



## Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #677 - 01 October 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</u> <u>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.

## 30 September, from NSW Police: Can you help us find John?

John Shipp, aged 52, was last seen in Narara about 8:30am Monday (2 September 2024). Inquiries reveal John was possibly in the vicinity of **Berowra** around 1pm on Tuesday (24 September 2024). John is described as being of Caucasian appearance, about 190cm tall with a thin build, short blonde hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a black motorcycle jacket and pants. John could be riding a white Triumph Tiger motorcycle with QLD registration plate 8AF71. He is known to frequent the Gundagai, Ulladulla and the NSW Central Coast.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact **Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000** or <a href="mailto:nsw.crimestoppers.com.au">nsw.crimestoppers.com.au</a>. Information is treated in strict confidence.





# 26 September, from Ku-ring-gai command: This Sunday (29 September 2024) marks National Police Remembrance Day

The date honours the dedicated police officers who have died while serving their community. In the lead up to this special day, we bring you the story of Sergeant 2nd Class Adam Schell (1916 - 1968).

In the early hours of Tuesday 8 October 1968, a night watchman (security guard) was patrolling the Bobbin Head boat sheds in Sydney's north-west when he located several boat engines in an unattended vehicle.

Believing there was a theft in progress, the night watchman – who was armed with a rifle - contacted the onsite manager and police.

Sergeant 2nd Class Adam Schell and Probationary Constable Dick Letchford of Hornsby Police

Station (which is now part of the Ku-Ring-Gai Police Area Command) attended a short time later.

Sergeant Schell and the night watchman entered an office building at the location whilst the manager and Constable Letchford commenced a separate patrol of the grounds.

Unknown to Sergeant Schell and the night watchman were four male offenders inside the office who had broken in by manipulating the door lock and closing it behind them.

Two of the offenders were armed with firearms where one of the men shot Sergeant Schell, causing him to collapse to the ground. In turn the night watchman fired his rifle at the armed offender, striking him where he suffered only minor injuries and then called on him to surrender.

In a panic the two unarmed offenders ran from the office.

The second armed offender fatally shot the night watchman and then shot Sergeant Schell several times who was still lying on the ground unable to defend himself.

Alerted by the gunshots Constable Letchford ran back to the office where the two unarmed offenders had inadvertently ran straight towards Constable Letchford. Despite being alone he was able arrest the men where he handcuffed them together and walked them back to the office.

As Constable Letchford approached the office the uninjured offender fired at Constable Letchford who also returned fire whilst still maintaining control of the two men he had in his custody.

The two-armed offenders fled the scene.

Due to the isolation of the area at the time it would be another 30 minutes before additional police and ambulances arrived to treat the critically injured sergeant.

Sergeant Schell would succumb to his injuries later that morning in Hornsby Hospital.

A major investigation commenced to locate the two outstanding offenders.

Four days later - acting on information from a member of the public – it was learnt that the two men had stolen a boat from Sydney's south and were heading out to sea.

The Water Police were alerted and the stolen vessel was intercepted where the wanted men were arrested without incident.

All four offenders were later convicted over the matter and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Despite the harsh sentence the four men were released from prison in the early 1980's.

The man who had shot the night watchman and delivered the fatal shots to Sergeant Schell as well as shooting at Constable Letchford would be involved in a similar incident upon his release from prison. Whilst committing a break and enter in Queensland he also attempted to shoot at police. He would be incarcerated repeatedly for a number of violent crimes before dving in prison in 1999.

Constable Letchford remained with the NSWPF until he retired as an inspector in 2005. He now lives in the state's north.

At the time of his death Sergeant Schell was a father to four children aged between 14 and 26. Two of his sons would later join the NSWPF themselves and go on to have successful careers. During their own service they would serve at a number of different locations including – ironically - Hornsby Police Station.

A memorial currently stands at Hornsby Police Station that not only honours Sergeant Schell's dedication to duty but also serves as a reminder to a new generation of officers as to the dangers that policing can hold.

But Sergeant Schell's legacy goes beyond that. Today, his granddaughter is a serving police officer herself. The location she is attached to - Hornsby Police Station.











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November, 1968

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The picture shows the cortege of the funeral of the late Sergeant 2/C A. B. Schell at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, Cronulla, on Thursday, October 11, 1968. The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Allan, three Assistant Commissioners and many commissioned officers and men of the N.S.W. Police Force attended. The late Sgt. Schell served in the N.S.W. Police Force for 29 years and was stationed at Divisions 2, 12, 18, 22, 24, and at Moama and Pyrible.

Photo by courtesy of the Police Public Relations.









## Notch 1 up for the eNewsletter!

We heard on the grapevine that last month one of our readers saw a picture in one of our eNewsletters and realised their offspring was the owner of the graffiti tags on display locally. So they took the famous offspring to chat to the police at Hornsby police station. Well done to the parent!

... and that story made the compiling of this eNewsletter so much more worthwhile.

## 01 October, from North Shore command: October is Cyber Security Awareness Month.

This is an international initiative sponsored by The Department of Home Affairs and is intended to provide a reminder to all Australians to stay secure online.

North Shore Police are encouraging you to prioritise cyber security by taking the following actions,

- Enable multi-factor authentication
- Install software updates whenever available
- Use strong and unique passphrases
- Recognise and report phishing

Specific guidance on these and information on other cyber security precautions are available <u>here</u>.



01 October, from NSW Food Authority: Find out which food businesses have allegedly

## breached food safety laws in NSW:

- 6 premises added this week [including Babyccino Lindfield]
- 10 premises removed (publication period expired).

See weekly update here.

Last week we accidentally omitted the link - Charlotte Cafe (Food Stall) Lindfield was included.

You can query the Register of Penalty Notices <u>here</u> by trading name, suburb, postcode, council, type of problem or penalty notice number.



## 01 October, from Nepean command: TRAFFIC TUESDAY

Please drive carefully and safely these school holidays. Please do not text and drive - your precious family deserves your full attention to be on the road when you're at the wheel.



## 01 October, from ABC.net.au: Online dating code will require Tinder, Hinge to act on dangerous users, cooperate with law enforcement

### In short:

An Australia-wide industry code for dating apps governing how they protect users from harm and abuse will begin on Tuesday.

A recent academic study found three in four people who had used dating apps in a five-year period had been subjected to sexual violence.

### What's next?

The voluntary code will become enforceable from next April, and a review will take place in 2026 to determine whether it should become mandatory.

Read article here.

Please find the details below:

5:30pm)

30 September, from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: We have been asked by our command's Multicultural Community Liaison Officer (MCLO) Fiona Zhou to share the following event information.

Hornsby Shire Council are working in partnership with Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command, CASS and RA to organise a FREE workshop "Sound of Connection: Building Family Bonds Through Music".

The workshop is to provide an opportunity for the family to enhance its communication with each other, improve connections and strengthen the family bond through music. It is for the family with child/ren (aged 9 and above). Come to relax while mingling with your peers and family, to learn new skills and enhance the bonds through music.

- \* Time/date: 6:00pm 8:00pm Friday 1st November (light refreshments provided at
- \* Venue: Hornsby Shire Council Admin Building, 296 Peats Ferry Rd , HORNSBY
- \* Bookings: Bookings essential: Scan QR Code to Register.
- Parent/guardians must also attend. Enclosed shoes required.

For more information, please contact **Fiona on 0412 477 535 or email: zhou1yan@police.nsw.gov.au**.



## 30 September, from Neighbourhood Watch Gordon: About the helicopter over Gordon a few days ago

"Someone said there was a group of youths that came off the train onto Werona Ave, going into cars and garages."

"Called the police and she said there was nothing to worry about ... that they were catching naughty kids and had gotten most of them."



Set a nearby shop as your home address in your vehicle's nav. If someone were to steal your car, the last thing you want is for them to have directions to your house with a set of keys/garage door opener.



Thanks to 1000 Life Hacks.

29 September, from NHW Queensland:

## **Home Security Guide** Use this guide in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service 'Home Security' and 'Property Identification' information sheets to assist in reviewing your current home security measures.

House-breaking is one of the most common crimes and can occur at any time of the day or night. This guide is designed as a practical tool to help you review your current home security measures and identify potential security risks. Good home security can be achieved by following these key principles:

- Make it easy for an offender to be seen
- Make it difficult for an offender to gain entry
- Make it difficult for an offender to exit with your
- Make it difficult for an offender to gain benefit from your property.

A simple and effective way to review your home security is to start from the outside of your home and work inwards, using a layered approach. For most homes, including units and townhouses, there are six layers that can be used to identify existing and desirable security.



It is important to remember that security changes may require some modification to your everyday behaviours. Locking doors and windows as part of your daily routine and being conscious of where you place your personal valuables such as keys, jewellery and mobile devices are all positive security

This guide has been designed to help you take a fresh look at your home security. Where a specific risk to your security is identified, you are encouraged to consult industry specialists to discuss treatment

This information sheet contains only general guidelines for increasing home security. The Queensland Police Service, in providing this information, makes no representations nor providing the side presson or property or guizantee occasioning the sidily of presson or property.

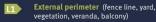
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Using a layered approach to conduct your review will enable you to identify the most appropriate layer(s) to introduce additional security measures.

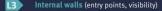
Focus on these layers with security measures relevant to your circumstances and lifestyle considerations.

#### **Layered Security Assessment**









Interior public and private areas (CCTV cameras, alarms)

items of value, property identification

**People** (personal safety, security behaviours)











Download the Home Security Guide <a href="here">here</a>. Or email us <a href="here">here</a> for a copy in your inbox.

## 29 September, from Willoughby Council: Never bin your batteries!

Why is binning batteries dangerous? Datteries can spark and cause fires, especially in waste collection trucks. Lithium and button batteries are particularly risky. Protect your home and our community—never bin your batteries!

Find your nearest Drop off point > <a href="mailto:bcycle.com.au/drop-off/">bcycle.com.au/drop-off/</a>



## 29 September, from NSW Road Safety: Driving under the influence means:

- A) driving with an alcohol level above your legal limit
- B) having illegal drugs in your system while driving
- C) having prescription drugs in your system that can affect your ability to drive safely
- D) all of the above

What is driving under the influence (DUI)?



ANSWER: The correct answer is D) all of the above.

Alcohol, illegal or prescription drugs can impair your driving ability and increase your crash risk

If you're taking prescription medication, make sure to check with your doctor or pharmacist whether it is safe to drive.

If you're planning on having a big night out, have a mate pick you up or take public transport. Always have a Plan B.

Know the facts T

Drugs & driving transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/topics-tips/drugs

Alcohol & driving transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/topics-tips/alcohol

## 29 September, from WIRES: Watch Out For Wildlife

For many states, school holidays are just around the corner. On your travels, you may come across injured wildlife on the side of the road. If you're unsure of what do to, you can refer to our tips below or simply contact our 24/7 Rescue Office at **1300 094 737**.



Email us <u>here</u> if you would like a copy of the WIRES poster in your inbox.

Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby also has a FAQ#12 'What Should I do if I have a

Collision with an Animal?' to download from the website <a href="here">here</a>.

26 September, from Neighbourhood Watch Gordon: Shared with permission from the Gordon Community Group: I had an attempted break in yesterday day time at Ridge Street, Gordon

#### And in the comments:

Sorry to hear we live in Highlands Ave where there was an attempted break in on multiple houses on early Sunday morning.

There is an obvious noticeable increase in crime happening in Gordon currently, and very concerning that it's also happening during the day when a lot of households are at work / not home.

We need some arrests before we can feel safe again 😊

And another: Very sorry yo hear.

There was an attempt on Friday night in Highlands Avenue. Happened to our neighbour at 3am. A young woman tried all the windows and doors and went in under the house. A car was idling nearby. She left when a sensor light went on. Was not deterred by 3 cars in driveway and people clearly home.

The neighbour had it all on camera and sent to Crimestoppers.

We have an alarm, but are installing more sensor lights around the periphery and improved locks on garage and side gates.

## 26 September, from 9News.com.au: Former Sydney teacher pleads not guilty to grooming charge

A Sydney boarding school teacher accused of grooming a 15-year-old girl has denied the offence. William Roberto Gulson, who previously taught at Knox Grammar School in Sydney's north, was charged with procuring or grooming a child under 16 for unlawful sexual activity. The 27-year-old allegedly sent explicit messages to the 15-year-old online in August.

Read more here.



A Sydney boarding school teacher accused of grooming a 15-year-old girl has denied the offence.William Roberto Gulson, who previously taught at Knox Grammar School in Sydney's north, was charged with procuring or grooming a child under 16 for unlawful sexual activity, (AAP)

## 25 September, from NSW Fair Trading: We're warning consumers not to deal with T & R International Pty Ltd trading as 'T & R Sports' and 'Sports Leisure.'

The online trader, who is now under investigation, operates a business supplying imported games tables, indoor/outdoor furniture, bikes, e-scooters, fitness and sports equipment, and accessories to consumers in Australia. Since March 2024, NSW Fair Trading has received around 324 complaints against 'T & R Sports' and 'Sports Leisure'.

Of major concern to us is the sale and supply of the 'Mason Taylor' bunk bed which is in breach of product safety standards in NSW and failing to comply with mandatory safety standard AS/NZS 4220. Consequently, a recall notice was issued on 31 July 2024. Complaints received against the trader mainly relate to pre-paid online orders with concerns about:

- Unreasonable delays in receiving goods ordered
- Goods are not delivered or only partially supplied
- False and misleading representations about the goods and services

Anyone who has dealt with T & R International Pty Ltd is urged to lodge a complaint here.



Public warning: T & R International Pty Ltd trading as 'T & R Sports' and 'Sports Leisure'

25 September, from The Hills command: Can you rest your mobile phone on your lap whilst driving?



Can you rest your mobile phone on your lap whilst driving?



**ANSWER:** P Platers - can't even have it on at all: Drivers with a full licence There are only 2 ways you can use a mobile phone while driving: Hands-free – you can only use your phone hands-free (without touching it) to:

- make or receive voice calls
- play audio, for example, music and podcasts.

In a phone holder – you can only use and touch your phone to:

- make or receive voice calls
- play audio, for example, music and podcasts
- use as a driver's aid, for example, maps and navigation apps or dispatch systems.

Phone holders must be commercially manufactured and fixed to your vehicle and must not obscure your vision.

You must not use a mobile phone while driving for any other function. This includes:

- texting
- video calls
- emailing
- social media
- using the internet
- photography.

When driving, you must not hold a mobile phone in your hand. It must not rest on your leg, be between your shoulder and ear or any other part of your body.

#### **Dates for your Diary**

**Thursday 09 May - Thursday 14 November:** LifeLine Connect 1.00 pm - 5.30 pm @ Hornsby Library. FREE. Drop-in or make a booking: **8287 1142**.

October: Cyber Security Awareness month.

**Tuesday 08 October:** FREE Tech Savvy Seniors - Introduction to Computers 10:15am-12:15 pm @ Hornsby Library. <a href="Info-& Bookings">Info-& Bookings</a>.

Wednesday 09 October: FREE 计算机简介 - Introduction to Computers (Mandarin) 10:15am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. Info & Bookings

**Saturday 12 October:** St John's Anglican Church Fete 9am-2pm NHW crime prevention stall & kids activities.

**Tuesday 15 October:** FREE Tech Savvy Seniors - Introduction to Internet 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. Info & Bookings

**Tuesday 15 October:** NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby Volunteers meeting #43 6-7pm at PCYC, 1 Park Lane, Waitara, followed by dinner afterwards @ Magpies. We'd love to meet you.

Wednesday 16 October: FREE 互联网入门 - Introduction to Internet (Mandarin) 10:15am-

12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. Info & Bookings

**Tuesday 22 October:** FREE Tech Savvy Seniors - Introduction to Tablets 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. Info & Bookings.

Wednesday 23 October: FREE 电子邮件简介 – Introduction to Email (Mandarin) 10:15am-

12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. Info & Bookings

Tuesday 29 October: FREE Tech Savvy Seniors - Introduction to Smartphones 10:15am-

12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. Info & Bookings

Wednesday 30 October: FREE 智能手机简介 – Introduction to Smartphones (Mandarin)

10:15am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. Info & Bookings

Saturday 02 November: Bushfire Emergency Expo 10am-2pm @ West Pymble Green (opp

Philip St Mall). NHW K&H will have a crime prevention table and activities.

**Sunday 03 November:** FREE Motorcycling Safety Workshop – Survive the Ride 10:30am-2pm

@ Storey Park Community Centre (Fowler Hall), 12 Old Berowra Road, Hornsby. Info &

**Bookings** 

From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for Letterboxes' (Traditional Chinese):

**Tip #1.**. 請將保持郵箱鎖好。請記住,除非您使用它,否則永遠上鎖。考慮使用無法複製的「Tubular Pin Tumbler Lock」



Tip #8. 在你休假時,請朋友或鄰居清理你的郵箱。 Tip #19. 做個好鄰居,並提供收集那些無法寄送的郵件

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



Thanks to Massey Sarah I (apologies for the tiresome spelling of 'tyre'). The tyre says "PROBLEM" and "NO PROBLEM", with the "PROBLEM" on display because the vehicle is upside down.

### **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: <a href="Mexicontrollarge">@Kuring Gai PAC</a>
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

Facebook Group NHWKuringgaiHornsby

Twitter @NHWKRGHornsby

Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

## WatchOut!

## 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)

<sup>\*</sup>These NHW groups have joined together for the purpose of committee, shared meetings and

printed newsletters.		
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## 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

