

# 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)



SEPTEMBER 2009

Published by Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch — CIRCULATION 2600

## Northbridge crime lower

Break and enters in Northbridge are significantly down – only 12 were reported in the three months from April to June, 2009 (details below). Senior Constable Matt Jewell said that Police are continuing their plainclothes operation targeting Break and Enter as well as maintaining uniformed patrols in a proactive effort to keep the crime rate down.

There were seven cases of stealing and two of assault in the three-month period. The stealing included two pickpocket occurrences, stealing through a smashed front window of a car, and two thefts from retail stores. Two vehicles were stolen, from Strathallen Ave and Sailors Bay Rd.

### Maintain security

With the weather warming up, it's important that we don't become lax about security, advises Matt Jewell. Police typically see an increase in break-ins in warmer months as more people leave doors and windows open for cool afternoon and

evening breezes. This creates opportunities for criminals to gain easy access to our homes. "We recommend the installation of good-quality window locks and security screens to allow homeowners to let the cool air in but keep the crims out," he said.

Sen Const Jewell is happy to conduct security assessments on homes if the owners feel they need help in making them more secure. Ring Chatswood Police on 9414 8499.

### April-June 2009

#### Break/enter and steal/intent steal

Street	Method of entry
Baringa	Ground floor front window
Baroona	Unknown
Coolawin	No entry gained
Malacoota	Ground floor front window – forced lock
Noonbinna	Ground floor side window – forced lock
Sailors Bay	Ground floor front door – picked lock
Sailors Bay	Ground floor front door – picked lock
Sailors Bay	Ground floor front door
Sailors Bay	Ground floor rear window
Sailors Bay	Ground floor rear door
Tunks	Unknown
Tunks	Ground floor side door



## Guess who's on holiday?

This is seen all too often on our streets and it's an open invitation to burglars. When you are going away, don't forget to cancel the paper delivery, stop the mail at the Post Office or ask a neighbour to collect letters and pick up local newspapers.

## Neighbourhood Watch elections

The Annual General Meeting of Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch on May 13 resulted in Ron Hicks being re-elected as Treasurer and Penny Lye continuing as editor of *The Crimebuster*. The position of Area Coordinator is vacant; anybody interested in taking the role should contact Ron Hicks, 9958 8765.

## 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**

## Help at the touch of a button

More than 130 residents in the Willoughby City Council area have chosen the security of a Constant Companion. A small unit is installed in your home, connected to a power point and a telephone socket, and operated via a water-resistant pendant which provides 24 hour immediate voice contact with response operators in an emergency. The operators will get assistance from family, friends or emergency services. It is effective inside and outside the house, but not when you are away from home.

Constant Companion clients may be recovering from an illness, frail or aged, or living alone – the age range in Willoughby is from 35 to 103 years old. The service costs \$130 to install with an ongoing fee of \$36.80 per month. It is under the auspices of Willoughby City Council; for a free demonstration phone 9777 7836.

### 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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## 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

## Are you ready for a Triple Zero emergency?

Triple Zero (000) is to be used in a life-threatening or time critical emergency. Make sure you, your family and overseas guests know the number – even quite young children can learn how and when to use it.

Record the Triple Zero number beside the telephone at home and work. Lock the keypad of mobile phones so there are no accidental calls to Triple Zero (000).

Hearing-impaired callers can call the one zero six (106) text-based emergency call service on a textphone.

## 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. The Precinct Committee meetings amalgamate the old Community Safety Committee meetings and local NHW meetings and are open to any member of the community. The meetings are held at Chatswood Police Station on the second Tuesday of the even months, commencing at 6.30pm. Next meeting is scheduled for October 13.

## Graffiti under control

Willoughby City Council's graffiti removal program is still going well with a reduction in graffiti occurrences since it commenced in July 2007. To report graffiti, ring the graffiti hotline on 1300 311 322 or email [willoughby@graffiticlean.com.au](mailto:willoughby@graffiticlean.com.au). Council will remove graffiti free of charge within two weeks from private properties; in the last 12 months 4207 square metres of graffiti were removed from Willoughby. Council also suggests that all graffiti on residential properties be reported to the Police Assistance Line 13 44 44 to assist Police with their investigations.

## Computer Wireless Security

About 30% of residential Wifi computer networks in Northbridge do not have basic security enabled and are open to hacking, internet fraud and theft of personal information. You should know that your own home Wireless LAN can connect up to 100 metres (through three walls) from your wireless router or Wifi laptop.

Here are basic ways of protecting your information:

1. Always enable your WLAN Security with WEP or WPA (WPA is superior). Old laptops may only have WEP.
2. Give your Wireless Network (SSID) a meaningless name and never an identifiable one.
3. Better still, hide your SSID so it will not be broadcast.
4. Change your Wireless Router or Modem login password (almost all come with "admin" or "password blank").
5. When using Wifi hotspots (coffee shops, airports, hotels, cruise ships) never access your financial institutions, eBay and turn off file sharing.
6. Even better security is permitting only nominated MAC addresses to connect to your wireless router. You may need help with this one.

**Howard Lardner**

## Internet security in brief

1. Visit: [www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au)
2. Report all scams: [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)
3. Upgrade your passwords to eight characters. Best is a mixture of numbers + letters (upper and lower case) + symbols.
4. Change passwords regularly.
5. Never use "save password" on your computer.
6. Banks never send emails asking for identification or account information.
7. Never click on links in emails that you are not sure of.
8. Consider setting up a limited user account card for use in Internet transactions.
9. Beware of "Nigerian" scam emails.
10. Do not accept money that somebody wants you to deposit in an account of their choice – you could be charged with money laundering.
11. Keep your antivirus and anti-spyware up to date.

## Keep a property inventory

NSW Police recommend that you keep a detailed inventory of all valuable property. It leaves no doubt as to ownership, and deters others from taking your property because of the difficulties involved in off-loading identifiable goods. Identification also helps Police to recover and return items which have been stolen.

An inventory will also help your insurance company to process your claim quickly if you already have a list of valuable items which were stolen or damaged, as well as serial numbers, descriptions and, if possible, original receipts.

To create an inventory, you need to mark your property with your unique code. It may be the number on your driver's licence or your passport number or Medicare card which is identifiable to you only. This can be done by engraving on hard surfaces or by using an ultra-violet pen. Place your identification code directly next to the serial number of the item being marked or the top right hand corner of the item. Then you need to record details of the manufacturer, model name/number, serial number and colour of your marked property.

Items to be engraved could include:

- Cameras
- Televisions
- Radios and CDs
- Kitchen appliances
- Computers

- Office equipment
- Musical instruments
- Power tools
- Bicycles

Before engraving new property, you should ensure that the warranty of that item will not be voided.

Other items of significant value which do not have hard, engravable surfaces should be photographed or, if suitable, marked with an ultra-violet pen. A UV pen does not harm the item and is only visible using an ultra-violet light. This kind of invisible marking fades over time and needs to be renewed regularly. (If photographing your belongings, it is a good idea to photograph small items alongside a ruler to give an idea of their dimensions.)

Items to be photographed could include:

- Jewellery
- Furs
- Antiques
- Watches
- Works of art
- Collections – coins, stamps, etc

Once your property is marked, photographed and listed, store a copy of the details in a fireproof safe at your home, in a bank safety deposit box or at another address – perhaps with a relative or friend or at your work address. And don't forget to keep your list up to date whenever you get new valuables.