



CRIME STOPPERS: Detective Senior Constable Jeff Imeson of the Richmond LAC Rural Crime Investigation unit discusses rural anti-theft measures with Member for Lismore Thomas George.

Help fight rural crime

There are several ways farmers can help combat rural crime and thereby protect their livelihoods.

So says Rural Crime Investigator for the Richmond Local Area Command, Detective Senior Constable Jeff Imeson.

"Preventing crime is everyone's responsibility," Det. Snr Const. Imeson said.

"Police cannot be everywhere all of the time and we need the assistance and support of the whole community."

Theft of livestock and farm equipment costs the farming sector millions of dollars annually, according to Det. Snr Const. Imeson.

"Producers need to ensure they have permanent identification on all livestock, including brands and earmarks," he said.

"Branding is the accepted form of identification by Courts. The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) may also be useful in tracing stolen stock particularly if producers use the rumen bolus internal-type NLIS device."

Det. Snr Const. Imeson encourages livestock producers to:

- permanently identify livestock with brands and earmarks;
- encourage NLIS as a useful tool in crime prevention;
- conduct regular stock counts;
- maintain accurate records of livestock numbers and movements;
- maintain fencing;
- conduct irregular property and livestock inspections;
- report all suspected thefts of livestock to Police as soon as possible; and
- report suspicious activity to local Police immediately.

Protect your property by:

- Regularly checking the condition of boundary gates and fences;
- Keeping all paddock, shed and stockyard gates closed and locked;
- Considering security when designing and erecting new buildings, sheds and stockyards by building them within sight of the homestead;
- Using this booklet as a detailed inventory of all your personal, household and farm valuables;
- Engraving or marking your valuables with "NSW" and your driver's licence number, thereby reducing thieves' disposal options;
- Photographing or videoing your property, particularly stud stock, machinery and those items which are not easily engraved or marked such as jewellery, antiques and other collectibles. Keep these photographs inside this book and put in a safe place; and
- Ensuring registered guns are locked in an approved gun cabinet securely bolted at the rear and to the floor. Locking ammunition away separate from stored firearms.

POLICE CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS



Richmond Local Area Command	
Bonalbo	6665 1144
Woodenbong Road	
Casino	6662 0099
70 Walker Street	
Lismore	6623 1599
40 Molesworth Street	
Nimbin	6689 1244
38 Cullen Street	
Kyogle	6632 1444
64-66 Groom Street	
Tabulam	6666 1244
Creek Street	
Urbenville	6634 1244
21 Beauray Street	
Woodenbong	6635 1244
Unumgar Street	

General Help Lines

Police Assistance Line **131 444**
 Crime Stoppers **1800 333 000**

If a station is unattended at any particular time your call will be diverted and local Police then contacted to take the appropriate response.

To the citizens of the Lismore Electorate Help prevent crime



WORKING TOGETHER: Local State Member of Parliament Thomas George with Sergeant Noel Steel, and Senior Constable Emma Fox of the Domestic Violence Response team, at Lismore Police Station.

BE PREPARED!



A Community Policing initiative of
Richmond Local Area Command
 Member for Lismore
Thomas George MP



FEBRUARY 2005



DID YOU KNOW?

Most thieves enter through a door or window at the side or rear of the house. They are usually after cash, jewellery or other portable items which can be easily sold such as TVs, DVDs, VCRs, computers, cameras and CD players. They prefer to rob properties on weekdays, especially Friday, as people tend to go out after work, although according to one major insurance company, 31 per cent of New South Wales home burglaries happen when someone is home. During 2002, there were 456,300 incidents of break-in recorded in Australia. Sixty in every 1000 households nationwide were targets of at least one break-in. Most home burglars are spur-of-the-moment opportunists. They see a chance and take it. According to NSW Police statistics, about 20 per cent of all house robberies are due to carelessness, with thieves often entering through an unlocked door or window.

Thief caught red-handed

A NORTHERN New South Wales court has been told a thief had "no hope" of escaping detection after trying to sell goods stolen during a house break-in just three nights earlier.

The man pleaded guilty to break, enter and steal after he was nabbed trying to cash in property which had been instantly traced because the owner had been able to quickly supply Police with all the relevant particulars.

"We had all the second-hand dealers clued up to look for the gear," the arresting officer told the hearing.

"A speedy arrest was made because the victim of crime had a detailed record of all the valuables taken. It made our inquiries so much easier and enabled us to relocate, identify and return the stolen items."

Protect yourself and our community too

I trust you and your family had a safe and happy Christmas and the year ahead turns out to be a fulfilling and prosperous one.

We live in one of the best regions in Australia – a place which is law-abiding and where community spirit is strong.

But it is not crime-free. This is why I have produced this booklet: in order to promote awareness that crime can happen, to offer some tips on how to prevent crime and to provide an easy to fill in form which could make all the difference in the unwanted event of a break-in happening to you.

It also serves as a handy guide with Police contact details for future reference. If every householder takes just a quarter of an hour filling out the form inside this booklet, what a tremendous, proactive approach to crime prevention it will be.

By spending a little time noting the particulars of your various household valuables, you will not only be safeguarding your own property, you will also be doing our community a big favour.

For while it might not prevent your home from being broken into, it will certainly assist Police in their efforts to relocate your valuables and have them returned to you.

In the long term, this initiative will be enormously beneficial. If thieves know many homeowners (hopefully everyone) have accurate, up to date and comprehensive details listed of all valuables – items which appeal to robbers – it would have to act as a real deterrent to criminal activity. The risk of having goods quickly tracked and the thieves getting caught and convicted would be too great.

Police in the Richmond Local Area Command work extremely hard, night and day, on crime prevention strategies.

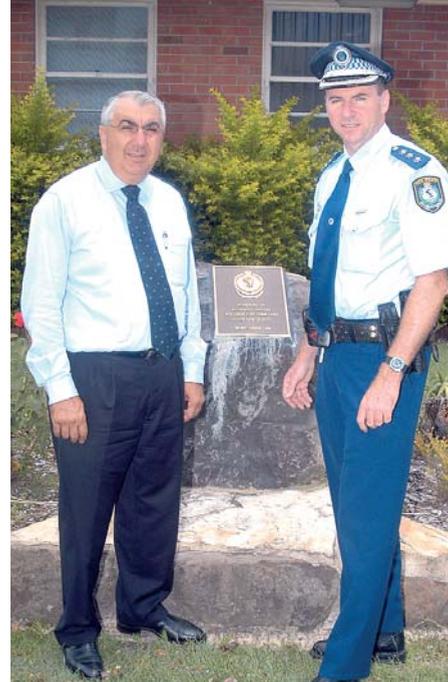
But they can only do so much. It is up to all of us to help Police as much as we can and this booklet is your way of helping our community, your Police and yourself. Don't delay ... do it today. Be prepared!

George

Thomas George MP, State Member for Lismore

Tips for securing your home

- Engrave valuable property such as DVDs, VCRs, televisions etc with "NSW" and your driver's licence number. This reduces thieves' disposal options.
- Photograph valuables such as jewellery, antiques, paintings, collectibles and other items and keep the images with your property register.
- Always lock external doors and windows whenever you leave home.
- Install quality deadlocks on all external doors as well as keylocks on windows and, most importantly, use them!
- Do not leave a spare key outside your home. Thieves know all the usual hiding places.
- Visible alarm systems can deter thieves, although a back to base system is preferable.
- Let Police know if going away or on holidays.



POLICE MEMORIAL: State MP Thomas George with Inspector David Driver near the monument at Casino Police Station dedicated to all officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



RESCUE ROLE: The Police Rescue Squad plays a critical role when motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies occur. Senior Constable Peter Kirk is one of eight members of this vital response group and talks here with Member for Lismore Thomas George.



STRATEGIES: Local MP Thomas George discusses crime prevention measures with Constables Bob White (centre) and Peter Lever at Lismore Police Station.

Welcome partnership against crime



Supt Bruce Lyons

Police have welcomed this community initiative and urge everyone to play their part by filling in the Home Business, Farm and Personal Property Register.

The Be Prepared booklet has been praised by Richmond Local Area Commander, Superintendent Bruce Lyons, who described it as a "timely and proactive crime prevention tool".

Supt Lyons sees the concept as a joint partnership between the community and New South Wales Police.

"By working together we can help solve crime and, better still, hopefully prevent it happening in the first place," Supt Lyons said.

"Police have always encouraged people to record descriptions and serial numbers of property kept in their homes, businesses or on farms.

"The Property Register provides people, both in towns and on the land, with an ideal opportunity to record this valuable information.

"It is so easy to do. Complete all the fields on the form for the goods you own.

"Why do all this? If you have your property stolen, Police will ask you for this information. If you are able to provide Police with an accurate and detailed description of your valuables, it will give them such a head start when they begin their investigations.

"Also, this information will be stored in a special property computer data base.

"Every year Police locate items of property believed stolen. In many cases a search of our databases fails to match these items to their rightful owner.

"If your details have been properly recorded the prospects of returning your property are greatly enhanced.

"It also significantly increases the chances that an offender will be successfully prosecuted."

Supt Lyons said most people did not expect to become a victim of crime but emphasised that it was "better to be safe than sorry".

He also said it was wise for people to fill out the Absence From Residence Form and supply Police with a copy if absent from home for a period of time.