

Ferny Grove 10 Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

Circulation: 1,984

Now in our 25th year in Ferny Grove

March 2019
Edition No 116

From the Committee

We hope you had a relaxing holiday break and are now looking forward to whatever comes your way in 2019.

As a reminder, NHW is a community led, police supported, safety and awareness program that aims to prevent crime and increase the safety, security and quality of life for everyone in the community.

The Ferny Grove NHW #10 group is now in its 25th year and one of its main objectives for the year is to increase the distribution of the newsletter, so more households are covered by the program.

The newsletter is an important means of informing you about practical things you can do to avoid becoming a victim of crime. If you'd like to volunteer to distribute the newsletter, please contact our Area Coordinator.



Preparing for the Easter holidays



It's not long until Easter and the holiday season is prime time for thieves. To help you take a fresh look at your home security, check out the Home Security info on our website, under Useful Information, or the checklist at www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/homeSecurity/Documents/Home_Audit.pdf You might also consider the following security tips to make your home safer if you're planning on going away.

- ✓ **Get ladders away from walls.** A ladder resting against your house or wall offers thieves a quick and easy way to crawl through your second storey window.
- ✓ **Don't let newspapers, junk mail or mail pile up.** Arrange to have your mail collected by a neighbour, friend or trusted service.
- ✓ **Trim hedges and remove possible hiding spots.** Trim bushes and trees regularly so they don't create hiding spots for thieves.
- ✓ **Install exterior lighting and motion detectors.** These act as deterrents and allow police, security officers and members of the public to clearly observe unusual activities.
- ✓ **Don't broadcast your activities on social media.** Don't announce where you're going and for how long. It might be tempting to keep posting updates of where you are real-time, but that can also be handy information for intruders.
- ✓ **Make your home look alive.** The more alive your household looks, the less likely it will be a burglar's next target. Burglars say they often observe houses where the lights have been off for at least two days, as that's a signal to enter. There are plenty of affordable smart home security systems that will help make it look like somebody's home.



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Ferny Grove
10 NHW



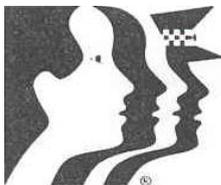
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supporter of Neighbourhood Watch



Ferny Hills – 3164 7000



Messages from police

Scammers



(Gift vouchers used to pay ATO scammers)

Police are asking the community to remain vigilant and remember that no government organisation, particularly the ATO will seek payment via gift vouchers.

Scammers use trusted brands, including the ATO and utility companies to contact customers and demand payment for fines for overdue accounts. The letters or phone calls will ask for payment in iTunes or other gift cards and threaten arrest if payment is not made.

Police have asked staff at major supermarkets in Brisbane to watch for shoppers buying many iTunes cards and to check they were not being scammed.

Last year, reports to the ACCC's Scamwatch showed 1,236 people lost nearly \$540,000 to scammers using gift cards as payments.

If you believe you have been scammed or have information concerning a scam, report this activity to scamwatch.gov.au

Theft of car number plates

Why would someone steal number plates?

If your number plates are stolen and attached to another car, it makes it easier for thieves to commit crimes and not be identified.

One way to prevent becoming a victim of number plate theft is to have anti-theft screws fitted to your car number plates, free of charge.



Contact the Ferny Grove Police Station on 3872 1542 to access this free service.



FISH & CHIPS
45 McGinn Road, Ferny Grove
Phone orders: 3851 4422

Safer Living booklet

The QLD Police Service Safer Living booklet provides practical personal safety advice that aims to maximise your safety and enhance your quality of life. Topics covered include:

- Core personal safety strategies
- Dealing with confrontation
- Safety: in the home, on the internet, out and about, on public transport, in the car, in the workplace, in the social scene
- How you can help others

View or download the booklet at:

https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/personalSafety/adults/Documents/SaferLiving_Web_site.pdf

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: mypolice.qld.gov.au/brisbanenorth

Next FG10 NHW meeting

Our next meeting is at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20 March 2019 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	000
Ferny Grove Police Station	3872 1555
Policelink (non-urgent calls)	131 444
Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000

FG 10 NHW TEAM

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Your Block Coordinator

Name:

Phone:



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