

POLICE WARNING RESIDENTS

Police wish to alert local residents in the suburbs of St Ives, Turramurra, South Turramurra and Wahroonga of a recent crime trend emerging on a Friday and Saturday evening. It's become apparent that between 5pm and 10pm on a Friday and Saturday evening private residences are being the target for thieves, with many of these homes containing safes. Police have increased patrols in the affected areas and continue to mount operations, but are calling on residents for help.

Police ask residents to be extremely vigilant. Make sure if you have a house alarm, you activate the alarm prior to leaving your home. Ensure all windows and doors are locked prior to vacating. Inform your neighbours if you intend on leaving the home for considerable time frames. (eg for the evening or holidays). No doubt these criminals are taking advantage of times when residents are enjoying a Friday or Saturday night out.

Criminals appear to be moving away from stealing electrical items and targeting the more accessible and manageable items eg cash, jewellery and banking information.

If you see anything suspicious at all please call the police immediately, eg

- Alarms sounding
- Unusual cars driving up and down the street looking into homes
- Unusual people walking the streets, doing likewise
- Power tools (used to open safes) operating at unusual hours
- Any suspicious people door knocking without legitimate reason
- Unusual amount of hang up phone calls

Some basics security tips.

- Record serial numbers/description of all valuables/photograph same
- Engrave or mark property
- DO NOT leave pin numbers/bank cards in filing cabinets or on the computer
- Put a pass word on your computer – to prevent access
- If jewellery items are extremely sentimental or expensive secure them off premise in a secure environment.
- Consider installation of house alarm
- If already alarmed consider an overriding switch if power cut/back to base.
- Secure vehicle keys – out of sight
- Consider CCTV
- Lock away tools/ladders in sheds that may be used by thieves to breach homes
- Don't advertise you are away from the house.
- Install timers on lights and the television (gives the impression of being home).
- Consider a lock for your power box to stop unauthorised access (Talk to your provider).

More security information and tips can be found on the NSW police website under Community issues/crime prevention.