

# Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse E-News

Email: [whitehorse@nhw.com.au](mailto:whitehorse@nhw.com.au)  
Creating Safer Communities

October 2012  
Phone: NHW Police Coordinator 8892 3383



## Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse ANNUAL PRESENTATION



Featuring the Community Patron of  
Neighbourhood Watch,

### David Mann

“Mann About Town”  
from Radio 3AW and Magic

**Plus** - Gillian Metz - Neighbourhood Watch State Manager  
and Senior Police Officers from Whitehorse Police Service Area



The meeting will include the appointment  
of a new NHW Whitehorse Committee  
and an update on the progress of WHS 039.

Your support is appreciated.



### 7.30pm

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### The Avenue Uniting Church Hall

cnr The Avenue & Blackburn Rd, Blackburn

Our Hosts for the Evening – Area WHS039

Light Supper will be served

**Please RSVP for catering purposes by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Phone Ray on 0418 596 831 or Allison on 0413 188 049**  
**or email [whitehorse@nhw.com.au](mailto:whitehorse@nhw.com.au)**

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## Remembrance Day 11 November

*"They shall not grow old,  
as we that are left grow old,*

*Age shall not weary them  
nor the years condemn,*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,*

*We shall remember them"*



## Wish you'd checked your car was legit?

Courtesy National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council.

Visit [www.carsafe.com.au](http://www.carsafe.com.au)

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council is an independent, non-profit organisation established by all Australian governments and the insurance industry. They work with their partners to reduce Australia's unacceptably high level of vehicle theft and the associated costs of this crime to the community.

**Contact Vehicle Securities Register to check your vehicle - Phone 131 171.**

### Minimise the risk

If you decide to buy a car privately, minimise the risk by following these few simple steps.

- Beware of vehicles that are significantly under priced for their make, model, age and condition.
- Check the vehicle's identifiers for signs of tampering. These are usually found on the firewall at the back of the engine compartment. Any evidence of grind marks, scratching or over-stamping on the vehicle's engine number, chassis number, vehicle identification number (VIN) or compliance plate should be treated with extreme caution.
- Cross check the vehicle's identifiers against those on the registration certificate.
- Ask for evidence of the vehicle's history. Ask the seller for proof of their purchase.
- Check the odometer reading against the service manual and look for authentic receipts.
- Make sure the seller is the vehicle's owner.
- Consider a professional inspection. Have the RACV or similar to check for the identifiers.
- Make a phone call to check if the vehicle is recorded as stolen, written-off or financially encumbered. Check the Personal Property Securities Register which was introduced by the Australian Government in January 2012,



## Whitehorse Spring Festival

**21 October 2012 at the rear of the Nunawading Council Offices.**

10.00am until 4.00pm

Activities for the kids

Find NHW at the Victoria Police area and enjoy the fun of the day

**Encourage your friends to join the E-News database and receive the monthly E-News direct to their email inbox**

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# Using motorised mobility devices

Courtesy Vic Roads booklet

Motorised devices (mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs) are for use by people who are unable to walk or have difficulty walking. Under the Road Safety Act (1986) and Road Rules-Victoria these devices:

- Are not defined as motor vehicles and therefore cannot be registered.
- Must have a maximum capable speed of 10km/h on level ground and a maximum unladen mass of 110kg.
- Are to be used only by people with an injury, disability or medical condition which means they are unable to walk or have difficulty in walking.
- People who do not have difficulty in walking are not permitted to use them.

<http://www.peoplefirstmobility.co.uk/>



People using these devices or manual wheelchairs are considered pedestrians and therefore must obey the same road rules as pedestrians. Just as for driving a car, you need to be sure that you are able to operate a motorised mobility device safely before you buy it. Eyesight, reaction time, sitting, balance, posture and clear thinking are important considerations.

You need to be very careful and slow down when near other people, especially pedestrians, cyclist and children.

- Your device must be clearly visible to pedestrians and motorists. Use lights and reflectors.
- Keep control of your device.
- It is desirable you take out public liability insurance in case of an accident.
- Insure your device for theft and damage. Breakdown insurance may also be useful
- Footpaths are safer than roads. Avoid uneven surfaces, dips and potholes.
- Climbing hills uses more battery power. Going down hills puts more strain on your balance and brakes.
- The faster you take a turn the more danger there is of tipping over.



- Do not approach ramps or kerbs at an angle.
- Never approach too close to the rear of a parked car. Drivers may not be able to see you when they reverse.
- Cross at pedestrian crossings or at traffic lights.
- You must give way to motor vehicles. Wear light coloured clothing especially in bad weather.
- Cross railway lines on pedestrian cross-overs and cross the rails at right angles.
- Cross tram tracks at right angles.
- Keep left on footpaths. Look to the sides and behind before changing directions.
- Check your mirrors frequently.
- It is unsafe to use mobile phones, listen to music etc and may distract you.
- Make sure the motor is turned off before getting on or off the device.
- Do not obstruct doorways, driveways and gateways when you stop.
- Avoid crossing roads near roundabouts.
- A fluorescent orange flag on a pole attached to the device is important for safety. This helps you to be seen.

For more detailed information check VicRoads at

<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/SafetyAndRules/PedestriansSafety/MotorisedMobilityDevices.htm>

*Don't forget your hat,  
sunnies and sun screen  
when venturing out in sunny weather*



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# Community Safety Month

Courtesy [http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document\\_ID=21994](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=21994)

Community Safety Month is held in October each year. It is a great chance to be involved in activities and events in your Community including violence prevention, sports and recreation or emergency preparedness.

***Safety affects all parts of our lives. We can make our homes, workplaces, streets, neighbourhoods and communities safer by participating in community safety month activities.***

[www.communitysafetymonth.com.au](http://www.communitysafetymonth.com.au)



## 2012 Firearms and Weapons Amnesty

Courtesy <http://www.police.vic.gov.au>

**The Chief Commissioner of Police has announced a Firearms and Weapons Amnesty in the State of Victoria to be held from 1 October - 30 November 2012.**

**The commencement of the amnesty coincides with Community Safety Month.**

### About the Amnesty

The amnesty is designed to enable any member of the community to surrender firearms and weapons at a Victorian Police Station without prosecution for the purposes of destruction or to take the necessary actions to legalise their position.

Illegally held firearms are defined as firearms that are not registered with Victoria Police or the person possessing them does not hold a current firearms licence for that firearm.

Illegally held weapons (non-firearm type) are defined as:

- Any prohibited weapon that is not possessed under Approval of the Chief Commissioner or by a Governor in Council Exemption.
- Any controlled weapon or dangerous article that is not possessed under the "lawful excuse" provisions of the Control of Weapons Act.

**What are my responsibilities when surrendering items? You must:**

<http://myleisure-corner.blogspot.com.au>



- Contact your local police station to advise them of your intention to surrender the item(s) and arrange a suitable time to do so
- Convey the items from the place of storage to a police station by the most direct and practical route
- Ensure that the item(s) are transported in a manner that is safe and secure
- Ensure that the item(s) will not cause alarm to the public or police members when transported.
- It is recommended that items be wrapped in paper, plastic or cloth.

**Is financial compensation available for items that are surrendered? No.**

**What will happen to the items that are surrendered? All surrendered items will be destroyed in accordance with standard Victoria Police policy.**

Further information available from the Licensing & Regulation Division is the entity within Victoria Police responsible for the regulation of firearms and weapons. You can access a range of information online to determine the requirements in Victoria to lawfully possess your item(s).

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## Neighbourhood Watch websites to keep on your computer

Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse

[www.nhw.com.au/whitehorse](http://www.nhw.com.au/whitehorse)

NHW Victoria Facebook

[www.facebook.com/NHW.Vic](http://www.facebook.com/NHW.Vic)

NHW Victoria website

[www.nhw.com.au](http://www.nhw.com.au)

Email NHW Whitehorse

[whitehorse@nhw.com.au](mailto:whitehorse@nhw.com.au)

## Whitehorse Crime Trend Report September 2012

Courtesy Leading Senior Constable Bec Millin - Crime Prevention Officer

During the month of September we had an increase in handbag thefts especially around the shopping centres in the Box Hill CBD.

A handbag was snatched at Box Hill Centro while the victim was near the food court area approaching the escalator. A male offender was described as in his early 20's, 170cm tall, wearing a grey hoodie, a dark jacket and pants. He approached the victim from behind and grabbed the handbag from the child seat area of shopping trolley.

Other victims had mobile phones and wallets stolen from their bag and shopping baskets and from a table at a stall set up next to the elevators near Safeway at Box Hill Centro South. Victims have been unaware of the thefts until attending the checkout and going to pay for their items.

There were also two incidents of armed robbery in the Box Hill Gardens, in Nelson Rd, Box Hill. A victim walking through the park was confronted by two male offenders who produced a knife and stole \$20 from the victim. The victim suffered a laceration to their hand in a scuffle with the offenders. Several witnesses intervened and helped assist in apprehending the offenders, who were interviewed and charged by Police at Box Hill Police Station.

The other incident at the gardens involved two victims being confronted by youths drinking and making demands for money, mobile phones and cigarettes. One victim was struck with a bottle severing a finger and a deep laceration to the forearm requiring surgery. Police have also arrested and charged a suspect.

### Handbag Theft Prevention Tips:

- The best place for your handbag is on you, zipped up with no valuable items exposed.
- Do not leave your handbag unattended on top of a shopping trolley.
- If you must, leave your handbag with someone you trust in crowded venues.
- In restaurants, put your bag on your lap or on the floor between your feet with your foot on the strap. Alternatively place the strap through one leg of the chair.
- Never leave your bag in adjacent seats in theatres, halls or public transport
- If using restrooms, do not place your handbag close to the door or side walls, particularly if there's a gap between the walls and the ground. It could be snatched from the outside.



- Secure your handbag close to your body
- Be assertive walk with confidence and be aware of your surroundings.
- If you wrap a handbag strap around your arm or place it around your neck or over your shoulders, an injury can occur when a handbag is forcibly snatched.
- Keep to major, well-lit and avoid isolated areas
- When placing bags in the boot or vehicle secure your handbag first before attending to your shopping.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash with you. Withdraw only money needed at the time.
- Seek out ATMs located inside buildings, supermarkets or other busy locations.
- Be mindful of distractions, thieves working in pairs may attempt to divert your attention in order to steal your handbag or its contents

## Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse – Contact Us

If ever you wish to contact the NHW Whitehorse Committee, please email us at [whitehorse@nhw.com.au](mailto:whitehorse@nhw.com.au) or phone Graeme Elder (President) on 9857 9376 or Allison Summers (Secretary) on 0413 188 049. We would love your feedback, suggestions of how to make things better and general insights into how you see NHW is going in your area.

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