

Community Safety Message

Protect your property when camping or caravanning

Before you leave:

- Check the security features on your caravan including: ID number on the chassis; Vehicle Identification Number (VIN); a good quality hitch lock; and consider fitting a safe for your valuables.
- Ensure items of value have identification marks engraved on them. This makes it easier to return the property to you if it is stolen and harder for thieves to resell them.
- Keep an inventory of all identification numbers and the serial numbers of fixtures such as microwaves and refrigerators.

At the caravan park or camping ground:

- On arrival, get to know your neighbours and keep an eye on each other's property.
- When you unpack, avoid leaving items such as eskies (especially containing alcohol), surfboards, wetsuits, bicycles and fishing gear lying about. These items are frequently targeted by thieves.
- Lock bicycles to your van or park facilities.
- Equipment left in boats can easily be stolen. Store these items securely if possible.
- Valuables that are clearly visible inside a vehicle, caravan or tent can be tempting to thieves.
- Be careful where you leave mobile phones, laptop computers, cameras and handbags or wallets, so they are not easily targeted.
- Gas cylinders, BBQs, refrigerators and washing machines are also targeted by thieves . Padlock these with good quality chains and locks.
- Take your washing inside at night or when you are away from the site.
- Report suspicious activities to the park manager.

When you are away from your camp:

- If you don't have a safe and can't take your valuables with you, lock them out of sight or in the boot of your vehicle.
- Get into the habit of locking up when leaving your caravan, even for a short time.
- Avoid signs of "no life": try to make it appear that someone is at home; leave lights on when you go out at night; and install timers on lights for longer absences.
- Advise the park manager or trusted neighbours if you plan to be away for a few days or more, and leave contact details.

