

**Summer, school holidays, vacations, trips to the beach and outdoor entertaining times are here!  
Let's all do our best to make it a fun, happy and safe time for everyone, except the thieves!**

## The Blue Line

A Message from the incoming  
Local Area Commander for Whitehorse:

### An overview of the latest 12-month crime statistics for the City of Whitehorse

While crime levels in our municipality have traditionally remained below the Victorian average, the most recent figures show a notable increase that residents should be aware of.

For the year ending March 2025, Whitehorse recorded 5,003.2 criminal incidents per 100,000 residents, compared with 6,692.2 across Victoria. Although still comparatively lower, this represents a 23.2% increase in reported incidents since 2024. When broken down by category, offences against the person in Whitehorse remain lower than both the Eastern Region and the State average. However, offences against property are higher than the Eastern Region, though still below the overall State average.

In 2025, the rate of offences against the person in Whitehorse was 550 per 100,000, compared with 635 in the Eastern Region and 1,369 across Victoria. For property offences, Whitehorse recorded 3,947 per 100,000, compared with 3,442 in the Eastern Region and 5,222 statewide.

### The top five recorded offences for Whitehorse were:

#### 1. Theft from Motor Vehicle – 2,583 incidents

- 37% involved unlocked vehicles
- 38% related to number plate theft

#### 2. Theft – 1,097 incidents

- Petrol, mail (including parcel deliveries), mobile phones, clothing and groceries were the most commonly stolen items

#### 3. Theft of Motor Vehicle – 1,013 incidents

- 50% of stolen vehicles were unlocked at the time of the offence

#### 4. Shopsteal – 754 incidents

- 240 offenders arrested and interviewed

- 51 were first-time offenders

- 25–34-year-olds represented the largest offender age group

#### 5. Burglary – 634 incidents

- 26% of affected properties were left unsecured

### Looking After Each Other – Simple Ways to avoid becoming a victim of crime

While many offences occur opportunistically, small habits can make a big difference. The following personal-guardianship strategies can help reduce vulnerability and discourage criminal behaviour in the community:

**Lock up every time — even briefly** – Most vehicle and household thefts involve unlocked doors. Treat quick errands and driveway parking the same as overnight security.

**Remove valuables from sight** – Phones, wallets, laptops, bags and tradie tools are strong motivators for break-ins. A clean, empty car interior reduces temptation.

**Secure number plates and parcels** – Anti-theft screws are inexpensive and effective. Where possible, redirect parcels to workplaces, parcel lockers or post office collection points.

**Know your neighbours** – Exchanging contact details builds awareness and encourages reporting of unusual activity — a proven deterrent to crime.

**Light up entrances and maintain sightlines** – Motion-sensor lighting, visible front doors and trimmed hedges increase natural surveillance and decrease the appeal for burglars.



**Report incidents promptly** – Even minor offences help inform police deployment and crime-prevention planning. A safer community is a shared responsibility.

Sincerely,  
Regards, Paul RUDD Inspector Whitehorse Local Area  
Commander ERD1 | Vic Police

NHW Vic [nhw.com.au/crime-prevention/](http://nhw.com.au/crime-prevention/) has many more tips to help us Stay Safe!

## Recent Crime Narratives

from Whitehorse Crime Prevention Officer -  
Leading Senior Constable Curtis Williams

**Please note! These are just a few of the crimes reported in our local areas over the last month.**

**Theft from Motor Vehicle Mont Albert** – The victim's car was parked on the street opposite their address. It was accessed by unknown means and no visible force. The victim's wallet, driver's licence, cash, handbag and sunglasses were stolen. Approximate value \$600.

**Theft from Motor Vehicle Burwood East** – The victim parked their car in the basement car park at work. CCTV captured an unknown male enter unlocked car stealing the victim's wallet and sunglasses. Approximate value \$500.

**Theft of Motor Vehicle Box Hill** – The victim was packing up their tools from a building site and left the keys in the ignition of their Toyota Hilux utility. Two unknown males drove past in a black van, with one male exiting and driving off in the victim's vehicle.

**Burglary Box Hill North** – At approximately 3pm unknown offenders entered via the unlocked front door and stole three watches from a bedroom.

**Burglary Blackburn** – Entry gained via unlocked rear sliding door. Jewellery stolen.

**Burglary Burwood East** – Unknown offenders jemmied the front door open and stole jewellery and cash from the master bedroom.

**Criminal Damage Burwood East** – Two unknown offenders ran up the victim's driveway and kicked the garage door, damaging the door, before running off.

**Obtain Financial Advantage by Deception Mont Albert**

**Phishing Scam:** The victim was attempting to sell clothing items on a website. They were contacted by a "buyer" who moved the conversation to WhatsApp. The buyer then supplied false payment details and a link pretending to be from the website with a link for the victim to follow to allow the payment to go through.

The victim supplied their name, address, DOB, driver's licence, bank account numbers, Netbank and credit card numbers. A total of \$1,790 was transferred from the credit card without permission to a crypto currency account.

**Theft Box Hill** – The victim was selling their laptop via a Social Media platform's marketplace. The victim was persuaded to meet a potential buyer in a playground near the local library. The offender inspected the laptop for 40 minutes before running off with it.



*Coffee with a cop*

**10am - 12pm**

Check out Eyewatch Whitehorse and NHW Whitehorse Facebook pages to find all the latest info on

dates, venues, for 2026. Mark your calendar for the 18th of December, Thursday, at Box Hill Centro!

## Don't let your Christmas be a "Silly Season"!

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or another festive occasion, it can be both happy and stressful in equal measure.



**5 ways to have a safe, stress-free festive season –put the happy into "Happy Holidays"**

**1. Be scam-aware when shopping online:**

- Remember all the tips! If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is!

**2. Keep pressies out of sight.** When shopping, keep your purchases safely out of sight in the boot. And when you put your gifts under the tree, make sure they can't be seen from outside through a window.

**3. Cut up boxes and packaging.** Don't let empty boxes advertise to opportunistic thieves all the shiny new things you have in your home. Don't neglect to mark/engrave them for Identification purposes in case they are stolen!

**4. Don't leave your door unlocked for Santa!** He is magical and can put presents under your tree without ever needing a chimney, or a window or door left unlocked for him. Reduce your chance of being one of the one-in-five burglaries which occur through an unlocked door or window!

**5. Let's Watch out for each other:**

Christmas and New Year usually means the party season is in full swing!

When heading out for the night, stay safe,

plan ahead, stick with your friends, drink wisely, be alert for spiking, and arrange safe transport home. If partying at home, send out personal invites, don't post it on social media! And, if a big one, Register it with your local Police! More tips at [www.nhw.com.au/partysafe](http://www.nhw.com.au/partysafe)



**Wondering what gifts to buy?**

Why not think about a security system, (but don't forget to register it with your local Police!) sensor lights, OBD lock for that new car, a car alarm, a steering wheel lock, (still a good visible deterrent!) or a FARADAY pouch, to keep your keys and cards safe from remote scanning. Check out CarGuard - Vehicle theft prevention enclosures and pouches: [carguard.com.au](http://carguard.com.au) and if considering an E-scooter, bike or a skate board for the

kids, don't forget the safety gear, helmets, lights and the current road rules! Have a look at them at [www.racv.com.au/cars-transport/road-safety/road-rules](http://www.racv.com.au/cars-transport/road-safety/road-rules).



**Neighbourhood Watch** Everyone has a role to play in safety!  
Crime prevention is a shared responsibility! [www.nhw.com.au](http://www.nhw.com.au)



## Whitehorse Spring Festival Success: Together We Build Safer Neighbourhoods!

Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse Inc. extends a huge **thank you** to every single person who stopped by our stall at the Whitehorse Spring Festival on Sunday, October 19, 2025! And, of course, those NHW Volunteers who helped on the day!

It was a vibrant day of connection and conversation, perfectly celebrating **Crime Prevention Month** and its theme: **Together We Build Safer Neighbourhoods!**

### Super Sleuths and Crime Prevention in Action

The highlight of the day was engaging with so many residents who share our commitment to community safety. We especially enjoyed seeing the dedication of our **Mini House Challenge** participants.



- **The Challenge:** Super sleuths (both adults and children!) were tasked with finding house keys hidden in 'silly spots' inside our demonstration house.

- **The Lesson:** This fun activity reinforced a crucial crime prevention tip: that even small actions, like keeping your keys and valuables out of sight and away from doors and windows, can make a **big difference** in preventing opportunistic crime.

Your enthusiasm for taking ownership of safety in your local area reinforces our belief that **prevention is better than response**, and that neighbourhood safety is truly a shared responsibility.

### What We Discussed

Throughout the day, our volunteers provided free resources and advice on:

- **Simple crime prevention strategies** for homes and properties.
- **The role of every resident** in building a safer community.
- **How to join or start** a Neighbourhood Watch group in your local area.

Thank you for your commitment and for showing up to make Whitehorse an even safer, stronger community. Let's continue to **watch out for each other!**

### Missed us at the Festival?

If you have questions about joining Neighbourhood Watch, want local crime prevention advice, or just want to learn more, please don't hesitate to **reach out to us!**

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

Or check out the latest news on our website or facebook page [facebook.com/NHWWhitehorse/](https://facebook.com/NHWWhitehorse/)



Join us on **December 10th**, at 6.30pm, **Box Hill Police Station, 1 Kangerong Rd, Box Hill**

*Help us celebrate another year of building a stronger, safer Whitehorse community with some Christmas cheer and nibbles, and meet our new NHW team for 2026!*

Ben (President), Gabby (Vice president), Katy (Secretary), Peter (Treasurer) and 7 committee members.

### 2026 NHW Whitehorse Community meetings!

Held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm  
**All Whitehorse residents are welcome to join!**

Neighbourhood Watch aims to help you feel safer and more connected, wherever you live, work, learn or play.

Take the quizzes at **How Safe is My Place**, which include homes, farms, apartments, cars, school, and even small business. **Your business is your livelihood.** It's important to know the practical, proactive steps you can take to protect your business and keep yourself, your staff and customers safe.

### Thinking of re-building, or renovating?

**Considering re-building or renovating?** Explore Nu-Build!

This program is designed for property owners planning new homes and their contractors. It offers tips and advice on integrating security throughout your project. Implementing these security strategies early can help prevent potential theft or crime later on. How Safe Is My Place is an initiative of Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, supported by RACV. [nhw.com.au/program/nubuild/](https://nhw.com.au/program/nubuild/)



### Pop-Up Days!

Currently, an event is being planned for December at

Forest Hill Chase. Check their website for updates! Also, keep an eye on Eyewatch Whitehorse, our Facebook pages, and our website for upcoming dates and locations.

**SafePL8** is a Victoria Police initiative that helps people secure number plates with anti-theft screws. **The aim is to make number plates harder to steal or be used illegally.**

## BOND SECURITY GROUP



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### Important Numbers

Emergency: Triple Zero (000)  
– Fire, Police, Ambulance  
Non-urgent crimes: Police Assistance Line  
– **131 444**  
Forest Hill 7am-11pm – **03 8847 3600**  
Box Hill 24/7 – **03 8892 3200**  
Report Anonymously: Crime Stoppers –  
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This newsletter has been printed with the assistance of **Nick McGowan MP** North-Eastern Metropolitan




Ph: 03 9877 7188  
[nick.mcgowan@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:nick.mcgowan@parliament.vic.gov.au)


**'Volunteering opportunities for local, national, and international service projects'**

**Nunawading Rotary Club** 


[www.rotarynunawading.com.au](http://www.rotarynunawading.com.au)  
[rotarynunawadinginbox@googlegroups.com.au](mailto:rotarynunawadinginbox@googlegroups.com.au)

**KIDS CORNER** 

Keep the kids screen-time educational as well as fun this holiday season. Visit [nhw.com.au/kids/kids-safety-learning-zone/](http://nhw.com.au/kids/kids-safety-learning-zone/) Good for all ages!

**Dental at Forest Hill** 

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### eSafety Commissioner

Loads of great targeted eSafety resources for parents, teachers, kids and young people including webinars and advice on topics such as cyberbullying, online gaming, being safe online, sharing photos & personal info, security & privacy.

ThinkUKnow Australia is an evidence-based education program led by the Australian Federal Police to prevent online child sexual exploitation. It addresses topics including online grooming, image-based abuse and sexual extortion.



**eSafety education**

**THINK UP KNOW**  
[.org.au](http://.org.au)