



Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

eNewsletter #406 - 23 July 2019

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 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. 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.](#)

22 July, from Ku-ring-gai command: VERY IMPORTANT for everyone to read

this! [edited to share advice sections]

Criminals pretending to be from the police and/or the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) are engaging in another telephone scam. Police will NEVER call you about debts. POLICE ARE NOT DEBT COLLECTORS. Neither police nor the ATO will ever instruct you to pay via gift cards or iTunes cards. Please share.

Community members are reminded that the Australian Taxation Office will never:

- threaten you with immediate arrest
- ask you to pay money to receive a refund or payment from us
- ask you to pay a debt via iTunes vouchers, or pre-paid credit card or store gift cards
- ask you to provide personal information, such as your tax file number (TFN) or credit card number, via email or SMS
- ask you to pay money into a personal bank account
- direct you to download files from the internet, or open attachments in unsolicited emails.

Further information from the ATO can be [found here](#).

Furthermore, the following advice on how to protect yourself is provided by SCAMWATCH

Protect yourself

- If you receive a phone call out of the blue from someone claiming to be a representative of Telstra and their call relates to a problem with your internet connection, just hang up.
- If you have doubts about the identity of any caller who claims to represent a business, organisation or government department, contact the body directly. Don't rely on contact details provided by the person – find them through an independent source such as a phone book or online search.
- Remember that you can still receive scam calls even if you have a private number or have listed your number on the Australian Government's Do Not Call Register (link is external). Scammers can obtain your number fraudulently or from anywhere it has been publicly listed such as in a phone book.
- Don't let scammers press your buttons – scammers use detailed scripts to convince you that they're the real deal and create a high-pressure situation to make a decision on the spot.
- Always keep your computer security up to date with anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and a good firewall. Only buy computer and anti-virus software from a

reputable source.

- Never give your personal, credit card or online account details over the phone unless you made the call and the phone number came from a trusted source.
- Never give a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a reputable business.
- If you think your computer's security has been compromised, use your security software to run a virus check. If you still have doubts, contact your anti-virus software provider or a computer specialist.
- If you think you have provided your account details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately.

Report

- If you have lost money because of this type of scam, please report the matter to your local Police Station.
- You can also report scams to the ACCC via SCAMWATCH or report a scam page or by calling 1300 795 995.



20 July, from NSW Police: STATEMENT FROM FOWLER FAMILY

We have lost our dear Lucas Fowler, son, brother, grandson and friend in the most terrible of circumstances. To lose someone so young and vibrant, who was travelling the world and just enjoying life to the full, is devastating.

To know his beautiful girlfriend, Chynna Deese of Charlotte, North Carolina also lost her life in this violent event is too cruel. All our love and best wishes go to Chynna's family and friends.

We are all now travelling to Canada to be with our boy and to bring him home. Our deepest thanks for all your love and care. At this stage we can only move forward a minute at a time, and those minutes are moving so slowly. Please share this post with all those who may have crossed paths anywhere in the world with these

beautiful young people. Here are some memories of our darling boy and his beautiful Chynna.



18 July, from Ku-ring-gai command: A great team effort!

In the early hours of yesterday morning, 17th July, there was an aggravated break and enter in Warrawee. Five persons of interest, four youths and one adult, all residing outside our command, were disturbed by the occupants after they had gained access to the home where they stole a laptop and a set of car keys. Three

of the five managed to flee the residence while two were detained at the scene. Police arrived a short time later where a police dog tracked the three outstanding persons (outstanding by status not by character) to Wahroonga Railway Station. The three were apprehended and arrested a short time later at Lindfield Railway Station after police liaised with Sydney Trains. Fantastic work by all concerned.

17 July, from Ku-ring-gai command: ONLY 3 WEEKS TO GO! “Sizzle in the mall” – a free youth BBQ. Come and join Hornsby Westfield when they hold their annual event

- What? “Sizzle in the mall” – a free youth BBQ.
- Who for? Under 25's
- When? Wednesday 7 August 2pm - 4.30pm
- Where? Hornsby Westfield Mall, near the fountain.
- Why? Join their under 25's BBQ and meet people in your area and connect with the local youth organisations

Sizzle in the Mall

Free youth BBQ

WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST
2PM - 4.30PM
NEAR THE FOUNTAIN IN THE MALL

Join our under 25's BBQ and meet people in your area.
Connect with local youth organisations.



Westfield
HORNSBY

16 July, from Ku-ring-gai command: They are stealing from your motor vehicle

Over the last two (2) week period nineteen reported incidents of “steal from motor vehicle” were reported in the command.

It's a timely reminder to keep your vehicles locked and valuables out of sight of any person who is happening to walk past your car. If you park your car in a locked garage, then still lock your vehicle.

We will always want and will continue to strive for a clean sheet, but reality and experience tells us that this is unlikely to happen. So, as we mention often, please report crime as you see it. If you see something suspicious then report it.

**DON'T WASTE TIME – REPORT THE CRIME.
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY – REPORT IT QUICKLY.**

What can we glean from this?

- Let's not become complacent
- Let's keep being vigilant
- Let's keep reporting as soon as possible
- Keep being on the lookout for yourselves and your neighbours

How to report crime:

- Triple zero "000" for emergencies or life-threatening situations
- The Police Assistance Line "131444" for non-emergencies
- Crime Stoppers "1800 333 000" to provide crime information



23 July, from the latest ACCC ScamWatch Radar Alert newsletter: Some of the ways scammers obtain personal or banking information are:

- phishing emails and text messages which impersonate banks or utility providers seeking your login details
- fake online quizzes and surveys
- fake job advertisements
- remote access scams in which the scammer has direct access to everything on your computer
- sourcing information about you from social media platforms
- direct requests for scans of your driver's license or passport, often in the course of a dating and romance scam.

Read the full [Media Release here](#).

22 July, from Victoria Police: Search for Graham Potter continues [Extracts from Media Release]

"Fugitive Taskforce detectives have released never before seen images as part of a renewed appeal for information in relation to absconder Graham Gene Potter. The 61-year-old has been on the run since he failed to appear on bail for

conspiracy to murder charges at Melbourne Magistrate's Court on 1 February, 2010. Potter was last sighted by local police in Tully, Queensland on 28 August 2010 when he ran from a vehicle during a routine police intercept. An extensive search was subsequently carried out and his camping equipment was seized by the Queensland Police Service. Today, police are releasing images from that camping site for the very first time."

"A number of images of Potter have been released and he has been seen with a ginger beard and dyed brown hair to avoid detection. He is described as Caucasian, 175cm tall, medium to solid build, fair complexion, brown eyes, brown greying hair and a ginger beard. He is known to wear a gold sleeper earring in both ears, wears glasses and regularly wears a gold chain around his neck. Potter has a propensity for changing his appearance and has used a number of aliases including **Josh Lawson, John Page, Jim Henderson and Peter Adams.**"

Full [Media Release here](#).



Scheme helps people who may be at risk of domestic violence to find out if their current or former partner has a history of violent criminal offences.

The Scheme is the first of its kind in Australia and one of the NSW Government's strategies to help reduce domestic violence in NSW.

To find out more visit: <http://www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/dvds>



20 July, from the Sydney Morning Herald: Australian Lucas Fowler and girlfriend found shot dead in 'horrific circumstances'

The son of a senior NSW police officer and his American girlfriend were found shot dead in "horrific circumstances" on an isolated stretch of highway in Canada where their minivan is believed to have broken down, police have confirmed. The bodies of Lucas Fowler, 23, and Chynna Deese, 24, were discovered by the side of the Alaska Highway in the north of British Columbia about 7am on Monday. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are treating their deaths as a double homicide. NSW Assistant Commissioner Mark Jones said they had been told that it appeared that the young couple may have been shot near their blue Chevrolet minivan, which was found about 20 kilometres south of Liard Hot Springs in a rugged part of the province.

"[They were] fantastic young people who have met with what can only be described as horrific circumstances," he said in Sydney on Saturday. "Our briefing has been that they were shot near the motor vehicle."

Mr Fowler, who grew up in **Hornsby on Sydney's north shore**, had been working

on a ranch in Canada and had just begun a long road trip with Ms Deese. He is the son of NSW Police Chief Inspector Stephen Fowler, who has since flown to Canada with other family members.

[Full article here.](#)

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 07 August: Sizzle in the Mall FREE Youth BBQ 2-4pm @ the Fountain, Hornsby

Saturday - Sunday 10 & 11 August: Ku-ring-gai Council eWaste (computers, TVs etc) event 9am - 4pm @ St Ives Showground. [Info.](#)

Thursday 29 August: Community Safety Precinct Committee meeting.

Monday 30 September: **TBC** Gordon NHW Area 3/4 (Turramurra) meeting. 7:30PM in the lounge area, Turramurra Uniting Church, Turramurra Ave. All welcome. Tea/coffee & biscuits available.

18 July, from NSW Police: Police have dismantled two indoor cannabis plantations estimated to be worth \$1.1 million and arrested two people in connection to one of them.

In June 2019, police received information that cannabis was allegedly being cultivated at two properties in **Turramurra and Warrawee**. About 6am today (Thursday 18 July 2019) and following a surveillance operation, officers from the Region Enforcement Squad at Gordon executed a search warrant at a property at Kate Street, Turramurra. Police located a significant indoor cannabis plantation valued at \$690,000. A 35-year-old man and a 34-year-old woman were arrested at the property and taken to Hornsby Police Station where they are expected to be charged with large commercial cultivation of cannabis. Also today, around 6.30am, officers from the Region Enforcement Squad at Gordon executed a search warrant at a property at Mitchell Crescent, Warrawee and located a significant indoor cannabis plantation valued at \$430,000. There were no occupants found at the property.



18 July, shared from NHW - Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia & Dural: Stolen from Galston skate park 1pm - 3pm approx 19/7/19. My sons Apple air pods in white.

If you open the lid & connect to them "willy pods" will come up. Same as in pic. Please pm me no questions asked if they are returned or put in letterbox of 23 Mid-Dural Rd. Please have a look through your kids stuff as it would have been taken by another kid

New

AirPods with Charging Case

A\$249.00



18 July, shared from Neighbourhood Watch - Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia and Dural Rural Areas: Happened around 9.30am today (Thursday)

Please stay alert! My friend was cleaning her paddock in Nollands Rd yesterday and left the back of her car open!

She saw a Ute pull in behind her car. He got out and was looking in the back of her car until he realised she caught him! He took off.

I will get more details when I can.

This was in the morning around 9.30am

*** The Ute was white with a silver tray at the back! ***

Please also note there were two groups of people wondering around Wlyds road yesterday checking out people's houses! My husband followed them, they ran off into bush land! Then again later sited. On Gartung road there was one girl. With the three boys! Has been reported to police! And I have requested and was promised more patrols, due to the ongoing breakins, are required in the area!

17 July, from Hunter Region Neighbourhood Watch Groups Network: Good Evening Watchers.

If you haven't already been informed NHW has no public liability insurance since its withdrawal from TMF (Treasurers Managed Fund). This is effective

immediately. This means:

- no public events
- fundraising BBQs
- letterbox drops
- anything that requires a Certificate of Currency.

Neighbourhood Watch New South Wales Inc. has been formed and is seeking funding to cover the entire state with a Public Liability insurance at an estimated \$10,000 pa. NHW NSW INC are looking for a corporate partner, grant or alternative commitment to cover the cost. This could be 2 weeks, 2 months or tomorrow BUT we need to have coverage immediately.

As a suggested solution was to have groups pay a \$200 contribution toward covering the cost for 12 months of coverage whilst NSW Inc finds a long term solution. If a solution is settled in the short term ALL contributions would be refunded.

Contact us at, nswnhw@outlook.com. We'd love to hear from you.

17 July, from the Hornsby Advocate: Police have arrested a group of youths following a frightening break-in at a home in Warrawee early this morning, stopping a train to make the arrests.

Five police incidents from the past week across the Hornsby Shire:

Warrawee Police arrested a group of five youths following a frightening break-in at a home during the early hours of Wednesday morning. Residents were inside their house and heard intruders about 3.45am. A man inside the home got up to investigate and ended up having a struggle with two of the intruders. A police dog picked up a scent of the other alleged offenders, who had fled the address, tracing it to Wahroonga train station. Police contacted Sydney Trains and a train was stopped at Lindfield train station where police arrested three other youths in relation to the break-in. Police said they were continuing their investigation and charges were likely to be pressed.

Wahroonga A purple 1988 Holden Commodore was stolen from an address on Myra St about 5pm last Thursday.

Hornsby A green 1993 Holden Commodore was stolen after being parked near

the intersection of Frederick and Dural streets between 4pm last Friday and 5pm on Saturday.

Thornleigh A woman stole more than \$300 worth of goods from Bunnings Thornleigh on Saturday just after 3pm. She took a trolley full of goods through the self checkout area but did not pay for the items. She was stopped by staff and allegedly said her receipt was in her car. Staff followed her to her car but she could not produce a valid receipt. She allegedly got into her car and said “get out of the way” and drove off with some of the goods. Police are investigating.

Regionwide

Ku-ring-gai police have urged people to keep their vehicles secured after a string of steal from motor vehicle offences. Over the past two weeks, there have been 19 reported incidents across the command relating to thefts from motor vehicles. Last Thursday, a man was captured on CCTV footage going into a garage on Rosemead Rd in Hornsby and trying to break into two vehicles. However, he was unable to gain entry to the locked vehicles and left the area. The man was described as being in his mid-20s, caucasian, wearing a navy blue jumper, shorts and a tan hat. Ku-ring-gai police said simple steps could be taken to help prevent stealings from vehicles including keeping valuables out of sight, locking cars, locking garages as well as vehicles inside garages.

If you have information that could assist police with any of the above incidents please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

17 July, from the Hornsby Advocate: A GoFundMe page has raised over \$5000 for the funeral of a “vibrant and cheeky” little girl who tragically drowned in the Hawkesbury River near Brooklyn last week after growing up on a yacht with her 10 siblings [edited]

Zeinobiyah Soetekouw, 3, affectionately known as Zobbie, lived on board her family’s 7m yacht with her 10 siblings and parents Steve and Beccie. The family was moored in **Dead Horse Bay at Brooklyn** before Zobbie was reported missing last Tuesday afternoon. She was pulled from the water by police shortly after 12.45pm — about 100m from the boat — and was rushed to Mooney Mooney where paramedics tried to save her. She was then flown to The Children’s Hospital at Westmead but was pronounced dead after arrival.

Police confirmed they had seized the family boat following the drowning and had

made alternative arrangements for the family.



17 July, shared from Berowra Community group yesterday evening: Hi all,

I just got hit by a truck (approx 7:25) just before the M1 northbound at Wahroonga (In front of the 7/11 on that narrow bend). If anyone has dashcam footage of it, I was wondering if I could grab a copy? TIA

16 July, UPDATE: Just reported on Channel 9. This guy has been arrested.

Someone who saw his image on social media alerted police when they saw him at cash converters. So well done everyone for sharing!



16 July, from NHW - Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia & Dural: From Hornsby Police - Your Crime update in a nut shell

Over the last two (2) week period were only five (5) reported incidents in the Galston, Arcadia and Glenorie suburbs with regards to break enter and steal, break enter with intent to steal, malicious damage to property, stealing from a retail store and a stolen vehicle. This equated to around 5% of this type of crime in our command over the same period of time. Whilst we always want and will continue to strive for a clean sheet, reality and experience tells us that this is unlikely to happen. So, as we mentioned last week, there have been sightings of a drone in the area. If you see one, then please report it to police as soon as practically possible.

What can we glean from this?

- Let's not become complacent again
- Let's keep being vigilant
- Let's keep reporting as soon as possible
- Keep being on the lookout for yourselves and your neighbours

How to report crime:

- Triple zero "000" for emergencies or life-threatening situations
- The Police Assistance Line "131444" for non-emergencies
- Crime Stoppers "1800 333 000" to provide crime information

16 July, from News.com.au: 'Agent Smith' has already infected 140,000 Aussie Android devices, 10 million at risk [edited]

Australian Android users have been warned to update their security settings urgently after it was revealed 140,000 devices have already been infected with the rapid-spreading malware 'Agent Smith'.

IS AGENT SMITH ON YOUR PHONE? Check Point says these are some of the apps that have been compromised by Agent Smith:

- Ludo Master — New Ludo Game 2019 For Free
- Sky Warriors: General Attack
- Colour Phone Flash — Call Screen Theme

- Bio Blast — Infinity Battle Shoot virus
- Shooting Jet
- Photo Projector
- Gun Hero — Gunman Game for Free
- Cooking Witch
- Blockman Go: Free Realms & Mini Games
- Crazy Juicer — Hot Knife Hit Game & Juice Blast
- Clash of Virus
- Angry Virus
- Rabbit Temple
- Star Range
- Kiss Game: Touch Her Heart
- Girl Cloth Xray Scan Simulator

If you think you may have downloaded an app containing Agent Smith here's what to do...

For Android:

- Go to Settings Menu
- Click on Apps or Application Manager
- Scroll to the suspected app and uninstall it.
- If it can't be found then remove all recently installed apps.

[Full article here.](#)

16 July, from the Australian Federal Police (AFP): SCAM ALERT: The AFP is warning about telephone and online scams currently targeting the Chinese community in Australia.

Scammers use a number of excuses to approach and will continue to make contact to appear legitimate, before demanding funds from the victim or their family. Some indicators you may be being scammed include;

- Being threatened with deportation or arrest if you do not cooperate
- Being put in contact with multiple people who say they are members of the Chinese Public Security Bureau
- Demands to communicate only via encrypted video and online chat applications such as WhatsApp, WeChat and QQ
- Being coerced into isolating yourself by cutting off contact with friends and

family

- Being coerced into moving out of your home and into accommodation such as a hotel or apartment
- Members of your family being contacted by the scammers with demands to pay an extortion or ransom

Remember, if you think you're being scammed, report it! Visit Scamwatch for tips on how you can protect yourself or report: <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>

For more information, [read our Media Release here.](#)

From UK Cop Humour: Caption Time!



We liked one suggestion in the comments: "We just found him behind the van, covered in raspberry sauce, hundreds and thousands and some flakes. I think he topped himself!"

A goodie bag prize for the funniest suggestion from our readers. Email us at: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

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: [@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



WatchOut! WatchOut.org.au - our one-stop-shop for crime prevention



Facebook [@NHWKuringgaiHornsby](#)



[NHW in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Facebook Closed group](#)



Twitter [@NHWKRGHornsby](#)



Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com

Local Facebook pages:



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



[Neighbourhood Watch - Berowra \(technical issues\)](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia, Dural \(Rural Areas\)](#)



[NHW Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia & Dural \(Rural Areas\) Facebook Closed](#)

[Group](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon](#)



[Gordon \(NSW\) Community \(incl NHW\) Facebook Closed Group](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Killara](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Colah](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Normanhurst](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Pennant Hills](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra](#)



[Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga](#)

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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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