



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #635 - 12 December 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!").

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- 🚗 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](#).

12 December, from Ku-ring-gai command: Kuring Gai Police Area Command, are seeking any information that people may have about the burnouts that are occurring around the Galston, Dural and Middle Dural.

Any information ie times of day, descriptions of vehicles and number plates if anyone has any. Descriptions of possible people involved.

Any information that someone may have so Police can investigate these and speak to the appropriate person/s involved.



PREVENTING PARCEL THEFT



With an increase in online shopping and deliveries, it's important to take proactive measures to deter theft and protect belongings. Here are five strategies to help you stop thieves and keep deliveries safe:

HOME SECURITY DEVICES

- Installing home security devices such as outdoor cameras or a video doorbell can help deter thieves. While these types of devices are great for capturing the moment of theft, they aren't usually enough to stop the crime from happening in the first place. You can submit the imagery to police for investigation or use it to prove your package was stolen to the retailer.
- You might also consider adding a motion sensor light that will turn on any time it's dark when movement is detected, which can help guests and delivery people, but also deter thieves who don't want to be seen.

SHIP TO A SECURE LOCATION OR CLICK & COLLECT

- Australia Post now offers a range of ways to receive a parcel, you can collect your parcel when and where it suits you from any of their collection points – a Post Office, a PO Box or a free 24/7 Parcel Locker.
- A large number of sellers also offer services such as Parcel Point which provides a network of local delivery, pickup and return locations – convenience stores, pharmacies, service stations – all open late and on weekends – all around Australia, where you can have a parcel delivered, and pick up or drop off whenever you like.
- Similarly, most stores offer Click & Collect services for online purchases.

A MESSAGE FROM NSW POLICE FORCE



- 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.

- 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 allow you to direct your parcel to a new delivery address if plans change to ensure someone is home to receive the parcel, even if it's already on its way to you.

- When you order something you may have the opportunity to add a delivery request. In this place you can note the package should be placed out of plain sight, especially from the street, such as behind a plant or under porch stairs.
- From making sure you're home to receive a signature confirmation delivery to using a parcel delivery box or having your parcel shipped to a secure location, these tips help you stop thieves in their tracks so you can get your packages safe and sound every time.



Follow us on facebook.com/nswpoliceforce twitter.com/nswpolice youtube.com/thenewspolice or visit www.police.nsw.gov.au

Please email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com for a pdf in your inbox.

09 December, from NSW Police: *UPDATE*** A GEO Targeted SMS has been sent to the Hornsby area, if you receive a text from +61 444 444 444, it is not a scam.**

Have you seen 63-year-old Zhi Li? Last seen leaving a home on Second Avenue, Campsie, about 8am on Thursday 7 December 2023. Unable to be located or contacted since, Zhi was reported missing to officers attached to Campsie Police Area Command, who commenced inquiries into his whereabouts. Police and family hold serious concerns for Zhi's welfare as he lives with dementia. Zhi is described as being of Asian appearance, 165-170cm tall, of slim build, with grey hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a light blue shirt with dots, beige three quarter length pants, black sandals and a grey hat. Zhi is known to utilise public transport and police have reason to believe Zhi may have caught a train that left Campsie

Railway Station at 12:04pm on Thursday 7 December 2023 and arrived at Hornsby Railway Station at 1:30pm, before boarding a bus bound for Black Ash Turnaround.

Anyone with information in relation to Zhi's whereabouts is urged to contact **Crime Stoppers** on 1800 333 000.

More: police.nsw.gov.au/news/article?id=109538



09 December, from NSW Health: NSW is experiencing heatwave conditions. With several major festivals and events on this weekend, it's important to make sure you take care of yourself

Avoid dehydration and heat-related illness by:

- taking breaks from dancing
- seeking shade when you can
- drinking water regularly
- wearing sun protection
- making use of festival-provided shade, water stations and misting fans.

If you or a friend have taken drugs or are feeling unwell, please immediately seek out medical care from on-site staff.

Find out more on how to look after your health at festivals and events [here](#).

For information on how you can Beat the Heat

visit: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/beattheheat>



05 December, from NSW Police: SCAM ALERT ⚠️

NSW Police would like to warn the public of scams involving AustraliaPost and other courier services. Please refrain from sharing your personal details or clicking on any suspicious links. If you've made an order, verify the message's authenticity by using the official Australia Post website. Exercise caution if you receive a text similar to the one shown in the photo or a link like <http://post.auhelp.life/>. This is a scam that redirects you to a phishing website aiming to collect your personal information

For more information, please visit the official AustraliaPost website [here](#).



12 December, from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: Last Wednesday 06 December, our Multicultural Liaison Officer, Fiona Zhou, helped organise the annual 'Walk the Talk event, starting and ending at the PCYC Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Waitara.

The theme was "Say NO to family & domestic violence".

Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby was unable to join in this year. We heard it was a great day. This is what Fiona reported:

It was great seeing many local politicians, community services, and particularly more young members from our local schools joining in with the event. There were many speeches, including those made by boys from Knox Grammar, as well as signing and making the oath; "I will stand up, speak out, and act to prevent violence against women!" A good team from Hornsby police station attended, led by their Commander, Superintendent Matt Scott, who was at the front of the march with all the other guests.



12 December, from Hornsby Shire Council: Did you know that taping your batteries before you recycle them can prevent battery fires? 📱🔥

Simply tape used batteries on both sides with sticky tape and take them to your local B-cycle Drop off point, including the Thornleigh Community Recycling Centre.

To learn more, visit: bcycle.com.au/how-you-can-b-cycle/battery-safety/

Find your closest drop off point at: bcycle.com.au/drop-off/



12 December, from Hornsby Shire Council: FREE CHILD CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK



We are pleased to again open the Child Car Seat Voucher Program to eligible residents of Hornsby Shire. This program is designed to provide new parents and grandparents with road safety information about child restraints, to teach you about your child car seat and how to use it safely and appropriately. The voucher will allow you to book an inspection by a Transport for NSW Authorised Restraint Fitter to have up to three child car seats or booster seats checked for safety and correct fit. Here are a few points to know about applying:

- 👍 There is only a limited number of vouchers available
- 👍 Vouchers will be issued to eligible recipients on a first in, first serve basis
- 👍 If you are successful in obtaining a voucher, you must attend your appointment at Bubba Snug, 2/29 Leighton Place, Hornsby on a specified day. If you will not be able to attend this locations on the specified days listed in the application, please do not complete your application for a voucher.

Prior to applying, please check that you are eligible, by reading the terms and conditions at the link below. The program will be open until all vouchers have been issued. To find out more and to apply, visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/childcarseats

12 December, from Traffic and Highway Patrol command [edited for applicable advice]:

Check towing vehicle and caravan weights at Cataract Activity Centre

Our recommendation to those who tow caravans / loaded trailers is that you should know your limits and weights of your own tow vehicle and trailer, and any time you replace one of them, have your weighing re-done. Don't wait on the hope for a free quick weigh day. There are many reputable businesses who are mobile, and they will come to you for a relatively small charge, where they will invest more time with you and your vehicles to help you understand where you are currently at in relation to your weights. They can shift weights around inside your van or tow vehicle whilst they are on the scales and you can make a more informed decision on what you are going to take away with you and how you should load it.

If you are buying a caravan brand new, just be aware that your original van tare weight, and the actual weight once your options have been added may have in fact resulted in a compliance plate that no longer displays the correct weights. This is an issue which may cause you a few hundred extra kilograms of stress that you didn't know about.

We would suggest that before you make changes to your standard tow vehicle, talk to qualified industry experts about what GVM upgrades are available for your vehicle, and then weigh your loaded caravan before you choose which level GVM upgrade you should choose. Do it once and do it right.

12 December, from NSW Road Safety: 🚦 We're giving you the green light to tag someone who needs to be reminded of this. 🙋

What some may think
a yellow light means



What it actually
means



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 13 December: 7-8:30pm Ku-ring-gai Council Online Bushfire Ready Webinar (& Simulation). [North Turramurra - West](#). [Info](#).



Sunday 17 December: Dural RFS Santa Run 3:45pm @ St Jude's Terrace, followed by Santa photos 5:15pm @ Quarry Road Fire Station, Dural.

Sunday 17 December: Westleigh Rural Fire Brigade Annual Santa Run. Commencing from Warrigal Drive, Westleigh at 8.30am and visiting Westleigh and parts of Thornleigh, Normanhurst and Pennant Hills.

Wednesday 31 January: 7-8:30pm Ku-ring-gai Council Online Bushfire Ready Webinar (& Simulation). [North Turramurra - East & St Ives Chase - West](#). [Info](#).



Tuesday 06 February 2024: Safer Internet Day. [Info](#).

11 December, from the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation: School holidays usually mean more time online for our young people, so this is a good time for a few reminders on how to keep your kids safe online.

Our partners at ThinkUKnow Australia and The Carly Ryan Foundation Inc have developed a  Family Online Safety Contract  which is a great way to remind parents, carers and young

people about how to stay safe online.

Download the contract for free [here](#) (503KB)



Family Online Safety Contract

This contract helps us stay safe when it comes to what we SEE, SAY and DO online.

I _____, will:

(Child)

- Tell my parents or carer if I see something that makes me feel upset, uncomfortable or scares me.
- Be aware that people online are not always who they say they are, and do not always tell the truth.
- Let my parents supervise where I go online as I understand they do this to help keep me safe.
- Tell my parents or carer if someone sends me nude or naked pictures, or links that I did not ask for.
- Not give out personal information about myself, my family, my friends, or others online, including full names, addresses, phone numbers or schools.
- Not share my passwords or usernames with anyone but a parent or carer and I understand they will only use it if they are worried about me or my safety.
- Treat others the way I want to be treated online and with the same respect as I would offline.
- Never use the internet or a mobile device to cyberbully someone.
- Make sure all of my accounts are always set to private.
- Not talk to anyone online, or add anyone on my social networks, if I don't know them offline.
- Never agree to meet someone in person that I have only met online, and I will tell my parents if someone asks to meet me.
- Accept my parents or carer as a 'friend' on social media providing they ask for my permission before posting or commenting on my content, and they speak to me first if they see something they don't agree with on my profiles.
- Not respond to emails, instant messages, messages or friend requests from people I don't know.
- Never send someone a photo of myself online without checking with my parents or carer first.
- Learn how to block and report people online and tell my parents or carer immediately if doing this.
- Ask for permission before downloading any apps, games or software, so my parents or carer can check these are appropriate for my age and won't harm the device.
- Teach my parents or carer about the internet, apps, games and websites I enjoy.
- **Agree to the online time limits set by my parents or carer and put my devices to bed at night to help me get a restful sleep.**

Signed:
(Child)

Signed:
(Parent/carer)



Family Online Safety Contract

This contract helps us stay safe when it comes to what we SEE, SAY and DO online.

I _____ will:
(Parent / Carer)

am providing and paying for your internet service and device. Along with this privilege comes the responsibility to protect our family and our private information.

This contract is a requirement of having this service provided to you.

If you see or hear anything online that makes you feel unsafe or worried for yourself or someone else, please know that you can come to me at any time with this concern, and we will work together to find a solution. *NOTHING IS EVER SO BAD YOU CAN'T TELL A TRUSTED ADULT.*

If I am unable to help you, we will contact the appropriate authorities for advice.

This contract has been created to protect you. It is my responsibility as your parent/ carer to keep you safe, so that you have a positive experience online.



From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) #2: WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HEAR AN INTRUDER IN MY HOME?

Best advice: Is to scream, run and hide. Try and keep a line of retreat open at all times. If possible, lock yourself in a room. Barricade yourself in a room if you have to. Do NOT confront the intruder. PHONE 000. You might only have a few seconds to get the call in. State "I am at (give address) and there is person(s) on premises; I fear for the welfare of myself and family". Police will respond 'code red'.

Only fight an intruder if you have no other choice. Just think, if you get killed or incapacitated then who is going to protect your partner/kids, let alone support them if you die? Possessions are not worth dying for. Keep a pre-programmed mobile phone by the bed. And a large million candle power torch is recommended, as it has the added bonus of being able to blind an attacker. A flash (just a flash) of light in their eyes will rob them of their night vision, so they are going to be severely hindered if they try to run off in the dark, where as you have the

advantage of knowing the layout of your place. When you flash, just-in-case, keep one eye shut.

If someone is prepared to enter a home knowing someone is in residence, it can be taken as a fact they would be prepared to confront anyone who challenges them.

Related information: Is the front gate to your property locked? If so, then you must provide a bell, buzzer or method for a person to alert you they are there. Otherwise they have a common law right to go to your front door. Even if that includes jumping the fence or gate.

For more FAQs, 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](#).

07 December, from Whittlesea City Neighbourhood Watch: Wow this is eye opening. I missed it at first glance. Keep yourselves safe.

Both addresses look similar but not the same.

Spot the Difference?

maybank2u.com is not the same as
maybank2u.com

citibank.com is not the same as
citibank.com

(the first one is correct, the second one is from hackers)

The "a" in the later url is a cyrillic alphabet.

An average internet user can easily fall for this. Be careful for every mail requiring you to click on a link.

Please Stay Alert

06 December, from MDA National: As a medical practitioner in Australia, you have a duty to respond in an emergency situation - but what are the legal and ethical considerations that apply?

Read the full article here in the latest edition of MDA National's Defence Update [here](#).



06 December, from The Hills command: From the 19th of November 2023, The updated regulations below have been provided by @transportnsw Transport for NSW to classify the offences specific to these changes.

Visiting driver from another state or territory* (Dept of Defence employees exempt)

3 months living continuously in NSW.

Clause 96(4)(a) - Offence - Section 53(1)(a)

Visiting driver from New Zealand.

3 months living continuously in NSW.

Clause 96(4)(a) - Offence - Section 53(1)(a)

Visiting overseas licence holder who is granted a permanent visa.

3 months living continuously in NSW.

Clause 96(4)(b) - Offence - Section 53(1)(a)

Australian citizen who holds an overseas driver licence.

3 months living continuously in NSW.

Clause 96(4)(c) - Offence - Section 53(1)(a)

Visiting overseas licence holder with a temporary visa (arrived after 1 July 2023)

6 months living continuously in NSW.

Clause 96AA(1)(a) - Offence - Section 53(1)(a)



06 December, from The Hills command:



ANSWER

'There is currently no legislation requiring a driver to wear or not to wear footwear whilst driving a motor vehicle,'

'Wearing high heel shoes, stilettos, thongs, or any other footwear that could cause you to lose control of the vehicle may be a problem"

'If an accident was to occur and it was found that the cause of the accident was due to inappropriate or lack of footwear, an offence under Rule 297 of the Road Rules 2014 (driving without proper control of vehicle) could be applied.

06 December, from The Hills command: E 95754666 - Fire - Playground - Ramsay Rd 2200hrs 4/12/23. PENNANT HILLS

Hills Police are investigating the mindless vandalism at Pennant Hills overnight.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to call **Crime Stoppers NSW on 1800 333 000** or [Crime Stoppers NSW](#). Information is treated in strict confidence.



06 December, from The Hills command: 🐍 we are getting many calls about snakes

It is a fact of life living near bushland and new developments. FYI Snake catchers are not Free - if you call one you must pay for it. We do not catch snakes. Hills Shire Council have placed signs in public areas where there have been recent sightings. If you spot a snake, remember:

- 🚫 Don't Approach: Keep a safe distance and respect their space. Resist the urge to get too close.
- 😬 Exercise Caution: Stay aware of your surroundings. Watch your step and be mindful of where you place your hands and feet.
- 📞 Call a Professional if Need Be: (as we have no idea how to catch them) If you encounter a snake in your backyard that makes you uneasy or if it poses a potential threat, call in a professional. Contact WIRES on 1300 094 737 or Sydney Wildlife on 9413 4300 and a professional will be sent out to relocate the snake for you.

The Hills Shire Council



Thanks to Westleigh Rural Fire Brigade: 🔥 Cruising into the fire season like a pro! Steering wheel so hot, oven mitts are the new road trip essential. 😎🚗 Embracing the heatwave with a side of preparedness. Remember, it's not just the roads sizzling – live bushfire-ready! 🔥🌿🚒



Thanks to Author Rebecca Ratliff: Run, Tim!!!!

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.



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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

