

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)



NSW POLICE

FEBRUARY 2009

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Summer crime up in Northbridge

Although crime statistics in Northbridge for the last quarter of 2008 showed a much higher incidence of break and enters than the corresponding period in 2007, Acting Sergeant Fran Aliprandi of Chatswood Police said that it was unlikely that the area is being specifically targeted. "It is indicative of what's happening everywhere in these times and particularly in summer," she said.

Police are doing a lot to combat the crimes, but people need to be more diligent, according to Fran. As well as keeping a watchful eye out and reporting anything suspicious to the police, you should also take sensible precautions to secure your property. If you have any doubt, call Chatswood Police. Crime Prevention Officer Sen Const Matt Jewell or Fran Aliprandi will come out and assess your home's security.

Have you considered these points?

- Don't hide your keys around the house – leave a set with a friend or neighbour.
- Keep doors locked when you're out in the garden.

- Don't mark house keys with your name or address.
- Store away ladders or tools a burglar could use to gain entry.
- Leave a light and radio or TV switched on when you're out at night.
- Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street.
- Good external lighting can also deter burglars.

And remember, if you are outside and do see signs of a burglary, don't attempt to enter the house. Go to a neighbour's house and call the police, and try to take note of any suspicious vehicles.

New formula for NHW

Local Neighbourhood Watch meetings will be replaced by Precinct Committee meetings to be held at Chatswood Police Station six times a year. According to Senior Constable Matt Jewell, "Neighbourhood Watch is at a crossroads where we must look at how we best manage the program for its ongoing viability. With a few exceptions, most groups are only getting half a dozen people at best to the meetings – and this includes committee members."

The Precinct Committee meetings will amalgamate the old Community Safety Committee meetings and local NHW meetings and will be open to any member of the community. Matt said that he would be looking to NHW groups to place more emphasis on newsletters, and hold only one local meeting – the Annual General Meeting – a year. He stressed that he wants Neighbourhood Watch to continue, but in a meaningful way – "at the moment the program in many areas is slowly ebbing to a close. I believe the message of Neighbourhood Watch is as critical today as it ever was, but we have to accept that the way to reach people is not through meetings any more."

Annual General Meeting – May 13

The Annual General Meeting of Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch will be held during the next Northbridge Progress Association meeting at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd, at 8pm on May 13.

The position of Area Coordinator is vacant; anybody interested in taking the role should contact Ron Hicks on 9958 8765.

Public meetings are held at Chatswood Police Station on the second Tuesday of even months, commencing at 6.30pm.

Neighbour Day

March 29 is the date of the seventh annual Neighbour Day. Neighbour Day was founded in 2003, following an elderly Melbourne woman being belatedly found dead in her home. The goals of Neighbour Day are: to strengthen communities and relationships with people around us; to create safer and healthier suburbs and towns; to promote tolerance, respect and understanding and break down community barriers, and to protect the elderly, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

It's the perfect time to get together with your neighbours for a street party or community event, but it can be even easier to mark the day. Suggestions from the www.neighbourday.org.com.au website include saying "g'day" to your neighbours, making a special effort to introduce yourself to older residents in your street and anyone who lives alone and leaving your mobile and home number for their use in an emergency. And don't forget to keep up the contact.

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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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

Help stop car theft

- When you leave your car unattended, even for short periods, close all windows, remove the key from the ignition and lock the doors. Remember, it's an offence under the Australian Road Rules to leave your car unlocked.
- Remove all property from view, specially mobile telephones, clothing, bags and money in consoles – either take it with you or lock it in the boot.
- Have an engine immobiliser or fuel cut-out switch installed. Research has shown that this is one of the most effective ways to beat a car thief.
- Use locking devices on the steering wheel or transmission shift.
- Don't leave personal papers such as licence or registration in your motor vehicle. They may be used by the thief to dispose of your motor vehicle.
- Take your parking station ticket with you when you leave your car unattended. This can make it difficult for the thief to steal the vehicle.
- Use caution when taking goods to your car in shopping centres. Thieves may watch owners take property to their cars and steal the items when they leave to continue shopping.

Information from NSW Police Online

Remember nights out for the right reasons

In an effort to reach young people, the NSW Police Force has created an interactive website designed to help them party safely. www.mynite.com.au provides sensible information on planning a successful party, with suggestions such as providing plenty of food, locking up easily portable objects, considering a security guard for a big party, arranging safe transport home for guests.

There's also an online police party notification facility. If police have been notified of a party, they will ring, rather than visit, to pass on any complaints and are ready to help with unwelcome guests.

Crime statistics October-December 2008

As reported on the front page, crime figures in Northbridge for the last quarter were high. Forty break and enters were reported, as well as 10 other cases of stealing. There were eight occurrences of malicious damage, but only one case of graffiti was reported.

Break/enter and steal/intent steal			
Street	Method of entry	Street	Method of entry
Baroona	first floor side window	Sailors Bay Road	ground floor front door
Baroona	ground floor rear door	Sailors Bay Road	garage
Baroona	ground floor rear door	Sailors Bay Road	ground floor rear window
Bligh	ground floor rear door	Tunks	ground floor side window
Bligh	ground floor front door	Upper Minimbah	ground floor rear door
Bligh	ground floor side window	Weemala	ground floor rear door
Bligh	ground floor rear door	Weetawa	ground floor rear door
Bourmac		Widgiewa	
Coolawin	ground floor side window	Woonona	ground floor side window
Coolawin	ground floor front door		
Coorabin	ground floor rear door	Steal from dwelling, other steal	
Dorset		Baringa	ground floor rear window
Dorset		Dorset	ground floor front door
Dorset	ground floor rear door	Kameruka	
Dorset		Sailors Bay Road	other
Dorset	ground floor rear door	Sailors Bay Road	other
Euroka		Sailors Bay Road	display counter
Kameruka	ground floor rear window	Sailors Bay Road	
Kameruka		Sailors Bay Rd	break chain
Laguna	ground floor rear door	Tunks	
Lower Bligh		Widgiewa	
Malacoota	ground floor front door	Malicious damage to property	
Malacoota	ground floor front window	Calbina	cut hole
Malacoota	ground floor front window	Dalmeny	
Marooba	ground floor rear door	Minimbah	
Minimbah	first floor front window	Namoi	kick
Minimbah	ground floor side door	Sailors Bay Rd	smash
Minnamurra	second floor and above front door	Sailors Bay Rd	
		Strathallen	scratch
Namoi		Weemala	interfere
Neeworra	ground floor front door	Graffiti	
Noonbinna	ground floor side window	Sailors Bay Road	spray paint

Police report

Vigilant Neighbourhood Watch by a Northbridge resident led to the arrest of a 31-year-old Surry Hills man after a number of aggravated home break-ins on the North Shore in November. Police were called by a witness who sighted a man acting suspiciously in Calbina Rd shortly before 7am on a Wednesday morning. The witness provided Police with a description and registration number of a car being driven by the male. The details supplied by the witness matched that of a car allegedly stolen from Castlereagh St, Sydney, earlier that week.

North Shore Pro-Active Unit Police were patrolling in response to the call when they sighted the silver Holden SS Commodore ute near Mowbray Rd at Chatswood. They followed the car for a short time in an unmarked police vehicle before the man parked in a small carpark off Mowbray Rd, Willoughby. Police approached the car and arrested the male.

A subsequent search of the utility revealed a number of items linked to recent break and enter offences. The man was arrested and taken to Chatswood Police station, where he was charged with 10 offences, including Aggravated Break, Enter and Steal, Break, Enter and Steal, Break and Enter with Intent, Possess Housebreaking Implements, Goods in Custody, Take and Drive Conveyance without the consent of the owner, Drive Whilst Disqualified, Found

with Intent to repeat Indictable Offence and Malicious Damage.

North Shore Police acting Commander, Det A/Supt Yeomans stated that "the arrest was an example of the critical role the public can play in helping Police by promptly reporting any suspicious activity in their neighbourhood."

Graffiti program working well

Willoughby City Council's graffiti removal program cleaned 198 instances of graffiti in Northbridge during 2008 – total area cleaned was 270 m². The majority was removed from Strathallen Ave and Sailors Bay Rd.

The program, whereby Council removes graffiti from private properties free of charge within two weeks, started in July 2007. During the initial clean of the suburb (July–December 07) 878 m² of graffiti was removed from 452 sites throughout the suburb including repeat attacks on the main roads.

To report graffiti, ring the graffiti hotline on 1300 311 322 or email willoughby@graffiticlean.com.au. 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.