



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #694 - 28 January 2025

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.

25 January, from Ku-ring-gai command: Police are seeking the identity of the below female who they believe may be able to assist them with enquiries in relation to a stealing occurred on the 20th of January 2025, at Hornsby Inn.

The female is described as Caucasian in appearance, approximately 20 years of age, slim build with long blonde hair, wearing a dark 'Champion' jumper, shorts, white sneakers and carrying a green handbag.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact Hornsby Police Station: (02) 9476 9799 or Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence.



25 January, from Ku-ring-gai command: Police are seeking the identity of the below male who they believe may be able to assist them with enquiries in relation to a stealing that occurred on the 4th of January 2025, in Asquith.

The male is described as Caucasian in appearance, approximately 40-50 years of age, slim build with short, balding dark hair, wearing a navy-blue Nike 'Just do it' shirt, denim shorts, black sunglasses and riding a black bike.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact **Hornsby Police Station: (02) 9476 9799 or Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000** or

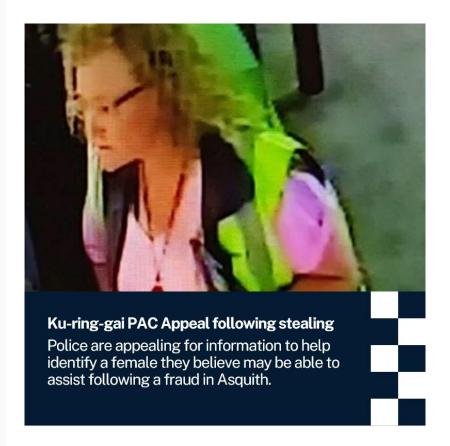
nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence.



24 January, from Ku-ring-gai command: Police are seeking the identity of the below female who they believe may be able to assist them with enquiries in relation to a fraud that occurred on 27th of November 2024 at the BP in Asquith.

The female is described as Caucasian in appearance, approximately 40 years of age, medium build with medium length, curly, blonde hair, wearing a pink shirt, yellow high vis vest, jeans and reading glasses.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact Hornsby Police Station: (02) 9476 9799 or Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence.



24 January, from Ku-ring-gai command: Police are seeking the identity of the below male who they believe may be able to assist them with enquiries in relation to a stealing that occurred on the 14th of January 2025.

The male is described as Caucasian in appearance, approximately 40 years of age, slim build with short brown/grey hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact **Hornsby Police**Station: (02) 9476 9799 or Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or

https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence.



24 January, from Ku-ring-gai command: A 14-year-old girl missing from Hornsby has been located.

Police would like to thank the public and media for their assistance.



28 January, from Blacktown command: ARE YOUR NUMBER PLATES SECURED?

Most drivers don't think much about their license plates — until they go missing!

Number plate theft can happen anywhere.. Number plates are being stolen and being used on other cars to commit crime. Plates can be taken from cars parked in front of houses, carparks and even at shopping centres. Stolen plates are used in offences such as fuel theft from petrol stations.

What can we do about it??? You can purchase anti-theft screws and place them on ALL 4 CORNERS of your number plate. The "One-Way" screw is available from auto retailers which can help attach your number plates securely.

It is a big inconvenience but does cost you more money if you are a victim of this crime and if you have special plates, you won't be able to get them again until the stolen ones are recovered.



[Go to our website for one-way locking screws: https://au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/screws/ - Ed]

28 January, from NHW WA: As Neighbourhood Watch WA, we believe that one of the best ways to enhance safety and build a strong community is

simply by getting to know your neighbours!

Here's why it's so important:

- 1. Building Trust and Rapport
- When you take the time to introduce yourself and connect with those living nearby, you create a sense of trust and camaraderie. A friendly wave or a quick chat can go a long way in fostering positive relationships.
- 2. Enhanced Safety
- Knowing your neighbours means you're more likely to notice when something seems out of place. If you're familiar with the people in your area, you'll be able to recognize unusual activity or strangers who don't belong. Together, we can watch out for each other!
- 3. Community Support
- Life can throw challenges our way, and having a network of supportive neighbours can make a huge difference. Whether it's lending a hand during tough times or sharing resources, a strong community is built on mutual support.
- 4. Sharing Information
- Stay informed about local events, safety tips, and community initiatives by connecting with your neighbours. You'll be in the loop about what's happening in your area, which can help you feel more engaged and connected.
- 5. Creating a Sense of Belonging
- When you know your neighbours, you create a sense of belonging and community pride. This can lead to increased participation in local events and initiatives, making your neighbourhood a better place for everyone!



- How to Get Started:
- 1. Introduce Yourself: Take the first step by saying hello when you see your neighbours (use our 'knock knock' cards too!).
- 2. Organise a Get-Together: Host a casual coffee morning or BBQ to bring everyone together.

 3.Join Local Events: Participate in community activities or Neighbourhood Watch meetings to meet others.

Let's strengthen our community by getting to know each other! Together, we can create a safer, more connected neighbourhood where everyone feels at home.



27 January, from Nepean command: Welcome back to our "TRAFFIC TUESDAY" section.

Hoping you all had a wonderful time over this Christmas and New Year break - if you were lucky enough to have one. To start 2025 off, feel free to send us your traffic questions and we'll endeavour to answer as many as possible over the coming days.

Question: Can you change lanes on a multi lane roundabout whilst still on the roundabout?

Answer: Drivers may change lanes in a roundabout if they wish, the usual road rules for changing lanes apply. You must use your indicator and give way to any vehicle in the lane you are entering. Going straight ahead. You don't need to signal when approaching the roundabout if you are going straight ahead.



Question: If you're at a four way intersection, all sides with traffic lights. One lane has a turn arrow painted and the other lane doesn't have any arrow painted to indicate either straight or to turn, can you turn from that lane?

Answer: Generally, one must follow the signs beside the road or on the road. A driver can turn right if there is no sign beside or on the road to signify differently - to give a more accurate answer, I would have to look at the intersection you're referring to.

Question: I see people whinging about slow drivers, complaining that it's an obstruction and dangerous. How far below the speed limit do you need to drive before it's actually considered dangerous (and could potentially earn you a fine)?

Answer: ROAD RULES 2014 - REG 125

Unreasonably obstructing drivers or pedestrians

125 Unreasonably obstructing drivers or pedestrians

- (1) A driver must not unreasonably obstruct the path of another driver or a pedestrian.
- : Maximum penalty--20 penalty units.
- (2) For this rule, a driver does not unreasonably obstruct the path of another driver or a pedestrian only because:
- (a) the driver is stopped in traffic, or
- (b) the driver is driving more slowly than other vehicles (unless the driver is driving abnormally slowly in the circumstances).

Example of a driver driving abnormally slowly: A driver driving at a speed of 20 kilometres per hour on a length of road to which a speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour applies when there is no reason for the driver to drive at that speed on the length of road.

Question: If I am riding a bicycle with my child riding in a child seat, am I

legally allowed to ride on the footpath in those circumstances? I note that I can legally ride on the footpath if supervising my children under 16 who can legally ride on the footpath but otherwise I must ride on the road or bike lane.

Answer: I cannot find anything specific to your question, but I would not fine you for taking the best care of your child's welfare while riding a bicycle. I am under the impression that you would be fine with your child in an approved bike seat - it is all about the child's safety.

Question: Does keep left unless overtaking only apply to Freeway conditions where it is signposted? What about twin lane main roads...The Northern Rd for example?

Answer: It applies to all roads with a speed limit above 80kph or otherwise signposted. If 80kph, as with The Northern Road, it is legal to drive in the right hand lane. I drive this road every day and as a matter of habit, I move to the left anyway, but if I didn't. then I would not be committing an offence.

Question: Would seriously be interested- What is the most outlandish excuse you have been given for someone speeding?

Answer: I've had, "I need to go to the toilet", "I've left my child at home" - when picking up the school aged kids, and "I'm late for footy". I was working with a colleague when we pulled a driver over who was rushing to court - just not his day I guess.

26 January, Shared with permission from the St Ives and Surrounds Community Group:

Bus stop vandals. Please be careful. The main window about to shatter. Was only replaced a few weeks ago.



26 January, from eSafety Commissioner: Empower your child with online safety tools this #SaferInternetDay!

We've got parents and carers covered with free online webinars designed to help you support your child's safe and healthy online experiences. These live, expert-led sessions provide practical tools and strategies to navigate the digital world with confidence.

Upcoming #SID2025 webinars include:

- Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into high school
- Algorithms and adolescents: the rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people
- Learn how to have important conversations with your children about online safety, better understand the role of technology in their lives, find out how to navigate potential risks and equip yourself with the tools to support their wellbeing online.

Sign up today: https://news.esafety.gov.au/41hNsb3



26 January, from Australian Signals Directorate: When did you last make a backup?

If you have to think about it, chances are it's been a while.

Now is the perfect time to back up your data, or even better set up automatic backups. There are many programs and cloud service providers that can back up your data automatically.

Learn more about backups - here.



26 January, from The Hills Shire Council: Small, butt huge consequences!

Summer is upon us and so is the threat of bushfires. Every year, Fire and Rescue NSW is called to hundreds of roadside fires believed to be caused by littered cigarette butts. Fires caused by littered cigarettes can quickly spread which puts houses, lives and wildlife at risk.

It is an offence to litter a cigarette or cigarette butt in NSW and hefty fines apply. However, if a motorist litters a lit cigarette during a total fire ban, fines up to \$11,000 and 10 demerit points may apply.

Please be a responsible smoker and always bin your butts. If you smoke in your vehicle, place your used butts in a cupholder ashtray and dispose of them in a bin at your destination. Cup holder ashtrays can be purchased at most bargain stores.



26 January, from NHW Queensland: A Former Burglar's Tips [edited] ViP Bill Jeffs on Jan 25, 2025 @ 3:24pm

Looking back through some previous NHWQ blogs I found one from a few years ago and thought it was worth a "repeat". With a few "modifications", the post looked at how a burglar approaches a home and what he/she looks for....

... He said that he preyed on people who had left their balcony sliding doors or windows open and usually stole cash or small electrical items that he could pawn. To beat people like him he advised –

- Even if you are at home, don't leave handbags or wallets in view of windows or doors; it encourages opportunistic thieves to break in
- Always lock windows and doors, even when you are in the house and especially if you are in the back yard
- Leave an internal light on when you go out
- High fences around houses allow burglars to work without being noticed
- If a burglar is in the house, don't confront him or her due to the risk of injury
- Most burglars by-pass houses with dogs or alarms
- Join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme; street signs, letterbox plaques, window stickers, engraved property and alert neighbours all combine to deter would-be thieves

Full article <u>here</u>.

Home Security Assessment Guide here.

25 January, from NSW Health: NSW Health is reminding the community to only receive cosmetic anti-wrinkle injections from an authorised practitioner. [edited]

This follows a suspected case of botulism in a woman in Sydney, which is believed to be linked to an unregulated anti-wrinkle injection she received at a residential premises from a person in the previous two weeks.

The woman is receiving intensive care at a hospital in Sydney...

... Symptoms can appear for up to two weeks following injections. Symptoms of botulism may include:

- Progressive weakness
- Difficulty swallowing (dysphagia)
- Drooping eyelids (ptosis)
- Blurred or double vision (diplopia)

- Difficulty breathing.

Full Media Release here.

24 January, from NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: Want to be more secure when online shopping?

Please have a look at the attached checklist.

Want a pdf (with all the active links) in your inbox? Email us here.

CYBERCRIMINALS LIKE ONLINE **SHOPPING TOO**





Secure online shopping checklist:

 Shop using secure devices.
 Make sure the devices you use for online shopping have the latest updates installed and are connected to a trusted network. For example, use your home Wi-Fi or cellular (4G/5G) connection rather than public Wi-Fi.

2. Protect your payment information

and accounts.

Be coreful saving payment information on an orline shapping account. If you do save payment information to an account, you should turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA) to protect it. Where this is not possible, set a long, complex and unique passphrase as the account's password to help keep cybercriminals out. You could also use a password manager to generate and store passphrases for you.

3. Use trusted sellers.

Research online shopping websites before you buy and stick to well-known, trusted businesses.

Know the warning signs.
 Extremely low prices, payments through direct bank deposits, and online stores that are very new or have limited information about delivery, return and privacy policies can all be signs of a scam.

 Use secure payment methods.
 Never pay by direct bank deposits, money transfers or digital currencies such as Bitcoin as it is rare. to recover money sent this way. You should pay by PayPal or with your credit card. You may want

to set up a second card with a low credit limit and keep it specifically for online shopping. This will help minimise financial losses if your card details are compromised after shopping online.

6. Don't engage, and report suspicious contact.

Be aware of any strange phone calls, messages or emails you get about online orders. It could be someone trying to get you to share your personal or financial details. If someone contacts you about an order you don't remember placing, it could be a scam. Stop contact and reach out to the store using the details on their official website to check.

 Watch out for fake delivery scams.
 Don't let your guard down while you're waiting for your goods to arrive. Cybercriminals can send fake parcel delivery notifications with links that take parcel delivery nothtectrions with links that could trick you into downloading mallower or giving away your personal details. If you receive such a message, do not click on the link. Delete the message immediately. You can contact the seller or the courier company using the details on their official website. Scamwatch has examples of what these farual least text message more local least the progressions of the least form whether the transparence more least and the selection of the seller text message more least least the course of the selection of the seller text message more least least least least text message more least le these fraudulent text messages may look like.

It is always a good idea to limit the amount of personal information that you use on websites. Ask yourself if the website really needs this extra information or an

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG Call 1300 CYBERI cyber.gov.au/acsc/ register and follow us on Facebook facebook. com/cybergovau Australian Government ASD SIGNALS Australian Signals Directorate

24 January, from Crime Stoppers NSW:

Know anything about someone planning or carrying out a HATE crime?

REPORT IT IN CONFIDENCE.

1800 333 000 www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au



24 January, from ACCC Product Safety: Colourful floaties are perfect for splashing around but remember—they're not lifesavers!

Kids can quickly and quietly get into trouble and drown. Always keep a watchful eye on kids while they're enjoying the water. Adult supervision is key to making sure everyone has a blast without any accidents!

Swimming and floatation aids guide <u>here</u>.

24 January, Shared with permission from the St Ives Community Page and Surrounds group:

Good afternoon.

There was a road traffic accident involving a motorbike and a red Mercedes at approximately 10:30 am today (Saturday, 18th January 2025) on Ryde Road, near the Ku-Ring-Gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre in West Pymble. The police have contacted the driver, and the motorbike rider is currently in a stable condition at Royal North Shore Hospital. We are helping the rider and his wife during this difficult time. The motorbike rider is seeking witnesses or dash cam footage to assist with their claim. If you have any information, please message

me directly for the appropriate contact details. Thank you, Lois (one of the RNs on the scene) and Tristan

22 January, from Gordon Vet Hospital: <a> Important Notice for Pet Owners



The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting a fox control program using 1080 poison in several Sydney reserves from Feb 1 – July 31, 2025. Targeted areas include Sydney Harbour, Garigal, Ku-ring-gai Chase, and Lane Cove National Parks to protect threatened species like bandicoots and little penguins.

- ▲Keep your pets safe:
 - Always leash your pets and avoid restricted areas.
 - Symptoms of poisoning include vomiting, seizures, or unusual behavior.

If you suspect your pet has been exposed, contact us immediately on (02) 9498 3000 or call NPWS at 1300 056 294.

Let's work together to protect our wildlife while keeping pets safe! 🗫



21 January, from ACCC Product Safety: Safety gates are meant to help keep children safe, by restricting access to household dangers.

But the gate itself can be a hazard for babies and toddlers. Children have been injured by becoming trapped between the bars. Make sure the spaces between the bars are between 5cm and 9.5cm.

Learn more safety tips here.



22 January, from Australian federal Police: Beneath every instance of network compromise, stolen credentials, ransomware, or data theft is secure infrastructure that enables cybercriminals to operate and remain hidden online.

'Bulletproof' hosting (BPH) providers actively deliver this infrastructure to cybercriminals, enabling them to target thousands of victims across the globe. BPH providers refuse to abide by law enforcement and other content takedown requests and ignore abuse complaints from victims and subscribers – but these 'bulletproof' providers can be disrupted.

The AFP, alongside the Australian Signals Directorate, is working hard to take down these providers, releasing a new publication to educate Australian organisations on what they are, and how they aid cybercriminal activities.

Read it now here.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 16 January - Thursday 03 July: LifeLine Connect 1.00 pm - 5.30

pm @ Hornsby Library. FREE. Drop-in or make a booking: 8287 1142.

Thursday 30 January: FREE 10-10:45 or 11-11:45am @ Hornsby

Library. Learner Licence Workshop presented by Youthsafe. Age 16-19yrs who

don't have their learner licence. Info & bookings here.

Tuesday 04 February: 10-12 Mandarin 1-3PM English. @ Gordon Library.

Intro to cyber security

Thursday 06 February: 10-12 Mandaring 1-3PM English. @ Gordon Library.

Intro to apps on smartphones

Tuesday 11 February: 10-12 Mandarin 1-3PM English. @ Gordon Library.

Intro to online shopping and banking – Part one

Thursday 13 February: 10-12 Mandarin. 1-3pm English. @ Gordon Library.

Sharing photos and other attachments

Thursday 20 February: 10-12 Mandarin. 1-3pm English. @ Gordon Library.

Intro to cyber security

Thursday 27 February: 10-12 Mandarin. 1-3pm English. @ Gordon Library.

Intro to online shopping and banking – Part one

Sunday 02 March: CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

24 January, from The Hills command: We arrested a man for drinking battery acid this morning.

However he was later released without charge. #FridayFunny



Thanks to Kyra

From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: 'Frequently Asked Questions #28: 'IS IT A LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A VISIBLE HOUSE NUMBER ON MY HOUSE?

YES. It is a legal requirement to display the correct house number (street number) on the building (house) OR fence fronting the street pursuant to Section 124 Para 8, Local Government Act 1993.

- Make sure that your house number is clearly visible from the street on a dark, wet night.
- Rather than simply one number, Neighbourhood Watch suggests all three numbers:

- 1. A number displayed on the façade or fence of the property, and
- 2. In addition, a number displayed on the letterbox (optional) and
- 3. In addition, a number on the kerb outside your property (optional).
- If your home is situated on a corner, the number should face the street named in your address.
- Property numbers must remain legible and be repaired or replaced as required.
- Reflective numbers are optional, although highly recommended by NHW.
- • Bigger is better.
- Double-check for Homeowner's Association restrictions.
- A council may order a person to display a house number on premises.
 Failure to comply is an offence.

For the complete FAQ, with reasoning etc, see the FAQ#28 here.

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.



Thanks to Paul

WE FOUND A FEW PILLS HERE AND A FEW PILLS THERE. HERE PILLS, THERE PILLS-EVERYWHERE THESE LITTLE PILLS. WORD ON THE STREET WAS RIGHT... OL' McDONALD RAN A PHARM.



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

Facebook Group NHWKuringgaiHornsby

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.







Copyright © 2025 Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby, All rights reserved.

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

