

# Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

eNewsletter #366 - 15 October 2018

This weekly eNewsletter is compiled by Neighbourhood Watch 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 the <u>Kuring-gai PAC Facebook</u> 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. Thank you for your support.
- ➡ Please feel free to <u>share/forward this eNewsletter</u> with your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours.
- Reading our eNewsletter for the first time? Click here to subscribe.

### 14 October, from NSW Road Safety: Are you driving home at the end of the school holidays?

Take this test before you get on the road.

Test Your Tired Self test here.



#### 14 October, from Burwood command: HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Is your child looking to participate in trick or treating this year? Police are urging parents to keep a watchful eye on their children during this festivity. Here are 10 Halloween Safety Tips for your consideration:

- ☐ Plan a Route in Advance
- □ Wear Reflective Clothing
- ☐ Make a Photo Identification Card for your Kids
- □ Wear Comfy Shoes
- ☐ Keep Costumes Comfortable
- □ Establish a Curfew
- ☐ Carry a Mobile Phone at all Times
- ☐ Stay Hydrated
- □ Inspect Candy before Eating
- ☐ Keep your own Home Safe
- ☐ Report any suspicious criminal behaviour immediately
- ☐ Take a photo of your child before you leave your home
- □ Please take your lolly wrappings with you.

14 October, from Traffic & Highway Patrol command: Meanwhile on Pennant

**Hills Road...**#whyaregreenslipssoexpensive



### 14 October, from Traffic & Highway Patrol command: #meanwhile @ Asquith, earlier today.

- \* Yes we do monitor various social media sites
- \* Yes we would like to follow this matter up. Any details of the owner of either vehicle would be appreciated in a private message to this page please. As you will see, one crash in the wet could quite have easily led to another!



If you have any information, please phone Hornsby Police Station 9476 9799.

## 12 October, from NBN NEWS: CATCH UP: The RMS has announced it's trialling heavy vehicle lane restrictions on the M1 for a period of twelve months.

Trucks and buses with a gross vehicle mass of more than 4-and-a-half tonnes will only be able to travel along the left two lanes from Wahroonga to Kariong. "We've got over 75,000 cars using the M1 between the Central Coast and Sydney every day and this will vastly improve safety keeping trucks from moving in and out of the right-hand most lane." Strict penalties will be in place for those caught breaking the rules from November 1.

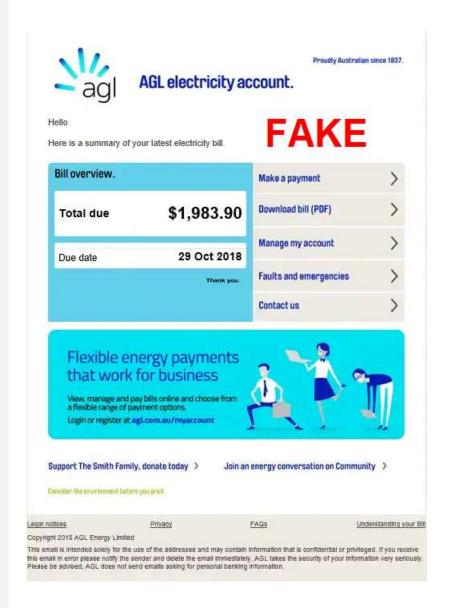
#### Full article available here.

#### 11 October, from NSW Police Force: SCAM ALERT!

AGL Energy is warning people about a fake energy bill email. Don't click on any of the links in the email or in the online bill. Delete immediately. All legitimate AGL electricity bills:

1. Come from the sender address agl@energy.agl.com.au. Any deviation on this address may be a hoax email; and

2. Include your address and account number in the email body. If it does not contain these details, it may be a hoax email.



#### 10 October, from Brisbane Water Police District: Driving to the Conditions

Please SLOW down and take care with the current weather conditions impacting on the Central Coast. Please turn on your lights, slow down and take precautions re: water on the roads.



08 October, from NSW Road Safety: School holidays are the perfect time to teach your children about staying safe on NSW roads.

Head to <a href="https://www.safetytown.com.au/">https://www.safetytown.com.au/</a> to find out more. <a href="https://www.safetytown.com.au/">#TowardsZero</a>



The latest in the 20 Tips series, "Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for Garage Sales" is published just in time for the Garage Sale Trail on the weekend of 20/21 October 2018.

Get your copy from <a href="https://www.NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au/Tips/">NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au/Tips/</a>.

More info on the Garage sale Trail here.



This list was compiled by those involved with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ringgai and Hornsby council areas. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799.



#### OUR 20 FAVOURITE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR: GARAGE SALES

- NEVER ANSWER PERSONAL QUESTIONS about your alarm system, regular habits, living situation, children's schools, what's in your house, etc.
- MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE that all valuable items are securely stored inside the house.
   Don't be tempted to hide your handbag/keys/purse/wallet/phone outside.
- ENSURE ALL POSSESSIONS THAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO SELL (or have stolen) are out of sight/covered and/or secured, eg bikes, wine, surf boards, plants in containers(1).
- 4. KEEP THE ITEMS inside the property boundary, le not on your council strip. Despite the name 'garage sale', it is advisable to have the items on your lawn/driveway. Collect expensive items all in the one place nearest to you/ the intended checkout table. To avoid concealment opportunities, put large items around the outside of the area. Video the whole area outside your home as a simple inventory of items for sale AND any not for sale (see #6 below).
- 5. YOU CANNOT SELL dangerous goods, chemicals, faulty electrical items, or firearms.
- 6. AFTER THE GARAGE SALE, check that all home security systems are operable & have not been disabled to help facilitate later unauthorised entry. Conduct an inspection (using video inventory in #4 above) to identify any missing items. Please remember to remove all advertising after the event.
- CHECK WITH YOUR INSURANCE company to ensure you are covered for any thefts that occur as a result of a garage sale at your dwelling. Look online for council rules.
- IT NEVER HURTS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS. Apply all necessary security measures prior to and after the garage sale, eg in case of customers looking the night before, lock all doors & windows, set the alarm, leave lights on, etc.
- LOCK ALL DOORS INTO YOUR HOME, including any joining doors, garage doors, shed doors, yard gates, even if you plan to go in and out during the day. Remove keys.
   Don't be tempted to pop a door on the latch. Set your alarm system. Advise neighbours to also lock their properties and be vigilant.
- DO NOT ALLOW ACCESS to your property, eg to use your bathroom, or to try on clothes. Use an extension cord from your home/garage to test any electrical items.

■ NHWKuringgaiHomsby.org.au ■ WatchOut.org.au @ NHWKuringgaiHomsby@gmail.com

Last updated October 2018

**ENGLISH** 

#### OUR 20 FAVOURITE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR GARAGE SALES continued

- 11. BE CAREFUL OF DISTRACTIONS, eg by a request for water, or to borrow your phone. Beware of criminals working as a team. One person may engage you chatting, whilst the other steals items, or enters your property (see #9 abovel).
- 12. NEVER BE ALONE—Ask for help running the garage sale, preferably 2 or more. Invite friends to sell their items with yours and thus gain help. And remember water, sunscreen, hat, food, medicine, and how will you take a toilet break?
- 13. IF YOU HAVE KIDS OR PETS, consider lending them out for the day. They are difficult to supervise, vulnerable & may distract you from the customers.
- 14. CRIMINALS ARE JUST LIKE US. They don't advertise the fact. Even little old ladies can be thieves. Greet all shoppers, so they know they have been seen. Mingle, make eye contact and be observant: age, height, clothing, hair & eye colour, etc. Would-be burglars may be scoping your home as a future target.
- 15. DON'T BE BULLIED! Stand your ground. Some people can get aggressive about getting a look, or a price. Be prepared to call for help with an unruly shopper.
- 16. ACCEPT ONLY CASH. Keep all money on you, eg use a 'burn belt/fanny pack', rather than a cash box. Remove accumulated cash during the day. Beware large notes they could be used in an attempt to see how much money you have, or counterfeit. Familiarise yourself with the checks for counterfeit notes: https://banknotes.rba.gov.au/counterfeit-detection/counterfeit-detection-guide/
- 17. CHARGE YOUR PHONE the night before & have it on you. Ensure emergency numbers are in your phone (see below). If in doubt - phone! Alternatively, you could use your home/ car's panic alarm. Consider a personal alarm
- 18. REASSURE FAMILY by sharing your position during the day, using a mobile phone App such as Glympse. Use the camera phone for recording licence plates. Finish the sale before the light goes.
- 19. DO NOT ADVERTISE AS A 'MOVING SALE'. You probably advertised your address on the Internet, local trees & lampposts, newspapers, etc. Be aware that criminals read this info too. Typical sales tips say "advertise your 3 best items" or "flount what you've gat?" Note - If you do, you are giving an indication of the kind of items you possess. Do not wear expensive jewellery at the sale,
- 20. RATHER THAN AT HOME, suggest hosting with a group of others as a community sale at the local school/church/childcare centre. This protects you & your home.

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property) TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers) TO REPORT NON-EMERG CRIME (Police Assistance Line) 131 444 IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)

1 800 333 000 9476 9799

💂 NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au 💂 WatchOut.org.au 🐠 NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

#### 15 October, PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? HAVE YOU CONTACTS IN KATOOMBA?

We have been given an update on the missing lady, Cecilia Devine by her mother: "There is still no news of Cecilia. There were sightings in Katoomba way back on the 5th and 6th September and I did see her and identified her on the CCTV footage at an ATM. No sightings since. I have no idea what to do or where to look for her. If you know anyone in Katoomba who may be able to keep a lookout for her. She may have moved on I have no idea. It's heartbreaking." NHW Note: The original post we shared reached 137, 829 people, with 2,250 shares! Please would you try again just as hard, if not harder? Thank you.



#### **Dates for the Diary:**

Sunday 21 October: Graffiti Removal Day

Saturday & Sunday 27 & 28 October: Ku-ring-gai council Chemical Cleanout.

9am-3:30pm @ St Ives Showgrounds.

Tuesday 27 November: 7pm @ Gordon Library Meeting Room 2,

Gordon/Killara/East Killara NHW meeting - *How can Neighbourhood Watch help you?* Come & meet your new NSWPF Crime Prevention Officer. Giveaways, advice, update on crime in the area. All welcome!

#### 2019:

Tuesday 05 February: Safer Internet Day Info

Friday 08 March: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter fundraiser - Strength is

her Superpower. International Women's Day 2019.

Sunday 07 April: Lindfield Rotary Fun Run.

#### From Hornsby Advocate, Thursday 11 October [online edition here]

Page 5 [edited] BEROWRA Vandals wreak havoc in park. Children's playground temporarily shut after spree. A POPULAR playground in Berowra was closed after a group of youths vandalised the play equipment, leaving behind plastic bongs, alcohol cans and stolen paint. A Hornsby councillor said the incident, on Saturday night at Warrina Street Oval, was not the first time residents had witnessed antisocial behaviour in the park in recent months. Police said a "number of youths" scattered into nearby bush when they arrived at the playground on Saturday about 10pm.

#### From North Shore Times, Thursday 11 October [online edition here]

#### Street Watch, page 15

**PYMBLE** A Chipping Norton man who allegedly embezzled more than \$300,000 from a Pymble-based company had his case mentioned in court this week. Dimitrios Casdas, 43, is facing 19 fraud charges dating between 2011 and 2016. Police stated the accused worked for the company, Quality Online Research, during the time of the theft. His case is due back at Hornsby Local Court on Wednesday, November 28, with bail to continue.

### 14 October, from NSW Police: A man has been taken to hospital after a truck rollover on the M1 Pacific Motorway this morning.

About 5.40am (Sunday 14 October 2018), emergency services were called to the scene, near the Windy Banks Interchange, after reports a heavy vehicle had rolled on its side. The driver, a man believed to be aged in his 50s, was trapped for a short time. All northbound lanes were closed while he was released and taken to Royal North Shore Hospital with serious injuries. Two other vehicles hit the crashed truck. One of the drivers sustained minor injuries and was taken to Hornsby Hospital. The other driver was uninjured. Officers from Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command are in attendance and will investigate the circumstances surrounding the crash.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact **Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000** or <a href="https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au">https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au</a>. Information is treated in strict confidence.

#### INSIDE THE MIND OF A THIEF - BURGLAR CONFESSIONS

<u>This video of an interview</u> with a burglar is invaluable. Please consider watching crime prevention advice given from the horse's mouth. [It's a bit long, but worthwhile watching all the way through - Ed]

<u>Here's the link</u>, enabling you to share it with others.



### 13 October: Some pics from the Day4You at Warrawee Public School, hosted by the Warrawee Anglican Church.

Out volunteers were sharing crime prevention information and advice, literature, giveaways and answering lots of interesting questions. Missed us? Email your questions to NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com or checkout what you can borrow on our website NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au. Not a bad day! Some good conversations with people about their current issues. A request for help with a flyer for dog problems, an offer to letterbox NHW flyers down one street (wonderful, eh?) and many people needing the internet safety and spam advice available on the 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips to Protect Your Identity' (iDcare especially). Thank you Clare, Mary, Stan, Pasquale, Gay, Julia and Lynne, and to Warrawee Public School, Warrawee Anglican Church and Ku-ring-gai Council. More advice about spam, fraud, ID theft and Internet Safety can be found on our Neighbourhood Watch WatchOut.org.au website.

Several happy customers for the police dress-ups (thank you Uniform Exchange) that have been recently adapted to velcro frontage for an easier on/off process (thank you Karen) - ready to be loaned to North Shore command, for an event in Chatswood on the weekend of 27/28 October.



#### 12 October, from Australian Federal Police (AFP): SCAM ALERT

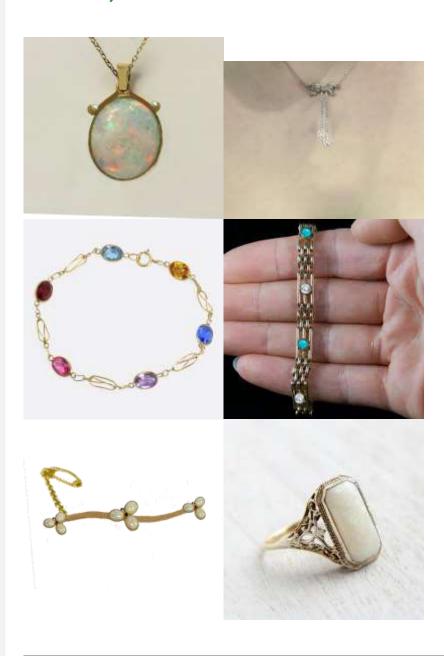
Scammers are using the credentials of a small photography business to send out a phishing email. The email asks you to click a link to view a notice from the AFP about a legal violation. This email is a scam. Don't click on any links or attachments. Summons or court attendance notices are always served in person and the AFP never issues them via email. If you have broken the law and need to appear in court, we usually break that news to you face-to-face. Sometimes we even give you a lift to court... This type of email scam tries to trick you into giving away your personal details or clicking on a link that will download malicious software onto your device. If you receive an email like this, delete it straight away. Don't think twice about it or any follow-up emails.

For tips on how to protect yourself, head to Stay Smart Online.

### 12 October, following an email to NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com: Please keep a look out for these stolen items.

They were taken from a Warragal Rd, Turramurra home on 22 September and the owner is fraught because of the sentimental value. The photo of the criminal attempting to break into another home was shared on the Turramurra Plaza noticeboard, but went missing. The owner says, "We'd also like help in finding that photo or any others of a man and woman who seem to be acting suspiciously. The woman we have seen carrying a blue bag or blue folder, the man has been sighted three times and each time wearing a hat. Both around 40, caucasian, middle height, fit."

Please phone **Hornsby police station 9476 9799** if you know anything or have relevant CCTV from around that time, or contact Crime Stoppers if you prefer to remain anonymous **1800 333 000**.



12 October, from the NRMA and Australian Red Cross: We've partnered with the Australian Red Cross to develop an app that helps you connect with your key support people, accomplish simple tasks to make you and your loved ones safer, and protect the things that matter most to you.

Prepare for any type of emergency with Australian Red Cross. Get Prepared helps you connect with your key support people, accomplish simple tasks to make you and your loved ones safer, and protect the things that matter most to you.

#### Key Features include:

- A quick and easy network of support with your Key 3 contacts.
- Easy checklists across a range of emergency preparedness actions.
- A personalised emergency plan you can share with others, or print out.

<u>Download Get Prepared App FREE here - android.</u>

Download Get Prepared App FREE here - iOS version.

### Did you know new residents to the Hornsby Shire Council area can now register for their Welcome Basket?

New residents to Ku-ring-gai have been receiving these for a while. Do you know of a new resident in your street?

More info and to register, click here.

# 10 October, from NSW Police: Can you help investigators determine the last movements of Nicole Cartwright, whose body was found in a reserve on Sydney's North Shore last week? [edited]

About 7.30am last Wednesday (3 October 2018), police were called to Pittwater Road, Hunters Hill, after the body of a woman was found by a council worker in Buffalo Creek Reserve. The woman has since been formally identified as 32-year-old, Nicole Cartwright.

Full Media Release here.



#### 10 October, from the Hornsby Advocate:

A Hornsby man charged with starting a bushfire in 2010 at North Turramurra - eight years after the incident happened - has entered a plea of not guilty at Hornsby Local Court.

Richard Christopher Mikhael, 48, from Hornsby, entered a plea of not guilt in court today. He is facing two charges relating to the bushfire in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park on July 5, 2010 near Bobbin Head Rd. The charges include intentionally cause fire and be reckless as to its spread, and cause or set fire to the property of another, or crown/public authority. His case has been adjourned to Wednesday, November 21 with bail to continue. Police allege he carried a sponge soaked with accelerant into the park and started the fire. Fire services were quick to act and put it out.

**Hornsby** A 23-year-old man will front court for high-range drink driving and driving without a licence after allegedly doing burnouts in a carpark on Jersey St North. Police said the 23-year-old man was doing burnouts in an underground carpark about 12.15am on Monday in his relative's car. Police said the car then hit a retaining wall a number of times, which was witnessed by a resident who had

come out to see what the commotion was about. Police said they found the man still in the car a short time later, which was parked across a footpath. The man failed a breath test and was arrested. He later returned a breath analysis reading of 0.154. The man has never held a NSW driver's licence and was an international student. He will front court at a future date.

**Asquith** A man was assaulted at the Asquith Newsagency on Pacific Highway last Thursday afternoon. Two males entered the store about 1.30pm and an argument broke out between one of them and a staff member. The owner of the store has then told the pair to leave. However, the pair returned to collect some items they left behind. Upon retrieving them, the owner of the store has taken a photo of the man who was involved in the argument. The man then allegedly punched the store owner in the face causing bleeding. Police arrived and located the man nearby. Police are investigating the matter further.

**Waitara** Two cars were broken into at a secure, underground carpark on Park Ave between last Thursday night and Friday morning. A window was smashed to gain entry to one of the vehicles. Wallets containing credit cards as well as sun glasses were stolen from the two vehicles. One credit card was then used to make fraudulent purchases. The stolen and purchased items were valued at \$540. Police have been reviewing CCTV footage.

Original article here.

09 October, from Inner West command: Please be aware that counterfeit \$50 notes have been detected in Newtown and Sydenham in recent days.

Could you spot a Counterfeit Banknote?



More info: Reserve Bank of Australia - <u>Counterfeit Detection Guide</u>
Links such as this one are easy to find on our Neighbourhood Watch WatchOut!
webpage for Fraud: <a href="https://watchout.org.au/fraud/">https://watchout.org.au/fraud/</a>

**Are you a small business?** This was mentioned on a business tv program recently.

#### **DNA SECURITY SOLUTIONS**

The ultimate deterrent to criminals is the certainty of being caught. We have developed that deterrent.

**Note:** Neighbourhood Watch cannot endorse any product or service. We can simply bring it to your attention. You must do your own research.



07 October, shared from Galston, Glenorie & The Hills Rural News: Arcadia family home broken into last night (Saturday 6 October).

Time to check your locks and keep your security up-to-date.

#### From Dry Bar Comedy - Dennis Regan: Protect Your Identity (video)

#### Watch funny video here



#### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS & LINKS**

Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance): 000

NSW Police - Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command (PAC): 9476 9799

Hornsby Police Station, 292 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby 2077

**Ku-ring-gai Crime Prevention Officer: 9476 9723** 

Local Police Facebook page: @KuringGaiPAC

Non-emergency two-way communication

**Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000** 

Report crime anonymously

Report suspicious activity asap

#### Police Assistance Line (PAL): 131 444

For non-urgent minor crime

#### **NSW Police Community Portal**

Online reporting of non-emergency minor crime: lost property, intentional damage, graffiti or theft.

#### **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.

#### Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby council areas:

Website NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au

WatchOut! Our Crime Prevention website WatchOut.org.au

Facebook <u>@NHWKuringgaiHornsby</u>

Twitter <u>@NHWKRGHornsby</u>

Email <u>NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com</u>

#### Local Facebook pages:

Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara

Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon

Meighbourhood Watch - Hornsby

Meighbourhood Watch - Killara

Meighbourhood Watch - Normanhurst

Neighbourhood Watch - Pennant Hills

Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives

Meighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga

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

#### Our mailing address is:

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

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