

Launch of Operation Bounce Back

Marrickville Council in partnership with the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council will launch the project, Operation Bounce Back on Wednesday 8 June.

This project aims to minimise car theft by offering 100 Marrickville residents with cars manufactured between 1989 and 2001 to have car immobilisers fitted at no cost.

Council will collaborate with Marrickville and Newtown police to prioritise residents who have already experienced a motor theft or breach of security involving their motor vehicle, to receive a free car immobiliser installation.

According to the National Motor Vehicle and Theft Reduction Council, there were 375 thefts between January and December 2010, and of the vehicles stolen 60% were manufactured prior to 2000. Mayor of Marrickville Councillor Fiona Byrne said this initiative will help to reduce the risk of vehicle theft in our local area.

"Residents with older vehicles are most at risk of theft and being a victim of theft can often be costly, disruptive and invasive," Cllr Fiona Byrne said.

"It's wonderful that with the assistance of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council, Marrickville and Newtown Area police, Council can prevent vehicle theft at no cost to residents."

As part of the project, Operation Bounce Back also offers educational resources on helping residents minimise the risk of vehicle theft. Vouchers for a car immobiliser installation and educational resources will be available from Marrickville Council, and Marrickville and Newtown police. All vouchers are valid until the 30 September 2011. Residents can register their interest, by calling Council on 9335 2157. Operation Bounce Back will be launched by Mayor of Marrickville Councillor Fiona Byrne at Council's Safety in Marrickville Committee Meeting, with Marrickville and Newtown Area Police Commands on Wednesday 8 June at 10am.

Thousands to pound the pavement for people with multiple sclerosis

MS Walk and Fun Run, Sunday June 5

On Sunday 5 June, thousands of people will converge on Hyde Park in the city and Bradfield Park, Milsons Point for the 2011 MS Walk and Fun Run, aiming to raise \$1.1 million for people living with multiple sclerosis (MS).

Enthusiastic walkers and runners will put their best foot forward with family, friends and colleagues to support over 20,000 Australians and their families currently living with MS. Everyone will be encouraged to rug up in red on the day to help spread awareness about the impact of multiple sclerosis.

Walkers can choose a 5.5 km, 9km or 16km course, starting and finishing at beautiful Hyde Park and taking in Sydney's spectacular foreshore, parks and gardens. For energetic people looking for a challenge, the 8km Fun Run starts at Bradfield Park, winding through the stunning harbour-side streets of Milsons Point to Balls Head Reserve and back.

After the Walk, participants will settle in to enjoy the post-event atmosphere, with live music, plenty of great food to choose from and entertainment suitable for the whole family.

"The MS Walk and Fun Run is one of Sydney's best events – a day when people from everywhere can come together with people with MS," suggests Ken

Sharpe, acting CEO of MS Australia – ACT/NSW/VIC. "Heralding the end of nationwide MS Awareness Week, we need everyone to get their sneakers on and get involved - to help raise awareness of the disease and vital funds to support the people that live with its unpredictable symptoms every day."

Morwenna Collett will be pulling on her sneakers on June 5 to take part in the 9km walk. As MS ambassador for the event, she knows first-hand the difficulties of living with multiple sclerosis and the benefits of the programs and services provided by MS Australia. "I'm excited about taking part in the Walk & Fun Run and encourage everyone to get out and hit the pavement to show their support for people living with MS."

Registrations for the event are open at www.mswalk.org.au.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic and often debilitating disease that randomly attacks the central nervous system, interfering with the transmission of nerve impulses throughout the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of the disease cannot be predicted.

MS affects an estimated 2.5 million people worldwide, with an estimated 20,000 Australians living with the disease.



POLICE REPORT

Four-year-old boy rescued from burning house - Granville

Police in Sydney's west have praised the efforts of a neighbour who assisted in the rescue of a four-year-old boy from a burning house at Granville yesterday morning.

About 9.30am, police and Fire and Rescue NSW responded to reports that a house was well alight in Byrne Street.

On arrival police located a woman and the mother with the unconscious child. Ambulance officers attended a short time later and the toddler was conveyed to Auburn Hospital suffering smoke inhalation. Rosehill Local Area Command Duty Officer, Inspector Ken Hardie, has commended the actions of the rescuer.

"If it wasn't for the quick and brave actions of the neighbour we could certainly be looking at a different scenario," said Insp Hardie. "The child has been taken to hospital and is in a satisfactory condition", he said. The fire was eventually extinguished and the house was partially damaged. A crime scene was established and police and fire investigators will attempt to determine the circumstances surrounding the fire.

Two arrested after overnight shooting - Casula

Two men are assisting with inquiries into the circumstances surrounding a shooting in Casula overnight. Police were called to an address on Verben Avenue about 10.30pm (Sunday 29 May) after reports of shots being fired. Two 25-year-old men, one from Casula and the other from Bonnyrigg, were arrested in a nearby street. A 24-year-old man has been conveyed to hospital with gunshot wounds. He is undergoing surgery and is believed to be in a critical but stable condition. A crime scene has been established and is being forensically examined. Anyone who may have information about this incident is asked to contact Liverpool detectives via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Man to face court over fire at tattoo studio - Umina Beach

A man will face Gosford Local Court after a fire at a tattoo studio on the state's Central Coast over the weekend.

About 3am on the 29th of May, emergency services were called to the studio on West Street, Umina Beach, after reports that there was a fire inside the premises.

Police established a crime scene and began obtaining witness statements.

A short time later, police chased and apprehended a man who had been pointed out by a witness as being responsible for allegedly lighting the fire. The 31-year-old Umina Beach man was arrested and charged with two counts of damage property by fire, escape police custody and resist police officer. He was refused bail to appear at Gosford Local Court. The fire was officially extinguished by 4.15am. The estimated damage to the building is believed to be well in excess of \$20,000.

Police search for two women following aggravated robbery - Burwood

Police are searching for two women following an aggravated robbery in Sydney's

west that has left the female victim with a suspected broken nose.

About 5.30 pm on 29 May, the 17-year-old victim was walking across a park on Burwood Road, Burwood, when she was approached by two women.

One of the women allegedly punched the victim in the face, causing her to fall to the ground. The women then took an amount of cash that the victim was carrying in her hand. They were last seen running towards Park Road, Burwood.

The first offender is described as being of Pacific Islander/Maori appearance, aged about 18 years, and with a medium build. She was about 170 cm tall, with brown, curly, shoulder-length hair streaked blonde. The second offender is described as being of Pacific Islander/Maori appearance, aged about 18 years, and with a medium build. She was about 165 cm tall, with black hair that was in a ponytail.

Police were called to the location shortly after. A canvass of the area was also conducted by police; however, the women were not located. The victim was conveyed to Canterbury Hospital with a suspected broken nose. Anyone who has information that might assist investigators is urged to contact Burwood Police via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Dozens arrested as police target known crime 'hot spots' around transport hubs - 'Operation Lockdown'

Police have charged almost 60 people in a clampdown on criminal and anti-social behaviour around major transport hubs across south-western Sydney.

On Friday (27 May) and Saturday (28 May), specialist police from South West Metropolitan Region conducted the high-visibility 'Operation Lockdown' – targeting known 'hot spots' in and around local bus and railway corridors. Region Enforcement Squad, Commuter Crime Unit, Dog Unit, Highway Patrol and Licensing officers took part in the two-day operation. They were assisted by RailCorp Transit Officers. During the operation, police arrested 56 people and charged them with 90 offences – including two who were wanted on outstanding warrants. Officers also searched 216 people and located and seized three knives; conducted 2810 breath tests; issued 611 traffic infringement notices; patrolled 136 railway stations; and issued 59 rail infringements.

South West Metropolitan Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner Frank Mennilli, said similar operations will be conducted into the future. "Operations of this type are very effective in driving down crime because they involve the highly-concentrated deployment of specialist police, both uniformed and undercover, to known hot spots," Assistant Commissioner Mennilli said. "This allows us to not only weed out serial offenders and take them off the streets but also provide a highly-visible deterrent to criminal and anti-social behaviour. "This operation resulted in 56 people charged with 90 offences. On the previous four occasions we have mounted Operation Lockdown in the past year, a combined total of 260 people have been charged with 295 offences," he said.

**ANY PERSON WHO CAN ASSIST SHOULD CONTACT
CRIME STOPPERS ON 1800 333 000**