VEHICLE SAFETY

Police from the Brimbank and Melton Local Government Area's continue to work with our community around crime prevention. The following information is provided for you to share within your school community. We are attempting to reduce the thefts of motor vehicles, theft from motor vehicles and the theft of number plates.

Many of these crimes are what we refer to as opportunistic crimes. This means that a person walks past your car and in clear sight is something of value. This maybe a mobile phone, GPS, loose change, sunglasses, handbag, satchel or perhaps private mail. If these items are not in view then there is a chance that your vehicle may not be broken into.

A further suggestion appears to be the most obvious but please ensure your vehicle is always locked. Even if you are leaving it unattended for a very short time, paying for petrol, collecting children from school or running into a friends house. The shortest time can result in a theft.

I urge the community to access the Victoria Police web site, www.police.vic.gov.au. Once at this site go to the Crime Prevention tab and search “Residential Crime Prevention Information Kit” In this document there is a designated section covering “vehicle safety”.

In this same document it also talks about securing your number plates. If your car is parked in the street outside your house, in your driveway, at a shopping centre or a train station you are at risk of having your number plates stolen. These stolen plates are then used by criminals for the commission of an offence. This could be burglaries, petrol drive-offs, armed robberies or simply using tolled roads where you receive the bill.

To limit this happening to you can purchase “one way screws” and replace the existing screws. These screws can be fitted with a normal screw driver but require a special device to remove them. These screws are available from leading automotive suppliers such as Repco. The cost of these items is around the $8 mark.

In addition to this information be aware that in the coming months a number of “Safe Plate” days will be run in the Brimbank area. We have been fortunate enough to develop a relationship with local businesses that will enable us to run these days and provide the security screws free of charge. We hope to advertise these dates and venues in local media in the near future.

In respect to these types of crimes the community is reminded that if they see something suspicious then take note and report it. It maybe suspicious vehicle in your street or a person wandering around in a car park. Calling 000 will have police attend to this report or a call to Crime Stoppers for less urgent matters.

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