



Brisbane West District Crime Bulletin



September, 2009

Volume 1, Number 7

Burglar Activity



Ashgrove

Creek Ave
Hackett St
Woodland St

Auchenflower

Torwood St
Payne St
Birdwood Tce
Lang Pde
Thomas St

Bardon

Mackay Tce
Rambler St
Simpsons Rd
Jubilee Tce
Bardon Esp

Brookfield

Boscombe Rd
Bundaleer St
Peronne Pl

Crime Prevention Month

safe homes | safe streets
safe places | safe queensland



October is Crime Prevention Month in Queensland.

**During October, we encourage everyone to
make Crime Prevention a priority.**

Please join with us during Crime Prevention Month in promoting crime prevention initiatives to help make our communities safer places to live, work, play and visit.

Safety affects all aspects of our lives - in our homes, on our streets, and in public places throughout Queensland.

Should you get involved?

**Yes, crime prevention is everyone's
responsibility.**



Chapel Hill
Moondarra St
Fawkner St
Sutling St
Halmore Pl
Pontefract St
Jamner St
Hobson Ct
Kenton St
Tempest St
Chapman St

Enoggera
Browns Dip Rd

Everton Hills
Southpine Rd
Hibiscus St

Everton Park
Griffith St
Holloway Dr
Newhaven St

Ferny Grove
Greenock Pl

Ferny Hills
Coolibah Cres

Fig Tree Pocket
Robertson Pl
Jesmond Rd

Gaythorne
Prospect Rd

We know that crime prevention is most effective when everyone; you, me, communities, governments and police work together. Through active participation during Crime Prevention Month you can contribute to making your home and local community a safer place.

It's true that in many parts of Queensland crime rates are falling but if we want this trend to continue we all need to become involved in helping to keep it that way.

What can you do?

Promote crime prevention to improve the quality of life for every Queensland community.

You can become involved by taking action and organising an activity to promote crime prevention in your community. Activities do not have to be elaborate or time consuming and you can use the resources you have available to you and from our website.

To see a Calendar of Events for Crime Prevention Month, or to enter the Crime Prevention Month Colouring In Competition, click on the link on the above page.

Crime Prevention Month is an initiative of the Queensland Police Service



Let's make Crime Prevention a priority



Indooroopilly

Rankin St
Harts Rd
Saunders St
Jilba St
Aragon St

Kenmore

Akuna St
Kenmore Rd
Sophia St

Kenmore Hills

Greentrees Ave
Bielby Rd

Keperra

Madsen St
Eidsvold St

Mitchelton

Osbourne Rd
Cross St
Glenholm St

Saint Lucia

Ninth Ave
Carmody Rd

Taringa

Lucinda St
McCaul St
Waverley Rd
Broomfield St

Brisbane West District Crime Prevention Displays

The Brisbane West District Crime Prevention Unit held a number of Shopping Centre Displays at the beginning of October for Crime Prevention Month, highlighting the theme of "Safe Homes" at Brookside and Indooroopilly centres.



These displays provided members of the public with information and advice on Security and Safety, as well as a wide range of other crime prevention initiatives and strategies. The displays were a great success, with hundreds of shoppers stopping to obtain information.

The Displays were supported by members of the Brisbane West Crime Stoppers Committee Kev Gordon and Les Schroder, and Volunteer In Policing Colleen MacCarthy. The Brisbane West District Officer Acting Superintendent Robert Hytch and Inspector Don Amos of Patrol Services also attended to lend their support.

BWD Crime Prevention Officers Acting Sergeant Trudi Ayres, Senior Constable Sue Walsh and Senior Constable Deb Dahl (pictured) organized and facilitated the displays for this successful Crime Prevention initiative.



The Gap
Georgia Pl
Redwood Pl
School Rd

Toowong
Birdwood Tce

Motor Vehicle Theft



Chapel Hill
Kulki Pl

Everton Hill
Walkers Rd

Keperra
Silvertop St

Saint Lucia
Sir Fred Schonell Dr

The Gap
Mount Nebo
Lomatta St

Toowong
Sylvan Rd



2009 NHW State Conference Brisbane

The annual Neighbourhood Watch State Conference was held in Brisbane on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd October 2009. – this conference marked 21 years of NHW in Queensland.

The theme for this year's Conference was

“Coming of Age”

and the key message was

“Property to People”

Exceptional Guest Speakers included Inspector Tess Walsh of the Victorian Police – the Area Manager for the city of Darebin and the National President of NHW Australasia – who spoke on her involvement in the coordinated response to the Victorian Bush Fires.

Awards

NHW Person of the Year 2009

Beric Foote from Petrie 5 NHW Pine Rivers
Metropolitan North Region

NHW Police Liaison Officer of the Year 2009

Senior Constable Ryan Hanlon Koongal 1 NHW
Central Region



Theft from Motor Vehicles



Arana Hills

Nepean Ave
Bunya Rd

Ashgrove

Waterwords Rd

Auchenflower

Penrose St
The Wesley Car Park

Bardon

Stuartholme Rd
Bellbowrie
Gibson Tce

Bellbowrie

Wattlebrush Cl

Chapel Hill

Sutling St
Kenton St
Greenford St

Enoggera

Browns Dip Rd

The State NHW Conference also saw the launch of the new Neighbourhood Watch Queensland Strategy 2009-2013

Our Vision

Strong and connected Queensland Communities

Our Values

Volunteering

We respect and value the contributions of volunteers to NHW

Diversity

We take pride in the diversity of individuals and ideas and welcome the participation of all Queenslanders

Partnerships

We will work together with the community and our partners

Accountability and Transparency

We are accountable for openness, honesty and fairness in all our activities and communications with our partners

Our Mission

Individuals, families, businesses and communities working together to create safer and supportive communities

Our Aims

- Improve safety and security within our homes, neighbourhoods and communities
- Encourage closer ties between neighbours to promote community involvement
- Inform communities about local crime and safety issues
- Advise the community on what they can do to prevent and reduce crime
- Promote crime prevention, community safety and security messages
- Develop and maintain effective partnerships
- Increase community capacity and resilience



Ferny Hills
Woodtop St

Indooroopilly
Gilgandra St
Railway Ave
Coonan St
Keating St
Moggill Rd

Mount Coot Tha
Carpark
Sir Samuel Griffith Drive

St Lucia
Sir Fred Schonell Dr
Benson St

Taringa
Moggill Rd
Indooroopilly Rd

The Gap
Redwood Pl
D'Aguilar Rd
Payne Rd

Toowong
Sleath St

**For more information on
motor vehicle security please
click on the car icon on the
above page.**

We will achieve our aims by:

- Identifying local community issues, crime and anti-social behaviour problems and using problem solving to develop appropriate responses
- Using information and communications technology to inform the community about safety and perceptions of crime
- Encouraging individuals to be aware of, prevent and report potential crime and safety issues and to actively participate in crime prevention and safety activities
- Linking in and working with police, local government and other volunteer and community groups

Our 2010-2011 Priorities

- Increase membership and volunteers
- Engage younger and more diverse people
- Implement broader community safety projects and initiatives
- Create a stronger community structure through enhanced governance models
- Develop greater community and police communication links
- Train and build the capacity of NHW groups
- Identify local funding opportunities
- Maintain active membership of NHW Australasia

Our Challenge

To maintain relevance and enhance effectiveness to Queensland communities

Upcoming NHW Dates of Interest:

- 23rd November 2009 – New NHW Handbooks released
- 31st December 2009 – New QPS Support Template released
- February 2010 – Launch of new NHW Queensland Website – the new address will be (not currently completed); www.neighbourhoodwatchqueensland.com.au
- March/April 2010 – State NHW Forum



Partners in community safety



In any Emergency

Are you calling Triple Zero (000) because it is an emergency?

Do want Police, Fire or Ambulance?

Only call triple Zero (000) in situations where life is in danger, a crime is taking place or in time critical situations.



Mental Health Week

In 2009 Mental Health Week will run from Sunday 4 October through to Saturday 10 October. This year's theme is **'Be active, get connected, stay involved'**. Mental Health Week is an annual national awareness event held in October every year. The aim is to raise awareness of the importance of mental health and wellbeing in the wider community, to increase community awareness and education about mental health issues and to encourage participation in life enhancing lifestyles.

In Queensland, Mental Health Week is coordinated by a state planning committee, comprising representatives from Queensland Health, the [Mental Health Association \(Qld\)](#), [Queensland Alliance](#), [Disability Services Queensland](#), and consumer, carer and non-government organisation representation.

Local and regional events are organised by local groups and communities throughout Queensland. These events:

- highlight statewide initiatives, activities and events
- to increase knowledge and community education about mental health issues
- foster a more supportive and informed attitude to those who live with mental illness
- bring attention to the challenges of living with a mental illness
- to encourage participation in healthy lifestyle strategies.

Dates for 2009

Mental Health Week is always the week that World Mental Health Day (10 October) falls within. National Stress Less Day always falls on the Wednesday of the designated week.

- Mental Health Week 2009: 4-10 October 2009
- World Mental Health Day: Saturday, 10 October 2009
- Stress Less Day: Wednesday, 7 October 2009



Who's Chatting To Your Kids?

A must read for parents of children
with internet access



The internet has brought the world into our living rooms providing access to vast resources of information and the opportunity to meet and communicate with people from around the world.

But like every element of society, the internet has its share of dangers and risks. The internet and advances in technology have been embraced by sex offenders who have proven exceptionally skilled at exploiting new modes of communication to gain access to children.

Like when learning to cross the street, it is important that we take the time to guide, assist and supervise our children in the use of the internet.

The rules you teach your children about meeting new people in the real world also apply when they meet and 'chat' with people online.

Consider for a moment whether you would feel comfortable if your child spoke to a total stranger on the street for several hours or if the phone rang at home and your child told an unknown caller all about themselves, including their age, address, school or mobile phone number. Just as you would tell your children to never provide their personal details to someone they met on the street, you should tell them never to give them to anyone online.

This brochure provides you with practical information about internet safety, including the technology being used by children and how you can reduce the risk of your child becoming a victim.



Social Networking

Social networking on the internet allows individual users to meet and connect with other users from around the world. Recently there has been a dramatic increase in their popularity with children due to the ease with which to share videos, photos, personal messages and chat in real time with others.

Children feel safe using the internet. If they are chatting to people they know (or think they know) and trust while in the safety of their own home, they will often let down their guard or try new things if it seems popular with their friends.

Regardless of how safe they feel or how confident they are, there are people out there looking for ways to target children online. They listen to and empathise with children and the problems they face to build rapport with them. They make themselves aware of the latest music, movies, television shows and interests. Some attempt to lower a child's inhibitions by slowly introducing sexual context and content into their conversations, while others immediately engage in sexually explicit conversation. Some will seek a face-to-face meeting with your child.

Social networking sites are online communities, some with millions of members. Many of these sites contain a profile page where a child can post personal information including their name, age, location, photographs, contact details, email addresses and in some instances their sexual preference.

Quite often, multiple children are targeted by predators. In many cases they attempt to gain the child's trust by pretending to be the same age. Once they have access to one child, they have access to the child's list of contacts, introducing the offender to their friends who in turn introduce their friends.

As a parent, it is important to be aware that a child can be identified and located by a number of methods. This includes posting information such as:

- personal details made available via the internet (including on their social networking pages and on their friends pages)
- photos of themselves wearing clothing that may identify their membership of a club, association or school or taken in front of an easily identifiable landmark
- identifying information that a child's friend has disclosed during conversations
- email address distribution lists (included on group emails).

Instant messaging (IM)

Instant messaging is a program that can instantly send messages from one computer to another anywhere in the world. These programs let children chat one-on-one (or one-to-many) with family and friends on their 'buddy' or friends list in real time. They also allow you to send and receive files, photos, audio and video content.

Growing in popularity in recent times, instant messaging can facilitate web cam chats (see page 9) or make voice calls to other computers replacing the need for a telephone.



IM is very similar to using email or SMS messaging and many of the same safety rules apply. A powerful communication tool, IM programs can be direct links between your child and online predators.

Some children believe that having large numbers of contacts or friends in their 'buddy' or friends list increases their social status. Investigators from the Queensland Police Service's Taskforce Argos (targeting online offenders) have identified children who have over 700 contacts in their buddy list, and in one investigation arrested five child sex offenders from one child's list.

It is important that your child personally knows everyone on their contact list prior to chatting with them. They should be able to tell you each person's real name and how they came to know them.

Online Chat Rooms

These programs allow users to select a "room" based on a particular interest or topic of conversation and allows them to chat instantly with others (using both voice and text chat). Chat rooms have proven to be a dangerous destination for children in the past due to the large number of predators actively using them. Children's topics are often mixed in with adult conversation or topics (many unsuitable for children). These types of internet communication platforms should be avoided by children or strictly monitored by 6 parents due to the high degree of risk associated with them.

Be aware that it is easy for predators to pretend they are children by creating a child's profile and building rapport during chat with your child. The predator will then request the child transfer to an instant messaging application in order for them to web cam, swap pictures and continue the grooming process.

3D interactive communities

These types of internet platforms allow users to create three dimensional (3D) characters of their choice known as 'avatars'. They can interact as that character in a virtual world with thousands of other 'avatars' created by users from around the globe.

The risks associated with these sites include:

- Users cannot be sure of who they are interacting with (actual identities, ages, genders, etc)
- Adult predators can disguise themselves as child characters to communicate with children
- There is the potential for children to view sexually explicit material.

Speak with your child about the risks associated with representing themselves online. If your child creates a child avatar, they increase their chances of being targeted by predators.

Tips for parents with children engaged in social networking:

- Choose a non identifiable, non gender specific username
- Never give out any personal information whilst using IM or other networking programs. This includes their real name, telephone or mobile phone number, mailing address, passwords or banking details



- Never accept a friend, file or download from a person you don't know, this includes links to a website
- Know how to save copies of your child's IM conversations.

Mobile Phones

Today many children are provided with mobile phones by parents as a way of maintaining contact in emergency situations.

Internet predators are constantly looking for ways to facilitate direct contact with children and on many occasions obtain children's mobile phone numbers during online chats with them. They will search the internet for children's profiles containing a mobile telephone number or personal information.

Child sex offenders have been known to send mobile telephones to children as gifts. This gesture is part of the grooming process, and can result in the child feeling indebted to the predator. In some cases, they have paid the child's telephone bills to ensure that communication can continue without the knowledge of the child's parents.

Of significant concern are the next generation mobile telephones that include features such as satellite navigation, web access, video and still cameras and GPS (global positioning system) location capability.

Online Gaming

The popularity of electronic and video games amongst children has increased dramatically over the last few years. Advances in technology have meant these devices can be used for a variety of purposes. Parents should be aware that many gaming devices can now connect to the internet or feature built-in web cameras. Some devices even provide online chat capability enabling anyone (including predators) to communicate with your child.

Predators have been known to pretend to be a child in order to game and then chat with your child. Once a friendship has been established, they can request to take the conversation to another internet chat or networking site.

You should investigate what internet/chat capabilities your child's devices have and decide whether they require these facilities. It is your decision whether to set the available electronic parental controls on these devices or to disconnect these capabilities.

Signs your child could be at risk?

You find pornography on your child's computer.

Child sex offenders may use pornography as part of the process to facilitate open sexual discussion. It may also be used to show the child that sex between children and adults is acceptable and normal.

Your child is receiving phone calls from people you don't know or is calling numbers you don't recognise.

It is very common for a child sex offender to attempt to speak directly to a child they



have met online. Investigations to date have proven that most want to talk to the child on the telephone for the purpose of setting up an actual meeting. While your child may be hesitant to give out your home phone number, the sex offender will give out theirs. If you do not have a silent number and your child calls, the offender can easily obtain your number using the 'caller ID' function on their telephone.

Your child is spending excessive amounts of time on the internet.

The longer your child is online, the higher the likelihood that they will be approached inappropriately, or be exposed to objectionable material.

While exploring the internet can be a valuable experience, parents should consider monitoring the amount of time children spend online. Children are at greatest risk from online sexual predators in the evening, during weekends and on school holidays. Research by investigators at Task Force Argos has shown that some offenders are online for up to 16 hours at a time. Be aware that visitors to chat rooms are from across the world, not just Australia.

When you enter the room your child changes the screen or turns the computer off.

If your child is engaged in inappropriate conversation or is looking at pornographic images it is likely that they will attempt to hide this from you.

Your child is receiving gifts or mail from people you don't know.

Child sex offenders use many strategies to gain the confidence and trust of a child. Investigations conducted by officers from Taskforce Argos have identified that some individuals gradually seduce children through the use of attention, affection and gifts. They will send letters and gifts as part of this process and some will pay for flights so the child can meet them.

Your child is becoming withdrawn or displaying irregular personality characteristics.

Child sex offenders are adept at gaining the confidence of children, providing your child with a sympathetic and comforting ear, and turning insignificant family problems into major issues in order to gain the affection of your child. Children may also become withdrawn after sexual victimisation.

With little or no parental supervision and a willing child, it is easier for predators to form strong relationships with children online. Police have observed occasions when children claim they are 'in love' with the predator, even after the predators true age is revealed.

It is important for parents to note that some children do actively seek and participate in sexually explicit conversation and have on occasions voluntarily met with the adult predator to engage in sexual contact.

Suggestions to help protect your child on the Internet

- Having **direct and open communication** with your child, taking the time to sit down with them and discussing their use of the internet is the most important step to protecting them online. Having open lines of communication allows your child to talk to you freely and approach you when something is wrong.
- Be **aware of the programs and files on your computer**. If you don't feel



you have the knowledge or technical ability to do this, ask a friend, colleague or qualified technician.

- Spend time exploring the internet with your children, and **let them teach you about their favourite web sites**, including the social networking and instant messaging sites they use.
- Take the time to view your child's online profile and **check for information that may be unsafe**, including email addresses, information about their membership of any other networking sites, unacceptable photos or any other information of concern.
- Keep the computer in a room the whole family accesses, not in your child's bedroom. Opportunities for exploitation by a sexual predator are limited if the **computer monitor is visible to all members of the family**.
- Taskforce Argos has developed the "Family Internet Safety Agreement", a contract you agree upon with your child. The document sets out **agreed rules of internet use** with your child and is available at the back of this booklet and on the Queensland Police Service website (www.police.qld.gov.au). If this does not meet your needs, sit down with your family and develop your own set of guidelines. to help protect your child on the internet
- Consider installing **filtering and/or computer blocking software** provided by your internet service provider. The Netaalert web page (a Government run organisation) provides information on a number of commercially available products (www.netaalert.gov.au).
- Ensure you are able to **access your child's email** and randomly check its contents. Remember they may also be a member of free email accounts other than the one provided by your internet service provider.
- Consider **approaching your telephone service provider** to discuss options they may be able to provide to ensure your privacy and security.
- It is important to remember your child may be accessing the internet from other locations. Enquire with your child's school, public library or anywhere you believe your child uses the internet to **ascertain what safety measures they have in place**.

Important points to discuss with your children:

- Do not send pictures of themselves to someone they don't know and never place a full profile and picture of themselves anywhere on the internet
- Never give out personal information including their name, home address, phone number or school
- Never arrange a face to face meeting with someone they have only engaged with on the internet.

If any of the following situations occur, you should immediately contact your local police station:

- Your child or anyone in the household has received child exploitation material



- Your child has been sexually solicited
- Your child has received sexually explicit images.

If any of these scenarios occur, keep your computer turned off in order to preserve evidence.

Remember, ultimately your child's safety rests with you

To report information to police call

Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

Queensland Police Service

Telephone 3364 6464

Task Force Argos, State Crime Operations Command

Telephone 3364 4142

Life threatening emergencies

or crime in progress call Triple Zero (000)

For further information on how to enjoy the internet safely visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority web site <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au> and The Australian Internet Safety Advisory Board web site <http://www.netalert.gov.au>.

Supported by the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, Operations Support Command.



www.crimestoppers.com.au



Crime Stoppers

Do you have any information?
You can remain anonymous.
Call Crime Stoppers on
1800 333 000.

Crime Stoppers offer cash rewards of up to \$1000 for the arrest of these wanted persons. Anyone with information is NOT to approach these persons but should telephone Crime Stoppers on toll free number 1800 333 000 or contact their local police station.



The *Crime Bulletin* is a joint initiative between the NHW program, Crime Stoppers, and the Queensland Police Service.

For more information about the NHW program in your area please visit:

www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/crimePrevention/nhw/innhw



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STORIES OF INTEREST



Toowong Cemetery Update

A further two people have been charged following the alleged damage of a number of headstones at Toowong Cemetery last week.

A 26-year-old Mount Warren Park man and a 19-year-old Coopers Plains man have been charged with 82 counts each of wilful damage.

Sometime overnight on August 27 it is alleged around 80 to 100 headstones were damaged.

The two men are due to appear in the Brisbane Magistrates Court on September 30.

It follows the charging of a 27-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman for similar offences on Monday August 31.

Operation Dawn – Brisbane West District

Police have recently been conducting an operation in the Western Suburbs codenamed Operation Dawn.

This operation has targeted thefts from vehicles in the district, with police in plain clothes undertaking patrols of identified areas.

A number of men are currently assisting police with inquiries in relation to the stealing from vehicles in the Western Suburbs.

Police would like to remind members of the community to remain vigilant with their vehicle security by locking and securing unattended cars, and removing valuables from sight.

Items of value that are currently being targeted by thieves are Ipods, Laptops and Satellite Navigation Systems. We urge the public to remove these items from their vehicles before securing the car.

