

## Alleged Gumtree scammer arrested

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Users of buy and sell social media websites have been given a reminder to be on guard when parting with goods after an alleged scammer was arrested.

Police arrested a Thornbury man, 36, after a series of Gumtree scams in Melbourne's north-east.

Banyule crime investigation unit detectives charged the Thornbury man with obtaining property by deception.

It is alleged the man contacted many victims who had advertised electronic devices for sale on Gumtree.

The man then allegedly met the victims and produced a screen shot of a false internet transfer showing the money had been paid to the seller's account.

The victims later became aware that they had been scammed.

The charged man is expected to appear at Heidelberg Magistrates Court on October 10.

Gumtree's website recommends transactions should be face-to-face to minimise the risk of fraudulent activity.

Gumtree says there are some scam warning signs. These include:

- Refusing to use PayPal.
- Telling users they will post the item as soon as they've received money via online transfer. Some legitimate sellers do this too, but scammers use it to their advantage.
- Using sad stories to garner support and funds.
- A sense of urgency that a product might be sold when a buyer becomes hesitant.
- A scammer can often use excessive amounts of slang.

*This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/alleged-gumtree-scammer-arrested-20160703-gpxaao.html>*