



Kuring Gai Police Local Area Command (LAC)

Newsletter # 109 - 29 October 2013

This email is compiled by Neighbourhood Watch volunteers as a service for residents in the Kuring Gai Police Local Area Command (LAC), which includes the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai areas. Anyone may join our distribution list by emailing: NHWGordon@gmail.com.

Each weekly update includes a selection of 'posts' from the Kuring Gai LAC facebook page (also known as 'eyewatch').

We add to this all the other stuff we find interesting from a Neighbourhood Watch point-of-view. It could be local newspaper articles, roadwork warnings, crime prevention tips, Neighbourhood Watch meetings and relevant tit-bits gleaned from residents, or other Commands. Have you seen anything we should share with the community?

29 October: SCAM ALERT.

WOW they are persistent, Please look at the link into recent scams, These low life humans are targeting people again. Mainly the elderly where they prey on their vulnerability and isolation. Either via a cold phone call, or through an email. The scams involve telling the person they have a computer virus or similar. They then advise the computer can be 'cleaned' then requesting to either send money overseas via Western Union or depositing into a specific bank account. The other scam involves something like a tax refund or similar where the promised refund etc is usually a greater return for your 'minor' investment. Please be aware these do

NOT stop happening, They raise their heads all the time but there has been a slight increase in reports recently. Please be warned and please warn others. If you have vulnerable or elderly people in your lives talk to them and let them know about this.

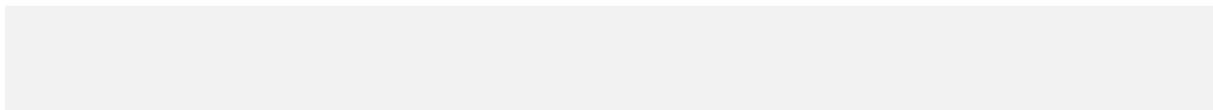
http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Consumers/Scams/Recent_scams.page?DC_Sext.ref=HomePageClick%3AScamandAlerts

27 October, from CareFlight: Ambulance paramedics and a CareFlight trauma doctor worked to stabilise a man who was **trapped under the wheels of his truck** for an hour at **Mt Kur-ring-gai** today. CareFlight landed close to the accident site in Yatala Road shortly after 1 pm. The CareFlight doctor said it is believed a man was attempting to stop the truck after it started rolling down a driveway when he slipped under the wheels. The doctor and paramedics stabilised the man who suffered multiple fractures as the rescue teams worked to free him. The man was flown by CareFlight to Westmead Hospital in a serious condition.



24 October: Whether you're online, in a shop or at a party - it's now illegal to buy ANY type of synthetic cannabis in NSW.

Find out more at: www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/drugs/new Psychoactive Substances/new Psychoactive Substances and the Law





24 October: Professional thieves caught on tape

Why you should never leave your hand bag hung over a chair while out in public. Read the script, watch the footage a few times to appreciate what actually happened here. Don't blink or you'll miss it. Warning if you are not actually holding your bag, it is at risk of being stolen. Place it on your lap, don't be a target, don't be a victim.



Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7ytI2wpGyQ

22 October, from NSW Rural Fire Service: An app for you to consider

LIVESTREAM connects people to live events and is a way for the NSW RFS to share information with the growing community online. <http://new.livestream.com/nswrfs>

22 October, From Brisbane Water LAC: INFORMATION RE DISPOSING OF LIT CIGARETTES FROM VEHICLES

Given the current fire conditions and information/warnings being provided to the community in regards to persons throwing lit cigarettes from vehicles this has evoked a number of comments and questions from the community.

Disposing of a lit cigarette is regarded as littering and there are various laws, offences and penalties dependent on the circumstances (Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 POEO Act):

• Littering (including littering from vehicles): depositing litter on land or waters in a public place or an open private place

• Aggravated littering: littering which is reasonably likely to cause or contribute to appreciable danger or harm to any persons, animals, premises or property

During a fire season the littering offence applicable is:

• \$375 for aggravated littering which threatens public safety or the environment, such as intentionally breaking glass or depositing lit cigarette butts during fire seasons.

As for all offences police need to investigate the circumstances and sufficient evidence to prove the offence. This may require the independent witness to the incident to provide a statement to police before action is taken.

There is also a distinct difference between a negligent act and a deliberate intent to set fire to an area.

This is just a summary of the laws relating to this issue. For more information please refer to www.epa.nsw.gov.au website.

22 October: Total Fire Ban until further notice.

There is another total fire ban today (Tuesday 22 October) for the Central Ranges, Illawarra/Shoalhaven, Greater Sydney Region and Greater Hunter Total Fire Ban Districts.

You can use an electric barbeque for cooking as long as it's under the direct control of a responsible adult who is present at all times. No combustible material is allowed within 2 metres at any time it is operating.

You CANNOT use a solid fuel barbeque, such as a wood or charcoal barbeque.

Lighting a fire on a day of Total Fire Ban attracts a fine of up to \$5500 and/or 12 months in jail.

For more info: <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/fireban.shtml>

22 October, from Castle Hill LAC: Great Tips and Info on **Schoolies** from SchooliesGC on how to stay safe at Schoolies- everyone needs to WATCH this video.

Keep your eyes peeled - drink spiking can happen anywhere. Never let someone else buy you a drink and always keep hold of your own. Queensland Ambulance Officer Mal has advice on how to spot the signs of drink spiking and drug overdose.

Video can be accessed

at: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10152017349756385&set=vb.118778411384&type=2&theater>



Neighbourhood Watch
Creating Safer Communities

A warning from a St Ives reader: We have been alerted to several reports of a stranger walking around a St Ives Seniors residential community, supposedly looking for their Aunt (but they don't know her name!). They have also been asking to use residents' bathrooms – worryingly, one elderly resident did let the person into their unit!

Our comments:

If you feel anyone is ever **in danger, ring 000**. If in doubt, report it. Our local Police often say they would rather have several false alarms than a bad result.

You can also ring **Hornsby Police Station directly on 9476 9799** so they can task a car in the area. Note any descriptions of the people; height, build, hair colour, facial hair, clothing, shoes, anything to help the Police identify them.

As to the strangers using someone's bathroom? Neighbourhood Watch advises never to allow a stranger into your home for any reason! There are public toilets, and definitely toilets in the Admin blocks of residential communities - let the strangers be dealt with by staff.

If the stranger says it's an emergency and requests to use your phone - say no, you can help them by offering to phone for help yourself.

Or if the stranger requests a glass of water? Offer to bring a glass to them; don't allow them to come inside to get it.

Always report anything you feel is suspicious to **Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000**. Yours may be a small but relevant piece of information, that helps create a bigger picture. Our local Police tell us that 9 out of 10 crimes in this area are solved through information provided by the community.

From our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for New Neighbours:

Tip #1. IDENTIFY YOUR 6 IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS – 2 TO YOUR LEFT, 2 TO YOUR RIGHT, ACROSS AND BEHIND YOU. Make an effort to get to know them and swop contact details.

Tip #2. SUGGEST AN ARRANGEMENT WITH NEIGHBOURS FOR WHEN ANY

OF YOU ARE ON VACATION, eg for the local newspapers, garbage bins, mailboxes, parking in spaces, etc.

Tip #3. JOIN IN WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH. They are your eyes and ears when you aren't at home.

Tip #4. INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE STATION. Where should you park? What information is available there? When is it manned?

Tip #9. CONSIDER HAVING THE LOCKS CHANGED/UPDATED/RE-KEYED.RE-PROGRAMME NEW ALARM CODES FOR THE BURGLAR ALARM.

Tip #10. HAVE THE BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM CHECKED. CLEAN THE SENSORS. CHECK BATTERIES. CONSIDER NEW ATTACHMENTS"there are some amazing new technologies available!

For this and any other of Our Favourite 20 Tips, email NHWGordon@gmail.com .

'ALL AREAS' NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING - 6pm, Wednesday 30 October - Gordon Police Station

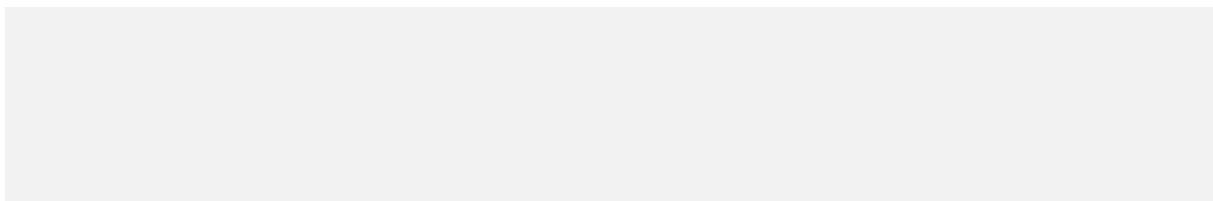
All the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups in the Kuring Gai Local Area Command are invited to send their committee members along to this quarterly meeting, where they share ideas and discuss the way forward together. Most NHW groups have similar problems and it's good to hear other's views. The next **All Areas Neighbourhood Watch meeting #10** is at **6pm Wednesday 30 October** at **Gordon Police Station**. Please email NHWGordon@gmail.com if you have an issue you would like raised, or if you would like to be a more active in Neighbourhood Watch. We would love to hear your ideas.

Coasties, can you identify this man?

We need your help. About 9.50pm on Thursday 24th of October 2013 the man in these photos walked away with a **\$30,000 Marine Rescue boat**. It was inside the Kincumber Shopping Centre when he stole it just before close.

It was being used to raise money, by way of \$2 raffle ticket, for NSW's only volunteer based marine rescue service.

Police are urging anyone with information about this incident to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page:<https://www1.police.nsw.gov.au/>. Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence.





PView7 Light



Please always refer to the local police facebook page as your primary source of information: <https://www.facebook.com/KuringGaiLAC>

Charity Scams: These scams try to take advantage of your generosity. They involve a scammer collecting money by posing as a genuine charity. Not only do these scams cost you money, they also divert much needed donations away from legitimate charities and causes.

Warning Signs to look for:

- The person asking for money cannot or will not give you details about the charity, such as its full name, tax status, address or phone number.
- The person asks for a cash donation and they don't want to accept a cheque. Or, they want the cheque to be made out to them rather than to the charity.

More Warning Signs, information

at: <http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/694349>

From the Hornsby Advocate: A couple in Hammond Ave, **Normanhurst** are facing a hefty clean-up after an unmarked **truck dumped 20 cubic metres of woodchip** on their lawn. The couple claim it was dumped to avoid tip fees. **FULL STORY:** <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/the-hills/normanhurst-retirees-find-truckload-of-woodchip-dumped-on-their-lawn/story-fngr8i1f-1226746542704>



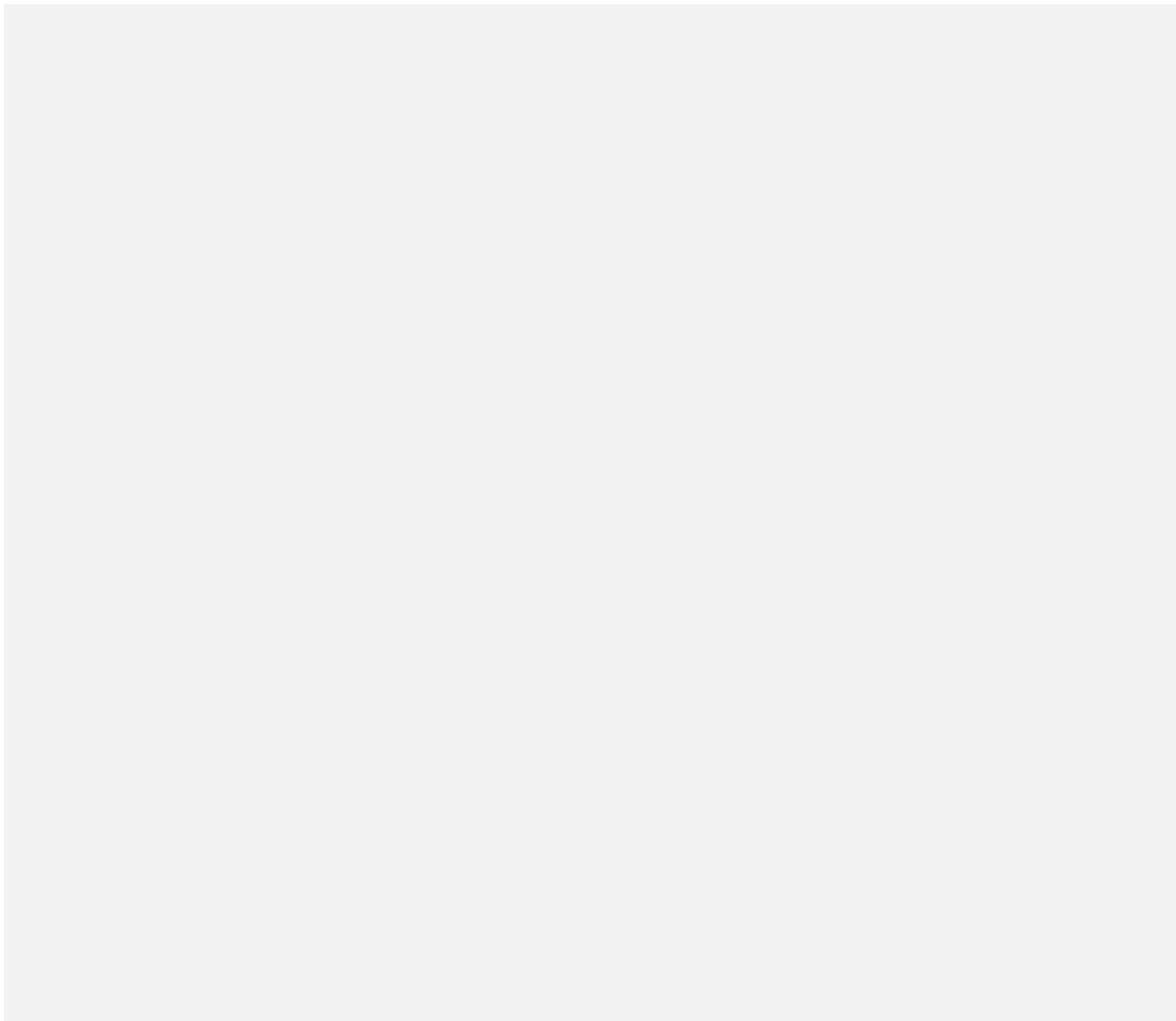
Scheduled Roadworks (thanks to the LIVE TRAFFIC App)

Berowra Waters Ferry. Berowra Waters Rd to Bay Rd. Routine Ferry Maintenance Tu 11 Jun to Tu 10 Dec. Use alternative route. Allow extra travel time. The Berowra Waters Ferry will be out of service on the second Tuesday of every month from 12pm to 2:30pm.

From NSW Fair Trading: Be alert to opportunistic businesses that may attempt to over-charge people in fire affected areas. If you have information about businesses trying to gouge prices in fire affected communities, report it to the **Fair Trading Bushfire Hotline on 1800 213 428.**

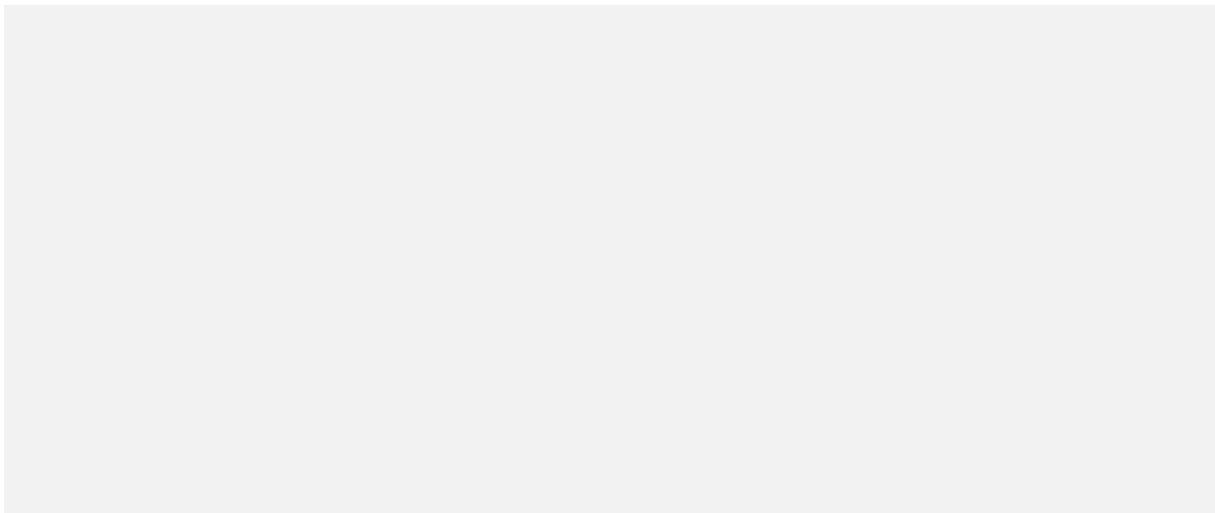
From one of the volunteers: The Police and Neighbourhood Watch cannot endorse any product or service, but chatting with someone, it became apparent that they (and maybe others in the community?) didn't know that there was a service to drive your car back home, when you are unfit to drive. This is purely an awareness post. Here is one such service-provider I googled for the Sydney area. I have not used it; I do not endorse it. It is here to show that they exist. Now you are aware, you can do your own homework. www.execezydrive.com.au

Well done to the Gordon Centre for installing **a defibrillator (an automated external defibrillator, AED)** on the ground floor, next to the lifts! Apparently anyone can use these devices by simply following the machine's instructions (audio steps). Thanks to Living Local (Upper North Shore) for bringing it to our attention.





Did you know there is a **police phone** located on the wall outside the Gordon Police Station for direct access to the police 24 hours, 7 days a week?





Sutherland LAC's major community engagement event and road safety initiative named "**Sutho Cops & Rodders Road Safety & Car Show**" is on **Sunday 10 November 2013**, at Boys'Town Playing Fields, Woronora Rd, Engadine between 9am and 4.30pm.

The aim of the event is to reduce road trauma through the promotion of safe driving utilising displays of exhibits, which demonstrates the impact this has on our family, friends and the community alike.

Info: Dave Hayes (02) 9542 0702 email haye1dav@police.nsw.gov.au or Scott Robinson (02) 9542 0899 email robi1sco@police.nsw.gov.au.

A reminder from the Hornsby Advocate: A reminder to people with **backyard swimming pools** that they have until tomorrow (29 October) to register them - for free - to safeguard toddlers. All backyard pool and spa owners are encouraged to register their pool at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au to ensure the safety of children as we enter the swimming season and avoid the risk of a \$220 penalty or possibly a \$2200 court-imposed fine.

Warning from NSW fair Trading, Oct 18: Warning on fraudulent online traders

NSW Fair Trading Commissioner Rod Stowe is warning consumers to shop smart online in the lead up to Christmas.

“There has been a disturbing increase in reports of people not receiving the goods they paid for over the internet in recent weeks, particularly when it comes to purchasing electronic goods such as televisions, cameras and mobile phones,” Mr Stowe said.

Fair Trading officers are now investigating numerous websites that appear to be nothing more than scams.

Full article at:

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/About_us/News_and_events/Media_releases/2013_media_releases/20131018_warning_on_fraudulent_online_traders.page

Info on Fair Trading's free **ShopSmart app** for Android and iPhones, which gives useful information on online shopping, refund, warranty and lay-by rights:

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/About_us/Online_services/Mobile_apps/ShopSmart_app.page

Important Contacts

Emergency (Police/Fire/Ambulance) 000

Kuring Gai Local Area Command (LAC) 9476 9799
Hornsby Police Station 292 Pacific Highway, Hornsby 2077

Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

Report crime anonymously
Report suspicious activity asap

Police Assistance Line (PAL) 131 444

For non-urgent minor crime

Kuring Gai Crime Prevention Officer 9476 9723

Local Police facebook page [Kuring Gai LAC](#)

Non-emergency two-way communication

Never be afraid or embarrassed to report a crime, concern or fear you have to the Police. The Police are here to help you.

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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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