

NORTH SHORE

Ways to keep the bad people at bay

Torin Chen

EXPERT WANTS KIDS TO LEARN

WORLD martial arts champion John Gill says child abduction victims can defend themselves if they are attacked by a stranger.

Gill, 50, of Pymble, who teaches weekly after-school self-defence classes at West Pymble Public School, is horrified by recent incidents when strangers approached children.

The hapkido and taekwondo instructor, who hopes to start free self-defence classes for women and children at Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, said children as young as six could defend themselves.

"The child should strike the attacker in the vulnerable areas," he said. "They



Image of a man police seek.

need to hit the attacker in the eyes, nose, throat, groin and knees, using hard areas like fists, fingers, palms, knees, arms

and feet."

Police are urging parents to warn children of "stranger danger" after several incidents.

Detectives released an image of a man they are looking for in relation to an attempted abduction of a girl, 6, at the Canoon Rd

netball courts at South Turramurra on February 23.

He is described as 180cm tall, medium build, of Caucasian appearance and aged between 40 and 50.

The girl's mother told the *North Shore Times* she was concerned the offender would strike again.

In a separate incident last Friday, a boy, 11, and his sister, 8, were unhurt after they were approached by a man in a white van who offered them a lift on Yarrabung Rd, St Ives.

If you know anything, call Ku-ring-gai police on 9476 9799 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



John Gill (above) says you're never too young to learn self defence

Police tips for children

NORTH Shore crime coordinator Sergeant Tony Bear says:

- Avoid walking on your own. Always walk with family members, friends or an adult that you know.
- Walk near busier streets or roads or use paths where there are lots of people.
- Always make sure that your parents, or an adult whom you know well, knows where you are at all times.
- Always walk straight home or directly to the place you are walking to.
- Know where safe places are, such as a police station, library or school.
- If a car stops and you don't know the person inside, do not stop.
- If you are frightened, phone 000 and say that you are scared.

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- 10.30am** Introduction to The Landings
- 11.30am** Shane Smollen,
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- 12.30pm** Lunch at the Clubhouse
- 1.30pm** Lorraine Cox,
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- 2.00pm** Tour of the village/appraisals

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CONTACT JILL OR TRACEY ON
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