



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #653 - 16 April 2024

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 <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.
- 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.

16 April, from NSW Police: The NSW Police are urging the community to remain calm following a police operation in Sydney's southwest overnight.

As investigations into Strike Force Patrina continue, any witnesses, anyone with information or mobile phone vision who has not yet spoken to police, is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. A reminder that help is still available.

- NSW Mental Health: 1800 011 511.
- Lifeline: 13 11 14, text 0477 13 11 14 or chat online.
- Kids Helpline Official: 1800 55 1800 or chat online.
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 or chat online.
- 1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732, text 0458 737 732 or chat online.

- 13 Yarn: 13 92 76.
- MensLine Australia: 1300 78 99 78.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call **Triple Zero (000)**.

16 April, from Ku-ring-gai command: Kuring-Gai Police Area Command was invited to deliver a Road Safety session at the Hornsby Supported Playgroup.

Our Youth liaison officers, along with the Multicultural liaison officer taught the young children about crossing the road safely and how to keep safe in public. If you are interested in a similar session, please don't hesitate to contact Hornsby Police on 02 9476 9799 and speak to our Youth Officer.



[Spot the Neighbourhood Watch police dress-ups? - Ed]

11 April, from Ku-ring-gai command: Market & Community Festival Safety

- See tips below 🦤



10 April, from Ku-ring-gai command: LOOK OUT for Al deepfake scams which are becoming more and more popular.

Look at these tips below on tips of how to protect yourself!

For Emergencies contact Triple Zero (000)







16 April, Shared with permission from the Gordon Community group: Hi neighbours

I live on ridge st and have found the second bong on my backyard this morning. They're thrown right on the back fence. There's a lane at the back of our place. So whoever it is is in the lane at night and then throwing their rubbish in the yard. There's a public bin not far away either! I'm so disappointed and upset by this. I really thought Gordon was much better than this. Do I need to go to the length of installing cameras around the place? Ugh

Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby Volunteers had their quarterly meeting last week. Are you interested to know what they're up to this year? Please email us here for a copy of the Summary Notes, although we will be uploading them shortly to our new Meetings page on the website - created, in order to be more transparent and open. Thanks to Gay and Jyoti for their work on the website.

A workshop from Lifeline for the general public

Wednesday 01 May: DV-aware Workshop 10am-noon @ Lifeline, 4 Park Av, Gordon.

Enrol here: <u>dvalert.org.au/enrolment-listings</u>



15 April from Hornsby Shire Council: Recovery support is available via NSW Reconstruction Authority for communities affected by recent flooding, with natural disasters declared for 25 Local Government Areas, including Hornsby Shire.

- If you've been impacted by the recent weather event, information about what support and financial assistance is available at: nsw.gov.au/emergency/floods/recover
- Or, if you'd like to speak to someone on the phone, you can call
 Service NSW on 13 77 88, Monday to Friday between 7am and 7pm.
- There's also a live updates page specific to the April floods here:
 nsw.gov.au/emergency/floods/live-updates-april-2024-recovery

Natural Disaster Declaration

Recovery support announced for 25 LGAs in response to severe storms and floods that occurred on 1 April



15 April, Shared with permission from the Lindfield/ East Lindfield/ Killara/Roseville Community Group:

Not sure if anyone is looking for these but I noticed them earlier just outside the entrance to Killara dog park.

And in the comments: Police need to be notified, they could use the plates to steal other cars or some other illegal activities. [We agree - Ed]



15 April, from Darren: This morning Laura and I were travelling northbound on the M1 freeway home when we noticed flashing lights from trucks and cars travelling southbound trying to warn us of a car travelling at 120kmhs against the flow of traffic "On our side of the road" This person veered towards one car, just missing it, then veered directly from lane 1 to us in lane 3. We were sent off of the road into the gully at 110khms. Fortunately for us we survived and are okay. The car unfortunately continued on and smashed head on with another two vehicles and a truck. Been on the phone all morning to police and reporters, we are doing okay! Avoid the freeway if you can.

The driver was killed on impact and several were seriously injured.

And answering a comment: I just managed to save me and my pregnant fiancé by crashing into the middle of the freeway, we have real fear of the loss of our baby! I watched that car veer from the lane1 to my lane3 then in my rear vision mirror I watched it mirror another cars turns to smash head on! That person had trucks beeping flashing lights, and not to mention he didn't come on our side from an offramp - he came through a crossover.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 03 April to Wednesday 10 July: Car park on Grandview Street, Pymble will be partially occupied by Sydney Trains for slope remediation works at Pymble Station. <u>Info.</u>

Saturday 20 April: FREE Ku-ring-gai Council Fire Management 'Big day out' 9am-12:30pm @ Wildflower Gardens, St Ives. Info.

Tuesday 23 April: FREE 10-11am Australian Government. 'Be Connected' online presentations - "Apps for Smarter Travel". Info/Register

Wednesday 01 May: FREE DV-aware Workshop 10am-noon @ Lifeline, 4 Park Av, Gordon. Enrol <u>here</u>.

Saturday 05 May: Emergency Expo. Crime Prevention stall TBC.

Friday 10 May - 07 June: CatholicCare's 5 week course for parents of teenagers - Tuning in to Teens 10am-12noon @ Artarmon Family Centre, Suite

404, Level 4, 44 Hampden Rd. Register here.

Tuesday 14 May - 11 June: CatholicCare's Online 5 week course for parents of primary school aged children - Tuning in to Kids 7:30-9pm. Register here. **Wednesday 15 May:** FREE Ku-ring-gai Council child car seat safety check day 9am-2:30pm. Contact 9424 0940. Bookings essential.

Friday 24 May - 07 June: CatholicCare's Online 3 week course for parents of 2-12 year olds - 1-2-3 Magic Parenting Program 12noon -1:30pm. Register here.

Tuesday 25 June: FREE 3-4pm Australian Government. 'Be Connected' online presentations - "Useful Tips for Using your Android Phone". Info/Register
Thursday 11 July: FREE 3-4pm Australian Government. 'Be Connected' online presentations - "Government websites". Info/Register
Thursday 25 July: FREE 10-11am Australian Government. 'Be Connected' online presentations - "iPhone Basics". Info/Register

14 April, from NSW Health: The latest NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report shows that COVID-19 activity is low.

Influenza activity is low.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity is high.

View the full report <u>here</u>.

And remember these top tips to protect yourself and others:

- stay up to date with your recommended vaccinations
- stay home if you have cold or flu symptoms. Wear a mask if you need to leave home
- gather outdoors or in well-ventilated indoor spaces
- talk with your doctor now if you're at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses. You may need a PCR test and be eligible for antiviral medicines.

More information on RSV here.

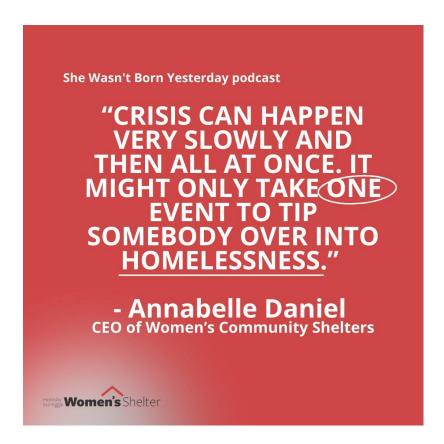


14 April, from Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter: Did you know HKWS provides shelter and support women facing homelessness?

Women over 55 are the fastest growing group of homeless Australians by percentage. That means women sleeping in their cars or couch-surfing. However women over 55 often don't define themselves as homeless, but they may be entitled to support and services they never imagined they could access

Janet Evans and Dr Amelia Haines discuss this shocking issue with WCS CEO, Annabelle Daniel OAM on the podcast 'She Wasn't Born Yesterday', on which she sheds light on how easily it could happen and what we can all do.

Listen here.



14 April, from NSW Fair Trading: Puppy scammers are still active in our communities with Scamwatch reporting more than \$300,000 lost to these scams each year.

Potential buyers should look out for these red flags:

- Pricing is too good to be true
- Seller does not allow face-to-face contact
- Copycat photos (when doing a reverse Google image search)
- Sketchy payment options (wire transfer or gift card payment only)
- Seller claiming to have top breeder badges

If these red flags come up for you in a transaction, stop all communication with the seller and report them <u>here</u>.



14 April, from NHWA: Many of us still like cash so using ATMs is part of our weekly routine.

They are very convenient but it's essential to be cautious when using one. Here are three tips to help you stay safe at ATMs:

- Before approaching an ATM, scan the area. If anything seems out of the ordinary or makes you uncomfortable, find another ATM or return later.
- When entering your PIN, use your body or hand to shield the keypad from prying eyes or hidden cameras. This simple action can prevent others from obtaining your PIN and gaining unauthorized access to your accounts.
- If you notice anything unusual with the ATM, such as loose card slots or unfamiliar devices attached, don't use it. Report the issue to the bank immediately.

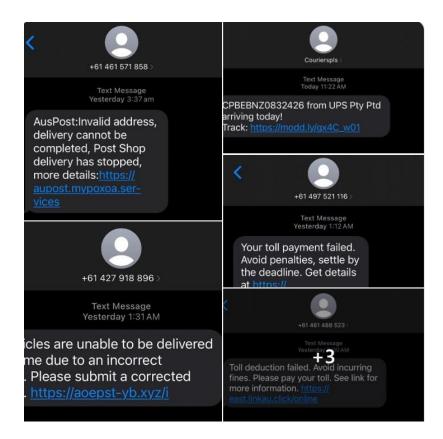
By following these tips, you can minimize the risk of ATM-related fraud or theft.



13 April, from Whittlesea NHW: Getting a lot of these recently?

Unfortunately, SMS phishing is not going to stop anytime soon. Here are some pointers to refresh your cyber hygiene:

- Never click on URL links that are sent via SMS, even if they look legitimate.
- Check for red flags like spelling and grammar errors, timing of when the message was sent, was the message expected? does it instruct me to do something out of the ordinary?
- \$\square\$ Caller IDs can be spoofed, so do not instantly trust the message when you see a familiar name.
- PAlways check the details through official website and source, and not through the information provided by the sender.
- Most phishing email/scam triggers some sort of physiological behavior to their victim. Take a quick minute break and re-read the message again with a clearer mind, or ask a trusted person for a second opinion.
- Trust your gut feeling.



13 April, Shared with permission from the West Lindfield/Killara group from 04 April: Hi neighbours

Last night around 9-12 pm a white Tesla model Y smashed in to both our cars parked outside our house at 29 Beaumont Rd and drove off. They are both very badly damaged. The car came up from Blaxland Rd. Does anyone have a camera in the surrounding area (especially Blaxland, Terrace and Beaumont rds) that might have captured this car? The police are coming this morning. Thus so much.

Natalie

11 April, from Traffic & Highway Patrol: Didn't learn the first time?...

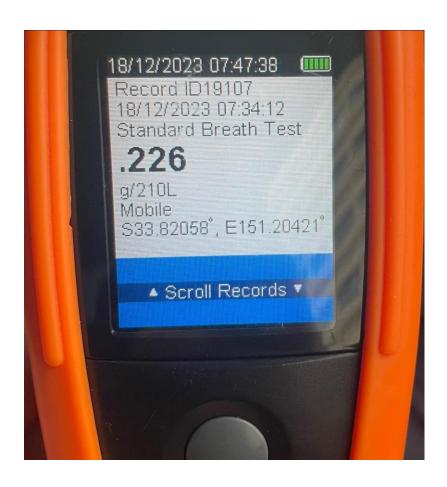
☐ 14 months imprisonment ☐ for disqualified and highly intoxicated driver detected in North Sydney, for the second time, by North Shore Highway Patrol. The 27 year old male appeared before Manly Local Court on 4th April 2024 charged with:

1. Drive with high range PCA - 2nd offence

2. Drive motor vehicle during disqualification period - 2nd offence

The male was stopped in North Sydney at 7:30am on 18th December 2023. Checks revealed his driver licence was disqualified until early 2024. The male returned a positive breath test with a reading of 0.226, and was arrested and taken to North Sydney Police Station. A breath analysis returned a reading of 0.213. The male was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment with a non-parole period of 8 months.

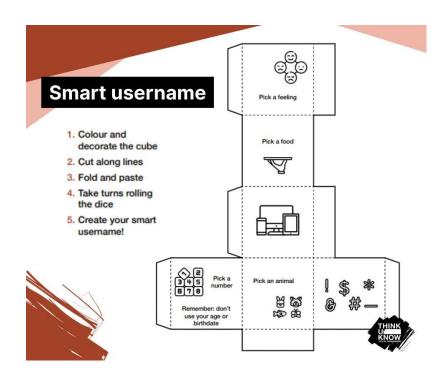
Hopefully, 14 months of reflection will help this person realise the risk he displayed to other motorists. A reminder to all motorists, do not drink and drive; it's a crime....



10 April, from the AFP: Creating smart online usernames - have you had that conversation with your children?

A 'smart username' is a username that doesn't give away any personal or identifying information. This includes information such as your name, age, or location. The AFP-led ThinkUKnow Australia has created an activity to help you have a conversation with your child about why this is important when they are

using the internet, apps or online games, and how to create one together.



From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention
Tips for Fire Issues' (Simplified Chinese): 我们的 20 个最常用的犯罪预防
提 防火

Tip #1: 如果您所在的地区最近重复发生丛林火灾,请提高警惕。新南威尔士州 **70% 的**丛林火灾是人为制造的。

Tip #2: 对您所在地区行为举止奇怪的人需多加留意。遇到可疑情况,尽可能多地记录详细信息,例如:个人的外貌特征、汽车的外观特征及车牌号等,并拨打犯罪举报热线 (Crime Stoppers): 1800 333 000。

Tip #5: 在学校放假或节假日期间,请注意学校周边可疑情况。当有任何可疑活动或青少年群体时,请拨打校园安全热线 (School Security Unit): 1300 880 021

Tip #11: "恶意纵火"通常是一时冲动或在他人唆使下发生的。请留意任何反常行

为,并当心火柴、打火机、烟头、喷漆罐、发胶,香水,纸巾或易燃液体等物品。 大多数火灾发生干周末的傍晚或夜间。

For more FAQs, 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 <u>here</u>. Other languages are available.

10 April, from NSW Government: Share your thoughts on regulating nitrous oxide (aka 'nangs') through our short survey.

Let's make NSW safer together -. Info and survey here before 10 May.



10 April, from the ACCC: Do you know how many products in your home contain button batteries?

Do an audit of products in your house that contain these batteries. If swallowed by kids, button batteries can cause severe or fatal injury in as little as 2 hours.

Button battery safety

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Button batteries can be found in a range of products including novelty decorations, merchandise from events, remote controls and light-up items.

Check products around your home and ensure the compartment that houses the button battery is secure.

Old or spent batteries can still pose a risk. Once you've finished using the batteries put sticky tape around both sides and put them in a child resistant container, out of reach of children, and recycle them at your nearest drop off point.



10 April, from Berowra Rural Fire Brigade: Power Board Guidance

We urge everyone to exercise caution with the use of power boards in both their homes and workplaces. Neglect and misuse can lead to serious risks, including fires that not only threaten lives but can also lead to significant property damage or worse.

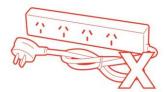
Do:

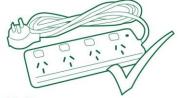
- ■Regularly Check: Inspect power boards regularly for damage or wear.
- Use Appropriately: Only use power boards for their intended purpose and within their capacity.
- Keep Clear: Ensure power boards are well-ventilated and not covered by furniture or other items.
- Turn Off: Switch off and unplug power boards when not in use, especially overnight or when away for extended periods.

Don't:

- XOverload: Avoid plugging too many devices into a power board, exceeding its capacity.
- XDaisy Chain: Never connect multiple power boards together ("daisy chain").
- Xignore Signs: Do not ignore warning signs such as burning smells, discolouration, or sparks.







- Plug in too many power hungry appliances into the same board.
- > Plug in an appliance if you aren't sure about the amount of power it draws. Toasters and hair dryers can ring alarm bells here.
- Place board in an area where water or moisture can build up. Steer clear of using boards in the kitchen and bathroom.
- Place under carpet/rugs or inside cupboards. While this might help to disguise unsightly cords, it can disguise danger too.
- Place near heaters. Additional heat can contribute to overheating.
- > "Piggy-back" multiple power boards onto one wall socket or onto other power boards.
- Connect a power board onto the end of an extension cord. Always plug power boards directly into the wall.
- In the case of an electrical fire, never use water to extinguish the flames.
- Attempt to repair a power board yourself.
 Discard or have a licensed electrician assess the appliance.



- When possible use boards with built-in safety switches an important extra precaution.
- > Always invest in power boards with overload protection - the extra cost will protect you, your appliances and your home.
- Place power boards in well-ventilated areas
 this will reduced the risk of overheating.
- > Ensure boards are placed in sight at all times - as opposed to beneath or behind furniture
- Clean regularly to avoid dust and dirt build up around all sides and edges.
- > Ensure all plugs (including the wall plug) are fixed securely at all times. Boards that are stored in areas such as beneath desks are susceptible to being kicked or slipping out of their sockets.
- Regularly inspect the condition of your boards and their cords damage on the outside can be an indicator of damage on the inside.



Concerned about power boards in your office? If you've got questions about your home setup, contact the NSW RFS Safety team via safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au







Email us here for a copy in your inbox.

Thanks to Cop Humour UK

Our local pub is haunted by the ghost of a policeman.

We call him 'The Inn Spectre.' 🕸

And in the comments:

Used to work with a very slim chap who was known as 'Thinspector'. We used to have a section inspector we nicknamed stealth (after the plane). Cause you knew the f@%£^r existed but you never actually saw him... until...

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 <u>au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org</u>
Facebook <u>@NHWKuringgaiHornsby</u>
Facebook Group <u>NHWKuringgaiHornsby</u>
Twitter @NHWKRGHornsby

Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com



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

Website WatchOut.org.au Facebook @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

