



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #742 - 30

December 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 [Ku-ring-gai PAC Facebook page](#) (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](#).

24 December, from Ku-ring-gai command: What a turnout for Coffee with a Cop on Monday at Firestone, Westfield Hornsby!

Thanks to everyone who stopped by, had a chat, voiced concerns and got to know your local police.

A reminder to everyone, stay safe over the Christmas Holidays, check in with your friends and family and have a good time.

Merry Christmas from Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command! 🌲🍷🍷🌞



23 December, from Ku-ring-gai command: 🌞☕🎅 Some of our officers had the pleasure of celebrating Christmas on the weekend with Fire and Rescue NSW Station 050 Hornsby on their annual Santa Run!!!

What a wonderful time to see the community come together and spread some joy in light of recent events.

Thanks for having us Fire and Rescue NSW Station 050 Hornsby 🌲☕🎁



23 December, from Christine Kay Mayor of Ku-ring-gai: Hornsby Mayor Warren Waddell and myself joined the Women's Shed Hornsby Ku-ring-gai's end of year gathering at the PCYC Hornsby / Ku-ring-gai.

The Women's Shed provides a safe, inclusive and supportive space for women to learn and connect and it was lovely to recognise volunteers and participants and the great work they do supporting our community. A minute's silence was also held and candles lit for the victims and those affected by Sunday's attack at Bondi.



23 December, from Mayor Warren Waddell: Enjoyed celebrating the end of 2025 with the Women's Shed Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, a community-based partnership between the PCYC, Ku-ring-gai Neighbourhood Centre, and IABBV Hindi School Inc.

Thank you for all your work this year.



23 December, from Ku-ring-gai command: 🍷 NSW Police is urging motorists to slow down and drive safely as double demerits come into force for the holiday period.

- 📍 Double demerits are in place from Wednesday 24 December 2025 to Sunday 4 January 2026, targeting speeding, mobile phone use, seatbelt and motorcycle helmet offences.
 - 🌲 The double demerits period is in addition to Operation Christmas and New Year 2025, which will also run until Sunday 4 January 2026.
 - 🚔 The high-visibility police operation involves officers from Traffic and Highway Patrol Command with the assistance of general duties and specialist police from all police commands and districts across the state.
 - ❌ There have been 351 people who have lost their lives on NSW roads this year, which is 28 more than the same time last year.
-



30 December, from NSW Police: 🎉 Hosting a NYE party?

Let us know! Register it online at least 72 hours before the event using our Party Registration Form 👉 [here](#).

[Apologies this is too late - but handy to know for the future - Ed]



30 December, from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service: If you're planning to take a dip in a national park beach this summer, don't forget that most are remote, unpatrolled and have rip currents.

If you get caught in a rip:

- 🙌 remember to relax, signal for help and float
- 🙌 conserve your energy and stay calm
- 🙌 floating with the current may return you to shallow waters
- 🙌 raise your arm and call out to others if you need help

Stronger swimmers may be able to escape the rip current by swimming slowly and steadily to the side of the rip, toward breaking waves.

The best way to avoid a rip is to swim at a patrolled beach between the red and yellow flags. Find one at: [Beachsafe.org.au](https://www.beachsafe.org.au)



📷 R Brander, J Spencer/DCCEEW

30 December, from Sydney Olympic Park: 🔥 Keep our Park safe – use hot coal bins! 🔥

Planning a Boxing Day BBQ at Bicentennial Park, Wentworth Common, or Blaxland Riverside Park? After the feast, don't forget the most important step: dispose of your hot coals in the dedicated hot coal bins.

Why?

- ✅ Prevent fires - coals can stay hot for hours and ignite grass or bins.
- ✅ Protect wildlife & visitors - avoid burns and injuries.
- ✅ Keep our parks beautiful - no scorched earth or damaged bins.

Look for the clearly marked hot coal bins near BBQ areas and picnic spots. A few extra steps make a big difference for safety and sustainability.

🚫🔥 Please be advised that during a Total Fire Ban no open flames, BBQs, or activities that could spark a fire are permitted in the Park.

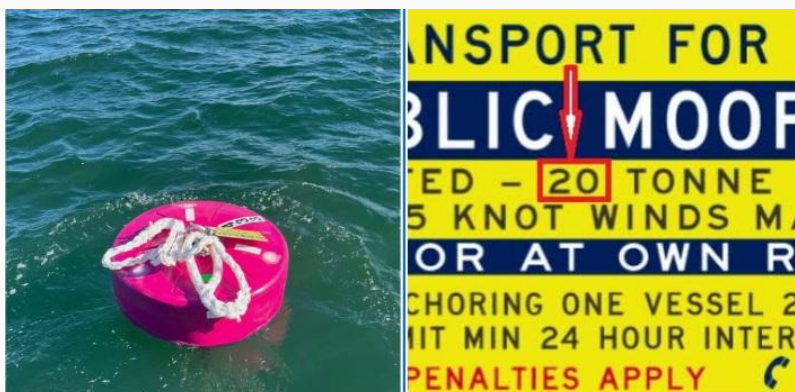
Scroll through these slides to see some images of what the bins look like and some maps of where you can find hot coal bins around the parklands. Let's keep Sydney Olympic Park safe and green for everyone. 🌱💚



30 December, from NSW Maritime: 🧐 Thinking of using a public mooring?

Make sure you check the tag first! ⚖️ Public moorings rated for 20T are only designed to safely hold boats up to 20 tons. Mooring heavier boats can cause significant damage to your vessel, the mooring infrastructure and property.

For "moor" info, visit 👉 <https://bit.ly/4fLZxMC>



30 December, from NHWA: 🗣️👂 Keeping Your Belongings Safe at the Beach

A day at the beach should be relaxing — but crowded beaches can also create opportunities for theft if bags and valuables are left unattended. Here are some simple ways to protect your belongings while you enjoy the water:

👁️ Keep valuables to a minimum

- Leave unnecessary items at home
- Only bring what you really need for the day

👛 Don't leave items unattended

- Avoid leaving phones, wallets or keys on towels while swimming
- If possible, take turns swimming so someone stays with your belongings

👯 Use the buddy system

- Ask a trusted nearby beachgoer to keep an eye on your things while you swim
- Offer to return the favour — most people are happy to help

👜 Use a secure bag

- Keep valuables in a zippered bag or pouch
- Consider a waterproof pouch you can take into the water

🚗 Protect your car keys

- Don't hide keys under towels, shoes or eskies
- If you must leave keys behind, use a lockable pouch or leave them with someone you trust

👁️ Stay aware of your surroundings

- Notice who is nearby and if anyone is paying unusual attention to bags
- Trust your instincts and move your belongings if something feels off

A little awareness goes a long way toward a safer, stress-free beach day.

30 December, from Heritage Italy: How to spot pickpockets once you know the pattern

A very common pickpocket pattern on trams and metros works like this: They usually operate in groups of three or more, often women, staying close together so they look like normal commuters. Jackets, scarves, or bags are held over one arm to hide hand movements. They position themselves on platforms or near the doors, not because they're getting off, but because exits create distraction. While waiting, they scan people, watching where phones, wallets, and bags are kept. Every pocket check gives them information. When the vehicle stops, one person creates pressure or blocks movement, another uses the covered hand, and a third is ready to step off. The theft happens as

the doors open — quietly, quickly, and without confrontation.



29 December, from NHW K&H: A volunteer picked this up for us to share: Mixing alcohol and antidepressants.

Pdf available on request via contact using our website: au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/contact/

MIXING ALCOHOL AND ANTIDEPRESSANTS: THE FACTS

KEY HEALTH MESSAGES

- Drinking whilst taking antidepressant medication can make you feel more intoxicated and drowsier than alcohol would alone and increase the risk of injury. If you're over 18 years and you do decide to drink, speak with your doctor about possible drug interactions. Remember the brain is still developing until age 25.
- Poor mental health can make you more vulnerable to alcohol problems and drinking alcohol can make symptoms of mental illness worse. Because alcohol and mental health problems can occur together, be sure to speak with your doctor about repeated patterns of drinking.
- Regular and consistent use of medication is very important to help manage mental health symptoms, so remember not to skip a dose of antidepressants, and avoid drinking alcohol.

1. WHAT ARE ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

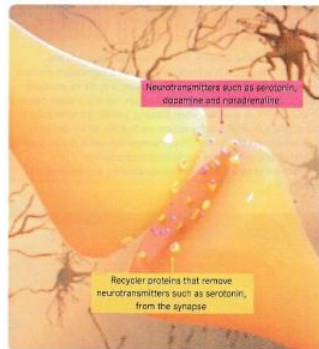
Antidepressants are prescribed to help treat mental health problems, such as symptoms of depression and anxiety. You might be surprised that antidepressants are one of the most commonly prescribed drugs in Australia. Around 1 in 7 adults and 1 in 10 teens take antidepressants daily in Australia¹¹. These medicines target neurotransmitters (chemical messengers) in the brain linked to low mood, such as serotonin, noradrenaline and dopamine¹². Common antidepressants are 'selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors' (SSRIs), also known by their brand names, like Lexapro, Cipramil and Prozac. SSRIs work by increasing levels of serotonin in the brain by blocking the recycling of serotonin from the space between nerve cells (see image opposite). This helps serotonin stay around for longer and help improve mood¹³.

Other antidepressants include 'serotonin and noradrenaline re-uptake inhibitors' and 'tricyclic antidepressants', which have a similar effect on neurotransmitters in the brain¹⁴.

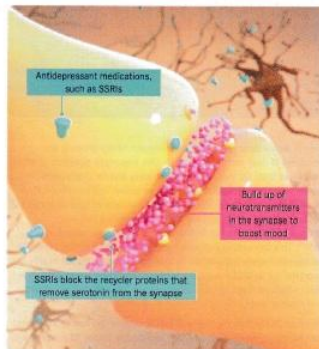
It can take weeks for the medication to start having an effect, and regular and consistent use is very important¹⁵. Remember, symptoms vary from person to person, and there's no one size fits all for mental healthcare.



NEUROTRANSMITTERS SUCH AS SEROTONIN IN THE SYNAPSE OF A NERVE CELL



SSRIs BLOCK THE RE-UP TAKE OF SEROTONIN, SO IT BUILDS UP IN THE SYNAPSE



2. CAN ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND ALCOHOL INTERACT IN THE BODY?

Some types of antidepressants can interact with alcohol in the body¹. This can happen for many reasons, for example, some antidepressants have side-effects such as drowsiness, reduced attention and insomnia^{3,11}, which when combined with alcohol (a depressant) can cause enhanced sedation^{12,13}.

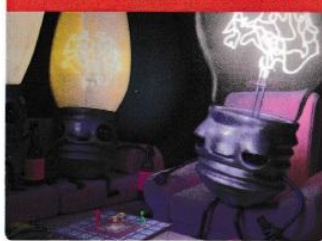
This means, using antidepressants and alcohol together can slow down reaction-time, affect co-ordination and decision making, and lead to greater levels of drowsiness than taking either drug alone¹⁴. This increases

the chance of injury and other negative experiences associated with drinking, such as vomiting, fights and unwanted sexual experiences¹⁵. Alcohol slows down brain activity in the frontal lobe of the brain, making it harder to regulate stress and other emotions¹⁶. Drinking alcohol can also intensify negative emotions and worsen underlying mood. The safest thing during brain development (which continues until about age 25), is not to use alcohol at all¹⁷ particularly if also prescribed antidepressant medication.

3. CAN DRINKING ALCOHOL MAKE MY MENTAL HEALTH WORSE?

In the days following drinking, you can feel anxious, down and depleted^{18,19}. In part, this is because alcohol is a depressant and can disrupt sleep patterns^{20,21}, cause dehydration, and the by-products of alcohol metabolism, such as acetaldehyde can make some people feel anxious^{22,23}. In addition, when drinking, people are more likely to miss or skip a dose of antidepressant medication, which can bring about withdrawal or a 'crash' (this is sometimes called 'discontinuation syndrome') and prevent the medication from working^{24,25}. It's important not to miss a dose of antidepressants, and avoid alcohol consumption.

TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH, DON'T MISS A DOSE OF ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND SPEAK WITH YOUR DOCTOR WHEN YOU TURN 18 AS ALCOHOL USE CAN IMPACT YOUR MOOD AND BRAIN DEVELOPMENT.



There is also a strong link between frequent heavy drinking and symptoms of poor mental health^{26,27}. One important question is: which one comes first? Do individuals with anxiety and/or depression drink to cope with their symptoms (sometimes called 'self-medication'), or does drinking directly cause symptoms of anxiety and/or depression? The findings show that both are true, and there's a two-way relationship between poor mental health, and problematic alcohol use^{28,29}. This can create a vicious cycle, where one disorder serves to maintain and worsen the other. To take care of your mental health, it's important not to skip a dose of antidepressants and speak with your doctor when you turn 18 as alcohol use can impact your mood and brain development^{30,31}.

Australian Guidelines recommend that to reduce the risk of injury and other harms to your health, children and people under 18 years of age should not drink alcohol, read more [here](#).

SPEAK WITH SOMEONE, TODAY

Some of this information may cause distress. The following support services are available 24-hours, 7 days:

Web Chat

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm (including public holidays)

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)

1800 250 015

Beyond Blue

1300 224 636

Kids Helpline

1800 551 800

Lifeline

13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service

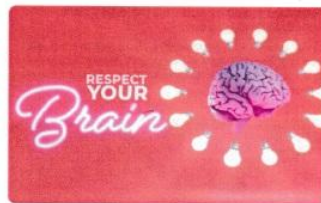
1300 659 467

Family Drug Support

1300 368 186

Mental Health Line

1800 011 511



28 December, Shared with permission from the Berowra Community Page group: COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention all residents of Berowra. We are receiving increased reports from upset residents about varying types of damage to our beautiful Berowra. Broken windows, graffiti etc...So happens the increase coincides with school holidays.

What can we do? Any proactive suggestions? From admin.

And from the comments: The Berowra District Hall was targeted on the weekend with rocks thrown at windows facing Berowra Waters Road causing damage, which will result in the local Lions club having to replace several panes of glass. Thanks idiots.

28 December, from Berowra Rural Fire Brigade: #NSWRFS The NSW Rural Fire Service Static Water Supply (SWS) Program is a free service that identifies existing water supplies that can be used for firefighting.

If your property has a suitable supply, you can receive an SWS sign, placed so firefighters can quickly locate and access water when it matters most. Suitable water supplies include:

- 💧 A dam that can support refilling fire tankers and, in some cases, helicopters supporting crews on the ground.
- 💧 A backyard swimming pool that can be used with portable pumps and hose lines.
- 💧 A water tank with appropriate fittings to allow quick access and connection.

If you have a pool, tank, or dam with more than 3,000 litres capacity, consider joining the SWS Program.

Contact us to get the process started or contact our control centre during business hours on **9883 2000** and ask about registering your property for the Static Water Supply Program and getting an SWS sign. Small steps taken now can make a real difference on a bad day.



27 December, Shared with permission from the Lindfield/East Lindfield/Killara/Roseville Community Group yesterday (Friday):

Anyone else noticed their car be side swiped in east lindfield off archibold road. Noticed a few scratches yesterday on the side of my car when parked.

27 December, Shared with permission from the Hornsby Heights Residents group: STOLEN E-BIKE

Stolen from my house in Peter Close on Christmas Night. Battery was not in so may get dumped in local area. Police report made.



27 December, from NSW Police: Leave the fireworks to the pros! 🧨

Anyone with information on the illegal use or sale of fireworks can contact Crime Stoppers NSW or report it directly to SafeWork NSW.

MORE INFORMATION ➡ police.nsw.gov.au/contact_us/enquire/fireworks

Thinking of Fireworks this NYE?

It is illegal to buy, possess or discharge fireworks in NSW unless you have an appropriate pyrotechnicians licence.

Using or displaying fireworks without a licence risks an on-the-spot fine and penalties ranging up to \$27,500.

Authorised events can be found using the SafeWork NSW fireworks display search <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/fireworks-display>.

Anyone with information on the illegal use or sale of fireworks can contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report anonymously directly to SafeWork NSW on 13 10 50 or via <https://speakup.safework.nsw.gov.au>.

26 December, from LADbible



Still taken from video.

26 December, from NHW Australasia: 🌲 From everyone at Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, we wish you a safe, happy and secure Merry Christmas!

Now for the final instalment in our #12DaysOfChristmasCrimePrevention series.

Day 12 - Don't Let Packaging Advertise Your Gifts

After Christmas, packaging from new TVs, gaming consoles, phones and appliances can unintentionally advertise what's inside your home, attracting

opportunistic thieves.

Here's how to reduce the risk:

- 🗑️ Dispose of packaging carefully
 - Break down boxes so branding isn't visible
 - Cut up labels and remove product images where possible
 - Place flattened boxes inside bins rather than beside them
- 📅 Time your rubbish correctly
 - Put bins out as close to collection time as possible
 - Avoid leaving high-value packaging on the kerb overnight
- 👁️ Be mindful in shared spaces
 - In units or townhouses, avoid leaving boxes in common areas
 - Take packaging straight to recycling rooms or disposal areas
- ♻️ Reuse or recycle smartly
 - Reuse plain boxes for storage or future postage
 - If recycling, make sure identifying labels are removed

A few extra minutes can help protect your home long after the wrapping paper is gone.



26 December, from Some Amazing Facts: Your phone doesn't recognize your face the way a camera does.

It maps it. Every time you unlock an iPhone with Face ID, Apple projects over 30,000 invisible infrared dots onto your face. These dots measure depth — the curves of your eyes, nose, cheeks, and jaw — and turn them into a 3D mathematical map, not a photo. That depth map is processed by Apple's

Neural Engine, compared with the encrypted face data stored securely on your device, and refined over time as your appearance changes — glasses, beard, aging, even lighting. The eerie image you see floating online isn't a real Face ID "photo." It's a visualized approximation of the depth data. Face ID never stores or sees your face as an image — only as numbers. That's why Face ID works in the dark, can't be fooled by photos, and keeps your biometric data locked inside your phone. Not surveillance. Not magic. Just precision engineering.



26 December, from UK Cop Humour: London's Smallest Police Station 🚔

Hidden in plain sight. Built into what looks like an ordinary lamppost on the south east corner of Trafalgar Square is what's widely known as London's smallest police station. It dates back to the 1920s, when Trafalgar Square was a regular focal point for political demonstrations and large public gatherings. The Metropolitan Police needed officers close by, watching events unfold in real time. Despite the name, it was never a custody suite. The space was only large enough for one officer, and its purpose was simple but effective. Observation, and a direct telephone line to Scotland Yard, allowing reinforcements to be called instantly if things escalated. As policing methods and technology evolved, the post fell out of operational use. For a time, it was reportedly reduced to storing cleaning equipment.

Today, it remains a quirky piece of policing history. A reminder that long before body-worn video, control rooms, and live feeds, public order policing relied on

presence, positioning, and quick reactions. Sometimes the smallest posts played the biggest roles.

[📷 Credit: visualiselondon]



26 December, Shared with permission from the Gordon Community Group:

I have lost my compact sized brown leather wallet today (24/12/25 about 2.30-3pm) I think possibly near the coffee shop opposite Priceline pharmacy in the Gordon Centre or P1 parking. If you have knowledge, I would be very appreciative if you could dm me. Many thanks!

24 December, from Queensland Police Service: Prevention is powerful.

Consider installing a remote engine immobiliser to protect your vehicle from thieves. Lock it, hide it, keep it safe.

Vehicle and Bike Security [here](#).



24 December, from Australian Border Force: #Breaking Santa Claus is cleared to cross the Australian border tonight. 🍪

28 December, from NHW K&H: Focus on a postcode - 2076 WAHROONGA, NORTH WAHROONGA, NORMANHURST

The following crime stats were taken from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) website here. The figures are for the period October 2024 to September 2025. A category with a zero figure isn't included in the list, eg murder, non-DV assault.

Domestic Assault 42

Non-Domestic Assault 29

Assault police 3

Robbery without a weapon 1

Sexual Assault 14

Sexual touching, sex act & other sex offences 19

Break & Enter dwelling 28

B&E non-dwelling 6

Receiving/handling stolen goods 8

Motor vehicle theft 9

Steal from motor vehicle 30

Steal from retail store 5

Steal from dwelling 12

Fraud 109
Other theft 10
Malicious damage to property 53
Breach ADVO 12
Breach bail conditions 8
Resist/hinder officer 1
Trespass 16
Criminal intent 2
Use/possess cocaine 1
Use/possess cannabis 5
Use/possess amphetamines 5
Use/possess other drugs 2
Deal/traffic cocaine 1
Deal/traffic cannabis 2
Deal/traffic amphetamines 11
Other drug offences 3
Intimidation, stalking & harassment 36
Arson 2
Blackmail & extortion 5
Liquor offences 1
Prohibited & regulated weapons offences 5

[Neighbourhood Watch - Normanhurst](#) Facebook page

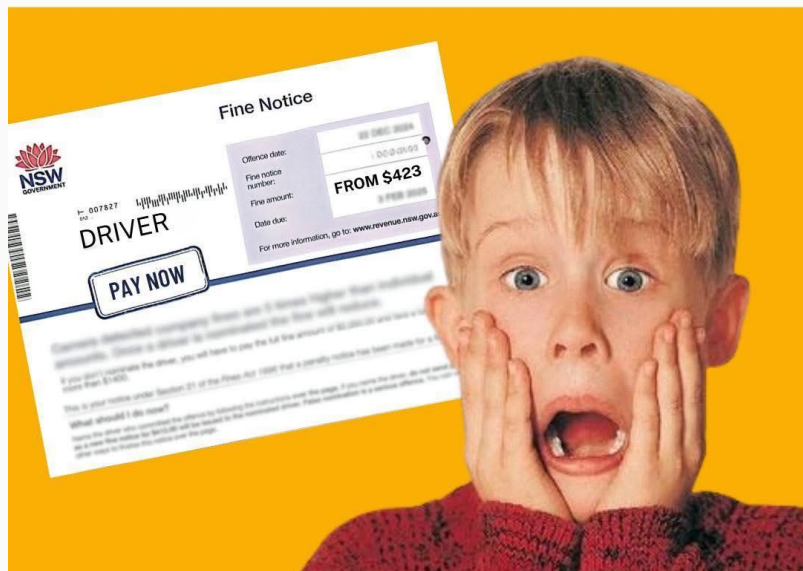
[Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga](#) Facebook page

24 December, from The Hills command and NSW Road Safety: 📈🧑 Fine data from the last spring and summer school holidays revealed a sharp increase in fines issued to drivers for their passengers not wearing a seatbelt or not wearing one properly.

What's more, 69% of all seatbelt fines issued during last year's summer school holidays were for passengers incorrectly wearing a seatbelt. Remember, drivers are responsible for making sure everyone is buckled up correctly, and

seatbelt detection cameras are in operation this holiday period 📹

When drivers realise they get a fine if
their passengers aren't wearing their
seatbelt correctly:



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 05 January: Ku-ring-gai Council's Survival Skills \$80. Age 6-12.
8:45am-3:45pm @ Wildflower Gardens, St Ives. [Info & booking.](#)

Monday 12 January: Ku-ring-gai Council's Survival Skills \$80. Age 6-12.
8:45am-3:45pm @ Wildflower Gardens, St Ives. [Info & booking.](#)

Wednesday 14 January: FREE Children's Road safety storytime @ Gordon Library. Age 3-8yrs. 2-3:15pm. [Info & booking.](#)

Tuesday 20 January: FREE Children's Road safety storytime @ Turramurra Library. Age 3-8yrs. 10-11:15am. [Info & booking.](#)

Wednesday 21 January: GIVE BLOOD. 9am-5pm. Dural Lane car park. Bookings Red Cross Lifeblood: 13 14 95.

Tuesday 03 February: FREE 计算机简介 - Introduction to Computers (Mandarin). 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. [Info & booking.](#)

Wednesday 04 February: FREE Tech Savvy Seniors - Introduction to Computers. 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. [Info & booking.](#)

Tuesday 10 February: FREE Be Connected webinar - Can you spot a scam? 3-4pm. [Info & Bookings.](#)

Tuesday 10 February: FREE 互联网入门 - Introduction to Internet (Mandarin). 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. [Info & booking.](#)

Wednesday 11 February: FREE Tech Savvy Seniors - Introduction to Internet. 10:15am-12:15pm @ Hornsby Library. [Info & booking.](#)

Tuesday 17 February: FREE Be Connected webinar - Safer online shopping and banking. 10-11am. [Info & bookings.](#)

Tuesday 17 February: FREE 智能手机简介 – Introduction to Smartphones (Mandarin) 10:15-12:15 @ Hornsby Library. [Info & booking.](#)

Wednesday 11 March: FREE Child car seat safety check day 9am-2:30pm @ Wade Lane car park. Bookings open 09 Feb. [Info & booking.](#)

24 December, Shared with permission from the Pennant Hills/ Westleigh/ Thornleigh and Surrounds Community Group:

DASHCAM FOOTAGE NEEDED

At around 12.45pm this afternoon (Tuesday) on Beecroft Rd in between Kirkham and Murray street, a vehicle lost, what looked like a large white rectangular sheet of fiberglass. It shot up in the air and fell on the other side of the road onto the car in front of me, (which was in the right lane heading towards the shops. I was in the left lane heading towards the shops) After it damaged the car in front it fell on the road in front of me. It happened so quickly so I had no choice but to run over it. The car that was hit, pulled over into Kirkham Rd and I went to see if they were ok. They were a beautiful couple with a baby who told me that their car was brand new. They were so thankful the item that flew in the air didn't go through the window and hurt the baby. If anyone happened to see the vehicle that lost its load or has dash cam footage of it, please let me know so I can give them your contact details. We were all really shaken by the event. It happened so fast, I have no idea what the vehicle looked like. I was too busy trying to make sure my car wasn't hit. It seems that only the mirror of the other car was damaged. So the couple were glad it wasn't anything else.



24 December, from ACCC: We've commenced separate proceedings in the Federal Court against home meal delivery providers HelloFresh and Youfoodz for allegedly misleading consumers over subscriptions.

We allege that HelloFresh and Youfoodz breached the Australian Consumer Law by advertising on their websites and apps that new customers could easily cancel subscriptions through their online account settings as long as they did so before a specified cut-off time. In reality, when many consumers tried to cancel their subscription online prior to the first delivery cut-off time, they were still charged for and received the first order. Traders must clearly communicate when consumers are signing up for a subscription, as well as how they are able to cancel and avoid being charged. In addition to other outcomes, we're seeking compensation orders for affected consumers.

Read more [here](#).

24 December, from NSW Fair Trading: Know your gift card rights

- 📅 Gift cards must have a minimum 3-year expiry.
- 📅 The expiry date must be clearly displayed.
- 📅 Businesses can't charge fees that reduce the card's value (like activation or balance enquiry fees).

Always check the terms and conditions — and don't let your gift card go unused!

Learn more [here](#).



24 December, from NSW Speed Camera Locations: NSW makes demerit-point return scheme permanent.

Motorists rewarded with demerit point deletion in return for good behaviour.

The News

Following three years of trials, the New South Wales government is to make its demerit-point return scheme permanent when it returns to parliament in February 2026. NSW motorists who hold a full unconditional licence will qualify for a demerit point to be removed from their licence every 12 months if they remain offence-free.

Read full article [here](#).

24 December, from Trend Micro Home: Ticking off the last items on your packing list?

Don't forget the final steps to lock down your cyber safety. 🌐 Travelling can expose your data. Here are a few simple tips to help you stay protected before, during and after your trip. ✈️

Read article "How to Stay Cyber Safe Before, During & After Your Trip" [here](#).

24 December, from Australian Border Force: The digital incoming passenger card trial has been expanded to more flights. 🎧

From 16 December, the following Qantas flights arriving into Sydney Airport can also use the digital Australia Travel Declaration:

- ✈ QF28 from Santiago
- ✈ QF104 from Honolulu
- ✈ QF182 from Auckland - Seasonal
- ✈ QF192 from Christchurch - Seasonal
- ✈ QF194 from Wellington - Seasonal

Eligible travellers will now receive a QR code digital pass on arrival, helping streamline their entry into Sydney. This expansion is another step in our commitment to delivering more efficient and modern travel experiences.

24 December, from Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai Rural Fire Service and NSW Rural Fire Service and Galston Glenorie & Hills Rural Community: HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI SUPPORT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE GALSTON FIRE TOWER, VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Are you looking for a meaningful way to help your community?

The Galston Fire Tower Group, part of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Support Rural Fire Brigade, is seeking new volunteers to join our dedicated team.

Who Are We Looking For

- • Men and women over 18 years of age
- • People with a desire to contribute to their community
- • No prior experience required, full RFS training and uniform provided

Your Commitment

- • One two-hour shift per month for ten months of the year
- • Be available for Total Fire Ban (TOBAN) days where possible
- • Assist occasionally with maintenance working bees

Why Join?

- • Learn new skills and gain insight into fire monitoring and prevention
 - • Work with a friendly, dedicated team of like-minded volunteers
 - • Enjoy spectacular views and a unique experience in a historic fire tower
 - • Make new friends while helping protect your local community
-

About the Galston Fire Tower:

The 18-metre Galston Fire Tower has been an iconic part of our district since 1977. Located off Crosslands Road, Galston, the tower was originally built from a redundant electricity pylon that members of the Galston Bush Fire Brigade converted into a functioning fire lookout.

The cabin, constructed at the Galston RFS Station, was lifted into place by crane and remains a remarkable piece of community engineering. The Tower is completely solar powered and offers a 360-degree view that stretches from the Lower Blue Mountains to the Central Coast and the North Shore. It operates in partnership with the Berowra Fire Tower, located on the Pacific Highway south of Cowan.

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you!

- Email: Captain.Support@hkrfs.org.au
- Text: Tower co-ordinator John 0403 266 886

Join us — make a difference, learn new skills, and keep watch over our beautiful region.



23 December, from NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: One of our volunteers has translated an article for us into Chinese and Japanese, from the

Australian Federal Police (AFP) 13 Dec 2025: Scammers impersonate police to target victims for cryptocurrency/seed wallet theft

Criminals are using Australia's national cybercrime reporting channel and impersonating police to try to scam Australians out of funds from their cryptocurrency or seed wallets. According to the AFP-led Joint Policing Cybercrime Coordination Centre (JPC3), cybercriminals have illicitly obtained personal information – such as email addresses and phone numbers – and used them to submit false reports to Australia's national cybercrime reporting tool, ReportCyber.

Read the complete Media Release in English [here](#).

[Email us](#) for a copy in Chinese or Japanese - please state preference.

The Federal 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.

INTRODUCTION TO SMART HOMES

Ever wondered how technology can help you with your day-to-day tasks? This course explores the benefits of smart homes. Learn how to safely set up a smart speaker by training it to recognise your voice, how you can use a smart TV to watch catch-up TV or display your photo galleries and how you can use the cloud to save and back up your important photos and documents.

- What is smart home technology?
- How to set up smart home technology
- Using a voice assistant
- Using smart home devices
- Using smart TVs
- TV, movie and music streaming services
- What is the cloud?
- The cloud and you

Do the courses [here](#).

FREE Be Connected online learning courses [here](#).

Subscribe to the Be Connected newsletter [here](#) - Get the latest updates on new courses, articles and more straight to your inbox.



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Thanks to UK Ambulance Humour



Thanks to GraphicsPedia



Thanks to Say Awesome

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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Our mailing address is:

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



