



Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby eNewsletter #549 - 19 April 2022

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](#).

19 April, from Ku-ring-gai Command



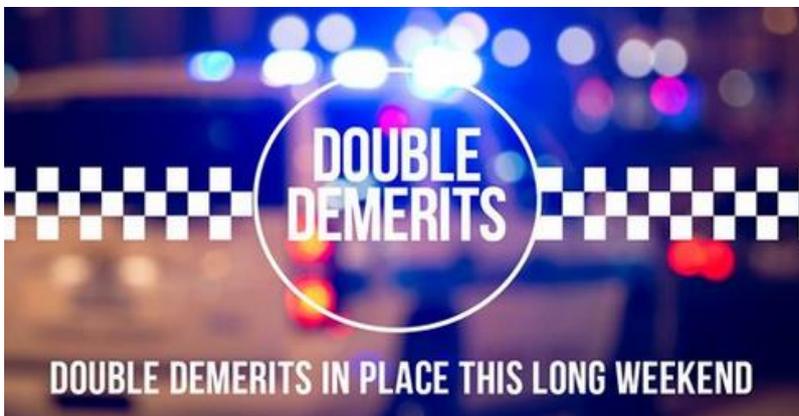
Arson Unit detectives are appealing for information after a home in Dural was destroyed by fire in Sydney's north-west earlier this year.

About 4pm on Sunday 30 January 2022, emergency services responded to reports of a house fire at a property on Muraban Road at Dural that was quickly spreading from within the dwelling.

NSW Rural Fire Service crews attended and extinguished the flames, before a crime scene was established and officers from Kuring-Gai Police Area Command commenced inquiries.

Following an examination by specialist forensic officers, police believe the fire was deliberately lit, and detectives from the Financial Crimes Squad's Arson Unit have since taken carriage of the investigation under Strike Force Ashscrub. As inquiries continue, strike force detectives are appealing to the public for information, and urge anyone in the community who may have dashcam vision from the area at the time to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

19 April, from Ku-ring-gai Command



Double demerits are in force Friday 22 April to Monday 25 April inclusive. Get caught speeding, using a mobile phone illegally, or not wearing a seatbelt or motorcycle helmet this long weekend, and you'll face double the points.

06 April, from Ku-ring-gai command: Sharing for our colleagues from Campbelltown

Police are appealing for the public's assistance in locating Brock BALZKE. Brock is a 15 year old young person who resides in the Campbelltown area. Brock was last seen in Campbelltown in the evening of Sunday 10th April 2022. Brock is described as Caucasian in appearance, approximately 155 cm tall with a slim build and brown hair. He is known to frequent the Campbelltown and Penrith areas. Police hold serious concerns for wellbeing of Brock . If anyone has any information in relation to his whereabouts they are asked to contact Campbelltown City Police on 02 46 201199 or Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000.



13 April, from Ku-ring-gai command: What would you do?

SOME OF US MAY BE ON HOLIDAYS, BUT THE CRIMINAL ARE NOT.

Break and enters are still occurring within the command, as are steal from motor vehicles.

We urge our community to lock your vehicles when you park your car at home, don't leave valuables in sight of prying eyes and don't leave your automatic garage door opener in your vehicle.

Remember also to lock your doors and windows of your homes.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

1. Turn over and go back to sleep?
2. Get up and look out of your window?
3. Go outside and check it out?
4. Wake your partner up, "There's a noise outside. Get up now and check it out, quick, I'm scared"?
5. Call police?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

It's 2 o'clock in the morning.
You're asleep but have been woken by your sensor light coming on. You hear a noise outside. It could be the neighbour's cat or perhaps a possum, but you think it could be someone prowling around your home. You hold your breath and hear it again.



  Share

 **KURING GAI POLICE
AREA COMMAND**



19 April, from Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby

Thanks to all the volunteers who joined in with the 'All Areas' Neighbourhood Watch meeting #33 held online last Wednesday 13 April 2022.

Our local Crime Prevention Officer (CPO), Senior Constable Colin Mitchell, based at Hornsby police station came and shared an update about the current crime situation in the command and what we can do to prevent becoming victims. Comprehensive Summary Notes will be shared when completed, but in the meantime, here are some bullet points for you regarding the crime between the period July 2021 to March 2022:

- Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command (PAC) covers over 450 sq km, stretching from Brooklyn to Lindfield; Pennant Hills to St Ives.
 - Break & Enter Dwellings – There were 88 incidents (about a third of that other Police Area Commands (PACs) experienced in our North West Metro district, eg Mt Druitt, Penrith)
 - Break & Enter Non-Dwellings (such as garage, shed, etc.) - 37 incidents
 - Steal from a Dwelling – 131 incidents. These dwellings mainly had doors not closed or locked.
 - Steal Luxury Cars – 49 incidents. Several people, mainly juveniles, some of them repeat offenders, have been arrested for stealing luxury vehicles
 - Steal from Motor Vehicles – 161 incidents. Police found a number of cars were not locked, with handbags and wallets in plain sight. Colin repeated the advice to always lock your vehicle, even if on the driveway, or in the garage, and to
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remove any garage opener. He reminded us of the time-consuming inconvenience of cancelling all the cards in your wallet if it were to be stolen.

- Steal from retail stores – 140 incidents, mostly by juveniles. This was a lower figure than previously, probably due to Covid, but is unfortunately slowly ramping up again.

- Steal from person – 6 incidents. These are scenarios such as a handbag on a table next to you in a food hall, or in a shopping trolley.

- Fraud - \$547k. Around \$323 million was lost in 2021 due to fraud across Australia (Figure supplied by ScamWatch). Actual frauds likely to be much more, due to many not being reported. This is our command's "biggest growing industry", a problem shared across all of Australia.

- Fail to pay for Fuel – 81 incidents. Not all victims come forward and report the crime, sometimes due to the fact that people cannot commit to the time needed in court if the criminal is charged.

- Malicious Damage – 300+ incidents, mainly around Hornsby, Pymble, Brooklyn areas. Harry Seidler park sign in Killara had been defaced with a swastika.

- Domestic Violence – No figures given. However, as a guide, over the previous weekend there were 11 incidents. This includes incidents from verbal arguments up to assaults. Colin confirmed that it is important to pay attention to verbal arguments, as the majority of domestic violence incidents start with simple verbal arguments that subsequently lead to the more serious crimes. The police carry out compliance checks with both victims and perpetrators, to ensure that any orders are being adhered to.

We always appreciate this update from Colin.

16 April, from Australian Missing Persons Register



20 year-old Max Vidar Castor arrived in Sydney in October 2004 and travelled with two Swedish friends before separating to go to Victoria.

A package sent to his brother in Stockholm was postmarked in Warrnambool - his last known location - on March 31 2005. It is the last correspondence his family received from Max. Included in the package was a letter which said goodbye to his family and informed them something strange had happened to him that was forcing him to vanish. The package also contained some books, gifts to family members, photos of himself, his return ticket to Sweden and what appeared to be the last of his money.

Max's dad has since sadly passed away, never knowing what happened to his boy. Police said "We've had no indication that Max is dead and he was a young man in the prime of his life so we do hold hope, like the Castor family, that he is out there somewhere and if he is, maybe he is reading in the media that his father has passed."

There was a sighting at Wye River on 5th April 2005 but Max has not been heard from since April 2005. At a shop in Wye River Max said he was heading north. He had no money and the lady in the shop gave him a bottle of water.

15 April, from Northern Beaches Command



NSW | **Police**

PARK SMARTER
PREVENT VEHICLE AND PROPERTY THEFT

- Thieves are opportunistic.
- Thieves may not be interested in stealing your vehicle.
- Instead, they are interested in what's inside of value.

- They will damage your vehicle including smashing a window to steal valuables from your car.
- **IT'S SIMPLE DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE INSIDE YOUR CAR**

You can report any theft or damage to your vehicle to Police Assistance Line (PAL) on 131444 or your local Police Station.

Northern Beaches
Police Area Command

15 April, from [healthdirect.gov.au](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au): When and how to get tested

Testing positive to Covid may ruin your plans, but not testing is putting the community unnecessarily at risk.

[Here](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au) is the link to the NSW Health webpage 'When and How to Get Tested', detailing the current requirements.

Please ensure your families abide by the rules to protect the whole of our community. Thank you.

14 April, from Crime Stoppers NSW: Top 10 MOST MISUNDERSTOOD ROAD RULES IN NSW: #3 - MOBILE PHONES



➡ Full licence and bicycle riders:

Phone calls and audio function

You may only use a mobile phone while driving/riding to make or answer an audio call or use the audio function if:

- ✓ it is secured in a commercially manufactured and designed mounting which is fixed to the vehicle and does not obscure the driver/rider's view of the road, or
 - ✓ if it can be operated by the driver/rider without touching any part of the phone, for example through the use of Bluetooth technology or voice activation
- Drivers' aids (e.g. navigational GPS function, Speed Advisor app) Drivers/riders may only use the navigational or GPS function of a phone while driving/riding if the phone is secured in a fixed mounting and doesn't obscure the driver's view of the road.

All other functions

While driving/riding, a mobile phone cannot be used for anything else, including:

- ✗ Texting or audio texting
 - ✗ Emailing
 - ✗ Using social media
 - ✗ Taking photos
 - ✗ Video messaging
-

✘ Holding your phone in any way (in hand, on lap, between shoulder and ear).
Drivers are only permitted to hold a phone to pass it to a passenger.

Drivers/riders can only use their phone for any of these functions if their vehicle is parked out of the line of traffic. These functions are not permitted when your vehicle is stopped, including waiting at traffic lights or stuck in traffic.

➡ Learner and provisional (P1 and P2) licence holders Learner, P1 and P2 drivers and motorcycle riders are not permitted to use any function of a phone while driving/riding. This includes when waiting at traffic lights or stuck in traffic.

14 April, from NSW Fair Trading

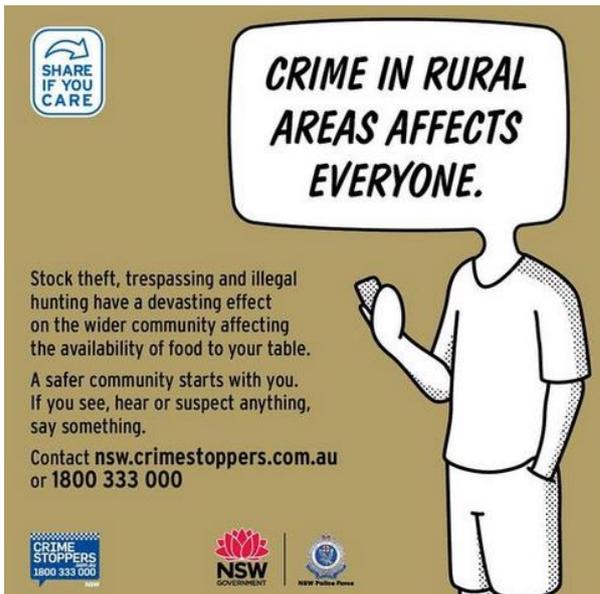
NSW Consumers are being warned not to deal with Atomic 6 Pty Ltd, or its Director Andrew Lennox.

On 2 March 2022, Atomic 6's contractor licence was cancelled.

The company has been the subject of complaints about defective, incomplete and poor building work conducted without NSW Home Building Compensation Fund insurance.

Consumers are reminded to always check a contractor is licensed to carry out the work prior to engaging them via the [public register](#).

14 April, from Crime Stoppers NSW: **ILLEGAL HUNTING** affects everyone.



The damage to farmers' property can potentially run into thousands of dollars and include injury or death of livestock, damage to fences and crops or even straying stock.

What can you do to help prevent, stop or report Illegal Hunting:

- ✓ record all incidents of illegal hunting on your property
- ✓ install quality farm camera
- ✓ lock gates
- ✓ place 'Private Property' or 'No Trespass' signs on gates and fences
- ✓ photograph offenders and vehicles if this can be done safely.

If **ILLEGAL HUNTING** is 'occurring now' always call Triple Zero (000).

If you have information about **ILLEGAL HUNTING** call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 (24/7) or report online [here](#). Crime Stoppers solves crimes every 14 minutes, 24x7, somewhere in the world.

14 April, from Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation

The infographic is divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant features the ACCCE logo and the text: 'THE ACCCE HAS SEEN AN INCREASE IN SEXTORTION AGAINST YOUNG BOYS'. The top-right quadrant, titled 'DETAILS', states: 'The average number of sextortion reports received by the ACCCE that involved boys, more than quadrupled between mid-2021 and early 2022. That growth was driven by a rapid increase in 'sextortion for cash' by offshore actors now targeting Australia.' The bottom-left quadrant, titled 'METHODS', lists three tactics: '1 Social media and online games', '2 Image-sharing apps', and '3 Private messaging apps'. The bottom-right quadrant, titled 'RESOURCES & ADVICE', includes the website 'thinkuknow.org.au', a reassurance message for victims, and the 'THINK UK KNOW' logo.

THE ACCCE HAS SEEN AN
INCREASE
IN SEXTORTION AGAINST
YOUNG BOYS

DETAILS

The average number of **sextortion** reports received by the ACCCE that involved boys, more than **quadrupled** between mid-2021 and early 2022.

That growth was driven by a rapid increase in '**sextortion for cash**' by offshore actors now targeting Australia.

METHODS

Tactics used by offenders vary. The core methods identified to target boys across the primary platforms observed were:

- 1 **Social media and online games**
- 2 **Image-sharing apps**
- 3 **Private messaging apps**

RESOURCES & ADVICE

Visit [thinkuknow.org.au](https://www.thinkuknow.org.au)

If your child is or has been a victim, reassure them it's not their fault and there is help available.

Children and young people are never to blame for being a victim of online child sexual exploitation.

THINK
UK
KNOW

Understanding the methods used by offenders and questioning suspicious behaviour can help young people, and parents and carers detect and prevent online grooming and sexual extortion.

Recently, the ACCCE has identified three primary methods that young people have used to recognise and respond to online child sex offenders:

- refusal to engage with an unknown or suspicious user
- refusal to move to another platform, specifically when asked to join an image sharing app
- identifying inconsistencies in online personas, including language not matching profiles.

Learn more about sextortion [here](#).

Report sextortion and online grooming [here](#).

14 April, from krg.nsw.gov.au: Free clothing and linen collection

22 May 2022. Please add this date to your diary.



Council is hosting a free clothing and linen collection event at St Ives Showground.

The event is in partnership with the St Vincent De Paul charity, the textile recovery business BlockTexx and the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC). It is a NSW Environment Protection Authority Waste Less Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.

For each truckload of clothing and linen we collect on the day, 10 tonnes of textile waste will be kept out of landfill.

See details [here](#).

14 April, Crime Stoppers NSW



SHARE IF YOU CARE

**DANGEROUS DRIVING,
SUCH AS SPEEDING,
CAN BE DEADLY.**

Drink, Drug, Dangerous and Distracted driving costs lives on our roads.

If you see or know anyone who is drink, drug, dangerous or distracted driving, please report it to Crime Stoppers at nsw.crimestoppers.com.au or **1800 333 000**.

Save Triple Zero (000) for emergencies.

CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000

NSW GOVERNMENT

NSW Police Force

Did you know speeding is the biggest killer on NSW roads?

Know the rules around speeding and the penalties for breaking them.

Visit site [here](#).

Crime Stoppers solves crimes every 14 minutes, 24x7, somewhere in the world.

13 April, from NSW Food Authority

		
Coles Baby Spinach 60g Use By 13 APR 22	Coles Baby Spinach 120g Use By 13 and 14 APR 22	Coles Baby Spinach 280g Use By 13 and 14 APR 22

Recall: Coles Baby Spinach

The NSW Food Authority advises:

Product information:

Coles Supermarkets Pty Ltd is conducting a recall of Coles Baby Spinach 60g, 120g and 280g. The product has been available for sale since 4 April 2022 in Coles supermarkets, Coles Local & through Coles Online in QLD, ACT & NSW (excluding Coles stores in Lavington, Deniliquin and Albury).

Date markings:

Use By

- 60g: 13 APR 22

- 120g and 280g: 13 APR 22 and 14 APR 22

Problem: The recall is due to potential microbial (Salmonella) contamination.

Food safety hazard: Food products contaminated with Salmonella may cause illness if consumed.

Country of origin: Australia

What to do: Consumers should not eat this product and should return the product to the place of purchase for a full refund. Any consumers concerned about their health should seek medical advice.

For further information please contact:

Coles Supermarkets Pty Ltd

1800 061 562

13 April, from Live Traffic NSW



SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE: There'll be roadwork on the bridge over the next two weeks with southbound closures of the Cahill Expressway on the Easter and Anzac Day long weekends. Allow extra time and consider using the Harbour Tunnel instead.

- From 9pm on Thursday 14 April until 4:30am Tuesday 19 April, the Cahill Expressway southbound and lane 6 will be closed. Two southbound lanes on the bridge will still be open.
- From 4:30am on Tuesday 19 April until 7pm Friday 22 April, lane 8 will be closed so general traffic will share the bus lane (lane 7). The Cahill Expressway southbound will also be closed each night.
- From 7pm on Friday 22 April until 2am Monday 25 April, the Cahill Expressway southbound will be closed.

Plan ahead and check the details [here](#).

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 May: FREE Chemical Cleanout. 9am - 3:30pm @
St Ives Showground

Sunday 29 May: Ku-ring-gai Chase & Barry Ease Walk through Wahroonga

Sunday 18 September: Bobbin Head Classic charity bike ride

From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips concerning Garage Sales'

Tip #1. NEVER ANSWER PERSONAL QUESTIONS about your alarm system, regular habits, living situation, children's schools, what's in your house, etc.

Tip #4. KEEP THE ITEMS inside the property boundary, ie not on your council strip. Despite the name 'garage sale', it is advisable to have the items on your lawn/driveway.

Collect expensive items all in the one place nearest to you/ the intended checkout table. To avoid concealment opportunities, put large items around the outside of the area. Video the whole area outside your home as a simple inventory of items for sale AND any not for sale (see #6 below).

Tip #6. AFTER THE GARAGE SALE, check that all home security systems are operable & have not been disabled to help facilitate later unauthorised entry. Conduct an inspection (using video inventory in #4 above) to identify any missing items. Please remember to remove all advertising after the event.

Tip #9. LOCK ALL DOORS INTO YOUR HOME, including any joining doors, garage doors, shed doors, yard gates, even if you plan to go in and out during the day. Remove keys.

Don't be tempted to pop a door on the latch. Set your alarm system. Advise neighbours to also lock their properties and be vigilant.

Tip #10. DO NOT ALLOW ACCESS to your property, eg to use your bathroom, or to try on clothes. Use an extension cord from your home/garage to test any electrical items.

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 UK Cop Humour

What happened on CCTV vs what the complainant describes



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! - the NHW NSW 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)
