

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

NOVEMBER 2007

Published by the Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch - CIRCULATION 2,650

Meeting – November 28

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 November 28. NNW Area Coordinator Howard Lardner will present a report. Please stay for some Christmas nibbles.

Dealing with graffiti vandalism

Northbridge residents are constantly assaulted by new examples of senseless graffiti in our suburb and it will be even worse during the school holidays. Police advice is to remove the graffiti as soon as possible, ideally within 24-48 hours. According to Senior Constable Matt Jewell, of Chatswood Police, this takes away the recognition the vandals seek for committing the offence.

Since the middle of this year Willoughby Council has undertaken to clean graffiti not only from Council property but also from private property, both business and residential, at no cost to the property owner. The graffiti must be able to be seen from a public place; it must be able to be removed without going onto private

property and must be no more than 3m high. Council's Corporate Services Director Nick Tobin said response to the service was increasing steadily as more people learned about it – several hundred square metres of graffiti have already been removed.

If you find graffiti on your property, whether you are owner, tenant or occupier, Council requests that you immediately report the crime to the Police Assistance Line (PAL) on 131 444 – they will give you an event number and report it to the local police. Then ring Council's Help & Service centre on 9777 1000 or make a service request online on Council's website www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

New graffiti on Council property, such as amenity buildings in parks, park play equipment, street signage, street seats and bus shelters, should be reported straight away to Council online or by phone.

Grffiti on other items should be reported to the relevant authority: letterboxes and mail transfer boxes Australia Post 13 13 18; electricity substations Energy Australia 13 15 35; traffic light control boxes and traffic signs RTA 13 17 00; phone boxes Telstra 180 22 44.

Senior Constable Jewell also asked that anybody witnessing graffiti in progress should not intervene, but should contact local police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of the offenders.

And there could be more help at hand – the NSW Government Lower House recently passed legislation which will allow police to confiscate spray paint cans from young people even if they are not caught in the act.

From the Coordinator

Hello and welcome to this latest issue of Northbridge's *Crimebuster*.

The major positives for Neighbourhood Watch have been four new street coordinators and the continuing distribution of Neighbourhood Watch pamphlets and stickers, etc, via our holder on the Plaza ramp noticeboard.

However, we still need more street coordinators. Only 19 of the 64 streets in Northbridge currently have an active street coordinator. Taking into account that some longer streets (eg Kameruka and Sailors Bay Rds) require up to 10 coordinators each, the ideal total would be close to 100.

The main role of the street coordinator is to look after some 30 residences, highlighting key aspects of Neighbourhood Watch to your neighbours, supplying Neighbourhood Watch brochures, signage and stickers and generally being a local contact point for the scheme. Time-wise it requires very little effort: five short meetings a year plus a couple of hours speaking with your neighbours and anyone new moving into your street (a jolly good way to meet the people around you). Please call me on 9967 3963 if you are able to help.

Our best surprise of 2007!! Northbridge Plaza recently offered to pay the printing costs of *The Crimebuster* for the next two years. This generous funding has allowed us to print this issue and we thank them sincerely. It costs some \$500 to print and issue this newsletter to Northbridge's 2650 homes and businesses and our main sources of funds have been the \$5 per annum donations by householders and donations by local businesses and organisations.

We look forward to assisting Northbridge residents, businesses and visitors to enjoy a safe and secure lifestyle in our village throughout the coming festive season.

Howard Lardner,
Area Coordinator

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: Howard Lardner – 9967 3963

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 Rd	Janet	9958 8929
Tycannah Rd	Ian	9958 5772
Ulric Lane	Jane	9967 2724
Weetawa Rd	AnneMaree	9958 8905

Going on holiday?

If you're planning to be away during the summer holidays, take a little time to look after your house so it doesn't advertise the fact that you're away. For example, there's no greater giveaway than a pile of local newspapers lying in the driveway. There are also precautions to take inside the house.

Secure your house

- Make sure all doors and windows are securely locked, but don't close all the curtains and blinds. Lock the garage.
- Lock away anything that could be stolen, such as bikes and lawnmowers, as well as ladders or anything else which could help a thief enter.
- If you are away for more than a couple of weeks, pay someone to mow the lawns and tidy the garden.
- Don't leave any cash in the house and hide your jewellery (a small safe bolted to the floor is the best bet).

Neighbourly acts

- Either have your mail held at the Post Office (there's a small charge) or ask your neighbour or a friend to collect it.
- Cancel newspaper deliveries and ask a neighbour to pick up *The North Shore Times* and *North Side Courier*, as well as any junk mail.
- Tell your neighbour your departure and arrival dates and whether anybody else – family members, tradesmen, etc – will be visiting the house.
- Leave a key and your contact number with your neighbour in case there's an emergency.

Noise alert

- Turn down the volume on the phone so it can't be heard from outside. If you have an answering machine, you might consider turning it off.
- Think about an automatic timer switch to turn on the radio or TV and some lights from time to time.

Northbridge crime lower

In the four months to mid-September, crime was generally lower in Northbridge, according to Inspector Geoff Bell, from North Shore Local Area Command (LAC). He was speaking to the September 19 meeting of Northbridge Neighbourhood Watch. In the LAC generally, police had had some success in drug detection and had recently arrested two people for six armed robberies. Incidence of robberies and stolen vehicles was down by one-third.

In police crime statistics for the quarter from July to September, there was an armed robbery with a knife at Northbridge Hotel, the second this year; eight cases of stealing from a motor vehicle were reported, in Bellambi, Coolawin, Kameruka (two), Minnamurra, Sailors Bay Rd (two) and Weetalibah. In all cases, side windows were smashed to gain entry. One handbag was stolen at the Plaza. Details of other crimes are listed below.

Crime/Location	Premises	Method of entry or activity
<i>Break and enter</i>		
Bligh	House	Ground floor rear door, forced lock
Coolawin	House	Ground floor side window
Dalmeny	House	Brick/rock/stone
Hallstrom	House	
Hallstrom	House	
Harden	House	Front door, forced lock
Harden	House	Front door, forced lock
Sailors Bay	Golf course	Ground floor rear door
Strathallen	House	Smashed ground floor side window
Tunks	House	Front door smashed
<i>Stealing</i>		
Hallstrom	Harbour	Steal from marine vessel
Hallstrom	House	
Noonbinna	House	
Sailors Bay	Shopping complex	
Sailors Bay	Chemist	
<i>Malicious damage to property, including graffiti</i>		
Lower Cliff	Footpath	Burning
Malacoota	House	Smash
Sailors Bay	Road	
Sailors Bay	Pavilion	Spray paint
Sailors Bay	Hairdressing	Smash
Sailors Bay	Block of units	Burning
Sailors Bay	Road	Physical force
Sailors Bay	Sports ground	Paint, write or draw
Sailors Bay	Block of units	Smash
Sailors Bay	Block of units	Physical force
Sailors Bay	Block of units	
Sailors Bay	Block of units	Physical force
Strathallen	House	Spray paint
Strathallen	Yard	Spray paint
Tunks	Garage	Paint, write or draw
Weetalibah	House	Throw object
Widgiewa	Road	Throw object

Computer caution

- Back up all your critical files on hard disk, CDR/DVDR or thumb drive and store them away from the house.
- Check emails via your webmail facility while you're away or ensure that your mailbox is big enough for all emails/attachments you may receive. If your mailbox is full, later emails will bounce back to the sender.
- Turn off all computer equipment for security and remove power plugs at the wall in case of power surges.

Have you...

Engraved your driver's licence number on all the valuable items you can?

(You can borrow an engraver from Neighbourhood Watch – ask your street coordinator.)

Kept a record of model and serial numbers of electrical appliances, etc?

Taken photographs of jewellery and paintings?

These simple steps will help police identify your property if it is stolen.

Throw a street party!

Getting to know your neighbours is what makes Neighbourhood Watch work, and what better way than at a Christmas street party? It's a good project for a street coordinator but any resident can organise a casual get-together. Pick a suitable spot – a wide nature strip works well – then letterbox your street, or part of your street, with invitations to BYO chairs, nibbles and drinks. Set up a card table or two on the date and consider stick-on name tags if you are not all well acquainted.