6:50). No traffic in front or behind the car that hit me and no oncoming traffic. I was hit from behind with no warning and was doing everything I should have been. I was as far left as possible, there were 2 lanes each way with no traffic and I had 2 flashing red lights on the back of my bike which were definitely working. Luckily I have no broken bones but I'm pretty sore, alot of heavy damage mostly to my left shoulder and right knee, my helmet is cracked and my bike is probably totalled.

I believe the vehicle is a Ford, I believe around 2012 (model unknown) possibly black, missing a left mirror with likely damage to the front left corner. I believe speed was involved and given there was no other traffic around and where I was located in the lane this was potentially a targeted crime. I wasn't glanced, I was hit directly and the vehicle didn't not stop or slow down. Any information would be extremely helpful. I have attached pictures. Hopefully someone saw something.

I have added a pic of the Police event number so any info can be added to my report.

Accident happened just out the front of 139-141 Jersey Street North Asquith.

Feel free to add this post to any community pages, etc.

*edit: after doing some research it is likely that the vehicle involved is a black 2012 Ford Focus... I will continue to update if any more information come to light.

05 November, from Meanwhile in Australia

Worst Uber driver ever, zero stars, would not recommend.



05 November, from The Hills Command

I'm sorry, I didn't get the number plate, but if the dad of the kid who was speeding down Samantha Riley Drive in a car shaped like a tortoise's shell is in this group, tell them to pull their head in.

Although reposting breaches the rules of the dad's page... it is worth sharing.

As parents we should continue encourage safe driving habits of our children long after we finish teaching them to drive. There are Apps available where you can set speed notifications for young drivers. (By consent obviously).

05 November, from smh.com.au: 'Know your limitations': Older swimmers warned after spike in drownings



Water safety groups are urging older people, particularly men, to be careful in the water this summer, after a concerning rise in drownings among active seniors.

A new state government campaign is focusing on water safety messages for over-65s, reminding them to check that medications they might be taking do not interfere with their ability to swim, and know their limits as summer approaches.

Read more [here](#).

05 November, from Mt Kuring-gai Neighbourhood Watch

Shared with permission from the Mt Colah/Kuring-gai Families group:

Thanks to the person/people who have been repeatedly been egging the windows of the house I live in, it's exactly what this recently widowed lady with a 5 year old throwing up and an anxious 7 year old needed. 🙏

And from the comments:

A few people are getting egged in Mount Kuring-gai tonight.

05 November, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STRATEGY - What would you like to see

Neighbourhood Watch doing in your community?

Please comment below and we will use your input to decide on our future projects. Thank you.

If you would prefer to be less public with your response, please request to join our private group, where we have also posted the question.

Or email us on: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com.

04 November, from 9news.com.au: LoveGPT: The AI dating scam fooling Aussies



Artificial intelligence (AI) is being used more and more increasingly to perform tasks more accurately and efficiently.

But while generative AI can automate tasks, reduce human error and even assist medical practitioners, it does have a dark side too.

Cybercriminals are using AI to create fake people online by programming bots to have realistic text conversations as well as generating pictures and audio to trick Australians on dating apps.

We created the below images to illustrate this story using the Adobe Firefly application. Adobe's AI is trained using Adobe Stock images, openly licensed

content, and public domain content where copyright has expired. You can read more about their Content Initiative [here](#).

02 November, from NHW Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

Thanks to [Neighbourhood Watch Australasia](#), for a couple of articles from their August & November 2023 Journals; Senior Safety and Preventing Parcel Theft. Email us for a pdf version: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com.

W NSW

N WALES

or Safety



on crime and violence
stay right for everyone
safety. As we grow older,
risks can impact on our
and quality of life.

extra precautions
and when a risk is
risks can go a long way
our feeling of safety when
spaces and at home.

simple tips we all can take
act yourself, your family
from the effects of crime.

yourself When Out

be alert when traveling
transport. Travel in busy
guard compartments
with a blue light) or sit at
of the bus.

- **ALWAYS** try to travel in groups of friends whenever possible.
- **ALWAYS** carry identification and let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- **NEVER** carry large sums of cash in public.

Protect Yourself at Home

- **NEVER** let anyone you don't know and trust inside your home.
- **ALWAYS** secure your doors and windows.
- **DO NOT** leave valuables, mobile devices or keys (home or vehicle) in clear view.
- **ALWAYS** report suspicious behaviour within your neighbourhood to police.

Protect Yourself From

- **BE CAREFUL** when sharing personal or financial information as driver's licence details, birth date, etc. over the telephone.
- **ALWAYS** read any contract service paperwork carefully before paying for any work.
- **NEVER** give anyone internet access to your online ID.
- **NEVER** accept emails if senders you don't know.

If you are or know of someone who is the victim of abuse, please call the Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline: **1800 628 221** or visit: mtg.ageinganddisabilitycommission.gov.au/contact-us.html

ne Safety



nt safety tips when the Alpine Region:

can quickly become
as, with snow and ice on the
chains when directed by
authorities, fit the chains to
cles driving wheels. You can
er chains at service stations
are shops, there are special
ting bins along the route.

er safety, leave double
nal distance between
the car in front, don't brake

harshly and avoid sharp steering
movements as stopping on icy
roads takes longer.

- When driving, watch for signs of tiredness and take a break.
- Check if there are any park alerts or road closures and check if car parks at resorts are full, as they can fill up early. If you're advised that car parks are full, make alternative plans. Leave the car in Jindabyne and catch the Snowy Mountains bus service to reach the snow.
- When hiking ensure your personal safety by submitting a Trip Intention Form and having a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). PLBs are free of charge by way of a re-refundable deposit from one of the National

Parks and Wildlife Service
located at numerous locations
including Jindabyne, as well as
Perisher resort.

- Travel with at least 3 people group. If there's an emergency, you can go for help, while other stays with the injured sick person.
- Know your limits and stay within them. If you're snowboarding, know how in control and stick to the slopes, as ungroomed snow can be unpredictable.
- Ensure you take enough warm equipment and first aid kit.
- Download the NSW Notes app & the Emergency 112

Preventing Parcel Theft

With the increase in online shopping and deliveries, it's important to take measures to deter theft and protect belongings.

Here are five strategies to help you stop thieves and keep deliveries safe.

Security Devices

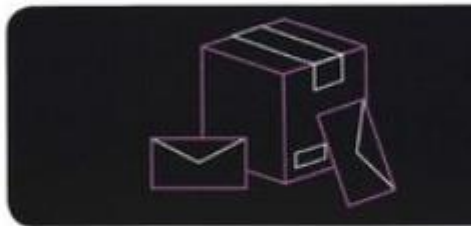
Home security devices like door cameras or a video doorbell can help deter thieves. Some types of devices are designed to capture the moment of theft, which isn't usually enough to prove a crime from happening in the first place. You can submit the footage to police for investigation or prove your package was stolen to the retailer.

You could also consider adding a motion sensor light that will turn on when it's dark and when it is detected, which can deter thieves and delivery people.

Secure Location or Collect

Post now offers a range of services to receive a parcel, you can collect your parcel when and where suits you from any of their service points - a Post Office, a Parcel Point or a free 24/7 Parcel Locker.

A number of retailers also offer services such as Parcel Point, which provides a network of service points for pickup and return - convenience stores, petrol stations, service stations - all around the country and on weekends - all over Australia, where you can have your parcel delivered, and pick it up whenever you like.



- Similarly, most stores offer Click & Collect services for online purchases.

Parcel Delivery Boxes

- A parcel delivery box at the entryway is a great option for secure package delivery. They are usually tough, weather resistant and virtually tamper-proof.
- With multiple ways to open, such as pin-code and remote opening they are easy for home residents and delivery workers to use.

Request Signature Confirmation of Delivery

- If you know you or someone in your household will be home and willing to answer the door, you can add signature confirmation to your delivery. This means that the package can only be left with someone who signs for it rather than just left at the entryway.

- Australia Post will also direct your parcel to a new address if plans change, even if it's already on its way to you.

Request Packages be Delivered in a Secure Location

- When you order something online, you may have the opportunity to request a delivery request. In this request, you can note the package should be placed out of plain sight from the street, such as a plant or under porch steps.

From making sure you're receiving a signature confirmation to using a parcel delivery box, your parcel shipped to a secure location, these tips help you stop thieves and keep your parcels safe and sound every time.



01 November, from Ku-ring-gai News

Spotted on the Pacific Highway Turramurra. Congratulations to [Ku-ring-gai Council](#) on this education piece.

The QR code links to this [here](#).



01 November, from Australian Federal Police



**AFP blocks 10 child
abuse websites and
tracks thousands of
predators who accessed
them**

The AFP has proactively identified and blocked 10 child abuse websites hosted on domains associated with the Cocos Keeling Islands that were responsible for the distribution of almost one million child abuse images and videos.

Since access to the sites was disrupted on 10 October 2023, AFP investigators have recorded tens of thousands of attempted visits from around the world.

The IP addresses and identities of those who visited these sites from another country will be referred to the relevant law enforcement agency in that country to identify offenders and support criminal investigations.

Officers from the AFP-led Joint Policing Cybercrime Coordination Centre (JPC3) and its partner agencies worked together to remove access to the websites.

Investigations are ongoing to identify individuals who visited the sites through their IP addresses, as well as identifying the administrators and contributors of the child exploitation material.

Read more [here](#).

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

- **Tip #2.** Be aware of wi-fi security, and items such as baby monitors.
Password protect
your wi-fi, router, computer, laptops, mobiles, everything!
- **Tip #6.** Don't give out spare sets of keys. Never give out copies of your building or apartment keys to tradespeople or friends.
- **Tip #9.** Reduce the chances of 'tailgating' by waiting until the doors/gates to your car park close completely after you, before moving further within.
- **Tip #10.** Know your neighbours - who should be there, who should not?
If in doubt, double-check
with others in the building. Challenge those you are suspicious of, or contact Hornsby Police Station: 9476 9799.
- **Tip #12.** Don't tell burglars you live alone. Leave an answering machine greeting that says "We can't come to the phone right now... " even if you live alone. When someone is at the door, call out loudly to your imaginary room-mate that you will answer it.

For more tips and translations, look at our website 'Tips' page [here](#). Or try our WatchOut! website [here](#), for links to some great information available on the internet. Or request a copy in your inbox [here](#). Other languages are available.

Whoever told me to leave
my car at the pub and
take the bus home, turns
out I was in no fit state to
drive that either.



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 Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby:

Website au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org

Facebook [@NHWKuringgaiHornsby](https://www.facebook.com/NHWKuringgaiHornsby)

Facebook Group [NHWKuringgaiHornsby](https://www.facebook.com/NHWKuringgaiHornsby)

Twitter [@NHWKRGHornsby](https://twitter.com/NHWKRGHornsby)

Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

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

Website WatchOut.org.au

Facebook [@NHWWatchOut](https://www.facebook.com/NHWWatchOut)

Local NHW Facebook pages:

[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 - Pymble & West Pymble](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Thornleigh](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Warrawee](#)

Face-to-Face NHW groups:

Neighbourhood Watch - Berowra (paused)

*Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara

*Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon/Killara (plus part of Pymble)

Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Colah (paused)

*Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives (Lynbara Ave)

Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra (The Chase) (paused)

*These NHW groups have joined together for the purpose of committee, shared meetings and printed newsletters.
