

Thieves target hot water units

JOSHUA BUTLER

POLICE have warned home owners to keep an eye on their hot water systems, with a spate of thefts in recent months.

Lake Illawarra police crime co-ordinator Acting Senior Sergeant Mark Scott said dozens of externally fitted continuous flow or instantaneous hot water systems had been stolen from homes in the area.

"Some have been from new homes, but the majority have been stolen from premises under construction," Sgt Scott said.

On one weekend alone, 18 systems were lifted from a new unit block under construction, while systems have also disappeared from new and old occupied homes.

Sgt Scott said the systems were likely being stolen to be resold by thieves, and while police had not seen any of the stolen systems resurface in the area, he warned residents to keep an eye out for anyone selling under-priced hot water systems.

"If anybody is found with a stolen one, we will seize it. It is not a viable option for

people to buy a stolen one," Sgt Scott said.

"When you're purchasing one, make sure you have some genuine guarantee it is a legitimate purchase."

Sgt Scott said home owners should ensure their yards were secure, with ample lighting to illuminate dark areas down the side of the house, to deter potential thieves. He also suggested home owners could mount such systems inside the home rather than outside.

Anyone with information on such incidents should contact Lake Illawarra police or Crime Stoppers.

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Workers rally to fight privatisation



Worried: Dozens of Illawarra disability workers took to Albion Park's streets on Friday afternoon to protest state government plans to privatise the sector. Bearing placards saying "shame" and asking the government not to "sell out skilled staff", participants in the Public Service Association rally hoped to send a clear message to the NSW government as it brings in the National Disability Insurance Scheme. They are worried the government's plans to withdraw from the sector by 2018 will lead to a reduction in services and result in more than 14,500 ageing, disability and home care workers being transferred to the private sector, with no guarantee that their pay and conditions would be protected.

Picture: CHRISTOPHER CHAN

Light plane damaged in near-miss

THE pilot of an aerobatics aircraft was left nursing a damaged plane, and probably a bruised ego, after a near-miss with a much larger plane at Albion Park airport on Friday afternoon.

Historical Aircraft Restoration Society president Bob De La Hunty told the Mercury six of his ground

staff were outside the HARS hangar servicing one of their planes when a light aircraft approached the area about 3.30pm.

Despite radio warnings to avoid the immediate vicinity, and ground staff "madly waving" the light plane away, Mr De La Hunty said the aircraft only narrowly

missed his HARS plane and staff, being left with a damaged wing and propeller after swerving at the last minute to avoid a collision.

"The plane landed up on one wing and damaged the propeller," he said.

The HARS plane escaped undamaged and HARS staff were uninjured.

PRODUCT SAFETY RECALL

AC Power Cords
For HP and Compaq notebook and mini notebook computers



IDENTIFICATION:

The affected AC power cord was sold from September 2010 through June 2012 with the following items:

- HP and Compaq note books
- Mini HP notebook computers
- AC Adapters as well as with accessories such as docking stations

The Powercords can be identified by 'LS-15' moulded on the connector plug.

DEFECT:

In some instances the 'LS-15' connector's electrical insulation may degrade over time with the potential to overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard.

HAZARD:

Fire and burn hazard.

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Immediately stop using your AC power cord.
2. Visit the HP Notebook PC AC Power Cord Recall website to verify if your AC power cord is part of this recall.
3. Order a replacement cord if your power cord is verified as affected.
<http://www.hp.com/support/PowerCordReplacement>

For further information

Please direct all calls and any queries concerning this recall to
HP Australia on 13 10 47 or +61 2 8278 1039

See www.recalls.gov.au for Australian product recall information

MISSY HIGGINS



OZ is both an eclectic album of Aussie cover versions and a book of essays reflecting on life, love and how not to wear high heels. OZ is out now.

Thursday 9th October - Anita's Theatre
Tickets on sale now