



# Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

3rd Quarter 2019

NHW 3193 Beaumaris & Black Rock

## We're trying to make 3193 even better!



**2nd "Is it a scam" Event**  
Beaumaris Sports Club

### Regular Community Events

Over 400 people have attended our two "Is It a Scam" events and also "Helping Families Cope with Drugs"

**We are pleased to announce:**

### Our THIRD "Is it a Scam" Event

Monday 26 August 6.30 pm  
at Beaumaris Sports Club.

Register at [NHW\\_3193@gmail.com](mailto:NHW_3193@gmail.com)



**Helping Parents Cope with Drugs**  
Sandringham Bowls Club



### **Graffiti Busters**

Taking back our suburb!  
More helpers needed in Black Rock



### **Fitting Anti Theft Screws**

to over 120 Cars.  
Thank you 7Eleven Black Rock



### **Coffee with the Cops**

Held at Ginger Fox & Happy Jacques.  
**Next session:—Black Rock House**  
Wednesday 17 July 10.00 am



### **Farmers Market Raffle**

Winner 1st Prize Phil Bradman.



### **The Black Rock Mural**

**More to come from your  
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## Chairmen's Report

### Major Announcement

#### Neighbourhood Watch 3193 Inc. A meeting of minds!

We are pleased to announce that, as from 1st July 2019, NHW Black Rock and NHW Beaumaris will operate as a single entity known as NHW 3193 Inc.

The committee elected Philip Lovel AM as President and Geoff Bransbury as Deputy President.

Other office holders are Martyn Pickersgill as Treasurer and Public Officer and Alan Gaskell as Secretary. Ken Beadle and Duncan Gibson make up the committee of six. All current committee members of Beaumaris and Black Rock will be involved in future activities of the group and our joint team of Volunteers numbers over 130. We are grateful to all these fine people who give up their time for our community.

We are applying for Charity status through the Australian Charities and Not-For Profit Commission.

#### So, why merge?

There are many reasons. We share the same post code of 3193; we have common interests and ideas ; we will be much stronger with nearly 10,000 residential properties and 250 plus business/traders within our influence; we share the one Bayside Police station and Bayside Council ; we overlap on many of our activities and newsletter delivery zones.

Perhaps most importantly, unity is strength and the merging of our Committees and Volunteers gives us much more "fire power" to deliver outcomes for the 3193 community and avoid duplication.

In reality, we have been all but merged since 1 January 2019. Together we have organised three highly successful community events on Scams and Drugs. We have organised together three Coffee with the Cops days, a Plate Day and have been removing graffiti together through our Graffiti Busters group.

We will be asking all volunteers to become Members of NHW 3193. This will not involve cost however it will enable all who are interested to be a part of this exciting new venture. NHW 3193 Inc.

Philip Lovel and Geoff Bransbury  
Chairmen, NHW Black Rock and Beaumaris

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### A home invasion is distressing

Most of us feel violated with just the thought of a stranger going through their personal belongings. The ongoing feeling of being vulnerable can be long term.

By taking some simple measures, you can significantly reduce the appeal of your home. These initiatives are important:-

Vary your routine. Actively plan your schedule to alter your comings and goings.

Secure your valuables. Don't leave them on view.

Screen your tradespeople & view their identification and licenses.

Service or install your monitored alarm system. Maintain it properly and make sure you have both audible and visual deterrents.

Quality CCTV viewable from your mobile phone can be installed for a fraction of the cost it used to be. Think about a home intrusion occurring whilst you are at home, possibly while you are asleep upstairs. Are you vulnerable?

Remember, home Insurance won't act as a deterrent.

Lock your garage, doors & windows & don't leave keys in doors or near windows, visible from outside.



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## A Message of thanks from Beaumaris Traders to NHW 3193 Graffiti Busters

A big thank to the band of helpers from Neighbourhood Watch that have been seen removing graffiti from all local areas over the last few months. Great Job!"

Lew Rimington Chairman. Beaumaris Traders



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### Why do we still fall for scams



We really should know better!

**We've all been told dozens of times, "Don't click on the link" so why do we still do it?**

One reason is that we are often NOT cautious enough and on our guard.

If you're expecting a parcel, you might click on a link from Australia Post or Customs. If NBN is in your street you might click on a link from NBN etc.

We are off guard, not thinking. That is dangerous!

Clearly scams and events are linked . There is NO coincidence here...How do they do it?

**There is only ONE solution and that is you must ALWAYS be on your guard. ALWAYS**

Register for our 3rd Scams event on 26th August at Beaumaris Sports Club 6.30 pm—even if you came before!

**nhw3193@gmail.com or 0416 294 452**

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### Beware of On Line shopping scams

#### Warning signs:

Are they offering unbelievably low prices? Maybe they insist on immediate payment? Maybe by EFT or vouchers? Perhaps there is little information on the site. Maybe they don't accept payment by secure means, e.g. PayPal, Credit card.

All these are warning signs. Be aware!

#### How to protect yourself:

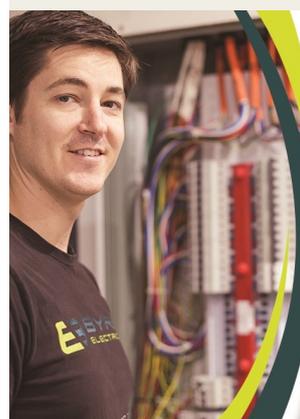
When using retail websites, know who you are buying from. Ideally stick to known brands.

If it is an Australian company, you are in a much better position to sort out the problem if something goes wrong. Sorting out issues with overseas Companies can be difficult, almost impossible especially if they are not well known.

When making online payments, only pay for items using a secure payment service—look for a URL starting with 'https' and a closed "padlock symbol" or a payment provider such as PayPal.

Avoid any arrangement with a stranger who asks for up-front payment via money order, wire transfer, international funds transfer, pre-loaded card.

**Install anti-virus software on your computer and keep it updated.**



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## Helping Families Cope With Drugs



NHW 3193's recent drugs information session was attended by over 60 residents.

Our Speaker Tom Valenta OAM, a local resident, has written three books on Alcohol and Drugs. Tony Johannsen from Taskforce was also present and took part in the Q and A session.

**So, who is at risk?** Tom says that It can be just about anyone, including those "accidental" addicts who misuse prescription drugs or sleeping pills.

**So how to move forward?** The first step is for the person to accept that help is needed. That is often hard. The next step is to enter a rehabilitation program. Try and sever relationships with previous cohorts. A supportive family is really necessary.

**Chances of success ?** Tom says research shows there are no guarantees, but two thirds either completely kick the habit or live better lives. Sadly, one third never get clean.

**Some tips for parents.** Tom quoted sources such as Dr Michael Carr-Gregg-an acclaimed psychologist who said:

- Early detection increases chances of success.
- Share your concerns with family /close friends.
- Look for behaviour changes - sleep, finances etc.
- Seek support of someone who relates to the user.
- Encourage self respect and values.
- Change the environment—a trip maybe.
- Give your time, do a project together.

### So where to go for help?

Taskforce Community Agency (SHARC) or Turning Point or Family Drug Help. All have help lines

**NHW 3193 is intending to do more in this area. Please share your ideas with us.**

## Personal Alarms = Safety



A typical personal alarm device about the size of a matchbox, Costs about \$20.00.

Personal alarms are a very safe, easy and inexpensive method of self-defence.

They require no training or skill to operate, they can be used by anyone regardless of age or physical ability. An ideal choice for older people. Just push the red button to activate. An ear piercing sound should detract attackers! There is usually a flashlight too.

They attach to handbags, belts bags etc.

Many versions are available. NHW3193 can supply for \$20.00.

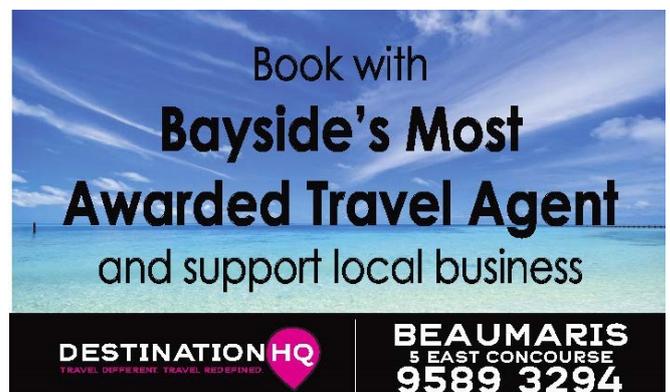
## Our local Bank Tellers Worth their weight in gold

Did you know our Tellers (CSO's at Bendigo) are trained to help identify scams and so protect you and me? They are, and they've saved us heaps!

Bendigo Bank says customers have come into the Bank whilst (unknowingly) speaking to the scammer on their mobile phones and being directed where to send money.

Westpac Beaumaris intercepted a Customs Scam. A customer, expecting a package from overseas received a demand for duty and came into the bank to transfer money. The poor English in the email was a giveaway but on googling the so-called Customs Officer, it came up on an Indian Scam watch site.

**Well done our local Banks.**



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## Cybercrime Buzzwords in plain English

**Buzzwords are easy if your 5– 40. After that it can be a bit confusing. We hope this helps.**

**Phishing**– Pronounced “fishing,” is literally what it is! The “hook” is an email or text message link leading to a fake internet site, where you are lured into entering personal information or passwords.

**Malware**– Simply means “malicious software” it harms data, devices and therefore people. Buzzwords such as Viruses, Trojans, Spyware and the like, are different kinds of malware.

**Identity Theft**– Where Passport and Medicare numbers etc are stolen enabling the crook to impersonate someone and thereby steal their money!

**Sim-Porting**- Is where your phone number is stolen without your knowledge and the number ported to another provider. You can lose access to your own phone and your information. Usually result of identity theft. Two step verification is one solution.

### Six top tips for beating cybercrime

Don't click on doubtful links in websites/emails.

Protect your passwords and change them often.

Watch out for poor spelling/urgent responses.

Don't give out personal information.

Use anti-virus software- Protects most cyberthreats.

Avoid free Wi-Fi requiring no authentication.



## Audiology

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## Tax Time Beware ATO Scam

ATO says there is an increase in scam messages (SMS) offering fake tax refunds. They look as if they are coming from ATO. They ask you to click a link to claim a refund.

- **Don't click the link or anywhere, even if it seems legit.**

- **Don't provide your personal info.**

- **(ATO will NOT ask for your details by text message)**

- **Visit ATO scam alerts page to learn more:**

[www.ato.gov.au/General/Online-services/Identity-security/Scam-alerts](http://www.ato.gov.au/General/Online-services/Identity-security/Scam-alerts)



**Fake ATO Scam SMS - BEWARE - Be alert.**

## Crime IS happening in 3193 Always be alert

### Crime in Bayside from Crimes Statistics Agency

The Crimes	Number % Change + or --		
	Qtr. 1 2019	Same Qtr. 2018	Qtr. 4 2018
<b>Crimes to person;</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>+12%</b>
Assault	78	+10%	+11%
Sexual	20	-13%	+67%
Robbery	9	0%	+80%
Threatening Behaviour	12	-10%	-50%
<b>Property/Deception</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>+10%</b>
Arson	10	+500%	+333%
Property/Damage	80	-24%	-11%
Burglary/break & enter	172	+18%	+25%
Theft	373	-12%	0%
Deception	77	+13%	+83%
<b>Drug Offences</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>+7%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Dealing/Trafficking	5	+25%	-58%
Cultivate/Make drugs	26	0%	+10%
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>108%</b>

**See something suspicious  
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### NBN scam losses up 300%.

## Don't let them fool you

Clearly people are still falling for it. We feel we must warn you again. **This is what happens:**

Someone pretending to be from NBN or an internet provider calls claiming there is a problem with your phone or internet connection, which requires remote access to fix. The scammer can then install malware or steal valuable personal information, including banking details. Who to be aware of?

Scammers pretending to be the NBN and attempting to sell NBN services, often at a discount over the phone. Scammers may even visit your home to sign you up to the NBN, get a better deal or test the speed of your connection etc.

**It is important to remember, NBN does not sell services directly to consumers. They DON'T make unsolicited calls or door knock to sell broadband services to the public.**

Don't get sucked in. If it looks suspicious, hang up. Never give an unsolicited caller remote access to your computer, and never give out your personal, credit card or online account details to anyone you don't know – in person or over the phone – unless you made the contact.

**If you think you've been scammed contact your bank.**

70% of new cars are stolen with their own keys\*. Don't leave keys in obvious spots at home.

**YOU MIGHT AS WELL  
HAND THEM YOUR CAR**



## How visible is YOUR House number?

**It never ceases to amaze us how many houses in 3193 have NO obvious house number or letter box!**

Often house numbers and letter boxes are difficult to see and sometimes non-existent.

No doubt the residents can find their home on a sunny day or a stormy night. However, how easy would it be for the police or an ambulance crew to find your home in an emergency?

Please go outside both during the day and at night, and check. Remember that you know where to look. They don't

**Would an emergency crew find your house?**



## Neighbourhood Watch 3193 Inc. - Beaumaris and Black Rock

Please make a donation

BSB 633-000 A/C 16 76 78 424

### Newsletter Editor

Geoff Bransbury  
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[nhw3193@gmail.com](mailto:nhw3193@gmail.com)

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