



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #696 - 11 February 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!").

- A 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.
- A 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.

09 February, from NSW Police Force

Police are appealing for information after a firearm was discharged towards a home in Sydney's west this morning.

About 2am (Sunday 9 February 2025), police were called to a home on Canyon Drive, Stanhope Gardens, following reports a group of people had broken into the home before fleeing the scene.

Following initial inquiries, police have found evidence that a firearm was discharged towards the home.

As investigations continue, any witnesses or anyone with dashcam footage around the area at the time of the incident is urged to come forward and contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

07 February, from NSW Police Force

Three people will appear in court today charged following an investigation into alleged aggravated break and enters in Sydney, under Strike Force Sweetenham.

More information here.

Watch video here.

05 February, from Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command:

Police are appealing for information after a woman was hit by a bus yesterday. About 9.15pm yesterday (Tuesday 4 February 2025), emergency services were called to the intersection of Mona Vale Road and Memorial Avenue, St Ives, following reports of a crash.

Officers attached to Kuring-gai Police Area Command attended and found a pedestrian had been hit by a bus.

NSW Ambulance paramedics treated a 40-year-old woman at the scene before being taken to hospital in a critical condition.

The bus driver, a 54-year-old man, was arrested before being taken to the hospital for a mandatory testing.

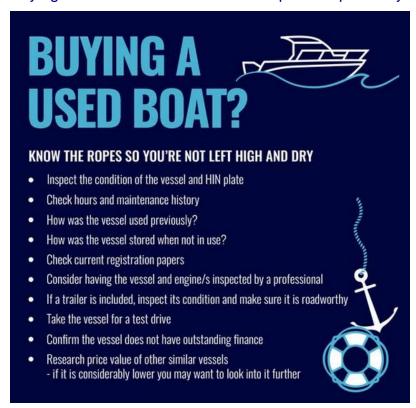
Upon release, the man was taken to Hornsby Police Station where he assisted police with inquiries and released a short time later pending further inquiries.

A crime scene has been established and officers from Crash Investigation Unit have commenced an investigation into the circumstances of the crash.

Anyone with information about the incident, CCTV or dashcam footage is urged to contact police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

04 February, from Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command

Buying a used boat? Here are some tips to help make your decision!





11 February, from Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC)

Small butt, big fine. The value of littering fines in NSW has increased significantly and the maximum on-the-spot fine for littering a cigarette butt is now \$1,000!

Cigarette butts are made from plastic and aren't biodegradable so if littered, remain in the environment for a long time. Littered butts often get washed down stormwater drains and end up in local waterways where they release toxic chemicals and harm aquatic animals.

Please be a responsible smoker and always bin your butts. If no bin is available, store them in a pocket ashtray for disposal later. An array of pocket ashtray styles can be purchased online.



Blue Mountains City Council Blacktown City Council Cumberland City Council
Hawkesbury City Council Liverpool City Council Australia City of Parramatta
The Hills Shire Council Fairfield City Council

11 February, from NSW Reconstruction Authority

Support is now available for Central Coast, Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Newcastle, Wagga Wagga, and Wingecarribee residents, businesses and primary producers impacted by the severe weather and storms from 15 January 2025.



For more information on the support available go to site here.

Natural Disaster Declaration

Available support for individuals*:

- Grants for low income, uninsured residents to replace lost essential household items to maintain basic standard of living
- Grants for low income, uninsured residents to undertake essential structural repairs to homes damaged by the disaster event

Available support for primary producers and small businesses*:

- Concessional loans up to \$130,000
- Transport subsidies up to \$15,000

*Conditions apply



11 February, from Neighbourhood Watch WA

Graffiti vandalism is estimated to cost Western Australia taxpayers over \$25 million each year.

It is not just an eyesore; it can contribute to a sense of insecurity within our communities. Research indicates that graffiti is the second greatest concern for residents, and it often leads to other criminal behaviours.



How the Neighbourhood Watch Community Can Help

Report Incidents: If you witness graffiti being applied or see offensive graffiti (such as racist or obscene content), please report it immediately to the police by calling 131 444. Quick reporting helps authorities respond promptly and effectively.

Clean Up and Notify: If you encounter graffiti on public assets or community facilities, notify your local council or use the online reporting forms available

through the State Graffiti Taskforce

(https://submission.police.wa.gov.au/report_graffiti/). Many local governments offer free removal services or advice on how to tackle graffiti effectively. In Anonymous Reporting: If you know who is responsible for a graffiti incident, you can report them anonymously through Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000). Your information could help prevent further vandalism and protect your community.

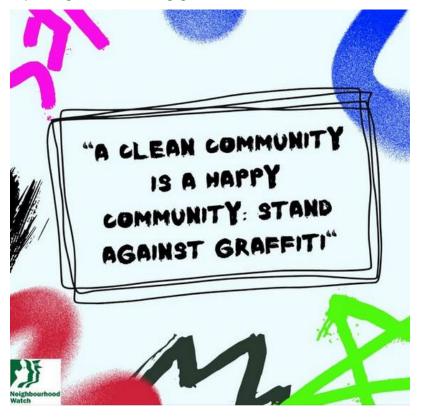
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Promote Rapid Removal: Encourage your neighbours to support rapid removal of graffiti, as this best practice reduces the recognition and reward sought by vandals. The sooner graffiti is removed, the less likely it is to attract more vandalism.

Community Awareness: Engage in discussions about the impact of graffiti on our neighbourhoods during community meetings or events. Share tips on prevention and encourage others to take pride in their surroundings.

Together, we can work towards reducing graffiti vandalism in our communities. By staying vigilant and proactive, we can create a safer and more welcoming environment for everyone. Let's take action against graffiti and foster a sense of ownership and pride in our neighbourhoods! For more information on

reporting and removing graffiti, visit the State Graffiti Taskforce website here.



11 February, from NSW Department of Education

Ready to level up your online safety game this <u>#SaferInternetDay</u>? *******Our Cybermarvel program and the <u>eSafety Commissioner</u> have you covered with free webinars for parents & carers to gain knowledge, skills & tools to help

kiddos stay safe and savvy in the digital world.



11 February, from eSafety Commissioner

If you see or experience online hate, block the user and report it to the platform



Online hate can impact anyone, but certain individuals and groups are more likely to be targeted. New eSafety research shows adults who identified as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, sexually diverse, with disability and/or as linguistically diverse were more likely to see (41%) and personally experience (24%) online hate.

Other key findings include:

- Most online hate experienced by adults from targeted groups is perpetrated by strangers.
- Adults from targeted groups most commonly experience online hate on social media.
- Online hate has harmful effects on the wellbeing of adults from targeted groups.

Online hate should be reported to the platform, and tech companies must do more to protect users by enforcing their own terms of service and improving their reporting tools. Online hate intended to cause serious harm to an individual may meet the threshold for adult cyber abuse, which eSafety has the powers to remove if platforms don't act. Report it to us here.
Read the report here.



11 February, Neighbourhoowd Watch Cowra updated their cover photo



Can you recognise this light blue LandCruiser?



Location: Turramurra Coles carpark

Date, Time: 9 February, 6:15pm

If you recognise your car or recall that you 'accidentally' crashed our car and took off aggressively, please contact Gordon Police station ASAP! Luckily we have multiple witnesses, who were nearly ran over by you before the accident and few security cameras caught the accident which were installed around the area, but we are happy to withdraw the report if you voluntarily like to cover our damage!

If anyone might have seen this car and have information about the driver, please send me a DM!

Thank you for your help and stay safe of crazy drivers!

The photo is just an illustration of the model and colour!

11 February, Shared with permission from the Scam Watchdog Australia ii group:

Can I just quickly ask an Admin, Moderator or other awsome IT members in this group about the following?

This last Saturday, I was sitting in my Dad's truck, with the passenger side door opened, as it's hot and humid here in Cairns, waiting for a friend to come out of a shop at our local community area.

A kid about 11, approached my passenger side and asked politely if he could use my mobile phone to 'Hot Spot' to his phone so he could make a call. I didn't like the idea of handing my phone over to a stranger, let alone a kid, even though he had his phone in his hand.

My friend had just returned to the vehicle, and being IT savvy than myself, I told my friend that this kid wanted to 'Hot Spot' my phone to his, so he could make an emergency call, even though I asked the kid if he was alright and OK. My friend immediately told the kid to go into one of the community shops and ask for help or he could dial triple 0 if he was stranded, out of credit, and the Police would arrive, being a minor.

My friend told me, that had I allowed the kid to Hotspot my credit or phone to his, he could have everything duplicated from my phone to his, including any Apps, Phone Banking, passwords and other information relating to my phone. So I know kids these days are born in an IT era, but I was wondering now are 'Mules' asking kids to go up to strangers and ask for permission to use people's phones to Hotspot, or are these kids becoming clever enough on their own, to know how to potentially scam someone by being innocent to ask for phones for help?

I didn't give my phone to the kid, but my friend told me if I did and he had Hotspot my phone to his, I would have been completely compromised in my mobile phone.

Is this now a new generation of young scammers, or am I looking too much into this?

Cheers.

10 February, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & HornsbyShared with permission from the <u>Lindfield/ East Lindfield/ Killara/Roseville</u>

Community Group 3 days ago:

The Eton Road bus stop has been the victim of graffiti for quite some time but I've never seen it this bad.

I've reached out to Transport NSW multiple times even suggesting CCTV cameras as a deterrent.

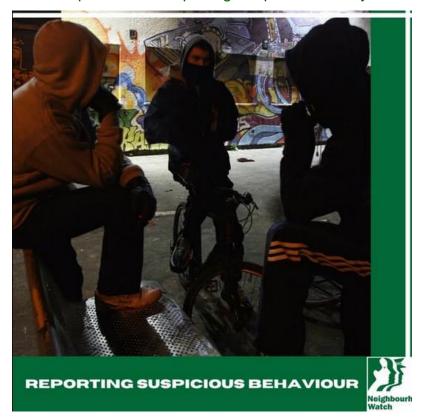
I'm worried that this will encourage more graffiti in other areas if not cleaned up quickly.

Can anyone think of a there way that we can get a long term solution?



09 February, from Neighbourhood Watch WA

The Importance of Reporting Suspicious Activity!



As neighbours, we play a crucial role in keeping our communities safe. One of the most effective ways to do this is by reporting suspicious behaviour to the authorities. Prompt reporting can help prevent crime and protect our neighbourhoods. Here's why it matters and what to look out for:

Why Report Suspicious Activity?

- 1.Early Intervention: Reporting suspicious activity allows law enforcement to intervene early, potentially preventing a crime before it occurs.
- 2. Community Safety: When suspicious behaviour is reported, it contributes to the overall safety and well-being of our community. It helps create a safer environment for everyone.
- 3. Building Intelligence: Each report adds valuable information that law enforcement can use to identify patterns and trends in criminal activity, leading to more effective policing strategies.

What Constitutes Suspicious Activity?

- 1. Unusual Behaviour: Someone loitering around vehicles or homes, especially at odd hours, could be a sign of potential criminal intent.
- 2. Tampering with Property: If you see someone attempting to break into a car or tampering with locks, this should be reported immediately.
- 3. Strange Vehicles: A vehicle parked in your area for an extended period without reason, especially if it appears out of place, may warrant further attention.
- 4. Altered Identification: If someone claims to be a representative of a service (like utility or maintenance) but cannot provide proper identification or documentation, this is suspicious.

How to Report

- -In an Emergency: If you believe there is an immediate threat to life or property, please call 000 (Triple Zero). This number is reserved for urgent situations requiring police, fire, or ambulance services.
- -For Non-Emergencies: If the situation does not require immediate police assistance but you still need police attendance, call the Police Assistance Line at 131 444.
- -Report Anonymously: For information about unsolved crimes or suspicious activity that does not require urgent action, contact Crime Stoppers at 1800 333 000 or visit their website (https://www.crimestopperswa.com.au/). Your information can help prevent further crime while keeping your identity confidential.

By staying aware and reporting suspicious activity, we can all contribute to a safer community. Let's work together to keep our neighbourhoods safe!

09 February, from Auburn Police Area Command: Don't be a victim of Motorbike or Scooter theft. Simple steps on this flyer can help you from

being a victim.



09 February, Shared with permission from the Turramurra and Wahroonga Community group:

Hi - I just thought I'd share in case it's useful. Often the traffic lights on the corner of pac hwy and fox valley only has a very short green arrow, 1 or 2 cars get past and traffic backs up. Today the traffic was backed up past the village, I called 131700 (option 4 I think) told the man. He could see it on the camera and fixed it immediately, putting on a longer green arrow and clearing so much of the traffic. I mentioned it happens a lot during peak times, and he said he would flag it especially if there are more calls.

Every now and then police remind "tradies" about security of the tools they use in their everyday work. During busy times it is easy to become a bit too casual and this is when thieves strike.

The South Brisbane District Crime Prevention Unit Officer in Charge, Acting Senior Sergeant Crystal Moore, is concerned about an increase in the theft of tradies tools and posted the following suggestions in the South Brisbane myPolice blog a few days ago. The post says it all so I simply suggest that anyone who is a tradesperson, or who engages tradies, read the post and take on board the suggestions made.

Following a visit to Cannon Hill Bunnings on 4 February 2025, mentioned in the post, A/Senior Sergeant Moore posted another similar message to reinforce the earlier suggestions https://mypolice.qld.gov.au/southbrisbane/2025/02/05/we-see-the-value-in-the-tools-of-your-trade/

More information here.



09 February, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

Shared with permission from the Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby group:

On 6 February, at around 8:30-8:40am, I locked my bike and helmet at the Station Street bike racks right outside Hornsby Station. At 7pm later that day, I returned to the bike racks to find that my bike, helmet and the bike lock had been stolen without a trace. I was very shocked and disappointed - the bike was

bought during Christmas time, and is a Silverback Stride HD 29" Hardtail Mountain Bike Moondust Black. The devastating thing is that I had been saving money for it for over a year.

As sunset happens around 8pm in summer, it means that the theft happened in broad daylight, at a location situated opposite the Hornsby Station bus stops where there are usually plenty of passers-by throughout the entire day.

This means there are three possibilities. The first possibility is that no one saw what happened to my bike, which I find very hard to believe. The second possibility is that people did see my bike being transported elsewhere, but assumed that it belonged to the thief. The third possibility is that people did see my bike being stolen, but did not care enough to report the incident to police. I genuinely hope that this is not the case.

If anyone recalls seeing anything suspicious on Station Street that day, I would greatly appreciate them coming forward to reply to this post. I have reported the matter to police, but highly doubt they can do anything without any eyewitness testimony. The bike was parked at an extremely awkward angle for the nearest security camera to catch anything important.

I have attached a photo of the bike model that was stolen below. Thank you and stay safe.



08 February, Shared with permission from the <u>Lindfield/ East Lindfield/ Killara/Roseville Community Group</u>:

** BREAK INS around our area **

I've spoken to a few parents at school in the last week that have had break ins into their homes in the St Ives & Turramurra areas overnight.

They have had security cameras but not woken till the morning and seen these thieves coming thru their kitchens.

These thieves are now sending in a smaller person to climb thru the backyard doggy door, enter the home, steal the car keys and whatever else they can get & drive off in your vehicles.

The break ins thru the doggy door is now a common occurrence!!

I have a doggy door that can lock on the inside. I just wanted to let you all know to start locking your doggy doors at night.

If you don't have a lockable doggy door flap then I bought mine thru Patio Link as I'm renting it's a great option so I didn't need to cut a hole in the owners door.

And no I don't work for Patio link - I'm just helping you out!



07 February, from Transport for NSW



Do you know the current policy for driving on your overseas licence in NSW?

If you moved to NSW prior to 1 July 2023, you have until 28 February 2025 to get a NSW driver's licence to continue driving.

Just arrived? You need to get a NSW driver's licence within 6 months.

Find out more at nsw.gov.au.

07 February, from 7news.com.au: One dead in apparent self-harm at Sydney's Lindfield Station, causing major disruptions

A person has died in an apparent act of self-harm at a <u>Sydney train</u> station, causing major disruptions as passengers were evacuated.

"An incident requiring emergency services" had occurred on <u>Sydney's</u> T1 train line at Lindfield in Sydney's northwest, Sydney Trains posted on X at 12.48pm on Friday.

7NEWS understands the incident involved an apparent act of self-harm and someone died at the scene.

For details, click here.



07 February, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV

We're always telling you to wear your seatbelt, but we're taking a break from that today to tell you the why



07 February, from abc.net.au: What we know about Tammie Farrugia and Scott Marshall, the pair allegedly linked to the Dural caravan explosives



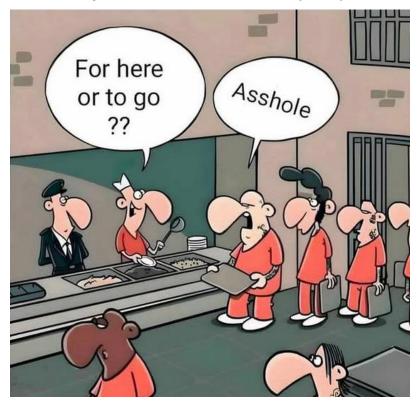
Tammie Farrugia and her partner Scott Marshall have allegedly been named in a search warrant connected to a caravan stuffed with explosives and containing a list of Jewish synagogues.

The ABC has obtained security footage showing their Liverpool home was raided by police two days after the van was discovered at Dural in the city's north-west.

The footage, captured by the doorbell camera of a neighbour, shows a riot squad officer, forensic officers, detectives and a sniffer dog attending the site for at least two hours.

For details, click here.

07 February, from The Last Governor (book)



07 February, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ing-gai & Hornsby

Thanks to The Squiz - Edited to remove political aspects of the post (as requested by a resident):

... about a caravan containing explosives (which was later linked to a potential antisemitic attack...) being found in rural NSW. News of the caravan incident was leaked to the media last week, about 10 days after the explosives were discovered.

Remind me what happened...

You can check out the timeline of events, but the caravan was found in Dural, about 30km northwest of Sydney, by a local resident who was worried it had been dumped in a dangerous spot on the side of the road. He took it home, and, failing to find its owner, broke inside on 19 January - finding the explosives and calling police. Officers then found maps pointing to Jewish locations around Sydney, leading them to believe it was going to be used in a "mass casualty" antisemitic.

07 February, from Neighbourhood Watch Pymble & West Pymble

Shared with permission from the Pymble and West Pymble Community Group: Hello everyone.

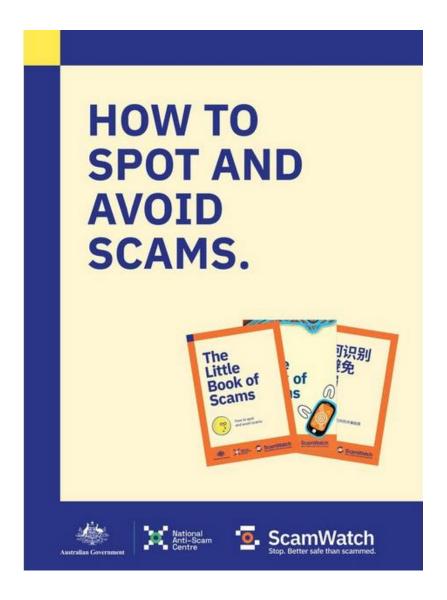
My car was keyed while I was at West Pymble pool yestereday, 5/2/25, between 3:00 & 5:00pm. I suspect the driver of a small red hatch-back with deteriorated duco. He was young with brown hair, wearing sunnies and a long-sleeved yellow high-vis top. I did not get the rego number. If anyone may have dash-cam footage, could you please have a look and let me know if you can help with identifying the vandal. Unfortunately I do not have a dash-cam fitted! (Will certainly do that ASAP).

Thanks so much,

Julie

06 February, from ACCC

Scam awareness is the best way to defend against scammers. The Scamwatch Little Book of Scams is a simple guide on how to spot, avoid and protect yourself from scammers. You can download and share the guide, including translated versions, from the Scamwatch website here.



05 February, from Australian Federal Police: Do you know what your child is getting up to online?

Kids can often unknowingly get caught up in illegal online activity. Most of the time, there is no malicious intent, they simply want to test their online skills. When they don't get caught, they continue to push the boundaries and can wind up getting involved with cybercriminals.

Some examples of illegal activity include:

- · Booting a friend off a computer game.
- Logging into parents' bank accounts without permission.
- Hacking into their school system to change their grades.

Accessing a teacher's computer and deleting their files.
 Talk to your kids to ensure they are doing the right thing as illegal activity can lead to serious consequences.



05 February, from North Shore Times

Startling figures have revealed the huge number of fines dished out to leadfooted motorists speeding through school zones, with cameras raking in a staggering \$23m in fines in just six months. See the list of worst locations <u>here.</u>



04 February, from Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

#QuickTip

Are you listing your car for sale online?

Black out the number plates before uploading your photos, to prevent them from being cloned.



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.

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

Intro to online shopping and banking - Part one

Wednesday 12 February: FREE online webinar for carers and parents of Year

7 (eSafety Commissioner) - 12:30-1pm Supporting healthy tech use as your

child transitions into high school. Info & registration here.

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

Tuesday 25 February: FREE online webinar for carers and parents of Year 7

(eSafety Commissioner) - 3:30-4pm Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into high school. Info & registration <u>here</u>.

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

Wednesday 19 March: FREE online webinar for carers and parents (eSafety Commissioner) - 12:30-1pm Algorithms and adolescents: the rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people. Info & registration here.

From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: 'Frequently Asked Questions #31: 'WHEN I MOVE HOME, WHOM SHOULD I INFORM?'

Here are some:

- Medicare (as soon as possible)
- Pet Registration with your local council (within 14 days), Pet Insurance, Vet
- Firearms Registry (within 14 days)
- Service NSW (ex-RMS) for car/boat registration and to add your new address to your

Drivers Licence (within 14 days)

- Your employer
- Australian Tax Office (ATO) (within 28 days)
- Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) (within 28 days)
- Australian Business Register (within 28 days) and for any SMSF with an ABN
- All your previous employers (your last group certificate will go to the last address they

have on file)

- Department of Immigration & Citizenship (if at new address for more than 14 days)
- Worker Checks eg Working with Children (within 21 days), NDISWC (within 3

months)

• Electoral Roll (if at new address for more than 14 days)

For the complete FAQ, with reasoning etc, see the FAQ#31 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 UK Cop Humour

Don't throw sodium chloride at people. That's a salt.

Thanks to Michael Schilling of Dad Jokes

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.