



Meeting Summary Notes

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby
presence at Graffiti Task Force
6:30pm Thursday 13 June 2024 Force
@ Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church (THUC)



Present

Julian Leeson MP (Fed Member for Berowra)
Karolina Pulczynski (Julian's office)
Noah McCarthy (Julian's office)
Michael (Loretto)
Alex Walsh (resident)
Isabella (high school student)
Roger Norman (Turramurra Rotary Graffiti Removal Team Leader)
Daniel Petrucci (resident)
Kishore (Hornsby Rotary)
Matt (Teacher, Pacific Hills Christian School)
Jo Hutchens (Well Versed Homes retailer)
Julia Eagles (NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby)
Jim (Thornleigh)
Dee (Alister's office)
Fleur (Alister's office)
Alister Henskens MP (Member for Wahroonga)
Gill (THUC)
Jim (THUC)
Cllr Sallianne McClelland (Hornsby Shire Council)
Matt (VP, Thornleigh Sports & Recreation Club)
Dean (Normanhurst Scouts, etc)
Grant
Alice Clayton (Pres. Hornsby & District Little Athletics Centre)

1. **Julian ran the meeting:** Introductions. Back story.
2. **Known issues** – Graffiti along Pennant Hills Rd (PHR), Normanhurst, Pennant Hills & Thornleigh since Dec 2023.
3. **Wishlist:**
 - Act as a community to remove the graffiti.
 - Suggested date for a Blitz – morning of Saturday 03 August 2024.

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)	000
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)	1800 333 000
TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line)	131 444
IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)	9476 979
TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP	106
SPEAK AND LISTEN	1 800 555 727

ENGLISH

- 30 people have pledged interest in volunteering. Volunteers to include pupils from local schools interested in Duke of Ed service.
- Graffiti Blitz to include a BBQ or similar as a thank you to those who volunteered.
- Possibility of a regular Task Force to be created following the Blitz.
- Discussion on costs & suggestion that Hornsby Council may be able to assist – Sallianne to take to council.
- Discussion on Transport for NSW role – Julia confirmed they act on reports via ‘Snap Send Solve’ App. Sallianne confirmed Hornsby Council does not use this App due to associated costs.

4. Roger Norman: explained his role and the products, techniques utilised.

- Suggests groups of 3-4 volunteers is more effective than 10 cleaning at a hotspot.
- Suggests to ignore the graffiti above eyelevel. Note: Jo is still interested in removing graffiti above the awnings – possibility of a professional painter/SES as a volunteer.
- Suggests any future Task Force should attempt to clean within 3-5 days, 10 at most, to discourage more graffiti.
- Suggests that all graffiti must be cleaned at a hotspot (ie leave nothing).
- Cleaning /painting should be “as if it is our own property”.
- Suggests the project needs a ‘champion’ to succeed, who will plan, organise & supervise, rather than doing the removal – possibly Sallianne?
- Painting can be done over painted surfaces – colour-matching needs to be done prior to the Blitz.
- Non-porous surfaces (eg signs, bins, electrical kiosks) require ‘Graffiti Removal Solution Spray’ then rubbed off with a rag.
- Porous surfaces (eg brick/sandstone/unpainted fences) need the strong solution applied, left and removed with a water-blaster – only to be used by trained persons.
- Note: Graffiti Removal Solution is not harmful, but may sting if in a cut. Wear goggles to protect eyes.

5. Roger’s plan of attack: (Roger’s Notes were supplied – writer lost her copy)

- Inspect the area to plan and ID sites. Note: You require the property owner/occupier’s (verbal is OK) consent.
- ID the colour-matched paints for supply.
- ID supplies necessary for volunteers (spray bottles with solution, rags, rubber gloves, paper overalls, brushes, goggles & access to water & soap).
- Suggests Box A (painted surface) & Box B (solution work) for on Blitz day.

6. Jo Hutchens:

- Jo spoke about her vision of lifting the area.
- Jo spoke about her graffiti incident, and discussions retailers had with police & council. Police advised fast removal of the graffiti and that retailers get CCTV and improve lighting.
- Jo noted how it is easier to remove new graffiti and prevents “over-tagging” by other gangs.
- It was noted that Hornsby Council may be able to improve lighting as part of its beautification programme.
- The criminals wore black hoodies and face masks and couldn’t be identified from the available CCTV.

7. Daniel Petrucci:

- Daniel spoke about his efforts to get council to enforce removal of graffiti by

residents, especially investment properties that he had researched and found were owned by the one family - Sallianne would love to hear more about this.

- He supports a Task Force to help the elderly & disabled.
- Daniel has access to legal expertise.

8. Alex Walsh: asked several questions.

- She mentioned on querying with the police only 5 reports were logged, but 15 were known by Daniel.
- Discussion about offenders doing Community Service – Roger stated timing and supervision is the problem.
- Alex questioned preventative measures, eg stop how the youths were accessing paints.
- She suggested that residents should have access to this info from Roger, eg through council, to inform residents what they can do, and how to report it.
- Discussion about the use of Snap Send Solve app for reporting to Transport for NSW.

9. Matt: to liaise with Roger about a training session(s) & Bunnings supplies.

- Happy with a Blitz day, but concerned about moving forward.
- Suggestion for multiple satellite packs around the neighbourhood, eg at sporting clubs. Sallianne to discuss with council possibility of mini-trailer kits being kept at the council depot.
- Matt mentioned graffiti on Duffy Avenue also out of control.
- Matt & Daniel cannot help on the Blitz day, but would like it made into a week & thus able to be involved.

10. Julia: questioned insurance cover. Possibility it is arranged as a Rotary or Council event.

11. Next steps:

- Need a volunteer to identify the hotspots needing cleaning on the day of the Blitz.
- Need paint colour-matching for hotspot sites.
- Need a volunteer to get funding/donations.
- Need training from Roger of volunteers. Matt to coordinate?
- Need to identify a 'champion' & supervisors for key areas.
- Need a volunteer to get donation of supplies from stores eg Bunnings.
- Roger Norman to approach his supplier of 'Solution' in S.A.
- Need an organisation to back the Blitz – possibly Hornsby Rotary?
- Need a volunteer to organise refreshments/lunch/BBQ, or have a café/business involved?
- Jo to talk to local retailers about using the courtyard for lunch/BBQ.
- Sallianne to approach Hornsby Council for assistance and advice.
- Everybody to ask their organisations for volunteers for the Blitz day.
- Julian to send a follow-up email to his distribution list, to publicise the event & request volunteers.

12. NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby/Julia Action:

- Write up notes and report on meeting to the local police/residents.
- Write up NHW suggestions to assist the community & share with Julian.
- Possibly provide NHW garbage bin stickers for after removal of graffiti?

- Share news of the issue & date of Blitz to community via Facebook, weekly eNewsletter and website. Suggest reporting to police via Portal.
 - Invite volunteers to assist with Blitz.
 - Julia to assist local police with a 'Community Alert' for graffiti crime, for potential letterbox drops.
 - NHW K&H volunteers to assist with 'cocooning' letterbox drops to residents around hotspots.
- 13. Pre-meeting:** Julia to introduce Jo via email to CPO at Hornsby police station.
- 14. Post-meeting:** Julia to list tips as suggestions to residents & send to Julian:
- a) Apply a 'blood & bone' type product to put off the congregation of youths at hotspots.
 - b) Apply a NHW garbage sticker (to smooth surface) after cleaning graffiti at hotspots.
 - c) Where possible, grow a plant such as a creeper (or a plant with thorns?) to cover the wall being graffitied.
 - d) Look at introducing sensor lighting and CCTV. Note: You must display a sticker saying you have CCTV on premises. Possible to display a sticker without having any CCTV.
 - e) Easy reporting via Police Community Portal & receive Event Number.
- NHW volunteers to assist with 'cocooning' the local hotspots with letterbox drops of a police 'Community Alert' created specifically for graffiti crime (encouraging residents to report ASAP/clean ASAP).
 - NHW to inform public of use of Snap Send Solve to report graffiti to Transport to NSW. Inform public of other methods, for other property.
- 15. Notes:**
- Julia is in process of updating the 'Reporting Crime in Ku-ring-gai' flyer with Ku-ring-gai Council, to include the police Community Portal as a method for reporting crime, eg graffiti. Potential for Hornsby Council to produce something similar?
 - Can police task more cars to drive along PHR?
 - The annual 'Graffiti Removal Day' is no longer in existence.
 - The [NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research](#) indicates that crime is actually generally stable in our area.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799. Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#) or at our [website](#). Contact us at: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com.