



Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby

eNewsletter #520 - 28 September 2021

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 our local police at 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 and 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](#).

28 September, from Marine Area Command: The Marine Area Command (MAC) is reminding water lovers of the latest restrictions around recreational boating in areas under stay-at-home orders in NSW, as the weather warms up.

The MAC is continuing to patrol waterways across the state to make sure people are staying safe and abiding by the current Public Health Order.

In areas subject to stay-at-home orders – including Greater Sydney and some regional areas – only five people are allowed on a recreational boat in the following circumstances:

- All people are fully vaccinated
- There is room for one person per four square metres, otherwise the two-person rule applies
- You are not outside your LGA, or more than five kilometres from your home

Marine Area Commander Superintendent Murray Reynolds said that with the weather warming up more people are expected to be heading out on the water. “We want to get the message out that restrictions are still in place for recreational boating in areas subject to stay-at-home orders, until further notice.” “Our aim is not to fine people but to keep the community safe on the water. However, anyone breaching public health orders faces fines of up to \$5000.”

23 September, from NSW Police: Receive a text from +61 444 444 444?

The NSW Police Force uses geo-targeting to help locate vulnerable missing persons, sending emergency alerts to mobiles in the area where the person went missing.

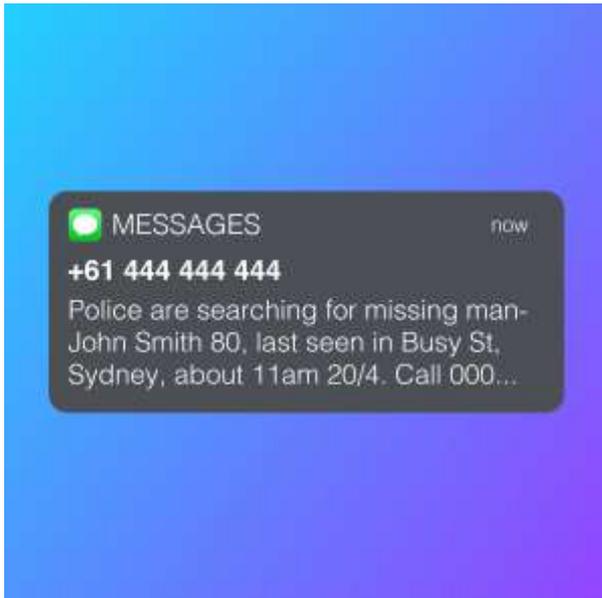
If you receive a text message from **+61 444 444 444**, it is an official alert to seek your assistance. It is NOT a scam - here's how you can check it's real:

-  the message will always come from the same mobile number
-  the message will always include a bitly link to an image of the missing person

If you have any information on a missing person:

-  Call 000 if sighted
-  Call CrimeStoppers 1800 333 000

-  Report online at <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>



Neighbourhood Watch
Creating Safer Communities

27 September, from Crime Stoppers NSW: “SEND” IS DEFINITE.

Once you post something, share something, comment on something or send something on the internet, you cannot undo it. Even if you delete something later on, it is possible someone else has taken a screen shot and may use it against you. Never put something on social media or the internet that you don't want the **WHOLE WORLD TO SEE**. Even if you send something privately to a friend or trusted person, that person may one day use that information against you. Remember things you say or share on the internet may come back later on to haunt you, embarrass you or humiliate you and your family.



27 September, from 9News.com.au: NSW Police scrap double demerit points for October long weekend

A longstanding tradition will be scrapped this October long weekend with police announcing double demerit points will not be imposed for breaking road rules. NSW Police Minister David Elliott said the decision was made to give weary people a break during lockdown. However, he warned police would still be out in force and drivers doing the wrong thing would be caught.

27 September, from the Information & Privacy Commission NSW: Media Release - NSW Information Commissioner encourages an Open by Design approach to government information by public sector agencies this Right to Know Week [edited]

The NSW Information Commissioner and Open Data Advocate, Elizabeth Tydd, today launched Right to Know Week NSW 2021, which aims to encourage both

public sector agencies and public citizens to improve applied knowledge of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act), and raise awareness of a person's right to access government held information in NSW.

...The Information and Privacy Commission NSW (IPC) has developed an animation to help explain the different ways people can access government held information. The animation, ['Ways to access government held information in NSW'](#) outlines the four pathways citizens can take to seek access to information held by NSW public sector agencies.

"Citizens need to respond to government and their access to information empowers them to do so. Agencies have a duty to preserve citizens' right to access information and addressing any potential obstacles to the release of information will ensure that the right to access information is preserved from the outset," said Commissioner Tydd....

Full Media Release [here](#).

**Shared with us from Nextdoor: 26 September: FLOWER WAS STOLEN.
ALERT TO ALL NEIGHBORS 🚫🚫🚫**

My lovely FLOWER was stolen last night.

Someone might brought a special tool and dug a hole to steal it. This is a crime of 'theft' or 'stealing' under Section 187, Crimes Act 1900 which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and I have reported to NSW POLICE. Just Reminding all of my neighbors to WATCH OUT your flowers. LOCATION: WOODBURY ROAD, ST IVES

And in the comments: There is a mother/ daughter team prowling the neighbourhood at nighttime stealing entire plants. The daughter is about 40 ish with brown hair med build. She is accompanied by her elderly mother and they are dressed in gym wear wearing a baseball cap The younger woman is very aggressive and pretends to be on the phone meeting a friend which happens to be in front of your garden and she will tell you of her rights to be on the public

road despite crawling in your garden. My neighbours saw them.

23 September, from Crime Stoppers NSW: Be aware of scammers

Some tell-tale signs:

- 👉 A delay from when you answer to when a voice appears on the other end of the line
- 👉 The scammer telling you to “keep this a secret – don’t tell anyone”
- 👉 Asking for your personal information
- 👉 Asking you to pay them in itunes cards or other unconventional ways
- 👉 Getting angry and threatening you.

Don’t share your personal information – just hang up. Report to Scamwatch at www.scamwatch.gov.au

SHARE IF YOU CARE

THE ATO WILL NEVER CALL YOU REQUESTING PERSONAL INFORMATION.

If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from the ATO asking for your personal information just hang up.

Do not share your personal information, passwords or provide access to your computer.

Just hang up.

CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000

NSW GOVERNMENT

NSW Police Force

22 September, from Crime Stoppers NSW: Did you know blind cactus has bristles with reverse barbs that can:

- 🖐️ injure people and pets
- 🖐️ impale, infect and kill native animals
- 🖐️ blind animals
- 🖐️ injure livestock and working dogs
- 🖐️ prevent farm animals from grazing
- 🖐️ restrict animal access to shade and water
- 🖐️ detach easily from the plant and lodge in the skin, mouths and eyes of people, pets, native animals and livestock
- 🖐️ result in bleeding, bruising, serious infection when removed and in extreme cases death can occur.

That's why it is illegal to sell or swap blind cactus [and Eve's Needle Cactus, Smooth Tree Pear Cactus - Ed] in NSW. You can help protect people, pets and parks. If you see these plants being sold, please report it to **NSW Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000** or report online at <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com>. We don't need to know who you are, we just want to know what you know. Don't risk it [Fine is up to \$220,000 - Ed]. For a full list of plants that must not be sold in NSW, see the Department of Primary Industries website [here](#).

Did you know
it's a crime
to sell certain
types of cactus?

Find out more
at NSW WeedWise.

CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000
NSW

NSW
GOVERNMENT

No Space for
Weeds

BLIND CACTUS CAN
HARM PEOPLE, PETS
AND PARKS

21 September, from ChildSafe Australia: Teaching Body Safety to children is an important step in helping your child know what to do if someone crosses boundaries with them.

Watch this video with your children: <https://youtu.be/FTQltaWVz20>

TELL

SAFETY NETWORK

YOUTUBE.COM

Teaching Body Safety to children

This video by ChildSafe Australia talks about the 5 Body Safety Rule...

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 25 September - 03 October: Learn2Swim Week 2021

Monday 27 September - 03 October: 2021 Right to Know week

Monday 11 October: eSafety Commissioner FREE 1-hour webinar Protect Yourself Against Scams 3-4pm Info & Register [here](#).

Wednesday 13 October: Turrumurra (Gordon 3/4) NHW meeting. TBC

Wednesday 24 November: Gordon/Killara/E. Killara/Pymble/St Ives NHW AGM online via MS Teams @ 7pm. Special guests: S/C Colin Mitchell, Crime Prevention Officer, Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command, and Ruby Koop - Snap Send Solve App. [Email us](#) for details. Everyone welcome.

One from the archives (28 February 2012): How about?

Planting thorny bushes under your windows to put off the burglars. This is called "defensive planting". Clever planting in your gardens, in window boxes and other access points can help increase your sense of security at home and in your garden. Spikey, thorny and jagged bushes, climbers and other plants quickly add protection to a home. With the advances in DNA, it is always possible that a thief will get a scratch and leave a blood sample on the windowsill, allowing a link to a criminal.

Another one from the archives (05 March 2012): Pool ABCs

- **A.** Always supervise your children near a pool.
- **B.** Begin swimming lessons for your children.
- **C.** Close the pool gate and keep your fence maintained.

Does your pool gate still close easily, as it had to when the pool was built? To test your gate, hold it just 100mm open and let it go. If it doesn't latch securely,

it is faulty and potentially dangerous.

Note: For every one child drowned there are 14 near drownings where the child is taken to hospital emergency. For those children admitted to hospital, there is a 20% chance of brain damage. **Be alert. Think prevention. Learn resuscitation.** More info: <https://kidsalive.com.au/>

Download the KidsAlive mobile phone App [here](#). **The Kids Alive Do The Five App** has been designed to teach young children and parents about water safety.

From the October 2021 Bush Tele (page 18, view online edition [here](#)): CYBERSAFETY TIPS FOR SENIORS

On average, Australians have around 17 connected devices in their homes and this figure is expected to rise dramatically over the next four years. Supporting and protecting senior members of the community from online threats is an important focus for the Australian Government. **Follow these tips to be safe online:**

- 1. **STRONG AND UNIQUE PASSWORDS** Your passwords shouldn't be easy for someone to guess so don't include your name or anything identifiable to you. Use a password which is at least 8 characters (although 12 characters are now recommended) with upper and lower case letters as well as symbols.
- 2. **USE SECURITY AND PRIVACY SETTINGS** Make sure you secure all your devices with a password or code so no-one else can access them. Check your internet browser setting and install antivirus software. If you don't know how to do this ask a family member to help you or speak to your Care Worker.
- 3. **SHARE WITH CARE** Never provide your address or financial information to anyone you chat with online and only enter your credit card details on secure and reputable websites. If you are on social media use their privacy controls. Facebook has extensive privacy setting whereas others are a bit less sophisticated with only a choice between

public and private.

- 4. **KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP-TO-DATE** This is important as most software has security features that may lapse over time.
- 5. **ALWAYS STOP AND THINK** Think before you click on any links or open email attachments.
- If it doesn't look normal don't click on it - you won't be missing out. It's easy to feel panic when faced with an urgent request so wait and get a second opinion. **NEVER** give out your passwords.
- 6. **LOG OUT** After using your device be sure to log out!

ALSO ... BE AWARE OF PHONE SCAMS

Scammers use all types of sneaky tactics to trick you into parting with your money, but knowing what to look out for can help you to spot the signs.

Information on scams and how to report them can be done via the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's website 'Scamwatch' at www.scamwatch.gov.au

From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for Tradies'

Tip #1. Identify your power tools using an engraver, available FOR LOAN [here](#) from Neighbourhood Watch. Stolen power tools are easily bought and sold at garage and car boot sales.

Tip #3. Do secure any dogs inside, or on the back of a ute. The prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 requires you to prevent the dog falling from the vehicle—or 6mths imprisonment! Please remember shade, air, water and deter any uncontrolled barking.

Tip #5. ALWAYS DISPLAY A WARNING FLAG ON ITEMS PROTRUDING 1.2M BEHIND THE VEHICLE. Carry a red tailgate warning flag for when needed.

Tip #13. ENSURE YOU'RE PROPERLY INSURED. The builder? Owner? You? Double-check your understanding at all times, especially at handover and mile stones.

Tip #19. ASK YOUR CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER FOR A BUILDING SITE CRIME PREVENTION RESOURCE KIT. Most building site crime is theft and vandalism. Coordinate deliveries for the day materials can be installed, minimising goods left alone on-site at weekends. More info [here](#).

For more tips and translations, look at our website 'Tips' page [here](#). Or try our WatchOut! website [here](#), for links to some great information available on the internet. Or request a copy in your inbox [here](#).



Thanks to Cop Humour UK [We're not laughing; we're aghast - Ed]

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

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

Non-emergency two-way communication

Police Assistance Line (PAL): 131 444

For non-urgent minor crime (Only victims may report.)

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.

Crime Stoppers NSW: 1800 333 000

Report crime anonymously

Report suspicious activity ASAP

Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby:

Website au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org

Facebook [@NHWKuringgaiHornsby](#)

Facebook Group [NHWKuringgaiHornsby](#)

Twitter [@NHWKRGHornsby](#)

Email NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com



WatchOut! - our own one-stop-shop for crime prevention links:

Website WatchOut.org.au

Facebook [@NHWWatchOut](#)

Local Facebook pages/groups:

[Neighbourhood Watch - Berowra](#)

[Brooklyn Neighbourhood Watch](#)

[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 - Mt Kuring-gai](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Normanhurst](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Pennant Hills](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Thornleigh](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Warrawee](#)

Face-to-Face/printed newsletter groups:

Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara

Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon (part)/Killara (part)/Pymble (part)

Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby (Jubilee St)

Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Colah

Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives (Lynbara Ave)
Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra (The Chase)



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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

[Add us to your address book](#)

