

# THE CRIMEBUSTER



## Neighbourhood watch

### NORTHBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Bounded by: Warner's Reserve (N); Munro Park and Tunks Park (S); Middle Harbour (E); Alpha Road (W)



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## Increase in thefts from cars

In the last quarter of 2009, Northbridge residents saw a significant rise in the number of thefts from cars (see crime statistics overleaf). Senior Constable Matt Jewell from Chatswood Police said "this provides a good reminder of the need to make sure we don't leave valuables in our cars when they are unattended".

It takes about three seconds for a thief to smash a car window, grab and run. To cut down on the chance of theft from your car, make sure you remove everything from view when you leave it. This includes laptops, mobiles, bags, clothing, portable GPS systems and money in the console. Remember, too, that a mark on the windscreen from a GPS bracket or a cord in plain view can suggest that there is a device in the glovebox.

If you have possessions to store in the boot, put them there before you leave home or make sure there are no curious passers-by watching.

Try to park in a busy, well lit area.

Close all windows, remove the key from the ignition and lock all doors. Remember, it's an offence under the Australian Road Rules to leave your car unlocked. And never leave a spare key in a hiding place on or near the vehicle – thieves know the places to look.

Don't leave personal papers such as your licence or registration in your motor vehicle. Mark your car's accessories with an engraving pen using your licence number.

An alarm won't guarantee the safety of your car but it can help deter thieves.

If you are a victim of theft, report it to the Police Assistance Line 131 444. To report a crime or any suspicious activity, call your local Police Station or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. In an emergency, always call 000.



## Those speed signs

Residents will have noticed two trailer-mounted speed display signs set up on Sailors Bay Rd by Willoughby City Council recently. Steven Head, Council's Infrastructure Services Director, said that they were purely for speed advisory work.

## Council's role with crime

Neighbourhood Watch is an organisation in which the community works with the Police to reduce crime in a neighbourhood. But in some cases, such as parking, graffiti, tree preservation and bushland protection, Willoughby City Council also plays a major role.

Here are some examples where you can help Council.

You are not allowed to park a vehicle on a footpath or on a driveway where it crosses the footpath. Similarly, vehicles must not be parked on Council reserves or in bushland areas. Many people don't know this, and you could let them know that they risk significant fines from Council rangers if caught.

You may not cut down or poison trees (above a certain minimum size) even on your property in Willoughby without Council's permission. Very large fines are involved if persons are apprehended by rangers or reported by residents.

It is against the law to maliciously damage property by defacing it with graffiti, for example. If apprehended, perpetrators risk heavy fines. Any graffiti on public or private property should be reported to Council on 9777 1000. Any graffiti will be removed at no cost to the property owner.

Dogs may not be walked without a lead in Willoughby, except in clearly designated areas. There are no unleashed dog areas in Northbridge (the nearest is Tunks Park, North Sydney). If you see a dog being walked without a lead, you could let the owner know that he or she faces significant fines from Council rangers.

Other examples of Council's role can be found at [www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au).

## KEEP THESE PHONE NUMBERS HANDY

For URGENT police assistance including a suspected crime in progress

**000**

For routine enquiries or advice after an incident phone Chatswood Police

**9414 8499**

Lane Cove Police

**9428 1977**

To give information about any criminal activities, phone Crime Stoppers

**1800 333 000**

or the Police Assistance Line (PAL)

**131 444**

## Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch Committee

**Area Coordinator:** Vacant

**Treasurer & Secretary:** Ron Hicks – 9958 8765

**Editor:** Penny Lye – 9958 7566

## NSW Police

Crime Prevention Officer:

Senior Constable Matt Jewell 9414 8518

Youth Liaison Officer:

Constable Lynne Kennedy 9414 8504

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## Did you know?

Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards of up to \$1000 for volunteered information which leads to an arrest. The service gathers details of criminal activity, which may be given anonymously. Phone 1800 333 000 if you have information which may help.

## New formula for NHW

Local Neighbourhood Watch meetings have been replaced by Precinct Committee meetings which are held at Chatswood Police Station six times a year. They are open to any member of the community. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the even months, commencing at 6.30pm. Next meeting is scheduled for April 13.

## Test yourself

How much do you really know about being smart online? You can have fun finding out with a series of clever quizzes available on the [staysmartonline.gov.au](http://staysmartonline.gov.au) website. The catchy titles include Online Lineup (about online shopping), Spam Scam, Beware of Spyware, P 2 P Threeplay (about sharing files over the internet), Invasion of the Wireless Hackers and Phishing Scams.

## Meet your neighbours

Communities across Australia will be celebrating the eighth annual Neighbour Day on March 28. Founded by Andrew Heslop in 2003, following the discovery of an elderly Melbourne woman found dead in her home after a considerable time, Neighbour Day offers the chance to get to know the people around you in whatever way you choose. You can enjoy a cup of tea with an older neighbour, throw a street party or have a drink with the people next door.

For more information and ideas, visit the [www.neighbourday.org.com.au](http://www.neighbourday.org.com.au) website.

## Street coordinators

Baringa Rd (west)	Mary	9958 5292
Bellambi St	Susan	9958 5510
Bligh St	Michael	9958 5073
Byora Cres	Penny	9958 7566
Cliff Ave (lower)	John	9405 7778
Cliff Ave (west)	Phillipa	9958 5892
Coolawin Rd	Kathryn	9958 7080
Dalmeny Rd	Isabelle	9958 2037
Kameruka Rd	Nicky	9958 1716
Marana Rd	Luci	9958 0574
Marooba Rd	Guy	9958 6278
Minnamurra Rd	Ron	9958 8765
Namoi Rd	Susan	9958 7192
Nulgarra St	Howard	9958 8460
Sailors Bay Rd	Rob	9958 4506
Tenilba Road	Janet	9958 8929
Tycannah Rd	Ian	9958 5772
Ulric Lane	Jane	9967 2724
Weetawa Rd	AnneMaree	9958 8905

## Crime statistics October-December 2009

"Last quarter's crime rate unfortunately was not as low as the July – September quarter, but it was still down on earlier in the year," according to Senior Constable Matt Jewell. Break and enters are still relatively low with 11 for the quarter. There were six cases of stealing from a store or property and two of pickpocketing. Three vehicles were stolen, two in Kameruka Rd and one in Minimbah Rd. There were five cases of malicious damage.

<b>Break/enter and steal/intent steal</b>		
<i>Street</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Method of entry</i>
Baringa	First floor rear door	
Bellambi	Semi-detached house	
Bligh	House	
Kameruka	House	
Kiola	House	Ground floor side window
Minimbah	House	Ground floor front door
Sailors Bay	Garage	Ground floor front door
Sailors Bay		Ground floor front door
Sailors Bay	Restaurant	Ground floor front door
Sailors Bay	House	Ground floor front window
Tunks		Ground floor side door
Widgiewa	Public swimming pool	Ground floor front door
<b>Steal from motor vehicle</b>		
Baroona	Road	
Euroka	Road/street	Smashed front side window
Sailors Bay	Footpath	
Sailors Bay	Residential	Door lock forced
Sailors Bay	Road	
Sailors Bay	Driveway	
Tarakan	Driveway	Smashed front side window
Tunks	Garage	

## Beware of public computers

Computers at internet cafes, libraries, airports and hotels are convenient, but because so many people use them, they are more likely to be infected by malicious software than other computers.

- Don't save your user name and password. Always turn off the option to save them when logging on.
- Make sure no-one is watching you and don't type in sensitive information.
- Log out if you leave the computer even just for a moment.
- Delete your browsing history before you log out of the computer. Go to the tools menu of the internet browser and select options or internet options. Make sure that the browser has any auto complete function turned off, delete any cookies and clear the history.

From [www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au)

## Protect yourself from credit and debit card skimming

Over the past few months many people have had their bank accounts raided after they used credit cards to buy their dinner or petrol. This has happened when the merchant skimmed their card when the owner wasn't watching. 'Card skimming' is the illegal copying of information from the magnetic strip of a credit or ATM card.

The scammers steal your details, then create a fake or 'cloned' card with your details on it. The scammer is then able to run up charges on your account.

### Warning signs

- A shop assistant takes your card out of your sight to process your transaction.
- You are asked to swipe your card through more than one machine.
- You see a shop assistant swipe the card through a different machine from the one you used.
- You notice something suspicious about the card slot on an ATM (eg an attached device).
- You notice unusual or unauthorised transactions on your statement.

### How to protect yourself

- Keep your credit card and ATM cards safe. Don't share your personal identity number (PIN) with anyone. Don't keep a written copy of your PIN with the card.
- Check your bank and credit card statements when you get them. If you see a transaction you can't explain, report it to your credit union or bank.
- Choose passwords which would be difficult for anyone else to guess.
- If a shop assistant wants to swipe your card out of your sight or in a second machine, ask for your card back and pay with a cheque or cash or don't make the purchase.
- Make a habit of swiping the card yourself.
- If you think you have seen a card skimming scam, contact the bank, credit union or credit card provider which has been targetted and report it to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. If you think your card has been skimmed, report it immediately.
- For more information visit: [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)