



## Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #721 - 05 August 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.

### 03 August, from Ku-ring-gai command: CAPTCHA/PHISHING SCAM

Scammers are luring victims with fake CAPTCHA pop ups designed to manipulate victims into installing malware onto their devices, stealing personal data.

See the attached photograph for further information.



### 01 August, from Ku-ring-gai command: P LOCKSMITHS SCAMS P

Unlicensed locksmiths are advertising extremely low call out fees, as low as \$29, to lure unsuspecting customers.

See the image below for further information.

If you're a victim, please report to

- Your local police station: In person
- SW Police Community Portal: Portal.police.nsw.gov.au
- Police Assistance Line: 131 444

### 30 July, from Ku-ring-gai command: MBEWARE OF ATO SCAMS MB

\*\*\* Do not click on links \*\*\*

\*\*\* Do not provide personal or financial information \*\*\* See below for more information.



30 July, from Tuggerah Lakes Police District: Tuggerah Lakes Police District are seeking information relating to the current whereabouts of the person listed below.

We strongly suggest she present to the nearest Police Station to have this matter promptly dealt with.

Courtney SMITH, 24yo, is wanted by virtue of 2 warrants - W65072814 & W65128398. Courtney's whereabouts is currently unknown however Police believe she may be in the Wyong area.

Police are urging anyone with information in relation to this incident to call **Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000** or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>. Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence.



29 July, from Parramatta command: The Next of Kin Program helps people living alone to have the contact details of their nominated person recorded at a local police station.



[More information and form to download <u>here</u> - Ed]



## 05 August, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: Why paint your house number on the kerb?

The kerb is chosen to enable emergency services to look to a common place, away from the physical structure of the house, to identify an address.

Our Kerb Number Stencil Kits are currently available to borrow. Each kit contains all necessary stencils, paints (black, white and reflective), wire brush, tape, turps, acetone, traffic cones, high vis vest and full instructions. Please contact us for more information and to borrow a kit: <a href="mailto:nhwkuringgaihornsby@gmail.com">nhwkuringgaihornsby@gmail.com</a>.

## 04 August, from News.com.au: NSW Police have 352 unidentified bodies and human remains located in different areas throughout the state.

NSW police believe five families could hold the key to the 80-year-old mystery of two fishing boats lost at the sea on the same day after being hit by ferocious weather. Despite extensive searches of the NSW coastline in the days and weeks following the separate catastrophes on May 15, 1948, neither the "Joyce" nor "Syd" vessels or anyone on board either of them, has ever been seen again. The Joyce departed from Woy Woy carrying seven work colleagues from the Nielsen Slipper Factory...

Read full article here.



### 04 August, from Trend Micro Home: Are you planning a getaway?



Travel scams are on the rise - from fake booking sites to dodgy deals that vanish overnight.

Don't get caught out - know what to look for and learn how to stay safe before you book. Read more in our latest blog.

Read 'Online Travel Booking Scams to Watch Out For' here.

### 02 August, from HART: "Lights On" at HART - Sunday 21 September 2025

A unique night-driving experience designed for learner drivers (under 25) and their supervising drivers. Join us on the HART circuit in St Ives for a unique chance to practise driving after dark in a safe, controlled environment. We're teaming up with NSW Police Highway Patrol to spotlight road safety - including simulated Random Breath Testing (RBT) to give learners a taste of real-world driving encounters.

FREE Limited spots available – don't miss out! More info here.

HART | 451 Mona Vale Road St Ives NSW 2075 | 02 9391 5110 | hart.nsw@honda.com.au



02 August, from NSW Police: A 60-year-old man reported missing from Canoelands on Saturday 2 August 2025 has been found.

## 02 August, Shared with permission from the North Turramurra Community Support group:

Morning all, I found a power tool in the middle of the road at the North Turramurra roundabout this morning. If you or a tradesperson you know may have misplaced it, please private message me with a precise description to ensure its safe return.

02 August from NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: A new flyer from the Terrorism Protections Unit on 'Personal Security Guidance'.

Download the pdf <u>here</u>.

Or email us here for a pdf in your inbox: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com



02 August, from NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: On Friday Neighbourhood Watch NSW - Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby volunteers were invited to join our local Multicultural Community Liaison Officer, Fiona Zhou, and police officers from Hornsby police station, Senior Constable Ian Boon and Constable Markus.

They were giving a presentation about the police, security, safety issues and particular warnings to the English class students at the Gordon Baptist Church. Some of our documentation is translated into other languages than English and today a selection of Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Iranian was needed. Thanks to Gay and Julia. Well done to Fiona! She does a great job, using her gentle humour to connect with the students.

Among various documentation provided, copies of 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for Storage Cages' were distributed to all attendees. If you'd like a copy, please view/download via our website Safety Tips page here.



## 02 August, Shared with permission from the Lindfield/ East Lindfield/ Killara/Roseville Community Group:

Our cars were stolen from our front yard last night in Wellington Road, East Lindfield. The thieves came in the front door and stole the car keys from our key rack between 3.30am (our daughter was studying downstairs until that time) and 6.30am. Please make sure your doors are locked and your car keys are not anywhere visible. Police recovered one car in Chatswood - the little Peugot 302 (12 years old) is still lost.

## **02** August, Shared with permission from the Thornleigh Westleigh and Normanhurst Community group:

Morning, we live in Avery Street, Normanhurst and last night my stepson had tools stolen from his Ute. We are reporting, however, any one else had this happen to them last night?

### And from the comments:

My hubby's Ute was broken into early this morning too. We are at Lockerbie. Only a plastic container was taken.

We are on Dartford and someone attempted my husband's ute at 3.44am. Fortunately everything was locked. We have sent footage to Hornsby police.

## 01 August, from the ABC.net.au: AFP moves to allay parents' fears at dozens of Sydney OSHCs.

A suppression order was lifted on the identity of a former police officer who allegedly produced...

#### In short:

The six children care centres where alleged paedophile David James offended have been revealed, after the 26-year-old was charged with more than a dozen offences.

The Independent Education Union has called for higher safety standards to be brought into the early education and outside school hours care sector.

The National Outside School Hours Services Alliance chair said centres were frustrated they were not aware of the offending prior to media reports about the alleged incidents.

### The six centres where the alleged offences occurred are:

Pyrmont OSHC — City of Sydney

OSHClub — Barker College

Willoughby Kids House

Helping Hands — St Ives Park Public School

St Ives Primary OSHCare — St Ives Public School

Helping Hands — Lane Cove West

### Read full article here.



ABC.NET.AU

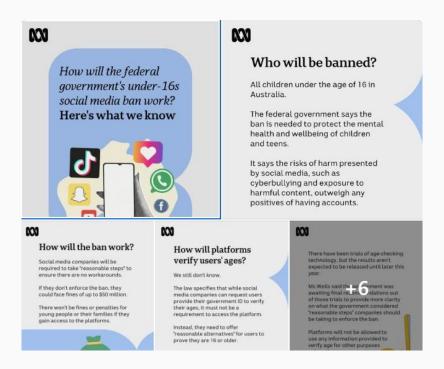
AFP moves to allay parents' fears at dozens of Sydney OSHCs

A suppression order was lifted on the identity of a former police officer who allegedly produce...

## 01 August, from ABC News: Australia is months away from implementing its world-first social media ban for users under the age of 16.

But questions still remain around how the restrictions will work, and exactly which platforms will be affected. Just this week, the federal government reversed plans to provide an exemption to video-sharing site YouTube, following a recommendation from eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant. Here's what to know about the teen social media ban.

### Read more here.



## 01 August, from The Hills command: ♣♣ Theft Alert – Old Northern Road, Dural ♣♣

P Location: Old Northern Road, Dural

U Time: 5:00 AM

Date: 28 July 2025
Ref No: E 102757280

NSW Police Force – Hills Police Area Command is investigating a theft incident involving fencing materials. A male person of interest (POI) was captured on CCTV using a Ute during the offence. The Ute has distinctive markings on the left-hand side that may help identify it. If you recognise this vehicle or have any information that could assist investigators, please contact Crime Stoppers NSW at 1800 333 000 or visit their website. All information is treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Solution Please do not report information via NSW Police Force social media pages.
♣ Thank you for helping us keep our community safe!



## 01 August, Shared with permission from the Pymble and West Pymble Community Group:

Hey neighbours. I walked out our driveway this am to find a women going through the glove box of our car. 7.45am! Not sure if she took anything.. probably coins. She ran off and jumped in a silver toyota. Just letting you know it's not always in the cover of darkness. Have reported it.

## 01 August, from NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: Taken from the latest IDcare eNewsletter, Cyber Sushi:

Behind the mask: The Guide to New and Trending Scams

## Indeed, this is no job: Employment Scams Targeting Job Seekers on Indeed

We've seen a sharp rise in employment scams on the popular job search platform Indeed, where job seekers believed they were applying to reputable Australian organisations – only to end up handing over sensitive personal information including:

bank account and superannuation details

tax file numbers (TFN)

copies of their driver's licence, passport and Medicare card. These scams are convincing and often promise the job immediately to build trust.

### Our tips:

- ✓ Verify the job offer by contacting the organisation directly through their
  official website or phone number (not the contact details in the ad).
- X Never send personal identity documents like your driver's licence or passport until you've met the employer in person and confirmed the role is genuine.

### Pet Microchip Renewal Scams Target Pet Owners

We're warning pet owners after reports of scam emails claiming your pet's microchip registration has expired. These emails look legitimate and even include:

your pet's name and photo microchip number an "official" looking payment page asking for a \$20 renewal Our tips:

- ✓ Access your pet's registration account through the official council or registry website, not via links in emails.
- X Don't pay any fees or provide details until you've verified the request directly with your local pet registry.

### Extortion Email Threats: "Pay Me or I'll Harm You"

Disturbing extortion emails are being sent out claiming someone has paid the sender to harm the recipient (e.g., throw acid in their face). The email demands \$2,000 in cryptocurrency within 24 hours to "call off the hit." Sweetening the deal are promises to reveal the person who "ordered" the attack once the fee is paid.

### Our tips:

- ✓ These are mass scam emails designed to frighten you into paying.
- X Do not reply, do not pay, and do not engage. Report the email and delete it immediately.

### Scammers Impersonating Priests Asking for Donations

We're seeing scams where criminals impersonate well-known priests on Facebook and WhatsApp, requesting donations for "orphanages." In one case, a scammer used a fake account of a well-known priest and asked for a \$400 donation.

### Our tips:

- ✓ If asked for a donation, verify directly with the organisation or person using official contact details.
- X Never transfer money or gift cards based solely on social media messages even if the profile seems legitimate.

### The Elon Musk Fan Scam (X/Twitter)

Scammers are posing as Elon Musk on X/Twitter, claiming to be rewarding loyal followers with cryptocurrency or exclusive "meet and greet" opportunities. One client was asked to:

create crypto wallets

share their wallet details

pay a \$2,250 "liquidity fee" to unlock a fake \$10 million "reward" Our tips:

- ✓ Be wary of unsolicited opportunities, especially those linked to celebrity accounts.
- X Legitimate organisations and public figures will never ask you to pay a fee to access winnings or rewards.

## 31 July, from NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: Do you know any Spanish-speaking residents?

They may appreciate a copy of the Reporting Crime in Ku-ring-gai flyer, which is translated into Spanish. It is available to download from the Ku-ring-gai Council website (scroll to the bottom of the page) <u>here</u>.



Email us <u>here</u> for a pdf in your inbox.

# 31 July, from NSW Fair Trading: Never place a heat/wheat pack on or in your bedding – blankets trap heat and can cause burns or even start a fire.

Always follow the heating instructions. If you smell something burning, let it cool completely and dispose of it safely - it's no longer safe to use.

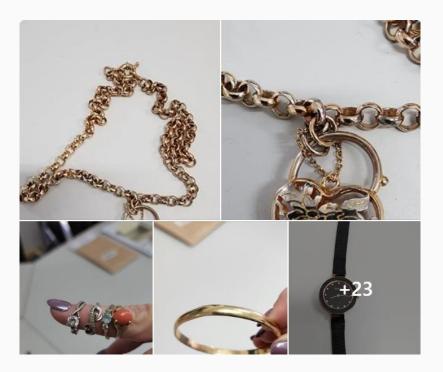
More heat pack hacks <u>here</u>.

# 31 July, from Tuggerah Lakes Police District: Tuggerah Lakes Police District are hoping to return some property seized during a search warrant last month.

If you recognise any of these items, please contact the Exhibits Officer at Wyong Police Station.

Proof of ownership (such as photographs or receipts) may be required.

### Reference number E102179080.



Further photos can be shared with you - email us at NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

# 31 July, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness: WITH PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY EXPERIENCING SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

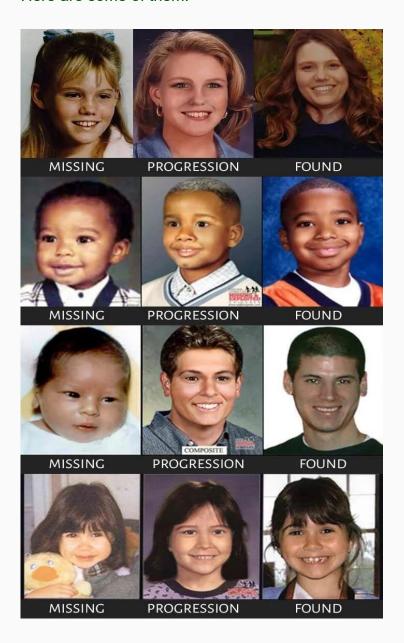
Please keep in mind we must adjust the way we drive or ride.

- -Do not use cruise control.
- -Turn on your headlights.
- -Lower your speed.
- -Increase your distance from the car in front.
- -Ensure your wipers and tyres are in good condition
- -Allow plenty of time for your journey.
- -Be vigilant to your surroundings.
- -Avoid distractions.
- -Pull over if you need to.
- -If it's flooded, FORGET IT.

Please be cautious and alert. We all deserve to get home safely.

## 31 July, from MaximBady: Ever wondered how accurate the lost child age progression photos are?

Here are some of them.



## 30 July, Shared with permission from the Pymble and West Pymble Community Group yesterday (Tuesday):

Did anyone else hear the hoon driving erratically around Wallalong Crescent area at about 4:30pm this afternoon? So dangerous. Many young kids out and about. Ended up calling the police to do a drive by. Thank goodness nobody was injured.

### And from the comments:

I saw it and heard it. It was a couple of young dudes in a green new model X5

and a silver Audi A3. Saw them practising handbrake turns in the Audi, while the BMW nearly crashed into it several times.

## 30 July, from the NRMA: What your car knows about you: How smart vehicles in Australia are collecting your data

As connected cars become more common on Australian roads, we investigate how modern vehicles track, store and share personal data — and what it means for your privacy

Full article here.

## 30 July, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness: FREE ID CAR SEAT STICKERS.

These stickers adhere to your child's car seat or seatbelt. Essential in an Emergency. To receive yours for Free: Message us or Email: diane.mcmurtrie@hotmail.com (For Australian Residents Only).



### 30 July, Shared with permission from the Berowra Community Group:

Hi everyone, I had my car broken into at home last night in Berowra - I had 2 Makita drills, a Makita palm sander, double Makita battery charger, a Makita blower, 7 or 8 batteries & a Makita bag with everything in it. If anyone sees this

posted on Marketplace or knows anyone selling these Makita items, could you please get in touch? Thank you.

30 July, from NSW Fair Trading: NSW Fair Trading has entered into a two-year Enforceable Undertaking from 17 July 2025 with Autosports Castle Hill Pty Ltd (ACN 163 974 481), trading as Volvo Cars Parramatta, Castle Hill Volkswagen, Dycati Sydney by Autosports, Sydney City Land Rover, Bentley Sydney, Sydney City Jaguar, Brighton Jaguar Land Rover, Brighton Land Rover and Brighton Jaguar.

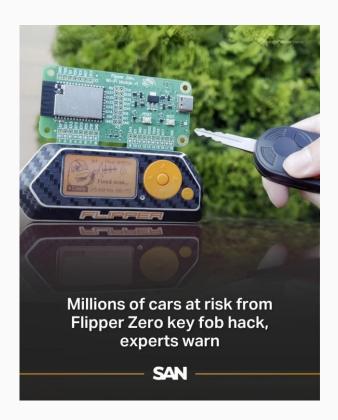
This action follows an inspection and investigation into conduct between 17 July 2018 and 24 May 2024, which identified violations of the Motor Dealers & Repairers Act 2013, Motor Dealers & Repairers Regulation 2014, Australian Consumer Law 2010, and NSW Fair Trading Act 1987.

The Undertaking reflects a shared commitment to improving future compliance with consumer protection laws and ensuring better service and transparency for customers across the various dealership locations. NSW Fair trading encourages customer to remain vigilant when buying a motor vehicle. Learn more <a href="https://example.com/here/beta/">https://example.com/here/beta/</a>.

29 July, from Straight Arrow News: Hackers have a new way to break into – or even steal – your car, and all it takes is the push of a button.

Malicious actors are circumventing modern security protections in automotive key fobs, researchers warn, putting millions of vehicles at risk. The hack works by intercepting and cloning a key fob's radio signal, using custom firmware built for the Flipper Zero, a handheld device designed for analyzing and testing wireless communication protocols.

Article with details on what vehicles are vulnerable here.



## 29 July, from TheNightly.com.au: Sydney childcare centre investigated after toddlers found with mouths taped shut during controversial activity

A Sydney childcare centre is under investigation after toddlers were found to have masking tape placed over their mouths during a so-called breathing exercise, an incident that has drawn swift condemnation from regulators and child safety experts. The incident took place at Heritage House in Wahroonga, where an educator reportedly led a "baby yoga" session involving mouth taping to encourage nasal breathing and mindfulness.

### Full article here.



## 29 July, from the Senior.com.au: Grey Graffiti Squad takes down tagging vandals' thrills and egos



Mark Hedges, Sue Rice, Roger Blackwood, Roger Norman, Mike Owen and Duk-Soo Park of the Turramurra Rotary Club Graffiti Removal Project. Picture supplied.

Full article here.

### 28 July, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

Last week's eNewsletter didn't have the link to the Get Ready Weekend 2025. Read more about this annual event <u>here</u>. Scroll to the bottom and plan on preparing your 'My Fire Plan.



RES.NSW.GOV.AU

Get Ready Weekend 2025 - NSW Rural Fire Service

As the bush fire season approaches, it's crucial for NSW residents and landowners to be aware of their risk and take steps to protect their homes and properties. To help you prepare, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) hosts...

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Wednesday 30 July:** FREE online webinar for parents - Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men (the impact of social media, gaming, and influencers on attitudes, behaviours and sense of identity). 12:30-1:15pm. Info and registration **here**.

**Thursday 31 July:** 11am-noon. FREE BeConnected online presentation, 'Connecting to Others. 'Bookings & info.

Tuesday 05 August: FREE eSafety Commissioner 'The changing face of

cyberbullying - protecting your child in 2025' webinar. 12:30-1:15pm Register <u>here</u>.

**Thursday 14 August:** FREE Computer Pals - Avoid Scams 2-3:30pm @ East Lindfield Community Hall, 9 Wellington St, East Lindfield. Info.

Monday 18 August: RFS & Ku-ring-gai Council Street Meet 5.30-7pm @ West Pymble Community Hall.

Tuesday 19 August: FREE Hornsby Australian Red Cross EmergencyRedi™ Workshop (Prepare for extreme weather) 10-11:30am @ Hornsby RSL. Info & Bookings.

**Thursday 21 August:** FREE eSafety Commissioner 'Al-assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat' webinar. 12:30-1:15pm. Info.

**Thursday 28 August:** FREE CPR & Basic First Aid workshop' for the Korean community. 10am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Aquatic & Leisure Centre. Info.

Friday 29 August: Wear it Purple Day Info.

**Saturday 20-Sunday 21 September**: Killara RFS Get Ready Weekend. venue etc tbc.

**Saturday 15 - Sunday 16 November:** Ku-ring-gai Council Chemical Clean Out weekend @ St Ives Showground. Info.

Two criminals stole a calendar They got six months each.

Thanks to UpJoke.com

It amazes me that I can successfully cannulate, draw up, and administer a drug whilst standing in the back of an ambulance doing 50mph, avoiding every pot hole.....yet I can't eat a McDonald's without spilling ketchup on my uniform.

Thanks to Paramedic Humour

#### **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. For Police to attend non-urgently without lights & sirens.

### **NSW Police Community Portal**

Online reporting of non-emergency minor crime: lost property, intentional damage, graffiti or theft. No emergency/investigation.

### 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 NSW - 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 - Mt Colah (paused)

Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra (The Chase) (paused)







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This email has been forwarded to you by Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please share the information with anyone you think may be interested, and encourage them to join our Distribution lists. Thank you. If you live outside the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai area, please contact your local Crime Prevention officer for similar information for your locality. If you are unaware of an active Neighbourhood Watch group in your area, please consider starting one.

### Our mailing address is:

Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby
c/o Crime Prevention Officer, Ku-ring-gai NSW Police PAC - Hornsby Police Station
292 Peats Ferry Road
Hornsby, NSW 2077
Australia

