

# Ferny Grove 10 Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

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Now in our 24th year in Ferny Grove

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Edition No 112

## From the Committee

Have you ever conducted an 'audit' on the safety of your environment and yourself? Are you smartphone street-smart? Are you ready for Winter? Do you have a personal safety plan in place? Would you know who to call in case of an emergency?

This edition provides information on how to increase the safety of both yourself and your environment.



Next FG10  
NHW meeting  
7.00pm Wed  
16 May 2018  
The Grove  
Sports Club

## Preparing for Winter

It's time to start thinking about heating for our homes during the cooler months. Air conditioners, electric heaters and oil heaters all need to be maintained for maximum efficiency and safety. It's essential you do this, as heaters are often not used for possibly 6 to 8 months.

In this time dust and/or pests can often degrade the efficiency of your heater.

There are various companies providing this service, with many advertising in the local newspapers. If you have a disability or are over 60 years of age, you may be eligible for subsidised assistance through Home Assist Secure. For more information: [www.hpw.qld.gov.au](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au).



It's also an idea to check your smoke alarm batteries, as they provide vital early warning in the event of a fire. You can test a smoke alarm battery by pressing the test button with a broom handle.

If you need to replace a smoke alarm battery, consider a high-quality, long-lasting alkaline battery, and always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

## How to be smartphone scam savvy

Here are some tips to help you spot a cyber con and dodge the nasty tricks of the trade.

### Gone phishing

The scammer will try to lure you into giving personal or financial details. They'll email, call, SMS or use social media. If a message looks suspicious, don't respond or click on links.

### Web surfing the smart way

While smartphone web browsing is super convenient, keep an eye out for <https://> at the start of the website address, or a closed padlock . This means your details should be encrypted when you fill out online forms.

### Never too busy to look

Poor grammar, strange formatting, mystery survey prizes or demands for urgent attention for legal issues are all tell-tale signs of the scam artists at work.

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Ferny Grove  
10 NHW



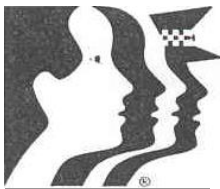
3351 4757  
Shop 3, 47-51  
McGinn Road

[www.ferrygrovedental.com](http://www.ferrygrovedental.com)

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Ferny Hills – 3164 7000



## Messages from police

Even though crime is low in Ferny Grove, residents are reminded to be vigilant in securing their home, car and themselves. Here are tips on minimising your risk of becoming a victim of the recent crime trends in the North West suburbs.

### Break and enter dwelling

- Remain vigilant, even when at home – offenders target homes when residents are there as they know your car, wallet, handbag, mobile phone etc are with you

- Do a home security audit  
<http://www.nhwq.org/wp-content/uploads/HomeSecurityAuditFactSheet.pdf>

- Routinely lock up before leaving the house or going to bed
- Lock and secure all doors and windows with key locking devices
- Secure tools, ladders and wheelie bins so they can't be used to assist break ins
- Don't leave keys in plain view – put them somewhere not immediately obvious

### Theft from garages

Lock your garage even when home.

### Theft of number plates

You can have anti-theft screws fitted to your vehicle number plates free of charge.



They're available at your local police station; Ferny Grove, The Gap and Indooroopilly.

## Do you have a personal safety plan?

What does personal safety mean to you? Do you have a plan? Without even realising it many people already have an informal safety plan in place, such as carrying a phone, letting someone know when you are expected home or having a spare tyre in the car.

Police encourage members of the public to think about everyday situations they may be in, and to come up with strategies to make you feel secure.

For more in-depth safety information visit our Safer Living booklet at [https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/scp/personalSafety/adults/Documents/SaferLiving\\_Website.pdf](https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/scp/personalSafety/adults/Documents/SaferLiving_Website.pdf).

If you would like police to deliver a personal safety presentation to your workplace or community group, please contact the Gateway District Crime Prevention Office on 3364 3426.



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## Emergency+ app



Save the App that could save your life.



[\[Free Download\]](#)



[\[Free Download\]](#)



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Part of your personal safety plan may be to install the **Emergency+** application. This is a free application developed by Australia's emergency services and their partners. The application uses GPS functionality built into

smartphones to help 000 callers provide location details.

Download from your app store.

## Reporting crime

Police rely heavily on reported crime to help identify trends, locate offenders and allocate resources. Without crime reported it's harder to prevent further offences and locate offenders. No crime is too small to report – Police need to know so they can respond.

- **000** – emergency calls for Police, Fire Services or Ambulance
- **131 444** – Policelink for non-urgent calls
- **1800 333 000** – Crime Stoppers with details of known or suspected crime

## Police blog website

Subscribe to the blog to receive updates:  
<http://mypolice.qld.gov.au/brisbanenorth/>

## Next FG10 NHW meeting

Our next meeting is at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16 May at The Grove Sports Club.

We would love to see you there, or you can use the contact details below for any issues or topics you want raised at the meeting.

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Emergency	<b>000</b>
Ferny Grove Police Station	<b>3872 1555</b>
Policelink (non-urgent calls)	<b>131 444</b>
Crime Stoppers	<b>1800 333 000</b>

### FG 10 NHW TEAM

Area Coordinator – Garry	<b>0403 362 463</b>
Newsletter Editor – Lyn	<b>3351 6138</b>
Email: <a href="mailto:areacoordinator@nhwfernycgrove10.org">areacoordinator@nhwfernycgrove10.org</a>	
Website: <a href="http://www.nhwfernycgrove10.org">www.nhwfernycgrove10.org</a>	
Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/NHWFernycGrove10">www.facebook.com/NHWFernycGrove10</a>	

### Your Block Coordinator

**Name:**

**Phone:**