



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #735 - 11 November 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</u> <u>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.

11 November, from NSW Police Force

"About 5.50pm on Friday 7 November 2025, officers from Northern Beaches Highway Patrol stopped a female driver on Mona Vale Road, Terry Hills, for random alcohol testing. She allegedly returned a positive roadside breath test with breath analysis returning a result of 0.183. A child was also in the car at the time. The 40-year-old woman was issued with a Field Court Attendance Notice for drive with high-range

prescribed concentration of alcohol to appear at Manly Local Court on Wednesday 17 December 2025. Her licence was also suspended."

Want to read more about this story? Click here.



11 November 2025, from NSW Police Force: Today's headlines



Good morning NSW 🥯

Here are today's news headlines:

- A man will face court after a man died from a crash in Sydney's north-west in August this year.
- Police have conducted a three-day high-visibility operation focused on preventing and disrupting crime in the Port Stephens, Maitland, and Hunter Valley areas.
- Raptor Squad officers have charged nine during a three-day compliance operation targeting OMCG and OCN members and associates across the Sydney metro area.
- Police detected more than 900 drivers allegedly under the influence of drugs or alcohol during a high-visibility statewide traffic operation last week.

Want to read more? Visit our website here.

11 November, from NSW Police Force RULdiy lice Awards Districts of NSW Rotary NSW ALA Police A otary NSW Rotary olice Awards Districts of NSW ary NSW Rotary NSV Rotary Police Awa cts of NSW

Detective Sergeant Natasha Williams from the Child Abuse Squad is this year's Rotary NSW Police Officer of the Year $\frac{1}{2}$

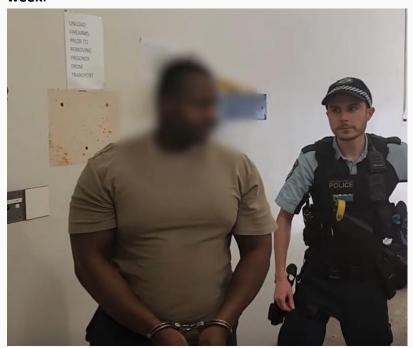
Since 2010, Detective Sergeant Williams has investigated more than 1,200 child abuse matters, each handled with care, professionalism, and trauma-informed practice.

NSW Police Force Commissioner Mal Lanyon APM commended the work of Detective Sergeant Williams, which he said exemplified the very best in policing.

"Congratulations to Detective Sergeant Williams on this well-deserved honour. Her dedication to one of the hardest and most mentally demanding roles in the NSW Police Force has been meritoriously recognised," Commissioner Lanyon said.

MORE INFORMATION here.

6 November, from NSW Police Force: Sex Crimes Squad detectives have charged a man following the aggravated sexual assault and robbery of a woman in Ryde last week.



More information $\underline{\text{here.}}$



11 November, from eSafety Commissioner: Fou know the social media age restrictions are coming 10 December, but what platforms will be affected?



We have reached out to the following platforms to inform them that, in our view, they are age-restricted platforms and must comply with the Social Media Minimum Age requirements:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Kick
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- Threads
- TikTok
- **■** X

YouTube.

At this stage, our view is that the following platforms do not meet the definition of a social media age-restricted platform:

- YouTube Kids
- Google Classroom
- WhatsApp
- Messenger
- Discord
- GitHub
- LEGO Play
- Roblox
- Steam and Steam Chat.

Technology changes constantly and quickly. We'll meet that challenge by periodically updating our assessments and approach to compliance and enforcement. That includes reassessing when new platforms emerge or existing ones evolve to the extent that their sole, primary or significant purpose alters.

? Have you got questions about the social media age restrictions? Find the answers in our social media age restrictions hub. It has FAQs and tailored resources to help you get ready:

10 November, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

Thanks to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia for the article in October's Journal (page 20) introducing the new NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby Committee. You can read it online

on the NHWA website.



Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby in New South Wales has recently taken an exciting step forward with the formation of a new committee structure designed to energise community engagement and enhance crime prevention efforts across the region.

worked informally alongside the NSW and neighbourty tips, they encourage Ku-ring-gal Police Area Command based at Homsby Potce Station, however 2025 marks the start of a more formal and coordinated approach aimed at building a broader network of local initiatives.

The retreshed leadership team is rocused on keeping residents. informed, connected, and empowered to play an active role in their safety. They will be working closely with police and government services to ensure the community. receives clear, timely information about reporting concerns and safety issues. Through sharing

20 MWN.JOURNALOCTEREICION

A standout feature of their efforts is the innovative "Borrow II", which allows residents to access security equipment without the expense of purchasing it. This costsaving initiative makes it easier for people to enhance their home safety with tools that boost security, all while fostering a strong sense of shared responsibility within the neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Homsby Invites local residents

contributing to social media and neighbourly tips, they encourage contributing to social media vigilance and cooperation lifeuighout.
Kill-ring-gal and Horisby.
A standout feature of their efforts is the Innovative "Borrow II".
big or small, helps strengthen the collective safety of the community.

Committee member Ben Campbell shared his enthusiasm for the new chapter ahead, stating, "Our organisation has been at the forefro from the very start, using technology and hands-on projects to help empower residents. With the new committee structure in place, we're eager to hear the community's ideas and take on new projects that meet their needs."

10 November, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

Focus on a postcode - 2057 - COWAN, CANOELANDS, FOREST GLEN, GLENORIE.

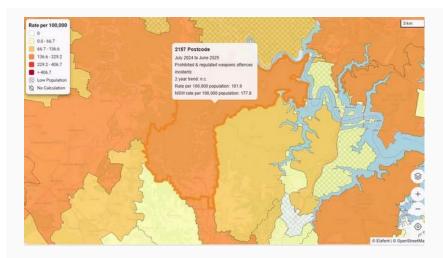
The following crime stats were taken from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) website here.:

The figures are for the period July 2024 to June 2025. A category with a zero figure isn't included in the list, eg murder, non-DV assault.

Domestic Assault 8

Non-Domestic Assault 2

Assault police 1 Homicide - Murder 1 Sexual Assault 2 Sexual touching, sex act & other sex offences 1 Break & Enter dwelling 5 Receiving/handling stolen goods 1 Motor vehicle theft 5 Steal from motor vehicle 1 Steal from dwelling 4 Fraud 11 Malicious damage to property 8 Breach ADVO 6 Breach APVO 1 Breach bail conditions 3 Trespass 6 Use/posess cannabis 2 Use/posess ecstacy 1 Use/posess amphetamines 2 Other drug offences 1 Arson 10 Intimidation, stalking & harassment 11 Prohibited & regulated weapons offences 8



9 November, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness Inc: The Apple Airpods legal loophole that could cost you!



Uber drivers wear AirPods for convenience and to manage tasks like navigation, calls, or listening to their own audio without using the car's speakers or connecting to passengers' music.

While generally legal for fully licensed drivers, wearing AirPods can be risky, and drivers may still face fines if the headphones are deemed to be a distraction contributing to a traffic offence or if they are a learner/P-plate driver.

Reasons for wearing AirPods-

Convenience: AirPods offer a hands-free solution for taking calls or listening to navigation prompts, saving drivers from needing to handle their phone or a car mount.

Navigation: Drivers may use AirPods to hear GPS directions directly, especially if they dislike the navigation prompts coming through the car's speakers or if the car's built-in system is not preferred.

Passenger conflict: Some drivers may use AirPods to avoid playing music that a passenger wants to listen to, or to listen to their own audio privately while a passenger is in the car.

Broken car audio: For drivers with older cars or a broken stereo system, AirPods can be a necessary way to listen to audio or receive calls.

Legality and safety-

Legality: It is not illegal for fully licensed drivers to wear AirPods in Australia.

However, it is illegal for learner and P-plate drivers, who are prohibited from using any mobile phone functions while driving, including hands-free devices like AirPods.

Safety risks: Wearing headphones can reduce a driver's ability to hear important auditory cues like sirens, horns, or other warning sounds, which can lead to accidents.

Fines: While you can't be fined simply for wearing AirPods, police can issue fines for related offences such as not having proper control of the vehicle, a driver distraction charge, or for being a learner/P-plate driver.

Would love to know your thoughts.

9 November, from SEEK: Scammers are getting smarter - but so are we

We've refreshed the SEEK Security Hub - your go-to space to help you stay safe during the job search.

Stay across the latest scams, get practical tips to protect yourself + easy-to-use resources.

Make it a priority to check it out <u>here</u>.



9 November, from Ku-ring-gai Council: Ku-ring-gai your next free Household Chemical CleanOut is 15-16 November at St Ives Showground. Bring your old paint, oils, batteries, garden chemicals and more.



Find out more here.

9 November, from Sydney Bird Club: F Call for Help!



Australian Brushturkey expert @anngothauthor is assisting a film crew from a major Japanese broadcasting station coming to Sydney to film brush-turkeys!

People travel all the way from Japan to admire these amazing birds 🦫

The crew's focus will be on how brush-turkeys thrive in the city and interact with people. They're looking for private property owners who have an active brush-turkey mound on their property and would be happy for them to film it. If suitable, they may also want to do a short interview about your experiences or attitudes toward the birds (though that's not essential).

They'd only need access to your property for about an hour.

The crew will be based in Chatswood, so locations nearby are ideal — but they're also happy to travel within Sydney.

If you think you can help and want to show some good Aussie hospitality to these filmmakers, please email Ann at goethann@gmail.com or contact her via her instagram page @anngothauthor.

Please make sure your mound is actively used (for example, you've seen the turkeys scratching leaf litter onto it). If so, send Ann:

Your general location

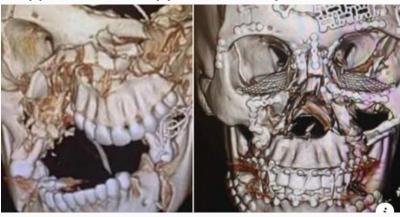
The best way to contact you

Any observations you have about the mound or your resident brush-turkeys

Thank you so much for your help!



9 November, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness Inc: Astonishing X-ray pictures show why you should always wear a seatbelt!



SURGEONS have been applauded for literally putting a 25-year-old woman's face back together after a car crash. The before-and-after pictures are incredible.

THESE amazing medical scans show a woman's skull before and after reconstructive surgery following a horrific car crash.

The CT scans are of a 25-year-old woman who was thrown from a car in America while not wearing her seat belt.

She required several hours of surgery to reconstruct the injuries to her face, which included her eye being found near her nasal cavity.

Find out more here.

9 November, from The Hills Police Area Command: 2 Can you access your NSW digital driver's licence without mobile reception or Wi-Fi?

Yes, you can! As long as you stay logged in to the Service NSW app, your digital licence is stored on your device and works offline—even in areas with no signal.

How to access your licence offline:

1. PStay logged in to the Service NSW app.

- 2. Open the Wallet or Favourites section in the app to find your licence.
- 3. Here your phone's security (PIN, fingerprint, or face ID) to access it safely.

Important: If you log out of the app or delete it, you'll need internet to log back in—so keep it installed and logged in for peace of mind on the road.



8 November, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness Inc: CAN I USE A CB OR UHF RADIO WHILE DRIVING?

CB (Citizen Band) and UHF radios are generally not illegal to use in vehicles in Australia, as the definition of a "mobile phone" in the road rules explicitly excludes them.

However, drivers must always maintain proper control of the vehicle, have a clear view of the road, and can be fined if their radio use is found to be the cause of any driving errors or distractions.

Key Points-

Not a Mobile Phone: Road rules specifically state that CB radios and other two-way radios are not included in the definition of a mobile phone.

Proper Control is Key: The main requirement is that you must remain in "proper control" of your vehicle at all times, regardless of the device you're using.

Fines for Distraction: While using the radio itself isn't a direct offense, you can be fined for driving without proper control if a police officer determines the radio use was the cause of your distraction.

Mobile Phone Cameras: Be aware that current mobile phone detection cameras in Australia may not be able to distinguish between a mobile phone and a handheld radio.

Licence Required: Operating a CB radio falls under the Citizen Band Radio Service (CBRS) class licence, which allows its use in Australia.

In Summary:

You can legally use a CB or UHF radio while driving, but you must ensure it doesn't compromise your ability to drive safely and with proper control.



8 November, from Yup That Exists



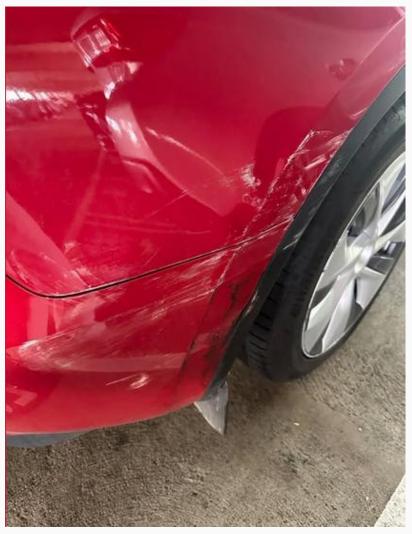
Click <u>here</u> for the product.

Note: Neighbourhood Watch cannot endorse any product or service. You must do your own research.

8 November, Shared with permission from the St Ives Community and Surrounds group yesterday (Friday):

Someone hit our car in St Ives shopping center outside of woollies car park this morning during 6:50 to 7:50am today. Please let us know if anyone witness the

incident. Thanks.



8 November, from NSW Food Authority: The following products are being recalled due to microbial (potential Salmonella) contamination:

- Aussie Sprouts Alfalfa Sprouts 125g
- Hugo's Fresh Alfalfa Onion & Garlic Sprouts 125g
- Hugo's Fresh Alfalfa Radish Sprouts 125g
- Hugo's Fresh Alfalfa & Onion Sprouts 125g
- Hugo's Fresh Salad Sprouts 125g
- Hugo's Fresh Alfalfa & Broccoli Sprouts 125g
- Hugo's Fresh Trio Sprouts Selection 125g

Sold in: Woolworths and Coles in NSW, ACT, QLD, VIC, SA, NT, independent grocers including IGA in NSW, Harris Farm in NSW, ACT, VIC, Sydney Markets in NSW, and Melbourne Markets in VIC.

Date markings: All use by dates up to and including 20 11 25

For full details, visit site here.



7 November, Shared with permission from the Wahroonga Community Group:

Good morning yesterday afternoon my daughter left her wallet on top of her car after filling up petrol at the Ampol Waitara. Then drove to the SAN Parkway in Wahroonga. If anyone finds her wallet, please message me or Kasey Gallagher please?

7 November, Taken from today's Cyber Sushi newsletter from IDcare:

Facebook Marketplace Scams

It's not uncommon to see an increase in online shopping scams during busy periods such as Halloween, Black Friday, Christmas, or major sporting events. Scammers take advantage of these times, knowing that more people will be purchasing tickets or goods online.

Facebook Marketplace continues to be a hotspot for these types of scams, with scammers using manipulation tactics to gain funds. Common techniques include:

Requesting a deposit to "secure" an item due to supposed high interest from other buyers.

Sending images of a driver licence or other identity documents to appear genuine.

Claiming there was an error with payment or that their bank account has an issue and asking for the payment to be resent to another account.

Our Tips:

Use secure payment options like PayPal or credit cards with buyer protection.

Avoid paying deposits before seeing the item in person.

Be cautious of bargains that seem too good to be true — they often are.

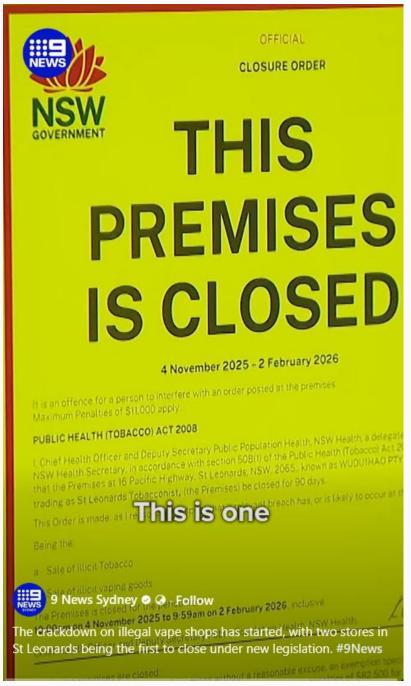
Check seller profiles for signs of legitimacy, such as account history and reviews.



The Cyber Sushi

(serving up the cold facts, with some phish bytes)

6 November, from 9 News Sydney: The crackdown on illegal vape shops has started, with two stores in St Leonards being the first to close under new legislation.



6 November, from Hornsby Shire Council: Secreting news: the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) is now accepting soft plastics 📫



Starting today, Hornsby Shire residents only can drop soft plastics off at the Thornleigh CRC for recycli

ng.

In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of this service, please only drop off household quantities of dry and clean, soft plastics. We cannot accept any larger, stockpile quantities of soft plastics.

Your soft plastics will be sent to iQRenew, where they'll be sorted, shredded, and transformed into reusable plastic pellets. These pellets will then be moulded into new items by other manufacturers – crates, buckets, kitchen caddies and more!

Stay tuned for ways you can get involved in supporting the local circular economy by purchasing some of these recycled plastic items.

For a list of soft plastics items accepted, visit site here.

5 November, Shared with permission from the Mt Colah/Kuring-gai Families group (Wednesday):

**EDIT: I managed to get photos of the cars and people involved, so I called again Hornsby police station with this information. They told me that because the person involved didn't make a complaint, my witness of the road rage and my evidence are irrelevant.

I said to them: "Well, I hope that next time it won't be a worse case!" If you are or know the person involved, please go make a report. That's the only way to

stop this behaviour. **



Did anyone see the road rage attack this morning at the traffic light at Aldi around 9.30am?

It involved a red car and a white car.

The driver/passenger of the red car came out of his car with a wooden mallet/hammer and walked to the driver side/bonnet of the white car, then went back to his car and took off rapidly through the red lights. Both cars went towards Hornsby so I hope they won't cross each others path again.

I could only see what was happening from my side mirrors, as I was in the left lane waiting to turn left. Sadly I could not get any number plates. And the police can't do anything without them, or other witnesses.

The elderly person in the white car must be shaken by this. I certainly was as I had been a victim of road rage a few years ago.

I am the kluger, we need the white 4x4 behind me. The person with the red car hit the roof of the white car.

5 November, from Fire and Rescue NSW Station 312 Gulgong



It's getting warmer. Don't forget to do some routine maintenance around your homes. If you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bushfire. You can make a bushfire plan online in as little as five minutes here.

5 November, from NSW Maritime: What's more frightening than the condition of these lifejackets?

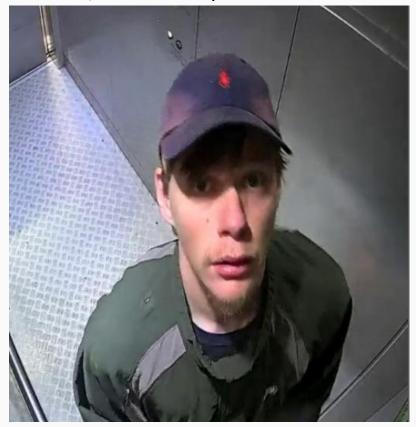


The fact they're used almost daily by water access only residents... and when tested NONE of them deployed.

Found by our Boating Education Officers at a recent lifejacket servicing workshop, they're a reminder that maintenance and servicing could save your life.

Not sure how to look after your lifejacket? Check out the comments to get started \P

5 November, from Police Transport Command - NSW Police Force



Police are seeking assistance from the public to identify a male who may be able to assist police with their enquiries in relation to a knife offence which occurred at Artarmon Railway Station around 7:15pm on Monday 6 October 2025. Police are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or have knowledge of the identity of the person depicted to come forward. Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or click here.

Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages. Reference C85913949 / E85894249.

5 November, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: International Day of People with Disability. Wednesday 03 December at PCYC, 1 Park Lane, Waitara.



5 November, from NSW Fair Trading: From repairs to levy payment plans and building manager accountability, learn what the changes mean for your strata community.



Click <u>here</u> for details.

4 November, from Nepean Police Area Command: Can you tell the difference between real or counterfeit money?

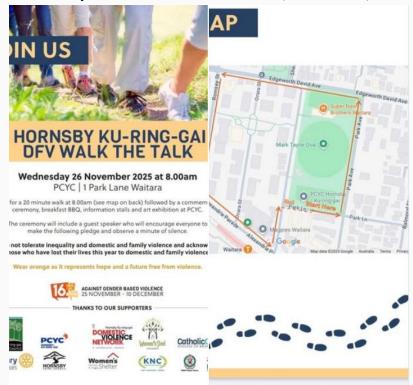


Be aware that there are counterfeit notes circulating in the community, with some notes being difficult to identify and exchanging several times before being detected.

Please see link in comments to the RBA Banknotes: Counterfeit Detection Guide for tips on how to identify counterfeit currency.

More information here.

4 November, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: Walk the Talk. Wednesday 26 November at 8am at PCYC, 1 Park Lane, Waitara. Join us?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 12 November: FREE 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. 인터넷 소개-Introduction to Internet (TSS Korean). Info & Bookings.

Wednesday 12 November: NHWK&H Presentation to the RSL Veterans Coffee Club. **Thursday 13 November:** FREE Be Connected webinar - Protect Yourself Against Scams 3-4pm. <u>Info & Bookings.</u>

Friday 14 November: FREE 2-3pm @ Hornsby Library. Scams Awareness. Info & Bookings.

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

Wednesday 19 November: FREE 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. 이메일 소개 - Introduction to Email (TSS Korean). <u>Info & Bookings</u>.

Tuesday 25 November: FREE 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. Tech Savvy Seniors - Introduction to Smartphones Info & Bookings.

Tuesday 25 November: FREE Be Connected webinar - Safer online shopping - Festive season edition. 10-11am. <u>Info & Bookings.</u>

Wednesday 26 November: Walk the Talk 8am @ PCYC, Waitara. Followed by

information stalls etc.

Wednesday 26 November: FREE 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. 스마트폰

소개 – Introduction to Smartphones (TSS Korean). Info & Bookings.

Wednesday 03 December: International Day of People with Disability 10am-12;30pm @ PCYC, 1 Park Lane, Waitara. Police crime prevention stall.

Thursday 04 December: FREE Be Connected webinar - All you need to know about data and public wi-fi. 10-11am. <u>Info & Bookings.</u>

Tuesday 09 December: FREE Be Connected webinar - Connecting to Others. 3-4pm. Info & Bookings.

Thursday 11 December: FREE Be Connected webinar - Apps for Smarter Travel. 3-4pm. Info & Bookings.

The government's Office of the eSafety Commissioner has a 'Be Connected' program. Each week we will share a course that may help you. They are often designed especially for the elderly.

How to perform a Google reverse image search

This short video outlines how to perform a Google reverse image search. You'll learn how to:

- perform a Google search using a photo or an image you have saved to your device
- search for results based on an image instead of search terms or phrases.

Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby has a Frequently Asked Question titled 'How can I be safe on a First Date?'. The top two points there refer to reverse image search, as follows:

- 1. Do a google search of your admirer's name in various formats; "first name surname", "surname, first name", "nickname, surname", etc. Try searching on all the social media platforms too.
- 2. Using the admirer's photo, do a Reverse Image Search using Google or TinEye to check if the image is with the same name and location on other sites.

Join the FREE Be Connected online presentations here.

Subscribe to the Be Connected newsletter <u>here</u> - Get the latest updates on new courses, articles and more straight to your inbox.

Just failed my driving test. When the examiner asked me "what sign would you expect to see down a narrow country road?" Apparently 'fresh eggs for sale' wasn't the answer...

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 <u>au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org</u>
Facebook <u>@NHWKuringgaiHornsby</u>
Facebook Group NHWKuringgaiHornsby

Twitter @NHWKRGHornsby

Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com



WatchOut! - the NHW NSW one-stop-shop for crime prevention links:

Website <u>WatchOut.org.au</u> Facebook <u>@NHWWatchOut</u>

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)