



Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby eNewsletter #747 - 03 February 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](#).

31 January, from the Traffic & Highway Patrol command: We have become aware of unlawful e-bike/e-scooter/unregistered motorbike Ride Events planned for this weekend across the state, particularly aiming at a gathering of young persons.

Traffic & Highway Patrol Command wish to remind those who attempt to take part in these events, and the parents of any young person, that the riding of e-scooters, unregistered motorbikes (petrol or electric), or unlawful e-bikes upon roads, and road related area's (such as footpaths, shared paths, cycle ways, etc) is prohibited. Fines can add up to well in excess of \$3000, and parents of participating young persons can also be liable for fines.

The riding of lawful e-bikes is permitted upon road related area's by persons under 16, and should be done so in a safe manner.

We will be out in force to monitor, deter, and enforce any breaches of road legislation. These include aerial monitoring/recording, direct Police interaction, and investigations from any images and videos captured by members of the

public and Police.

We urge parents to talk with their children about their involvement in such activities and seek their assistance in ensuring they don't attend.

All members of the public are welcome to forward all images and footage to Police via the Crime Stoppers portal, or any live information on **1800 333 000**, or the **Police Assistance Line 131 444**.

Understanding E-Bike Rules in NSW



Some E-bikes are legal to ride in public in NSW if they comply with certain conditions:

- All riders and passengers **MUST** wear approved helmets, securely fitted and fastened.
- The electric motor must cut off when the bicycle reaches 25km/h.
- Motors are intended to assist when riding uphill or into headwind, not as the primary source of propulsion.

E-bikes are subject to the same rules as bicycles, and have the same rights and responsibilities as other NSW road users including:

- Keep to the left and give way to pedestrians on shared paths or footpaths.
- Ride at a speed which is safe for you and those around you.
- Have and use a bell to warn others you are approaching.
- Riders are to dismount and walk across pedestrian crossings unless there is a green bicycle light.
- Only children under 16 years of age or adults accompanying a child under 16 can ride on a footpath, unless there are signs prohibiting bicycle riding.
- Mobile phones must be hands free OR secured in a commercially manufactured phone holder fixed to the bike. It is illegal to text, make video calls, use social media or take photos/videos while riding.

Penalties:

- Fines from \$818 for illegal e-bike use.
- Fines for not wearing an approved helmet from \$410
- Riding under the influence of drugs or alcohol can lead to fines or imprisonment.
- On the spot fines for holding a mobile phone from \$410
- Penalties apply for negligent or dangerous riding.

Note: If you are involved in an incident that results in injury or damage to a person's property, you may be financially liable.

For further information, please visit.



E-bikes |
Transport
for NSW



A handbook
for bicycle
riders

Stay safe and ride responsibly!



MOTORISED WHEELED DEVICES



Devices such as electric scooters, skateboards, and hoverboards are **ILLEGAL** in NSW.

Although a motorised scooter, skateboard, or hoverboard (electric or petrol powered) are considered motor vehicles, they do not satisfy the Australian Design Rules and for this reason, cannot be registered in NSW and are unable to be insured.

These devices cannot be ridden on roads, or road related areas (such as footpaths shared paths and cycleways) in NSW, except on private land.



Anyone caught riding a motorised device on a road or road related area in NSW can face fines starting from \$723

Further information is available at roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au



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- Fines for not wearing an approved helmet from \$410
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- On the spot fines for holding a mobile phone from \$410
- Penalties apply for negligent or dangerous riding.

Stay safe and ride responsibly!

MOTORISED BICYCLES

'E-Bikes'



Some electric motorised bicycles known as 'e-bikes' are **LEGAL** to ride in public in NSW if they comply with certain **CONDITIONS**.



There are only two types of **permitted e-bikes**:

- Power-assisted pedal cycles
- Electric power-assisted cycles

BUT they must be designed to be propelled primarily by the rider. They **cannot be propelled exclusively by the motor** and **cannot exceed 25km/h**.

Bicycles powered by electric motors are intended only to assist when riding uphill or into a headwind, NOT to be the primary source of propulsion.

Electric powered bicycles which don't comply with these conditions **cannot be ridden on roads, or road related areas (such as footpaths shared paths and cycleways) in NSW, except on private land.**

Anyone caught riding an illegal electric powered bicycle on a road or road-related area in NSW can face fines starting from \$704.

Further information is available at roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au



30 January, from Nepean command: Enjoy your weekend 🚔🚔

FRIDAY FUNNY

I came into work at Penrith Police Station this morning and my glasses weren't on the desk where I left them.

"To the person who stole my glasses, I will find you

...
I have contacts"



NEPEAN POLICE AREA COMMAND



28 January, from NSW Police: The 90-year-old woman missing from North Turramurra has been located.

Thank you to everyone who shared our appeal.



03 February, from NSW Fair Trading: New community land laws: What they mean for you and your neighbourhood.

Already in effect (from 27 October 2025):

- Fairer financial hardship arrangement to help people pay off overdue levies.
- Clearer responsibilities for building managers so everyone understands their role in keeping the community running smoothly.
- Stronger accountability for owners when it comes to repairing and maintaining common property.

Coming soon (from 1 April 2026):

- Greater accountability for developers of new community land schemes, helping protect owners and residents from the beginning.
- Updated community land information certificates to make buying, selling and managing your property more transparent.

These changes aim to make community living easier, safer and more transparent for everyone.

Learn more [here](#).

02 February from NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: This pic shows how the Neighbourhood Watch garbage bin stickers can be utilised as signage in

problem 'hot spots', such as this laneway in North Wahroonga where a huge knife was found. It reminds residents of the phone numbers to use, and is a visual reminder to criminals that residents are vigilant in this area.

Garbage bin stickers have already been successfully used in Killara, Gordon and Thornleigh, primarily to prevent graffiti. A smooth surface is usually required, but this novel approach of Raj's illustrates an alternative method that we may be able to use in the future. Well done, Raj!

Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga



01 February, Shared with permission from the St Ives Community Page and Surrounds group:

Just a reminder for everyone, having basic respect for people around you shouldn't be that difficult a concept for everyone to grasp.

Keep your dog on a leash. By doing that you're not doing anything extraordinary, you're just following basic rules which exist to make our society a pleasant place for all.

Dog leash Laws in New South Wales (NSW)

General Requirements

In New South Wales, dogs must be on a leash in public places unless they are

in designated off-leash areas. This rule is in place to ensure the safety of both dogs and the public.

01 February, from NHW Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: We recently held the Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby Volunteer Meeting #48 at the PCYC, 1 Park Lane, Waitara. (Thanks PCYC Hornsby / Ku-ring-gai). We shared the latest crime statistics for the years Sep 2024-Sep 2025 for the two LGAs Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby taken from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) website. Here they are - Hornsby = white, Ku-ring-gai = blue:

Oct 2024 to Sep 2025 Hornsby & Ku-ring-gai LGAs from BOCSAR 28/01/2026

Offence Type	Trend	Count year to Sep 2024	Count year to Sep 2025
Domestic Assault - Hornsby	stable	257	277
Domestic Assault - Ku-ring-gai	stable	141	172
Non-Domestic Assault	stable	193	213
Non-Domestic Assault	stable	128	121
Assault police	n.c.	9	22
Assault police	n.c.	5	5
Homicide - Murder	n.c.	0	0
Homicide - Murder	n.c.	0	0
Robbery without a weapon	n.c.	11	13
Robbery without a weapon	n.c.	5	3
Robbery with a firearm	n.c.	1	1
Robbery with a firearm	n.c.	0	0
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	n.c.	6	4
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	n.c.	0	2
Sexual Assault	stable	100	106
Sexual Assault	stable	64	61
Sexual touching, sexual act & other sexual offences	stable	110	69
Sexual touching, sexual act & other sexual offences	stable	65	53
Break & Enter dwelling	stable	164	123
Break & Enter dwelling	stable	155	145
B&E non-dwelling	Up 40.4% pa	52	73
B&E non-dwelling	stable	36	33
Receiving/handling stolen goods	stable	44	49
Receiving/handling stolen goods	stable	32	39
Motor vehicle theft	stable	80	67
Motor vehicle theft	stable	64	53
Steal from motor vehicle	stable	162	158
Steal from motor vehicle	stable	132	133
Steal from retail store	stable	280	237
Steal from retail store	stable	53	94
Steal from dwelling	Down 21.8% pa	133	104
Steal from dwelling	stable	86	82
Steal from person	n.c.	13	11
Steal from person	n.c.	6	1
Fraud	stable	582	515
Fraud	Down 25.4% pa	473	353
Other theft	stable	134	138
Other theft	stable	56	74
Malicious damage to property	Down 21.4% pa	426	335
Malicious damage to property	stable	255	218
Escape custody	n.c.	0	1
Escape custody	n.c.	0	0
Breach ADVO	stable	111	106
Breach ADVO	stable	36	39
Breach APVO	n.c.	5	10
Breach APVO	n.c.	5	3
Breach bail conditions	stable	211	238

Breach bail conditions	stable	58	64
Fail to appear	stable	22	20
Fail to appear	n.c.	3	7
Resist/hinder officer	n.c.	12	24
Resist/hinder officer	n.c.	8	6
Other offences against justice procedures	n.c.	1	5
Other offences against justice procedures	n.c.	1	3
Trespass	stable	94	83
Trespass	stable	57	63
Offensive conduct	n.c.	12	11
Offensive conduct	n.c.	8	2
Offensive language	n.c.	4	3
Offensive language	n.c.	1	1
Criminal intent	n.c.	18	18
Criminal intent	n.c.	9	10
Use/possess cocaine	n.c.	6	8
Use/possess cocaine	n.c.	1	3
Use/possess narcotics	n.c.	4	5
Use/possess narcotics	n.c.	1	2
Use/possess cannabis	stable	68	71
Use/possess cannabis	stable	39	22
Use/possess amphetamines	stable	40	31
Use/possess amphetamines	n.c.	8	4
Use/possess ecstasy	n.c.	1	5
Use/possess ecstasy	n.c.	0	0
Use/possess other drugs	stable	22	23
Use/possess other drugs	n.c.	3	9
Deal/traffic cocaine	n.c.	3	1
Deal/traffic cocaine	n.c.	1	1
Deal/traffic narcotics	n.c.	0	1
Deal/traffic narcotics	n.c.	0	0
Deal/traffic cannabis	n.c.	0	4
Deal/traffic cannabis	n.c.	3	0
Deal/traffic ecstasy	n.c.	2	0
Deal/traffic ecstasy	n.c.	0	0
Deal/traffic amphetamines	n.c.	3	18
Deal/traffic amphetamines	n.c.	1	0
Deal/traffic other drugs	n.c.	2	1
Deal/traffic other drugs	n.c.	2	0
Cultivating cannabis	n.c.	3	0
Cultivating cannabis	n.c.	1	0
Manufacture drugs	n.c.	0	0
Manufacture drugs	n.c.	0	3
Importing drugs	n.c.	0	0
Importing drugs	n.c.	0	0
Other drug offences	stable	28	24
Other drug offences	n.c.	18	9
Abduction & kidnapping	n.c.	2	0
Abduction & kidnapping	n.c.	1	0
Arson	stable	25	26

Arson	n.c.	10	13
Betting & gaming offences	n.c.	0	1
Betting & gaming offences	n.c.	0	0
Blackmail & extortion	n.c.	19	21
Blackmail & extortion	n.c.	12	17
Coercive Control	n.c.	0	2
Coercive control	n.c.	0	0
Intimidation, stalking & harassment	stable	265	324
Intimidation, stalking & harassment	stable	119	155
Liquor offences	stable	32	27
Liquor offences	n.c.	17	7
Other offences against the person	n.c.	15	10
Other offences against the person	n.c.	6	2
Pornography offences	n.c.	18	8
Pornography offences	n.c.	13	9
Prohibited & regulated weapons offences	stable	86	78
Prohibited & regulated weapons offences	stable	34	24

01 February from NHW K&H: Our volunteers have been out painting the white demarcation lines for residents who needed our help.

Thanks to Wal, Gay and Julia for assisting in Roseville Chase and Turrumurra. These residents are grateful that this may stop drivers parking over the residents' entrance/exit, which not only upsets schedules, but can block the moving of bags of shopping, wheelchairs and prams etc.

Do you need volunteer help? Please take a look at our website driveway page: au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/driveway/.

Perhaps you would like to volunteer with us and help out with the painting? Please take a look at our website volunteer page: au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/volunteer/



01 February, from 10 News Sydney: #BREAKING: Two men, both aged 28, have been found dead at a property in Glenorie, in Sydney's north-west. Emergency services were called to a home on Harrisons Lane at around 8:40am on Saturday following a concern-for-welfare report. Officers arrived to find the two men deceased at the scene and established a crime scene as detectives began inquiries. Police say the deaths are not being treated as suspicious and a report will be prepared for the Coroner.

31 January, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness: PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO USE THE SAFETY DOOR!

In Australia, the "safety door" refers to the rear passenger-side door—the one closest to the kerb or footpath. Using this door exclusively is a key road safety

practice to keep children away from moving traffic.

Why and How to Use the Safety Door-

- **Location:** Always use the rear door on the left-hand side of the vehicle (in Australia) to ensure children step directly onto the footpath.
- **Routine:** Encourage children to wait inside the vehicle until an adult opens the safety door for them.
- **Visual Cues:** You can place a sticker (like a smiley face) on the inside of the safety door to help younger children identify which door is safe to use.
- **Child Locks:** Activate mechanical or electronic childproof locks on the rear doors to prevent children from opening them from the inside, especially on the traffic side.
- **Order of Exit:** If you have multiple children, get the least mobile child out first so you can focus on the more active child who might run toward the road.

Additional School Zone Safety-

- **Buckle Up:** Ensure every child is in a correctly fitted car seat for their age and size until they reach at least 145cm tall.
- **No "Dooring":** Under Australian Road Rule 269(3), it is illegal to open a car door if it causes a hazard to other road users, such as cyclists or passing cars.
- **Drop-off Zones:** Stay buckled until the car has completely stopped in the designated school zone and always exit onto the footpath.

It's all our responsibility to teach our children to stay safe on and near the road.



31 January, from Pinellas County Sheriff's Office: Seriously, don't! Don't plug in that flash drive you:

- Found in a parking lot
- Received in the mail as a "free gift"
- Bought from some random online seller

Scammers are using USB drives to deliver malware straight to your computer. The second you plug one in, it can automatically install ransomware, steal your passwords, wipe your data, or spread through your entire network. You might not even realize you've been infected until it's too late.

The mail scam is especially sneaky. Scammers send flash drives disguised as legitimate correspondence from the IRS (claiming tax refund info), health organizations, or companies offering promotional gifts. They're counting on your curiosity or trust to get you to plug it in. Don't fall for it.

Found one lying around? That "lost" flash drive in the parking lot isn't lost. It's bait. Throw it away.

Got a suspiciously cheap flash drive online? It's probably reprogrammed to show fake storage capacity and will corrupt or delete your files. Or worse, it has malware on it.

Found one at work? Turn it in to your IT department. They can handle it safely and alert others if your workplace is being targeted.

Only trust flash drives you personally bought from reputable retailers. If you didn't buy it or specifically order it, throw it away. Your data is worth way more than free storage.

31 January, from Hannah's Blue Butterflies Road Safety Awareness: STAYING SAFE AROUND SCHOOL BUSES 🚌 [edited to remove advice in S. Australia]

Student safety around school buses is a shared responsibility between students, parents, and motorists, governed by specific road safety protocols during drop-off and pick-up times.

Key Safety Rules for Students-

- The "Stop, Look, Listen, Think" Method: Students should use this sequence every time they cross the road.
- Stop: One step back from the kerb.
- Look: Continuously both ways for approaching traffic.

- Listen: For the sounds of nearby vehicles.
- Think: Whether it is safe to cross, and continue checking until safely across.
- Distance from the Kerb: Stand at least three "giant steps" (about 1.8 metres) away from the kerb while waiting for the bus.
- Wait for the Departure: Never cross the road in front of or behind a bus while it is stopped. Wait until the bus has driven away so there is a clear view of the road in both directions.
- Safety Door Usage: When being dropped off by a car near a bus, students should always exit via the "Safety Door" (the rear kerb-side door) to stay away from passing traffic.
- Dropped Items: If a student drops something near the bus, they must not pick it up. They should tell the driver first to ensure they are seen before moving.

Responsibilities for Parents and Carers-

- Meet at the Door: Parents should always meet their child at the bus stop, never on the opposite side of the road. Calling a child across a road is highly dangerous as they may run into traffic without looking.
- Hand-Holding: It is recommended to hold a child's hand until they are at least 8 years old and closely supervise them until they are 10 years old when near traffic or bus stops.
- Designated Zones: Use official school Drop-off and Pick-up zones which are often marshalled by volunteer supervisors.

Rules for Motorists-

- 40km/h Speed Limit: Drivers must reduce speed to 40km/h when school bus "wig-wag" lights are flashing, indicating children are boarding or alighting.
- This applies to all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus.
- Give Way: Motorists should always give way to buses pulling out into traffic.

31 January, from NSW Incident Alerts: OPERATION AFTER TEENS FALL OVER CLIFF - #CHERRYBROOK

- Posted: 9:51pm, Friday 30 January

An operation is continuing after two teens were injured after falling 10m over a cliff in Sydney's north-west. Emergency services were called to Berowra Valley

National Park at Cherrybrook about 5.15pm (Friday 30 January 2026), and found a 17-year-old boy had suffered multiple injuries in the fall. A medical team brought to the scene by the TOLL helicopter shortly after have been working to stabilise the boy. Police have been told he's in a critical condition and is expected to be taken by road ambulance to Westmead Hospital once he's been carried to the top of the cliff. A 16-year-old girl was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics after also falling over the cliff. She was carried by foot to the top of the cliff before being taken to Royal North Shore Hospital. Her condition is reported to be stable. A 47-year-old woman was treated at the scene for shock.

Officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command are assisting paramedics, along with members of the Rural Fire Service. The operation continues.

31 January, Shared with permission from the Thornleigh Westleigh and Normanhurst Community group:

Hello community, I am seeking dashcam footage from anyone travelling on Pennant Hills Rd north bound this Wednesday morning, just before 11:30 am, going past Mt Pleasant Ave that witnessed my trailer being hit from a Porsche Boxster turning right from Mt Pleasant Ave. Entitled Fwit Porsche driver trying to go me!

30 January, from the Australian Federal Police (AFP): Dearest Gentle Reader,

It has come to this author's attention a most unsavoury set of characters is making the rounds. A scammer armed with flattering words, suspicious links and promises far too dazzling to be true. Guard your purse strings and your personal details with the utmost care. Any message urging haste, secrecy or exclusive opportunity is likely not a suitor of fortune, but a rogue of the highest order. A true gentleman or lady would never demand your details in such a vulgar fashion. Be vigilant. Verify before you trust. And remember, if an offer sounds as scandalous as a midnight rendezvous in the garden (IYKYK), it is best declined.

Yours in watchful concern, A friend to society



Lady Whistledown's
SOCIETY PAPERS

30 January, from Galston, Glenorie & Hills Rural Community: Residents in Arcadia are reporting receiving letters from banks with new bank cards enclosed in names different to theirs.

Some are reporting receiving up to 5 bank letters in one day. This is happening to a number of residents. Residents are trying to report the issues to the banks, with little interest. They are just being told to return them to the bank. We are not sure how widespread this is. But please check your mailboxes regularly- it appears that people from outside the area are targeting these properties and removing the letters prior to the residents clearing their mailboxes.

Report to police if you see strangers looking through yours or your neighbours mailbox. Provide any CCTV to police.

[Volunteers in Gordon have also reported the same. The letter(s) appears to have a bank card inside. The letter(s) was returned to the bank marked no such person at this address - Ed]

30 January, from ACCC Product Safety: If you own an Orchard Toys Jungle Heads and Tails card game from Aldi, stop use immediately: it has been recalled.

There is a risk of serious injury or death from choking if small parts separate

from the toy. Learn more [here](#).



30 January, from Kim Komando: You see a charging cable left at the airport gate [edited to remove advertising - Ed]

Looks brand new. You think, "Lucky me!" Don't touch it. It's a trap.

It's called the OMG Cable, and it looks exactly like the white cord that came with your iPhone. But hidden inside is a tiny Wi-Fi-enabled chip that starts stealing your passwords, texts and credit card info the second you plug in. This isn't a movie plot. These cables sell online for \$200. Hackers leave them in airports, coffee shops, hotels. I don't want you to be the next victim.



29 January, from NHW K&H: ACCC Recent Developments in Artificial Intelligence - Industry Snapshot

A volunteer suggested reading page 46 and sharing it with our residents.

- 5.3 Risk of AI-generated fake and manipulated reviews
- Reviews of products and services, which can appear on a business's own website, social media, or review platforms, have a significant influence on consumer purchasing decisions.
- 252 Generative AI tools can be used to quickly produce a large volume of reviews.
- 253 Those reviews, which may be generated by a business or by an intermediary acting on their behalf, may be seen as more credible and persuasive by consumers. The ACCC has previously described how fake and misleading reviews can frustrate consumer choice, distort competition and erode consumer trust in the digital economy.
- 254 Research indicates people cannot distinguish between real reviews, and AI-generated reviews.
- 255 Additionally, generative AI systems have also been found to not distinguish between real reviews and AI-generated reviews when prompted to do so.
- 256 While convincing fake reviews may increase consumer confidence in individual purchasing decisions, over time widespread use of AI-generated fake reviews may further reduce consumer trust online.

Read the full report here, and other countries' responses [here](#).



29 January, Shared with permission from the Thornleigh Westleigh and Normanhurst Community group:

Thornleigh and Pennant Hills residents stay vigilant! Larry Light-fingers and co are out and about. Tillock Street recently, break and enter and car keys stolen. And numerous other attempts. They are on e-bikes in the middle of the night.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Tuesday 10 February: Safer Internet Day. [Info](#).

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.](#)

Sunday 01 March: Clean Up Australia Day [Info.](#)

29 January, from NHW K&H: Old paperwork can be a goldmine for scammers

Bank statements, bills, medical letters and forms with your personal details shouldn't go in the bin. Shredding them is one of the simplest ways to reduce identity theft. Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby offers a community paper shredder you can borrow for free, run on a "pay it forward" basis. 🧡 If you're able, a small donation (for example, a gold coin) helps keep the shredder maintained and available for the next neighbour. There is no cost and no obligation.

🔒 Good to know

- Ideal for small home clear-outs
- Shreds up to 5 pages at a time
- Simple, practical protection for your personal information

📧 To request the shredder, visit: 👉 au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/shredder/

⚠️ Tip: For large volumes of paperwork, a commercial shredding service may be more suitable.

Small action. Big impact for community safety 💙 Please share.



28 January, from NSW Maritime: 🚢🚢 Packed everything but the kitchen sink?

Too many people or a heavy load in the wrong spot can quickly tip the balance ⚖️

- 💠 Keep weight low and secure
- 💠 Spread people and gear evenly
- 💠 Always wear a lifejacket

All vessels have a max limit for capacity (number of people), and load (weight including people and equipment).

Here's how to load and board your vessel safely – for all vessel types, waters and weather conditions 👉 [here](#).



28 January, from Ku-ring-gai Council: Can you help?

Council is seeking witnesses to an alleged incident on 21 January at 5pm at Roseville dog park. The alleged incident involved two off-leash rottweilers with a female owner.

Please contact **Council's Companion Animal Officer on 9424 0000** if you have any information about the incident or the dogs.



28 January, from NHWA: With a new school year upon us, it's timely to talk about #PersonalSafety for school children.

Whether they're walking, riding, or catching public transport, helping kids build

safe habits can make a big difference. Here are some simple ways to support your child's personal safety:

- • Encourage them to travel with friends where possible
- • Remind them to stay aware of their surroundings (no headphones too loud, eyes up)
- • Make sure they know safe places they can go if they feel uncomfortable (shops, schools, libraries)
- • Teach them to trust their instincts and seek help from a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right
- • Agree on clear rules about talking to strangers and using devices safely

Regular conversations help children feel confident, prepared, and supported — not scared. A safer community starts with informed kids and connected adults.

28 January, from Officer Gomez: What Online Grooming Actually Looks Like?

When parents picture an online predator, they often imagine a stranger asking for inappropriate photos right out of the gate. That's almost never how it starts. Predators "hook" kids first. Slowly. Intentionally. Psychologically.

Here's what the conversations often look like in the real world:

Step 1: Isolation

They work to separate the child emotionally from their family.

- • "Your parents don't really understand you."
- • "You're way more mature than they treat you."
- • "Nobody knows you like I do."
- • "You can trust me. Not them."

The goal is simple: make the child feel misunderstood at home and understood by the predator.

Step 2: Emotional Hook

Next comes sympathy and emotional dependence.

- • "My puppy died and I don't know how to cope."
- • "My grandma is sick and she's all I have."
- • "You're the only person I can talk to."

Now the child feels responsible for the emotional survival of a stranger. That's a powerful hook for a developing brain.

Step 3: Control Through Fear or Anger**

Once emotional leverage exists, pressure begins.

- • "If you don't respond, I'll be really upset."
- • "If you don't send this, something bad could happen to your family."
- • "You'll ruin everything if you tell anyone."

This is Control 101. It works on adults. Kids stand even less chance against it.

Reality Check

This happens to thousands of kids. Smart kids. Good kids. Loved kids.

Supervised kids. Predators don't need a van or a playground anymore. They need a phone, patience, and psychology.

✳ What Parents Can Do?

- ✓ Talk to your kids about these exact phrases.
- ✓ Teach them that secrets with strangers are danger signs.
- ✓ Remind them they are never responsible for an adult's emotions.
- ✓ Keep devices out of bedrooms and monitor platforms.
- ✓ Create a home where kids can report uncomfortable conversations without fear of punishment.

The best defence isn't fear. It's awareness, repetition, and strong family communication. Have the conversation before someone else does. Happy Parenting, Officer Gomez

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.

Wi-Fi and mobile networks

How do you set up a Wi-Fi network to use the internet at home?

Is it safe to connect to public Wi-Fi?

What is the nbn and what do you need to know when looking for a new nbn plan?

We answer these questions and more in these courses. Start [here](#).

Wi-Fi on the go

In this course, you'll learn about connecting to a Wi-Fi network that isn't your own.

Wi-Fi is a way of connecting to the internet without using wires or cables. Most of the time you'll use it at home, but some public places, like libraries, coffee shops or even a whole shopping centre, offer free Wi-Fi you can use.

This course will show you how to connect to a public Wi-Fi network, and also give you some tips on how to stay safe and secure while using public Wi-Fi. Start [here](#).

What is Wi-Fi?

There is a way to access the internet that doesn't need cables and it works in a similar way to a wireless radio. In fact, this internet access is often referred to as a wireless network and you may already have heard of it – it's called Wi-Fi. The activities in this course will tell you how get Wi-Fi in your home, which devices can use it, and how to connect.

To get started, the short video below gives you an overview of what Wi-Fi is. Start [here](#).

All of the FREE Be Connected online learning courses are [here](#).

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



Thanks to Say Awesome.



Thanks to Jenny, from the Hornsby Heights Residents group: Classic typo!

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 - Turrumurra](#)
[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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