

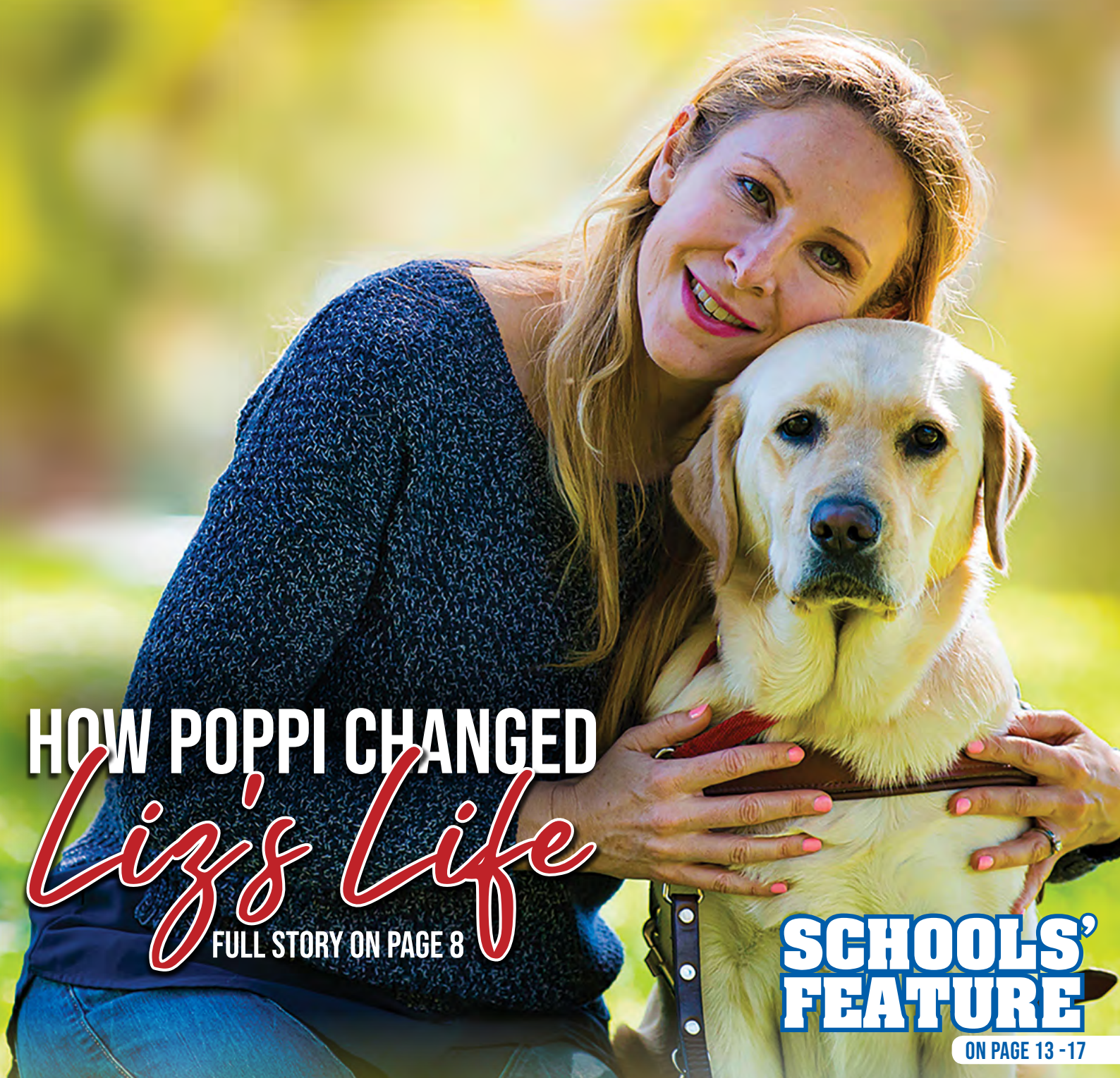
Hills to Hawkesbury

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Community News

11th - 25th February 2022 | Volume 39 – Issue 03
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



HOW POPPI CHANGED *Liz's Life*

FULL STORY ON PAGE 8

SCHOOLS' FEATURE

ON PAGE 13-17

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HILLS CLINIC \$50M PLAN

By BEV JORDAN

The Hills Clinic at Kellyville is set to double in size following the purchase of land adjacent to the mental health hospital at the corner of McCausland Place and Memorial Ave.



The official announcement of the purchase was made on Wednesday (February 9th) by NorthWest Healthcare Properties Management and paves the way for a \$50million expansion of The Hills Clinic which is operated by Aurora Healthcare Australia.

The planned two-storey building on the site will double the capacity of the existing 85-bed facility and provide additional beds and group therapy rooms. The proposed development will also comprise a ~120 bay basement carpark, consolidated with the existing hospital.

The move has been made to meet growing demand for mental health services. The Hills Clinic specialises in treating young patients.

Aurora Chief Executive Officer Australia, Julia Strickland-Bellamy said: "Demand for mental health services in this region has been growing at an increasing rate.

"This pressing need for expanded treatment options for Sydney's Hills community has, today, further extended our partnership with NorthWest's Vital Healthcare Property Trust. The Hills Clinic is a highly successful mental health service model; it attracts patients from across Australia due to its specialised treatment

for young adults. This expansion enables The Hills Clinic to further broaden its specialised mental health services for our existing patient population, while introducing new treatment offerings to meet demand. Young adults will remain a key part of our expanded service while eating disorders, PTSD for first responders, trauma and addictions are all under consideration."

NorthWest is consulting with Hills Shire Council officers and will commence the process for development approval as soon as possible.

Development is planned to commence in 2023 and be completed within a 15 month timeframe. It is hoped to welcome the first patients by late 2024.

NorthWest Executive Director, Portfolio, Richard Roos said: "We are thrilled to acquire such an important development site, adjacent to one of our existing hospitals – The Hills Clinic – and extend our partnership with Aurora Healthcare, who we have worked with to establish this clinic as a highly regarded mental health facility.

"The provision of high-quality treatment facilities for mental health patients is

increasingly critical in our community, and mental health is a materially under-served part of the Australian healthcare industry.

"The effects of the pandemic and associated lockdowns have further exacerbated the demand for mental health treatment."

Last year the number of beds at The Hills Clinic were increased by 44%, up to 85 in-patient beds.

Mr Roos said the new development would increase capacity again "furthering our strong commitment to increasing Australians' access to mental health" services.

"Across Australia, we have over \$80 million invested in mental health projects currently under construction or planning. We are focused on maintaining a strong development pipeline with strategic sites such as this one in Kellyville, which represents the last remaining land available for expansion of the existing The Hills Clinic mental health hospital."

Aurora Healthcare is the nation's largest speciality private mental health provider with 1,000 beds across 16 facilities. The Hills Clinic was established in 2011 and was the first purpose-built private hospital clinic in NSW.

Hills to Hawkesbury Community News

Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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The Hills to Hawkesbury Community News has been serving this area for nearly 40 years. It's name may have changed over the decades but the commitment to providing a free service to the community is still at the heart of what this hyper local fortnightly publication does. Established in 1982 it has evolved into a community news magazine with a big digital footprint. Our aim is to inform, inspire and connect our community. It is a family-owned small business. Our team is local and love what they do.

Please follow us on Facebook @hillstohawkesbury. Printed copies are available at local shopping centres and other outlets. For a full list visit our website www.hillstohawkesbury.com.au.

FOREST PROTEST By BEV JORDAN

More than 50 people gathered in a peaceful protest on Friday (February 4th) to mourn the loss of thousands of trees that will be cleared on the former IBM site in Coonara Ave, West Pennant Hills to make way for a new housing development.

Parents, children and dogs joined members of environmental groups at the protest which was held at the corner of Castle Hill Rd and Coonara Ave from 7pm and was watched by police.

The on-going protests against plans by developer Mirvac for the site at 55 Coonara Ave have spanned several years.

Protesters are angry at the clearing of endangered Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and the loss of habitat for the critically endangered Powerful Owl and the Dural Land Snail.

Hills Shire Council rejected plans by Mirvac to rezone the 26-hectare site but in June 2020 the site was rezoned from Business to Residential and Environmental Conservation through the State Government's Planning System Acceleration Program. The approval allowed medium to high-density residential development for up to 600 homes on a 9 hectare section of the site.

In September last year (September 20th 2021) the Hills Planning Panel approved the demolition of the IBM buildings at the site and associated civil works including the removal of 1,253 trees to enable the works to go ahead.

In announcing the unanimous decision to allow the demolition works to go ahead, the Hills Planning Panel added amendments to five conditions covering tree protection fencing and protection from accidental damage, signage, a fauna management plan which must be submitted to Hills Shire Council covering fauna protection and relocation, and fuel management arrangements.

Protesters at Friday's vigil were joined by local councillors from Hills, Hornsby and Parramatta and Greens MPs, Senator Mehreen Faruqi and David Shoebriidge who spoke as passing motorists tooted support.

They claim that with further development applications planned as part of the site a total of more than 3000 trees will eventually be removed.

Alice Suttie said: "Mircvac could put this land to much better use rather than destroying over 3000. It is not good for people, not good for the environment and not good for the animals."

Hills Shire Councillor Ryan Tracey said: "Locals have no voice. Hills Shire Council voted against this. We have been railroaded."



Hornsby Shire Councillor Emma Heyde said: "No fancy landscaping or press releases about a 'residential community' by Mirvac will ever erase the memory of the 3000 trees they destroyed. The Hills desperately needs green space, not more overpriced apartments."

Newly-elected Hills Shire Councillor Mila Kasby also spoke about the loss to the community.

Submissions on the latest development applications for 55 Coonara Ave closed on Monday, February 7th. The new DAs show that the proposed number of dwellings has been

... story continues on page 12

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ROOF FIRE INVESTIGATED

The cause of a fire which severely damaged a house in Beaumont Hills is being investigated by Fire and Rescue NSW.

FRNSW received numerous Triple Zero (000) calls to Iwan Place just before 4pm on Tuesday, February 1. Firefighters found the upper level of a two-storey house totally involved in flames. Crews in breathing apparatus quickly commenced firefighting operations and contained the fire to the top floor.

The occupants of the home had made their own way to safety. 20 firefighters worked for just under two hours to extinguish the blaze.

The Ladder platform from Parramatta Fire Station was required to inspect the roof for damage and check solar panels.

The top level of the house was severely damaged whilst the ground floor suffered water and smoke damage.

Superintendent Scott Dodson from Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) said this is a timely reminder that calling Triple Zero (000) for a fire emergency can be the difference between life and death, or a building or other property being saved or destroyed.

The Triple Zero (000) service is the quickest way to get the right resources from emergency services to help you. It should be used to contact Police, Fire or Ambulance services in life-threatening or time-critical situations.

Services Available

The following services are available to anyone experiencing domestic or family violence:

1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)

A confidential information, counselling and support service.

NSW Domestic Violence Line (1800 65 64 63)

A state-wide telephone crisis counselling and referral service for women.

Men's Referral Service (1300 766 491)

Provide telephone counselling, information and referral for men.

Link2Home (1800 152 152)

Can help refer women experiencing domestic violence to crisis accommodation.

Lifeline (13 11 14)

A national charity providing all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.



Triple Zero (000)

For emergencies or life threatening situations.

GUN AMNESTY

People are again being urged to take advantage of the National firearm amnesty and hand in unregistered firearms to police.

There are an estimated 260,000 unregistered guns in circulation in Australia.

Police are urging people to also "step up" and share information they know or suspect about anyone who is in possession of an illegal gun.

Firearms Registry Commander Superintendent Cameron Lindsay said, police need the community's help to take illegal firearms off the streets.

"We want to remind everyone of the risk that unregistered firearms pose to the community. Unfortunately, most crimes are committed with unregistered firearms, which circulate in criminal networks," Superintendent Cameron Lindsay said.

"I encourage people who have unwanted or unregistered firearms to take advantage of the amnesty and play their part in keeping the community safe. By handing in and registering firearms, police gain visibility of guns in the community and can ensure they are correctly stored and only licenced to people who don't pose a threat to others," he said.

To share information about an unregistered or illegal gun, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or go online at crimestoppers.com.au/illegalguns

The amnesty provides protection from prosecution where a person is in possession of an unregistered firearm for the purpose of handing it in. Being caught with an unregistered or illegal firearm outside of amnesty conditions could result in a significant fine, imprisonment and a criminal record.

Further information, including the process to surrender a gun in NSW, is available at crimestoppers.com.au/firearmamnesty/nsw/

MURDER ARRESTS

Police officers from Strikeforce Raptor arrested a 39-year-old man in Fairway Dr, Norwest at 2am on Tuesday, February 8th.

The Norwest resident was wanted on an arrest warrant issued in Queensland, relating to a murder in 2009. The 39-year-old man was bail-refused at Parramatta Local Court, to be extradited to Queensland.

He was one of three men that Queensland police want to interview in connection with the murder of 32-year-old Omega Ruston on the Gold Coast in 2009.

A second man was arrested by Police's Raptor Highway Patrol after he was stopped in a black Toyota Hilux travelling on the M4 at Huntingwood.

Australian Federal Police (AFP) arrested a 43-year-old man who attempted to board a plane to Dubai, United Arab Emirates on February 7th.

TOP COP

At about 12:45pm on Tuesday, February 8th, the Commander of The Hills PAC Supt Darrin Batchelor sighted a male riding an unregistered trail-bike on the Great Western Highway near Marsden St, Parramatta.

He signalled for the rider to stop, however the rider took off. A short pursuit occurred before being terminated. The rider, an 18-year-old male from Northmead, was found a short time later on the nature strip after coming off the trail bike in Whitworth St, Westmead..

Supt Batchelor arrested the 18-year-old after a short struggle, with the assistance of a member of the community from a nearby house who heard the siren.

The rider was taken to Parramatta Police Station and charged with several offences. He was granted conditional bail to appear before Parramatta Local Court.

STREET RACING CHARGES

Two teenagers have been charged with street racing offences after being spotted by police on Windsor Rd, Kellyville.

Officers attached to The Hills Traffic and Highway Patrol Command were conducting stationary speed enforcement on Windsor Rd at about 10pm on Saturday, February 5th when they detected a Hyundai Tucson and a Volkswagen Golf heading west, allegedly travelling at 142km/h in a 60km/h zone.

They say both vehicles were travelling side by side. Police stopped the Hyundai on Wrights Road, before the Volkswagen left the scene.

The 17-year-old male driver of the Hyundai was issued with a Court Attendance Notice for class A motor vehicle exceed speed over 45km/h – lidar, drive recklessly/furiously or speed/manner dangerous and street racing, organise, promote race between vehicles.

His licence was immediately suspended.

A short time later, police attended a home on Shuttle Parade at Schofields, and spoke to an 18-year-old man, the alleged driver of the Volkswagen. He was issued with a Court Attendance Notice charged with class A motor vehicle exceed speed over 45km/h – lidar, drive recklessly/furiously or speed/manner dangerous and street racing, organise, promote race between vehicles.

His licence was immediately suspended, and his registration plates were seized for a period of three months. Both drivers are due to appear before a children's court and Parramatta Local Court on Wednesday, March 30th.



In a life threatening emergency dial 000

DROWNING TRAGEDY By BEV JORDAN

Community support has wrapped around a student nurse who lost her 10-year-old son Mahan and her husband Peter during the last day of the school holidays.

The Hills family had travelled to Little Bay for a day at the beach when a freak wave swept Peter and his son off the rock where they were fishing on January 31st.

Emergency services were alerted just after 3pm. Sara watched helplessly as rescue efforts were launched to save her family.

Her husband was pulled from the water by Surf Lifesavers and his son was winched from the water by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Paramedics performed CPR; however, both died at the scene. It is believed the father had dived in to save his son when he fell from the rocks. A report is being prepared for the coroner.

A Go Fund Me page launched by Hills Family Funerals raised over \$10,800 in five days. Organiser Brianna Pincott said it was a wonderful response from the community.

On the Go Fund page she said the mum would now have to cease her studies training as a Registered Nurse to find a job as her husband was the sole breadwinner.

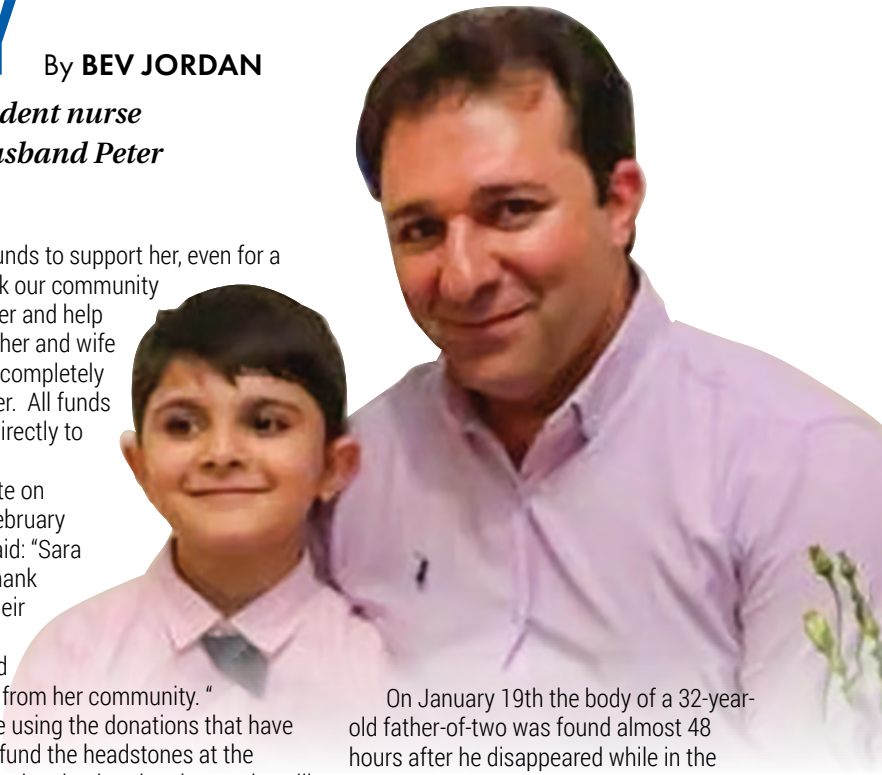
"Her whole world has changed, and it is unimaginable for us to comprehend. We are setting this fundraiser up to be able to provide the mother with assistance and assurance that

she will have funds to support her, even for a little bit. We ask our community to band together and help assist this mother and wife whose life has completely changed forever. All funds raised will go directly to the family."

In an update on Wednesday (February 9th) Brianna said: "Sara would like to thank everyone for their donations. She is overwhelmed by the support from her community."

Sara will be using the donations that have been raised to fund the headstones at the cemetery for her late husband and son, who will be laid to rest this week.

The Go Fund Me page for Peter and Mahan can be found at [gofundme.com search for Assistance for the family of the Little Bay tragedy](https://gofundme.com/search/assistance-for-the-family-of-the-little-bay-tragedy). Police are urging people, no matter how good a swimmer they are, to wear a life jacket when on or in the water.



On January 19th the body of a 32-year-old father-of-two was found almost 48 hours after he disappeared while in the Hawkesbury River at Laughtondale, near Wisemans Ferry.

The man and his family and friends were on a house boat when the men and two children decided to use the tender, on approaching the rear of the house boat the 32-year-old dived from the tender to swim a short distance to the house boat.

HAVE YOUR SAY on our WASTE SERVICES



Talking about waste is never a waste of time!
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The waste services that Council provides to the community are essential services and it is an important issue for our community members. We are seeking your feedback to assist with Council's decision-making in relation to new waste services contracts and the development of a long-term Waste Strategy.

With Council's current waste services contracts expiring in 2023 and Council's landfill reaching capacity within the next four years, it is vital for Council to determine the type of waste services that should be provided to the community into the future. Council wants to provide waste services that meet our community's needs and expectations, while ensuring the waste services are reliable, affordable and sustainable.

We are doing a survey on Council's waste services – we want to hear from you. Head to the survey link below or scan the QR code.



yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/wss

This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, funded from the waste levy.





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CHRG HELPING LITTLE HEARTS DURING FEBRUARY



For the entire month of February, CHRG across all of its venues (Castle Hill RSL Club, Club Parramatta, Lynwood Golf and Country Club and Castle Hill Fitness and Aquatic Centre) will be raising awareness and collecting donations for HeartKids.

HeartKids is the only national not-for-profit organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for all people impacted by Congenital or Childhood-Acquired Heart Disease (CHD) – one of the largest causes of infant death in Australia. HeartKids offers support to ‘heart families’ on multiple levels – providing care-bags with essential items for a hospital stay, financial assistance, parent education and community support pathways.

CHRG has a very special reason for jumping onboard to help raise awareness and donations for HeartKids, with CHRG’s General Manager of Lynwood Golf and Country Club, Matt Bailey, and his family having gone through their own ‘heart journey’ with their beautiful daughter Harriet. Soon after Harriet was born in August 2020, she was diagnosed with several major heart defects, and at just 8 days old, Harriet underwent major heart surgery and HeartKids were there every step of the way to give much-needed support to the Bailey family.

Mr David O’Neil, Group CEO of CHRG, said “We are in a fortunate position to be able to be support this wonderful organisation who supported one of our very own CHRG families during their time of need.”

Mr O’Neil added “As a father myself, I can only imagine how confronting and frightening it would be to hear that your newborn baby needs to undergo major heart surgery. I’m thankful that HeartKids was there to provide expert support for Matt and his family, not only during that difficult time – but I understand they still support the Bailey family to this day.”

State Manager of HeartKids, Mrs. Janyne Hogan, said “Every day in Australia, eight babies are born with a form of congenital heart disease – that’s one family every three hours whose life changes in a heartbeat.

“As we strive to increase community awareness of HeartKids, and its services available to families impacted by congenital heart disease in the local community, we are delighted to be partnering with CHRG this February, and beyond into 2022.” Mrs Hogan added.

To help HeartKids raise awareness and funds, CHRG is encouraging their staff, members and the local community to come together and join them by being ‘Sweet Hearts’ and make a donation to their HeartKids via wishing wells in each of their Clubs throughout February.

Not only does CHRG have HeartKids bracelets available for \$5ea, but they are also collecting donations of new and packaged toiletry items and children’s activity packs for HeartKids to add to their ‘Heart Bags’, which are full of every-day essential items to help support parents and children during their hospital stay.

If you would like more information on how you can make a donation, please contact bradenk@chrg.com.au or pop into one of CHRG’s venues: www.castlehillrsl.com.au; www.clubparramatta.com.au; www.lynwoodcc.com.au, and www.heartkids.org.au.



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HOW POPPI CHANGED LIZ'S LIFE

By BEV JORDAN

Poppi the Guide Dog has won the PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS in the 2202 Australian Dog of the Year run by the website Puppy Tales.

Liz from North Parramatta said Poppi has transformed her life. She was just 18 when she was diagnosed with the rare disorder *retinitis pigmentosa* (a loss and breakdown of cells in the retina) meaning she was progressively losing her sight.

By the age of 26 Liz was legally blind as her vision narrowed and by the time she was 33 she was, as she describes it, "in big trouble".

She had been working at a senior government level and was using visual aids but says the effort was so exhausting that she was sleeping when she got home and sleeping through the weekends.

She had to give up work and had lost her confidence.

"I had been in denial for some time and my father and husband had to intervene and say you are going blind and you need to contact Guide Dogs. Before I got Poppi I didn't leave home for two years. She has transformed my life."

In May Liz will graduate from the Australian College of Applied Psychology. Up until COVID struck, Liz and Poppi were catching a bus and two trains to get to College.

"It was hard to be scared to leave my front door when Poppi was so excited to go," she says. "I was able to catch trains, find class rooms, and feel safe to study. Poppi attended all the classes and co-counselled during placement. She's a brilliant counsellor who has brought comfort to many."

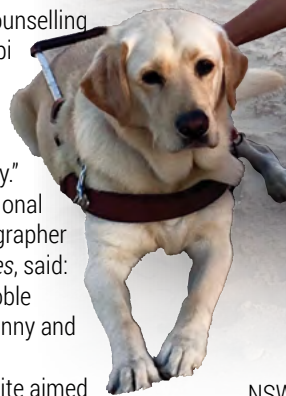
She completed her counselling degree at home with Poppi at her side.

"Poppi has made the ordinary for me not only possible, but extraordinary."

Kerry Martin, international award-winning pet photographer and founder of *Puppy Tales*, said: "Reading the entries of noble dogs has been moving, funny and always endearing."

Puppy Tales is a website aimed at helping pet owners make the most of life with their fur family.

You can read all the finalists' full entries here puppytales.com.au/australian-dog-of-year-finalists-peoples-choice/.



Liz and Poppi when Liz was a bridesmaid at her brother's wedding.

Liz has donated her prize to Guide Dogs NSW/ACT. It takes over two years and costs \$50,000 to breed, raise and train each Guide Dog. Like all of the organisation's services, Guide Dogs are provided at no cost to those who need them. For more information visit nsw.guidedogs.com.au

HAWKESBURY DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICE WELCOMES MEDICAL INTERN CLASS OF 2022

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP today welcomed the appointment of four new interns to the Hawkesbury District Health Service. JASVEEN, MEGHNA, QUEENIE and MEENA began their internship today at the hospital.

This year, 1,073 new medical interns are joining the NSW Health system - a record number of new starters and the most of any state or territory in Australia. Ms Preston said the new interns would boost the local health workforce at a pivotal time in the ongoing COVID-19 response.

"Our community owes a huge debt of gratitude to our local health teams who have worked around the clock to keep us safe, especially over the past two years," Ms Preston said. "I am incredibly pleased that these new interns have the opportunity to learn from the worldclass doctors at Hawkesbury District Health Service and play a significant role in navigating the challenges of this unprecedented, world-wide pandemic."

Interns are medical graduates who have completed their medical degree and are required to complete a supervised year of practice in order to become independent practitioners.

The new doctors will be entering a training program with networked hospitals throughout the state, providing formal and on the job training. They receive two-year contracts to rotate between metropolitan, regional and rural hospitals to ensure the diversity of their experience. They also join different units in each hospital, including surgery and emergency medicine.

In the largest ever health workforce boost in the state, the NSW Government has invested a record \$2.8 billion to recruit an additional 1,060 doctors, 5,000 nurses, 880 allied health staff and 1,360 hospital support staff over a four year period.

More information on the recruitment of Junior Medical Officers can be found here: www.health.nsw.gov.au/jmo/Pages/default.aspx

MOVE MOULD FAST WITH AN AUSSIES MOULD SOLUTION



Recent deluges and humid conditions have left homeowners with unwelcome and potentially hazardous mould infestations. High pressure washers are effective at cleaning slippery mould from paths and driveways, preventing injuries from falls.

Local company Aussie Pumps has seen a trend away from 'Big Box' store pressure cleaners with Australian buyers now realising they deserve something better. After using an Aussie Black Box electric pressure cleaner, one customer Ralph Laka summed up his frustration.

"With lots of rain, we are constantly having to gurney everything. I have a couple of other HP cleaners which don't even come close !! With the turbo head it cut my cleaning time in half with no streaks. It's quieter and cleans so much better!!" said Laka.

Aussie developed the 'Black Box' heavy duty slow speed pressure washer for those who regularly have to clean large areas. It delivers a whopping 1800 psi at 8 lpm. Best of all, it comes with a free Turbo-lance, heavy duty professional hose and is equipped with detergent injector as part of the package. At 30 kilos you are get a lot of machine for the money!

For more info contact aussiepumps.com.au

Fizz with her nine puppies
Photo by Leah Willett



HELPING GUIDE DOGS GROW

By BEV JORDAN

If you love dogs and puppies this could be the volunteer role of a lifetime. Volunteers are needed in the Hills to Hawkesbury area to help bring the next generation of Guide Dog puppies into the world.

Veterinary and Breeding Manager Dr Caroline Moeser from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT said its Home Whelping and Puppy Rearing Program is a great success but more volunteers, who live less than an hour away from The Guide Dogs Centre in Glossodia, are needed

"It is so much better for the mums and pups to be cared for in a home environment, they are so relaxed," said Dr Moeser.

The volunteer carers' role includes home whelping and rearing of the puppies until they are six weeks of age when they will return to the Guide Dogs Centre for two weeks before going to their Puppy Raising families. Breeding dogs can be in the program for up to four years and then stay with the family.

Samantha and Christian Whitelock have been part of the guide dog volunteer program since 2013 and while they started out as puppy raisers they are now volunteers with the Home Whelping and Puppy Rearing Program.

"Being puppy raisers was amazing, but watching our children grow attached only to say goodbye 12 months later was taking its toll," they said. "At the graduation ceremony of our second puppy, Beau, we were approached by the breeding program and told about Bridie.

A quiet black fully mature Lab with a belly full of puppies. We were ready for something different so we said YES!

"Bridie was the definition of the term "Good Girl". Very sweet, soft and low maintenance.

She's since retired and lives with us full time and now acts as "Auntie" to our new breeding dog, and her best friend "Fizz's" pups every year.

"Fizz is currently nursing nine gorgeous puppies (eight boys and one girl) who are starting to open their eyes and interact with the world around them.

"What we love about volunteering as a whelping family is obviously the puppy love that surrounds us.

"Our three children have had front row access to unprecedented experiences such as live births, first weeks of an adorable Lab puppy, helping with the weighing process, pats, handling and feeding duties. It's truly an enriching and rewarding experience".

Dr Moeser said full training and support is provided to volunteers and staff visit regularly to help with weighing, worming.

"The mum and puppies need a nice warm place to sleep that will be in a central place inside the house so they can be around all the normal noises of family life and have lots of interaction with people," she said.

"We are looking for people that are home most of the time and have a fenced yard, who are interested in putting effort and love into the most formative weeks of a puppy's life, as well as caring for beautiful mums."

The program has been running since 2017 with around 30 Guide Dog litters born each year.

To find out more email Leah Willett at LWillett@guidedogs.com.au



The Whitelock family surrounded by puppy love

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FIRST FEMALE DUTY SOLICITOR FOR WINDSOR COURT IN 200 YEARS

BY TONY BOSWORTH | EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

Yes, it's been a while – after all Windsor Court has been in the same place since 1821, just over 200 years – but at long last our local court has a female duty solicitor, with Tracey Cornwall taking her place at the local court.

Ms Cornwall is a true Hawkesbury local who went to Richmond High where she completed her Year 12 certificate, before joining the office of Director of Public Prosecutions, where she gained her law degree and then went on to hold posts as a solicitor prosecutor, and the Administrative Manager, during over 28 years service.

Her family goes back a long way here, she believes they came over on the third fleet, and they are well known in our region.

When Ms Cornwall got the chance to purchase Aaron's Legal business in Richmond she left the DPP service, and has been running the practice for the last three and a half years.

Not long ago she decided she'd like to become a duty solicitor to help those who often cannot afford a solicitor.

"I approached [leading local solicitor] Rod Storie and I suppose you could say I hounded him," she laughs.

Mr Storie is President of the Nepean Hawkesbury Regional Law Society and after

discussing Ms Cornwall's request with other duty solicitors they welcomed her aboard.

The duty solicitor scheme is a service that brings in private lawyers in local court criminal duty matters on behalf of Legal Aid New South Wales. It provides a free duty solicitor service in Windsor Court to ensure disadvantaged people are not denied access to justice.

Ms Cornwall says she's already found being a woman in the legal ranks at Windsor has been welcomed.

"I had my first appearance last week and I found at Childrens' Court a lot of the time kids come with their mum and many just seem to relate to another female. I think they are happy I'm here. I've only been out of prosecuting for three years but I have found I'm getting more from defending, I really get something from it, and making connections with people. I also bring confidence to the role because I've a full understanding of both sides, the prosecution and defence, and because I grew up in the Hawkesbury, had my kids here too, and I know a lot of people in the community, so that works as well too. The other day there was a client I'd played soccer with years ago and when she saw me she straightaway said, I'm glad you're here."



So, while it may have taken 200 years to get the first female duty solicitor at Windsor Court, it's clear Ms Cornwall is already being welcomed with open arms.

Aaron Legal handles conveyancing, family law, general law, and criminal law matters and is at 1/296 Windsor Street, Richmond. Tel: 4578 7344.

You can read more Hawkesbury news at Hawkesbury Post www.hawkesburypost.com.au or facebook.com/hawkesburypost.

THE HILLS FRIENDSHIP CLUB

"The Hills Friendship Club is looking for new members to join our friendly, mature, mixed social group which meets for morning tea on the second Tuesday of each month at Wesley Uniting Church, Showground Road, Castle Hill from 11.00am. Our Club enjoys day outings, short tours and a bus trip every third Wednesday to places in Sydney and its surrounds."

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POISONOUS CANE TOAD CAPTURED IN THE HAWKESBURY

BY TONY BOSWORTH | EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST



Yes, they're here, all the way from Queensland, and locals are being asked to look out for poisonous cane toads after an off-duty Local Land Services officer spotted and captured one at Windsor Downs.

Only two weeks ago we put up a story warning cane toads had got as far as Penrith, but now it's the Hawkesbury's turn to keep a really close eye out after the pregnant female toad was captured. There are now two confirmed cases in the Windsor Downs area, which is worrying news for people, pets and local wildlife because the frogs can kill wildlife or injure people with their poisonous toxins.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) and NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) are working to respond to multiple reports of cane toads crossing the NSW border from Queensland.

Late last week, an off-duty GSLLS officer captured a suspected toad while visiting a relative in Windsor Downs. A local veterinarian carried out an autopsy and confirmed it to be a breeding age female cane toad full of eggs. GSLLS Biosecurity Team Leader, Anthony Schofield, said the sighting comes after another report of a cane toad in the area in the weeks prior.

"This adds the Hawkesbury area to the suburbs of concern which already includes Narrabeen, Kenthurst, Penrith, Caringbah and Campbelltown," he said. "Toads can look similar to some breeds of native frogs so if you think you've found one, please don't harm it," he said. "It's also important to watch out for poison. Cane toads can ooze poison from glands behind the head when stressed so it's important to handle them safely at all times."

Mr Schofield said if residents thought they had seen a cane toad, they should try to catch it wearing gloves and protective glasses. There had been an increase in sightings with most cases arriving in plant shipments from Queensland.

"Cane toads pose a serious biosecurity threat to NSW and indeed Australia. Despite some close calls over the years we have been successful in keeping them from establishing in Sydney and we need the community's help to keep it that way. Everyone can help by reporting any sightings to NSW DPI through its exotic pest helpline," he said.

Cane toads pose a serious biosecurity threat in Australia and are considered a pest because they:

- poison pets and injure humans with their toxins
- poison many native animals whose diet includes frogs, tadpoles and frogs' eggs • eat large numbers of honeybees, creating a management problem for beekeepers
- prey on small native animals
- compete for food with vertebrate insectivores such as small birds and skinks
- may carry diseases that are can be transmitted to native frogs and fishes.

Anyone coming from cane toad infested areas such as Queensland or the Northern Territory is being asked to check their luggage, vehicle, or trailer to ensure they are not bringing a cane toad into NSW.

A suspected cane toad should be immediately reported to NSW DPI Biosecurity through its helpline on 1800 680 244, by completing the online form, or emailing a photo of the face and details to invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au. Visit the NSW DPI website for more information.

You can read more Hawkesbury news at Hawkesbury Post www.hawkesburypost.com.au or facebook.com/hawkesburypost.

LIFELINE TEXT SERVICE

Lifeline has launched a 24/7 crisis text service to expand its support for Australians struggling with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Service is now available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via confidential text message to 0477 13 11 14.

Following a few questions via text, people are connected to a trained Lifeline crisis supporter.

The 24-hour Lifeline crisis text service is being supported with \$1.5 million in Federal Government funding.

A growing number of people are reaching out to Lifeline's crisis support and suicide prevention services with a record number of calls _ 3700 in one day last month.

In 2021 Lifeline received a record 1,070,860 calls from Australians in crisis and managed to increase its average call answer rate to

90.4%. In the same time period, the service also responded to 51,265 text conversations.

Federal Member for Mitchell, Alex Hawke MP, said Lifeline's 24/7 text service is an important expansion of the vital service the charity provides in crisis support and suicide prevention.

"The expansion of the text service is backed by data showing that it is the preferred channel for high risk members of the community including young people, those experiencing family and domestic violence, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

Lifeline's 13 11 14 crisis support service is available 24/7. Australians can speak to a trained crisis supporter any time of the day or night.

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To access our under cover street level car park, you **MUST turn into Jersey St Nth from Bridge Road**, then left into the car park entrance at the end of the building. Easy access to the showroom and wheel chair accessible toilet.



HIGH-RISE MUST ACHIEVE HIGH STANDARDS

Mayor of the Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi, has responded to The Urban Taskforce's research paper, 'Standing Tall', with a call to improve standards within the construction and approvals process for apartment buildings.

The paper, that compares the carbon footprint per dwelling of both the construction and operation of a range of building types, suggests high-rise apartment buildings are the most sustainable outcome for the environment and the preferred option for people looking to reduce their environmental impact.

"Residents have told us, through our Hills Future consultation process, that they want a range of housing options from homes that provide a good quality of life for families to apartments allowing a range of price points within The Hills," Mayor Gangemi said. "Council's own housing diversity provisions create these opportunities, however around multi-level buildings a community must be created and how that might be achieved needs careful consideration."

Mayor Gangemi said the more urgent issue around apartments was the need to address better independent oversight of the approval and construction processes, and implementation of more appropriate penalties for poorly built buildings.

"It will take more than a favourable carbon footprint to restore a shaken confidence in homeowners to buy a unit off the plan, given the examples we have seen of poor workmanship and dashed hopes and dreams," he said. "The sector must do better to win back trust and confidence if it's going to appropriately play its role in Sydney's future housing provision."

"Councils have been sidelined from their traditional role in building construction approval and certification and, like unsuspecting homeowners, we are often left with the financial impact of poor outcomes to clean up," he said.

"Reducing the carbon footprint of homes is highly desirable, but it must be accompanied by transformation in the independent construction and approvals industry."

FUNDING BOOST WELCOMED

The Freemans Reach School of Arts hall Member will be getting some tender loving care thanks to a \$110,681 boost from the State Government for maintenance and improvements work.

Hawkesbury MP Robyn Preston said the funding is being provided by the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) program.

She said works will include the construction of a retaining wall, repairs to the iron wall, fencing, new pathways, painting, tree pruning and the installation of a fire hydrant.

The Mechanics Institute was granted land, locally known as Freemans Land, by the Department of Lands for the Freemans Reach School of Arts building which was largely built by volunteer labour and was opened on April 11th 1901.

Over the decades the Freemans Reach School of Arts hall has been hired by families holding parties for WW1 and WW2 soldiers who were farewelled by family before going to war. Weddings, christenings, birthday parties, church bazaars, presentation nights have all been held for locals. It has been a school room and much more.

Ms Preston said: "I'd like to congratulate Glenda Chapman for submitting the application for this grant. Maintaining and enhancing our Crown reserves means residents have access to quality spaces for sports and fitness, or to just relax, rejuvenate and to get in touch with nature and each other."

Hawkesbury River County Council will also receive CRIS funding of \$12,250 for the harvesting of aquatic weeds from the nearby Nepean River.



Glenda Chapman and Robyn Preston MP at The Freemans Reach School of Arts

FOREST PROTEST

Continued from page 03

reduced to 418 (252 units in four apartment buildings and 166 houses).

Toby Long, Mirvac General Manager, Residential NSW said the company was working with Hills Shire Council to satisfy pre-commencement conditions and would not start work until conditions had been met.

"Demolition works are expected to take approximately eight months to complete. They will be undertaken by a specialist contractor, managed by our project team and guided by expert consultants, under strict controls in accordance with all relevant approvals and the conditions set out in the approved

Fauna Management Plan. We are working to minimise disruption of site works in accordance with the detailed conditions of approval and we are keeping local residents regularly updated on our program as it progresses."

To read about the Hills Planning Panel Decision visit this link hillstohawkesbury.com.au/ibm-demolition-to-go-ahead/

Read about the re-zoning in June last year via this link hillstohawkesbury.com.au/ibm-rezoning-approved/



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COME AND CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA IN 2022!

Clean Up Australia Day is on Sunday, 6 March 2022. It is a great day for families in the Hawkesbury and Hill's communities and you can give your support.

"Each year residents have continued to show they are committed to Clean Up Australia Day and a litter-free environment. Over 35,000 kilograms of litter has been collected from various sites across the Hawkesbury in the last five years of running Clean Up Australia Day

events," the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly said.

Along with the usual takeaway coffee cups and food packaging, COVID-19 has introduced more rubbish with non-recyclable face masks, gloves and sanitised wipes to pollute the



local parks, bushland, streets, waterways and beaches.

It is a great cause for schools to participate in 'Schools Clean Up Day' on Friday, 4 March. This is a great way to inspire students to learn about the impact of rubbish on their local environment while playing an active role in their community. Students and teachers work together to clean up an area which is special to them, such as the school playground, a local park, or bushland near a school. Clean Up Australia provides free lesson plans for both primary and high school students. Go to www.cleanup.org.au/schools for more information.

Businesses are able to get involved by registering for a 'Business Clean Up Day' on Tuesday, 1 March and by taking action to recycle items commonly found in offices and work sites, including disposable face masks and gloves.

Clean Up Australia Ltd. will provide COVID-safe Clean Up kits that include gloves, bags and hand sanitiser, and site supervisors will have the QR Code so that volunteers can scan to sign-in to the site on the day to help with contact tracing. Volunteers will also be split into groups to adhere with social distancing protocols. The Clean Up Australia Day organisers will be able to postpone your activity if COVID-Safe requirements change. The health and safety of all volunteers, and the wider community, is of paramount importance. To get all the details on Clean Up Australia Day, register now at www.cleanup.org.au



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HILLS GRAMMAR WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL



Hills Grammar, celebrating 40 years as the leading independent co-educational school in the Hills District, is delighted to appoint its first female Principal, MRS KAREN YAGER.

Mrs Yager joins the School with more than 26 years' experience in education, including, most recently, as Deputy Headmaster K-12, at Knox Grammar. A progressive and creative leader, Mrs Yager said "I am looking forward to building on the values and legacy of the Hills Grammar principals who have come before me. The School's unique culture and focus on nurturing their Hills Originals attracted me to the position.

I really enjoy working with students to prepare them for life beyond the school gates. As educators it is one of our great joys to nurture the passion, knowledge, and skills of young people, to give them the confidence to achieve their unique potential.

I am looking forward to working in a co-educational environment where I am committed to empowering our young men and women to take their place in the world with courage, confidence and conviction and

the ability and will to positively influence their own lives and the world around them.

Young people need to experience a well-rounded education where the uniqueness of every student is valued. Students should be inspired in a safe and supportive environment to grow their potential to the best of their ability and thrive academically, socially, emotionally and physically."

Hills Grammar was founded in 1982, with the vision of creating an independent grammar school based on the ideals of academic excellence within a co-educational setting, without religious bias. Since its foundation, the School has grown to over 950 students Kindergarten to Year 12, with a highly regarded 79 place Early Childhood Centre.

"At 40 years young, Hills Grammar is agile enough to innovate and develop our offering, but old enough to know who we are and to maintain the essential elements of our culture. I am delighted to be joining at this exciting time" said Mrs Yager.

CREATIVE CRESTWOOD DUO WIN BRIGHT AWARDS

Talented students Samuel Orrego and Celine Hernandez, both from Crestwood High at Baulkham Hills, have won a major design award courtesy of Billy Blue College of Design at Torrens University Australia.

The Bright Awards are open to students in Year 10, 11 and 12 and recognise up-and-coming designers and support the future of the arts in high schools across Australia.

Prizes in the 2021 competition were awarded in eight categories with Samuel taking out the top award for 3D Animation and Celine the award for UX and Web Design. Other categories were: Graphic Design, Games, Film and Video, Fashion Design, Photography and Interior Design.

The winners received a cash prize of \$1000 to continue pursuing their creative careers and their school received \$3000 to continue providing an environment for emerging talent to exercise their skills in design and creative technology _ a double win for Crestwood High. Both were taught by Joel Palmer.

Samuel Orrego's 3D animation called TimeScope shows an animated figure walking through various complex backdrops. He said: "Winning the Bright Award 2021 for 3D

animation has been an amazing experience. It feels great to know that my work on this project has gone recognised and appreciated. I can ensure that this achievement will motivate me to continue making more works in the future."

Celine Hernandez developed a gymnastics app to help children on the autism spectrum who wanted to do gymnastics at home. She said: "After two long senior years in and out of lockdowns, it feels incredibly amazing that all my hard work through it has been worthwhile.

"It was a long, challenging but incredibly fulfilling project that I am exceedingly proud of and I feel is an accurate representation of the work I put in to build my skills across many creative platforms and my passion for not only gymnastics and teaching, but content creation. Winning this award is profoundly rewarding and motivating for future endeavors."

The Fashion Award was won by Tahlia Lee from Mount St Benedict College at Pennant Hills who said: "Winning this award was an



Celine Hernandez created a special app called Leap Frog Gymnastics



Snippets from Samuel Orrego's 3D TimeScope animation

unexpected but exhilarating surprise after a lengthy HSC year, giving me increased confidence in my own work as I move into tertiary studies."

To find out more about the winners visit www.torrens.edu.au and search for Bright Awards.



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SMALL GROUPS MAKING A BIG IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

This year William Clarke College, a P-12, Anglican School in the Hills District, has welcomed nine full-time Literacy and Numeracy specialists following the ongoing success of its small group approach to learning in the Primary School.

Geoff McGowan, Director of Teaching and Learning for Primary School, said in addition to a main classroom teacher, the College had strategically invested in the extra teaching staff to allow Primary students to continue to benefit from working in small groups in the key areas of literacy and numeracy.

"Since we implemented the small group approach, we have seen a profound effect on student learning," Mr McGowan said.

"It allows us to provide targeted instruction, enhance student engagement, promptly identify gaps in knowledge, foster meaningful relationships and monitor student progress."

The College's recent Primary School NAPLAN results were the latest example of the positive impact that the Primary School's small group approach is having on student progress.

The Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN tests saw students undertake five subtests in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy.

"Of the ten subtests in Year 3 and Year 5, the Primary School achieved its highest ever average results in 8 of the 10 tests, with the College also achieving higher averages than similar schools in each one of the tested domains," Mr McGowan said.

"In addition, our average results for Year 3 in Reading, Writing and Grammar & Punctuation were at, or closely similar to, the Year 5 state averages and over 50% of our Year 5 students achieved above the Year 7 state average in Reading, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation.

"We are very proud of our extraordinary learners and congratulate students and teachers on their

hard work and dedication. These results are just one indicator of success in a wider trend of excellent internal and external test results since the College implemented its small group approach to learning."

To find out more about William Clarke College's small group approach for Primary School visit wcc.nsw.edu.au





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Visit our website to hear a message from the College Headmaster, Dr Scott Marsh, and to explore our College facilities by viewing our Campus Tour at wcc.nsw.edu.au

P-12 | Co-educational | Hills District

TAFE NSW TRAINEESHIPS HELP BOOST CRITICAL AGED CARE WORKFORCE

TAFE NSW is partnering with major aged care providers in Western Sydney to train a new generation of workers amid a huge demand for skilled staff in within the sector.

In mid-2021, a report by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia found that a staggering 400,000 new workers would be needed by 2050 to meet the demand for aged care services.

For those contemplating a new career or lifestyle change, an aged care traineeship can offer a pathway into full-time employment in just 12 months with the completion of a nationally recognised Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing) with TAFE NSW.

Paul Sadler, CEO of peak industry body ACSA (Aged & Community Services Australia) said many services are currently struggling to employ the workers they need to take on new clients.

"Australia's aged care workforce is reaching a crisis point and this has been made substantially worse by the COVID-19 pandemic," Mr Sadler said. "Vocational education will play an essential role in addressing this acute workforce shortage, and TAFE NSW is at the forefront of providing the practical skills new workers need to care for older Australians."

Major aged care providers such as BaptistCare are now offering traineeships in

partnership with TAFE NSW across their state-wide operations in a bid to attract more staff.

"The message is simple: we need new workers and we are happy to train you," BaptistCare Senior Learning and Development Consultant Kerry Martin said.

"Traineeships in residential aged care and home care are ideal because new workers can start immediately and undertake on-the-job training while completing their studies at TAFE NSW. Our trainees have the security of knowing they will graduate as qualified care workers with a guaranteed job. We encourage anyone with a caring nature to think seriously about a career in aged care."

BaptistCare trainee Rachel Murphy from St Helens Park works at South West Sydney Home Services. The 43-year-old said the traineeship gave her the flexibility to upskill professionally around her family commitments.

"I've been working in aged for some time and I wanted to get a qualification. I have a family and a house, so being able to work and study at the same time was important for me," Rachel said. "Doing a traineeship, you're able to put



into practise what you're learning at TAFE NSW. I need to be doing the practical task to learn it correctly, so on-the-job learning suits me and is far more beneficial than sitting in a classroom."

TAFE NSW aged care teacher Tanya Ziermann said the sector offered the rare combination of job satisfaction and security.

"It's a wonderful profession for compassionate people who want a new start or a career in which there is more flexibility to choose your hours," Ms Ziermann said.

"When you work in aged care you are making a real difference by helping someone retain dignity as they age. It's very rewarding to help care for someone in those years and it is definitely more than just a job."

Explore hundreds of courses in aged care and other health-related industries at TAFE NSW. For more information visit www.tafensw.edu.au or phone 131 601.

STITCHING UP A SURGICAL CAREER THANKS TO TAFE NSW

With HSC results now released, a TAFE NSW graduate is urging young people to consider an alternate path to their dream career if they don't get the ATAR they were hoping for.

According to a report by the National Skills Commission[1], people with post school qualifications generally have better employment outcomes than those who have not completed further education after leaving school.

In 2019, the median weekly earnings for an employee with a certificate III or IV was \$1150 while the medium weekly earnings for an employee with no post-school qualification was \$820.

Parramatta local Frederick Webb left school at the end of year 10 and was unsure what career he should pursue. After completing a medical administration traineeship at a general practice in the Hawkesbury and working there for a year, Frederick decided he wanted to pursue a full-time career in medicine.

"I needed a way to get into the university system, and, having no desire to return to school, I looked for alternatives. TAFE offered both the HSC and the Tertiary Preparation

Certificate (TPC) at the time," Frederick said.

"I contemplated both, but the TPC curriculum was better suited to my interests and could be completed in one year, so that is the course I decided to take. The adult learning environment worked well for me, and the way the timetable structure allowed for me to work part-time."

TAFE NSW offers two ways to complete a Year 12 equivalent. The HSC at TAFE NSW can be undertaken at any time as an alternative to the HSC at school. The course takes place over two years and students graduate with an ATAR.

The TPC is aimed at providing students of all ages with an alternate option for completing year 12 and gaining a recognised Tertiary Entry Score accepted by the University Admissions Centre. Graduates can go on to pursue higher education, enter the defence force or pursue further vocational education and training.

TAFE NSW Educational Pathways teacher Elizabeth Fischer said the TPC is first and foremost an academic course, teaching students how to learn, how to reason and how to research, in preparation for further tertiary or university studies.

"The TPC is perfect for anyone who had an incomplete schooling experience, or wants to further their tertiary education or employment prospects," Ms Fischer said.

"The TPC not only gives students practical skills in researching and writing essays, and a recognised Tertiary Entry Score, it gives them increased confidence in their abilities and sets up a strong educational foundation that will serve them for the rest of their lives."

The Tertiary Entrance Score Frederick received upon completion of the TPC allowed him to commence a bachelor of medical sonography and he has now transferred to the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at Western Sydney University.

"If all goes to plan, I should graduate at the end of 2022," Frederick said. "The best part about studying at TAFE NSW was the community - not only the other students, but the facilitators and support staff as well. I made many friends very quickly, some of whom I am still in contact with now several years down the track. The facilitators were incredibly passionate and patient and went out of their way to provide any extra help I needed to understand the concepts taught in class".

To learn more about Tertiary Preparation Study and employability pathways available at TAFE NSW head to www.tafensw.edu.au or phone 131 601.

The Hills Shire Council News

Rose Garden renewal – February update

The Roxborough Park Rose Garden upgrade at Alfred Henry Whaling Memorial Reserve is now underway. Work is expected to be finished by August to coincide with celebrations of the garden's 50th anniversary in September 2022.

Once complete, the Rose Garden will be transformed with a new garden arbour for climbing rose varieties, refreshed garden beds, improved staircase, refurbished pathways and upgraded irrigation systems.

The initial stage involved removing impacted roses from temporary beds at the Mileham Road end of the garden and repotting them, tagged with coloured ribbons that reflect their location in new garden beds. They are currently being irrigated until they can be replanted. Rock edging is currently being removed.

Next steps will involve excavation work, pathway renewal and rose transplantation. For more information, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Rose garden refurbishment.'



Expressions of Interest – Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)

At its meeting on 8 February 2022, Council resolved to establish an Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).

The ARIC will monitor and provide oversight of the adequacy and effectiveness of The Hills Shire Council's risk management, internal control, internal and external audit, financial management and compliance functions under a Charter.

The committee will consist of three Councillors and three external independent members.

Council is seeking applications from suitably qualified individuals interested in appointment as independent members of the ARIC. For an information pack on the role and how to apply, please email fcoad@thehills.nsw.gov.au.



Metro Walk – Convicts and Creeklines Walk

You don't have to leave The Hills to discover hidden gems, wonderful scenery and native wildlife – get to know more about Norwest, Bella Vista and Kellyville/Rouse Hill on The Hills Shire's newest Metro walks.

The Convicts and Creeklines Walk leads you through a number of significant historical areas that were part of the Castle Hill Government Farm, which was founded in 1801 and was the initial scene of the Vinegar Hill Rebellion.

Much of the original bushland of the Castle Hill District can be seen in Fred Catterson and Cattai Creek Reserves and Castle Hill Showground. This walk features paved paths, bush tracks and fire trails and will take three hours to complete.

To view the self-guided walking map for the Convicts and Creeklines Walk or to view other walks, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Metro Walks.'

Council Meetings

Tuesday, 22 February 2022 – 7pm.
For more information, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for '2022 Meeting Agendas and Minutes.'

Making a Submission to Council?

Any person may make a submission to Council. Submissions which obtain objections must be specific in their content. Council's preferred method of receiving submissions is via Council's website through each exhibition's online submission form. To view current exhibitions, search for 'Have Your Say.'



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THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

ART IN NATURE

Art in Nature fosters young people's connection to nature through art Submissions open Feb 1 – Feb 28



Sisters Grimm, an MBE-awarded and Grammy-nominated creative production company, is inviting young Australians to take part in its latest not-for-profit initiative, Australia Art in Nature.

Australia Art in Nature will showcase artworks of Australian children and youth through an online art gallery and in a brand-new music video that will be created and released on 22 March 2022 for World Water Day.

Art in Nature, which first debuted in United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2021 and amassed more than 3.5 million YouTube views, encourages young people to connect to nature by creating an art piece that represents their experience with nature, whether it be the environment, animals, plants or habitats. A digital photo of every submission is displayed on the specially

created website and one chosen artwork will go on to be the hero image of the project. This and other artworks will also feature in an animated video.

Curated by Sisters Grimm, the music video will feature an animated sequence of chosen artworks and draw inspiration from Australia's natural landscapes. The video will also be accompanied by an original song composed by co-founder of Sisters Grimm, Ella Spira MBE and Australian singer-songwriter Corinne Gibbons. The soundtrack will also feature Aboriginal Elder and activist Oswald "Ossie" Cruse MBE AM.

"The environment is a cause close to our hearts, and Australia is a truly remarkable country when it comes to nature. Engaging children and young adults with nature to help

with mental and physical health through art is important and we are so thrilled to come to Australia and launch our Art in Nature project here", said Sisters Grimm co-founder Pietra Mello-Pittman MBE.

Australian Art in Nature is free to enter and open to all Australians under the age of 18. All submissions will receive a signed certification of participation. Australia Art in Nature has been commissioned by STFC UK/Australia Agroclimate Space Programme. Submissions are now open and close midnight, 28 February 2022 ADST. For more information and to participate in the Australia Art in Nature, visit www.australiaartinature.com. For more information on the global movement, visit artinnatureglobal.com.

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DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW

Artist Marilyn Chappel can't wait to invite people to her gallery next month, The Arthouse Pavilion Gallery at Dural.

After rescheduling due to Covid restrictions she will be hosting the second in the ART.AND series which will take place over two weekends, March 12-13 and March 19-20th.

ART.AND ... 'Discover Something New' will showcase an eclectic collection of paintings, ceramics, photography, textiles, jewellery and sculptures – as well as hand-made and unique collectables in resin, wood, stainless steel and recycled materials.

It brings together 14 contemporary artists from a range of disciplines to celebrate their craft as part of a dual weekend art festival.

Attendees to the free exhibition will discover the beauty of this unique gallery setting and the outdoor exhibits with over a thousand pieces for sale by the artists on the day.

Merilyn says the exhibition will encourage visitors to embark on a personal journey of discovery where they can sign up for a range of art workshops (to be held after the event) to discover art techniques and skills from the artists



exhibiting whose hands paint, hammer, twist, bend, fire, print, and weld.

Attendees can learn to print cyanotypes or to carve a medieval wooden spoon, to hone their photography skills, learn how to hang a collage of paintings – and more.

Tickets are free. The event is a registered COVID-19 safe event.

Visitors will be required to pre-register or register on the day to secure their free ticket to attend, wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing requirements.

The Arthouse Pavilion Gallery is located at 25 Muraban Road, Dural. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance, visit artand.com.au



COMMUNITY MADE ARTWORKS FOR LOCAL BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Three beautiful public art pieces are being commissioned as a memorial to the 2019-2020 bushfires and to honour those who risked so much to keep the Hawkesbury community safe.

Hawkesbury City Council will display the tiles on walls in Bilpin, Colo Heights and St Albans commemorating the 2019/2020 bushfires. The walls will be decorated with tiles designed by local community members. The artworks, to be created in close partnership with community members of Bilpin, Colo Heights and the Macdonald Valley (St Albans), will be installed as part of the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery projects that are currently underway.

Residents are being invited to special community events to design and paint an artwork, which will be transferred to a tile to be glazed, fired and installed on a special wall, the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Patrick Conolly said.

"This will be a powerful way for the community to take ownership of these artworks and make them a personal expression of their experiences of recovery and rejuvenation that will last for generations to view, understand and remember," Mayor Conolly said.

Work is also underway on other projects in the Hawkesbury made possible through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund. \$1.68 million is available to fund projects which will help to support the ongoing bushfire recovery in Bilpin, Colo Heights and the Macdonald Valley (including St Albans).

COMMUNITY ART WORKSHOPS DATES

Bilpin	Community Hall (Bilpin Markets)	Saturday, 12 February from 10am to midday
St Albans	St Albans Park	Sunday, 13 February from 9am to midday
Colo Heights	Community Hall	Thursday, 24 February from 4pm to 7pm

For more information, see Council's Facebook page www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil and Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au and Your Hawkesbury Your Say at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au

The new playground at St Albans is now finished, work has commenced on the playground in Bilpin, and work is due to start on the multi sports court at Colo Heights in February. Council is also making improvements to the Rural Fire Service sheds and community halls in these locations, including the St Albans School of Arts, with the majority of work scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2022.

The Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Package is part of the \$4.5 billion overarching bushfire support program co-funded by the Australian and NSW Governments for bushfire recovery,

response and preparedness across NSW. Visit Council's homepage www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au and follow Council on Facebook at [hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil) for regular updates on these projects.



PETS OF THE WEEK

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter is at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave.
Call 4560 4644 or visit Hawkesbury Council's Facebook page
www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil



AT A GLANCE

NAME: PEPPER
BREED:
DOMESTIC CAT
SEX: Female
AGE: 1 year old
PRICE: \$29



PEPPER is a one-year-old female Domestic Short Hair cat who can be a little reserved. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say Pepper may take a little time to warm up to you but once she does, she is quite happy and enjoys affection. If you think that Pepper may be the one for you, come to the shelter to meet her. Her adoption price has been reduced to \$29. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation
Number is: R251000145.

CRYSTAL is a two-year-old female Domestic cat. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say Crystal is a very sweet, affectionate girl, who is more than happy to receive all the attention and affection you can give her. If you are looking for a loving pet please come and meet Crystal. Her adoption price has been reduced to \$29. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.

AT A GLANCE

NAME: CRYSTAL
BREED:
DOMESTIC CAT
SEX: Female
AGE: 2 years old
PRICE: \$29



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MEAT LOVERS' DREAM

By BEV JORDAN

The newest restaurant in the Hills opened its doors last week and The Meat & Wine Co – Bella Vista is set to impress, offering a top tier dining option on the boardwalk at Norwest Esplanade.

The ambiance is burnished gold, designed to invoke the experience of a boutique lodge next to a watering hole on an African safari and while the menu boasts a feast of Afro-centric dishes it offers much more than that.

As the name would suggest, meat is the hero at this upscale restaurant with premium and dry-aged steaks taking centre stage.

The Meat & Wine Co – Bella Vista is part of the Seagrass Boutique Hospitality Group which prides itself on the quality it offers.

My colleagues and I visited on the first day the restaurant opened and were impressed with the attentiveness of the staff and their professionalism.

We wanted to taste a wide range of options and so the tasting plate (\$59) was a great choice, offering Szechuan Calamari with a nam jim sauce, bruschetta, pork belly with a Japanese sesame dressing and Boerewors – South African beef sausages served with maize pap and corn croquettes.

The selection was ample for the four of us and suited us all, including the vegetarian member of our party.

The bruschetta with Roma tomatoes, avocado, basil and parmesan on sourdough was both tangy and fresh, the nam jim sauce with the beautifully cooked calamari offered that wonderful umami mix of sweet, sour, bitter, and salty and the pork belly with chilli glaze was well balanced.

None of us had ever tried Boerewors before so it was a great inclusion on the tasting plate. The traditional sausage with the chakalaka sauce and croquettes was a real treat and felt like we were on safari in Africa.

For mains we chose a range of dishes highlighting the variety that is available at The Meat & Wine Co if you are not there (as the majority of people are) for the premium and dry-aged steaks. Our choices included a Portuguese marinated chicken breast with pumpkin puree, wild mushrooms and lentils (a beautiful comforting meal), a harissa lamb skewer with chips (a meat lover's dream), a harissa carrot and freekeh salad and a Monte grass-fed Ribeye steak with salad (melt-in-the-mouth goodness). They were all generous sizes and more than filling.



Sadly, we left very little room for dessert. If we had left room we would have tackled the Grand Finale plate which features four desserts to share. So pace yourself.

The staff cheerfully provided extra plates and spoons so that we could divide up the creme brulee (with ginger snap) and the chocolate and hazelnut fondant with hazelnut praline ice-cream. It was fortunate that I had the lake to walk around afterwards.

The Meat & Wine Co is G04 11, Solent Circuit, Bella Vista. Call 8629 8868 or visit the website to see the full menu at themeatandwineco.com. We dined as guests of The Meat & Wine Co.

SIGNALS SWITCHED ON AT SAMANTHA RILEY DRIVE AND HEZLETT ROAD INTERSECTION

Traffic signals on one of The Hills Shire's busiest roads have been switched on. The signalisation of the intersection of Samantha Riley Drive and Hezlett Road, Kellyville, is the final stage in one of the most challenging road projects completed by Council.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi, said traffic signals at this intersection would be welcomed by residents, as well as people from other parts of Sydney travelling along Samantha Riley Drive on their daily commute.

"Council was delighted that an initial allocation of approximately \$2.5 million was able to support the commencement of this project, which was part of a broader \$31 million funding injection from the NSW Government in 2020 to support the delivery of vital infrastructure in The Hills," Mayor Gangemi said.

"Funds received from the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF) were put to good use, allowing us to get started on the construction of Balmoral Road Reserve, as well upgrading Hezlett Road and installing traffic signals at the intersection of Hezlett Road and Samantha Riley Drive."

"These critical projects have not only strengthened our community, they have

provided essential construction employment throughout the pandemic," he said.

Mayor Gangemi said the improvements would cater for the growing region's transport needs.

"Upgrading the roads in and around our newest community, North Kellyville, has been an enormous task, and I thank residents for their patience while we got the job done," Mayor Gangemi said.

"It is particularly gratifying to see the traffic signals in operation, as this signifies the final stage of an incredibly important project, the upgrade of Samantha Riley Drive, that will improve the lives of so many people," he said.

Up to \$75 million was made available as part of the AIF, and divided between Blacktown City Council and The Hills Shire Council.



Member for Castle Hill, Ray Williams MP said: "These lights are a critical part of this infrastructure upgrade. They will assist with traffic flow in all directions, and provide both driver and pedestrian safety at this very busy intersection."

"This is another example of how State Government and Local Government can work together to achieve amazing outcomes for the local community."

COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT

Businesses, workers and the performing arts are set to benefit from a major financial support package worth more than \$1 billion to help the hardest hit get through the Omicron wave.

The Small Business Support Program helps those businesses with annual turnover of between \$75,000 and \$50 million with a decline in turnover of at least 40 per cent.

It provides eligible businesses a lump sum payment of 20 per cent of weekly payroll with a minimum payment of \$500 per week and a maximum payment of \$5,000 per week.

In addition, the existing Small Business Fees, Charges and RAT Rebate will be increased by 50 per cent from the current \$2,000 limit to \$3,000 and employing businesses will be able to use the rebate to obtain RATs.

NEW VOUCHERS

Eligible accommodation providers can now register to take part in two of the NSW Government's new voucher programs – Parents NSW and Stay NSW.

Both programs will be implemented using the existing Dine & Discover NSW infrastructure.

To take part in the two programs, businesses only have to register once through Service NSW. Once approved, all accommodation providers need to do is simply download the Service NSW for Business app and start scanning vouchers.

Businesses will be paid within ten days after redeeming a voucher. Customers can pool multiple Stay NSW vouchers with friends or family for the same booking at registered accommodation providers, big or small.

Parents NSW vouchers can be combined and used to redeem \$250 off your accommodation account.

Bookings made through third party providers such as online booking platforms and travel agents are not included in the program. Participating businesses will be able to redeem vouchers seven days a week, including public holidays. Customers will be able to search for participating accommodation providers on the easy-to-use hotel finder. Discover NSW registered businesses do not have to re-register to accept Parents NSW vouchers, but can still register if they have yet to do so.

For more information on how to register a business, visit www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-business-stay-nsw-vouchers

FOR PARENTS

Parents and carers of children enrolled in primary schools in NSW will benefit from a \$500 voucher which will assist families who use Before and After School Care BASC services helping with the parent gap fee component of their session fees.

Minister for Education and Early Learning Sarah Mitchell said that both providers and users of BASC would benefit from this announcement.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

If you have some time on your hands and what to get involved in your community then Community Connect may be the place to start.

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club is hosting a special community market day at Harvey Lowe Pavilion Castle Hill next month to showcase the different groups operating in the Hills area and the variety of options to join or volunteer.

There will be a free coffee from The Hills Daily Grind plus a free sausage sizzle for attendees who can then browse the stalls and chat to people from various organisations in the area. Community Connect aims to break down the barriers of isolation and connect people with community groups who are making a difference.



The event will be held on Sunday March 20th at Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground between 11am and 3pm.

Entry is free for community groups wanting to have an information stall and to attendees.

To find out more please email norwestsunriserotary@gmail.com If you are a community group that would like a stall please call Deborah from Norwest Sunrise Rotary on 0490 723 163 or email norwestsunriserotary@gmail.com



CASTLE HILL SHOWCASES LOCAL SENIORS' STORIES

Older authors in Castle Hill have shown that age has nothing to do with it in this year's edition of Seniors' Stories.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP congratulated Sally Maxwell whose stories were included in the seventh volume of the book.

"Our talented seniors in Castle Hill continue to inspire me with the many unique experiences they share with us in Seniors' Stories," Mr Williams said. "Sally's story titled A Difficult Lunch is a magnificent addition to the book. Copies of Seniors' Stories will be available in our local libraries and online as a PDF or audiobook. It's a fun and thought provoking read that offers an insight into the lives of older people."

Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans Natalie Ward said the contributors have challenged the way we see older people.

"Stories in this book will make you see older age in a new light and ask yourself, what does age have to do with it?" Mrs Ward said. "Older people from across the state including the Illawarra, Newcastle, Central West, New England and Sutherland Shire submitted stories as a way to share their unique experiences and also challenge our views on older age."

NSW Seniors Card, members were invited to contribute short stories to the book. The NSW Government launched Seniors' Stories in 2013 as a way of recognising and valuing the experiences of seniors.

Seniors' Stories Volume 7 is out now and can be downloaded as PDF or audiobook from seniorscard.nsw.gov.au. It will also be available at all local libraries across NSW.

"Stories in this book will make you see older age in a new light and ask yourself, what does age have to do with it?"

~ Mrs Ward

CAROL RICHLY DESERVES HER HONOUR

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Carol Murphy was stunned to receive an OAM on Australia Day for services to netball, an accolade all the more remarkable because of her late start in the sport.

The mother of two and grandmother of five played many leading roles for Netball NSW, Baulkham Hills Netball Association (BHNA) and the Impalas, and has many honours. Yet, the Greenacre-born and proud Hills resident still supports netball with the same passion as when she started.

"We never volunteer for reward or accolade, but when it does come, it fills your heart with joy to know others have noticed what you do," Carol, 68, said. "My husband Paul organised a BBQ lunch at our son's place, so I was able to spend the day with those closest to me; those who supported and encouraged me in netball over the years. Family, fun, food, and a glass of champagne!"

Adding to the joy, Carol and Paul celebrate their golden jubilee this Saturday (February 12).

Carol began playing after a group of tennis mates watched their daughters play netball. "We decided to get a team for the night competition in 1986, and I played for the next 25 years," Carol recalled.

She counts the Life Membership of Netball NSW (March 2021) as the highlight of her career. "I am the first person from BHNA to receive this award, so that was very special; it meant I had Life Membership of my club, my association, and my state body. I treasure those awards."

Amazingly, Carol and her daughter played together. Carol remembers how tight the association's finances were: "Not everyone realises the netball members developed Wellgate Avenue site with only small assistance from state and local government and BHNA became a Company Limited by Guarantee to enable us to borrow funds. BHNA has invested about \$10 million in the site."

"When I started playing, BHNA used three or four locations before the amazing people involved in the late 1980s decided to develop their own site."

Carol is enjoying her role as Operations Manager with GWS Fury after managing their U23's team.



CAROL MURPHY helped promote netball in the Hills in her many roles.

She was delighted fellow Hills netballer, former Australian captain Catherine Cox, 45, received the AM for her services to netball. "Cath is an amazing netball representative and her achievements in the national leagues and representing her country are outstanding," Carol said. "Cath coached for her home association, Hills District, for a number of years."

CATCHING THEM YOUNG AT RUGBY LEAGUE

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

All participants will receive a free Junior Panthers jersey, with organisers promising plenty of entertainment and a grand final like atmosphere. It will allow parents to get a close look from a grassroots point of view of rugby league for their children.

The fun fest is organised by Panthers Juniors, Penrith Panthers, South Sydney Rabbitohs, South Cares, and the South Sydney Junior League who recognise the great value of their junior league communities.

Who knows which future stars could emerge from this afternoon of thrills and skills? All registered U-6 players will have the once in a lifetime chance to run out through the NRL tunnel to the Panthers NRL 'Hells Bells' track and the famous 'Glory Glory' for all Souths Juniors. Every kid will feel what it's like to be an NRL player.

"If parents and carers are looking to choose a community sport for their child, it must meet the values, enjoyment and integrity of the family home," Panthers Juniors General Manager Nathan Mairleitner said. "This opportunity gives families the chance to explore our sport, our community and how fun and safe our sport is. We want any new family to feel that Panthers Juniors is the 'Place to Play' and hope they join our current 8800 members for the 2022 season with many other exciting age group experiences ahead."

The organisers are encouraging family members from any sport to join them for free entry, free rides, entertainment, showbag stands and food trucks. The event will close off with a spectacular fireworks show at 8.15pm. Details: U6'S GALA (panthersjuniors.com)



Panthers U-6 players with their seniors

Several young local players will be showing off their fledgling rugby league skills this Saturday (February 12) at the U-6s gala day at the Panther's BlueBet Stadium.

Players belonging to Quakers Hills Destroyers, North West Magpies (Vineyard), Riverstone Razorbacks, St Patricks (The Ponds), Hawkesbury Hawks, Windsor Wolves, and Londonderry Greys will be among the thousands of young 'uns having a ball at the Panthers Juniors and South Sydney District Junior Rugby League U-6s inaugural Gala Day.

The event, worked off from 4-8pm, is hosted by the 2021 NRL premiers the Panthers.



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AN INTERESTING LIFE

By Ivor Jones



I would say that she wasn't a woman who "rocked the boat", but she was a journalist (amongst many other things). Patsy Adam Smith was born out of wedlock almost 98 years ago in rural Victoria and adopted by a family employed by Victorian railways. Living as she did on the edge of a barren desert she had no experience of the sea until one day the mothers of the 12 students at the little country school decided to organise a trip to the sea on a old 1925 truck. The students and their mothers crowded into the truck after school one Friday night and travelled throughout the night on dusty dirt roads arriving at the coast early on a Saturday morning. They were practically speechless until one student, Billy Wilson, remarked "What a bloody lot of water".

At the age of 19 years, during the early days of WWII, she enlisted as a nursing aide in the Voluntary Aid Detachment. But I found that her experience on a coastal ship to be of great interest to me. It was whilst she was in Hobart during 1954 working on research at the Tasmanian State Archives for a national magazine that she was approached by a Public Relations Officer for the Tasmanian Transport Commission. He offered a voyage on the Coastal vessel "Naracoopa" as a guest of the Commission. She thought that she would be able to gain an interesting story from such a trip for the magazine. An interesting story did come about eventually in the form of a book some years later.

It was after that voyage on the "Naracoopa" that she accompanied the Commissioner for

Transport in Tasmania and the Manager of the Transport Commission Shipping Service in a car whilst travelling to Launceston when she was asked "how did she enjoy the trip on board the ship?". Patsy told them of what she thought went wrong, from a passenger viewpoint, and how she felt matters could be righted. Before they had reached the Tamar River where many of the Commission's ships were based she was offered and accepted a job on board the "Naracoopa".

During her time as a crew member on board the ship she became the first female articulated radio operator in what was then a male dominated role. Her life at sea led to her becoming familiar with various sounds and actions that mariners experience. Long after she had left that life she travelled on a luxury cruise liner from Australia to Japan and after two boring days she was invited to the Captain's Cocktail Party. When introduced to the Captain she asked him why he had dropped engine revs. He gave her a sharp look and said nothing.

The following day he sent for her having been flabbergasted by her reference to the ship's engines. After she informed him of her days as a crew member of the "Naracoopa" he gave her the run of the ship for the rest of the trip thus making the trip much more enjoyable for her.

As a prolific writer she has written 33 non-fiction books based on her life and her research of related stories based on her family history and experiences. During her lifetime she travelled to over 60 countries researching



material for her books. Four of her books earned her literary awards

She has been employed as an Adult Education Officer in Tasmania, Manuscripts Field Officer for the State Library of Victoria. She was a member of the Board of Directors for the Royal Humane Society Australasia, a Committee Member of the Museum of Victoria, appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1980 and appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1994.

In all Patsy Adam Smith was a remarkable woman who one must say had an interesting life. Patsy passed away in September 2001.

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www.gwsrovers.com.au

Annangrove Environment Centre

02 9654 3571 (Thurs) |
02 9843 0533 (Wed-Fri)
gnolan@thehills.nsw.gov.au

Arcadian Quilters

Meet in Galston Community Health Centre 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings, evening group 2nd and 4th Mondays. New members welcome

Carole | 9894 7749

Castle Hill Art Society

Castle Hill Art Society offers a place of art practice for artists of all ages, either in groups of various art media or classes for adults and children. Demonstrations and workshops by well-known artists are held monthly and members can participate in several exhibitions during the year. New members always welcome.

9899 3179 (ans. machine)
www.castlehillartsociety.org.au

Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.

Club members invite anyone over 55 to come and meet a very active and friendly group of Seniors who play Carpet Bowls, Cards and Rummikub. The Club building is on the corner of McMullen Ave. and Old Northern Rd., Castle Hill (opposite the new Metro station) with parking at the rear.

9680 3958
castlehillseniors@gmail.com

Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook

We are a mixed gender club and have an active membership of over 170 retirees and semi retirees. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre.

Ross | 0411 104 863
rossfitzpatrick@icloud.com
www.probusouthpacific.org/
microsites/cherrybrook/Welcome

Cumberland Bird Observers Club

The Club conducts three outings a month to observe birds in their natural environment. General meetings are held at Castle Hill on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. New members are always welcome.

Peter 0412 770 757 or Cathy 9809 5668
www.cboc.org.au

CWA of NSW - Galston Branch

Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 10am at the Galston Health & Resource Centre.

Jann | 0439 222 217

CWA of NSW - Castle Hill Branch

Holds its monthly meeting every second Tuesday at the CWA Hall, 2 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst (off Angus Road) from 10am. We also hold our Craft mornings for members on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10 to 12.

Maureen | 0411 724 925

Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Group

Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Blue Gum Centre, ARV Glenhaven Green, 599-607 Old Northern Rd, Glenhaven. For details of future meetings call.

Denis | 9629 2645 or Maurice | 9654 2138

Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498
www.duralmensshed.org

East Kurrajong School of Arts

First Tuesday each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity you're interested in, bring pencils or brushes to practice your drawing or painting with Ruth, browse the library for a book to read or simply just relax, have a cuppa and enjoy a chat from 10am to 1pm. Gold coin donation for morning tea.

Ann | 02 4576 5031

Galston VIEW Club

Raises money for The Smith Family "Learning for Life" program. New members are always welcome.

Merle 9634 2378 | 0412 110 698.

Girl Guides Australia

There are great programs for girls aged 6 to 18. They meet once a week in groups relevant to their age groups which are run by trained Leaders and Unit Helpers. There are several Girl Guide Groups meeting in the area. To find out more about the best time and day for your daughter

Margo 0417 657 433.

Glenhaven Probus Club Inc

Meets 10 am on 2nd Tuesday of each month at Castle Hill Bowling Club.

secretary.glenhaven.probus@gmail.com

Glenwood Men's Shed

Jim | 0438 701 275

Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail

02 4567 7400
Leanne@mellowcrest.com
www.haat.com.au

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn

4577 3591 (BH)
www.hawkesburyshow.com.au

Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the First Fleeters

Meets on 2nd Saturday of each month.

Pamela Hempel | 0407 660 579
www.ffhnc.com

Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

4721 8709

Hills District Women's Bowling Club

Jenner Street, Baulkham Hills
9639 2733
www.thehillswomensbowls.com.au

Hills Older Men's Network INC

The Hills Older Men's Network Inc (Hills OMNI) meets fortnightly on the first and third Mondays of the month, 10am to 12.30pm at Castle Hill. The group is aimed at retired men over the age of 55 and provides an opportunity to chat in a non-judgemental, safe and supportive environment.

Ron | 0424 462 153
HillsOMNI@gmail.com

Hills Toastmasters

Meets every second Tuesday, 7pm. Restore Church: 47 Britannia Rd, Castle Hill. New members welcomed

Terry | 0488 089 951

Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays 7.30pm Northmead Scouts Hall 17 Whitehaven Northmead. Beginners to professionals all welcome.

Allen | 0439 831 531
allendavisguitar@gmail.com

Kurrajong Hand Spun Craft

Come and learn a beautiful old craft at North Richmond Community Centre. Friendly group just bring yourself.

Thursdays at noon.
Margaret | 0403 819 165

Ladies Probus Club of Baulkham Hills

Meetings 10am, 2nd Wednesday of the month. At The Fiddler, Windsor Road and Commercial Road, Rouse Hill. New Members welcome

Suzanne Dennis | 0412 424 593
ladiesprobusbh@gmail.com

Learning in the Hills

To find out more about the huge range of courses available call 9639 7918

www.hca.org.au/learning-in-the-hills/

Lions Club of Richmond Inc.

Geoff | 0412 969 651

Lions Club of Windsor Inc

Pam | 0413 395 145

Macquarie Towns Garden Club

Meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month, Tebbutt Room at Hawkesbury Library at 2 pm.

macquarietownsgardenclub.wordpress.com

National Seniors Australia (Hills Branch)

Meets on the first Thursday of each month at Muirfield Golf Club, 58 Barclay

Road, North Rocks. 9.30am for 10am. The group has day outings, short tours and interesting speakers. This very friendly group welcomes visitors.

May | 0414 634 572
maybruce@bigpond.com

North Rocks Evening VIEW Club

Muirfield Golf Club, 58 Barclay Rd, North Rocks. Visit view.org.au

Toni | 9871 1926 or 0411 693 076, or Margaret on 9872 1405

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club

We are a breakfast Club and meet every Friday morning at 7.15am. The Rotary Motto is Service Above Self. If you want to meet like-minded people please join us.

norwestrotary.org.au

Pennant Hills Mens Probus Club

John | 9487 1385

Pennant Hills Combined Probus Club

Meets at Hotel Pennant Hills every third Monday of the month at 10am. New members and visitors welcome.

Lorene | 0429 396594

Pennant Hills VIEW Club

Meets for lunch at 11am at Oatlands Golf Club on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings include a 2 course meal followed by an interesting guest speaker. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Margaret | 9873 2402

Pitt Town Probus Club

Meets at 10:00am on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Pitt Town and District Sports Club, 139 Old Pitt Town Rd Pitt Town. New members welcome.

Denise Fairfax | 0435 447 414

Probus Club of Round Corner (Dural)

Secretary, Julie
PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

Probus Club of the Hills Inc

Ken | 02 96296459

Probus Club - Kellyville Castle Hill Mixed

Meets at 10am on 2nd Thursday of each month at Muirfield Golf Club, Barclay Rd North Rocks. New members welcome.

Pam | 0417 667 067
pamelaloves66@gmail.com

Probus Club - Winston Hills Northmead Combined

Meets at 10am at Toongabbie Sports Club, 12 Station St., Toongabbie, 2nd Thursday of the month. New members welcome.

winstonhillspobusclub@gmail.com
Membership Officer | 0421 410 305

Probus Combined Kellyville Club

Meet 2nd Monday of the month at 10am. At The Glenhaven Community Centre: 76 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven. New members welcome.

Glensys | 0419 616 431 OR
Veronica | 0408 025 577
glensysclarke@hotmail.com

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9679 1246
admin@rdanswtalltimbers.org.au
www.rdanswtalltimbers.org.au

Red Cross - Castle Hill Branch

Meetings 2nd Friday of the month 10.15am to 11.45am at Wesley Uniting Church, 32-34 Showground Rd, Castle Hill. New members always welcome.

0419 431 084.

Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club

Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club Which Supports The Smith Family Learning for Life meet on 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 11.30 at The Richmond Club

Christine Walshaw | 0416073483

Scouts Australia - Greater Western Sydney Region

9639 2488
www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Sleep Disorders Australia - NSW

02 9990 3514
www.sleepoz.org.au

Soroptimist International The Hills

Meets on the 3rd Monday of the Month at Crestwood Community Centre Baulkham Hills 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Visitors are always welcome. Soroptimists International The Hills is the local branch of a world-wide organisation for women that has been promoting advocacy and action for 100 years.

Cathy | 0435 837 118

sithehills@siwp.org

The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc

9639 8620

The Hills Learning Centre

02 8850 0555
RSVP | info@thehillslc.com.au.
facebook.com/thehillslc

The Hills Shire Garden Club

9624 5034

The Hills District Pipe Band

Practices at Stamford Hall, Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills every Wednesday night from 7pm-9pm. The band warmly welcomes new members and gig enquiries.

Instagram: @hillsdistrictpipeband

Suzie Whitaker

pipeband.hillsdistrict@gmail.com

www.hillsdistrictpipeband.com

The Hills Trefoil Guild

Elaine | 0417 330 196

The Inner Wheel Club of Baulkham Hills

Meets at Aveo Retirement Village, Bella Vista on the 4th Monday of each month at 6.00pm (dinner optional), for meeting at 7.00pm.

Robyn | 9639 2742

The Sydney Hills Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees

Meeting on Friday, at Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall, Welham Street Beecroft. Meeting commences at 10.45am. The future topics will be Health, Centrelink, Retirement, Technology Safety and others.

Lauris Rennie | 9634 1186 or Pam | 0412 737 234

airsydneyhills@gmail.com

Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition in the Hills District

hillsladiestennis.org

Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8 pm at Crestwood Community Centre, Cnr Crestwood Drive and Conway St, Baulkham Hills.

Ted | 0429 790 091
www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/wanderers

Windsor RSL Fishing Club

Meets on the last Tuesday of the month at Windsor RSL club at 6:30pm. The club has been established for over 40 years and welcomes new members.

It holds regular fishing outings including in land water and deep sea fishing.

Les Mison | 0421 821 1990.

Windsor Probus Club

Meets at 10am on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Windsor Golf Club, McQuade Ave, South Windsor. New members always welcome.

Membership Officer Alan | 0407721461 or Secretary Ann | 0414298945

Winston Hills Joey Scouts

9862 8482

hsara@optusnet.com.au

Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed Inc

Meeting Tues and Sat 9am - 5pm

Alan Hunt | 4566 4626 or 0428 784 425

Adrian Acheson | 0448 833 781

YMCA NSW Community Visitors Scheme

9633 8209 or 0402 255 193

Zonta Club of Sydney Hills

0414 641 408

www.zontadistrict24.org

WORD SEARCH

IN THE LIBRARY

- aisles LIBRARIAN
- ARCHIVES MAPS
- BOOKS MICROFILM
- CATALOGUES PRINTER
- COMPUTER RECORDS
- DOCUMENTS RESOURCES
- DVDS SILENCE
- FACTUAL STUDENTS
- FICTION TABLES
- INTERNET VIDEOS

S	S	B	Z	X	O	P	K	N	L	A	E	G	J	R
A	O	K	Y	A	D	R	X	A	U	P	S	T	R	S
T	F	E	O	V	E	P	X	I	D	P	E	T	E	S
D	R	R	D	O	R	C	A	R	F	S	L	R	S	E
R	O	S	S	I	B	H	M	A	A	T	S	D	O	V
B	L	C	N	E	V	M	E	R	J	U	I	N	U	I
E	M	T	U	G	U	C	P	B	P	D	A	S	R	H
R	E	L	T	M	N	G	P	I	V	E	I	E	C	C
R	T	G	I	E	E	R	O	L	P	N	D	L	E	R
U	R	H	L	F	N	N	E	L	L	T	M	B	S	A
U	E	I	K	D	O	R	T	C	A	S	W	A	E	I
O	S	P	A	M	R	R	E	S	O	T	U	T	W	R
N	O	I	T	C	I	F	C	T	R	R	A	U	W	E
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	I	N	T	D	C	L	R
E	L	L	A	U	T	C	A	F	M	I	B	S	T	R

WORD SEARCH

O	S	K	W	E	S	B	S	I	J	H	I	S	K	
O	A	Z	O	A	R	B	O	C	U	D	E	A	R	T
E	G	E	L	I	D	O	C	O	R	C	H	N	E	T
I	Z	Q	P	G	O	R	I	L	L	A	P	T	G	A
O	B	A	B	O	O	N	A	J	P	Y	A	E	I	U
I	T	A	T	N	R	T	A	A	T	R	M	A	T	U
T	A	A	R	S	G	R	H	A	F	E	T	J	F	
A	C	N	B	T	U	R	O	B	S	T	S	E	M	L
O	E	A	Z	A	O	N	Y	L	T	D	O	R	M	I
C	L	C	R	T	O	P	M	O	N	G	O	O	S	E
S	G	O	S	H	A	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	T	S
T	R	N	L	C	Z	S	U	R	G	A	T	R	E	I
R	U	D	O	K	A	P	I	A	X	W	N	P	B	T
E	J	A	T	E	A	V	H	L	P	L	A	D	O	T
U	I	S	H	A	B	J	L	E	A	Z	Y	A	A	K

Answers from last issue

CODE WORD

H	O	N	E	S	U	C	K	L	E
H	X	R	I	A	C	K	I	E	
A	I	R	A	Z	O	R	F	O	G
I	N	D	I	A	Z	V	T	A	
R	I	T	L	E	A	S	E	L	
D	I	S	Q	U	I	E	T		
R	E	M			P	J	T		
E					A	L	L	E	L
S	A	T	E	D	O	N	R	R	
S	H	O	C	A	L	I	B	I	
E	A	R	W	A	K	E	N	S	A
R	O	S	E	C	T				
A	B	S	E	N	T	E	E	I	S

CODE WORD

Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
					X	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		B				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		L				
22	23	24	25	26		

2	25	23	12	24	21	17	17		11	22	21	10
13		7		26	21			25	6			21
20	7	21	20	15		19		4	26	21	14	7
22		9		22		15		4		10		25
			13	12	21	14	14	13	10	15	12	18
22		16		2		7		5		12		21
14	10	22	17	17	14		4	21	19	22	26	12
4		21		15		8		9		14		16
21	22	26	25	12	21	13	9	15	4			
5		11		22		21		25		21		3
15	2	25	17	14		26		12	13	2	18	22
14		25		14		9		21		3		14
9	21	20	22		1	25	17	17	15	22	14	9

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

				1	4		7	
		8			6			5
						4		9
					6	4		
	6		3	7	5		2	
	2	7						
8		2						
6			2			1		
	9		4	3				

SUDOKU

2	1	7	8	3	9	4	6	5
5	9	3	2	6	4	7	8	1
8	6	4	5	7	1	3	2	9
7	3	9	1	8	6	5	4	2
4	5	8	9	2	3	6	1	7
6	2	1	4	5	7	9	3	8
9	4	6	7	1	8	2	5	3
1	7	5	3	4	2	8	9	6
3	8	2	6	9	5	1	7	4

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOCAL FIRM FLIES HIGH

South Windsor-based engineering consultants AMCE, along with the company Armor Composite Engineering, have recently developed a cutting-edge, lightweight armour for the C-130 aircraft to protect them from ballistic attacks.

Federal Liberal Candidate for the Seat of Macquarie, Sarah Richards, said she was delighted that a local firm had been awarded a \$2.13 million to improve the safety of the C-130.

"This is not just exciting because Aerospace & Mechanical Consulting Engineers (AMCE) have been engaged for their innovation talent, but it means jobs and opportunity for the Hawkesbury," she said. "I find the idea that innovation born in the Hawkesbury, which will end up protecting Defence Force personnel and strengthening the aircraft, a pretty exciting concept."

Armor Composite Engineering constructs ballistic and structural armour for marine and land vehicles.

"My father worked at Richmond RAAF Base, and I lived there for years as a child, so I am always delighted at these types of defence sector stories. And the entire Hawkesbury can feel proud after hearing that this new technology created locally, may be sold to other countries.



Sarah Richards with John Eldredge (far right) and his team.

"When talking with John Eldredge about the engineering feat, I felt his passion for his creation. This funding will be used to build a life-size prototype which will be put to the test," Richards said.

Mr. Eldredge said AMCE had employed an additional four engineering staff and Armor Composite Engineering has increased its manufacturing staff by two, with a further two staff to be employed this year.

Industry and research organisations can submit innovation proposals through the Defence Innovation Portal at: www.innovationhub.defence.gov.au

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BUSH WALKER APPEAL

The NSW Police Force is reminding outdoor enthusiasts to be prepared before heading into the bush after a series of recent rescues involving injured or lost hikers and canyoners over summer.

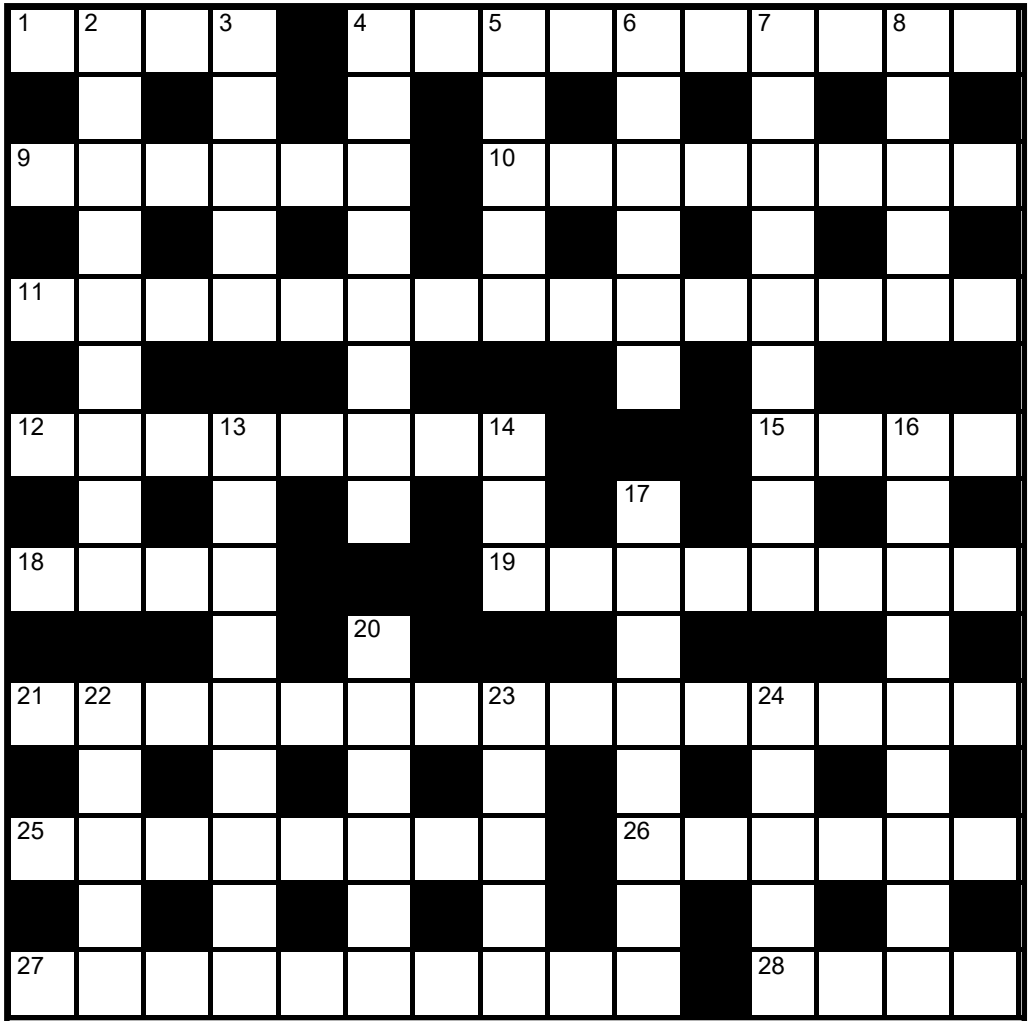
So far this year, police have rescued 22 hikers across the state after they became lost or injured in bushland and national parks.

Blue Mountains Police Rescue Team Leader, Sergeant Dallas Atkinson, said summer has been a busy period for police as more people head outdoors for recreation, including bushwalking and canyoning.

"National parks and bushland are natural, unpredictable environments, and the reality is that often people will get lost despite their best efforts," Sgt Atkinson said. "We don't want outdoor adventures to end in tragedy, so we're encouraging people to be prepared and 'Think Before You Trek'. It takes only a few simple steps to ensure you are prepared for the bush, and it can make the difference between life and death."

- Take enough water, food and first aid supplies
- Register your trip on the National Parks and Wildlife Service website (trip intention form)
- Keep to a planned route
- Install the Emergency Plus application and take a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), or satellite communication device, to use as a last resort.

'Think Before You TREK' is a bush safety initiative between the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW Police. For more information on how to be prepared, please visit: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/bushwalking-safety/think-before-you-trek



Across

- Hire
- Tourist spot south of Denmark (5, 5)
- Establishes (4, 2)
- Dinner site
- Atherton Tableland pine (10, 5)
- "Know thyself" philosopher
- Profane expression
- Spot
- Lineage
- Rat only found way up North (4, 4, 7)
- Desert runner --- Gash
- Bread (6)
- Abandoned (4, 6)
- Barbie staples (4)

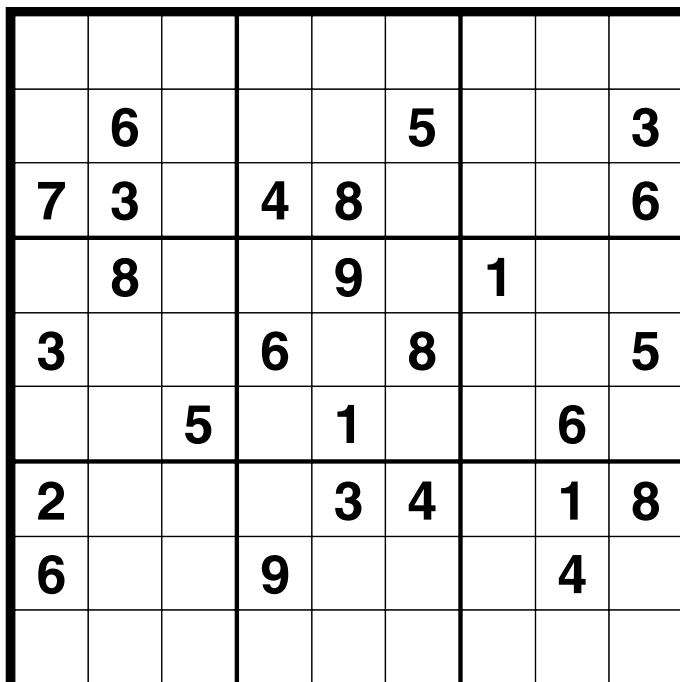
Down

- They obey one's will
- Preference
- Pope is to upset another performer
- Beyond what is usual
- Unimportant person
- They're uplifting
- Church singers
- Former Richmond centre half-forward (5, 4)
- Vast amount
- Rugby's "The Back-up man" (5, 4)
- Yelled
- Footwarmer
- Up
- Dull yellowish brown
- Scent

SUDOKU

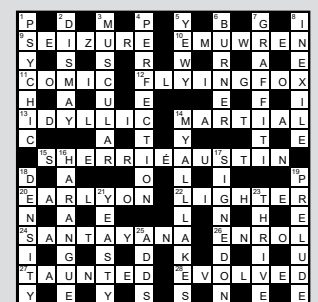
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

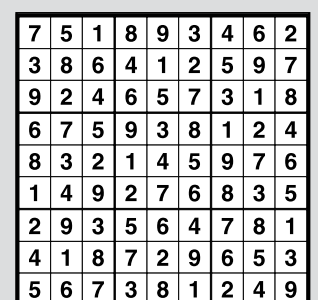


Answers from last issue

CROSSWORD



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