



eNews

Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

eNewsletter #744 - 13 January 2026

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.](#)

13 January, from The Last Governor: I wouldn't want to be the person responsible for signing her release papers...

TLG



The most feared woman killer in Australia is to walk free after 25 years behind bars - but even prison guards are worried by what she will do next: 'More dangerous than Ivan Milat'

Rebecca Jane Butterfield was classed as more dangerous than notorious Australian serial killer Ivan Milat during her quarter-century in jail, but now she's set to walk free.

The savage killer was designated 'Extreme High Security by Commissioner' and her prison file was ominously marked: 'Extreme caution at all times.'

The police officer's daughter was initially jailed for stabbing a neighbour but her cold-blooded manslaughter of a friend and inmate in a prison yard sealed her fate forever.

Butterfield, 50, would also unleash her ferocious anger on staff and other prisoners apparently at random and without warning, leaving several scarred for life.

Prison guards were warned she could even remove her handcuffs - and would not hesitate to launch brutal assaults or make chilling threats against prison staff.

But now she's set to be released back into the community, long after the end of her sentence, amid a series of disturbing warnings from those who now know her best.

'She will without a doubt kill again,' said one female prison guard on a Facebook discussion among officers who have encountered the killer.

'I've looked directly into those eyes... she is without feeling nor remorse.' Even just exiting her cell, Butterfield had to wear handcuffs attached to a restraining belt. She has repeatedly told officers and medical staff that she will kill once more.

'Absolutely she will kill again if she's released,' one officer said. 'Having had a lot of involvement with Rebecca, it's not even a doubt that it would happen, it's a certainty.'

Another said: 'She will kill or maim.

'If not a police officer or other first responder, she will do something to a NDIS carer ... a housemate, an innocent person in the street, at a shop, or just walking around one night.'

'All she needs is a knife.'

Butterfield can fashion even a small piece of plastic into a fearsome weapon, slashing one officer's face with a prison-made 'shiv', a makeshift jail knife.

Despite the dark warnings, the NSW Supreme Court has ordered the killer is made ready for integration back into the outside world, probably within a few months.

The 'high risk violent offender' is currently in custody as a forensic patient at Long Bay prison's mental health hospital, but the court has now ordered an end to her staying there.

Admittedly, Butterfield is as much a danger to herself as others. She cut her own throat four years in a row, almost bleeding out once, and severely burnt herself when she set fire to her cell in 2008.

The following year she headbutted her cell wall 105 times, fracturing her skull so badly that officers could see her brain pulsing through the crack.

Weeks later, transferred from prison to Long Bay Hospital, she reopened the wound by banging her head against the wall - and then inserted items into her scalp.

The plan now is for Butterfield to live in an NDIS-funded home where she will be allowed out to shop and mix with the local community.

She was the daughter of a country cop, Senior Constable Ray 'Dudley' Butterfield, then a 23-year NSW Police veteran.

Butterfield had allegedly been raped by one or more men, but the main man accused had his sexual assault charges dismissed at court after it was claimed 'police in charge of the case stuffed up the brief of evidence'. In the aftermath, a furious Butterfield went to Orange Police Station and pelted it with rocks. (CONT)

12 January, from NSW Police Force

Good morning NSW 

Here are the weekend's news headlines:

- ◆ A rider has died following a motorcycle crash in the state's New England region.
- ◆ A man has been charged following an alleged armed carjacking in the state's north.
- ◆ Two residents have been injured following an armed home invasion in Sydney's west.
- ◆ A man will face court charged after allegedly carrying a vest covered in duct tape in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs.
- ◆ Detectives have charged a man with murder following the death of a detainee at a detention centre in Sydney's south-west.
- ◆ Five people have been arrested and charged with a total of 30 offences in the first Operation Soteria surge initiative in Western Region for 2026.

Want to read more?  Visit our website [here](#).



12 January, from NSW Rural Fire Service



Earlier today, the first contingent of NSW firefighters from the [#RFS](#) and NPWS returned home following a multi-day deployment to Victoria. Our crews operated in extreme and challenging fire conditions, undertaking property protection around the township of Yarck and working to strengthen containment lines on the Longwood Fire.

We thank these firefighters for their outstanding efforts and welcome them home for some well-deserved rest after a demanding deployment. With significant fires continuing to burn across Victoria, additional [#RFS](#) crews are being deployed to support local firefighters and assist communities affected by ongoing fire activity.

Watch video [here](#).

07 January, from NSW Police Force

Raptor Squad detectives have charged a Comanchero Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMCG) member with the supply of prohibited firearms and drugs in Sydney's south-west.

MORE INFORMATION [here](#).

Watch video [here](#).



12 January, from NSW RFS - Terry Hills Brigade

This evening, the brigade attended a vehicle rollover outside the St Ives Showground.

The driver was lucky and was able to remove themselves from the vehicle.

With a bit of rain around after a long dry period, roads can be particularly slippery. Please take it easy and drive to the conditions.



12 January, Shared with permission from the Mt Kuring-gai Community Group yesterday (Monday):

Just wanted to check if anyone saw a person in black pants and army shirt tonight about 9pm near or around Church St, as we had a car stolen. My partner was held up by knife point.

Or if people have cameras can you please check footage? We are near the train station walkway. Not sure the way this person came. They acted alone. And updates:

Thanks everyone. Looking at dashcam, looks like they came across road. Took our house keys. Now waiting for locksmith to come change locks.

Thanks everyone. The car has been recovered in Castle Hill. Probably needs new bumper, but glad we are safe, and piece of mind locks changed.

12 January, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

Tonight Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby Volunteers held a small community meeting in Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga to discuss crime prevention, reporting and other safety and security issues.

The literature, and all the important messages will be shared with the 26 residents in the cul-de-sac.

Of note:

- Work with the existing WhatsApp group to get alerts in the quickest and most efficient manner.
- Buddy up with residents who aren't part of the WhatsApp group, such as the vulnerable or socially isolated.
- Agree a sign with your buddy partner, eg opening the curtains before 9am means "I'm OK".
- Educate yourselves by looking at WatchOut.org.au and doing further research: <https://watchout.org.au/>
- Find a smooth clean surface and utilise the NHW garbage bin stickers (see our website: <https://au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/garbage/>)
- Read the various leaflets, such as Reporting Crime in Ku-ring-gai, Reporting Suspicious Behaviour, and the 20 Tips series on our website: <https://au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/safety/>
- Familiarise yourself with the FAQ #2: WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HEAR AN INTRUDER IN MY HOME? <https://au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/faqs/>
- more to follow...



12 January, from 10 News Sydney



The hero of the Bondi Junction shopping centre mass stabbing, Inspector Amy Scott (right), has tragically been diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of breast cancer.

New South Wales Police Legacy shared the tragic news online stating, “And just as she is so much more than her diagnosis, she is so much more than ‘the hero of Bondi Junction’.”

“She is a loving wife, mother of two young boys, devoted to serving the community through her work as a NSW Police Officer, and widely known as selfless, compassionate, and kind,” NSW Police Legacy said.

Inspector Scott acted alone, confronting armed attacker Joel Cauchi inside the crowded Westfield in Sydney after he had already killed six people and injured 12 others on April 13, 2024.

Amy's colleagues have created a fundraiser to help with the financial burdens that will now be placed upon the family.

12 January, Shared with permission from the Wahroonga Community

Group:

Jan 7 - sad post incoming

This afternoon on the highway at about 5:20 I was in fairly fast moving traffic travelling City bound on the most right hand lane

I saw what I *believe* to be a small black cat lying, deceased, on the road. It was close to the concrete divider

I was a bit shocked and can't remember the exact location, but it's somewhere between the big M1 intersection and, say, Woomona Ave. The traffic was moving too quickly for me to find a way to turn back and see exactly where it was.

I'm just putting this out there in case someone is looking for a missing black cat.

11 January, from Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai Rural Fire Service: Bush Fire - Chase Rd Mt Kuring-gai near Bobbin Head.

Today smoke was spotted by Berowra and Galston fire towers and by Brigades, and a response was initiated. The Duty Officer immediately directed a heavy weight of attack with several RFS fire tankers, aviation support activated, and NPWS crews attending from Bobbin Head.

The crews encountered an area of bush alight under high voltage power lines and got to work. With it being very hot and windy this fire posed a risk of running into KRG Chase NP, to Bobbin Head, and across the creek to Duffys Forest...

...which is the exact scenario our firefighters and incident managers have trained for in drills and exercises.

With this potential the public alert level was moved to Watch & Act.

Fire under power lines has the potential to cause arcs and widespread blackouts - with half of Sydney running their AC today this would be a disaster. Due to outstanding work from fire crews, and despite spotting some hundreds of metres, the fire was contained within a couple of hours.

Mop up continued through the searing afternoon heat - hard work in the thick bush. Crews continue to patrol this evening until the forecast southerly change reduces the fire danger rating.

Thank you to all volunteer and salaried crews today, both at the fire and those in support roles. This was an excellent example of a fast aggressive offensive attack containing a fire that had potential, to under 5ha.



11 January, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby:

Taken from the Legal topics for seniors diary 2026. This page is useful information about the person, in case of emergency.

These FREE diaries are produced by Legal Aid NSW and can be ordered from [here](#).

My information		
Name		
Address	Telephone	
Email		
In case of emergency please notify		
Name		
Relationship to me	Telephone	
Doctor's name		
Doctor's telephone		
Medical		
Diabetes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Heart disease	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
High blood pressure	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other		
Allergies		
Medication(s)		
Legal		
I have a will stored here		
My executor is		
My attorney under an enduring power of attorney is	Telephone	
My appointed guardian is	Telephone	
I have an advance care directive	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Police and emergency Call 000 or 112 from your mobile phone		

10

11 January, Shared with permission from the Hornsby and Surrounds Community Noticeboard yesterday (Saturday):

Hi all, wondering if anyone found an iPhone today in or around Westfield today; it's an old SE in a red flip down case and was last seen in David Jones. We've been over our steps and into the visited stores but no luck, just hoping someone might have seen it, TIA

10 January, from Legal Aid NSW: Do you which documents you'd need to grab if disaster strikes?

Legal Aid NSW · Follow · 8 Dec

-  Birth & marriage certificates
-  Passports & Visas
-  Wills and powers of attorney
-  Insurance policies
-  Medical records & scripts
-  Financial & tax documents
-  Property deeds & mortgage papers

Do you know which documents you'd need to grab if disaster strikes?
We can't predict when it'll happen, but we can prepare. ... See more

Watch video [here](#).

10 January, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness Inc: WHAT DO I DO IF MY SEATBELT IS FRAYED?



You must immediately stop using the seatbelt and replace it, as fraying compromises its strength and makes it unsafe in a crash.

Do not attempt to repair it by sewing or gluing, as this is not a safe or legal fix and can increase the risk of injury.

You should replace the frayed belt with a new one as soon as possible to ensure both safety and legality.

Why frayed seatbelts are dangerous-

Compromised strength: Fraying and tearing weaken the seatbelt's tensile strength, making it more likely to break during an accident.

Lack of protection: A compromised seatbelt will not effectively restrain you in a collision, significantly increasing the risk of serious injury or death.

Legal issues: Driving with a damaged seatbelt is unsafe and may be illegal, potentially resulting in fines or a failed safety inspection.

How to replace a frayed seatbelt-

Professional replacement: The safest option is to have a professional mechanic replace the seatbelt.

Webbing replacement service: Some companies offer a service to replace the webbing on your existing seatbelt, allowing you to keep the hardware.

09 January, Shared with permission from the Lindfield/East Lindfield/Killara/Roseville Community Group:

With the recent posts about women being followed and feeling unsafe around Roseville train station, I wanted to help create a safe option within our local community and ask that this be shared.

Our office, Dolman Bateman is on 21 hill st (next to cafe Nate) , is locked at all times and open from 7am to 5pm, and often later most evenings. If you or your daughters ever feel unsafe, please tell them to come straight to our office and ring the bell. Someone will let them in, and they are welcome to stay until they feel safe or until a parent can pick them up.

As a community, we should look out for one another. We are here to help.

We are aware that there is a man who frequently lingers in the area and aware of what he looks like, so please remain vigilant and remind your children to always go to a safe place if they feel uncomfortable.

Please spread the word so everyone knows there is a safe space available.

09 January, from NHW K&H: Focus on a postcode - 2073 PYMBLE & WEST PYMBLE

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 21

Non-Domestic Assault 10

Assault police 2

Robbery without a weapon 1

Sexual Assault 9

Sexual touching, sex act & other sex offences 5

Break & Enter dwelling 27

B&E non-dwelling 5

Receiving/handling stolen goods 1

Motor vehicle theft 7

Steal from motor vehicle 26

Steal from retail store 15

Steal from dwelling 16

Fraud 40

Other theft 8

Malicious damage to property 26

Breach ADVO 5

Breach bail conditions 7

Fail to appear 2

Resist/hinder officer 1

Other offences against justice procedures 1

Trespass 6

Offensive conduct 1

Criminal intent 2

Use/possess cannabis 2

Use/possess amphetamines 2

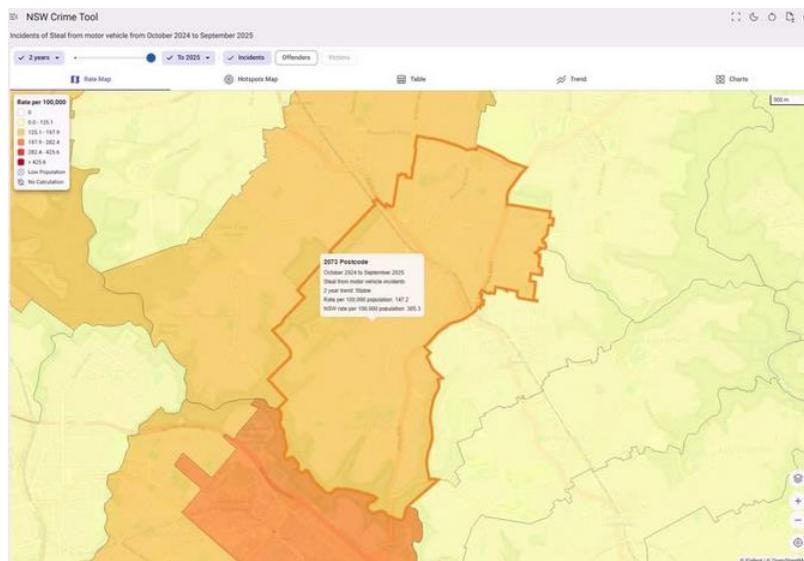
Use/possess other drugs 2

Manufacture drug 2

Other drug offences 2

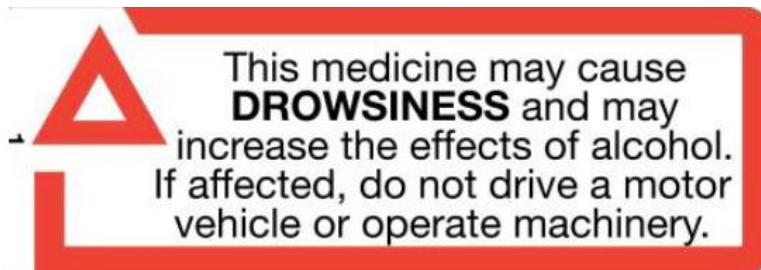
Intimidation, stalking & harassment 20

Arson 1
Blackmail & extortion 4
Liquor offences 3
Prohibited & regulated weapons offences 4



Pymble and W Pymble Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page [here](#).

09 January, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness Inc: WHAT PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS SHOULDN'T I TAKE IF I DRIVE? 



Medications that can advise against driving include those that cause drowsiness, affect vision, or impair concentration, such as some cold and allergy medicines, sleeping pills, anti-anxiety drugs, and opioids. Other examples include certain antidepressants, antipsychotics, epilepsy medicines, and medicinal cannabis.

Always consult your doctor or pharmacist to see if your specific medication affects your ability to drive safely and read the warning labels on all over-the-counter products.

Examples of medications

Painkillers: Opioids like codeine and oxycodone can slow your reaction time.

Cold and allergy medicines: Products with sedating antihistamines can cause drowsiness.

Sleeping pills and anti-anxiety medication: Benzodiazepines and other sedatives can impair driving ability.

Antidepressants and antipsychotics: Some of these medications can have a sedating effect.

Epilepsy medication: Some drugs for epilepsy can affect alertness.

Medicinal cannabis: It is illegal to drive with any THC in your system, and CBD can also cause impairment.

What to do-

Ask your doctor or pharmacist: They can advise you on the specific risks of your medication and potential interactions with other drugs or alcohol.

Read the label: Check for warnings on over-the-counter products and follow any instructions carefully.

Monitor your symptoms: If you experience side effects like drowsiness, blurred vision, dizziness, or aggression, do not drive.

Be cautious with new medication: Your driving may be most affected during the first few weeks of a new medication.

09 January, Shared with permission from original poster.

UPDATED TO REMOVE PHOTO. Description added: White, aged 35-45, big build, dark hair.

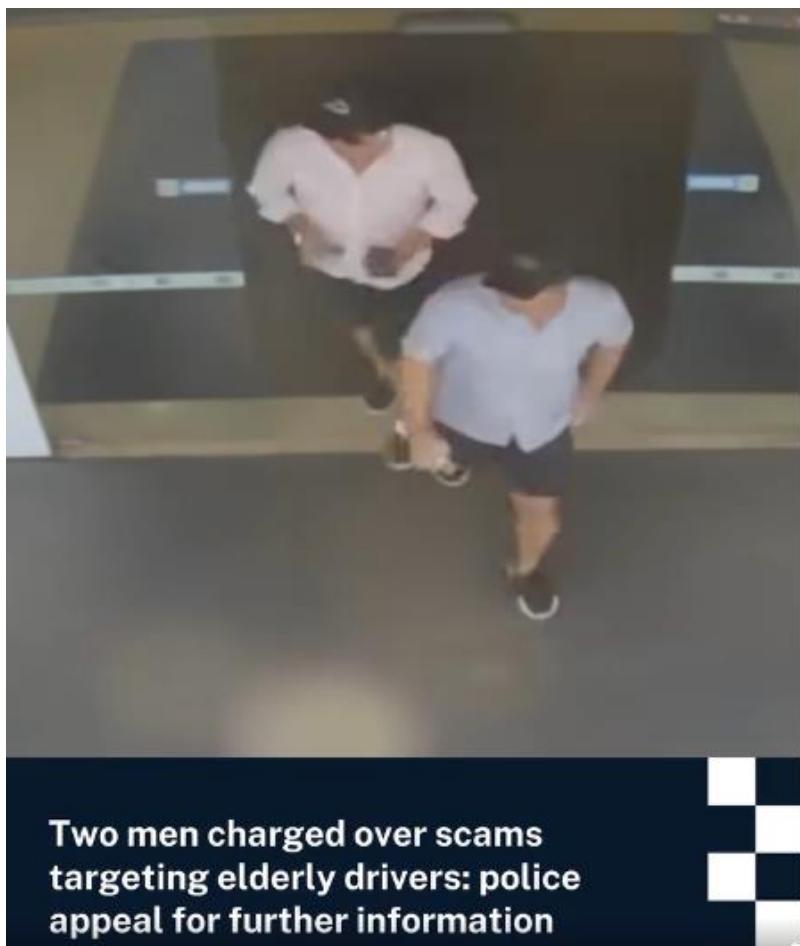
A girlfriend of mine had a frightening experience yesterday where she felt unsafe after being followed by a man. He hid behind a tree, which caused her to fear for her safety and she had to run home.

Today she noticed the same individual at Roseville Bakery, appearing to linger in the area, which raised further concern as he may be local.

This matter will be reported to police so they can assess and handle it appropriately, especially given the nearby schools and families in the area. I'm sharing this purely to encourage awareness and vigilance. Please have calm conversations with your children about staying alert and trusting their instincts.

I respectfully ask that there be no negative or inflammatory comments the intention here is safety, not speculation.

08 January, from NSW Police Force



Two men charged over scams targeting elderly drivers: police appeal for further information

Detectives have charged two men as an investigation into multiple reports of elderly drivers being allegedly stolen from and scammed at shopping centre carparks across NSW continues.

As investigations under Strike Force Pitstop continue, police have also released vision of two other men they wish to speak with.

[MORE INFORMATION here.](#)

Watch video [here](#).

08 January, Shared with permission from the Hornsby Heights

Community Group a few days ago:

****ANNOUNCEMENT****

Last night (3/1/26) approx 10.00 to 10.20pm, there was an attempt break and enter on Galston Rd (near Rofe Park).

The offender took off in a BLUE Suzuki Swift (perhaps a 2006/7 model) which was parked near the tennis courts and was chased by car down Galston Rd, before turning left into Sutton St, onto Link Rd and then turned left in Old Berowra Rd before losing sight of the car. 5 mins later the car was then seen speedy up OBR towards Peats Ridge Rd (old Pacific Hwy).

Police have been reported and patroled the area with no luck, however the same car was involved in similar event in Thornleigh on 28/12/25.

If anyone has a Dashcam and was driving on Galston Rd during that time or if your car was stationery on side streets, could you please check footage and advise of number plate to the police also.

Apparently, there have been several B & E in Mt Colah area over the Xmas break so please keep an eye out.

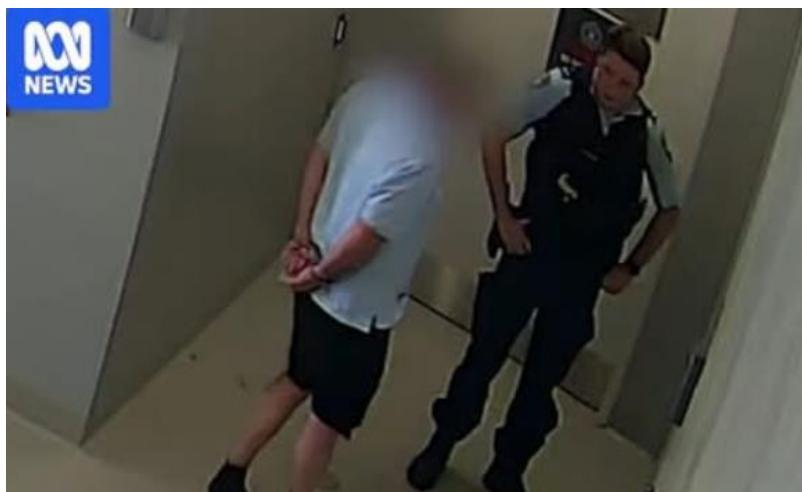
Image of a Suzuki Swift below.

It should also be noted, that the offender had a small ladder across the passenger side of the car.

Stay safe and please share to neighbouring suburbs. !!



08 January, from abc.net.au



NSW police charge two men over alleged 'car trouble' scam targeting the elderly

In short:

Police allege two men have been operating a scam scheme targeting the elderly across New South Wales.

It is alleged the men distracted victims by suggesting their vehicles had mechanical trouble, before stealing valuables from inside the cars.

What's next?

Police are appealing to the public to help track down two other men.

Pennant Hills Neighbourhood Watch

08 January, Shared with permission from the Hornsby and Surrounds Community Noticeboard group:

Hi everyone, I'm hoping someone can help.

On 18 December at around 6 - 6.30pm, my partner was on his motorbike on Pacific Hwy, near Yardley Avenue, when he was hit from behind while taking off at the traffic lights.

Firstly, we really want to thank the two amazing ladies who stopped one was a nurse, and the other stayed on the phone with me to explain what had happened. We are so grateful.

He was taken to hospital and has a broken collarbone and four broken ribs. The police are investigating, and we're also trying to gather information for insurance.

If you saw anything, stopped to help, or have dashcam footage, we'd really appreciate hearing from you. Even small details can make a difference.

Please message me privately if you can help. Thank you so much.

08 January, from: Shared with permission from the Hornsby Heights Residents group yesterday (Wednesday):

My husband's excavator has been stolen from the top of our driveway along Galston Rd by the bushfire brigade. We've been away from Sunday - Weds so sometime during that time. It's been reported to the police. If you saw anything

or have heard anything suspicious please let me know.



08 January, from from Blue Mountains Police Area Command:

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEIT NOTES!

**BEWARE
COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY**

FEEL - a genuine note is difficult to tear and should return to shape if scrunched up.

LOOK - a genuine note has multiple security features. Hold older notes up to the light and tilt the newer notes to see these.

USE a UV light to see other security features light up.

See the full list of security features at banknotes.rba.gov.au.

If you think you have received a counterfeit note:

Handle the suspect note as little as possible and store it in an envelope.

Record any relevant information, such as how it came into your possession.

Report the matter immediately to police.

You are well within your rights to refuse to accept a banknote if you have concerns about it. Under no circumstances should you take actions that may jeopardise your safety or that of others.

Police are warning the public to be on alert after counterfeit cash was reported at businesses in the Blue Mountains area.

If a banknote doesn't feel or look quite right, it might be fake.

✓ **FEEL:** Genuine notes are hard to tear and bounce back if scrunched.

👀 **LOOK:** Check for multiple security features under light.

💡 **USE:** A UV light to see hidden details.

If you think you've received a counterfeit note, handle it as little as possible, record details, and report it to police.

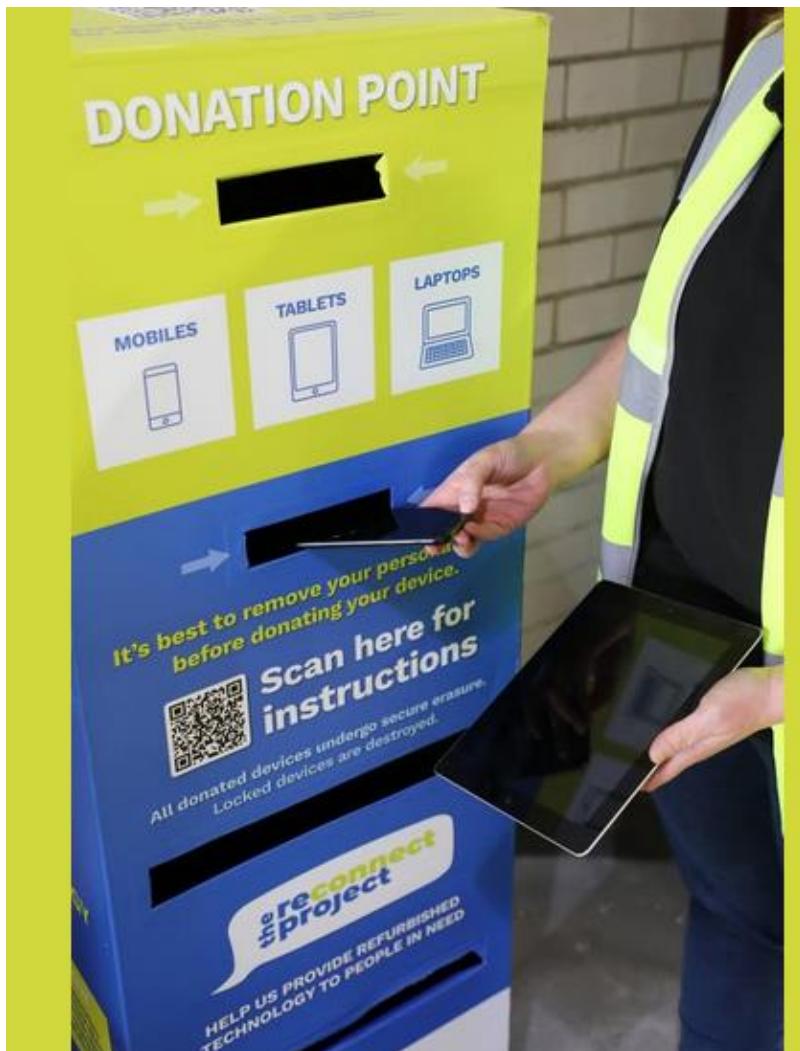
For more information, visit [RBA Banknotes: Counterfeit Detection Guide](#)

08 January, from Hornsby Shire Council: ⚠ Did you know 23 million unused phones sit in drawers across Australia? Add forgotten tablets and laptops, and that's millions of chances to change a life. 

We now accept phones, tablets, and laptops at the CRC in partnership with the Reconnect Project.

Through the Reconnect Project, donated devices are securely wiped, repaired, and passed on to those who need them most. Your old device can help close the digital divide. Don't let it gather dust—let it change a life.

Full details of the program can be found [here](#).



08 January, from Ku-ring-gai Council: Beat the heat ☀



Want to receive the latest news and updates from the Council? Sign up to our e-newsletter.

Extreme heat is forecast for next few days! Here are some easy ways to stay cool and safe in Ku-ring-gai:

- 🏠 Stay indoors where possible and drink plenty of water
- ❄️ Cool off at our air-conditioned library branches in Gordon, St Ives, Turramurra and Lindfield, or head to a local shopping centre
- 🏊 Take a dip at the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre
- CallCheck in on friends, family and neighbours — especially older people
- 🐾 Don't forget your pets! Make sure they have plenty of water, and consider leaving water out for local wildlife
- ❤️ If you need medical advice you can call healthdirect anytime on 1800 022 222. For an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).

Some Council facilities in bushfire-prone areas may close at short notice on extreme fire danger days. Updates will be available on our socials and website.

08 January, from Neighbourhood Watch Australasia



Exercising outdoors is great for your physical and mental health — and with a few simple precautions, it can also be safe and stress-free.

Before you head out, consider these tips:

- Vary your routine. Try not to run or walk the same route at the same time every day. Predictable patterns can make you easier to target.
- Choose visible routes. Stick to well-lit paths, popular trails, and areas with regular foot traffic, especially early in the morning or after dark.
- Let someone know your plans. Tell a friend or family member where you're going and when you expect to be back — or share your live location if you can.
- Stay alert. Keep the volume low if you're listening to music so you can hear what's happening around you. Awareness is key.
- Carry essentials securely. Take your phone, keys, and ID, and keep them in a secure pocket or armband.
- Trust your instincts. If something feels off — a person, place, or situation — change direction, move to a safer area, or seek help.

Staying active shouldn't mean compromising your safety. A little planning goes a long way toward preventing crime and keeping you confident while you move. A personal safety tip from your friends at [Neighbourhood Watch Australasia](#).

08 January, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness Inc: IS IT ILLEGAL FOR PASSENGERS TO DRINK ALCOHOL IN A VEHICLE? [obj]



It is legal for passengers to drink in a car in some Australian states (like NSW, VIC, SA).

Yet it is illegal in other states (TAS, ACT, WA, QLD).

Vehicles on roads are considered [obj]public places, meaning no open alcohol for anyone, even passengers or when parked, with strict rules or blanket bans.

Laws vary significantly, so passengers can drink freely in some areas but risk fines for an open container in states with stricter rules.

States/Territories Where Passengers CAN Drink (with caveats)

New South Wales (NSW): Passengers can drink, but the driver can't drink at all (even in a stationary car) and must stay under the limit if supervising a learner driver.

Victoria (VIC): Similar to NSW, drivers can't drink at all, but passengers generally can, though it's best to check local council rules.

South Australia (SA): Passengers can drink alcohol; it's the most lenient state, with no open container policy, but unsafe driving with alcohol (even as a passenger) can still lead to fines.

States/Territories Where Passengers CANNOT Drink (Strict)-

Tasmania (TAS): No alcohol consumption allowed in a vehicle by anyone (driver or passenger), even if stationary, according to the Road Safety Act.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT): Drinking is an offense for both drivers and passengers, even when supervising a learner, with heavy penalties.

Western Australia (WA): It's an offense to consume liquor in a private vehicle on a public road, even if parked; cars are considered public spaces.

Queensland (QLD): Passengers can be fined for consuming liquor in a vehicle as it's deemed a public place, with similar rules for supervising learners.

It is a visible to check your specific state/territory laws before allowing passengers to drink, as WA, TAS, ACT, and QLD have bans or significant restrictions, while NSW, VIC, and SA are more lenient for passengers.

07 January, from NSW Health

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has reported that a fake rabies vaccine (Abhayrab®) has been circulating in India since 2023.

We are continuing to remind people who received a rabies vaccine in India from 1 November 2023 to date may not be fully protected against rabies.

If you think you might have received this vaccine in India, see your GP or other healthcare provider to discuss whether you need replacement vaccines.

To learn more, visit site [here](#).

Advice for those who have received a rabies vaccine (Abhayrab®) in India

7 January 2026



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

Friday 23 January: \$30 Ku-ring-gai Council E-bike Safety Workshop 11am-1:30pm @ Gordon Library meeting rooms. [Info](#).

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](#).

07 January, from Neighbourhood Watch Australasia: Helping Others Safely

Looking out for others is a big part of building safer, more connected communities — but it's just as important to protect your own safety while doing so.

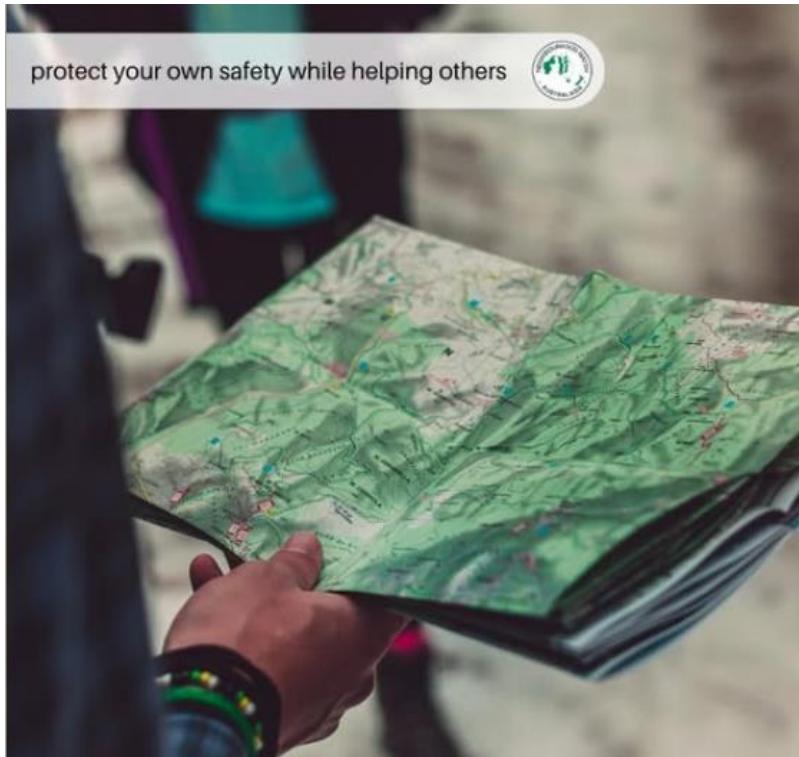
If you see someone who appears to need help, consider these tips:

- Assess the situation first. Take a moment to observe from a distance. Trust your instincts if something doesn't feel right.
- Keep a safe distance. You can offer help without getting too close or putting yourself in a vulnerable position.
- Use your voice, not just your presence. Asking "Are you okay?" from a safe distance can be enough to check in or deter inappropriate behaviour.
- Bring in support. If the situation feels uncertain, involve others nearby, contact security, or call emergency services rather than handling it alone.

- Know when to step back. Helping doesn't mean placing yourself at risk. It's okay to prioritise your own safety.

Being community-minded means looking after each other — and that includes knowing safe ways to offer assistance.

A personal safety message from Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



07 January, from NSW Food Authority



Nestlé Australia Ltd is recalling Nestlé Alfamino Infant Formula (0-12 months) 400g due to potential contamination with the toxin cereulide, a substance produced by the *Bacillus cereus* microorganism.

This recall only applies to the products with the below listed date and batch number details.

Sold in: Pharmacies, hospitals and online nationally.

Date markings:

- Use by date 17.04.2027, Batch number 51070017Y2
- Use by date 18.04.2027, Batch number 51080017Y1
- Use by date 28.05.2027, Batch number 51480017Y3
- Use by date 29.05.2027, Batch number 51490017Y1
- Use by date 22.07.2027, Batch number 52030017Y1

For full details, see [here](#).

07 January, Shared with permission from the Thornleigh Westleigh Pennant

Hills Normanhurst Community Group 2 days ago (Sunday?):

Hi everyone,

I lost my wallet at Pennant Hills Marketplace yesterday around 1pm, somewhere near Charlotte's cafe/the carpark. If anyone has found it please let me know.

Thanks,
Easwar

07 January, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

Galston Road, Galston Gorge, will be fully closed between Calderwood Road and Montview Parade in both directions from 8pm Sunday 11 January to 8am Saturday 14 February 2026, weather permitting.



07 January, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness Inc
IF I HAVE A LICENCE TO DRIVE AN AUTOMATIC VEHICLE CAN I ALSO DRIVE A MANUAL?

No, with an automatic-only license, you are not permitted to drive a manual vehicle on your own.

Driving a manual car is only legal if you are supervised by a fully licensed driver, or if you pass a manual driving test to have the restriction removed from your license.

State-by-state variations

ACT, NSW, Northern Territory: If you are on a provisional license, you can drive a manual vehicle with a supervisor. To drive it solo, you must pass a manual driving test or have held your provisional license for 12 months to have the condition removed.

Queensland, Western Australia: You must pass a manual driving test to have the automatic restriction removed from your license, regardless of your license type.

South Australia: There is no automatic-only restriction, so you can drive a manual vehicle even if you passed your test in an automatic.

Tasmania, Victoria: You can drive manual vehicles after holding your license for a specific period without a manual restriction, or after passing a manual driving test.

Consequences of driving a manual with an automatic license-

Penalties: You can face fines, demerit points, and other penalties.

Insurance issues: You could have an insurance claim denied if you are in an accident while driving a vehicle you are not licensed to drive.



07 January, from Northern Beaches Police Area Command

Failing to exchange details after a crash is an offence

\$349 fine and three demerit points



*Whether it's a nudge in a car park
or a scrape on a street,
all drivers must stop and
their details exchanged.*

This means:

- full name & address
- vehicle registration

*- full name & address of the vehicle
owner if that's not the driver*

More often than not these days,
if you don't stop and provide your details
there will be CCTV or a witness will report it to police
who then will come knocking, fine book in hand

Police and community working together



Northern Beaches
Police Area Command

For more head to site [here](#).

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.

Researching and booking travel online

This exciting topic shows you everything you need to know about safely researching and booking travel online. You'll find out some key tips for finding the best deals online, how you can safely access your finances while travelling and what you need to do if you plan on travelling with medications.

Online courses include:

- [Researching your trip online](#)
- [Getting ready to travel safely](#)
- [Booking Travel and Accessing your finances online](#)
- [Travelling in Australia](#)
- [Travelling overseas](#)

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.



News.com.au · Follow

· 8 Jan ·

@haven.autocare via Jam Press

Irritated forklift driver picks up and moves car blocking driveway

news.com.au

What the f*** are they doing
bro?

Can fork lifts parallel park for us? Asking for a friend. 😬

Watch video [here](#).

New Year Office Chitchat

*How was your Christmas?
you ask*

and I think
of the bloodstained rug

and the silent scraping
of the spade

in the garden
at midnight

and the wash wash
washing of my hands

and the dreams,
those endless dreams

which haunt
the night-time

and smudge
their thumbprints

on the day
to come

and I reply
Super, thanks. Yours?

Brian Bilston

Thanks to Brian Bilston

This poem is dedicated to anyone heading back into work and having to endure dull conversation about what they got up to during the Christmas holidays.

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](https://www.facebook.com/NHWKuringgaiHornsby)

Facebook Group [NHWKuringgaiHornsby](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NHWKuringgaiHornsby)

Twitter [@NHWKRGHornsby](https://twitter.com/NHWKRGHornsby)

Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com



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

Website WatchOut.org.au

Facebook [@NHWWatchOut](https://www.facebook.com/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 \(The Chase\) \(paused\)](#)