



Neighbourhood Watch Update – September 2017

Hi to all in the NHW GROUP of Barrel Street, Forster Avenue, Bondi Place, Fairybower Street, Banzai Street, Avoca Street and Cylinders Drive.

We had a nice 'meet and greet' on Saturday afternoon at the beach table and also gathered three new neighbours for our NHW group. We are now 25 homes in total, which is great.

Last week, at the Casuarina and South Kingscliff Residents' Association meeting, we had Senior Constable Brad Foster (Crime Prevention Officer, Tweed Byron LAC) speak to us about 'Safety and Security'.

Some tips he had for keeping our homes and ourselves secure –

When we are going to be away or on holidays – ask a neighbour to collect mail, papers and junk mail.

Don't leave garage doors up. Also secure internal door from the garage to the house.

Important not to leave keys, handbag, wallet on the kitchen bench (in easy of reach of the opportunistic thief).

Have a safe place in the house for house and car keys and take handbag, purse and wallet into the bedroom and put into a wardrobe out of sight.

Always lock your car at the petrol station.

Cyber crime – Don't initiate any contact with suspicious emails.

Keep a photographic record of jewellery and engrave all portable items (e.g. TV, Computer, Lap Top, Electronic Equipment) with your name, address and licence number.

He advised that it is important to clean up graffiti as soon as possible. Also report to police on Ph: 131 444 (Police Assistance Line – non emergencies only).

Please find below Police Incident Statistics in Salt and Casuarina for June, July and August.

Assault: Salt x 1 (June) 1 (August)

Break and Enter: Salt x 1 (July) 3 (August)

Casuarina x 4 (August)

Fraud: Salt x 1 (July)

Malicious Damage: Salt x 1 (July)

Casuarina x 1 (July)

Stealing: Salt x 4 (June) 1 (August)

Casuarina x 2 (July) 1 (August)

There are still reports on snakes crossing the bike path and on beach accesses, so be alert when walking/riding especially close to bush areas.



The other seasonal hazard just now is 'swooping magpies'.

Keep a look out and try to identify which areas they are active in, and avoid, as they can be very dangerous for children and adults. It's a good idea to wear sunglasses and a hat, whether walking or bike riding and maybe the 'cable ties' on your bike helmet.

My little grandson was swooped by a magpie in Cylinders Drive (close to Avoca Street) last week and ended up with blood and a lump on his head, as well as the nasty shock of it.



SCAMWATCH reports the latest Scam:

11 September 2017

The ACCC is warning people to be on the lookout for scammers who are trying to con their victims into paying for scams with Apple iTunes gift cards.

During 2017 to date, reports to the ACCC's Scamwatch show 1236 people lost nearly \$540,000 to scammers using gift cards as payments.

This is a growing trend: in the 2015-16 financial year losses were about \$480,000.

"Scammers are increasingly getting their victims to pay with iTunes gift cards as they can quickly on-sell them and pocket the money," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

"If someone asks you to pay for anything using an iTunes gift card, it is a scam. There are never any circumstances where a legitimate business or government department will ask for payment this way."

Apple's website [clearly states \(link is external\)](#) iTunes gift cards can only be used to purchase goods and services on the iTunes Store, App Store, iBooks Store, or for an Apple Music membership.

Reports to Scamwatch show there are three common scam examples the ACCC is currently seeing where scammers are demanding iTunes gift cards as payment:

- Tax scams – the scammer pretends to be from the Australian Taxation Office and claim there is a warrant out for their victim's arrest. If the victim doesn't pay an immediate 'fine' using iTunes gift cards, the scammer claims police will come and handcuff them.
- Catch-a-hacker scam – scammers pretending to be Telstra will ask their victim to help them catch a 'hacker' who's trying to get into their PC or smart devices. They'll use this sham story to get the victim to buy iTunes cards as a 'trap' for catching the hacker. Unfortunately the scammer will quickly get the serial numbers for those gift cards and sell them before the victim realises they've been duped.
- Centrelink scams – the scammer pretends to be from Centrelink and tells their victim they're entitled to an additional payment, such as for their pension, and that they need to pay a 'release fee' in iTunes gift cards to receive the payment.

The scammers will get their victims to travel to a business where iTunes gift cards are sold, such as a supermarket or department store, and get them to purchase amounts sometimes worth thousands of dollars.

Businesses that sell iTunes gift cards are encouraged to inform their staff about these scams so that they can help warn customers and even question any customers spending large amounts of money on iTunes gift cards.

"The scammers are very persistent once they have a victim hooked and will, for example, keep their victim on the phone while they're in a store buying the gift cards. Once a victim has bought the card, the scammer will get them to quickly read the serial number on the back—it's this information they use to then on-sell the gift card," Ms Rickard said.

"If you pay for a scammer's con with iTunes gift cards it's nearly impossible to get your money back. Don't ever believe the scammer's lies, no matter how convincing they sound—hang up on their calls and delete their emails immediately."

People targeted by scammers asking for iTunes gift cards as payment can [report the scam](#) to Scamwatch

If you have anything to share with our group, warnings, advice or questions, please email me and I will pass on.

Facebook Pages: Casuarina Cooee and Kingscliff Happenings are good to keep up to date with 'happenings' around our area as well.

The mission of Neighbourhood Watch is to encourage neighbours to work together to reduce crime and improve community safety.