



## RESIDENT'S MEETING

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO ALL FLAME TREE PARK RESIDENTS.

**Tuesday 8th March 2011**

**Banora Point High School Library**

Eucalyptus Drive, Banora Point

Look for the directional signs

**7:30pm**

**This meeting is held in your interest.  
We need to know that we have your support as  
we ask for your help to make our Flame Tree Park  
community crime free.**

### How to photograph your valuables

When photographing your valuables, use a good quality digital camera. All you will really need is a little photo sense. Instant cameras should not be used as the result will not be satisfactory.

Clean jewellery beforehand and set the pieces against a strongly coloured background. (Red or dark blue are both very strong colours).

Place a ruler or scale alongside the jewellery to give an indication of actual size of the item being photographed. The secret lies in avoiding harsh light as it will create too much reflection. Try diffusing the light from a window with sheer curtains.

A macro lens which gives you a reproduction ratio of 1:3 is ideal.

Well, what are you waiting for....snap to it.

### YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE

Coordinator - Mrs Ngaire Harman - 5524 5881 - [dempsey@austarnet.com.au](mailto:dempsey@austarnet.com.au)  
Secretary/Editor - Ray Payne OAM - 5524 7742 - [raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au](mailto:raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au)  
Treasurer - Mrs May Rushton - 5523 0434

All correspondence to: Secretary 2 Flemington St Banora Point NSW 2486

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## IDENTITY THEFT - how to prevent it.

### What is identity theft?

Identity theft refers to the use of a false or stolen identity to perpetrate a crime. Identity theft can occur after a house break-in, after the theft of mail from letter boxes or recycling bins and/or following the exchange of personal information over the telephone, the internet or in person. Once an identity thief has enough of your personal information, they can trick your financial institution into giving them access to your money. For example, they might open new accounts in your name; sign contracts for services in your name; accumulate a range of debts; and ruin your credit rating. Thieves may also use your name to commit crimes

### Simple ways to prevent identity theft:

- Keep personal detail secure at home and when travelling
- Destroy or shred all documents before placing in the rubbish bin
- Put a lock on your letterbox
- When banking online, always check that the 'closed padlock' symbol is displayed on the screen.
- Choose strong, obscure passwords using a mix of letters in upper and lower case, symbols and digits and change them regularly.
- Avoid giving anyone personal information over the phone or internet
- Always ask to sight photo identity cards for any home appointments or canvassers
- Never leave a visitor, stranger or tradesman alone in your home
- Never sign anything you are unsure about without seeking independent advice

### If you suspect your identity has been stolen you should:

- Immediately contact Tweed Heads Police
- Alert your financial institution/s cancel all cards and accounts, get PINs reissued
- Close all unauthorized billing accounts that may have been opened in your name, such as phone, utilities, internet
- Report particular losses to the relevant authorities: Centrelink, Medicare, DFAT (passports), RTA (driver's licence)

## 21st-century Neighbourhood Watch

Recently, as Secretary, I was invited by our local member, Geoff Provest MP, to attend a meeting with the shadow police minister Mike Gallacher MP.

It was a very worthwhile meeting. He advised that if elected next March the Liberal/National Government would revive and modernise Neighbourhood Watch to drive down crime rates and develop a "21st-century Neighbourhood Watch".

It would also be piloting ten Online Neighbourhood Watch Groups that allow people to discuss local crime trends and share information over the internet "(The plan is) a combination of individuals being able to log on and use social media to report to their local police suspicious issues or other concerns they have."

The revamp would include a specialist team of Community Intelligence Information Officers based at Police Assistance Line locations to analyse crime data and provide SMS warnings of localised crime events.

Shadow police minister Mike Gallacher, told us what we already knew ... the NSW Labor Government had abandoned Neighbourhood Watch and currently gives it no support whatsoever "They cut a vital link between police and the community rather than providing the tools for the program to meet a changing world," Mr Gallacher said.

We have proved that Neighbourhood Watch works in Flame Tree Park, the statistics prove it, but we need support and funding for police to ensure that support is forthcoming.

## YOUR COMMITTEE

In our December edition we asked for volunteers to join our committee. This task doesn't demand hours of work or tough duties or lots of meetings, we simply need people so that nobody has a heavy workload.

I am very pleased to advise that two members of our community have stepped forward.

We extend a warm welcome to Stephanie Watson from Magnolia Crescent and Jack Simpson from Ashgrove Place.

We still need two more people to step up to the plate. If we can secure a full complement of committee members it just allows us to operate more efficiently and more effectively.

Committee members are asked to attend three committee meetings and two community meetings throughout the coming year, this is not too demanding on your time.

If you're interested in helping but not sure, you are welcome to contact our Secretary - Ray Payne on 5524 7742 and he will give you a complete run-down on what is required.

## Flame Tree Park Hair Design

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## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS.

Their support helps make it possible to produce this community newsletter. Please show them your support and tell them you saw their services advertised in the newsletter.

## Newsletter Advertising

Do you provide a service to the Flame Tree Park community? If so, here is your opportunity to reach all 650 homes within Flame Tree Park for merely \$25.00 per edition or \$80.00 for four editions. That's a cost to you of less than 4¢ for reaching each household and around 3¢ if you take all four editions. I don't think you'll find a better deal!

Contact Ray Payne 5524 7742 for more information.

## Home burglary can happen to you!

Being burgled can have a devastating impact on families whose privacy has been violated and household belongings stolen. Most home burglars are spur-of-the-moment opportunists. They just see an opportunity and take it. In a large number of burglaries, offenders enter through an unlocked door or window.

**Facts about home burglars:** Most burglars want to take as much out of your house as they can and sell it as fast as they can, for as much money as they can get. Their primary targets are expensive items that are highly portable and easy to dispose of. They are not usually shy. They'll not only walk right in if the door's open or unlocked, many of them don't really care if you are busy elsewhere in the house.

**What can you do?** Think about how you can make it harder for a thief to find and sell your valuable property. Keep in touch with your neighbours. They are your most valuable security asset as they can keep an eye out for your property and report any suspicious behaviour. Always lock up. Don't overlook the obvious. Doors and windows should be locked, not only when you leave the house but when you are elsewhere in the house, on the phone, in the garden, or otherwise preoccupied, away from points of entry. Cut away the camouflage. Cultivate a garden, but not a burglar's paradise. Plant trees and shrubs and build walls and fences so an intruder can be clearly seen in your front or back yard, and keep bushes around doors and windows trimmed. Deadlock internal doors. The main door is the most likely point of entry and should be your first priority. A key-operated deadlock on a solid timber door is the safest option. Reinforce the dead lock whenever possible with a security screen and a peephole. Sliding glass doors are particularly vulnerable and should be bolted top and bottom or fitted with a specifically designed deadlock. Secure all windows. No window is too high or too small for burglars. All windows should be secured with keyed locks or security grills. Light up at night. Keep doors, windows, and pathways well lit at night. Movement activated sensor lights are highly recommended. Lock garden sheds, garages and side gates. Sheds and garages are usually the repository of tools and other implements burglars use to assist in a break in. Keep them padlocked as well as side gates. Lock up the meter box with an official padlock, available from your power company. Locking up your meter box prevents thieves interfering with your power supply or security sensor light systems. Install burglar alarms. The best alarms to complement other forms of household security are highly visible, audible alarms.

**Property inventory:** You should keep a detailed inventory of all your valuable property, including serial number, make, model, colour, size and original cost. Mark your property by engraving or using a special pen leaving a permanent mark, your driver's license number is recommended. Equipment to mark your items can be borrowed by contacting one of our Flame Tree Park committee members or your Street coordinator. For items that cannot be engraved and jewellery it is

recommended you photograph it next to a ruler.

**Burglary prevention Scams:** Be wary of itinerant trades-people offering 'good deals' on home repairs, security devices or home improvement jobs. Remember if it seems 'too good to be true' it usually is. Always obtain three quotes so you can compare prices with other companies and make sure there is a 10-day cooling off period if you decide to buy.

**A practical audit for your home:** A safety audit of your home can identify areas where security can be improved. The following checklist can be used to review your home security. If you answer no to any of the following questions, you should be thinking of improving or upgrading the security for your home.

### Question Yes/No:

- Is the house number clearly visible from the street?
- Are trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places?
- Do the front and rear doors have a solid core?
- Are the doors fitted with a deadlock and/or deadbolt?
- Are security screens fitted to doors?
- Does the door have a door viewer (peephole)?
- Are the windows fitted with key operated locks or security devices?
- Are your locks keyed alike so that one key opens all doors or windows?
- Does the house have an automatic light timer or sensor activated lights?
- Are lights left on when you go out?
- Is there adequate lighting at the main entry and exits?
- Is there a telephone extension in the main bedroom?
- Are emergency numbers keyed into the telephone?
- Do you have an alarm?
- If so, is it always used and serviced regularly?
- Is the garage/shed securely locked?
- Is the meter box locked?
- Are tools/ladders secure?
- Is property engraved or marked for personal identification?
- Has valuable property been photographed?
- Have serial numbers been recorded?
- Are you a member of Neighbourhood Watch?
- If so have "WARNING" stickers been stuck to windows advising that property has been marked for identification?

### How did you go? Did you achieve 100%?

I guess there would be very few of us who would achieve 100%. But the aim must be to get everyone in Flame Tree Park to endeavour to achieve the highest level of security. If we can all achieve that we'll keep the criminal element out of our community.

### Key these numbers into your telephones:

In an emergency, dial 000  
To report a burglary, dial 131 444 or for police assistance for any crime that has been committed  
Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

## Neighbourhood Watch Website

<http://www.tweedneighbourhoodwatch.org.au/index.html>

*Follow the link to Flame Tree Park*

To ensure that we keep our community a safe environment we must be vigilant and totally aware of our surroundings. We must also keep up with technology. We have a website where we can post information and as an added bonus you can read this newsletter in colour. Why not visit and take a look, then add it to your favourites.

## CRIME REPORT – Tweed Heads Area

Flame Tree Park is not immune from crime. Whilst our level of crime is relatively low in comparison to other areas we need to maintain our vigilance, know our neighbours and together work to ensure that Flame Tree Park maintains its reputation as being a safe place to live. Your NHW Committee is committed to working with you to provide the best living environment.

The following statistics are provided from Police Reports and represent the total incidents handled within the Tweed Area. The figures in brackets are the number of matters reported for Flame Tree Park.

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Assault	37 (2)	*	19(0)	*	40(1)
Break & Enter	53 (3)	19 (*)	30(0)	23(0)	23(1)
Malicious Damage	37 (0)	30(*)	19(1)	25(0)	45(0)
Stealing from Vehicles/homes etc.	63 (3)	49(*)	27(1)	28(2)	72(4)
Stolen Vehicles/Vessels	11 (0)	7(*)	7 (0)	6(0)	11(0)

\* Figures not available

### DONATIONS

Advertising does not cover the total cost of producing this newsletter, each edition costs in excess of \$200.00, money that the committee has to raise in order to keep this as our major point of communication with you. We plan to produce four editions each year, we do not want a lack of funds to cause a reduction. Donations from the last edition realised only \$45.00.

We do ask for a small donation of \$5.00 per year per household. It is not a great deal of money, but it will keep us operational. Your donation is tax deductible. Donations can be made payable to Neighbourhood Watch and posted or delivered to: May Rushton 8 Flemington St Banora Point 2486.

#### Internet Banking for Donations

Donations may be made directly into our NHW account. We have had a number of requests to provide this donation method.

Acc Name: **Flame Tree Park Neighbourhood Watch**

BSB: **032 563**

Acc: **188357**

Include your name in the reference line and save your transaction receipt for Tax purposes.

**Please donate today.**

### Children's Bikes

Bikes are often an opportunity theft - those not chained at the shopping centre, footy field or left in the front yard.

Be sure your children are aware of just how quickly an unattended bike can be stolen.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STICKERS

The more we advertise Neighbourhood Watch, the greater the reminder to prospective criminals that their activities may be watched and reported.

Letter Box plaques and window stickers are available, simply ask any committee member or contact Ray Payne on 5524 7724 or raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au and we'll get them to you.

**Email addresses:** If you would like to receive current crime warnings, updates, newsletters and important information relevant to Flame Tree Park, you can register your email and home address with our Secretary. Strict privacy rules will be maintained. Simply send an email with **NHW** in the subject line, your name and home address to:

**raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au**

### REPORT ALL CRIME

It is extremely important that you report all crime. If you don't report even the smallest crime it does not get recorded in the statistics. When assessing the need for more police it is the crime statistics that determine the police allocation.

Do not consider that you are wasting the police's time, your report may match with others and allow police to locate the offender. Your report will be appreciated.

### CCTV

**The best CCTV is your neighbours!**



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