

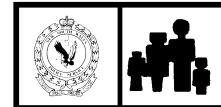
THE CRIMEBUSTER



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

JULY 2008

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Outbreak of burglaries

Many Northbridge residents will be aware of the spate of burglaries in the area during the past two months. According to Senior Constable Matt Jewell, around 30 homes have been burgled between May and the end of June (when *The Crimebuster* went to the printer), in some cases with great losses. Typical is a young family in Tunks St, who left to go interstate on a Friday afternoon. A neighbour saw a panel van pull up later that day and watched two men in overalls go into the house, but assumed they were there to carry out work of some kind. The thieves ransacked the house, taking amongst other possessions cash, a cash box, jewellery and even a large plasma TV screen off the wall.

With only two exceptions, the crimes have occurred on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Sen Const Jewell said it was always hard to pinpoint the exact time of a crime unless it had been witnessed, but they were generally between mid-afternoon and early the following morning.

Sen Const Jewell said that the best approach for Northbridge householders

was increased vigilance. "If you see anything unusual or suspicious, don't hesitate to call the police. Timely information from the public is one of the best assets police can have in the fight against home break-ins."

"Many people seem to think that Neighbourhood Watch is out of date, but its basic premise of keeping an eye out for what's happening in your neighbourhood is as relevant today as it ever was," he said. If you see a crime in progress, call 000 immediately.

Keep alert at ATMs

Police are warning ATM users to check the machines for signs of tampering after a card skimming device was found on a Lane Cove ATM recently. Chatswood Police were called to the St George bank on Longueville Rd after staff discovered a 60cm long white device fitted to the front of the ATM. Anyone noticing any device that looks suspicious or out of place on an ATM is asked to call local police immediately.

Beware of door-to-door tradesmen

An elderly Northbridge couple was robbed of \$3000 by a door to door tradesman recently, prompting police warnings to be careful when dealing with such people. The couple gave the man the money to do odd jobs around the house and he left, promising to turn up next day, but was not seen again. Police suggest taking the following precautions to prevent such a situation:

- Source any tradesmen from personal recommendations or the phone book.
- Make sure tradesmen have a licence and insurance – you can check licences with Fair Trading NSW.
- Ask for a written quote on a company letterhead with phone number and address.

Meeting – July 23

A meeting of Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch will be held during the next Northbridge Progress Association meeting at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Rd, at 8pm on July 23.

New coordinator needed

At the last meeting of Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch, Area Coordinator Howard Lardner stepped down, due to demands of work. Howard has been in the role since early 2006. He thanked those who had supported him as Area Coordinator, including NNHW's sponsor, Northbridge Plaza. Secretary/Treasurer Ron Hicks has agreed to head the organisation until a new coordinator is found. If you would like to volunteer for the position, please phone Ron on 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

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

This issue of *The Crimebuster* is brought to you by
Northbridge Plaza, an AMP Capital Shopping Centre.

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

Bad things can happen to your good name

Northbridge resident David (not his real name) was a relatively lucky victim of identity theft – he was using ebay when someone took over his email and ebay account. The thief put up two fraudulent auctions on ebay. Fortunately David discovered them quickly and was able to cancel them. "I didn't lose any money," he said, "but I lost access to ebay and email for two weeks."

Identity theft is when somebody takes over your identity by using stolen personal information or fraudulently obtained, forged or stolen identity documents. Perpetrators can take over an existing bank account or open new accounts in your name.

Security of personal and business information is critical. Criminals commonly rummage through the rubbish bins looking for personal identifying data which they can steal and use to commit fraud and other offences in your name. There are some precautions you can take:

- Take time to shred or destroy old bank statements, credit card bills, utility bills or other documents to prevent this material falling into the hands of criminals.
- Be careful to whom you give personal information. If you have to reveal personal information, ask some questions about the security of the information and be very cautious giving out any information over the phone or Internet unless you know who you are dealing with.
- Lock your letterbox. Criminals value your mail and will use it to commit fraud with your accounts or open loans or credit in your name.
- Minimise your identification and only carry in your wallet the cards you actually need.
- Check your bank and credit card statements to make sure there are no unauthorised transactions - this may be the first sign someone has stolen your identity.

Crime statistics January-March 2008

The incidence of stealing from cars dropped from 22 last quarter to four during the first three months of the year (perhaps we are being more careful about leaving our GPS systems in view), but crime figures during the first quarter of the year were roughly similar to the previous three months, from October to December 2007. These figures do not include the robberies reported on the front page.

There were 18 break and enters (20 last quarter) and nine occurrences of stealing (nine). Six cases of malicious damage (12) and five of graffiti (3) were reported.

The statistics provided do not describe the property taken. Senior Constable Jewell explained that this is because the details of what was stolen are not as important to the Police in crime prevention as when and how the offenders broke in.

Break and enter

Baringa	First floor rear door	
Baroona	Ground floor side window	Forced lock
Bligh	Ground floor front window	Smashed window
Dalmeny	Ground floor side door	
Dalmeny	Ground floor rear door	Forced lock
Kameruka	Ground floor rear window	Smashed window
Kameruka	Unknown	
Minimbah	Ground floor rear window	
Minimbah	Ground floor side window	Forced lock
Minimbah	Ground floor side door	Forced lock
Minnamurra	Ground floor rear door	Forced lock
Minnamurra	Ground floor rear door	Walked in
Namoi	Ground floor rear door	Forced lock
Narooma	Ground floor side window	
Sailors Bay	Ground floor front door	Forced lock
Sailors Bay	Ground floor front door	Forced lock
Widgieva	Ground floor front door	Forced lock
Woonona	Ground floor front door	

Stealing

Coorabin	Wardrobe
Minnamurra	Ground floor side door
Sailors Bay	Handbag
Sailors Bay	
Sailors Bay	
Sailors Bay	
Sailors Bay	
Sailors Bay	
Strathallen	Luggage
Weetalibah	

Malicious damage

Aubrey	
Aubrey	
Calbina	Scratch
Dalmeny	Throw object
Harden	
Strathallen	Cut hole

Graffiti

Eastern Valley Way	Texta pens
Sailors Bay	Spray paint
Sailors Bay	Spray paint
Sailors Bay	Spray paint
Sailors Bay	Spray paint

Good graffiti news

Willoughby City Council's program to remove graffiti from private properties, free of charge, has been highly successful since it was introduced in July 2007. By April 2008, graffiti incidents had fallen from 514 to 131. Works Coordinator Gary Parsons reported that the introduction of security services should see the number further reduced. The program has Council funding of \$154,800. To report graffiti, first ring the police on 13 14 44 to get an event number, then ring the council on 9777 1000 or go to www.graffiticlean.com.au/willoughby.

Computer security

Computer viruses have been around for over 20 years but in recent times "Malware" has become a much more serious issue. Categories include:

Spyware: programs that collect information about browsing activity, preferences and interests. **Adware:** software that displays advertisements using any means: pop-up windows, banners, changes to the browser home page or search page, etc. **Cookies:** small text files stored in the browser on the users' computer when visiting web pages.

How does Malware get there?

The majority are installed by "free" programs from rogue websites. These may be music/software, global weather, game playing over the internet, comic cursors, etc. You get what you pay for on the Net, as in real life. If something's free and looks

good, it could well have a downside. Excluded are valid system updates from recognised sources, eg Microsoft.

Symptoms that may indicate Malware include pop-up windows, advertising banners or toolbars; change of Internet home page; computer slowdown or freezing.

To stay protected from Malware:

- Install a good Internet security solution on your computer to detect viruses and Malware. This should include an effective firewall.
- Be disciplined when downloading "free" files/programs from the Internet.
- Keep programs up-to-date by installing updates released by the developers.
- Check your browser security level.
- Keep your Internet security solution up-to-date.

Howard Lardner