

## **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, Gordon**

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

**Apologies:** Amabelle Playoust, Anthony Kkak, Graham Birch, Kanak Kiran, Kerrie O'Brien, Patrick Winsbury, Simon Lennon, Tim Brown, Yoel Hyman.

### **1. Meet & greet and Make your own Goodie Bag to 7.30pm.**

Julia welcomed everyone. Introductions. She explained the connection between NHW Gordon/Killara/E. Killara/part St Ives/part Pymble with NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby, because of the use of the Gordon NHW bank account for NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby funds, as well as the way our volunteers assist across the command.

### **2. Crime Report from Constable Gemma Walker, Crime Prevention Officer (CPO), Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command.**

Gemma sent apologies. Gay read from Gemma'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 eNewsletters and the [NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website](#), and the research for new 20 Tips and FAQs.
- Anne McManus, NHW volunteer, passed away this year.
- Tim Brown has asked if he can sponsor 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 The current one is outside Gordon East P.S. and has out-of-date information.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 liaise regarding quotes, logos etc.
- A Kerb Numbering project is being undertaken by NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby, supported by the local police and emergency services. A request was due to be made to Gordon NHW to assist financially with \$490 for the purchase of three acrylic stencil sets. However, Bunnings, Pymble have offered to donate a supply of cardboard stencils. Attendees agreed to support the Bunnings offer and review the situation. Attendees also felt it is better to charge a refundable \$10 deposit for each use, rather than ask for a gold coin donation. Julia to consider approaching Ku-ring-gai Council for assistance/support.

#### **b. Bruce spoke for NHW Gordon Area 12:**

- Bruce Edwards said he has little to report now that police provide no crime stats. 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:
  - ✓ Invade people's privacy
  - ✓ Can alarm people unnecessarily
  - ✓ Should be taken in context, eg 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 Barry Street, where CCTV had helped with identifying a vehicle, where a young girl was offered a lift from a stranger.

- Julia suggested everyone register their CCTV with the police:  
[https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online\\_services/register\\_my\\_business\\_cctv\\_details](https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/register_my_business_cctv_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 'Cocooning' which will possibly cover the St Ives area. Gemma can give us warning flyers 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

- 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 & Hornsby (\$1902) + E. Killara (\$462.15) + ex-Area 23 (\$19.03)
- Repayment to Julia Eagles for Ku-ring-gai/Hornsby WordPress website hosting expenses \$129.00 to be refunded from the Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby bucket (already ratified at NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby volunteers meeting held 27 Oct 2022). Hosting expires 27/08/2023.
- Note, Vodien Domain registration \$36.50 is due 18/05/2023.

#### 5. Activities for 2022, new committee members?

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

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

- Gay referred to Gemma's report (attached) and spoke about CSPC members.

#### 7. Any Other Business

- Julia described the updates currently being made to the NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website:  
<https://au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/>.
8. **Viraf Hathiram:** IT Security Specialist answers your questions. Viraf spoke about security risks and what we can do to avoid them. Julia had a number of questions from the community. Viraf 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?

- Use 2FA where available, either SMS or an Authenticator app. Use different passwords for each site. Use password management software if you cannot remember all your passwords. People often have a few tens of accounts if not hundreds. If a website is breached, hackers will try your login ID and password from that website against all major sites, some of which you may have accounts on.

Q. Are my Google Drive files safe from ransomware?

- Stop 'auto-sync' 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?

- Do not use public WiFi for anything important. Avoid using hotel, airport, café Wi-Fi. Consider who is behind that Wi-Fi? They can break into your phone. Use mobile data roaming instead, or purchase a local sim card.

Q. 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 attempting to compromise you. Beware 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, SMS, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. – beware of strangers and unexpected messages from known people/companies. Don't click on any links in messages – just visiting a malicious webpage can compromise your computer/phone. Get virus protection, even for your mobile. Get independent contact details and phone them to check that any information is genuine, e.g. a warning from Microsoft that your email has been compromised.

Q. How can NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby stop eNewsletter from bouncing because of people's filters? Eg ask to include our email address in their email system as a good one? Ie explicit instruction.

A. To enable emails to get through spam filters, users must add to the 'whitelist' for individual admissible senders (ours is ***NHWKuring-gaiHornsby@gmail.com***).

Q. Can scammers hijack the links in our eNewsletter?

A. No. The links in our eNewsletter are safe provided they belong to NHW or to well-known sites. Readers can hover over the links to read them before clicking or use <https://VirusTotal.com> to double-check the links are safe.

Q. Router - modem password is on a sticker underneath. Is it OK to leave at the factory setting?

A. These days there is no need to change from the factory setting since telecom companies have a different password on each router. However, if you know how, you could change the router password.

Q. When we use Wi-Fi, how important is it to 'forget' old ones from the past?

A. 'Forget' Wi-Fi networks when you are finished. In order to avoid a malicious Wi-Fi network, do not check 'Auto reconnect' when connecting to other than your own home Wi-Fi connection. It is possible for anyone to set up a familiar looking Wi-Fi hotspot, e.g. Hornsby Westfield & you wouldn't know it is fake.

Q. Please critique 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips to Protect Your Identity'.

A. Viraf double-checked 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips to Protect Your Identity' is still current. Thank you to Viraf.

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, passport, 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 Safe Breaker's story on website.](#)