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Community News

2nd - 16th July 2021 | Volume 38 – Issue 13
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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RAAF ACTIVITY RICHMOND

If you have noticed and enjoyed the extra activity at RAAF Base Richmond it's all down to Exercise Teak Action which started on June 23 and will continue until July 12.

RAAF aviators flying C-130J Hercules transports are training with United States Air Force (USAF) counterparts flying MC-130J Commando II aircraft.

Exercise Teak Action includes day and night-time flying over the Hawkesbury-Nepean area, the Blue Mountains, and across Central New South Wales. Group Captain David Strong, Officer Commanding No. 84 Wing, said flying activity would

occur at airfields that are routinely used by RAAF Hercules crews for training.

"Sharing our skies during Exercise Teak Action allows us to exchange ideas, build our skillsets, and be prepared to work together on operations," Group Captain Strong said.

"Crews from both countries are trained to fly into tough environments to deliver passengers or cargo, or safely bring people out of danger."

"We appreciate the understanding of local communities in the vicinity of our flying, as their support is essential to us safely completing this training."

The USAF contingent is from the 353rd Special Operations Group, based at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan.

All USAF personnel completed two weeks of hotel quarantine in Australia, and had to pass COVID-19 testing prior to commencing the exercise.



The photos by Cpl David Said show a No 36 Squadron C-17A Globemaster landing at RAAF Base Richmond and a United States Air Force MC-130J Commando II taking off from RAAF Base Richmond



PEDAL POWER

Cycling is one of the best ways to discover more about The Hills and its local history, while also keeping healthy and active during the stay-at-home period.

Hills Shire Council has more than 100km of cycleways and the Greenway Link cycleway, from Bella Vista to Rouse Hill, is a great option.

You can start by cycling from Bella Vista Farm - a homestead which was instrumental in the development of the Australian pastoral and agricultural industries in the 19th century to historic Aberdoon House - an intact Colonial Georgian Cottage in Rouse Hill.

The 12 kilometre cycleway begins at The Farm, located on the corner of Elizabeth Macarthur Drive and Norwest Boulevard in Bella Vista, and continues around the significant property, through scenic bushland, housing estates and past shops and cafes.

To learn more about the cycleway and for directions, visit Council's Blog, Hills Focus, www.hillsfocus.com.au.



Hills to Hawkesbury

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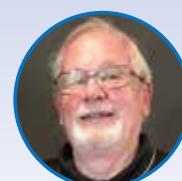
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TEA WITH LOCAL MP

By **PATRICIA CAMPBELL**

The residents at Riverside Gardens were lucky to have a social get-to-know-you morning tea with their local State member for the Hawkesbury Robyn Preston just before the COVID lockdown was declared last week.

As a resident in the area Robyn is aware of local issues and residents enjoyed the opportunity to talk to her about their views and concerns.

The proposed bridge duplication was raised and people aired their views. Residents also talked to Robyn about issues such as domestic violence and being grandparents.

Of concern to many residents who enjoy walking to North Richmond Shopping Centre are the traffic lights.

Residents say the phasing of the lights is too short when they attempt to cross Bells Line of Road to get to and from the shops.

They say it is very dangerous for those on scooters or other mobility aids.

Residents love being able to walk to their local shops, post office and health care professionals.

Down the other end of Beaumont Avenue is Hanna Park, another great source of enjoyment



Hawkesbury MP Robyn Preston got to enjoy tea with Riverside Gardens residents before the COVID restrictions.

for residents who like walking. It's a pet friendly park which just suits a pet friendly village.

This village recognises the importance of residents being able to bring their pet with them when they move here.

Riverside Gardens has been open for 10 Years. The first resident moved in on June 24, 2011.

Most of the residents have lived in the area or have family living in the area.

Ask any resident at the village what they enjoy most about living at North Richmond and they will tell you it's about the semi-rural area.

They love the wildlife, the walks and the natural beauty. We also get a lot of birds and parrots from the nearby park fly into the village. The residents just love it.

Riverside GARDENS



RETIRE IN STYLE TO NORTH RICHMOND

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DRYER FIRE WARNING

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) has warned of the dangers operating household clothes dryers following a small fire in a home in Honeymyrtle Road, Kellyville on Tuesday afternoon (June 29).

FRNSW arrived at the house just after 2pm to find a smoke detector operating due to a clothes dryer catching alight. Firefighters extinguished the fire and removed the dryer outside, ventilating the area of smoke. No one was injured and damage was contained to the dryer.

Superintendent Scott Dodson said this incident is a timely reminder to be aware of the following when using a clothes dryer:

1. Clean your lint filter before or after each use.
2. Ensure there is adequate air flow around your dryer.
3. Don't leave the dryer operating when you're not home.



BURNS VICTIM

A 51-year-old man working at a worksite in Vineyard sustained serious burns to his whole body when the machinery he was operating exploded on Thursday (June 24).

The man's colleagues provided first aid and alerted emergency services.

CareFlight's Rapid Response Helicopter was tasked by NSW Ambulance shortly before noon and landed at 12.10pm in an adjacent property.

The clinical team made their way to the scene of the incident where NSW Ambulance

paramedics were treating the man for burns, while personnel from Fire and Rescue NSW and the Rural Fire Service worked to extinguish the flames.

CareFlight's specialist doctor and NSW Ambulance critical care paramedic performed a clinical assessment on the patient and treated his burns. They administered pain relief and intubated the patient and placed him in an induced coma to stabilise his condition.

The man was airlifted to Royal North Shore Hospital under ongoing treatment from CareFlight's clinical team in a critical condition.

GUN AMNESTY BEGINS

The National Firearms Amnesty started on Thursday, July 1 giving people an opportunity to hand in unregistered and unwanted firearms and improve community safety.

For three months, until September 30, anyone with unwanted and unregistered firearms or firearm-related items can legally dispose of or register them at approved drop-off points.

There is no cost involved with handing in firearms or related items for destruction, and no personal details are required.

Outside of the amnesty period, anyone caught with an unregistered firearm could face a fine of up to \$280,000, up to 14 years in jail,

and a criminal record.

People handing in firearms should contact their local police station and make an appointment to hand them in. For more information call 1800 909 826.

More information about the amnesty and surrendering, registering or selling unwanted firearms is available from crimestoppers.com.au/firearmsamnesty.

Residents currently under stay-at-home orders in Greater Sydney, will need to monitor the government advice on the NSW Health website to ensure they are legally able to hand in their firearms. Currently, handing in firearms does not meet the criteria of a reasonable excuse.

ARSON ATTACKS

Police are appealing for information after two homes were damaged by suspicious fires.

Emergency services were called to a house fire in Kellyville Ridge on Wednesday, June 16 believed to be ignited by a molotov cocktail.

It followed a similar fire in Minichinbury 20 minutes earlier, at about 9.20pm.

Police were told a blaze broke out in the front of a home in Aspinall Ave, Minichinbury after at least one molotov cocktail was thrown through the window. It was extinguished by Fire & Rescue NSW a short time later.

A 53-year-old man was treated at the scene by NSW Ambulance paramedics for smoke inhalation then taken to hospital in a stable condition. A young boy who was home at the time was treated at the scene for minor smoke inhalation while another woman at the address was uninjured.

About 20 minutes later, officers from Quakers Hill Police Area Command responded to reports of a separate fire at a home on Thornton Street, Kellyville Ridge, also believed to have been ignited by a molotov cocktail.

A man and woman, aged 32 and 34, as well as an older man, were home at the time however no one was injured. The blaze caused minor damage to the exterior of the home and was extinguished by Fire & Rescue NSW within minutes.

Any witnesses or anyone in either area who may have dashcam vision from the area at the time is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

NEW COPS ON THE BEAT

There are some new faces on local beats this month following the appointment of new probationary constables to the area.

The Hills Police Area Command has welcomed three new Probationary Constables and Hawkesbury Police Area Command two new faces after they were sworn in at the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn. NSW Police Force Commissioner Mick Fuller APM welcomed the 192 probationary constables.

"A career in the police force offers many opportunities and rewards, so I want to encourage our newest officers to enjoy and be proud of the crucial role they play in our communities," he said.

Class 347 includes 137 men and 55 women who will undertake a year of on-the-job training and complete the Associate Degree in Policing Practice by distance education with Charles Sturt University before being confirmed to the rank of constable.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott said: "Joining the NSW Police Force is a proud moment and represents the start of what I hope will be a long and successful career for all of our recruits."

The new Probationary Constables at Castle Hill on their first day June 21.



LOCAL HERO AWARD

By BEV JORDAN

Youth Officer at the Hawkesbury Police Area Command – **SENIOR CONSTABLE BELINDA FLYNN** has been named Local Hero in the 2021 Commissioner's Perpetual Awards for the Advancement of Women in Policing.

A police officer for 11 years, she was presented with her award by NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller APM at Bankwest Stadium in Parramatta on June 22.

The citation reads: "Senior Constable Belinda Flynn has caused positive change with her contribution to innovative programs such as Ruff Track and Hawkesbury Helping Hands, well outside the "normal" bounds of policing.

"The programs provide an excellent link to the community in addressing the cause of crime before it occurs.

"Senior Constable Flynn has had a positive influence on the young, vulnerable and people at risk and she has been widely accepted and recognised by the Hawkesbury community as a compassionate, caring police officer. Her involvement in those programs has changed the life of young people which will enable them to become valued members of the community and turn their lives around."

Snr Cnst Flynn told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*: "I truly was very humbled at being nominated for the award and totally shocked to be announced the winner.

"I am so thankful to be a part of an amazing community that has gone through so many adversities in the past couple of years. So many local organisations are continuing to help the vulnerable, people at risk and the young people. I feel truly grateful to be able to have played a small part in contributing to the resilience of our community."

She has been based at Hawkesbury PAC for the past seven years.

"I have wanted to be a Police Officer since High School many years ago. It was even written in my High School Year Book. I wanted to join the NSW Police Force because I admired the work that Police Officers do and I too wanted to try and make a difference in the community. I knew that every day in the job would be different, I knew that it would have its challenges and rewards like any career but being able to have a positive impact on someone's life was something that I wanted to be a part of."

The Perpetual Awards were established in 2006 to acknowledge and showcase the efforts and achievements of women in policing.



The NSW Police Commissioner praised all 78 nominees.

"These awards are a testament to the outstanding contributions of our employees and it is a privilege to acknowledge the hard work, passion and dedication of those who actively make our organisation a better place to work," Commissioner Fuller said.

AUSSIE OVERLOAD

Aussie Pumps is an extraordinary Hills District success. Starting out with only four people, the company has developed innovative and progressive products for agriculture, mining, industry and government.

Aussie's growth means they have great opportunities for people with imagination, energy and intelligence. Check out the website for job descriptions in a wide range from admin to production, logistics to sales and marketing.

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COVID HITS GANG SHOW

By BEV JORDAN

Hundreds of cast and crew involved in the Cumberland Gang Show are still hoping the show will go on, albeit in a compact format, if Sydney's COVID Lockdown ends as scheduled on Friday, July 9.

The performing arm of the Scouts and Guides in Western Sydney is set to lose up to \$60,000 if the limited run of six "Rise Up" shows with 50% capacity can't go ahead later this month.

The much-loved annual Cumberland Gang Show was cancelled by COVID restrictions last year, attempts to run a limited number of performances in November 2020 were also cancelled because of a snap COVID Lockdown.

This is the third attempt to stage the Rise Up production at The Riverside Theatres at Parramatta.

Volunteer and assistant school principal David Shaw said crew members had started "bumping in" with the video and lighting crews on Friday evening (June 25) and about 60 crew were at the theatre on Saturday at 9am to finish the job.

"A number of us paused to watch the daily update at 11am, hearing the warning of further restrictions following the crisis cabinet meeting," he said. "Most people paused to watch the 2pm news conference. I was sitting in the Orchestra Pit with a number of others."

He said following the lockdown announcement team leaders and management gathered in the car park with Dr Rob Lang the producer/director to discuss the options.

"The decision to continue bumping in until 5pm was made quickly," said Mr Shaw. "Our thinking was that if we continued to bump in we at least had a hope of delivering some shows after lockdown but if we packed up this year's show would be over. Everyone present at bump in was committed to getting as much done as we could before 5pm, with the understanding that we were continuing to bump in with the hope that we would be able to finish the job and put on some shows after lockdown."

The Cumberland Gang Show was established in 1970 to give young residents of Western Sydney (including the Hills and the Hawkesbury) training in performing arts, empowering them with self-confidence and a drive to achieve. This year over 350 people are involved with 157 performing on stage.

Dr Rob Lang said: "The real impact of not going ahead is not measured in dollars but in

the disappointment that our young cast will face in not being able to perform after four months of hard work, adapting our rehearsals to be COVID friendly, and putting in the hard yards to not just learn the songs and sketches but to learn that if you believe in yourself you can achieve anything. That opportunity is hanging in the balance."

The Cumberland Gang Show costs \$200,000 to stage each year with costs covered by tickets sales, sponsorship, merchandise and CD sales.

Mr Shaw said a Go Fund Me page has been set up to "secure the ongoing work of Cumberland Gang Show" in providing top-quality entertainment, training Scouts and Guides in all aspects of theatre, both on and off stage and promoting scouting and guiding to the wider public.

If you would like to help visit: www.gofundme.com/f/cumberland-gang-show-rise-up-2021-appeal. Donations are tax deductible.

New show dates will ultimately appear on the theatre's website [riversideparramatta.com.au](https://www.riversideparramatta.com.au)



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HAWKESBURY'S HELPING HANDS

By BEV JORDAN

Volunteers at Hawkesbury's Helping Hands are working through COVID lockdown to ensure that people in need can still access food and support services.

According to co-founder Linda Strickland, demand for emergency food relief has increased dramatically.

She said as an essential service Hawkesbury's Helping Hands is continuing its food hamper pick up days and weekend meal services and may extend hours at its COVID-Safe venue in South Windsor. All volunteers are wearing masks and abiding by the 4m social distancing rule.

Meal services on Saturday and Sunday evenings at 6pm are now operating as takeaway services. Food Hamper pick-ups are on Wednesdays between 12pm and 3pm and Saturdays between 10am and 1pm.

On Wednesday (June 30) the service handed out over 130 food hampers to people in need.

"During last year's lockdown, we didn't close our doors, and we won't again, we opened up many more days a week for hampers to meet the demand and will again if need be," she said.

She estimates that the charity is feeding about 1,800 people a week with its various programs including food hampers, weekend dinners, school breakfast and lunch



clubs. During the three-week of the floods she said they distributed 5000 hampers.

"We were open seven days a week for 14 or 15 hours a day during the floods. The BBQ was going all the time and the kettle was always on the boil."

Just days before the current lockdown hit the charity received a \$20,000 donation from Wesley Uniting Church at Castle Hill.

Church member John Peberdy presented the cheque to Linda at the South Windsor depot (pictured) where she was being helped by volunteers Rex Thompson and Jackie Hallam who all became quite emotional.

John told them that the money had been raised by garage sales held at the Uniting Church on Showground Rd, Castle Hill.

\$10,000 was donated to help flood victims and the rest was to help with other programs targeting the homeless and others in need.

Linda said: "It is going to make such a massive difference to so many people. It's an amazing donation. It could not have come at a better time. It will enable us to give (flood victims) ongoing support for an extended period of time."

At the moment, the depot is open to people needing help on certain days.

For Food Hampers: Wednesdays 12pm to 3 pm and Saturdays 10am to 1pm.

Meal Service Take Aways: Saturdays and Sundays from 6 pm.

Linda said people affected by the Hawkesbury Floods still needing assistance outside of these hours should call and make an appointment. Hawkesbury's Helping Hands depot is at 28 Walker Street, South Windsor. Call 4577 7077 to make an appointment. International students are also being helped.

THE HELPERS

Volunteer Rex Thompson used to run the Raw Prawn fish shop in Riverstone in the 1980s.

He started volunteering with Hawkesbury Helping Hands when they needed someone with a trailer to pick up goods.

"I love helping out," he said.

Jackie Hallam followed the service on social media for some time and saw the Facebook shout out for helpers during the Hawkesbury floods.

"A lot of my neighbours were affected by the floods, the water stopped just five houses away from mine so I helped handing out food hampers."

Jackie now helps every Wednesday and Saturday.

"It's definitely an eye opener seeing how many people need help," she said.



Co-founder Cassidy Strickland helps volunteers pack hampers



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NORWEST QUARTER

Norwest developer Mulpha has lodged its development application for the first stage of its approved \$1billion master-planned community, **Norwest Quarter**.

The first stage will include two residential apartment buildings at 40 Solent Circuit, with a total of 196 apartments, and more than 3,500sqm of retail and commercial space including a full-floor commercial gym, fresh food grocer, medical services, and restaurants.

The development will be 400m from the Norwest Metro Station.

Mulpha's Head of Developments, Tim Spencer said when complete, the Norwest Quarter masterplan will transform over 4.8 hectares of greenfield land into a vibrant village centre for over 2,000 residents, harnessing the latest in innovation and sustainable practices to create a new model for neighbourhoods.

Norwest Quarter will contain 864 apartments, with 6,000m² of space for cafes, restaurants, neighbourhood shops and childcare facilities.

The nine slender residential towers will enable 70 percent of the site to be used for landscaping and amenity including an open-air plaza with retail and outdoor dining, a nature based, informal play area and an amphitheatre for community events.

There will be communal gardens, worm farms, organic waste treatment, and productive beehives.

Tim Spencer said: "We started the design process by asking how people today want to live their lives and what sustainability, technology and community practices reflect their needs, lifestyle and aspirations.

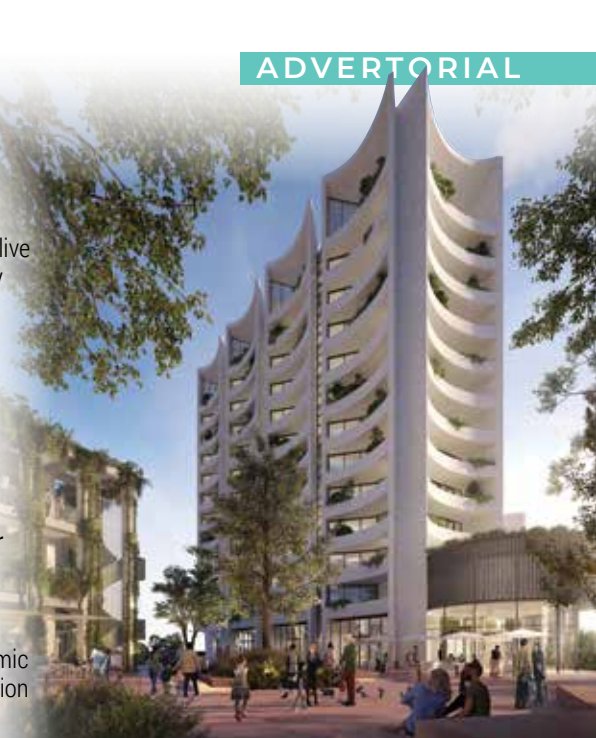
"This project will be a core pillar of the entire Norwest community that is anchored by 46 hectares of public open space and interwoven with 50 kilometres of pathways and 10 kilometres of cycleways, creating a truly walkable and cyclable city, actively encouraging residents and locals to stroll or ride between precincts."

He said Mulpha was committed to transforming Norwest Business Park into a world-leading innovation, lifestyle and economic hub to lead and shape the national conversation on sustainable neighbourhoods.

Smart building design and landscaping are being used to minimise the urban heat island effect (UHIE) and create a cooler environment.

Leading architects Bates Smart and Smart Design Studio, together with award winning landscaping firm Aspect Studios, urban designers Terroir, and environmental sustainability firm Finding Infinity, have been appointed to work together to design and deliver an innovative, environmentally led development.

Mr Spencer said: "The whole design process was about breaking down and identifying what truly makes a community sustainable ... the past year has reinforced our belief that we need



Artist's impression of Stage 1

to be holistically designing to achieve great communities to live in, not just designing stand-alone buildings.

"Our society is craving connection to one another, to themselves, and to nature – to live a life that feels more human and actually connected.

"I believe people will choose to live here for the opportunity to be part of grassroots leadership, driving for a better future, targeting 100% renewable energy, zero waste, and the water sensitivity that the world needs."



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Until September 1st 2021, all residents admitted will be offered reduced pricing across the homes, as well as assistance to find the right place to suit their needs.

Anglicare's first aged care home in the Castle Hill Village opened in 1965, and since then, Anglicare has been a pioneer in aged care, providing not only quality accommodation, but a real sense of community.

Set amidst 115 acres of gardens and parklands, Anglicare Castle Hill is a seniors living hub that includes private rooms with en suite bathrooms, a cafe, a hairdresser, a health and wellness centre and lifestyle programs.

It is a vibrant community, offering services and activities such as music, craft and pottery, snooker, gardening and cards, as well as exercise classes, bowls and croquet.

Onsite church services are also held at the St James Chapel, and chaplaincy, Bible study and fellowship groups are also available.

What is unique about Anglicare's care homes is the Rhythm of Life® philosophy which is an intrinsic part of how staff provide personalised care to enrich the quality of life of residents.

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CYBERSAFETY TIPS FOR SENIORS

Technology surrounds us in our daily lives in almost everything we do. It has influenced the way in which we communicate, share information and complete our daily tasks.

On average, Australians have around 17 connected devices in their homes and this figure is expected to rise dramatically over the next four years.

Supporting and protecting senior members of the community from online threats is an important focus for the Australian Government.

Don't let the words 'Cyber Security' concern you. Follow these tips to be safe online:

1. STRONG AND UNIQUE PASSWORDS

Your passwords shouldn't be easy for someone to guess so don't include your name or anything identifiable to you. Use a password which is at least 8 characters (although 12 characters are now recommended) with upper and lower case letters as well as symbols.

2. USE SECURITY AND PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make sure you secure all your devices with a password or code so no-one else can access them. Check your internet browser setting and install anti-virus software. If you don't know how to do this ask a family member to help you or speak to your Care Worker.

3. SHARE WITH CARE

Never provide your address or financial information to anyone you chat to online and only enter your credit card details on

secure and reputable websites. If you are on social media use their privacy controls. Facebook has extensive privacy setting whereas others are a bit less sophisticated with only a choice between public and private.

4. KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP-TO-DATE

This is important as most software has security features that may lapse over time.

5. ALWAYS STOP AND THINK

Think before you click on any links or open email attachments. If it doesn't look normal don't click on it - you won't be missing out. It's easy to feel panic when faced with an urgent request so wait and get a second opinion. NEVER give out your passwords.

6. LOG OUT

After using your device be sure to log out!

BE AWARE OF PHONE SCAMS

Australians lose millions of dollars to scammers every year and over a third of this money is lost by people aged 55 and above. And these are just the reported figures.

Scammers use all types of sneaky tactics to trick you into parting with your money, but knowing what to look out for can help you to spot the signs. Information on scams and how to report them can be done via the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's website 'Scamwatch' at www.scamwatch.gov.au

Catholic Healthcare will soon be opening MacKillop House, 2 Firewheel Place, cnr MacKillop Drive, Norwest. The new Residential Aged Care Home also incorporates a Wellness Centre offering health and wellness programs, morning teas and other social activities for seniors who are still living in their own home.

Should you or your loved one need more specialised care, we invite you to be one of the first to tour MacKillop House before it opens.

Call Jenny Thomas on 1300 169 949.



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RETIREMENT EXPO HEADS TO THE HILLS

By BEV JORDAN



Organisers of the upcoming **Hills Retirement Village & Resort Expo** have moved the event back a month, to August following the new COVID restrictions.

Expo organiser Dorothy Willoughby says that the free two-day **Hills Retirement Village & Resort Expo** will now be held at Castle Hill RSL on **Sunday August 29** and **Monday August 30** from **10am to 3pm** on both days.

She apologised for any inconvenience caused by the change of dates.

"At the expo, visitors can talk to all kinds of providers to find out everything they need to know," she told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*.

"It saves so much time and legwork to be able to access a range of providers in a single outing. An hour or two at the expo can save you days in the car," she said.

"Whether you're looking to downsize in your own area, upgrade to luxury living, or make a sea or tree change, there are so many options available these days."

She said it was a big decision and people had many questions.

"They want to know about the obvious things like fees and services but also things like:

Is the village pet-friendly?

Are grandchildren and other visitors allowed to use the pool?

What are the other residents like?

Can they spend a few days in the village before they commit to a purchase?

"It's the little things that add up to make a great quality of life and it really helps to be able to discuss these matters in person with someone who knows how the village works on a daily basis," she said.

"The expo is an opportunity to find the retirement community that really resonates with your lifestyle."

There are more than 3000 retirement communities throughout Australia.

The **Hills District Retirement Village & Resort Expo**, is on **Sunday, August 29** and **Monday, August 30** at **Castle Hill RSL** from **10am to 3pm**. Admission is free.

It will feature communities across an array of styles, locations and price points to suit every budget. They will be in separate booths so visitors can wander through at their leisure, gathering information and asking any questions.

"We, the organisers, are committed to ensuring that our events are always a safe environment for our visitors," said Mrs Willoughby.

"This event is a covid safe event. Visitors will be required to sign in to the club on entry.

"In the current situation, circumstances can change very rapidly so please confirm future expo dates at our website: retirementexpo.com.au"



Looking for the latest information on Retirement Living? Visit the

Hills District Retirement Village & Resort Expo

*** EVENT DATE HAS CHANGED ***

Sunday 29 & Monday 30 August 2021
Castle Hill RSL Club (77 Castle St, Castle Hill)
10am-3pm each day | FREE ADMISSION

On display will be the latest resort style developments as well as established villages from many different organisations, offering a wide range of services & facilities, sizes, prices and locations. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions and gather information about many different villages and resorts under one roof, all with Free Admission. If you or a loved one is considering on making the move to a retirement village or resort, don't miss this event. It could change your life!

Don't
miss this life
changing
event!

www.retirementexpo.com.au

VOLUNTEERS WITH IMPACT

By JESSICA AQUILINA

Husband and wife volunteer duo Les and Gloria Brown (pictured on the front page) have more than 90-years' worth of volunteering experience between them.

Les began volunteering after Hills Shire Council put out a call, asking for volunteer rangers to look after Eric Mobbs Reserve over 50 years ago. The couple moved to Castle Hill in 1967 as newlyweds and built their home nearby.

Les has held various positions on the Eric Mobbs Reserve 355 Committee, including Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

He is now actively involved with Birds Australia, monitoring the endangered Powerful Owl colony that lives within the Castle Hill Reserve.

Gloria, who used to own a nursery business, signed-up for Bushcare and was also a member of the Eric Mobbs Reserve 355 Committee.

The couple worked hard to raise funds for the Reserve, including raising enough to build a children's playground with swings, seating, irrigation, concrete pathways and barbecue facilities.

Gloria said "volunteering was so rewarding".

While she has contributed so much to her local community, her proudest achievement as a volunteer was planting thousands of trees at Eric Mobbs Reserve, which now provide shade and also shelter for native wildlife.

"There is a concrete pathway where we planted an avenue of eucalypts. They were seedlings when we planted them and now years later they have grown up and formed a beautiful archway over the pathway," she said.

For Les, he found volunteering as a way of meeting new people and making life-long friends.

"You don't volunteer for rewards or the desire for recognition. It's the people you meet that make you want to continue to do it. It's just so rewarding," Les added.

Les and Gloria also held a Clean Up Australia Day event at Eric Hobbs Reserve.

While the couple continue to actively volunteer with Council, they also enjoy walking



Gloria and Les Brown with their dog George Girl

their dog, "George Girl", and Les continues to "keep an eye" on the Reserve, making sure it remains a much-loved place for generations to come.

"We are truly blessed to have this Reserve and these magnificent birds in our area, and Les enjoys sharing his knowledge and photos with others," Gloria added.

MAX'S HISTORIC PLACE

Max Roughley has real history in Dural and surrounds.

He began volunteering with Council in 1984, working on the committee that helped to restore Roughley House. Max is a direct descendant of the Roughley family, who lived in the historical house, which was built in 1856.

He has also volunteered with other organisations including Hills Shire Community Care Gardening.

Max continues to volunteer at the Visitor Information Centre, sharing his family history with those who tour the historic property, located in Dural.

"There are so many rewards at Roughley House and the Visitor Information Centre. I get to meet with and talk to people, particularly on house tours," Max said.

He encouraged others to begin their volunteering journey.

"I would say that taking the first step is probably the hardest because you have to motivate yourself to sign-up," Max said.

"People have preconceived ideas of what the experience is going to be, but I can say to people who are considering it: make the step, get involved and you'll find that you do enjoy it and that you'll want to keep doing it," Max added.

Hills Shire, Dr Michelle Byrne said: "Max, Marilyn, Gloria and Les are incredible people who have given so much of their time and knowledge to educating and helping others in this community."

"Our volunteers are one of the most valuable resources in our Shire and its thanks to them that we can impact the lives of so many people in a positive way," she said.

Council programs seeing volunteers include:

Bushcare, Justice of the Peace, Youth Army, Community Care and committee groups.

For more information on Council's Volunteer Program, visit The Hills Shire Council website, www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search "volunteering" in the search bar. You can also find volunteering opportunities through NSW Volunteering, www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au



Max Roughley with his book This Old House

MARILYN'S MANY ROLES

Marilyn Stoneham says volunteering came naturally to her.

A volunteer for over 40 years, she says, "It's in my blood."

"I find volunteering very rewarding as it makes me feel part of this community."

"I also enjoy meeting and creating friendships with likeminded people through my volunteer work."

Marilyn first began volunteering as a coach for the Castle Hill RSL Gazelles Netball Club, before taking on the role as publicity officer, which included taking Saturdays results to The Farm and Garden Newspaper on a Sunday morning. Their office was located on Old Northern Road, in Castle Hill.

From there, Marilyn was part of a group that initiated the Castle Hill Sports and Recreation Club, which eventually became known as the Green and White Gazelles Netball Club. Marilyn coached a team there for many years, as well as formed the first Hills married women's netball team.

She has also given her time to Meals on Wheels, the Ladies Auxiliary at Castle Hill Public School, the Hills Amateur Swimming Club, Computer Pals, Justice of the Peace, and the Heritage Park and Castle Hill Showground 355 Committees.

Marilyn also ran the Castle Hill Neighbourhood Watch for an incredible 30 years.



Marilyn Stoneham

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The Hills Shire Council News

Glenhaven Reserve Playground Design Consultation

Council would like to thank everyone who attended the consultation sessions at Glenhaven Reserve on Friday 18 June and Monday 21 June. The consultation period has now ended and voting results are in the process of being finalised. The playground design with the most votes will be announced in the coming weeks, and construction of the new playground will commence shortly after.

For more information and updates on this project, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Glenhaven Reserve Playground Design' or follow The Hills Shire Council on Facebook.

Did you enjoy this consultation?

For updates on the Glenhaven Reserve Playground consultation and other projects in The Hills Shire such as the Waves Aquatic Centre Upgrade, sign up to the Hills Have Your Say e-newsletter.

To sign up, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au, click 'Subscribe' in the top right hand corner of the home page, then click on the Hills Have Your Say banner and follow the prompts to join the mailing list.

**GLENHAVEN RESERVE
PLAYSPACE UPGRADE**
Which of these playgrounds would you like to see built here?

1

Playspace Option 1
Option 1 playground has a focus on the central blue structure and climbing equipment, including a swing set, inclusive trampolines, accessible slides and other fun items.

2

Playspace Option 2
Option 2 playground has a focus on the central green structure, inclusive play equipment, multifunction swing set, inclusive trampolines and other fun items.

3

Playspace Option 3
Option 3 playground has a focus on the central green structure, inclusive play equipment, multifunction swing set, inclusive trampolines and other fun items.



Save the date
**2021 NSW Local
Government elections**

**Saturday
4 September**

Voting is compulsory

elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21
1300 135 736

Visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au to find out which ward you're in.

To register to vote, check your enrolment or to update your enrolment details, visit <https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au>

COVID-19 Update

For updated information on Council services and facilities, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and click the banner at the top of the page.

Council Meetings

**Ordinary Meeting: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 – 7pm,
Council Chambers**

Due to the latest Public Health Order, limited seating is available at Council meetings.

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



Live Orchestra Music at the Pioneer Theatre

Get your dose of live music at the Pioneer Theatre with three incredible upcoming events!

The Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra and the Hills Junior Orchestra will perform their Family Concert on Friday, 3 September as an Orange Blossom Festival associated event. Directed by Artistic Director Dr. Brian Chatpo Koo, groups of local young musicians will perform music for string orchestra in various styles from Baroque and Classical to Romantic – this show's sure to satisfy any orchestra buff!

The Pioneer Theatre will then transport audiences into space on Saturday, 11 September with The Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra's performance of *The Planets*. Don't miss out on renditions of Giuseppe Verdi's *La Forza Del Destino*, Paul Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and Gustav Holst's *The Planets Suite*.

Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra will then get everyone in the festive spirit with their Christmas Concert on Wednesday, 22 December. Perfect for kids and families, audiences can expect an unforgettable and enjoyable evening listening to specially arranged versions of their favourite Christmas carols.

To book tickets for any of these events, visit www.pioneertheatre.com.au

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.'

Public Notice: Proposed Licence Agreement with Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta

In accordance with Section 47A of the Local Government Act, Council is notifying of its intention to enter into a Licence Agreement for five years with Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta for access by the new Santa Sophia College to the sports field complex currently being developed within the Gables Town Centre Precinct.

The Licence Agreement relates to land that is currently being developed in accordance with the provisions of a Voluntary Planning Agreement that was entered into by Council on 12 March 2015 with the then developer of the Box Hill North Precinct, EJ Cooper & Son Pty Ltd.

The intended licence agreement is for access to the sports fields and associated amenities for a combined period of up to 25 hours per week on weekdays only during each school term.

The use of the site will be in accordance with Council's Plan of Management for Sports Grounds.

PUBLIC NOTICE PERIOD: Friday 2 July 2021 to Friday 30 July 2021

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 4.00PM Friday 30 July 2021

ENQUIRIES: Michael Lathlean on 9843 0205

SUBMISSIONS: Submissions can be made to either:

- council@thehills.nsw.gov.au
- The Hills Shire Council
3 Columbia Court
NORWEST NSW 2153



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THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

LYNWOOD GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB TO RE-OPEN

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

Lynwood Golf and Country Club's golf course will officially re-open on Friday, July 9, despite two massive flood events in the past 13 months as golfing continues to boom.

The picturesque 18-hole, par 72 course in Pitt Town was first flooded in February 2020 when 10 of its 21 greens were destroyed.

The damaged greens were stripped and seeded and were back in operation months later to the delight of the members. However, disaster struck again in March 2021 when 16 out of the 21 greens went under as the flood waters rose to a frightening 13.5m.

Lynwood Golf and Country Club General Manager Matthew Bailey, who was previously the course superintendent, said 90 per cent of the course was flooded, killing 16 greens.

"Only the clubhouse, the car park and the maintenance areas were spared due to their higher location," he said.

"It took two and half weeks for the waters to recede from the property, which left a huge clean-up. Greens were once again stripped and reseeded. The course will be back to its original routing on July 9 when we will have a celebratory event for our members who are delighted to be playing golf again, though we

The new greens at Lynwood Golf and Country Club golf course will re-open on July 9.

opened a temporary course six weeks ago. The damage caused to the course by both floods is in excess of \$1m but the fact we are opening all the greens is due to the incredible work by our dedicated maintenance team and the ongoing support from CHR (Castle Hill RSL Group)."

Equally amazing is the massive interest in golf since Covid-19, with Mr Bailey saying there has been a 35 per cent rise in social golf and golf activists, or 150 new members in 12 months.

"Golf is the perfect sport for a global pandemic," he said, pointing out the sport is booming around the world.

"We are also planning to open a miniature golf course within six-12 months as we strive to be the best venue for our community in the Hills and the Hawkesbury.

"I am the most passionate person about Lynwood Golf and Country Club."



Ninety per cent of Lynwood Golf and Country Club golf course was flooded during the floods in March.

Mr Bailey is planning something spectacular in late October with the first Pro Am event, which boasts the richest prize purse on the NSW PGA Pro Am Tour, a whopping \$50,000 prize money.

"We have thought about it in the past but this will be the biggest and the most lucrative in the state, as we will attract some of the best golfers in Australia, who are unable to travel overseas due to Covid-19," he said.

Lynwood Golf and Country Club is a part of the CHR.

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Allan Beard a local guru on Bromeliads

BROMELIAD BEAUTY

The Bromeliad Society of Australia is meeting on Saturday, July 10 at Castle Hill and will welcome Allan Beard of Glenorie as guest speaker. Bromeliad Society

Allan, a life member of the Society, will talk about how to establish a new bromeliad garden.

Allan has collected hundreds of bromeliads over more than 30 years and created a magic garden using bromeliads of contrasting colours, sizes, textures and unusual markings, together with the occasional garden ornament, hanging baskets, tree stumps and branches adorned with air plants.

Guests are welcome and anyone who is considering installing a low maintenance and drought tolerant Bromeliad garden will find it very informative.

Bromeliad sales start at 10am and the meeting starts at noon 12pm. Normal meeting activities include a raffle, show and tell.

The meeting will be at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Showground Road, Castle Hill off Doran Drive.

COVID safe restrictions do apply. For further information contact Ian Hook, President of BSA on mobile 0408 202 269, email: ianhook1@bigpond.com or refer to www.bromeliad.org.au for the latest updates.

GLORIOUS GERANIUMS

Geraniums were on the menu when Macquarie Towns Garden Club recently had its first speaker in 18 months – local geranium expert, Robyn Bible.

"Robyn kept us enthralled with her talk", said Club president Ann Chilman. "It was very informative, with tips on growing, fertilising and propagating, and better still we were able to purchase some of the beautiful plants Robyn brought along to the meeting."

"There was an amazing array of colourful varieties on display."

While things were in hiatus during the challenging year of 2020, things are getting back to normal, with speakers lined up in following months to talk about a variety of topics, such as beekeeping, orchids and bromeliads or irises.

In September, the MTGC Open Day and Plant Sale will return, with the support of Hawkesbury Regional Library.

Well-known horticulturalist Judy Horton will speak at the AGM in August.

"Our Club is a great way to meet fellow gardeners, people who love gardens and those who would like to know more," said Ann.

"Afternoon tea follows our very informal meetings, and it's a chance to catch up and make new friends."

Macquarie Towns Garden Club meets on the first Thursday of the month, in the Tebbutt Room of the Hawkesbury Library at 2 pm. For more information visit macquarietownsgardenclub.wordpress.com.

President Ann Chilman (right) introduces geranium expert Robyn Bible



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ARTHRITIS AND AIDS FOR DAILY LIVING

By REJIMON PUNCHAYIL

Winter is a time when sufferers of arthritis face some challenges.

Arthritis is Australia's major cause of disability and pain.

What causes Arthritis in the first place?

It can be due to genetic factors, or due to what happens to your life, for instance, accidents, and finally how you lived your life, lifestyle choices like smoking etc.

Its effects can vary from person to person, from a minor annoyance to debilitating pain.

Whilst early diagnosis through a doctor is important the most important person involved in treating arthritis is the person with arthritis. In addition to treatment and management of pain, learning more about arthritis and maintaining a positive approach is essential.

There are many natural remedies and exercises and some say Tai Chi can help with arthritis.

There are also many simple and practical tools to help manage daily activities, while living with arthritis.

A pick-up-reacher, a key turner, a jar opener or a tap turner can make a huge difference. The enhanced independence feeds our self worth and self-esteem.

Arthritis gloves of various types can be a great relief during this season. It is good to know that there is a range of cutlery that can assist a person who is experiencing difficulties at the dining table.

Get yourself equipped to deal with the challenges this winter and your arthritis can throw at you.

You can find more information on these solutions at www.comfortdiscovered.com

DOG COATS AND MORE

CWA Galston sewers and crafters work throughout the year making everything from neonatal humidicrib blankets to joey pouches (for orphaned or abandoned marsupials) and anything in between, meeting the community where it's needed in small but meaningful ways.

This year members have been sewing dog coats for the Kellyville-based charity, Rescue Resource's Winter Warmer's Appeal.

Rescue Resource-NSW provides support to more than 100 animal rescue organisations and pounds across NSW by sourcing essential pet-related items and distributing them at no cost. CWA Galston members donated handmade dog coats towards the appeal.

Visit www.rescueresourcesw.com.au/ to make a donation or help towards their wish list. You can keep up to date with all their efforts at www.facebook.com/RescueResourceNSW/.

If you have spare warehouse space or can volunteer in any way such as driving to collect donations, unloading or loading deliveries or want to help but don't know how just email contact@rescueresourcesw.com.au or call 0411 961 043.

If you are interested in learning more about the ways in which CWA is helping to make a difference, the next meeting is on Wednesday, July 14. Visitors always welcome. Call Jann on 0439 222 217 or Pam on 02 9653 1036. www.facebook.com/CWAGalston | galston.cwa@gmail.com



CLEANING UP

A special Flood Recovery Clean Up Day was held recently to help restore local parks and the natural environment by removing flood debris deposited by the major flood in March.

As part of the Clean Up Day, 60 local volunteers gathered across four locations: Argyle Bailey Memorial Park, Ebenezer, Cattai Creek, Glenorie; Colbee Park, McGraths Hill; and Deerubbin Park, Cornwallis.

Hawkesbury City Council partnered with Clean Up Australia for three of the sites and at Cattai Creek, OzFish partnered with Council and Clean Up Australia to coordinate the clean-up there including with use of kayaks and motorised craft.

The Federal Member for Macquarie Susan Templeman, Ms Pip Kiernan, Chairman of Clean Up Australia, the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly, Deputy Mayor Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett, Councillor Danielle Wheeler and Council staff joined in to help and also supervise activities at the sites.

A number of volunteer groups also came on board for the Cattai Creek Clean Up including Galston-Glenorie Fishing Club, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare, Glenorie Progress Association and the Cattai Hills Environment Network.

They collected several tonnes of waste, including recyclables, along with large items such as polystyrene foam boxes, mesh, hoses, pallets, containers, doors and tyres.

A hazardous chemical in a large sealed drum on the riverbank was also identified at one park and reported to the Environment Protection Authority, which was then safely removed.

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HEATHERS THE MUSICAL

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

The only thing old about this Galston local is his name. What 19-year-old Mitchell Old lacks in experience, he makes up for in energy, drive and lofty plans for the theatre.

He boldly started The Mitchell Old Company during the pandemic in 2020 and staged his successful debut show, *The Last Five Years*, at the Pioneer Theatre in February.

Now, Old is bringing *Heathers The Musical*, created by Kevin Murphy, Laurence O'Keefe and Andy Fickman, to the ARA Darling Quarter Theatre from August 5-14, and tickets are moving fast.

Heathers the Musical, based on the 1989 movie, is the story of Veronica Sawyer (Tiegan Denina), a brainy, beautiful girl who hustles her way into the powerful and ruthless clique at Westerberg High.

"The production is incredibly exciting with an incredibly accomplished cast," the exuberant CEO and director said. "We are very lucky to be having the musical in the middle of Darling Harbour. We have one of the biggest Sydney stars, Michele Lansdown, and I have a phenomenal young team working with me."

Old quit university to focus on his new career and his commitment is paying off with actors contacting him for roles.

"I get CVs from people wanting to be in the shows so it's a refreshing feeling to see many people wanting to work with me," Old said.

Beaumont Hills actress Kira Leiva has high praise for him. "Mitchell is such a hard-working person who blows us away with his work ethic," said Leiva who studied and performed in New York for four years. "He is doing such a great job."

"*Heathers* is a lot of fun, very bold and high energy and the cast is so incredibly talented. I play one of the three Heathers and my character is pretty mean but it's a fun role."

The musical includes other locals, Andrew Schwimmer from North Rocks and Danica Rojas (Kellyville) while Harrison Alexander (North Rocks) is the musical director.

Leiva, who has featured in movies, returned to Sydney just before New York's lockdown last March. She loved being close to Broadway and being taught by professional actors, including Tony Award-winning Lindsay Mendez and Sierra Boggess.

The Castle Hill High School alumni won an international scholarship to study at the acclaimed American Musical Dramatic Academy in 2016. She also trained at Atlantic Acting School.

"When I was around nine years, my parents, Veronica and Hector, lived in New Jersey for a few years and I fell in love with Broadway.

"I was already into music, dancing and singing in Sydney and was a member of the Australian Girls Choir."

Heathers The Musical at the ARA Darling Quarter Theatre (Darling Harbour) from August 5-14. Tickets: From \$62.95 from www.mitchellold.com.au



Kira Leiva plays the role of Heather Duke.

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SMELLY BREATH

Does your pet need a breath of fresh air?

One of the most common complaints from pet owners is the smell of their pet's breath.

The most common reason for bad breath (halitosis) in dogs and cats is dental disease which affects 80 percent of pets by just 3 years of age.

This is hardly surprising considering our pets don't brush their own teeth!

Without regular brushing, residual food and bacteria can form a build-up of tartar on the teeth.

Over time this tartar then leads to infection, inflammation and bleeding of the gums (gingivitis) and breakdown of the tooth's ligamentous and bony attachments in the jaw (periodontal disease) via severe bacterial infection.

Both gingivitis and periodontal disease are painful conditions that lead to loss of teeth and poor quality of life.

Good oral cavity health, just like in humans, is paramount to general wellbeing and longevity in animals.

There are many preventable diseases that can be linked to poor dental hygiene such as heart and kidney disease.

Just like with people, prevention is better than cure, regular check-ups, special dental health diets and dental treats all help to reduce the incidence of dental disease.

The signs of dental disease in dogs and cats can be subtle. Bad breath is the most common sign, dogs and cats may also paw at their mouth, chatter their teeth, drool and dribble, have difficulty eating

and may have a preference for softer foods.

All pets need to have their teeth checked regularly (just like people!). Contact your local Sydney Animal Hospitals Kellyville 8883 0533 or Norwest 8883 0411 to book your dog's free dental check up by the vet nurse during July and August.

www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au



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Ray Williams MP

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As your local Member, I will represent you in the NSW Parliament, communicate with Ministers and Government Departments on issues that concern you, attend local events, provide Justice of the Peace services, and prepare congratulatory messages for milestone birthdays and anniversaries.

Electorate Office: Suite 202 Rouse Hill Town Centre, 10-14 Market Lane, Rouse Hill NSW 2155

Phone: (02) 8882-9555 Email: castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au Website: www.raywilliamsmp.com.au



2021-22 NSW BUDGET

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we promised to keep NSW safe and keep the economy open. Just one year on from the deepest recession in 80 years, our economy is back to growth and there are more jobs than before the crisis. The 2021-22 NSW Budget takes the next step, looking beyond the pandemic to take our State from recovery to transformation, creating a better NSW for your family and your future. We are investing to keep NSW COVID-safe and to keep our recovery going, investing in you with more support to ease the cost of living pressures for families, and transforming our State with real reform for the future.

HUGE GRANT FOR HILLS BASKETBALL

Sport in the Castle Hill electorate has received a major boost today after the NSW Government announced a \$220,036 grant through the Greater Cities Sport Facility for upgrading the Bernie Mullane Sports Complex, Kellyville. The grant was awarded to The Hills Basketball Association for a project that includes resurfacing of the two indoor courts conducive to wheelchair sports and installation of (4) glass backboards.

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY

Similar to the 4 X \$25 Dine & Discover Vouchers, the new \$100 Thank God It's Friday program will turbocharge the Sydney CBD economy which was hit hard by COVID-19. The program, which is expected to go live before summer, will again be delivered via the Service NSW app. For information about the app visit: www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/service-nsw-mobile-app

FREE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN 45 PLUS

With support from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Office for Women, Western Sydney Women will again be running the free WISE Woman program starting in September.

The online program is aimed at assisting women from Western Sydney aged 45 and over in being money smart, building confidence and preparing them for future employment. The private online group includes weekly online interactive sessions run by leading experts across a range of industries.

Western Sydney Women Founding Director Amanda Rose said: "Women in particular, feel that age discrimination is holding them back from achieving their ambitions. WISE aims to change this."

"Programs such as WISE are invaluable in making sure women are not just equipped with the tools they need, but are confident in their ability and ultimately their employability."

The Western Sydney WISE Women Program includes sessions on: All About You - Confidence building, managing stress and styling; Money Smart - Basic budgeting (tips and tricks), including Government and Community Support; and Job Ready - Creating an eye-catching CV, upskilling, discovering the hidden job market and succeeding in interviews.

For more information visit www.westernsydneywomen.com.au/wise



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BULLS SOUND WARNING

By **LAWRENCE MACHADO**

The Hills District Bulls continue to nip at the heels of the leaders St Mary's with back-to-back victories in the Ron Massey rugby league competition.

The Bulls saw off fellow title contenders, Mounties and Wenty Magpies, who are never the easiest of opponents to handle. The Bulls, with several Sydney Shield players bolstering their ranks, edged out Mounties 12-8 in round 15 after beating defending premiers Wenty 22-16.

Half back Blake Goodman was in good form, scoring in both games while putting over two crucial goals against the Mounties.

Bulls coach Mick Withers said he was glad to see the back of Mounties and Magpies as they prepare for the blockbuster top of the table clash with St Marys.

"We play the top three teams in successive weeks and we are in a good spot to make the finals," Withers said.

The Hills Bulls rush towards the try line.
Picture: Rob Gleeson Photography

"We have had five regulars unable to play due to injuries but those coming in, have taken the opportunity to impress. We have been rotating the squads from the Ron Massey and Sydney Shield, and they have done well.

Withers is counting on the packed home crowd to cheer them to victory in round 17 against St Marys when the competition resumes.

"Yes, the support we get when we play at Crestwood Oval helps us a lot as they could be a noisy crowd," he said.



WOLVES KEEP UP THE CHASE

Windsor Wolves are making a late charge into the finals upsetting Mounties 28-20 in round 15, despite suffering a close defeat to Western Suburbs Magpies 24-28.

A last minute try sealed the loss to the Magpies, a defeat Wolves coach Chris Yates put down to the difficult playing conditions and his team not setting up the game in the first half.

"In the last seven weeks, we have had four wins, one draw and two very tight defeats," said Yates. The team takes on leaders St Marys in round 16.

"We have a good young team and our win against the Mounties was sweeter because they had a few NSW Cup players. It was a massive win for us against the Mounties and our big men Eton Lindsay, Malakai Houma and Josh Sanders excelled."

The seventh-placed Wolves led 20-14 at half-time and held off a Mounties comeback, with Zac Mackay showing why he is one of the best placekickers in the competition, nailing four conversions.

"Zac is a very good kicker and is enjoying his first season with the Wolves," said Yates, who had coached the in-form centre at Cabramatta Two Blues.

Due to the COVID lockdown, which is due to end on July 9, all matches have been postponed.

SOCIAL BASKETBALL BOUNCES INTO THE HILLS

By **LAWRENCE MACHADO**

If you ever wanted to play social basketball and make new friends, then check out the Sydney Basketball League which runs competitions at Model Farms High School courts in Baulkham Hills.

John Hagar, the sports manager for SBL, said that lack of enough basketball facilities is keeping the sport from expanding further in Sydney.

"There is a massive interest in basketball but not many facilities for the general public," Hagar said. "We are looking to diversify, and we have been trying to move into the Hills for some time. There is a big demand for social basketball in western Sydney and we are the first and largest private basketball association in Australia with over 1000 players, officials and referees."

The games at Model Farms High School are open to men initially but Hagar said they are keen to field mixed, women and children's teams too.

Hagar, who used to play the sport regularly, said large immigrant populations which have

grown up with the highly-popular American National Basketball Association, love the sport.

"All you need is a love for basketball and the social competitions we run cater for newcomers and all levels," he said. "We are diversifying and looking for new venues.

"We have established competitions in Blacktown, Petersham, Ryde, Caringbah, Glebe and Lidcombe. The competitions at Baulkham Hills run for 10-12 weeks and we play on Wednesdays from 6-10pm. Ideally, we would like to run three seasons each year.

"Basketball is one of the most popular sports played at school. When students leave school and begin their working life, there are unfortunately not as many facilities that allow them to keep playing basketball in Sydney."

SBL was founded in 1997 and Hagar says while local associations will cater for elite competitions, their league in Baulkham Hills will cater for social players who may not necessarily be the best but are passionate about the game.



"Players come first, and we look after them the best we can," Hagar said.

He said the SBL has implemented innovative technology by developing their own sports administration app that allows staff to take player statistics during a game and then immediately upload in real time to their website. This type of application is an Australian first for any basketball competition, Hagar said.

"In business, customer service is paramount," Hagar said. "Our philosophy at SBL is to give our players the best playing experience we can."

Details: www.sbl.com.au

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EARLY WINDSOR NAMES

By IVOR JONES

One of the earliest settlers in the Hawkesbury district was John Tebbutt who emigrated as a free settler with his wife Ann to New South Wales in 1801.

Gaining a land grant in the Toongabbie district in 1802 he became unhappy with the location and moved to the Hawkesbury as a tenant farmer.

He opened a general store at Windsor in the 1820s which was very prosperous and was extended in 1830.

John Tebbutt continued the business until retiring in 1845. The building was located at the corner of George and Baker Streets and demolished in 1969.

His son, also named John, acquired the Peninsula Farm where he and his wife Virginia had a son, a third John Tebbutt, who became the well-known astronomer who established the observatory at Windsor which still exists.

He discovered what became known as Tebbutt's Comet in 1864 also discovering another comet in 1881.

Like shopkeeper John Tebbutt, another early settler, Andrew Thompson, also a shopkeeper, played a significant part in putting what was

later to become known as Windsor on the map.

Andrew Thompson was an ally of Governor Bligh in his dispute with John Macarthur and the two would come to detest one another.

Andrew Thompson was transported to New South Wales as a convict in 1792 and spent some time at the Government Farm at Toongabbie.

In 1796 he moved to Green Hills, later renamed Windsor, where he was appointed Constable.

He purchased land at McGraths Hill where he established West Hill Farm which later became known as Red House Farm.

In 1799 Gov. Hunter granted him a lease of one acre on the eastern side of the square which we now call Thompsons Square. There he built a house from which he also operated a General Store. After his death in 1810 auctioneer, John Howe, conducted an auction sale which lasted a week and was the largest seen in the colony up to that time.

Andrew Thompson was an enterprising person who assisted in building the new colony's economy. He established salt pans on Scotland Island in the Hawkesbury to supply salt to the colony. He also became a ship owner, a brewer of beer and the largest grower of wheat in the colony as well as building a bridge over South Creek just before his death.

Having worked for two days and nights rescuing those affected by the floods of 1809, it is possible that his exertions during those floods may have led to his subsequent death. He also saved many during the floods of 1806.

Having lost his position as Constable during the rebel administration after the overthrow of Gov Bligh he was appointed a Magistrate to the Hawkesbury district ten days after the appointment of Gov. Macquarie. An estimate of his wealth at the time of his death was £20,000. He was also the largest landowner in the district and it took a number of years before all his properties were sold.

Thompson Square - Windsor

HOME AGAIN

By Maisie Grady

Well, after thinking we were well on track,
That nasty virus has come back.
This time it's a type worse than before,
And easy to catch, that is for sure.

What can we do to ensure we're free,
When we don't know who's spreading it around you see.
Wash hands, keep your distance and wear a mask,
It's what the experts advise and what they ask.

Back to the routine of staying at home,
Essential shopping and you can walk out and roam.
Medicals, work, or talk on the phone,
Think of the "shut ins" who feel quite alone.

Gardening jobs, knitting, reading and cleaning too,
Fixing and making things, perhaps painting jobs to do.
Enjoying the winter sunshine, thinking how lucky we are,
Listening to lovely music, remembering those afar.

In other countries, where things are so much worse,
Vaccines not available to halt the Delta curse.
So make the best of things, be kind to the young and the old,
And happiness is sure to unfold.

Winter Thoughts

By Rosemary A. Hayes

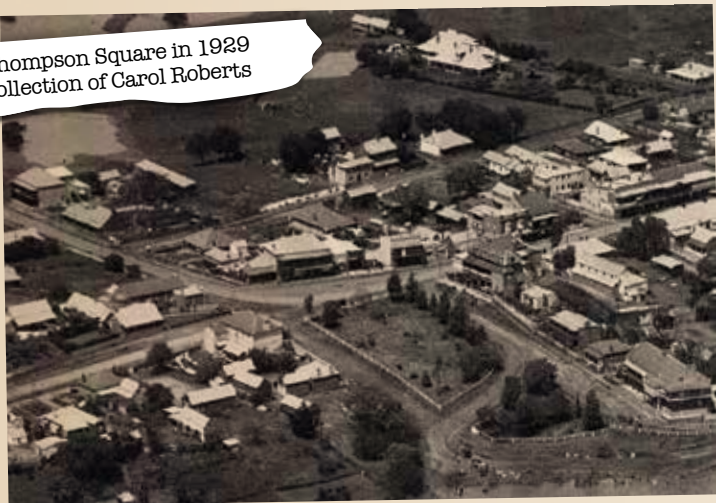
Winter warmth is all I need
By the fire I sit and read .
Just like a bear I need to sleep
Keeping dry from snow and sleet.
But if the day the sun does shine
I'll wear thick jumpers, socks and slacks
And maybe find a crouched cap
Through the park I stride along in fur lined boots
I've had so long.
Gums are bent and sway,
loose some leaves which blow away.
But joy oh joy, can you believe magnolias are budding,
colours emerging .
A trellis of sweet peas is climbing high,
it must have been the rain, I sigh.
So here and there there's magic to see.
If you look carefully, a miracle unfolding,
Take your time and feel the joy of being alive.

AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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

Thompson Square in 1929
collection of Carol Roberts



Astronomer John Tebbutt who
discovered the Great Comet of 1861

Back to Windsor Week 1932
Hawkesbury Library Services



George Street, Windsor. C1900

WE LOVE SEEING PHOTOS CAPTURING THE
PAST OF THE HILLS AND HAWKESBURY AREA.

EITHER EMAIL IVOR AT
IVOR.JONES47@OPTUSNET.COM.AU

OR WRITE TO
17 ROSE ST, BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153.



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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

Australian Sikh Association

0433 580 539

www.asainc.org.au

Bushrangers Hash House Harriers

04 0828 9562

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.

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 Town Road, Kenthurst, has a service at 9.30am every Sunday morning. You are most welcome to join us.

Rev. Chris Baxter | 0423 119 131

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

Our 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 Tuesday's of the month from 10 to 12. Bring along your lunch if you wish to stay longer.

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. The next meeting is August 16 with guest speaker Bernie Riley, who is General Manager PCFA (Telenursing service).

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

1st 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.
Ann | 02 4576 5031

Galston VIEW Club

Which raises money for The Smith Family "Learning for Life" program will hold its next Luncheon /Meeting at 11am on Wednesday, June 23 at The Galston Club, 21-25 Arcadia Rd, Galston. Guest is Ambre Hammond on "An Unorthodox Life in Music". Bookings essential.
Merle 9634 2378 | 0412 110 698.

Girl Guides Australia

There are great programs for girls aged from 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 Girl Guide groups established at Castle Hill, Kellyville, North Rocks, Baulkham Hills, Crestwood and Galston. To find out more about the best day, time and group for your daughter call:
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

James | 04 0333 8450

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.fffhnc.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/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

Ladies Probus Club of Baulkham Hills inc

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

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 Road 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

North Richmond Probus Club

Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am at Panthers, North Richmond, Beaumont Rd, N. Richmond.

Joan Bruce | 0404 290 484

northrichmondprobus@gmail.com

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club

We are a breakfast Club and meet every Friday morning at 7am at the Hills Cafe at Hills Shire Council, 3 Columbia Court, Norwest. 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 Combined Kellyville Club

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

Glenys | 0419 616 431 OR

Veronica | 0408 025 577

glenysiclarke@hotmail.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.

secretary@winstonhillsnorthmeadprobusclub.com.au

Membership Officer | 0421 410 305

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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@thehillslsc.com.au.

facebook.com/thehillslarningcentre

The Hills Shire Garden Club

9624 5034

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: @hillsdistrictpipeband

Suzie Whitaker

suz801@live.com.au

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

Pam | 0412 737 234

airsydneyhills@gmail.com

Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition in the Hills District

hillsladiestennis.org

Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

Meet every second Tuesday in the month at Crestwood Community Centre, Drive, Baulkham Hills at 8 pm

0452 465 906

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/wanderers

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

PUZZLE

WORD SEARCH

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CAYMAN	NEVIS
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CUBA	TOBAGO
DOMINICA	TORTOLA
GRAND TURK	TRINIDAD
GRENADA	VIRGIN GORDA

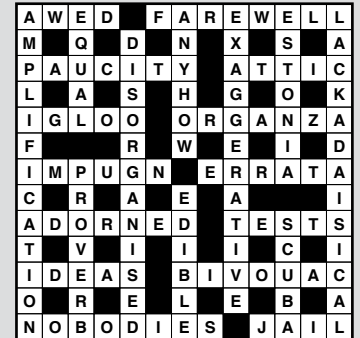


WORD SEARCH



Answers from last issue

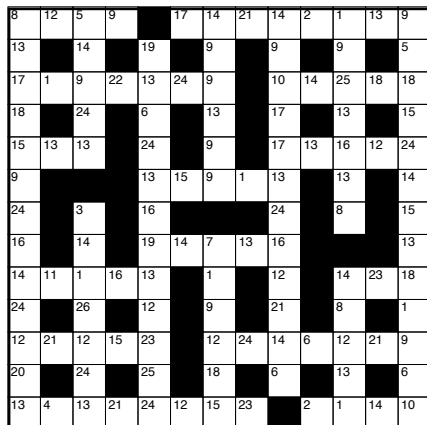
CODE WORD



CODE WORD

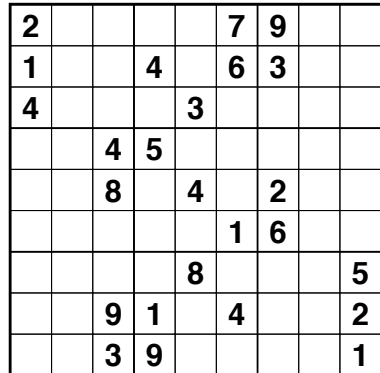
Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

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

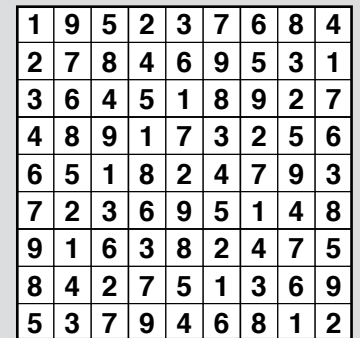


SUDOKU

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



SUDOKU



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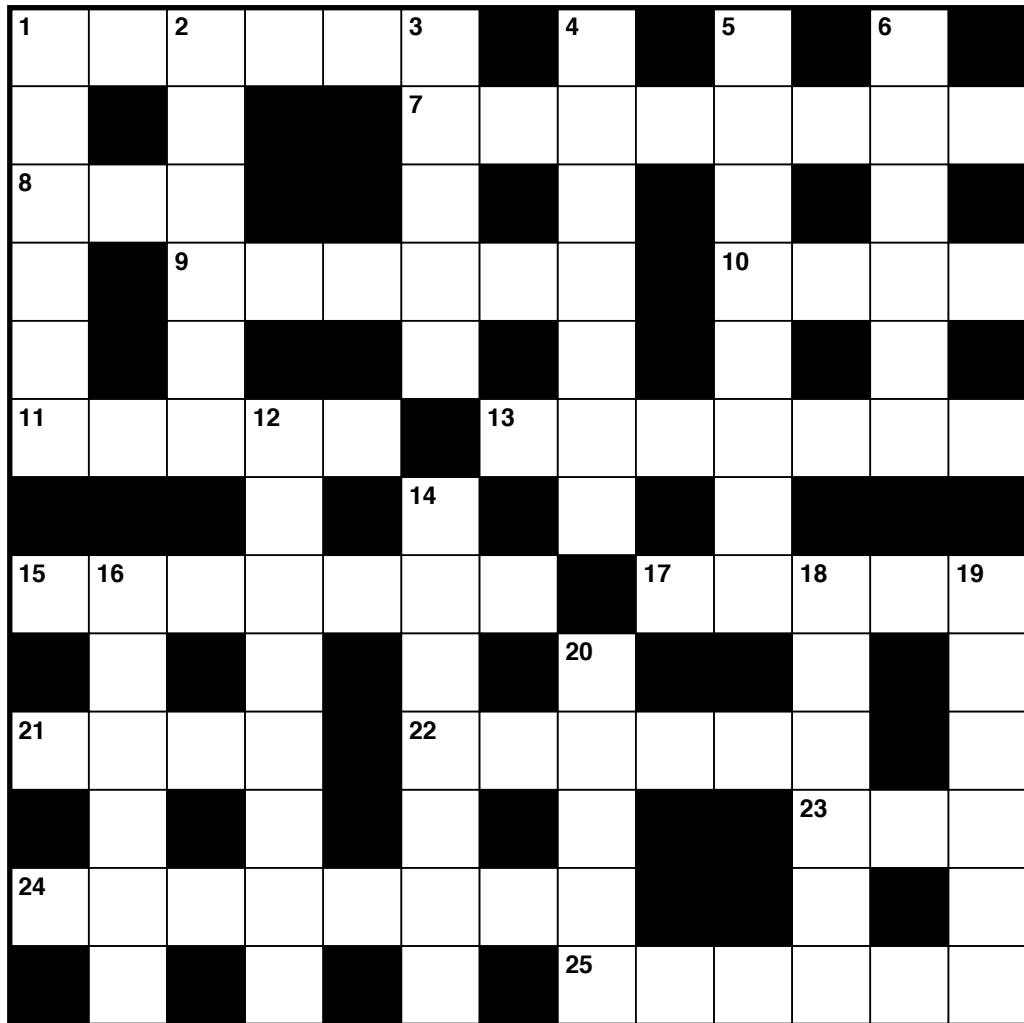
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Across

1. Spout
7. Bogs or marshes
8. Annoy constantly
9. Group of 12 constellations
10. Capture a piece in chess
11. Church instrument
13. Highest singing voice
15. Confused struggle
17. Skin on top of the head
21. List of food items available
22. Tithes (anag)
23. Very cold; slippery
24. People who consume a particular beverage
25. Gained deservedly

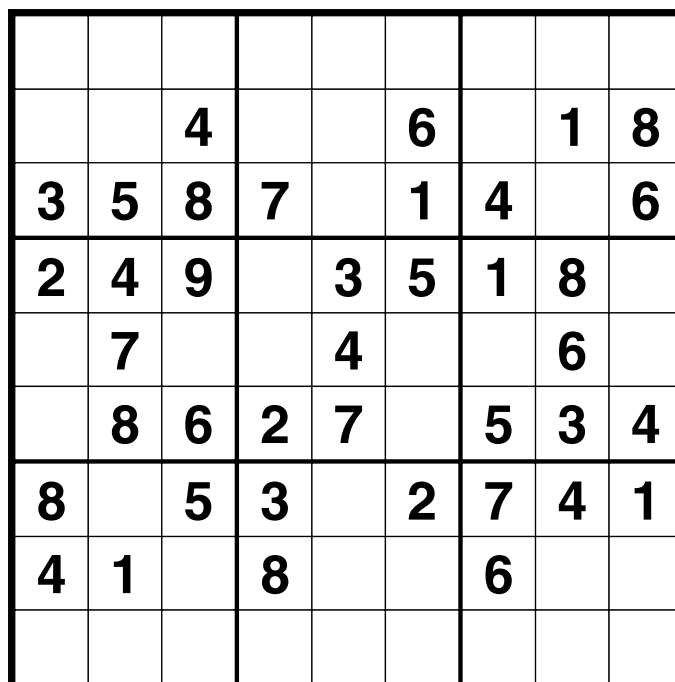
Down

1. Papal representative
2. Move with short sharp turns
3. Electronic message
4. Farm vehicle
5. Recondite
6. Calculate
12. Wealthy
14. Rattling noise
16. Happy
18. Something done
19. Made a victim of
20. Compact

SUDOKU

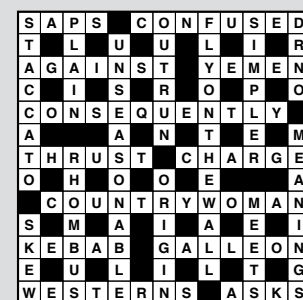
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

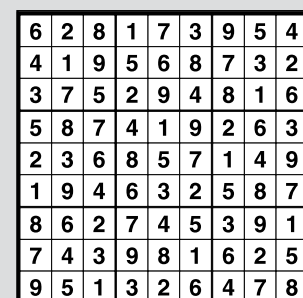


Answers from last issue

CROSSWORD



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