



South Gippsland Crime Watch News
Bass Coast Police Service Area
Neighbourhood Watch Creating Safer Communities
NOVEMBER 2011



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency 000

Mobiles 112

State Police,

Ambulance or Fire.

Police:

Cowes 5122 1790

Foster 5682 2407

Inverloch 5674 1202

Korumburra 56551244

Leongatha 5662 2285

Loch 5659 4267

Meeniyan 5664 7281

Mirboo Nth 5668 1444

San Remo 5678 5500

Toora 56862485

Wonthaggi 5672 1222

Crime Stoppers

1800 333 000

Neighbourhood Watch

www.nhw.com.au

**Neighbourhood Watch
& Safer Communities**

Unit - L/S/C Brett

Godden 5131 5085

0400 050 749

brett.godden@police.vic.gov.au

ic.gov.au

Facebook: Senior

Constable Brett

Child Protection

13 12 78

Consumer Affairs

5116 5701.

Gippsland Dispute

Settlement Centre

1800 658 528

South Gippsland Laws

5662 9200

HOT SPOTS - POLICE NEED THE PUBLIC'S HELP BURGLARY IN HAMILTON ROAD, FISH CREEK.

Sometime between 25th October and 30th October unknown offenders have forced the bottom of a tin door to gain entry to a farm shed. Once inside they have stolen a variety of property valued in excess of \$5000.00. The main items stolen include:

1. John Deere ride-on mower, green in colour, model EZ425, valued at \$3000.00
2. Stihl brand chainsaw, model 660, orange in colour, valued at \$1500.00

Some of the other items stolen include a Sidchrome socket set, jumper leads, Metabo hammer drill, McMillan brand air compressor and a vehicle battery.

Police urge anyone with information to contact the Detective/S/C Mason at Wonthaggi Criminal Investigation Unit on 5672 1222 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit: www.crimestoppers.com.au

ANTI-GRAFFITI BUSTERS - ANY VOLUNTEERS?



Graffiti can impact negatively on a community, making its residents feel less secure and safe. It makes public places less attractive and can lead to more serious crimes being committed if it does not look like the community is looking after itself. Property damage makes an area less aesthetically pleasing and the costs involved in removal and prevention can be high for local councils, businesses and owners of private property. It is proven that if graffiti is removed soon

after it appears, offenders get discouraged and stop reoffending.

South Gippsland's fellow Victoria Police's Division 5 Morwell Neighbourhood Watch and Safer Communities Group's Anti-Graffiti Team, ably lead by volunteers Gerard Traynor and Betty Glass, undertakes the ongoing task of removing graffiti as it appears across the township.

Gerard, a Telstra employee, identified a number of Telstra properties such as phone and technical boxes which had been targeted by graffiti vandals. He spoke with his bosses about the issue and with their support Gerard, along with his volunteers, decided to clean the Telstra ordinances. They worked tirelessly using a new graffiti removal product named "Muck Off", which easily removed graffiti off polished metal and glass surfaces used in the phone boxes. However handsets in the phone boxes proved more difficult to clean and the graffiti remained.

Gerard had also spoken to the folks at the local Seniors Village, Mitchell House, who told him of graffiti on their site map. Gerard dealt with the sign and the map now looks as good as new. The team has tackled the freeway underpasses, fences in parkland areas, bus stops and regularly patrol and clean the CBD and smaller shopping centres.

In recognition of the work undertaken by Gerard's team, Latrobe City is now supplying chemicals free of charge to the NHW/SCG volunteers. Their work helps to keep both Morwell's crime and council rates down and private businesses now contact Gerard and Betty to clean graffiti when they have become victims of the local vandals.

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OCTOBER NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUP REPORTS

FOSTER CRIME REPORT

ASSAULT - Nil for October (1 Sept)

PROPERTY DAMAGE - 2 for October (Nil Sept) - Unknown offenders damaged a garage door on a premises in Hall Rd on 16th October. Police are following up a suspect in relation to the other damage.

BURGLARY - Nil for October (1 Sept)

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE - 2 for October (Nil Sept) - Whilst there are two thefts for the month they come from the one incident in which a set of registration plates and fuel was stolen from a vehicle parked in the hotel car park on 16th October.

THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE - Nil for October (Nil Sept)

THEFT - 1 for October (1 Sept) - A suspect is being followed up by police in relation to a theft of petrol from a service station in Foster.

KORUMBURRA CRIME REPORT

ASSAULT - 2 for October (5 Sept) - Two offenders charged with assault related offences during the month whilst police are following up a suspect in relation to the other assault.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - Nil for October (2 Sept)

BURGLARY - 1 for October (Nil Sept) - One offender charged with burglary offences as well as assault offences during the month.

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE - Nil for October (Nil Sept)

THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE - Nil for October (Nil Sept)

THEFT - 1 for October (2 Sept) - One offender has been charged with theft during October.

LEONGATHA DISTRICT CRIME REPORT

ASSAULT - 3 for October (2 Sept) - In all incidents offenders have been charged.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - 9 for October (1 Sept) - The majority of damages occurred at the rear of two shops in Bair St. Police have spoken to a number of youths who will face charges of damaging the windows. Graffiti was sprayed at the netball courts and the vacant school site.

BURGLARY - 2 for October (2 Sept) - Both burglaries were committed on industrial premises in Cusack Rd overnight on 14th October. In both incidents offenders smashed the front window or pane of glass on the door and entered the offices.

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE - 1 for October (1 Sept) - Overnight on the 18th October the SES had an aerial stolen from a vehicle parked at a rest stop in Anderson Ave.

THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE - 1 for October (Nil Sept) - Sometime between 7th and 14th October unknown offenders entered a shed on a farm property and stole a quad bike. The bike is unregistered and didn't have the keys in the ignition so would have to have been rolled or towed away by the offender/s.

THEFT - 3 for October (5 Sept) - Police are following up a suspect in relation to the theft of a straw dispenser from Mc Donalds. Temporary fencing and a trailer were stolen in the other two thefts.

TOORA CRIME REPORT

BURGLARY - 1 for October (2 Sept) - Unknown offenders cut a chain lock to a freezer at the Supermarket and stole food items.

THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE - Nil for October (2 September)

SANDY POINT CRIME REPORT

BURGLARY - 1 for October (1 Sept) - Sometime between 28th September and 21st October unknown offenders entered a residence in Fourth Ave by forcing a front window. A TV and speakers were stolen. Police ask the community to be vigilant in keeping an eye on holiday homes within the town.

THEFT - 1 for October (Nil Sept) - Sometime between 20th September and 27th October unknown offenders stole a nail gun from a building site in Ocean View Parade. Any information to Crimestoppers or Foster Police.

OCTOBER NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUP REPORTS

MIRBOO NORTH CRIME REPORT

ASSAULT - 1 for October (Nil Sept) - Police are following up a suspect in relation to an incident at the Brewery.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - 1 for October (Nil Sept) - Overnight on the 18th October unknown offenders painted "Sam the Scam" on a monument erected to acknowledge the efforts of CFA volunteers during the 2009 fires.

MEENIYAN AND DISTRICT CRIME REPORT

There was no reported crime in Meeniyan this month after one theft from motor car in September.

LOCH DISTRICT CRIME REPORT

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE - 1 for October (Nil Sept) - Sometime between the 1st and 6th October a registration plate was stolen from the victim's vehicle.

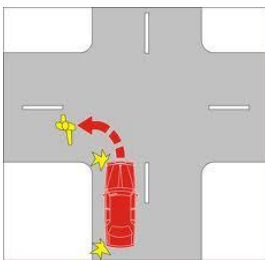
THEFT - 1 for October (Nil Sept) - A tractor was stolen from a farm property on South Gippsland Hwy sometime between 22nd October and 1st November. The tractor is a Chinese brand of which there are not many in Australia.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SOUTH GIPPSLAND CRIME WATCH NEWS.

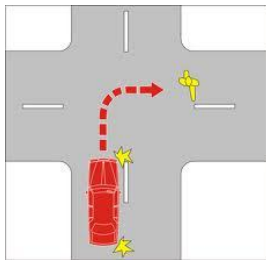
To receive this newsletter electronically by email, simply email Leading Senior Constable Brett Godden at South Gippsland and Bass Coast's Safer Community Unit at brett.godden@police.vic.gov.au requesting to be added to the electronic mail list.

WHEN TURNING ONTO A ROAD A PEDESTRIAN IS CROSSING THE DRIVER MUST GIVE WAY

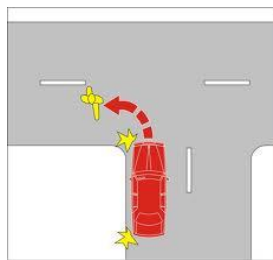
Drivers are reminded that under the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 the laws pertaining to turning vehicles giving way to pedestrians at an intersection without traffic lights or a stop sign, stop line, give way sign or give way line as applied to the driver are clear. **Drivers must give way to pedestrians crossing the road the driver is turning into.** If the pedestrian is crossing the road the driver is on then the pedestrian must give way. The rule is different again at roundabouts where pedestrians must give way to all vehicles. **Please remember: Pedestrians are slow and they cannot see you if you are approaching from behind.**



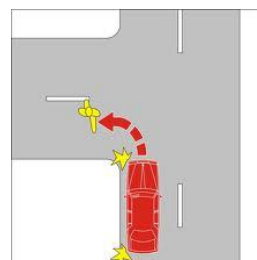
Driver turning left giving way to a pedestrian on the road the driver is entering. The vehicle must give way to the pedestrian.



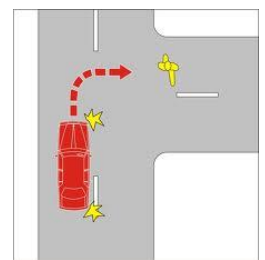
Driver turning right giving way to a pedestrian on the road the driver is entering. The vehicle must give way to the pedestrian.



Driver turning left (except if the driver is using a slip lane) from the terminating road giving way to a pedestrian on the continuing road. The vehicle must give way to the pedestrian.



Driver turning left (except if the driver is using a slip lane) from the continuing road giving way to a pedestrian on the terminating road. In this example, the vehicle must give way to the pedestrian.



Driver turning right from the continuing road giving way to a pedestrian on the terminating road. The vehicle must give way to the pedestrian.

For information on becoming an active participant in NHW by creating a NHWatch/Safer Communities Group in your area, or to invite NHW/SCG to become a part of your organisation thereby attending your meetings, contact Leading Senior Constable Brett Godden on 5131 5085 or 0400 050 749 or email him at brett.godden@police.vic.gov.au

Police remind the community if they see something suspicious they should ring 000 or if they have information in relation to an offence contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppers.com.au.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS - SAFETY WHEN USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT



When using public transport it is best to plan your trip in advance. Know which route you will be taking, the cost and the method of payment required. Some companies will not accept cash and may only use the Myki system (prepaid card.) Check the timetables in advance and be prepared if you have a long wait for your train, tram, taxi or bus. Remember, do not attempt to board a public transport vehicle until it has come to a complete stop.

Make an attempt to conceal wallets and other valuables. If holding a handbag, hold it securely between your arm and your body. If you feel uncomfortable with the person near you consider moving or changing carriages. Where possible, never travel in an empty carriage. Stand where you can be seen easily, not in a concealed area and with or near other passengers. Always wait in well-lit areas or if possible in areas under surveillance. Never fall asleep when using public transport and pay attention to who gets off at your stop. Always be aware of your surroundings.

If using a taxi, phone in advance rather than hailing one and note the taxi number and identity number of the driver. Sit in the back seat on the opposite side to the driver, and don't disclose personal information. If possible, have the taxi company's telephone number programmed into your mobile phone.

Above all, trust and follow your instincts - if something doesn't feel right, take action to stay safe.

ANTI-GRAFFITI BUSTERS - ANY VOLUNTEERS? (continued from page 1)



Gerard and Betty's work in Morwell recently lead to two offenders being charged with 60 offences of criminal damage. Their efforts were recognised with letters of appreciation from the Latrobe Police Service Area's Inspector Ron Gardner.

Most recently Gerard and Betty were nominated by our Police NHW Co-ordinator, Leading Senior Constable Brett Godden, for a State NHW award. We are pleased to say we have been informed by The State Honours Committee they have been named joint winners of the David Lentin Memorial Award for the 'Latrobe Community Audits and Graffiti Removal Project' along with Mildura's 'Operation Hot Spot'. The award will be presented at a function in early 2012.

If anybody with some time on their hands would like to volunteer, maybe we can get a similar program up and running in Bass Coast's towns. For further information contact Leading Senior Constable Brett Godden on 5131 5085 or 0400 050 749. Brett can put you in touch with Gerard so you can garner further information on how he and Betty work the Morwell program.

Graffiti can be reported to local police, to 000 or to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS - NEVER LEAVE YOUR ELECTRONIC ITEMS UNATTENDED



One of the most popular and highly sought after items in today's modern society are mobile phones, in particular the new iphones. These items are also the most sought after target for thieves. Trusting people who leave their phones unattended on shopping counters, in handbags in shopping trolleys, or on tables at entertainment venues when they go to purchase drinks or to attend rest rooms, are inviting the opportunistic thief to steal their property. Always keep your electronic devices with you. Never leave them unattended. When at work secure them in your locker. When in public hold your handbag close to your body. No matter where you are keep your valuables out of sight and never leave your property in clear sight in your motor vehicle.