



Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

eNewsletter #437 - 25 February 2020

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 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.](#)

24 February, from Police Dog Unit - NSW Police Force

Just a reminder to teach your kids that Police are there to help them.



The poster features a blue and white checkered border at the top. On the left, a vertical blue bar contains the word 'Parents' in white. The main text for parents reads: 'Don't make your children scared of the police'. To the right, a list of five blue squares precedes the text: 'Please don't tell your children that the police will "Arrest them if they are naughty" or "Take them away to Gaol". We want the children to come to us if they are scared, lost or in danger. Not run away from us.' Below this, there are illustrations of a male and female police officer in blue uniforms, and a white police car with 'POLICE' written on the side. A blue speech bubble next to the officers says: 'Let your children know we are the good guys and will protect them.' On the left side, a vertical blue bar contains the word 'Children'. The main text for children reads: 'The police will keep you safe'. To the right, a list of five blue squares precedes the text: 'If you are in trouble, lost or scared, the police can help you. We're here to catch the baddies and to protect you. Please don't be scared of us. If you see us in the street give us a wave!'. At the bottom, there is a blue triangular area containing the NSW Police Force logo, the website 'www.police.nsw.gov.au', and contact information for Crime Stoppers (1800 232 340) and Police Assistance Line (131 444).

Parents

Don't make your children scared of the police

Please don't tell your children that the police will "Arrest them if they are naughty" or "Take them away to Gaol". We want the children to come to us if they are scared, lost or in danger. Not run away from us.

Let your children know we are the good guys and will protect them.

Children

The police will keep you safe

If you are in trouble, lost or scared, the police can help you. We're here to catch the baddies and to protect you. Please don't be scared of us. If you see us in the street give us a wave!

www.police.nsw.gov.au

NSW Police Force

24 February, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV: Be Bus Aware

It's easy to get distracted on the bus when using your phone or wearing headphones. But to ensure a safe, smooth trip for everyone remember to stay alert and press the button well before your stop to give the driver plenty of time to stop safely.

Watch video [here](#).

23 February, from Quakers Hill Police Area Command

Do you know what to do if involved in a motor vehicle collision?



WHAT TO DO AFTER A CAR CRASH

To help reduce danger to road users and manage crashes more efficiently, from October 2014, you may no longer have to wait for police at a crash site in NSW.

Follow the chart below to find out what to do.



1. Exchange details and **leave the crash site**.
You are NOT required to report the crash to police.

2. If anyone is **later treated for an injury** call the Police Assistance Line on **131 444** as soon as possible.

1. Contact your insurer or a towing company of your choice to **arrange for your vehicle to be towed** (if required).
If you cannot arrange a tow and exhaust all other options, call the Police Assistance Line on **131 444**.

2. Exchange details and **leave the crash site**.

3. After leaving the crash site **report the crash to the Police Assistance Line on 131 444** as soon as possible.
You will be provided with a report number to assist with any insurance claims.

21 February, from Hornsby Shire Council: THROWBACK THURSDAY



From the late 1800s, the Galston Gorge became the main route for fruit from the rich orchard country in Dural, Arcadia and Galston to Sydney. Every Monday and Thursday in the fruit growing season, the road was ribboned with carts and motor lorries heading for the Hornsby Railway Yards.

There was great competition between all the growers in the Galston/Arcadia district and to ensure the best quality, the fruit was picked and packed on the same day and then loaded onto the spring carts in the evening. Soon after midnight the horses were coupled to the carts and the drivers set off with the aid of lamps.

Before the now heritage listed Tunks Creek bridge was built in 1893, they negotiated the gravel and stony surface down into the gorge, crossed the creek, and went uphill through the then seven hairpin bends and countless other curves. The drivers would be walking beside their carts making it easier for the horses up the long haul to the Heights.

Situated on both sides of the gorge were drinking troughs, cut into the side of the rock wherever there was a seep, to let the horses have a drink and a breather before the next section. Before dawn had broken the fruit was on its way in louvered rails truck from Hornsby to Haymarket and Sydney's Fruit and Vegetable Market to be unloaded, displayed and sold the very same morning. This picture shows carts traveling through the Galston Gorge in 1921.

For more historic pictures, documents and stories from Hornsby Shire check out [here](#).

19 February, from hornsby.nsw.gov.au: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CORONAVIRUS AND HALC VISITATION

Council is mindful of growing community concern about Novel Coronavirus 2019 and takes these concerns seriously, as we do the safety and wellbeing of our patrons at HALC and GALC.

Consistent with the advice of the NSW Department of Education in relation to attendance at school, if you or your family have visited China in the last two weeks, Council requests that you do not send your children to the Aquafun swim school until you've been back in Australia for 14 days. If this does apply to you or your family, we will arrange a 2-week credit to your children's lessons for term 2, on provision of proof of travel.

For all other members of our swim school, lessons will continue as programmed. No refunds or credits will be approved unless further information is received from NSW Health enforcing immediate closures, or significant disruptions are incurred.

We also request members and regular users of our pool facilities adhere to the above mentioned request. Passes or memberships for any users meeting the above criteria will be put on hold for the same time period with no extra cost incurred.

HALC remains in regular contact with NSW Health to ensure all protocols are met and adhered to, and we encourage anyone with flu-like symptoms to seek advice from your General Practitioner or local hospital.

Further information about the Novel Coronavirus 2019 can be obtained from NSW Health [here](#) and [here](#).

Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation.



Neighbourhood Watch
Creating Safer Communities

From North Shore Times, Thursday, February 20 [Link [here](#)]

A multinational company with Australian operations in St Leonards has fallen victim to an email hacking fraud costing the firm more than \$800,000. Police said a senior

member of the business exchanged emails with an American company regarding a fee of approximately \$815,000 before receiving another email directing funds to be paid into an account. Police launched an investigation last week after it “became apparent” the money had been sent to a fake account. Police said the investigation is continuing but there was “little hope that the funds will be recouped.”

**From Hornsby Advocate, Wednesday, February 19 [\[Link here\]](#)
Street Watch [page 07]**

POLICE spent two days searching for a car that may not have been swept off a causeway in Galston Gorge during flash flooding and heavy storms on February 9.

Police divers spent two days searching for a silver Mercedes, with fears someone may have been trapped inside.

A witness reported seeing the car being swept away on Sallaway Rd between 4.30pm and 5pm on the Sunday.

Galston RFS was informed of the incident first, conducting inquiries before contacting Kuring-gai police and SES.

Following diving searches on Sunday and Monday, no vehicle was recovered.

A NSW Police spokeswoman said it might have been a “big misunderstanding”.

“It possibly didn’t get swept off. We managed to get in contact with the lady that initially raised the alarm,” the spokeswoman said. “(She said) she just saw a car head off that way rather than get swept off.”

Several rescue operations were carried out by emergency services in Sydney’s northwest.

THORNLEIGH

Precious belongings were stolen from a home during a break and enter that occurred between 9am and 6pm on February 10 at The Esplanade. Police believe offenders forced the lock of the rear door on the ground floor and gained entrance. Once they’d managed to get inside, they ransacked four rooms. It’s believed during the robbery they switched the power off at the power box. About \$7200 worth of belongings were stolen, including a gold “Telugu marriage locket” and \$200 in cash.

DURAL

It was a scary moment for a family when their house was broken into on February 2 during a power outage. The incident happened on Galston Rd about 1.30am as a woman and her husband were upstairs in their bedroom. The woman reported to police she heard a loud banging sound from downstairs in her son's bedroom. As she went down to investigate she saw several drawers had been opened and as she turned around towards the main entry, she saw a dark figure walking down the stairs from the front door into the driveway. The offender searched several rooms in the house and the police were contacted immediately. Police arrived to canvas the house and found the victim's car had also been searched, while the rear kitchen door has been broken to gain access. In addition, a flyscreen was removed from a window and a side door was also opened.

BEROWRA

The Berowra tennis courts on Boundary St were targeted by a bunch of troublemakers between 2am on February 8 and 8.40am on February 10. According to police reports, unknown people caused damage to a building and fence by writing graffiti using blue and white paint. The offenders also cut a hole in the wire of the locked gate to gain entry. They also wrote graffiti on the windows, doors and tables on the site. Police are investigating the incident, with a number of smashed bottles and bongos left at the site.

WESTLEIGH

A car owner has told police an item had been stolen from his car on February 6, about 2.30pm. The Ford Ranger Table Top was parked on Quarter Sessions Rd, attracting the interest of a thief. An unknown person stole a \$2500 chainsaw from the rear tray of the ute, which had been secured by a chain. The victim believes the offender used bolt cutters to gain access, but no tools were left behind. In response, police canvassed the area, with investigations continuing.

HORNSBY

A similar offence that included steal from motor vehicle happened on Frederick St and Ashley Lane between 7pm on February 4 and 6.20pm on February 5. A Mitsubishi Lancer station wagon was parked at the location when an unknown person gained access to the vehicle by the off-side front door, which was found ajar by unknown means. Property was reportedly stolen, including loose chain and a bluetooth Jabra headset. Police are warning people to lock their vehicle

and ensure all valuables are out of sight.

HORNSBY

Hornsby detectives are appealing for information following an incident at Hornsby Mall last month. Just before 1pm on Saturday, January 25, a group of bike riders were riding in the area near the George St footbridge. At the time there were several pedestrians in the area. Police were told there was an interaction between one of the pedestrians and an 11-year-old rider. The boy had fallen from his bike and suffered a fractured arm. Police are investigating and are appealing for witnesses to contact Detective Sergeant Feuerstein or Detective Senior Constable Hammond on 9476 9704 or to call Crime Stoppers.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 27 February: POSTPONED - Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC)

Wednesday 26 February: Hornsby Council Tech Savvy Seniors - Korean @ Hornsby Library 10:30-12:30. Bookings [here](#).

Sunday 19 July: **Note date change - new date tbc** NHW NSW Inc Inaugural AGM 1-5pm @ Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club

Sunday 29 March: Bobbo - the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic

Tuesday 31 March: Gordon/Killara/East Killara/some St Ives Neighbourhood Watch AGM 7-9pm @ Gordon Library meeting room #2. Everyone welcome. Bring a plate and mingle with like-minded neighbours. Pick up a Neighbourhood Watch goodie bag and learn more about crime prevention. Speakers: Snr Cst Colin Mitchell (Crime Prevention Officer with Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command based at Hornsby police station) - giving an update on crime in the area and appropriate advice; Chris Pitts (Bridge Mediation Pty Ltd) - Neighbourhood Disputes - "Finding Solutions".

Wednesday 29 April: Gordon Area 3/4 (Turramurra) NHW meeting tbc.

Sunday 19 July: NHW NSW Inc AGM 1-5pm @ Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club.

Wednesday 14 October: Gordon Area 3/4 (Turramurra) NHW meeting tbc.

23 February, from 9news.com.au: Northern Beaches hit-and-run victim identified as father Tony Plati



A man who was left to die in a hit-and-run on Sydney's Northern Beaches has been identified as 62-year-old father Tony Plati.

Mr Plati is believed to have been out on his regular early morning walk to his 103-year-old mother's house to help her out of bed for the day. He was her carer.

Two tradesman found Mr Plati lying injured in the middle of Oliver Street in Freshwater about 5.54am today. One of the men rushed to offer help while the other diverted traffic.

Others also rushed to Mr Plati's aid.

Read details [here](#).

21 February, from 9news.com.au: Amazon's Alexa saves private conversations without being summoned

If you have ever held concerns Amazon's Echo speakers are recording to your private conversations, your worst fears might have just been confirmed.

A nine.com.au investigation found Amazon's Alexa saved at least 14 snippets of private conversations without being summoned in the past couple of months alone.

One instance saved audio of the reporter's girlfriend saying "do you like what I picked up at the shops", despite no wake word being mentioned prior.

It comes as former Amazon executive Robert Frederick this week admitted he turns off his Alexa whenever he wants to "have a private moment".

"I don't want certain conversations to be heard by humans," he said in BBC documentary Amazon: What They Know About Us.

"Conversations that I know for a fact are not things that should be shared then I turn off those particular listening devices".

Amazon denies the device is recording all conversations, claiming Echo devices are only designed to record after hearing the wake word (Alexa, Amazon, Computer or Echo).

Details [here](#).

20 February, from abc.net.au: It's time to talk about TikTok and what it's doing with our kids' data



TikTok is under scrutiny in Australia for its ties to China, with some of the country's top cyber and national security minds warning the app could potentially be used by Beijing authorities to influence and monitor millions of Australian users.

The wildly popular app, which boasts half a billion users, is the first Chinese-owned social media platform to seriously crack the western world.

Fergus Ryan, an analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), warned parents of young users not to be fooled by TikTok's similarities to US-owned platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

"The amount of data that all these apps collect on their users is very concerning," he told 7.30.

Details [here](#).

20 February, from abc.net.au: What parents should know about grooming — and what schools should do if they suspect it

This week's [Four Corners](#) exposed an elite Melbourne school for failing to [adequately respond](#) to the grooming of a student by a former athletics coach, who is now a convicted offender.

Several current and former staff, students and parents told Four Corners St Kevin's College had a history of [failing to adequately deal](#) with complaints of inappropriate behaviour.

Those complaints involved an allegation of sexual harassment and concerns raised by staff members about potential grooming and inappropriate behaviour

towards boys by two male teachers.

Findings from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse identified abuse had generally occurred in instances when:

- Leadership and governance had failed (such as not acting on suspicions or allegations of grooming or abuse)
- There were inadequate or poorly implemented policies and procedures (resulting in ambiguity on what and when to report concerns)
- There was insufficient training for staff to be able to spot grooming and signs of sexual abuse at school

So, what are schools required to do if they suspect grooming, or if suspicions are raised?

Detail [here](#).

20 February, from Crime Stoppers NSW



Child sexual abuse material consists of images, videos and live streamed footage that shows the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of children.

The content can range from children posing in sexually suggestive ways through to 'contact' offences involving direct sexual assault. In such cases, the predator is

generally known to the child.

However, an increasing number of cases investigated by police involve the sexual exploitation of children online by a stranger.

If you know or suspect someone is producing, downloading or sharing child sexual abuse material you can make a confidential report to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [here](#).

Child sexual abuse material can be reported anonymously to the eSafety Commissioner [here](#).

20 February, from smh.com.au: RFS uses giant billboard in New York's Times Square to thank firefighters



In among the bright and flashy billboard ads for fashion brands, the latest musicals and tech products, you might see something a little bit different if you're passing through Times Square over the next fortnight.

The NSW Rural Fire Service will have a "thank you" ad running on a massive screen outside the Marriott Marquis hotel in the heart of New York City for the next couple of weeks.

After being approached by US company Silvercast media, which offered a donation of free advertising space, the RFS set about working with its Sydney ad agency, Wunderman Thompson, to make the most of the area, through which hundreds of thousands of pedestrians pass daily.

"Being that it's the biggest electronic billboard in North America, with 300,000 people walking by it each day, we felt we needed to utilise it as best we could," RFS spokesman Greg Allan said.

"It was an opportunity to thank the firefighters both here and from overseas, and also the community not just here in NSW but also around the world, who've shown their support."

The ad rotates between two screens, starting with a message saying, "Thank you to the brave Australian and US firefighters defending Australia. And to the world for all your support."

This gives way to a wall of flames, accompanied by the line: "Imagine fighting a bush fire higher than this billboard."

Full story [here](#).

19 February, from NSW Police Force

Police have charged a man after a couple were allegedly filmed without consent in their Inner West bedroom.

A woman alerted police after a hidden camera was allegedly found in a smoke detector in the ceiling of her apartment bedroom in Burwood yesterday (Tuesday 18 February 2020).

Officers attached to Burwood Police Area Command commenced an investigation and executed a crime scene warrant at the apartment on Wilga Street yesterday.

A 24-year-old man was arrested and taken to Burwood Police Station.

Police will allege the man, who shared an apartment with the woman and two others, installed the camera in the smoke detector.

He was charged with install/use etc device record conversation not party to and film person in private act without consent.

The man was granted conditional bail to appear before Burwood Local Court on Tuesday 3 March 2020.

19 February, Shared from a Wahroonga resident yesterday:

Our next door neighbour had dodgy tree loppers come in to cut up a fallen tree and remove it. They told her that the work was finished and left with payment of cash in

hand. When she looked at what they described as “a few leaves” down at the back of her yard, she discovered that these leaves disguised one third of the uncut tree. Always check the work before payment.

Please share to stop this tree lopping scam.

WHAT TO DO IF APPROACHED

* If you are doorknocked with the offer of tree removal, remember door-to-door traders are supposed to have identification, stating the name and physical address of their business.

* Check permit requirements with your local council before you agree to any work.

* Ask the council whether you need permits to chop the tree, if they know of people doing this work and whether they have given permission to particular operators.

* Don't be tempted by unsolicited offers of tree removal. Legitimate tradespeople rarely doorknock touting for business.

Warning signs:

- Great price “if you accept it today”
- “Cash payment” 
- Dodgy vehicle - small, poor condition, inappropriate for the job
- no company ID displayed
- no/ poor Safety equipment

Neighbourhood Watch recommends:

To report, Travelling Conman Hotline Phone: 1300 133 408 (8:30am – 5pm Mon-Fri).

See our Neighbourhood Watch website WatchOut.org.au [SCAMS page](#).

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

Ku-ring-gai Crime Prevention Officer: 9476 9723

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

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



Facebook [@NHWKuringgaiHornsby](#)



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



[Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon](#)



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

Copyright © 2020 Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby, All rights reserved.

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

[Add us to your address book](#)

