

## Suspect Checklist

If you see a person or a vehicle behaving suspiciously and you believe they may be involved in questionable or even criminal activities, take note of the following details (without drawing attention to yourself unless it is prudent to do so) and report it to police on 131 444:

- Time; Date; Location
- Person's build, age, name (what he/she was called or sounded like)
- Hair colour, height, eyes (colour, shape, eyebrows, glasses)
- Complexion (race, skin type), clothing), identifying marks (scars, marks, tattoos), mannerisms (posture, eyes, speech)
- Vehicle type, make, model, colour, distinguishing features, registration number, number of occupants, direction of escape.

## Security & Wellbeing for Children

Young offenders commit a large number of minor offences that inconvenience many people. Some youth offenders go on to be recidivist adult offenders. Therefore any efforts to reduce youth offending are likely to have both short-and long-term effects on reducing offending.

1. Children need to learn to respect the rights of others and the importance of obeying laws, including respecting other people's property even if they do NOT know the person.
2. Encourage healthy eating habits and talk to children about the dangers associated with legal (alcohol/cigarettes) and illegal drugs at an early age.
3. Reduce school bullying by reporting incidents to teachers and discourage bullying by peers..
4. Encourage road safety in children by:
  - a) Ensuring they wear helmets when riding bicycles and seatbelts in cars;
  - b) Teaching them road rules by taking them to the children's traffic centre; and
  - c) Modelling safe driving habits and talking to them about the importance of obeying the road rules.
5. Discuss the positives and negatives of peer pressure so that youth can be resilient to this pressure, and avoid ,taking unnecessary risks.
6. Encourage after-school activities such as sport, scouts, art, drama etc as they can help children learn how to have fun in constructive ways.

For more information about Crime Prevention for Children visit:

Talking to kids about drugs: <http://www.ceida.net.au/parenting/talking.asp>  
 Stop Bullying: <http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/>

## Here on Holidays?

Quite often being on holiday sets you into a different mode. During holidays this can be a bonus for thieves who are here on holidays as well.

**At Remote Carparks**—always lock your car and make sure valuables are out of sight from opportunistic thieves who cruise the car parks.

**Around the Caravan**—make sure everything is secured in your annex before you go out or go to bed—light fingered thieves prey on caravan parks and unattended gear so put away the fishing gear and the bicycles.

**Bicycle helmets are required by law**— even if you are on holiday they must be worn by all ages at all times whilst cycling

**Remember that for urgent calls ring 000.**

**If you have a late night noise complaint or have a lesser concern that requires an officer to attend ring the Moruya Police station on 44742444. If they are off-duty the phone will immediately divert to another station.**

**In the case of an incident or crime that doesn't require immediate police attendance ring the Police Assistance Line on 131444**

## Welcome to TurossWatch

**Following the cessation of the NSW Neighbourhood Watch Scheme the TurossWatch brochure is a community based crime prevention leaflet which aims to improve the quality of life within the village by minimising preventable crime and promoting closer community ties.**

Safety and security relies on the community and the Police working together in a partnership to achieve these aims. This brochure has information and tools to help you to begin or enhance your crime prevention tactics in your own home and immediate area.

### Objectives

- Minimise the incidence of preventable crime.
- Deter criminal activity by increasing the probability of apprehension.
- Reduce the fear of crime.
- Increase the reporting of crime and suspicious behaviour.
- Improve the degree of personal and household security through education.

### Strategies

- **Operation Identification:** The systematic marking of valuable household items with their driver's licence number preceded by the letter "N" for NSW. Items which are marked and can be identified become a much less inviting target for thieves. Smaller items such as jewellery or items which cannot be marked should be photographed alongside a ruler or coin to indicate the size.
- **Keeping residents informed:** Providing information of the incidence of crime in the village on a regular basis through newsletters and advising how to effectively identify suspicious people and activity and report same.
- **Increasing residents' awareness and knowledge:** Informing residents of practical personal and household security enables them to best secure their homes and increase their personal safety.
- **Sign posting areas:** Displaying TurossWatch signs and material operates as a visible deterrent to criminal activity by identifying a particular area as having active TurossWatch participants.



# Hallmark

## Real Estate Advisors

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**Doing business better locally**

visit our website for our current listings and holiday accommodation information  
<http://www.turossheadrealestate.com.au>

brought to you by [www.turosshead.org](http://www.turosshead.org)

This **TurossWatch** booklet brings together information which can be a valuable tool in protecting your family, your loved ones and your community.

The aim of this booklet is to assist you in making informed decisions about the type of assistance to seek, where that help can be obtained, and what information you will be expected to provide. Police are always there to assist in situations where the law has been broken or where there is potential or even a likelihood of that occurring.

However, while the role of the police is to protect the public, they do this together with the community. They encourage members of the public to view policing as a partnership, with the community playing a pro-active role. Advice from the public about possible illegal or suspicious behaviour, and vigilance surrounding unusual activity are of great benefit in helping them to protect our property and those of our neighbours.

Even small, selfless acts – things which may only take a few minutes of your time each day – can make a difference. It can be as simple as arranging with the neighbours to pick up their mail while they're away on holidays, or phoning an elderly relative to check if they're okay.

The old Neighbourhood Watch scheme proved to be a marvellous asset to the community over many years. The greater our involvement in our own neighborhood the safer we become. Everyone wants to feel safe within their home and community, and **TurossWatch** is one effective way to make that happen.

Please read this booklet, and keep it close at hand for ease of reference

## Personal Safety

Tuross Head is one of the safest villages in Australia, well below the national average in crime. However, we must remain vigilant to protect ourselves from becoming victims of crime. Personal safety is all about common sense.

The golden rules of personal safety are quite simple:

- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings.*
- Look confident. Don't look like a willing victim!*
- Trust your instincts -- if something makes you feel unsafe, leave.*
- Have a plan -- what should you do if a situation becomes unsafe?*

It is worth pointing out that the incidence of violent crime is much lower than the fear of violent crime. So do not live in fear, just *be prepared*.

### At Home

1. Ask for ID from tradespeople or people calling to collect money for a charity.
2. Have external doors and windows in unattended rooms locked at all times, even if you are only in the next room.
3. Have a safety plan and make sure all adults and children living in your house are familiar with it.
4. Have emergency numbers and your safety plan posted next to each phone in the house.

### On the Phone

1. Do not answer the phone with your name and never give out personal information unless you are sure of the caller's legitimacy.
2. If you receive a prank or obscene call, hang up without speaking back.

### At Work

1. Make yourself familiar with your workplace's security procedures.
2. Make yourself familiar with OH&S principles and don't ignore fire drill evacuations!

### At the ATM

1. Use ATMs during the day when people are about.
2. Do not count your money at the ATM: wait until you are at a safe and secure location.
3. Do not store your PIN near your ATM or credit card.

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#### Out and About

1. Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you will return.
2. Avoid danger spots at night such as dark roadways and reserves
3. Keep to populated areas and well - lit open spaces.
4. Keep your bag or purse closed and the opening toward you.
5. If you have a wallet, keep it in any pocket other than your back trouser pocket.
6. Do not carry unnecessarily large amounts of cash on you.

#### A Night Out

1. Have a means of getting home safely before you go out.
2. Have a small amount of change for a phone call
3. Never leave your drinks unattended (due to the risk of drink spiking).
4. Drink responsibly and behave responsibly.
5. There is safety in numbers so go out with a group of people you trust.
6. If you have a mobile phone, take it with you in case of an emergency.

#### If the worst happens

1. Scream and shout – this will attract attention and may alarm the offender. (When you get away, make for a safe location).
2. You have the right to defend yourself with reasonable force.
3. Report the incident to police as soon as possible on 000 or, if making a report to police, ring 131 444.

## Family violence

Family violence is a serious matter affecting many lives, directly and indirectly. It can harm adults, young people and children, physically and emotionally, now and in the future. Abuse in families and relationships is a crime.

Family violence occurs when a person uses violent and/or abusive behaviour to control someone with whom they have some type of “family relationship”. This includes stepchildren and adopted children, de facto couples, gay and lesbian couples who live together and the extended family (relatives) of these couples.

If you require assistance or information on family violence you can call:

Domestic Violence Line 1800 656 463

## Home Security

Good home security is more than just fitting deadlocks or alarms. Looking out for each other as neighbours can help. Unfortunately, burglary is a common crime. The following tips will assist you in your home security:

#### Keys

1. Never leave spare keys outside your home. Thieves know where to look!
2. Do not have any personal details written on or attached to your keys.
3. Give a set of duplicate keys to a trusted relative, friend or neighbour.
4. Never give your keys to a tradesperson; keys are easily copied.
5. If you lose your keys or move into a new house, change the locks.

#### Windows & Doors

1. Install key-operated locks on all windows (to be opened with a master key).
2. Use laminated glass or shatter-resistant window film to help prevent windows being broken.
3. Install quality deadlocks on all your external doors.
4. Check that your doors are correctly fitted and have secure frames.
5. Install a peephole in the front door and see who is there before opening the door.
6. Don't leave messages on the front door. It lets people know you are not home.
7. Secure garage doors with deadlocks or strong padlocks.

#### Yards

1. Ensure trees and shrubs are trimmed – a hidden house is attractive to thieves.
2. Keep all your gates (front, back and side) locked.
3. Always lock tools, ladders and garden equipment away – they can be used by thieves to gain entry to your house.
4. Install movement-activated security lights at the front and back of your home.

#### Alarms

1. Visible alarm equipment can be an effective deterrent to thieves.
2. The alarm system you choose should cover all external doors and windows.

#### Other Tips

1. Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street.
2. When out, turn on a radio or television and/or a light to give the impression you are home.
3. Keep cash and valuables out of sight.

## Holiday Home Security Checklist

If you do not have anyone to stay in your home and look after things while you are away on holiday, it is a good idea to make it appear as though there is someone there. Consider the following:

Have you organised someone to collect your mail?

Have you cancelled deliveries (milk, papers)?

Have you installed timer switches (lights, radios)?

Have you placed pets in a kennel or asked someone to care for them?

Have you asked a neighbour to park their car in your driveway?

Have you organised to have your lawn mowed?

Have you asked a friend to visit your home regularly?

## Vehicle Security

Motor vehicle theft is unfortunately one of the most common types of theft in NSW but with a few precautions and greater community awareness it can be greatly reduced. Car theft not only causes trauma and cost to the individual but to the whole community. Stolen cars can be used to commit other, more serious crimes. How to protect your car from theft

1. Always close the windows and lock doors when your vehicle is unattended.
2. Park your car in an area that is well lit at night.
3. If you must leave valuables in your car, make sure they are locked away OUT OF SIGHT.
4. Spare keys should never be hidden in or around the car.
5. If you have a garage, use it rather than leave your car in the driveway.
6. Remove cheque books, credit cards, driver's licences and registration papers from the glove box.
7. When your car is being repaired leave only the ignition key.
8. Avoid placing your name, address or registration details on keys.

#### How to help the police

If your car is stolen report it to police immediately on 131 444, giving the registration number, make, model, colour and the time and place of the offence.

## Party Smart

A great party can be something everyone will enjoy and talk about for years afterwards. But a party that goes wrong will be talked about too – for all the wrong reasons. No-one wants a bad party. The trick is to party smart. MyNight is a webpage produced provides a few simple steps you can take, before and during the party that will help make it the great time we all want.

<http://www.mynite.com.au/>

## Drink Spiking

The term drink spiking refers to the practice where drugs (illicit or prescription) or additional alcohol are put in someone's drink without their knowledge or approval. The objective is usually to incapacitate the individual or to produce a less alert state, which can result in not only sexual assault and rape, but also robbery and other offences. Sometimes the only motivation is to see what effect the drug will have on the person who takes it.

The practice is illegal and potentially deadly to the person whose drink has been spiked. While under the effects of these drugs people become incapable of protecting themselves from those who have spiked their drinks, or other people, as well as being at risk of the harms caused by the drug itself.

Drink spiking occurs at dance parties, club scenes, social events, dinner parties, school functions and can even happen in your own home. Basically it can happen anywhere, to anyone (yes, including men) and to any drink (including coffee, tea, soft drinks, juice, water and alcoholic beverages). Some precautions include never accepting drinks from strangers or people you do not completely trust and watching your drink at all times (even when being poured). If your drink tastes funny or looks different in any way, DISPOSE OF IT – do not just leave it.

If you suspect any incidence of drink spiking, it is vital that you obtain medical aid immediately - some drugs cannot be slept off and require advanced life support as a matter of urgency.

Watch yourself - Watch your friends!!

## Drug Rape

You are at a nightclub. Some guy is taking an “out-of-it” girl out of the club. Maybe he is looking after her; maybe he will take her back to her house and tuck her into bed. Maybe not. Maybe she has been unsuspectingly drugged. Maybe she will wake up in the morning wondering what happened and where she is. This is not an urban myth. It happens. If you have been drugged, you might not even know what happened to you. Maybe there is something wrong with your clothes or your body. But you just cannot remember. The Police need to know what is happening. So do not let it go unreported. Get in touch with them, even if it is anonymously.

## Mark Your Property

Operation Identification is a project designed to discourage the theft of valuables from your home. This is achieved by you, the householder, placing an identifying mark on items of value that could be stolen. Unlawful entry and stealing offences account for a large percentage of crime, yet only a small percentage of recovered stolen property is returned to its rightful owner.

One problem is that few people can supply police with positive identification of stolen items, which means police cannot find the owners of recovered property. By making your property readily identifiable, you can help deter crime in two ways: a thief is discouraged from stealing marked property because it is more difficult to sell and it is easier for police to prove that the goods are stolen.

It is important that you make a record of all your valuable property and keep the list in a safe place. Details to be recorded are the make, model, serial number and original cost of the item. While it is possible to record details for most valuables, items such as jewellery should be described and photographed. The photographs need to be kept in a safe place as well.

Police recommend that you mark your property with your driver's licence number prefixed by the letters N for NSW (e.g. N12345). Should a licence number be unavailable in your household, use a combination of numbers such as your date of birth (eg A01011950 for January 1, 1950).

If you purchase property that has already been marked for identification, place an “X” at the end, then place your number alongside (e.g. you purchase a second hand television which has been marked NT 12345. Place an X at the end of that number, then inscribe your licence number, e.g. NT12345X - NT54321). Do not obliterate previous numbers as this may arouse suspicion. If you have come from interstate, your licence ID is still valid.

When buying second-hand property, it is important to obtain a bill of sale, or receipt from the seller, as proof of ownership or purchase.

For a copy of some free software to help you in your ID project go to:

[http://www.afp.gov.au/act/crime\\_prevention/home\\_security\\_software.html](http://www.afp.gov.au/act/crime_prevention/home_security_software.html)

## Developing a Safety Plan

If you value your safety and that of your family, you really need to consider what you would need to do if certain situations arise.

The whole family should sit down and formulate a plan for all the possibilities you can think of including:

1. Is there a first aid kit in the house in case of minor accident? What happens if someone gets hurt – is anyone first aid trained?
2. Do you and every member of your family know who to call in case of emergency? Remember the Emergency Number is 000.
3. What happens if there is a fire in the house? – identify an escape route and where to go once outside, what to do then?
4. In case of house callers – what to do when someone either knocks on your front door or calls on the telephone – eg. do you allow children to answer? Have your safety plan posted with emergency contact numbers next to the telephone or on the breakfast table where your family's eyes will pass over the plan time and time again and they will become familiar with it, without even realising it.