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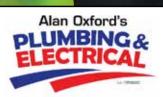


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FROM ROUSE HILL TO THE OPERA HOUSE

by BEV JORDAN

Internationally renowned tenor DIEGO TORRE has been honing his vocal skills in the shower at his Rouse Hill home since moving there in November.

"I sing around the house all day," says Opera Australia's leading tenor.

One of the first neighbours he met had knocked on the door to say how much she was enjoying listening to his voice.

"I sing every single day. It's what I am, it's what I do. It is part of my essence," he told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*.

Torre has a busy few months ahead with performances in the leading roles of Verdi's opera Ernani and Puccini's Tosca at the Sydney Opera House followed by Aida in Brisbane later in the year.

Torre, who was born in Mexico City, moved to Rouse Hill with his wife Paula and children Jethro, 4, and Johanna, 6, after living in Waterloo.

"It's been a wonderful move," he says "It's a warm, happy family place."

While COVID has been terrible, he says, it has given him much treasured time with his family at home.

"Spending time at home with my family and watching a movie or playing board games with my family are normally things that don't happen."

As a freelance tenor Torre appeared in lead roles in famous opera houses all over the world including Italy, Switzerland, China, Norway, Finland, Germany and across the United States including The Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

DIEGO TOPP

"My wife and I used to have two suitcases, our base was in New York and we would just travel the world."

He first sang with the Opera Australia in 2011.

"Since the very, very first moment everyone was very kind to us. They made us feel very welcome and we just fell in love with the values people have here and the respect they have for each other."

He became an Australian citizen in 2016. Torre's most celebrated roles with Opera Australia include Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Rodolfo (*La bohème*), The Duke (*Rigoletto*) and the title role in *Don Carlo*.

Diego Torre Playing Cavaradossi in Tosca in 2018 with Latonia Moore

He played the lead in Opera Australia's 2020 version of Attila, complete with a live horse on stage which was cancelled after just two performances in March due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Torre says being able to rehearse an opera again with the cast is "pure oxygen".

He says Ernani was Verdi's 5th composition and was given a different treatment. "It is fantastic to sing."

The performance will run from February 2 to 13 and is the Australian Premiere of Sven-Eric Bechtolf's production.

Opera Australia's production of Puccini's Tosca will see Torre reprise his 2017 role as Tosca's lover Cavaradossi from February 22 to March 13. John Bell's production features a Nazi-occupied Rome.

To find out more and to book tickets visit the Opera Australia website: opera.org.au

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Hills to Hawkesbury

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AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

AM FOR YVONNE KEANE

Co-founder of The Sanctuary_ The Hills Women's Shelter and former Hills Mayor Yvonne Keane has been appointed an AM in the Australia Day Honours List.

The Kellyville resident was nominated for her significant service to women and children and those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

She told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News* that she was stunned by the honour and urged people to make the time to nominate worthy candidates for the awards.

"You never expect something like this. I was stunned and quite overwhelmed when I received notification from the Governor General's office. I had to re-read it twice. It still hasn't quite sunk in. More than anything I'm struck by the generosity involved in nominating me. Someone had to take a great deal of time to prepare and submit the nomination. That is such a selfless and generous thing to do."

"Whilst the Governor General, quite rightly, is focused on ensuring that there is a better balance of diversity for future award recipients, this can only happen if we are actually taking a moment to nominate the amazing women and indigenous Australians around us.

"I know in my own community there are many, many unsung heroes. So, let's be generous and take the time to nominate those around us who give so much to shape our communities and, indeed, our nation."

Mrs Keane who is Chief Executive Officer of Early Childhood Intervention Australia and Deputy Chair of the Endeavour Foundation, founded the Hear the Children Early Intervention Centre which is now part of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children.

The mother-of-two was one of seven locals who were named in today's honour roll. OAMs were awarded to:

- FRANK DEANE from Castle Hill for service to people with a disability and to the community.
- **PERRY GILSENAN** from Baulkham Hills for service to people with Down syndrome.
- The late **RITA LITTLE** from Kellyville, for service to animal welfare and to canine breeding clubs.
- LYNN McCRINDLE from Pennant Hills for service to children and to education.
- DAVID ROSENBERG from Kenthurst for service to publishing.
- GEOFFREY SCOTT from Carlingford for services to education.

Anyone can nominate any Australian for an award in the Order of Australia. If you know someone worthy, nominate them now at *www.gg.gov.au*

More stories on our Australia Day winners on pages 7 and 11.

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OOD SERVICES

MISSING MAN

Police are appealing for public assistance to locate a man missing from Winston Hills.

Ryan McGuinness, aged 42, was last seen leaving a home on Model Farms Road, Winston Hills, about 2pm on Tuesday January 19.

He was reported missing to officers from Parramatta Police Area Command, who commenced inquiries to locate him. Police and family hold concerns for his welfare due to a medical condition. Ryan is described as being of Caucasian appearance, of medium build, 180cm tall, with short dark hair. He was last seen wearing an orange shirt, blue pants and work boots.

Anyone who sees Ryan, or believes they know his whereabouts, is urged to contact Parramatta police 9633 0799 or Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence.

Ryan McGuinness

ARMED ROBBERY

A man was arrested charged last week following an investigation into the armed robbery of a pawn shop in George Street, South Windsor.

About 9.10am on Friday, January 15, an unknown male entered the pawn shop and threatened staff with a knife. He tied up two staff members before leaving the store with cash and jewellery.

Police were alerted to the incident and an investigation was commenced by officers attached to Hawkesbury Police Area Command. As part of inquiries, a search warrant was executed at an address on Berger Road, South Windsor on Monday, January 18.

About 2.15pm on Wednesday, January 20, police were alerted to a fail to stop at the intersection of George and Bridge streets, Windsor. Police were told a white Toyota Hilux was waiting at the traffic lights when a silver VS Holden Commodore allegedly hit the rear of his vehicle. Both drivers exited their vehicles and spoke for a short time before the driver of the Commodore entered his vehicle and allegedly drove from the scene.

Shortly after, the Commodore was located parked on Berger Road, South Windsor, and police arrested the driver, a 31-year-old man in a home nearby.

He was taken to Windsor Police Station and charged with robbery armed with offensive weapon, take and drive conveyance without consent of owner, drive recklessly/furiously or speed/manner dangerous, negligent driving (no death or grievous bodily harm), and drive motor vehicle during disqualification period.

Police will allege the man took the Commodore from another man known to him without his permission.

RIVER TRAGEDIES

Emergency services were called to the Hawkesbury River near Tizzana Road, Sackville just after 12.20pm on Monday (January 25) after reports a 16-year-old boy was unresponsive after being pulled from the river.

Members of the public commenced CPR, before the arrival of NSW Ambulance paramedics.

He was stabilised and airlifted to Westmead Hospital in a critical condition, however, he died the next day. Officers from Hawkesbury Police Area Command are conducting inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the incident. A report will be prepared for the Coroner.

Emergency services were called to the river near Grassy Hill Trail at Colo Heights, following reports a man had disappeared under water.

Police have been told the man – believed to be aged in his 40s – was with five other men on separate inflatable lilos when he became wedged on a large submerged rock about 1pm. The other men were uninjured and alerted authorities. BRAWL CHARGES

Two men have been charged following a fight in Riverstone early on Australia Day.

Officers from Quakers Hill Police Area Command responded to reports of a brawl at a home on Dhaya Street, Riverstone just before 4.30am on Tuesday, January 26.

Police were told three men – aged 19, 22 and 23 – were fighting inside a home, before a 20-year-old man intervened.

Shortly after, it's alleged the fight move outside the home and the 19-year-old man damaged a Mercedes Benz parked in the driveway.

Following inquiries, officers arrested two of the men – aged 19 and 21. A third man, aged 22 was taken to hospital suffering minor injuries.

The 19-year-old Schofields man was charged with affray and malicious damage. The 21-year-old Riverstone man was charged with affray. Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000

SHOTS FIRED

A man has been charged after allegedly setting two vehicles alight and firing a shotgun at them in South Windsor on Saturday, January 16.

Emergency services were called to a home on Mileham Street, South Windsor, after reports of a domestic-related incident just before 11pm (Saturday 16 January 2021).

Police will allege in court that a group of men were at the house, before two of them, who are both occupants, became involved in an argument.

After the group left the house, the 46-yearold occupant allegedly set a Nissan utility and motorcycle on fire out the front of the home, before firing multiple shotgun rounds at them. No one was injured during the incident.

Officers from Hawkesbury Police Area Command arrived a short time later and arrested the man, and NSW Fire and Rescue extinguished the blaze.

A crime scene was established, and a search warrant was executed, where officers seized a firearm, ammunition, two magazines with rounds and documentation.

The man was taken to Windsor Police Station and charged with possess unregistered unauthorised prohibited firearm in public place, fire firearm in or near public place (DV) and damage property by fire.

TRADIE KILLED

A man has died after becoming trapped between a Ute and a truck in North Kellyville.

About 10.15am (Sunday 24 January 2021) emergency services were called to Ramornie Drive, North Kellyville, following reports a man was trapped between two vehicles.

NSW Ambulance Paramedics treated the 40-year-old man but he died at the scene.

Officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command have commenced an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

The truck driver has been taken to Westmead Hospital for mandatory testing. A report will be prepared for the coroner.





HILLS METRO ARRESTS

A 72-year-old man charged for assaulting police after being found not wearing a face mask while travelling on the Metro has faced court and been given \$1500 worth of fines and a community service order.

Officers from The Hills Police Area Command were conducting routine patrols at Castle Hill Metro Station, about 9.30pm on Tuesday, January 19 when they stopped and spoke to a man who was not wearing a mask.

He allegedly became aggressive and argumentative towards the two female officers, claiming it was a violation of human rights not to wear a mask. The man, who did not have an exemption, allegedly continued to act aggressively when asked for identification and punched one of the officers several times.

He was fined \$500 for intimidating a police officer in the execution of their duty without actual bodily harm and given a 12 month community correction order dated from January 21, 2021. He was also fined \$500 and given a

POLICE NEWS

community corrections order for assaulting an officer in the execution of their duty. A \$500 fine for not wearing a facemask when in a public transport waiting area was also imposed.

Police made 14 arrests as part of a proactive operation on the Metro Train System between Rouse Hill and Castle Hill over eight nights from Wednesday January 6 until Saturday January 16.

Officers attached to the Police Transport Command – North West Sector – and The Hills Police Area Command conducted Operation Disrupt, a high-visibility, proactive operation targeting knife crime, violent offenders and anti-social behaviour on the public transport network.

Officers patrolled 83 trains, conducted 7 vehicle searches, 15 bail compliance checks and issued 28 move-on directions.

The 14 arrests made by officers were for a range of offences including weapons and drug offences, goods in custody and breach of bail.

Notable arrests included:

- A 16-year-old for possessing a gel blaster pistol (firearm) and ammunition
- A 26-year-old for possessing an extendable baton
- A 30-year-old for possessing knuckle dusters

The Police Transport Command will continue to utilise available intelligence to target and disrupt crime on the public transport network and further operations can be expected.



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HILLS AUSTRALIA DAY WINNERS

CHRIS CLEARY who runs the StreetMed charity working with the homeless and **JAMES BRICE**, the musical director and conductor of Castle Hill RSL Youth Wind Orchestra and North West Wind Ensemble, have both been named the 2021 Hills Citizen of the Year.

Chris ramped up her services with StreetMed - a not-for-profit that provides first aid, medical check-ups and mental health support for those living rough - to ensure the most vulnerable and their pets could access food and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also volunteers with the Sister2Sister program, Camp Quality and Feel the Magic.

James was recognised for his efforts that ensured his musicians remained connected when lockdown measures were first implemented. In fact, he made sure that each of his band members kept playing and carried out 73 weekly online rehearsals.

Chris told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News* that it was an "absolute honour" to receive such a fantastic award.

"To be awarded the Hills citizen of the year in a room full of such amazing people doing such incredible things is truly humbling. 2020 was such a challenging year for so many people and Covid changed the way that not just StreetMed but the world in general did things on a day-to-day basis.

"This award has not only highlighted the work that myself and later on in the year my team did during these difficult times, I think more it also highlights that the amazing work that Frontline workers do isn't just confined to hospitals or supermarkets or the wonderful



work others as such did, it also highlights that there are a lot of people like myself across the country out there on the streets, particular during the height of the pandemic, trying to help and keep the most vulnerable in our society our forgotten homeless alive, and hopefully minimizing the risk to them contracting this horrible COVID-19.

"Please never forget our homeless and those less fortunate."

Former Hills Shire Youth Ambassador **TIAN YI WONG** See was awarded Young Citizen of the Year. The teenager is committed to breaking down the stigma surrounding poor mental health and has written about his own struggles in a book called *One In Five to None in Five*, which is available from the Castle Hill Library. Tian is also the current President of the Coco Youth Group, which focuses on health and wellbeing of young people. Dedicated volunteer **JANICE SANDERS** was awarded the Senior Citizen of the Year Award for her efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic her commitment to helping others. Each month, Ms Sanders packs care packages which are given to people in need.

SUE MARTIN, the Chair of the Cattai Hills Environment Network, was named Environmental Citizen of the Year.

Hills Community Aid (HCA) was named Community Group of the Year.

Hills Shire Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne, said "Our Australia Day Awards are about acknowledging our local residents who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, and have made a positive contribution to the lives of others without asking for anything in return.

"Their meaningful and generous work helps make our region even more vibrant, connected and inclusive."

HAWKESBURY AUSTRALIA DAY WINNERS

The Hawkesbury Citizen of the Year is David Ryan. David has been a volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service for 48 years and he is a current Deputy Group Captain of the Hawkesbury Rural Fire Service.

David has seen many of the country's major fires, including the 2001 Black Christmas fires, 2003 Canberra fires, and the 2009 Victoria fires.

During the Gospers Mountain fire, David lead a team to safety lead a team to safety along with two other group officers after being entrapped in a burn over at Elium Heights.

Mayor of Hawkesbury City Patrick Conolly said David's years of service and ongoing commitment to the Hawkesbury Community make him a very deserving award winner. Australia Day Award Winners:

- Citizen of the Year: David Ryan
- Young Citizen of the Year: Sam Bonus
- Volunteer of the Year: Suzi Samuel
- Local Hero Award: Karen Stuttle
- Community Organisation of the Year: Hawkesbury District Volunteers Rural Fire Service
- Environmental Award: WIRES Hawkesbury
- Junior Person Sports of the Year: Holly Dalrymple
- Community Arts Award: Arabella Logan

The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick congratulated all award recipients. He also acknowledged the challenges facing the

community since the 2019/2020 bushfires and during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic but he noted that community support was alive and well in the Hawkesbury and that, in times like these, it makes all the difference.

"Our emergency services volunteers are a perfect example of the support that is readily provided to our community year after year. We will always need the ever present assistance of our emergency services staff and volunteers whether it is during fire, floods, storms or other emergencies."

More details next issue of the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News.

HEART OF THE NATION

It's just over a year since founding Yellow Wiggle Greg Page nearly died after a cardiac arrest at Castle Hill RSL during a Bushfire benefit concert.

The reunion concert with the original Wiggles had just finished when he collapsed, a crew member and the band's drummer rushed to his aid along with an off-duty doctor. They started to administer lifesaving CPR and a nurse in the audience used the club's defibrillator (AED).

Page says he was lucky that people nearby knew CPR and that the club had an AED which someone could grab quickly.

"If it wasn't for the quick-thinking CPR actions of those around me, and the publicly available defibrillator at Castle Hill RSL ... there is no doubt that I wouldn't be here today. "

Every year there are approximately 30,000 cases of sudden cardiac arrest within Australia. The survival rate for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is only 10%. Bystander CPR and early use of a defibrillator increases the chance of survival by around 70%.

Page's idea for the Heart of the Nation charity came within a week of his heart attack. Heart of the Nation aims to get as many AEDs into the community as possible, as well as acknowledge those businesses, community groups and organisations that have them on site.

Part of that is getting easily identifiable signing.

"We need to properly identify where these AEDs are so that if someone goes into cardiac arrest in the street people will see that there is an AED nearby and use it," said Page.

"It really is time critical, you have to use the AED quickly.

Greg Page in hospital after his heart attack in January 2020.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

"Ultimately, we'd like to see AED's available within 3 minutes of where anyone happens to be, which is why we're set on educating organisations and individuals on the importance of having AEDs on site and accessible when they're needed.

"Our easily recognisable Heart of the Nation brand acts as a symbol of participation for Heart of the Nation Members who have an AED available for people to access and use.

"Just as we see fire extinguishers in all kinds of locations, we need to start seeing more AEDs, because that's the best way to help reduce the number of lives lost each year.

CHRG (Castle Hill RSL Group) was the first to sign up and to put up the Heart of the Nation sign at its entrance and now there are 64 other businesses and organisations registered and hundreds of premises.

Any business or community organisation with an AED can register for free and will be sent the signage.

Heart of the Nation is working with partner organisations and businesses, like CHRG to gift AEDs where a need exists in the community.

In 2020, CHRG gifted nine AEDs to be deployed in first responder vehicles, Castle Hill Bowling Club and Walgett RSL – a rural country club that CHRG supports through its adopted club initiative.

David O'Neil, Group CEO of CHRG said: "The Wiggles have a long association with CHRG and we are so pleased that a decision we made 16 years ago to install AED's has had such a life-changing impact on one of the original Wiggles.

"We look forward to working with Greg Page and Heart of the Nation to urge others to install AEDs in order to save more lives. Popular community meeting places, such as clubs like ours, have a responsibility to protect the people who enjoy spending time in that place."

To find out more, or become a Heart of the Nation member, visit www.heartofthenation.com.au



David O'Neil and Greg Page with one of the Heart of the Nation signs outside Castle Hill RSL



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ADVERTORIAL

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Retirement often gives people more time to pursue their passions and hobbies and with a little bit of preparation and planning you can ensure you have your affairs in order, allowing you to sit back and enjoy doing the things you love.

- Our top tips for planning ahead for your retirement:
- Ask yourself if your current home is suitable for now and into the future. Consider rightsizing into a retirement village to minimise your home and garden maintenance as Carmen, a Uniting Independent Living Resident explains, "Moving to a retirement village was one of the best decisions we've made. We have more time to focus on the things we enjoy."
- Seeking the advice from a financial adviser will determine the various options available to you and can help to minimise the stress of navigating a system that can often be complex. A financial planner who specialises in the aged pension and superannuation can help to ensure you're getting the maximum benefits and assist you with planning for the retirement you envision.
- Understand your care needs and what you may be eligible for already, Commonwealth Support Programs are an option for those who may need assistance to remain living independently.

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AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

PERRY GILSENAN OAM

The founder and organiser of the Scrapheap Adventure Ride, Perry Gilsenan, says his OAM is for everyone involved in the popular annual event which raises money and awareness for Down Syndrome Australia.

"I am very humbled. It is really an award for everyone involved and the Down Syndrome community."

Perry from Baulkham Hills has loved motorbikes all his life and was chatting on an online forum with other enthusiasts about riding old bikes rescued from the scrapheap when the Scrapheap Adventure idea blossomed.

The first ride to Wanaaring, west of Bourke was completed by 14 riders and raised \$22,000 for Down Syndrome Australia.

"My first daughter Grace was born in 2003 with Down Syndrome and my wife found Down Syndrome Australia just a fantastic help with all their resources and help they offered," he said. The tenth anniversary ride to Evans Head attracted 130 riders. So far the annual event has raised in excess of \$800,000 for the Down Syndrome community.

Perry says the idea is to purchase an old bike for under \$1000, do it up and ride from your home to the Scrapheap event. Last year's ride was cancelled due to COVID but this year's event is being planned for October.

"It's a wonderful community," says Perry. "We do raise money but it's about raising awareness. It's about celebrating Down syndrome."

Perry says he has had a blessed life. It is certainly a remarkable life. Perry lost both of his legs at the age of 12

after he fell getting off a train at Strathfield on his way to school and fell between the platform. At the age of 25 he nearly died in a car accident but he has always had a positive attitude.



Perry with his wife Jane and daughters Molly and Grace

He says he has been humbled by the huge response and support he has received from the community since his OAM was announced. "It has been very humbling."

FRANK DEANE OAM

Chair of Forsight Australia Frank Deane is humbled by his OAM, announced in the Australia Day Honours List. "I have a simply philosophy," he told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*, "If you don't contribute to your

community, society fails." It's a philosophy that the Castle Hill resident and his wife of 53 years Pam have passed on to their four children and 10 grandchildren.

The 75-year-old retired solicitor joined the Board of Forsight Australia in 2004. He became involved with the Forsight organisation as member of the Rotary Club of Carlingford when the club was raising money to build the charity's first Supported Independent Living group home in Pennant Rd Carlingford.

He was asked to join the Board in 2004. He has been chair since 2014 and has seen the organisation develop to provide homes for 71 residents across 15 homes.

A new Forsight home is soon to be built in Blacktown. His community involvement has also embraced volunteering with the Northern Barbarian Rugby Club where he has been a member since 1979 and Patron since 1991, the Rotary Club of Carlingford for 23 years until 2004, a member of the NSW Masonic Club for over 30 years and a Life member of the Probus Club of Carlingford/North Rocks and The Buccaneers.

LYNN McCRINDLE OAM

Volunteering and education have been a major part of Lynn McCrindle's life.

The Pennant Hills resident was awarded her OAM for service to children and to eduction.

A teacher from 1979, she was a tutor and also on the Board of the Pacific Hills Christian School until 2018.

She has been a volunteer with Christian Mission International Aid and is on the International Management Committee.

Mrs McCrindle has been a volunteer with the West Pennant Hills Community Church for over 50 years and has been a volunteer with the Crossroads program since 1996.

DAVID ROSENBERG OAM

At the age of 89 David Rosenberg's working life has been spent in publishing. Even after he retired, he returned to publishing, setting up Rosenberg Publishing at his Kenthurst home with his Scilla eight years ago. The couple travelled after selling Kangaroo Press, which they founded and ran for 20 years, returning to set up Rosenberg Publishing in 2002.

"David called it his retirement hobby," said Scilla. Far from being a hobby the couple published on average 12 non-fiction books a year.

Last year it was two titles: The Making of Warriors by Graham J Smith and Bush Remedies by Cheryll Williams. When they ran Kangaroo Press in Kenthurst they published around 1000 non-fiction books covering Australian history and biography, military and maritime history, sport, craft, agricultural history, craft, radio pioneers, gardening, railways and Aboriginal affairs. Many filled gaps in the historical record. He became well known for publishing books major publishers wouldn't touch and many were reprinted. Cheryll Williams' 4-volume *Medicinal Plants in Australia*, are considered major contributions to botanical studies and Jan Barkley-Jack's book *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed* is another major work published by Rosenberg.

He grew up in Grimsby in the UK and won a scholarship to study at Oxford. After graduating he took a job at Oxford University Press and then travelled and worked in India for a UK publisher. Work took him all over Asia and when he visited Australia he decided to make it his home and secured a job with British publisher Thomas Nelson to set up their Australian operations.

The couple's three children and five grandchildren were thrilled by their father's OAM.

TURN TO PAGE 22 FOR MORE LOCAL OAMs



New year, new home... Will this be your year?

While we can't all travel as far and wide as we would like right now, we can still enjoy a little luxury closer to home. Where better to travel than to what could be your very own new home this new year?

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HELEN'S HAPPY CHOICE

Helen Bradey never imagined herself living in a retirement village but the mother-of-two couldn't be happier with her new lifestyle.

Helen and her husband Colin were living in their dream home, a four-bedroom home in Kellyville, when her husband passed away.

"A retirement village never entered my head when my husband died. He was a very handy man but after he died things needed fixing.

"They were minor maintenance problems really but they started to build up and trying to get someone out to fix them was a problem and I thought, 'Why I am I worrying about these things?' I decided to look in the Kellyville area because it was where my doctor, dentist and hairdresser were.""

Helen said she visited about four

of five villages before she saw the plans for the stage 3 development of BaptistCare The Gracewood Retirement Village at Kellyville.

"I just felt really happy when I was given a tour and bought off the plan about a year before I moved in. It gave me time to sort my things out."

She was in her 60s and many of her friends said she was too young to think about a retirement village.

"Every day I wake up and I think I am so glad I moved in," she says. "I have a beautiful threebedroom apartment which is my forever home. It is so easy. I go swimming when I want to and I don't have to clean the pool. I don't have to mow the lawn or water the plants every night. Before I moved to The Gracewood everything was up to me. It's nice that I don't have to do those things anymore."

Helen has joined the garden group at The Gracewood and the craft group and plays cards and mahjong. She also paints and uses her third bedroom as an art studio and sewing room.

"I really like the community here. I can have a coffee with friends or invite someone over for a drink in the evening."

> To find out more visit *www.thegracewood.org.au.* The Gracewood is at 8 Free Settlers Drive, Kellyville. Call 1800 11 6 550

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BUNNINGS PRAISED FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Local group Hills 4 Climate Action has presented Bunnings Castle Hill Store with a Climate Leadership Award for committing to source 100 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025 and for being a leader in taking climate action for local communities.

Group Leader Mila Kasby presented the award to Duty Manager Jason Hegner at the store as part of the Greenpeace REenergise Campaign.

The campaign calls on some of Australia's biggest electricity using companies to make the switch to 100% renewable electricity. Bunnings Warehouse has recently committed to reaching this target by 2025.

Hills 4 Climate Action is a Hills Shire Greenpeace Local Action Group focusing on raising awareness about climate change issues and encouraging more environmentally sustainable living. In February this year, the group took part in a national week of action, publicly asking Bunnings to commit to an ambitious 100% renewable energy target. "We thought it was important to return to the store and personally thank Bunnings for taking this crucial step towards a safer climate. As Australia's most trusted brand it is reassuring that they are showing this leadership" Mila said.

Duty manager Jason Hegner said he was very happy to accept the award on behalf of Bunnings warehouse and thanked Hills 4 Climate Action for the public recognition. Staff members Mike Baird, Nicole Yallop, Matthew Taliana and Tanya Maiurano also represented Bunnings Warehouse Castle Hill at the event.



MOBILE FIRE PUMP

Local Aussie pump dealer, Hills Irrigation, have worked on developing a new mobile version of the famous Aussie Fire Chief. The pump, regarded as the world's finest lightweight portable fire pump is praised by professional firefighters, farmers and home owners for providing extraordinary performance, versatility and quality.

"It's the only pump in the world that we know that has a 5-year warranty" said Hills Irrigation's Vince Barbatano.

The good news is the pump is powered by Honda. It is now available with a trolley kit, making it super easy to move around! "This mobility means the pump can relocated anywhere with ease" said Vince.

The rugged steel trolley is powder coated in "Fire engine red" and comes with two big 10 inch pneumatic tyre wheels for ease of movement.

"It's the best fire pump, the best price, and now its mobile as well." Said Vince.

For more information on Aussie Pump's range of quality pumps. Contact Hills Irrigation on 02 9659 9659.



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The Hills Shire Council News

Proposed Renaming of Nelson Road between Old Pitt Town Road and Windsor Road

On 24 November 2020, Council resolved to exhibit a proposal to rename two sections of Nelson Road Box Hill and Nelson as follows:

SECTION 1: Rename part of Nelson Road between Windsor Road and Edwards Road, Box Hill to 'Skarratt Road'; and

SECTION 2: Rename part of Nelson Road between Edwards Road and Old Pitt Town Road, Box Hill and Nelson to 'Old Pitt Town Road'.

No change is proposed to the name of Section 3 of Nelson Road extending from Old Pitt Town Road into the suburb of Nelson.

The proposed changes are in response to the growth and development occurring within the Box Hill release area and seek to address issues likely to arise from the current disjointed nature of Nelson Road, which consists of three distinct sections.

If Council chooses NOT to proceed with the proposal, new property addresses (including changes to street numbers) will need to be applied to ALL SECTIONS of Nelson Road to accommodate new development in the Box Hill release area.

To view a map of the proposed changes and to have your say, visit: www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/nelsonroad

Submissions close: Friday 12 February 2021.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE Sydney-North Regional Fox Baiting Program

Please be advised that the regional fox baiting program will be undertaken at local reserves in the Sydney North Region. The aim of the project is to protect native wildlife including threatened species from fox predation. **1080 poison baits will be laid in the following Reserves: Excelsior Reserve, Ted Horwood Reserve, Eric Mobbs Reserve.**

Cats and Dogs must not enter baited reserves during the following dates: Monday 15 February – Thursday 1 April 2021

Dogs on leads can return to these reserves on Friday 2 April 2021.

For more information, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Fox Baiting Program.'

WAVES Aquatic Centre Upgrade Project Update

The next phase of works on the upgrade of WAVES Aquatic Centre is underway. Demolition of existing structures, pools and services, bulk earthworks and inground civil works, piling/piering of footings and installation of utilities services have been completed.

In the coming weeks, works will include the concrete pours to the 50m and 25m outdoor pools, and ongoing preparation of the above ground works across the site.

Detailed design is almost complete with the final selection of materials and finishes for the complex being developed on the following key principles.

- 1. **Materials:** Materials used for roofing, cladding, glazing, tiling, fittings and fixtures will be durable, chemical resistant, robust and compliant with respective safety standards.
- 2. **Energy efficiency:** Energy efficiency is paramount and includes the installation of double glazing for thermal insulation, high efficiency LED lighting, solar power to energise pool equipment, heat recovery systems and efficient glazing, pool blankets and rainwater re-use for irrigation.
- 3. Accessibility: Universal design includes accessible paths across the site, ramps to all pools for wheel chairs and all user groups, equitable reception desk, inclusive water play design features, dedicated accessible change rooms and lift access from car park.
- Design: Line of sight visibility of the toddler areas, automation of building lighting and access systems, card readers for after-hours gym access and security / safety monitoring is included for effective operational design.
- 5. **Safety:** Passive surveillance, safe chemical storage, grab rails and balustrades at the pool ramps and visual delineators / signage are some of the safety features of the new pool complex.
- 6. **Security:** Security features such as external lighting, CCTV surveillance and access control systems will be incorporated across the site to minimise unauthorised access and anti-social behaviour.

Decisions about final designs, materials and finishes will be made in the coming months.

To keep up to date with the WAVES Aquatic Centre upgrade, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'WAVES.'

www.thehills.nsw.gov.au | 9843 0555



Hezlett Road Upgrade Project Update

Works continue on the upgrade of Hezlett Road, North Kellyville. Stage 1 of this project involves the section of road fronting North Kellyville Public School. This is a complicated section of work due to the volume and location of underground services, including water, telecommunications and gas that need to be managed or relocated to maintain services.

A temporary lane has been constructed in front of the school to keep the road open for two-way traffic and allow the movement of heavy vehicles.

Over the coming weeks, unavoidable night works will take place to adjust and commission the new water main. Following this, traffic using the temporary lane will be switched to a newly constructed traffic lane.

Preliminary works have also begun to upgrade the intersection of Hezlett Road/Samantha Rilev Drive/James Mileham Drive to prepare for the installation of traffic signals.

Temporary traffic arrangements will be implemented in this area based on construction requirements, including the removal of the roundabout at the intersection of Hezlett Road and Samantha Riley Drive.

A new temporary roundabout is located in the northern portion of the intersection (towards the corner where the McDonald's is located) to allow critical service utility relocations to commence.

Council thanks road users and residents for their patience and urges people to follow roadwork speed limits, observe directions from traffic controllers and be aware of changing conditions. Pedestrians are also advised to take care to avoid any trip hazards.

Once works are completed, Hezlett Road will be widened to two lanes in each direction with allowance for kerbside lanes to become clearways during peak hours and available for parking during off peak hours.

For more information about the Hezlett Road Upgrade, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Hezlett Road.'

Castle Hill Library, Pioneer Theatre and Community Centre Closure

Castle Hill Library complex that includes Pioneer Theatre and Community Centre at Pennant Street, Castle Hill is receiving an upgrade. Refurbishments will include a new lift, recarpeting, sanding and resealing the hard floors inside Castle Hill Library, as well as painting and refurbishing the customer service area.

During these works, Castle Hill Library, the Community Centre and Pioneer Theatre will be closed temporarily from Monday, 15 February until Tuesday, 20 April 2021 to ensure the safety of visitors, library members and staff.

Online library services will continue as usual, and the other Hills Shire library branches will remain open during this time. To locate your nearest alternative library, visit: www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library.

For more information and updates on the works, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au.

Council Meetings

Ordinary Meeting: Tuesday, 9 February 2021 – 7pm, Council Chambers. Due to the latest Public Health Order, limited seating is available at Council meetings.

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, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Have Your Say.'





A Retirement lifestyle that adapts to you

In the heart of the Hills, surrounded by award winning gardens, Aminya Village is a vibrant community for over 55s where you can live as independently as you wish, with the benefit of help and support as your needs change.

Enjoy access to a range of community events and facilities perfect for an active retirement including the Terrace Café, bowling green, hair salon, library, billiard room and workshed.

We take care of the little things like mowing and maintenance, while our BaptistCare At Home team can assist with washing, cooking and cleaning right through to personal care should you ever need extra help.

Hurry, just a limited number of fully refurbished 2 bedroom units available from just **\$550,000**. Call **(02) 8896 3905** and book your tour today.

6 Goolgung Avenue, Baulkham Hills (02) 8896 3905 baptistcare.org.au/Aminya Village



FRIENDS OF BELLA VISTA FARM by GISELA HORNER | Volunteer Bella Vista Farm

From a very young age, Michelle Byrne has always been involved in community work.

Through the church, Girl Guides and Life Saving Clubs she has been no stranger in wanting to put her energies into helping the community. She was first elected onto council in 2008 and in 2012 was elected the youngest Hills Shire Mayor; a position she held again in 2013 and 2015.

By 2017, the annual voting system changed to a 4-year term and Michelle became the Shire's first popularly-elected Mayor voted for by residents. With her engaging smile and delightful manner, she is dedicated to the huge task of steering one of the largest growing councils in the State. At present the population is 177,000 and is estimated to grow to 290,000 by 2036. She is determined to meet the challenges in planning and providing infrastructure to meet the needs of residents and businesses.

Born in Blacktown Hospital, her family moved from Kings Langley to the Hills district when she was 14. After attending William Clarke College she went onto achieve a Medical Science Degree in 2000, Honours in 2001 and a PhD in cancer research in 2009 at UTS. She was working in a medical teaching laboratory and also doing medical research in Type 1 Diabetes.

Job insecurity and funding challenges in medical research caused her to look at a backup plan, so she enrolled in a law degree online at University of New England, graduating in 2014. Bella Vista Farm is a Shire project close to Michelle's heart. "The Farm is one of my favourite places in the Shire – it's a happy place.



Michelle Byrne and her girls, Sophie, Alexis and Maddison at Bella Vista Farm. Photo Gisela Horner.

We need to protect and preserve this place for future generations – for my kids, my grandkids, my great grandkids!

"Bella Vista is still like a 'working' farm with the sheep being here. You can almost forget you are surrounded by houses, the Metro, shops and businesses.

"My hope is to have the Farm open more often. I would like to expand the area outside the perimeter of the Farm, have more walking paths, BBQ areas and possibly a children's playground, so families can be out in the fresh air, use and enjoy the ambience of this place.

"I also recognise the wonderful volunteer group who dedicate their time and help to keep Bella Vista Farm alive and the beautiful place that it is".

Even with her full-time duties she is very much a hands-on mum. Matt her

husband, the five-year-old twins Alexis and Maddison and 15 months-old Sophie all love to come to Bella Vista Farm to visit the sheep and run through the gardens.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bella Vista Farm welcomes visitors to the upcoming Open Day on Sunday, February 7 from 10am to 2pm. Covid rules will be strictly adhered to.

Please share the joy of the Farm. The Friends of Bella Vista Farm will serve Devonshire Teas; talk about the history of the farm.

The sheep will be there along with four Alpacas raised by Ann, a Bella Vista Farm Friend. There is so much for families to see and learn about one of the gems of the Hills Shire. The Bella Vista Farm - Its Past and Its People - A Chronologyis available for purchase at \$20. For more information email: *friends.bellavistafarm@gmail.com*



LIONS HUNT Donations

In a bid to continue fundraising during the COVID pandemic, a local group of Lions have set up a online fundraiser to help children with brain cancer.

With traditional fundraising methods of barbecues and trivia nights off the table during 2020, West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Lions members are committed to raising \$27,000 for The Westmead Children's Hospital, Cancer Research Unit (CRU).

The funds will cover the purchase of a Gravitational Brain Transducer (\$15,000) pilot scans of 10 patients (\$7,000) and a comparative MRE analysis of laboratory mini-brain models (\$5,000).

Since 2004, the West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Lions Club has been supporting The Westmead Children's Hospital Cancer Research Unit to improve treatment and survival rates for child cancer patients and has raised and donated over (there is a line break here \$200,000 to fund important studies and research projects.



The benefits of this programme will help medical specialists tailor treatments for each child. It will also help to predict sites of cancer recurrence for disease monitoring and develop improved laboratory models to test new medicines.

Board member Geoff Irvine said: "In view of the fundraising difficulties, the Lion's Club has experienced over the past year, the club has setup a GoFundMe website and hopes that through the use of this technology it will attract support from a broad base audience of donors within the online space."

The website can be accessed via the Westmead Hospital's portal at www. bandagedbear.org.au to make donations online.

The club would also be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to be part of this project by contacting its president, Geoff Harrison, at geoffharrison@ozemail.com.au

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UPFRONT

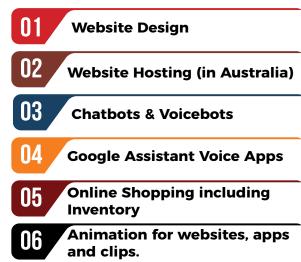
DEVELOPMENT

FEES

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KENTURST CLASSIC CONCERT

The Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra kicks off its 2021 concert season with a European musical journey at Hills Grammar Kenthurst.

Illuminate features the music of Bruch and Tchaikovsky and welcomes back soprano Jacqueline Porter to perform Britten's remarkable song cycle Les Illuminations, with text by French poet Arthur Rimbaud.

Director Rachael Beesley says:

"ILLUMINATE is our way of taking our audience to Europe, even with borders closed.

The program featured: Max Bruch Serenade for Strings after Swedish Melodies, Benjamin Britten Les Illuminationsand Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Souvenir de Florence, Op.70.

The Kenthurst performance is on Tuesday, February 16 starting at 6.30pm at The Hills Grammar School, 43 Kenthurst Road.

For more Information and bookings visit www.arco.org.au

GET YOUR LIFE BACK WITH DEPRESSION RECOVERY PROGRAM

There is life beyond emptiness. Are you depressed? Do you have anxiety?

There is an epidemic sweeping Australia today. 1 in 5 Australians and over 350 million people worldwide, suffer from depression and/or anxiety and, during stressful times, this disease can intensify.

Stress can come from relationship breakdown, job loss, financial distress, family or work expectations, unrealistic goals, change of schedule or eating patterns, sleep disorders, and more.

The program is offered by American Doctor, Dr Neil Nedley, MD, (pictured) founder and medical director of the "Nedley Depression Anxiety Recovery Programs" and "Optimize your Brain Program", designed to enhance emotional intelligence. He has also developed a very successful 10-day residential depression recovery program for treatment of resistant depression and anxiety.

Dr. Nedley is an award winning practising physician and president of the Weimar Institute. His emphasis as a physician is in internal medicine, (gastroenterology, mental

health, lifestyle medicine and the difficultto-diagnose patient). He has put together the program from research and clinical experience helping his patients for in excess of 20 years.

A few basic lifestyle changes can help you break free from the trap of depression. Every case is as different as each individual, but the 10 Hit categories summarize all the possible causes for depression.

Determining your causes can be as simple as taking the depression questionnaire in this program.

The program is designed for all ages, including children, youth, adults, families, and the elderly. For program enquiries, or to make a booking for the next intake, phone Sheryl at 0402 004 477 or email BookingDR@yahoo.com.

The introductory program is free.

The free introductory session will be held at Galston Adventist Community Centre, 49 Arcadia Road, Galston.



or call Brian Crawford on 0448 400 920

or send this coupon to: Windsor Country Village, 7 Bandon Road, Vineyard NSW 2765

Name		t
Address		
Postcode	Phone	
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GET YOUR LIFE BACK!

Find out if the program is right for you! ATTEND A FREE INFORMATION SESSION!

When:	Monday 15th February 2021 @ 7pm
Location:	Hall @ Galston Adventist Church
	49 Arcadia Road, Galston
Register:	0402 00 44 77 or bookingdr@yahoo.com

LEARN HOW TO:

- Identify depression and anxiety
- and their causes
- Improve your emotional intelligence
- Enhance your energy levels and mood Overcome depression and/or anxiety
- through positive lifestyle choices
- Eat for optimal brain function Manage stress without distress
- Live above loss
- Improve brain function
- Defeat depression and

- anxiety through right thinking Achieve peak mental performance

NEDLEY **DEPRESSION & ANXIETY RECOVERY** PROGRAM

Follow us on facebook.com/hillstohawkesbury

www.nedleydepressionrecovery.com

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

PETS

NAME: JACKSON BREED: Staffordshire Bull Terrier AGE: 2 years old SEX: Male PRICE: \$99



JACKSON is a 2-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier. According to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter, Jackson is a happy dog with lots of personality and energy. He has been very well behaved while he has been at the shelter enjoying his time in the exercise run and playing next to the other dogs. Staff say Jackson would be best suited to a family that will have the time to take him on long walks and allow him to interact with them.

As the featured dog Jackson's adoption price has been reduced to \$99. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and life time registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.

TARA is a small three-month-old female kitten. Staff say that Tara is a quiet, little girl who is happy just to sit back and be entertained by the other kittens playing around her. If you are looking for a calm kitten, please come to the shelter to meet Tara.

Her adoption price has been reduced to \$30 as the featured cat. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and life time registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.

AT A GLANCE

NAME: TARA BREED: Domestic kitten AGE: 3 months old SEX: Female PRICE: \$30



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AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS by LAWRENCE MACHADO RITA LITTLE OAM

Rita Little, a trailblazer who adored her jack Russell terriers, has been awarded a Medal of the Order (OAM) for her long service to animal welfare and canine breeding clubs.

The much-loved Kellyville grandmother died of acute myeloid leukaemia on February 13, 2020, aged 85, leaving behind a vast legacy in NSW, Australia and overseas, where she regularly travelled in her capacity as a dog show judge and speaker.

Ms Little led a very active and interesting life, once driving a MG with her first husband, Charles, from Singapore to London in the late '50s.

Belinda Francis, remembers a wonderful woman who gave a lot back to the community. "My mother-in-law was an incredible woman and was the sunshine in our lives.

"The family is absolutely delighted she has received this honour because she was a wonderful

woman who was very involved with the community."

Ms Little founded her dog breeding operation, Carisbrooke Kennels, in 1974. She served on the committees of the British Terrier Club of NSW and Jack Russell Terrier Club of NSW, was co-founder of the Jack Terrier Race Days in 1982 and worked with the Australian National Kennel Council. She was a volunteer at the Castle Hill Show Society for 12 years and authored a book on the terrier breeds.

Her last overseas trip was in 2019 when she was a judge at an international show in Italy. She is survived by her children, Martin and his wife Alison and granddaughters Kate and Elena and son James and his wife Belinda and their children, Callum and Darcy.

GEOFF SCOTT OAM

Carlingford resident Geoff Scott's involvement in education spans over 55 years and includes seven years as President of the NSW Primary Principals' Association.

He was named in the Australia day Honours' List for service to education and to professional associations. Mr Scott's career as a teacher began in 1964 after he graduated as a Primary School teacher.

In 1983, he became a Primary School Principal before retiring in 2016.

He is a Life Member of the NSWPPA and is currently a principal support officer.

He is also a Life Member of the Australian Government Primary Principals' Association and the Australian Primary Principals' Association and has held several executive roles. He is a member of the National Advisory Council.

SYDNEY ANIMAL HOSPITALS

KEEPING YOUR PET COOL

The hot summer weather is here and what better way to enjoy the sunshine than to get out and about in our local parks and beaches.

Our pets enjoy the outdoors just as much as we do, however there are some things we need to keep in mind to ensure the comfort and safety of our pets during the warmer months.

On extremely hot days we recommend all pets should be indoors with a fan or air conditioner on however if this is not possible some veterinary clinics and boarding kennels can provide airconditioned day boarding. Pugs, French bulldogs, Cavalier King Charles and other short nosed (brachycephalic) breeds are mostly affected.

Please make sure your pet has a sufficient amount of fresh water and the water bowl is not sitting in direct sunlight. The night before you could make a doggy Ice block, by filling an old container with water, sprinkling dry dog food, then freezing.

On the day, you could also leave a wet towel out for your pet to sit on. Also a child's plastic seashell sand pit makes a great pool for a dog. We always reiterate the importance of never leaving pets in the car in hot weather, as pets can overheat in a matter of minutes; this has sadly led to the deaths of otherwise healthy animals.

When exercising, wait till the sun has gone down before you take your dog for a walk. A good test is if the ground is too hot for your bare feet for 5 seconds, then it is too hot for your pet's paws.

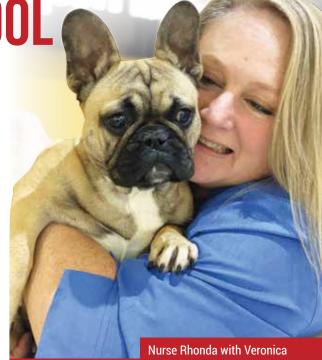
The heat can affect all types of animals. For our wildlife, leave a water bowl outside and place a stick in the bowl, so animals such as a lizard can climb out.

If you have a bird aviary, you can purchase mist sprinklers for the top of your aviary to keep your birds cool on a hot day.

Rabbits and guinea pigs do not sweat therefore cannot regulate their body temperature. They do not tolerate hot weather so best to keep them in air conditioning on hot days.

Please keep in mind even in the shade on a 38+ degree day, a pet can overheat and get heat stress/stroke simply by breathing in the hot air.

Some warning signs of heat stress/ stroke include panting excessively, moving



sluggishly, acting woozy, drooling, vomiting, or losing consciousness.

If there are any signs of distress, please contact your local Sydney Animal Hospitals Kellyville 8883 0533 or Norwest 8883 0411 as heat stress can unfortunately be fatal if treatment of the condition is not sought promptly.

sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au

PIONEER UPGRADE

The Pioneer Theatre at Castle Hill will draw it's curtains for a few months between February 15 and April 20 while the lift is replaced. The good news is that before that happens you can catch the Off-Broadway musical, The Last Five Years, which will be performed at the Pioneer Theatre from February 11 to February 14.

This musical will be the debut performance for the brand new Mitchell Old Company established by 19-year-old Galston resident, Mitchell Old, who started his business after the entertainment industry was decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Having seen this gap created by COVID-19, I am aiming to fill it, for at least some young creatives within the Hills.

"My hope is that by providing more opportunities to young talented artists, a career within the arts may not be as far-fetched as they once thought," Mitchell added.

Mitchell's show follows Jamie Wellerstein, a young, talented and successful writer who falls in love with Cathy, a struggling actress.

For further information on shows and times, as well as the works scheduled for the Pioneer Theatre website, visit: www.pioneer theatre. com.au.





Forgetting monthly treatments is one of the leading causes of deadly heartworm in dogs.¹ Let us take care of it for you.

Get your FREE dose of year-round heartworm prevention, 4 weeks FREE tick and flea protection, a FREE Puppy Health Check, 4 weeks FREE pet insurance, and a sample bag of Hill's puppy food.

Sydney Animal Hospitals

Kellyville 8883 0533 Norwest 8883 0411 www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au

Reference: 1. AHAP. Australian Guidelines for Heartworm Prevention in Dogs, 2014. "T&Cs apply. Free heartworm does available 1/1 – 31/3/2021 for puppies aged 12 weeks only. Free puppy health check-up and insurance available all year for new patients aged 12 weeks to 12 months. Free puppy health check-up not valid for veterinary consultations for specific linesses or injuries. Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd. ARN 94 156 476 425 Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard, Rhodes NSW 2138. © 2020 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. December 2020.

LOCAL POLITICS

JULIAN LEESER MP Federal Member for Berowra

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120
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As your MP, I am here to:

Assist with accessing federal government services

- Attend your local community event
- Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME – ROUND 6 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OPEN

Round 6 of the Stronger Communities Grants Programme is now open for Expressions of Interest. The programme funds small capital projects that aim to improve local community participation and contribute to vibrant communities.

In the past the Stronger Communities Program has helped to fund and bring many life great projects in our community. These include the renovation and repurposing of a building to provide a new day service to support maturing clients at Inala in Cherrybrook, the purchasing of a new van for the Hills Community Op Shop, the renovation of Studio ARTES' performance space in Hornsby and many more.

This round of the program will support Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. For this special round, the grant funding for each project will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs, except for local councils where grant funding will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs.

Grants will be available between \$2,500 and \$20,000 for successful applications. Further details on eligibility criteria and how to apply are available at www.business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/ stronger-communities-programme

To be considered, please submit an expression of interest (EOI) to my office before **5pm Thursday 25 February 2021**. EOI forms are available at *www.julianleeser. com.au/scp6*

The expressions of interest will go before a community panel and the best projects will then be invited to formally apply for funding.



Examples of eligible projects include fit out, alterations and/or extensions of community spaces, upgrades of sporting facilities and fields such as new scoreboards, or the purchase of musical instruments, sports equipment and uniforms that remain the property of the organisation.

In the past we have delivered projects with scouting groups, Lifeline Asquith, Streetwork, churches, school P&Cs and RFS brigades, among others.

If your organisation has a vision for a project in our community, I would love to hear from you.

SHOWGROUND BOOST

Hawkesbury Showground is a jewel in our crown and the recent funding boost by the NSW Government from the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund and the Crown Lands Stimulus Funding Program will provide over \$1.9 million for construction of a multipurpose trade, industrial, livestock and machinery pavilion.

This much needed infrastructure will also prove invaluable during bushfire periods when self-evacuees need a safe place for their families and animals during critical times. Feral goats can cause soil erosion, spread diseases and pose a risk for vehicle collisions. To combat this, the NSW Government has granted \$29,803 to the Local Land Services to control feral goats at Wisemans Ferry.

I encourage students from Hawkesbury to consider the opportunity of a new two-year infrastructure traineeship, which was announced by the NSW Government and which will provide the Class of 2020 with immediate employment opportunities and give them well-rounded experience in the infrastructure sector.

The program will offer more than 100 school leavers traineeships in

infrastructure-based roles commencing in February 2021. Training Services NSW has committed to funding the cost of the Certificate III and IV training and other mandatory training such as First Aid and White Card for all trainees. For more information, visit education.nsw.gov.au/ public-schools/career-and-studypathways/infrastructuretraineeships.

Have your say on the National Parks and Wildlife Service's draft horse riding management plan for southeast Wollemi National Park. The plan identifies proposed horse riding routes in the south-east of the park near Mountain Lagoon, Upper Colo, Wheeny Creek, Blaxlands Ridge Road and Kurrajong.

The consultation period closes 14 March 2021. For more information visit www.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/ wollemi-national-park-horse-riding, email npws.parkplanning@ environment.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 361 967**.



SPORTS

TRICKER REVVED UP

Not many may know that a Hills local is a big star in the American motocross and enduro circuits and is one of Australia's most successful women riders.

Mackenzie Tricker is certainly one of Australia's most successful motorsports exports, having steadily and quietly stamped her class in the demanding but more lucrative US circuit, racking up several titles.

The hugely-talented and motivated Vineyard local is based in South Carolina and competes on her KTM, with her boyfriend Dylan Bean being her full-time mechanic.

"I am currently recovering from a knee reconstruction so I'm going to miss the start of the 2021 season, although we get some drop races so I hope to use those to my advantage," Tricker, 25, told *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News* from her base.

"These days, I race more off-road events, harescrambles and enduro races in the woods.

"Women's motocross (held in enclosed track with jumps) went downhill after 2013 and is now no longer a series, which made me go over to the offroad side of things.

"It's been a challenge because there is a lot to learn but I have been enjoying the struggle. "The other girls are really good and competitive and I've been lucky enough to win a lot of races and I'm always right there battling for the win."

Tricker, who is known as Kenz on the US circuit, is busy plotting out more successes while hoping she can return to Sydney to see her family.

The 175cm tall rider has the rare honour of sealing a hat-trick of Loretta Lynn Amateur National Motocross Championships from 2013-15, in allconquering fashion.

Tricker has always been ahead of the pack in motocross and caught the eye in Australia as a youngster, winning state and national motocross titles before taking a punt on the American circuit.

"I've had a bad run with one of my knees," Tricker said. "I love the competition in the US, I am competitive and I love to win! I last visited Australia in January 2020 and I usually go home every year but last year was a little different with Covid-19.

"What I miss the most is my family and the food."

Tricker said she is extremely proud of her Loretta Lynn championship hat-trick, pointing out winning this title in 2015, was her most satisfying. "I am delighted that I won the American National Enduro championships in 2019 and 2020," said Tricker, who won the *Rouse Hill Times* Junior Sports Award a decade ago.

"My boyfriend Dylan is also my mechanic, it's awesome, we get along really great and work really well together as a team."

BATTING FOR CUP ALIVE 90.5FM CUP

Arch rivals North West Sydney Hurricanes and Auburn Eagles will battle it out on Sunday, January 31, for the honour of being the first holders of the Alive 90.5FM Cup.

The annual cup will be presented to the club which has the most club championship points in the Sydney Shire competition each season.

Their Frank Gray Shield under-24 derby on Sunday will decide the winners of the inaugural cup. The Eagles are just one point ahead of their rivals in their points tally and are also placed fifth in the Shires Club Championship, two places higher than the Hurricanes.

The Hurricanes and Eagles have split their four grade matches in the 2020/21 season, making the decider too close to call. The 50-over Frank Gray Shield under-24 match at George Parry Oval, Auburn, is scheduled to begin at 10am, weather permitting. The winners will be crowned Alive 90.5FM Cup champions and will have the bragging rights for one year. According to Alive 90.5FM's senior producer, David McDonald, the cup will provide more motivation for the clubs each year.

"Both clubs are excited over this idea and are backing the cup," said McDonald, a former president and skipper of the Hurricanes.

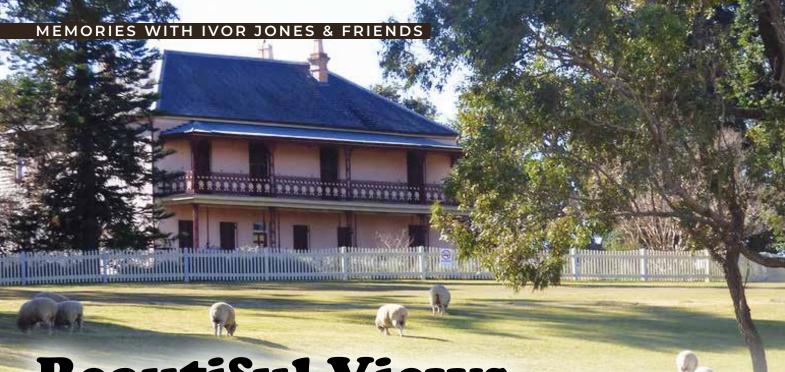
"The clubs have produced very good players over the years with some going on to represent NSW or being signed on by other state teams.

"From 10am, the match will be live video-streamed by North West Sydney's Facebook page and will feature full commentary from Alive 90.5FM.



"The stream will feature action replays and different camera angles while the match will be broadcast live on Alive 90.5FM and alive905.com.au/listenlive from 2pm." The cup has been donated by JAW Trophies and Sports.

"Thank you to all involved and we are looking forward to Sunday and helping build on the great rivalry between the Eagles and Hurricanes," McDonald said.



Beautiful Views

Living in the Hills District with its many hills one would expect that there are extensive and expansive view from various locations and you would be right. Locations in Winston Hills provide views over the expanding Parramatta CBD where you can witness the growth of construction cranes building numerous concrete and glass towers. From Thompsons Corner at West Pennant Hills pedestrians can look over the northern and north western suburbs. One location within the Hills District bears a name that reflects what owners thought of the views in the district in during past decades. A visit to one of the historic homes in the Hills would give you some indication of what a resident would see.

On a recent visit to the homestead at Bella Vista farm if you take in the view from the veranda on the first floor you can see a vast section of the Cumberland Plains as far as the distant Blue Mountains. Bella Vista means beautiful view and the first recording of the name was 7 February 1876 - 145 years ago. The Friends of Bella Vista will be holding an open day at Bella Vista Farm on 7 February of this year. Prior to being named "Bella Vista" it was called "Mount Pleasant".

Bella Vista was once part of John & Elizabeth Macarthur's "Seven Hills" farm and had been handed back to the Crown in 1821 in exchange for additional land at his "Camden Park" estate at Cowpastures (now Camden). 500 acres of the Seven Hills farm was subsequently granted to James Robertson in 1837 and 500 acres to George Acres in 1823 which he named "Heywood". Whilst in 1831 500 acres was granted to the Matron of the Orphan School at Parramatta, Mrs Susanna Ward who later in 1834 sells 133 acres to James Smith.

The Pearce family's association with Bella Vista commenced around 1842 when William Thomas Pearce purchased the former Robertson grant of 500 acres and added his other farms in the wider Hills district ("Stanhope Farm" of 620 acres, "Duggan's" of 640 acres and "Kings Langley Farm" of 487 acres) to create 500-600 acre working farms for his five sons.

In 1887 Edward H Pearce set aside a small parcel of land near the junction of Seven Hills Rd and Old Windsor Rd that he had obtained from his brother Philip Augustus Pearce as a small private graveyard. Pearce family tradition says that the cemetery was established on the site where John Henry Pearce died in 1872 after falling from his horse.

The Pearce family sell the property to the North Sydney Brick and Tile Co (later Norbrik) and Bella Vista Farm is leased to Ellen Jones in 1951. In 1974 the farm is compulsorily resumed by Sydney Water (Metropolitan Water, Sewerage & Drainage Board) who had plans to erect water storage tanks on the site.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s pressure is applied by numerous groups to preserve the farm for its historical connection to the Macarthur's and for the passive use for residents of the Hills District. A permanent conservation order was granted in 1997 and ownership transferred to the Hills Shire Council. As they say "the rest is history". The farm is open to the public on the 1st Sunday of the month. The next open day is also 145th anniversary of the first known use of the name "Bella Vista". I hope to see you there.

FAREWELL DORICE NOY, 104

Friends gathered at Wesley Uniting Church at Castle Hill last week to farewell Dorie Ethel Noy who passed away on January 10, ten days before her 105th birthday.

Mrs Noy, a resident at Uniting Wirreanda Retirement Village at West Pennant Hills, was a veteran and was given a tribute by the Castle Hill RSL sub-branch with members placing poppies on her flag-drapped coffin.

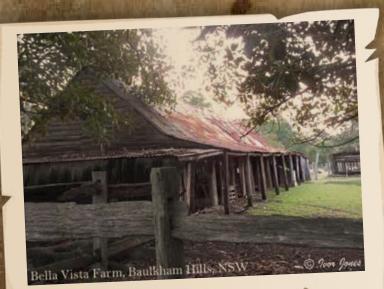
As a young woman Dorice served in the Women's Auxiliary Airforce Force (WAAFs) and assembled spark plugs for airforce planes. She travelled the UK training young women and in that capacity met Queen Mary. She migrated to Australia and worked in the British Embassy and then Vogue Australia for 10 years before she retired. She was married in her 70s, to widower David Noy and they enjoyed 10 happy years together.

Speakers described Dorice as a woman before her time who was independent, had a great sense of humour and loved knowing what was going on in her community, her country and the world. She was thrilled that she could see the opening of a train station in Castle Hill.

She loved travel and adventure and visited 33 countries in her lifetime. Her advice for a good life was; "Always be interested in various things."



COLLECTION COMPILED BY <mark>IVOR JONES</mark> SHOWING LIFE IN THE HILLS AND HAWKESBURY AREA DURING PAST DECADES.















COMMUNITY groups

2nd Castle Hill Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

Annangrove Environment Centre

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

Arcadian Quilters

i Meet in Galston Community Health Centre 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings, evening group 2nd and 4th Mondays. New members welcome Larole | 9894 7749

Australian Sikh Association

- 0433 580 539
- www.asainc.org.au

Bushrangers Hash House Harriers

- Castle Hill Art Society *i* 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-know artists are held monthly and members can participate in several exhibitions during the year. New members always welcome. www.castlehillartsociety.org.au .
- 9899 3179 (ans. machine)

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 Our 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

Christ Church

An Anglican church located at 26 Pitt i Town Road, Kenthurst,has a service at 9.30.a.m. every Sunday morning. You are most welcome to join us. **G** 9651 1119

Cumberland Bird Observers Club

- The Club conducts three outings per month to observe birds in their natural environment in interesting places all around Sydney. General meetings which focus on identification of birds and their conservation are held at Castle Hill on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. You are welcome to attend outings and meetings. The Club has just celebrated its fortieth year and is keen to welcome new members.
- Peter 0412 770 757 or Cathy 9809 5668.
- www.cboc.org.au

CWA of NSW – Galston Branch

- Our next meeting is Wednesday from 10am. Please join us for morning tea and/or a yummy lunch prepared by the CWA ladies
- **S** 9653 1056

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 Tuesday's of the month from 10 to 12. Bring along your lunch if you wish to stay longer. Maureen | 0411 724 925

Hills to Hawkesbury Community News | 29 January 2021

Dural Country Club Bowls

• 04 2131 5074

28

Dural Men's Shed

C 04 0247 8498 www.duralmensshed.org

Dural Galston Probus Club

- i We are a mixed club for retired and semi-retired people who enjoy friendship, interesting speakers, outings and
- holidays. Visitors are very welcome. 💄 Tiina Kase | 0428 888 411

East Kurrajong School of Arts *i* First Tuesday each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity you're interested in, bring pencil's 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. **C** Ann | 02 4576 5031

Galston VIEW Club

i Raises money to support The Smith family Learning for Life program will hold its 1st Luncheon/meeting on Wednesday 22nd July 2020 at 21-25 Arcadia road Galston@11am after the shut down of the Coronavirus in early March, they had given the View club the go ahead to start holding its monthly meetings. Helen | 96141512

- **Glenhaven Probus Club Inc** i 10am every 2nd Tuesday of
- each month at the castle Hill Bowling Club.
- secretary.glenhaven.probus@gmail. com
- 04 4977 8659

Glenwood Men's Shed

- 💄 James | 04 0333 8450
- Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail **C** 02 4567 7400
- ➡ Leanne@mellowcrest.com
- www.haat.com.au
- Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn
- **4577 3591 (BH)**
- www.hawkesbúryshow.com.au

Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the First Fleeters

- i Meets on 2nd Saturday of each month. Pamela Hempel | 0407 660 579
- www.fffhnc.com

Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd 4721 8709

- Hills District Women's Bowling Club 💄 Jenner Street, Baulkham Hills
- **G** 9639 2733
- www.thehillswomensbowls.com.au

Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

- *i* 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

Learning in the Hills

6 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 📞 Jill | 4575 3858

www.macquarietownsgardenclub. wordpress.com/

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club *i* We are a breakfast club and meet

every Thursday morning at 7.20am. At the moment it is online but there are COVID-Safe Face to Face Meetings once a month. The Rotary Motto is Service Above Self. If you want to meet like-minded people please join us.

Soroptimist of The Hills

Lothy Tracey | 0435 837 11?

The Hills Community Aid and

Information Service Inc

The Hills Learning Centre

The Hills Shire Garden Club

The Inner Wheel Club of

Robyn | 9639 2742

RSVP | info@thehillslc.com.au.

facebook.com/thehillslearningcentre

You are invited to meet each month

meeting dates and venue are varied.

Association of Independent Retirees

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

airsydneyhills@gmail.com

The Hills District Pipe Band

Practices in the Harvey Lowe Pavilion at Castle Hill Showground

every Tuesday night from 7.30pm-

9pm. The band warmly welcomes

new members and gig enquiries.

Facebook and Instagram: @

www.hillsdistrictpipeband.com

Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition

Meet every second Tuesday in the

Centre, Drive, Baulkham Hills at 8

month at Crestwood Community

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/

Winston Hills Joey Scouts

hsara@optusnet.com.au

Wisemans Ferry Community

i Meeting Tues and Sat 9am - 5pm

Adrian Acheson | 0448 833 781

4566 4626 or 0428 784 425

YMCA NSW Community Visitors

C 9633 8209 or 0402 255 193

Zonta Club of Sydney Hills

www.zontadistrict24.org

Read online: www.hillstohawkesbury.com.au

hillsdistrictpipeband

suz801@live.com.au

The Hills Trefoil Guild

in the Hills District

Outdoor Club

\$ 0452 465 906

wanderers

G 9862 8482

Men's Shed Inc

Alan Hunt |

C 0414 641 408

¢,

Scheme

hillsladiestennis.org

Wanderers Bushwalking and

💄 Elaine | 0417 330 196

Suzie Whitaker

The National Seniors Australia

Pam | 0412 737 234

Are you over 50? 9639 1814

www.hillnsa.com

Meeting on Friday, at Beecroft

The Sydney Hills Branch of the

with a group of friendly ladies who are

involved in fundraising for charity and enjoy social activities. Due to Covid, our

📞 8850 1269 | 🌐 www.star.org.au.

S.I. of The Hills.

\$ 9639 8620

Q 02 8850 0555

\$ 9624 5034

Baulkham Hills

STaR Association

morwestrotary.org.au

North Rocks Evening VIEW Club *i* Muirfield Golf Club,58 Barclay Rd,

North Rocks. Toni | 9871 1926 or 0411 693 076, or Margaret on 9872 1405 view.org.au

North Richmond Probus Club

- Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 10.30am at Panthers, North Richmond, Beaumont Rd, N. Richmond. Meetings will recommence on 12th August 2020.
- 📞 Joan Fewings | 0401813152 northrichmondprobus@gmail.com

Pennant Hills Mens Probus Club 📞 John | 9487 1385

Pennant Hills Combined Probus Club *i* Pennant Hills VIEW Club has resumed regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at Oatlands Golf Club at 11am. Lunch is followed by an interesting guest speaker. Visitors and new members are welcome.

C 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 Combined Kellyville Club

- i Meets at 10am on 2nd Monday of the month at Moran Aged Care Kellyville, 35 Goodison Street, North Kellyville. New members welcome.
- Glenys | 0419 616 431; Joy | 0416 239 696

Probus Club - Winston Hills Northmead Combined

- Re-locating to Toongabbie Sports Club. Meets 2nd Thursday of the month
- Membership Officer | 0421 410 305 **Red Cross. Castle Hill Branch**
- New meeting venue is Wesley Uniting Church, 32-34 Showground Rd. Castle Hill from 10.15A.M. To 11.45A.M. the second friday in the month. New i members always welcome.

& 8850 7056

Richmond /Windsor VIEW Club

(Voice Interest and Education of Women Club which Supports the Smith Family.) Meets on 2nd Wednesday of the month,11 am for 11.30 am at Richmond Golf Club, 34 Bourke Street, Richmond Carol Jackson | 45781510

Scouts Australia - Greater Western Sydney Region 9639 2488

www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Sleep Disorders Australia - NSW 📞 02 9990 3514

www.sleepoz.org.au

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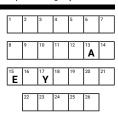
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Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

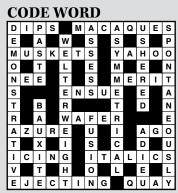


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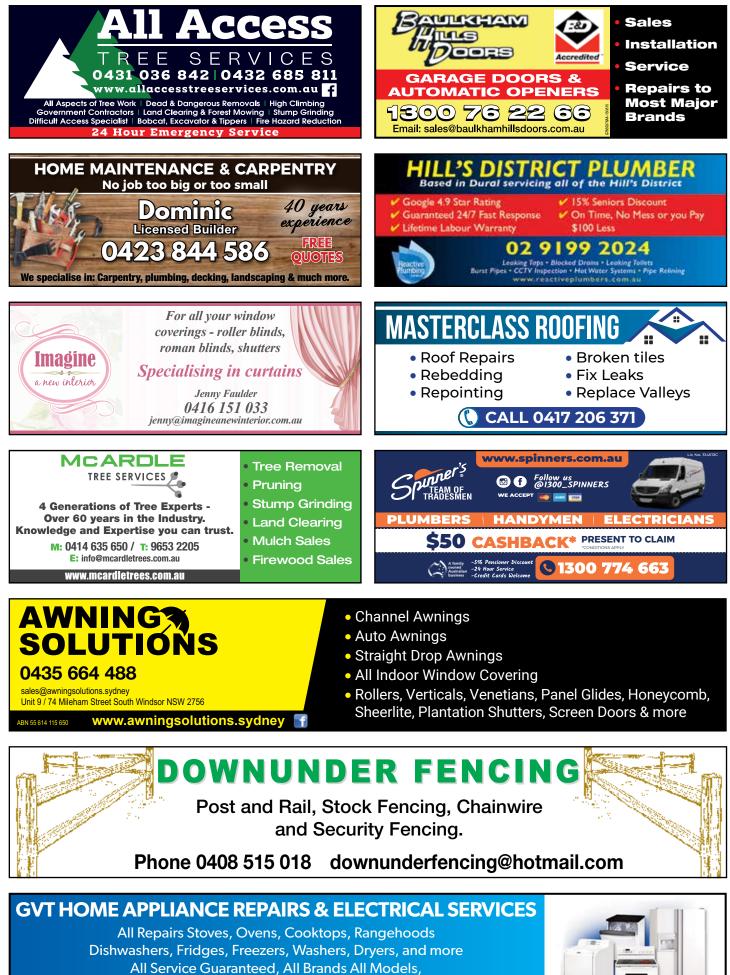
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