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EXCLUSIVE

Home land security

Residents of Mosman's Golden Mile are considering hiring private security to patrol the streets after a spate of burglaries.

Full story page 5



Security guard
Shane Chapman
from Synergy
Protection Agency.
Picture:
DAVID SWIFT

NEWS

Cyclist critical in second accident

NORTH Sydney Council is writing to the Roads Minister after two accidents within days in Neutral Bay, one of which left a cyclist in a critical condition.

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NEWS

Council to take merger to public

AFTER claims a mega council dubbed "Mosmanly" could be on the cards, Mosman Council has vowed to put the proposal of a merger to the people. The plan was discussed at a Manly Council meeting on Monday night.

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BASKETBALL

Norths claim a historic title win

THE Norths under-14 girls basketball team has made history, becoming the first NSW team in 33 years to take out the national championship.

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MOSMAN

Security plan is on the money

Andrea McCullagh

SPATE OF BREAK-INS IN WEALTHY STREETS SPARK CONCERN

PRIVATE security could soon be patrolling two of the wealthiest streets in Mosman after a series of high-end robberies.

An all-night foot patrol by a uniformed security officer on Burran and Hopetoun avenues has been proposed by resident John Dennett and has the backing of Neighbourhood Watch amid fears professional thieves are targeting the prized streets.

The cost, estimated by a security company to be about \$164,000 per year,



Burran Ave is being targeted by thieves.

Picture: GOOGLE

would be shared by the residents that sign up.

This year, five major break-ins have been recorded on the two streets.

Mr Dennett, who sends

out a security-focused newsletter to residents, said "high-worth assets" were taken in the robberies.

"This is not the 21-year-old wanting drug money,"

he said. "This is the other end of the spectrum."

He believes the presence of a security officer would make the thieves uncomfortable about turning up to target properties.

The president of Mosman Neighbourhood Watch, Judy Hinde, said a professional gang of thieves have targeted the area using hi-tech methods such as overriding keypads.

"These (the robberies) are the biggest ones we've ever

had. They've all been substantial," she said.

Burran Ave is known as the Golden Mile and the streets are home to several high-profile businessmen and celebrities including Ros Oatley, daughter of wine baron Bob Oatley, artist Ken Done, and Greg Karedis, the son of liquor outlet millionaire Theo Karedis.

Mr Dennett has approached the Synergy Protection Agency for a quote and is proposing a three-

month trial to householders before signing up for a year.

Synergy Protection Agency chief executive Joe Merhi said having a presence on the street made thieves think twice about targeting the area.

Superintendent Allan Sicaud encouraged the community to have faith in the NSW Police and Harbourside LAC.

"Break and enters in Harbourside LAC have been steadily decreasing over several years and Mosman enjoys a very low crime rate," the police chief said.

WOLLSTONECRAFT

Burn-off promotes the growth of native plants

Andrea McCullagh

NATIVE plant species are popping up along the harbour thanks to hazard reduction burns.

A team of firefighters burned off undergrowth at a Wollstonecraft reserve on Friday and they have noticed their previous efforts are having a positive effort on biodiversity.

"We get some really good regeneration," said bushfire officer and senior firefighter Rob Strauch.

"The non-natives take dominance over the reserves and by clearing them it gives the natives a chance of growing again."

He said a lot of the species appearing haven't been seen around the harbour area.

The fire at Badangi Reserve saw firefighters take

the undergrowth out to reduce the reserve's fuel load.

It was hailed as an "excellent burn" by the team and took six hours to complete.

Meanwhile, the NSW Rural Fire Service says firefighters are preparing for a challenging few months ahead.

"It's a more ominous outlook than we had last year," said commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons.

"The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting above-average temperatures and below-average rainfall for the next three months."

Mr Fitzsimmons urged people living in high-risk areas to prepare their properties and make a bush-fire survival plan.



See more pictures at mosmandaily.com.au



Rural Fire Service firefighters at the hazard reduction burn at Badangi Reserve, Wollstonecraft.

Picture: ANNIKA ENDERBORG

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