



# Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

**eNewsletter #373 - 04 December 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 [Ku-ring-gai LAC 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 an other 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 [share/forward this eNewsletter](#) with your friends, family,

colleagues and neighbours.

🚗 Reading our eNewsletter for the first time? [Click here to subscribe.](#)

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### **3 December, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV**

Tougher drink driving penalties start Monday, December 3.

More drink drivers than ever before will have an alcohol interlock installed in their vehicle. And repeat drink drivers will risk losing their vehicle on the spot.

[Find out more here.](#)

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### **2 December, from [towardszero.nsw.gov.au](https://towardszero.nsw.gov.au): The road is no place for excuses**

Saving Lives on Country Roads

Locals are dying on our roads. Our mates. Our families. Us.

While country residents make up only one-third of the NSW population, two-thirds of all fatalities occur on country roads.

Watch video [here.](#)

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## 30 November, Product Recall for Neighbourhood Watch Light Keyring.



### Product Safety Recall



Neighbourhood Watch  
Keyring with LED light

**Description:** Keyring with LED light in the shape of a white house with a green roof available from Neighbourhood Watch as a free promotional item from 20 September 2018 to 12 October 2018.

**Defect:** The battery compartment on the torch is not adequately secured with a screw or mechanism, allowing possible access to the button batteries inside.

**Hazard:** Button cell batteries, if removed from the torch, may be swallowed by children and cause serious internal injury.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using the product immediately and safely dispose of it.

**Contact details:** For further information, consumers can contact Neighbourhood Watch Australasia by phone: 0428 377 901, or email: [admin@nhwa.com.au](mailto:admin@nhwa.com.au)

**See [productsafety.gov.au](http://productsafety.gov.au) for  
Australian product recall information**

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## 29 November, from 2GB: Driver captured watching movie behind the wheel

A listener has sent Ben Fordham exclusive footage of a person driving... and watching a movie.

The vision was filmed last Thursday, just before 5pm, in the M5 tunnel.

[WATCH | See the woman watching a movie behind the wheel](#)

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## 29 November, from NSW Police Force

Scam Alert! The Tax Office will not leave messages threatening you with arrest. If

you receive a call or message like this, hang up and/or delete. If the scammers ask you to pay a debt using iTunes gift cards, feel free to laugh loudly...

Watch video [here](#).

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### 28 November, from Traffic and Highway Patrol Command



Just before 7:00am police received numerous calls from the public about a heavy vehicle stuck in the Galston Gorge blocking an east bound lane.

Police from Kuring Gai Highway arrived a short time later, along with a Roads and Maritime Traffic Commander and observed a heavy vehicle truck well and truly stuck on a hairpin near the bottom of the Gorge.

Police conducted a contra flow and assisted vehicles around the truck whilst arrangements were made for a heavy vehicle tow to attend the scene and remove the truck off the hairpin.

The truck was measured at 11.2m, being well over the permitted maximum length of 7.5m for vehicles traveling through the Gorge.

Traffic was disrupted for approximately two and a half hours before the truck was removed and escorted back out of the Gorge.

The driver was spoken too by police and claimed he did not see the signs or warning devices before the Gorge which clearly state vehicles over 7.5m do not enter. He also was of the belief that his vehicle was less than 7.5m in length.

Driver issued with a penalty notice for the offence of 'Disobey no truck sign (length) - Galston Gorge which carries a fine of \$2319 and 6 demerit points.

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### **27 November, from 9 News**

WATCH: A truckie dodges death, after three male youths hurled heavy rocks at the vehicle.

Police update [here](#).

Watch video [here](#).

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### **26 November, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV: A meter matters**

Do you know about the minimum passing distance rule? Watch this video and help drivers and bicycle riders [#GoTogether](#) safely on our roads

Watch video [here](#).



**Neighbourhood Watch**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

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**From Hornsby Advocate, 29 November [\[link here\]](#)**

**Street Watch [page 11 ]**

### **ASQUITH**

A 33-year-old P-plater was charged with low-range drink driving at Asquith on Saturday at 12.20am. Police said the Asquith man was seen driving without headlights over double lines at Baldwin Ave. He was stopped for a random breath test, arrested and taken to Hornsby police station where he recorded a reading of .062. He is due to front Hornsby Court on December 20.

### **NORMANHURST**

A 55-year-old Normanhurst man stole \$296 worth of grocery items from Woolworths at Hornsby Westfield on Saturday. Police said the man was going through the self-serve check out at 11.25am when he only scanned and paid for some items. He was issued a \$300 criminal infringement notice, banned from the supermarket for six months and Westfield for three months.

### **HORNSBY**

A resident alerted his sleeping neighbour to a fire after noticing smoke from the roof of a Palmerston Rd garage on Monday. An electrical fault caused \$40,000 damage after causing the roof to collapse at 4.20pm. The 24-year-old man woke his neighbour, a 42-yearold man, who alerted firefighters. Crews contained the blaze by 4.50pm.

### **MT KU-RING-GAI**

Drivers threw objects at a cyclist while he was riding uphill at Bobbin Head Rd, Mt Ku-ring-gai, on Tuesday night. Police said the 35-year-old man was riding towards Mt Colah at 8.20pm when two cars with Pplates — a Mazda and Toyota Hilux — drove past. An unidentified object hurled from the HiLux hit the cyclist.

### **HORNSBY**

Police are investigating two separate incidents at Hornsby Girls' High School this week. Intruders broke into the change room of the gymnasium and threw clothes on the floor after forcing open a side window between Friday at 3pm and Monday at 6.30pm. No property was stolen. In another incident, police said the school's front gate was tagged with "NFHDEL" in light blue spraypaint between Tuesday at 5pm and 6.50am on Wednesday.

### **TURRAMURRA**

Vandals caused \$5000 worth of damage when they smashed the glass of a soft drink vending machine at Turramurra train station platform. Police said the damage was caused between Sunday at 7pm and Monday at 3.30am. Police are viewing footage.

### **GALSTON**

Police are investigating a bushfire at Mansfield Rd, Galston, on Friday shortly after at 3pm. A resident reported seeing large plumes of smoke and alerted crews. No one was injured.

### **DURAL**

Volunteers with The Hills SES were kept busy when high winds brought down trees across the region. Crews attended 56 jobs between Wednesday night and midnight on Saturday. A large gum tree fell on a home on Bangor Rd, Dural on Friday afternoon.

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**From North Shore Times, 29 November [\[link here\]](#)**

**Abuse victims hail prison sentence [page 20] [Edited]**

VICTIMS of a former Jesuit teacher with a "deviant interest" in 12-year-old boys cheered in court as the 81-year-old was handcuffed and led off to spend at least seven-and-a-half-years in prison last Friday.

“I hope he rots in hell — in actual fact hell is too good for him. He is evil,” one of Victor Thomas Higgs’ former schoolboy victims said in a statement.

Higgs, who has been convicted for molesting boys at St Ignatius College Riverview and its brother school in Adelaide, is regarded as one of the Catholic Church’s worst sexual predators

The former teacher was found guilty of 16 indecent assault charges against six boarders between 1971 and 1981 at Riverview.

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

**Sunday 09 December:** Carols @ Asquith Oval. BBQ, Food, Face Painting, Jumping Castle 530pm, Carols 730pm, Fireworks 9pm

**Thursday 13 December: 4:30pm** 'Safer Drivers' classes @ PCYC Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, 1 Park Lane, Waitara NSW 2077, Australia. [Book online](#) or phone: **02 9477 2310**.

**Friday 14 December:** FREE AWOL Youth Hub Party 3:30-6:30pm @ Ku-ring-gai Youth Services, 799 Pac Hwy, Gordon

### **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.

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**4 December, from Crime Stoppers NSW: MAIL and IDENTITY THEFT!**



Leading up to Christmas instances of mail theft typically start increasing – ESPECIALLY as online purchases increase and cards come through the mail with money inside.

Follow the tips below to help reduce this type of crime.

#### Secure your mail

- 🔒 Always install a lockable mailbox.
- 🔒 Always use a quality lock on your mailbox.
- 🔒 Never allow your mailbox to become full or overflow.

#### Protect your mail

- ✉ Always arrange to collect new credit cards from the bank or post office.
- ✉ Always have mail held at the post office or collected by a friend when you're away for extended periods.
- ✉ Always have your mail cleared daily.

#### Protect your identity

- ✉ Always beware of 'cold calling' and confirm who you are talking to.
- ✉ Never give any of your personal details to people you don't know or trust.
- ✉ Always contact your bank, financial institution or service provider if you think you have been contacted by a scammer.

If you are aware of mail being stolen and used to obtain fraudulent identity, please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online [here](#).

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### **3 December, from [au.news.yahoo.com](http://au.news.yahoo.com): IKEA dining table recalled due to injury fears**

IKEA has recalled a popular dining table over fears it could collapse and cause injuries.

The Glivarp extendable table was recalled after reports of the extension piece falling off.

The furniture giant received reports of the extension collapsing worldwide, including the US, UK and Hong Kong – with only one minor injury reported in America.

One customer took to Facebook to complain about his IKEA purchase after he woke up to the sound of his table falling apart.

Read more [here](#).

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### **3 December, from news.com.au: Parking inspectors given the power to hand out demerit points**

New rules giving parking inspectors more power over drivers could spell trouble for Aussie motorists as they risk copping more than just a fine.

It's never a great feeling when you get back to your car to find you have been hit with a parking ticket and now some drivers have more than just a fine to worry about.

Under new laws, NSW parking inspectors will be able to hand out demerit points as well as fines to drivers who park illegally.

The new rules see inspectors able to tack on a maximum of two demerit points on top of a fine for a range of different parking offences.

Leaving a stationary vehicle on or near a children's crossing, pedestrian crossing, marked foot crossing or bicycle crossing could cost you \$337 and two demerit points.

[More here](#).

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## 2 December, from idcare.org

IDCARE has been inundated with calls from people who have received a text message scam referring to a \$200 Medicare rebate. The text message appears to come from Medicare and has a link that takes you to a webpage. Once on the page you are requested to fill in basic personal information, your Medicare number and details about your GP and previous visits and prescriptions. IDCARE measures risks of future identity misuse based on the nature of the credentials compromised. Information requested in this scam text message would be considered of a high risk nature to potential misuse around your myGov/Medicare account.

What should you do if you have responded to the text message?

More [here](#).

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## 30 November, from I.C.Emergency



This little Aussie innovation may save your life, or the life of someone you love. The usb lists emergency contacts phone numbers and medical info including allergies, medical conditions, medications etc. It's been proven and it's saved the lives of three Australians in the past couple of months. (See the page reviews) I.C.E on phones are great but phones can be locked, lost or smashed in accidents. The In Case Emergency usb is obvious, robust and will hold around 200 pages of info. There's no info on it that a thief could use. Under \$15 each in the Buy 3 and receive 4 special offer now on. FREE Paramedic Alert windscreen sticker with every usb.

If someone you love has been hurt, authorities can notify you quickly instead of many hours later. Posted from Perth, FREE postage is available. Click the [Learn More button](#)

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### **29 November, from the Australian Federal Police**

**BREAKING:** Drug den even less hygienic than a festival port-a-loo on the last day.

Hold on to your Weet-Bix...this is what greeted investigators when they raided multiple premises linked with outlaw bikie gangs resulting in the arrests of three people.

All up 42 kgs of illicit drugs (including meth, cocaine, MDMA and heroin), two firearms and more than \$100,000 AUD in cash have been seized as part of a long-running AFP led investigation with the Australian Border Force and Queensland Police Service.

Tonight on Hoarders all this and more. Watch video [here](#).

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**28 November, from Dailytelegraph.com.au: Glenhaven missing person: police search for Aleisha Reynolds, 14, call for information**



The Hills police believe some friends of missing Glenhaven teenager Aleisha Reynolds are withholding information about her whereabouts and are urging anyone who may have seen her to contact police.

The 14-year-old has been missing since Monday and was last seen at a bus stop on Old Northern Rd in Glenhaven, near Glenhaven Rd.

More [here](#).

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## 28 November, from Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon Area 24/12



We had our Gordon/Killara/East Killara AGM and get-together last night. A very successful meeting.

Thank you to **Andrea** speaking about the Elder Abuse Hotline and Resource Unit. The EAH&RU take calls from professionals, from individuals in distress, and from concerned people in the community, eg someone who witnesses, or suspects abuse.

The EAH&RU are not councillors, they connect callers to appropriate services, as well as offer support and/or get people to safety.

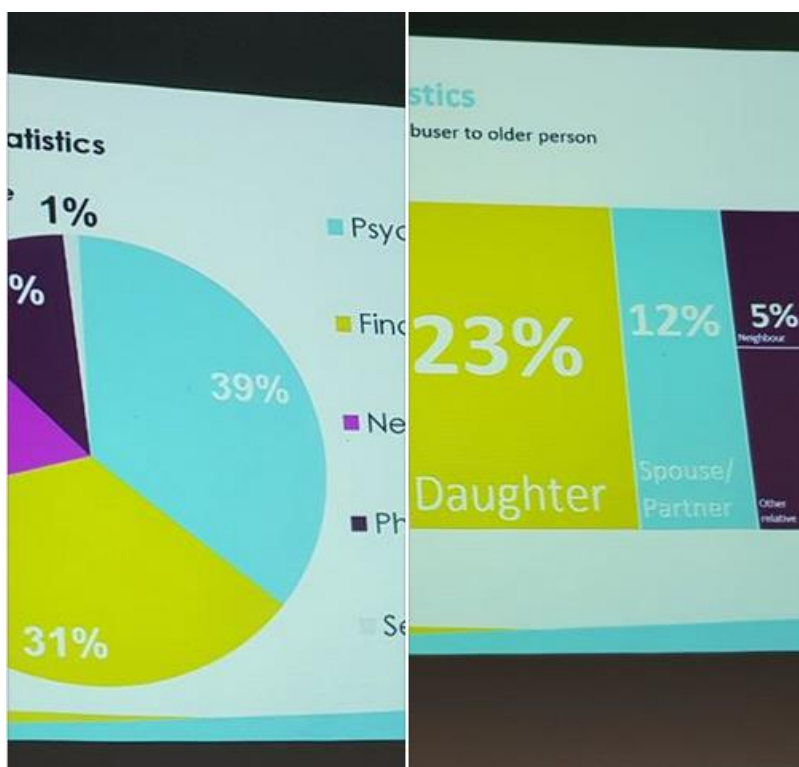
The EAH&RU have received over 9000 calls since commencement in 2013 (equating to more than 5 calls per day).

39% of their calls are psychological (see photo of pie chart). 1% is sexual – this is reported through police and hospital staff and probably under-reported. An example of financial abuse is withholding money and using it for personal gain. 27% of abusers are the son. 23% are the daughter (see photo of all stats).

SUGGESTION: Always do a background check of a carer invited into the home.

SUGGESTION: In the neighbourhood, be on the alert. Hold conversations and connect with neighbours. Vulnerable people need connections, which is why they

are drawn to the abuser.



Thank you to **S/C Col Mitchell** who spoke about crime in the area. He also outlined the different types of crime, as well as giving some good prevention advice.

Col noted that Elder Abuse was a growing area of concern. He outlined his experience with the NSWPF (not recorded in these notes). He commented that he often hears people say that they thought Neighbourhood Watch was dead. People also get confused with the 'Safety House' program. Col detailed the PAC physical area covered – approx. 500 sq km.

Next, Col spoke on Domestic Violence: DV incidents are not reported publicly. All incidents are recorded by the police, even if, "verbal argument - no offence detected". Police have the power to put their foot in the door, even if the victim asks them to leave. It used to be that 'whatever happens inside these 4 walls, stays inside these 4 walls' – not these days.

Col also spoke about Break & Enter. Col explained that someone coming in your home is either a Break & Enter or a Break & Enter with an Intent to Steal,

otherwise it is simply Trespass. There must be an intention to conduct an indictable offence.

Thank you to **Eva** for her work as Treasurer, and past work as Secretary. Here's a pic of her receiving a certificate of appreciation. Thank you to Patrick who has offered to take on the Treasurer role.

Thank you to **Ku-ring-gai Council** for the room and for the photocopying they do of our NHW newsletters. Thank you to **Savills** for copying the Area 24 newsletter, with 600 extra for the businesses in the Gordon CBD.

Thank you to all our **NHW volunteers** who deliver the newsletters and for those who made last night's meeting happen so successfully. Good grub! The tables and chairs miraculously appeared and disappeared! Thanks to Wal (E Killara coord), Bruce (Gordon Area 12 coord), Julia (Gordon Area 24 coord), Eva (Gordon Area 24/12 Treasurer), Mary (ex-Sec E Killara who loves to come back and catch up), Gay (eNewsletter) and others (you know who you are) for their help on the night and everyone's continuous support. Much appreciated.

**Complete notes on the talks can be obtained by emailing us on [NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com](mailto:NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com)**

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### **28 November, from news.com.au: Police release creepy audio of new phone scam targeting Aussies**

Police have shared audio from a dangerous call that multiple Australians have been receiving, warning them not to give into the made up threats.

A series of disturbing phone calls have recently been made to Australian residents claiming the recipient has had multiple court cases filed against them and is at risk of being arrested.

Police are urging anyone who receives a call of this nature to ignore it and not to ring back on the number provided as it is a scam.



The scam involves the victim receiving an automated phone call or voicemail message where a “robot” caller threatens legal action and arrest unless they ring a certain number to settle a number of court cases that have been filed against them. Read more [here](#).

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## **27 November, from the Department of Human Services**

UPDATE: Scammers may also send emails pretending to be from Medicare. Be alert to any suspicious activity. We won't send you links in our text messages or emails.

SCAM ALERT: Scammers are currently sending SMS messages pretending to be from Medicare. They claim you have rebates owed to you and ask you to provide personal details. DO NOT click the link or reply to the SMS. Delete the SMS and report it to Scamwatch [here](#).

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## **IMPORTANT CONTACTS & LINKS**

**Emergency** (Police/Fire/Ambulance): **000**

**NSW Police - Kuring-gai Local Area Command (LAC): 9476 9799**

Hornsby Police Station, 292 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby 2077

**Kuring-gai Crime Prevention Officer: 9476 9723**

**Local Police Facebook page: [@Kuring Gai LAC](#)**

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:**



**Website** [NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au](http://NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au)



[WatchOut.org.au](http://WatchOut.org.au) - our one-stop-shop for crime prevention



**Facebook** [@NHWKuringgaiHornsby](#)



**Twitter** [@NHWKRGHornsby](#)



**Email** [NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com](mailto:NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com)

**Local Facebook pages:**



Our Crime Prevention [WatchOut! Facebook page](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Killara](#)

 [Neighbourhood Watch - Normanhurst](#)

 [Neighbourhood Watch - Pennant Hills](#)

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