

Hills to Hawkesbury

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Community News

24th Sept - 08th Oct 2021 | Volume 38 – Issue 18
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



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ONLINE WELCOME TO NEWEST AUSTRALIANS

becoming an Australian Citizen was a virtual affair on Friday September 17th which happened to be the 20th Anniversary of National Citizenship Day.

The day was one of celebration for 134 residents from the Hills and Hawkesbury region who took the oath and became Australian Citizens.

The Hawkesbury welcomed 33 new citizens who came from a diverse range of countries including Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Malta, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

Each citizen received their Australian citizenship individually through an online ceremony with the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly.

As part of the online ceremonies, the Welcome to Country was given by Darug woman Erin Wilkins.

Mayor Conolly said that receiving Australia Citizenship on Australia's national citizenship day was special for everyone involved.

"The day is an opportunity for all Australians to reflect on the meaning and importance of Australian citizenship and the responsibilities

and privileges we have as citizens," he said.

"Whether we are citizens through birth or by active choice, it is a chance for all Australians to take pride in our citizenship; celebrate our democratic values and think about what unites us as Australians."

The 101 Hills residents who were sworn in from the safety of their own home by Hills Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne (pictured) came from more than 24 countries, including Brazil, China, South Africa, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Iran and Zimbabwe.

It was the first of four virtual ceremonies. Mayor Byrne, who was honoured to officiate over the proceedings, said it was an "absolute joy" to be part of the welcome.

"Australian citizenship is a wonderful privilege and I'm so honoured that Council could

continue to be a part of this momentous journey for our residents on National Citizenship Day," Mayor Byrne said.

"I congratulate our newest citizens and I wish them all the best on the next chapter in their lives."

SONYA'S WINNING SNAP

A dramatic photograph by Sonya Clarke from Beaumont Hills of her mum reading the paper has landed her second place in the Little Sydney Lives photography competition.

Sonya's image called: *FOMO – Building Media Relations* was Little Sydney Lives photography competition was runner up in the 8 to 12 category which was won by Layla Rose Moshi from Bossley Park.

The winning images were selected from 20 finalists by a panel of judges including National Geographic photographer Michaela Skovranova, Magnum Photo Agency member Trent Parke and TV personality Justine Clarke. The winners were announced by the City of Sydney which has created a digital gallery of the finalists. Visit news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. And search for arts and culture.

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IBM DEMOLITION TO GO AHEAD

By **BEV JORDAN**

Environmentalists and locals are devastated that The Hills Planning Panel has agreed to an application by Mirvac Projects Pty to demolish the former IBM buildings at 55 Coonara Ave, West Pennant Hills which will include the clearing of 1,253 trees.

The site contains Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, which provide a habitat for the critically endangered Powerful Owl and the Dural Land Snail - identified as Critically Endangered Ecological Communities under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

The decision was made public on Monday, (September 20th) following an impassioned forum on Wednesday last week when representatives from seven community groups addressed the panel and 27 individuals registered to speak.

The former IBM site was rezoned from Business to Residential and Environmental Conservation in June last year through the State Government's Planning System Acceleration Program despite objections from Hills Shire Council. The re-zoning will enable medium to



Photo by Paul Robinson

high density residential development on the 9ha site for up to 600 homes.

In announcing the unanimous decision to allow the demolition works to go ahead, the Hills Planning Panel stated: "Having regard to the relevant provisions of the Biodiversity Act, 1979 and the detailed advice provided by Council's Senior Biodiversity Officer, the panel is satisfied that the development the subject of the DA is unlikely to result in a serious and irreversible impact on the Blue Gum High Forest or on the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest."

It has added amendments to five conditions covering tree protection fencing and protection from accidental damage, signage, a fauna management plan which must be submitted to Hills Shire Council covering fauna protection and relocation, and fuel management arrangements.

The plea to the Planning Panel from most speakers was asking why so many trees needed to be removed for the demolition to go ahead.

The first speaker was Hills Mayor Michelle Byrne who said: "The biggest concern for residents is the loss of 1,253 trees with only 60 replacement trees. These are species we do not want to lose. Once they have gone, they have gone for good. I think clearing a large amount of Blue Gum Forest High Forest is not a great outcome for anyone."

Mayor Byrne said now the land had been re-zoned the focus was now to work with stakeholders to minimise the impact on the environment and surrounding owners.

Jan Primrose, speaking on behalf of Forest in Danger, an alliance of 12 community and environment groups fighting the plans

Story continues on page 11

Riverside GARDENS

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CAREFLIGHT RESCUE

A man in his 60s is recovering in hospital after he suffered burns to his upper body following a fuel explosion at his property at Arcadia on Saturday morning (September 18).

He was repairing a vehicle at his home when the explosion occurred. The quick-thinking man jumped into a nearby swimming pool to cool the burns before emergency services arrived.

Members of the Rural Fire Service were first on scene and provided First Aid before paramedics arrived. The Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter was tasked by NSW Ambulance shortly after 11.45am and landed 10 minutes later in a paddock adjacent to the scene. NSW Ambulance paramedics arrived simultaneously with the CareFlight medical team who worked together to provide medical treatment for the man who remained conscious.

Burns dressings, a fluid drip and pain



Courtesy of Careflight

relief were administered to the patient, who was taken by air on board the Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter to the Burns Unit at Royal North Shore Hospital in a stable condition.

BOSS STABBED

A 38-year-old man was stabbed on Thursday evening (September 16th) while with his partner at premises in Carrington Road Castle Hill.

It is alleged that a former employee confronted the owner at around 8.55pm and stabbed him a number of times before running off.

The 38-year-old man was taken to Hills Private Hospital where he was treated for his injuries - which were not life threatening.

Police have charged a 21-year-old man with wound with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm after he surrendered himself to Castle police station.

BIKIE ARRESTED

Raptor Squad investigators have charged a senior Finks outlaw motorcycle gang (OMCG) member at Castle Hill following an investigation into alleged criminal activity across the state.

In August this year, detectives attached to State Crime Command's Raptor Squad commenced an investigation into the illicit activities of criminal networks operating across Sydney.

Following extensive inquiries, Raptor Squad investigators executed five search warrants at homes at Box Hill, Castle Hill, Colyton, Condell Park and St Johns Park and a Firearms Prohibition Order (FPO) search at a home at Marsden Park on Thursday (September 16th).

During the searches, police seized cannabis, prescription medications and OMCG paraphernalia. Officers also seized electronic devices, including laptops and mobile phones.

A 39-year-old man - who is a senior Finks OMCG member - was arrested at Castle Hill and taken to Castle Hill Police Station, where he was charged with knowingly direct activities of criminal group, possess or use a prohibited weapon without permit and use prohibited weapon contrary to prohibition order.

He was granted strict conditional bail to appear at Parramatta Local Court on Wednesday, October 6th 2021.

Investigations under Strike Force Hollier are continuing.

Anyone with information that may assist investigators is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

ONLINE WARNING

Riverstone Police Area Command are encouraging parents and carers to have regular conversations with their kids about online safety after receiving a report of a possible child grooming incident via an online gaming platform.

The nine-year-old girl was using the platform at home on Monday (September 20th) and engaged in group chat with friends, before an unknown person joined the group and engaged the girl in a one-on-one conversation.

During the chat, the child felt uncomfortable and alerted a parent, who immediately blocked the person and reported the incident to Riverstone Police, who commenced an investigation.

NSW Police encourage all parents and carers to be actively involved in their children's online activities and have regular, open conversations with their children about their safety, both in the community and online.

Safe internet use - tips for parents and carers:

- Monitor how much time your child spends on the internet, what websites they are visiting and who they may be speaking to.
- Ensure you are able to access your child's email and social media accounts and randomly check the contents.
- Remind children to never send pictures of themselves to anyone they don't know and never place a full profile and picture anywhere on the internet.
- Remind children to never give out personal information, including full name, home address, phone number or school, over the internet.
- Ensure children never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone that they have only ever chatted with on the internet.
- Let your children know they can tell parents or another responsible adult about any contact that makes them feel uncomfortable

More information and educational packages for parents and children are available from ThinkUKnow, a multi-agency program designed to educate and promote cyber safety: www.thinkuknow.org.au/

Additional information can be accessed via the eSafety website: www.esafety.gov.au/

Services Available

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

1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)

A confidential information, counselling and support service:

NSW Domestic Violence Line (1800 65 64 63)

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

Men's Referral Service (1300 766 491)

Provide telephone counselling, information and referrals for men:

Link2Home (1800 152 152)

Can help refer women experiencing domestic violence to crisis accommodation:

Lifeline (13 11 14)

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

000 Triple Zero (000)
For emergencies or life threatening situations.





BE PREPARED

By BEV JORDAN

Residents are being urged to Get Prepared as part of the Australian Red Cross Emergency Ready Week, asking them to review or create an emergency RediPlan.

The call from Resilient Sydney follows Get Ready weekend by NSW Rural Fire Service last weekend which was telling people the steps to take to be prepared for bushfires.

The SES is also warning residents that October is the start of stormy weather when incidents peak.

The NRMA has released figures from its Wild Weather Tracker that shows that in the 12 months leading up to August 2021, Castle Hill

was the third most impacted suburb for storms behind Port Macquarie and Wauchope.

On a regional basis North West Sydney and the Hills District were third and fourth on the list. The figures were crunched by looking at claims made to NRMA Insurance.

Last Storm Season, NSW SES responded to more than 37,000 requests for assistance, including more than 1,000 requests for flood rescue. Requests for help with fallen trees and

roof damage are among the most common requests the service receives.

The SES says simple things like cleaning your gutters, downpipes and drains and removing blockages, trimming trees and branches that could fall, fixing holes in your roof and having an emergency kit can all go a long way to helping you be prepared this Storm Season.

Beck Dawson, Chief Resilience Officer of Resilient Sydney, said that after weeks of Lockdown Sydneysiders understand it's important to know what to do when things go wrong.

"We can't stop disasters from happening, but by being prepared we can reduce how much they affect us," Ms Dawson said. "A recent survey by the Australian Red Cross revealed that almost 50% of Australians say their most important takeaway from the pandemic is the importance of being prepared. Knowing where to start can be a daunting process, which is why, during Emergency Ready Week, we are urging Sydneysiders to take some simple steps to get prepared."

The Call has been backed by local councils.

1. REVIEW THE RISKS RELEVANT TO YOU

The risks faced by a family who live on the edge of a national park will be very different to those faced by someone living in an urban apartment block. While planning for potential problems, consider what may impact your immediate environment and any initial steps you can take to get prepared.

Story continues on page 8

000 EMERGENCY SERVICES

ARSON CHARGE

A media appeal for help resulted in the arrest of a 56-year-old Windsor man on Wednesday (September 15th) in relation to a suspicious house fire in Bligh Park.

Emergency Services responded to a house fire in Neilson Crescent Bligh Park at about 5.20am on February 4.

The premises were totally destroyed by fire. Investigations commenced involving Hawkesbury Police Area Command, assisted by officers from State Crime Command.

Following ongoing investigations police issued a public appeal for help in August to trace a distinctive vehicle seen in the vicinity of the fire.

The 56 year old was charged at Windsor Police Station with the offence of, 'Destroy Property in Company use Fire'.

Investigations are continuing. Anyone with information should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Reference is E77529630.

SCAM ALERT

Police are warning people not to respond to scam text messages about missed calls, voicemails or deliveries.

There have been over 12,000 reports of these scams to ScamWatch in Australia in the past month.

The text messages ask you to tap on a link to download an app to track or organise a time for a delivery, or hear a voicemail message. However, the message is fake, there is no delivery or voicemail, and the app is actually malicious software called Flubot.

If you receive one of these messages, do not click or tap on the link. Delete the message immediately.

To find out more about current scams visit the government website scamwatch.gov.au

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A NEW ERA IN CARE

MACKILLOP HOUSE at Norwest is set to open its doors in November and welcome its first residents.

Catholic Healthcare is hoping to offer pre-opening tours of its newest facility when COVID restrictions relax in October.

Steven Flanagan, the newly appointed Residential Manager for MacKillop House, is looking forward to what MacKillop House has to offer residents and the wider community. A Registered Nurse, Steven has worked in the aged care industry for over 10 years including, Regional Manager for North-West Sydney region and Residential Manager roles at homes in Dural and Penrith.

"Having started out in nursing, I always had a desire to work towards leadership and management roles. I've been fortunate enough to be able to do just that over the last few years," he said. "I am excited about my new role as Residential Manager at MacKillop House. I am looking forward to building a fantastic community with supportive staff who care

about enhancing the lives of the residents who join us at MacKillop House."

A dedicated Catholic Healthcare Home & Community Services team will be onsite at Norwest and catered Community Engagement Programs will run from MacKillop House.

"These programs have been developed to engage with the community – not only to involve local residents of the area, but to engage with schools, churches and other organisations," he said.

The Home will encourage the participation and involvement from people of all ages within the community.

The Wellness Centre will offer various programs including its Walking With Confidence classes and Neck and Back Health talks.

MacKillop House has 104 rooms and is built on land that was part of the former St Joseph's Convent, home to the Sisters of St Joseph of

the Sacred Heart, founded by Mary Mackillop. The newly built facility boasts a spectacular design and stunning outlooks with beautiful outdoor courtyards.

Each community has dining rooms, living rooms and library nooks. There are also dedicated resident kitchens, in addition to the main kitchens and serveries on site, which allow residents to continue to foster their independence. It provides residents with a space to utilise at any time, to enjoy with their family and friends.

An onsite gym, chapel, hair salon and café are also available for the enjoyment of residents, families and the local community.

Steven said: "Catholic Healthcare has an enviable reputation as an aged care provider that delivers exceptional care. Our residents will enjoy a Home run by an experienced provider and a passionate team of staff."

Introducing MacKillop House

Expressions of interest for our exceptional Residential Aged Care Home in Norwest are now being taken.

Call now
1300 169 949
norwest.catholichealthcare.com.au

COVID-19 CHECK-IN CARD

Residents who don't have smart phones or are not comfortable using the Service NSW webform can create a hard-copy COVID-19 check-in card with a unique QR code that contains their registered contact details. Once you've created your card you can have it posted to you, or download a printable version immediately.

If you lose the card, or your contact details change, you simply create a new card. To create your COVID-19 check-in card, visit www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/create-covid-19-check-card.

Note: This check-in method is only available at businesses that have a QR compatible device. It is not mandatory for businesses to accept COVID-19 check-in cards.

Don't forget to check in every time you arrive at a venue

REGISTRATION LINKS

Please see the following links related to travelling within NSW, workers leaving or entering a COVID-19 area of concern and registering a COVID-19 nominated visitor:

Register to travel within NSW: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-your-travel-within-nsw>

Registration for workers leaving or entering a COVID-19 area of concern: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/registration-workers-leaving-or-entering-covid-19-area-concern>

COVID-19 Nominated Visitor: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-your-nominated-visitor>

VACCINATION RATES SOAR

By **BEV JORDAN**

Residents in The Hills LGA have been the fastest in the State to get their first COVID-19 vaccination with more than 95% of the area's residents ages 16 and over receiving their first dose. Close to 68% are fully vaccinated.

In the Hawkesbury LGA over 84% of the area's residents 16 and over have received their first dose of the vaccine and over 53% are fully vaccinated.

The figures were released during the week by the Australian Government Department of Health at Outlining show the vaccination rates in each Local Government Area in Australia as of September 19th.

State Emergency Services Minister and MP for Baulkham Hills David Elliott said:

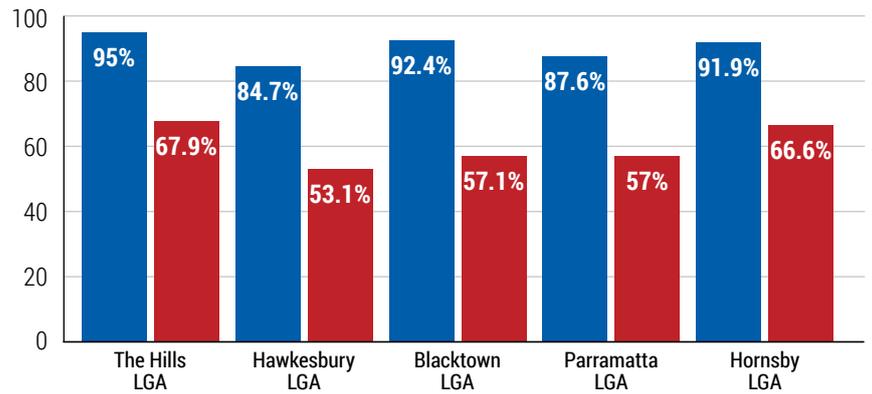
"It's a huge credit to The Hills community that we have continually topped the state, and indeed the nation, on vaccination rates.

"This simply confirms that our Shire remains the most community minded and selfless place in the country to live."

In NSW 83.6% of residents aged 16 and over have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 55.5% are fully vaccinated (by September 23), More than 9.2 million doses have been administered in NSW since February 22.

Under the National Plan, which all states and territories have agreed to, once 70 and 80 per cent vaccination thresholds are reached at a state-wide level, lockdowns and restrictions can be minimised and

Vaccination rates in the area for 16s and over are:



■ First dose ■ Fully vaccinated
Source: Australian Government Department of Health

the country safely reopened for travel domestically and internationally.

Liberal Senator for Western Sydney, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, said getting vaccinated is the pathway out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The best thing we can all do is make sure we keep positive, encourage one another to get vaccinated, and stick to the National Plan," she said.

"While the vaccination rate is very promising, I urge our community to keep going because every vaccine administered gets us closer to unlocking Australia."

Vaccines are now available to 12 to 15-year-olds. To find out where to book a vaccination visit www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/health-and-wellbeing.

The Immunisation certificate can be downloaded using the Medicare Express app on a Smart Phone.

If you want a certificate posted to you because you can't access a Mobile App, contact the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809, Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm. The certificate can be posted to you and can take about 14 days.



Lola's Lockdown ADVENTURES

By **BEV JORDAN**

Little Lola Boyd is enjoying some great lockdown adventures on her driveway thanks to her mother's creativity with children's chalk and her dad's expertise with holding ladders.

The 6-year-old stars in her own chalk adventures which her mum Karina photographs and then uploads onto Instagram and Facebook with the hashtag **#Lolaslockdownadventures**.

"We have done them every day for about two weeks," said Karina. "It was something fun to do during lockdown because Lola was missing school."

Often it's Lola who chooses her adventure which she shares with her special bear. It started with a bunch of balloons and it went from there.

Karina says it takes about an hour to do the pavement art on the family's driveway and then "two seconds" to take the photo with her husband, Stephen, holding the ladder.

The driveway is then washed down, "ready for the next adventure".

The images are done on non-rainy days and in between "home-schooling" Lola and her three older brothers, Koby, 13, Lachlan 11 and nine-year-old Mason.

Lola has food protein-induced Enterocolitis Syndrome (FPIES), a rare disorder in which food affects the gastrointestinal system.

She also has brittle bones. "She has been on a bit of a journey," says her mum.

Lola was tube-fed for 18 months and is now able to eat 15 foods that don't make her sick including wheat and eggs.

There have been multiple visits to Westmead Children's Hospital. Visits through Lockdown have been via Telehealth phone calls.

The driveway masterpieces have not only made the family's day but the neighbours love them and so do family and friends who have been enjoying a gallery of Lola's adventures via social media... "Be strong" was a social media favourite.

Lola says she has loved all of her chalk adventures which have involved butterflies, the beach, picking apples, reading on the moon, toadstools, parachuting, ballooning and so much more.

"Every time I do one I say, this is my favourite," laughs Karina.

#lolaslockdownadventures

A NEW MISSION

By BEV JORDAN

For Carmel Ieraci returning to Australia after living abroad in Rome and England for 16 years has been a huge journey through COVID restrictions, hotel quarantine and overnight meetings and services as she wound up her commitments in the UK.

On the bright side she was able to attend her daughter's wedding in Byron Bay just after her hotel quarantine ended and before the Sydney Lockdown started.

She has now started her new position as Minister at Wesley Uniting Church Castle Hill and although the NSW continues in lockdown restrictions, working remotely are the conditions that Carmel has experienced for the last 18 months.

"I feel incredibly welcomed by the congregation," she said. Carmel was drawn to the role at Wesley Castle Hill Uniting Church because of its Vision and Mission Statements and its aim to grow and be a positive influence in the community.

On October 3 the church will be holding an online Blessing of the Animals at 9.30am which is part of the Uniting church's Season of Creation services.

The Blessing of the Animals is a custom attributed to St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology, who was born in Italy around 1181.

"I think the service is important now because of the importance animals play in people's lives, bringing comfort and companionship in the midst of isolation," she said. "It is one of my favourite services in the church's calendar. I love animals, I see them as part of God's creation. Christian communities around the world celebrate the Season of Creation and this is part of that. At the last one I did in the UK a little boy brought along an African snail. His parents thought the snail was dead but the vibration of the organ brought the snail out of its shell.

"It's a service that lifts people and encourages them. It gives people hope," she said.

Carmel was born in Adelaide, South Australia with a Catholic mother and atheist father and always felt spiritual. Teaching at a secretarial college in Melbourne "to teenagers who didn't want to be at school" she was invited to join a Bible Class run by Bible Fellowship International.

It started a 25 year involvement which resulted in working in Rome for four years to set up an ecumenical Bible study class.

During that time, as well as the BSF work she led a multi-national fellowship group at the United Nations World Food Program and was a youth leader at the Ponte Sant'Angelo Methodist Church in Rome.

Fired by her experience she felt called to explore ordained Ministry and moved to the UK to study theology at Wesley House in Cambridge and then served as a minister in Andover, Hampshire followed by Maidenhead, Berkshire.

"I always knew deep down I would return to Australia and COVID really accelerated that decision," she said.

To have your pet's name included in The Blessing of the Animals email admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au or visit the website wesleycastlehill.org.au



Rev Carmel Ieraci with Teddy

BE PREPARED from page 5

2. ESTABLISH A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

A recent Australian Red Cross survey found most Australians say those bonds helped them through the pandemic. To establish a network of support, try to identify and write down the details of three key contacts who could help in a time of crisis.

3. CREATE AND SHARE AN EMERGENCY HOUSEHOLD PLAN

An emergency RediPlan for your household should identify all members of your household, including pets. It makes note of essential information, like ongoing medical issues and also lists important contact numbers for your household, for example gas and electricity companies.

4. DOWNLOAD THE EMERGENCY SURVIVAL CHECKLIST AND GET YOUR KIT TOGETHER.

The Emergency Survival Checklist provides you with a step by step list of necessary household items, like a first aid kit, lights and copies of important documents. Assembling your survival kit doesn't have to be a chore. It can be turned into a fun family activity and any kids in the home can help.

5. DOWNLOAD THE GET PREPARED APP

The Australian Red Cross Get Prepared app is a free, one-stop tool to help you prepare for any type of emergency and will let you establish and save your network of support, review potential risks and create your emergency plans all in one place.

Hills Shire Mayor, Dr Michelle Byrne said the app is the perfect tool for residents to use to prepare for potential disasters, including the upcoming storm and bushfire seasons.

"Our emergency services in The Hills do an amazing job of keeping us safe, but we can make their jobs easier by being aware of potential dangers and being prepared," Mayor Byrne said. "The Get Prepared app is a great way to do this as it streamlines the often stressful process of putting together an emergency plan."

Being prepared is the key to resilience, Hawkesbury Mayor, Councillor Patrick Conolly said. "I hope that our community members will share this message about getting prepared."

The free Get Prepared app, co-created by Australian Red Cross and general insurer IAG, can be downloaded at both councils' websites: getprepared.app.link/The_Hills_Council and getprepared.app.link/Hawkesbury_City_Council

Hawkesbury City Council is also urging residents to Bookmark the Hawkesbury Disaster and Emergency Dashboard which provides updates on road conditions, weather warnings, fire incidents, power outages, flood alerts, bushfire alerts and school closures.

BUSHFIRES: To find out more about preparing your home and property for bushfire, visit rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/getready and develop a fire plan via this link myfireplan.com.au

FLOODS: Check your flood risk and find out how to prepare for future floods at myfloodrisk.nsw.gov.au. Find out about preparing for other hazards at resilience.nsw.gov.au/prepare.html

STORMS: For more information on getting ready for this year's storm season go to <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/get-ready-nsw/>



NEW TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The new signalised pedestrian crossing outside North Kellyville Public School has now been switched on.

These new lights will allow school students, their parents and staff, as well as residents to cross Hezlett Road, in North Kellyville, safely.

The traffic lights were the first of three to be turned on as part of the Hezlett Road upgrade, which will see the two lane rural thoroughfare upgraded to a four lane road.

Hills Shire Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne said: "The existing zebra crossing has been a concern for students, their parents, staff and residents who use this very busy stretch of road, so it is very pleasing to be able to deliver these traffic improvements as part of the Hezlett Road upgrade.

The fast-tracking of this vital road project was made possible thanks to the NSW Government's Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF), which aims to fund community projects, while boosting the economy through construction and job creation.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams said \$75.9 million is being spent under NSW Government's AIF program to fast-track the delivery of community infrastructure in high growth areas of North West Sydney during the COVID-19 crisis.

"We're delighted to have been able to cut through the red tape and speed-up vital infrastructure projects for growing communities like North Kellyville, so they weren't left behind during the pandemic," Mr Williams said.

The next stage of the Hezlett Road upgrade will include the realignment of the Samantha Riley Drive intersection to enable the final service adjustments to be completed.

Adding to these works, traffic signals will also be switched on at the intersection of Hezlett Road, Samantha Riley Drive and James Mileham Drive and at the intersection of Hezlett Road and Gum Nut Close in the coming weeks, with weather permitting.



REBEKAH and AMY in rehearsals for Entertaining Angels
Photo Chris Lundie

LAUGHS PLANNED FOR 2022

The Castle Hill Players have scrapped the rest of their 2021 season and are looking forward to more than a few laughs at The Pavilion Theatre at Castle Hill next year.

When lockdown commenced in June Castle Hill Players were hopeful of a necessary but minimal interruption to their 2021 Season, and tentative plans were put in place to open Entertaining Angels in July which kept getting put back.

The Management Committee has now made the difficult decision to cancel the remaining three plays of the 2021 Season.

"Cancellation is always disappointing," said CHP spokesperson Annette Snars this week. "However, the reality is that it buys us time to get organised and return bigger and brighter in 2022."

Entertaining Angels by British comedy, by Richard Everett which has been in rehearsal for several months will now open the 2022 Season. It is being directed by Jennifer Willison.

Annette said: "This much loved and hugely anticipated play will kick off a brand new year with witty dialogue and an eclectic group of characters offering a very English comedy that's profound, absorbing and thoroughly entertaining."

The remainder of the 2022 season will be announced soon. Announcements will be made on the CHP website www.paviliontheatre.org.au and on the Facebook page Pavilion Theatre – Castle Hill Players. Castle Hill Players have been entertaining residents for 55 years.

SPLASH IN ON MONDAY

Community swimming pools are set to reopen this Monday (September 27th) following the NSW Government's approval. The reopening of all outdoor public swimming pools will be subject to having COVIDSafe plans approved by NSW Health.

All pools at Richmond Swimming Centre and the outdoor pool at Hawkesbury Oasis Aquatic and Leisure Centre will be open, see hours below. QR codes will be in place. Hawkesbury Mayor, Councillor Patrick Conolly has welcomed the move to open the pools to Hawkesbury residents.

"Our pools provide important services to our community for sport and recreation, health and mental wellbeing, water safety, swimming training, and local employment," he said. "Please remember to check in and out using the QR codes and to be patient and kind with each other and our staff when sharing the facilities.

"Along with the re-opening of our outdoor pools, we are working with the NSW Council does not have any further advice from the NSW Government as to when outdoor spaces associated with swimming and fitness clubs will be permitted to be operational.

COVID-19 restrictions continue to be updated by the NSW Government.



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Sunday
10am to 6pm

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RIVERBANK RED TAPE

By BEV JORDAN

Flood damage with
Hawkesbury City Mayor
Patrick Conolly



Red tape is causing residents and businesses trying to repair riverbank damage along the Hawkesbury River major problems six months after the flood water subsided leaving damage and erosion in its wake. Under current planning procedures landowners have to submit a Development Application to the local council before tackling repairs which involves several reports at considerable cost.

Hawkesbury City Council is calling for the State Government to establish a streamlined approval process to enable repairs to riverbanks to go ahead as soon as possible.



The Mayor Patrick Conolly is seeking a meeting with NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro to discuss the issue saying delays in establishing such a process is leading to hardship among affected residents and has also resulted in unauthorised works being carried out to properties and the river. Council is aware of 35 properties that have undertaken works without approvals.

Resident Jane Shelton from Cornwallis told ABC radio on Wednesday (September 22nd) that submitting a Development Application for the repair work would cost about \$50,000 for the reports needed and would take time. "The irony is the repairs will cost us about \$20,000 and take 10 days and we have (tradesmen) sitting here waiting to do it," she said. The big fear for residents is that another flood will happen before approved repair works can go ahead.

Mr Conolly said the March floods caused significant damage to riverbanks, affecting hundreds of properties along the Hawkesbury River in both Hawkesbury and The Hills Local Government Areas. He said the damage has led to unstable riverbanks close to homes and

rural buildings, putting them at risk of further damage and making them vulnerable to future flood events.

In the aftermath of the floods, the State Government undertook substantial studies of the damage to the riverbanks to assist in the creation of a streamlined design and approval process for landowners to undertake necessary repairs on their properties.

Council says the State Government has budgeted \$18 million to employ case managers across affected NSW LGAs to help speed up the application process and assist in the recovery and restoration, but this has also not yet taken place.

Mr Conolly said under current legislation council's hands were tied.

"Until this streamlined approval process is put in place, all of the normal requirements for the application and assessment of development applications for riverbank repairs still apply, and in some cases this will require land owners spending tens of thousands of dollars on reports, and waiting for a full assessment by Councils. Council feels this is fundamentally unfair and not what we were led to believe would eventuate. Residents along the river have already suffered enough and shouldn't be left in limbo facing further financial hardship while the state government dithers. Delays and the associated costs have resulted in unapproved works being carried out by landowners at various locations, putting the health of the river at risk. There are also concerns that the works are not being carried out according to best-practice design principles and may be at risk from failure – occasioning further property damage."

Council has not received any development applications, but has held 10 pre-lodgement meetings.

IBM DEMOLITION TO GO AHEAD from page 3

for 55 Coonara, said the removal of 1.85ha of critically endangered species was a huge shock.

After the decision, she said: "It's more than disappointing that Mirvac doesn't consider that it can remove the current buildings on the site without clearing 1,253 trees. That's a huge number of trees to lose on one site alone plus there will be hundreds more for the development application for the northern part of the site."

Joan Rowley from West Pennant Hills Residents Association said the work will have an irreversible impact on West Pennant Hills valley.

Catherine Woollnough from PYSE (Protect Your Suburban Environment) said the number of Blue Gum High Forest trees being cleared represented 40 per cent of the number on the 9ha site.

Trish Brown from Byles Creek Valley Union said they were concerned about the impact on the endangered Powerful Owl. She asked for changes to the hours work was carried out on the site to lessen disruption.

Ishbel Cullen from the Nature Conservation Council said a lot more needed to be done to

protect native wildlife living in the forest and asked for extra time for relocation.

Mirvac Development Director Adrian Checchin said the approval of the demolition works was an important first step and would deliver much-needed homes and "make this cherished forest environment publicly accessible to the community for the first time in approximately 100 years."

"In June 2020, the site was rezoned to Environmental Conservation to protect important ecological elements of the site, and permit new medium and high density residential dwellings," he said.

"We continue to work with the planning controls and are close to finalising a design that is sensitive to the landscape and forest environment, within a masterplan which protects and enhances the important ecological elements of the site.

"We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Hills Shire Council and the community, as we work through the next phase in the approval process, to deliver the best outcomes for the forest as well as residents of West Pennant Hills."

Mayor Byrne said: "Proposals like this highlight how important our green spaces are, and that's why I'm continuing my campaign to reclassify the Cumberland State Forest, which adjoins the Mirvac site, into a National Park."

- The Hills Shire Planning Panel is appointed by the State Government.
- The Panel's decision and the amendments to the approval can be viewed via the link on The Hills Shire Council website thehills.nsw.gov.au, www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meeting-Agendas-Minutes/Local-Planning-Panel-LPP?BestBetMatch=Local%20Planning%20Panel%7Cd13b95b2-5146-4b00-9e3e-a80c73739a64%7C4f05f368-ecaa-4a93-b749-7ad6c4867c1f%7Cen-AU#section-5
- To read about the re-zoning in June last year visit this link hillstohawkesbury.com.au/ibm-rezoning-approved/
- Details of the Mirvac Plans for 55 Coonara Ave, West Pennant Hills. www.mirvac.com/investor-centre/property-portfolio/Residential/55-coonara-avenue
- The award-winning IBM site was founded in 1983 as its Australian headquarters.

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CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIP STATUS?

UPDATE YOUR WILL

In NSW, you must be separated from your spouse for 12 months before a family court will finalise your divorce. After being separated from her husband for nine months, Monika was severely injured in a car accident on her way to work and passed away. As the divorce was not yet finalised and the separation had no impact on her Will, all of Monika's assets were left to her former husband as she had not gotten around to updating her Will following her separation.*

A Will is the one important legal document many people forget to update when their relationship status changes. Natalie Darcy, Senior Solicitor Estate Planning at NSW Trustee & Guardian says that it should be one of first things couples consider.

"In NSW, the Succession Act 2006 governs the legal processes associated with inheritance disputes. Section 12 of the Act states that getting married revokes a Will, although this is subject to certain exceptions. This means a person who recently married may be deemed to have died intestate – meaning they died without a valid Will – if they pass away after the wedding without having updated their Will, any prior Will may be invalid."

A divorce also generally cancels your former spouse's appointment as executor, trustee or guardian in your Will, and also any gifts in the Will in favour of your former spouse, but there are certain things that might remain in the Will.

If you're living in a de facto relationship at the time of your death and you don't have a valid and up to date Will, the need to prove the relationship can result in additional expense and distress to your partner at a time when they are grieving.

It's much easier if to make a valid and up-to-date Will with a professional. NSW Trustee & Guardian is trusted by the people of NSW with over one million Wills and counting. Contact the 1300 10 20 30 or visit www.tag.nsw.gov.au.

* Names changed to protect the privacy of individuals.

Why choose a retirement village?



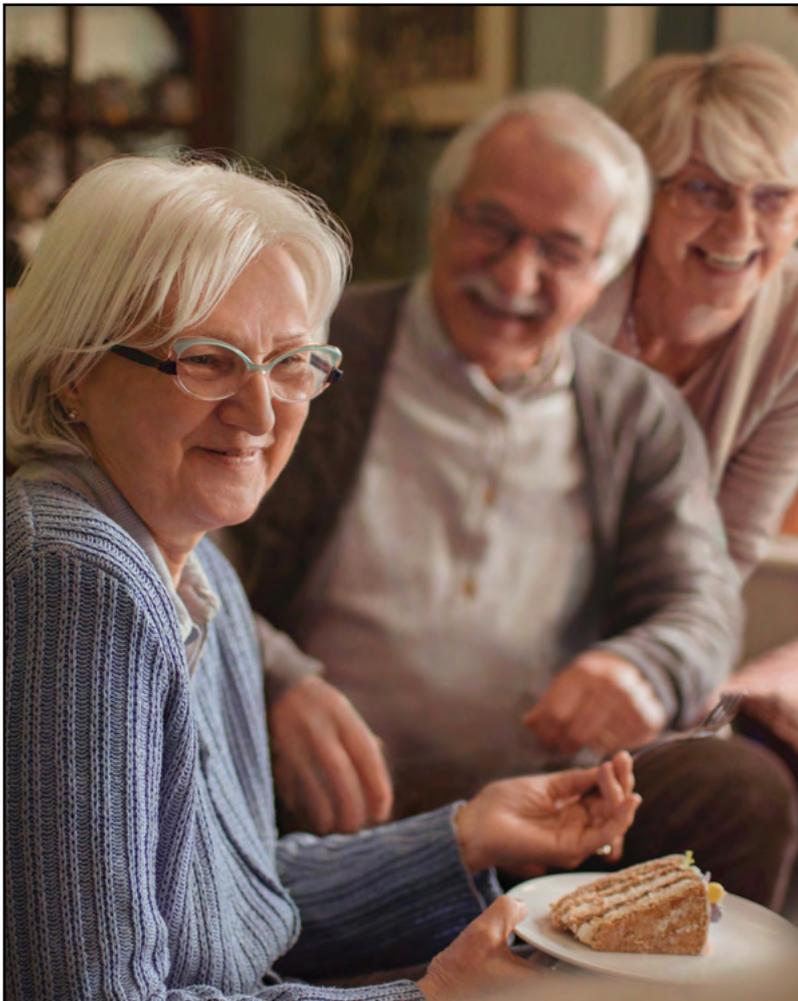
Enjoy the confidence that comes from belonging.

A retirement and independent living village might not be for everyone, however those who choose to make the move do agree that they should have done it sooner.

For some it is the opportunity to meet new people and find companionship, while for others it's about enjoying the freedom from maintaining a large house and garden. For Uniting resident Leoni, that was one of the appeals of making the move to a village.

"Having everything looked after frees up time to do the things you really want to do and isn't that what retirement is about," said Leoni. Uniting retirement living resident Joan shared "that's what I like about it - I moved in and everything is taken care of. I've got my independence, but I'm not living in some isolated house on my own, and I must say I'm surrounded by very nice people."

If you're interested in retirement living and think it's the next step in your journey, contact the friendly team at Uniting to discuss if there is a retirement and independent living village near you. Call **1800 864 846** or visit uniting.org/villages



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Uniting

Dr Jana Pittman in SAS Australia.
Photo Courtesy Channel 7



HILLS RESIDENT JANA PITTMAN has been breaking barriers most of her life. She is the only Australian women to compete in both Summer and Winter Olympic Games (as a track athlete and on bobsleigh) she's a proud mum of four, author and a junior doctor at Blacktown Hospital.

At the moment she is on television screens as a participant in SAS Australia where 18 "celebrity recruits" have been put through the challenging selection course that the SAS puts would-be recruits through.

The two weeks of filming earlier this year saw her gassed, jump out of a helicopter a few times, submerged in a vehicle, face sky high challenges and embark on constant runs with a 20kg pack on her back. Mud, cold showers, mice and drop toilets were part of daily life as was lack of sleep.

"The sleep deprivation and continuous adrenaline was really challenging. You lie awake wondering if they will come in and gas you, or kidnap you, or do a beasting (exercises) in the middle of the night," she said.

Jana had given birth to her son Charlie six months before filming started and took on the challenge at the end of her maternity leave,

"I wanted to challenge myself physically, particularly after having a baby only months prior. I also wanted to test my mental strength.

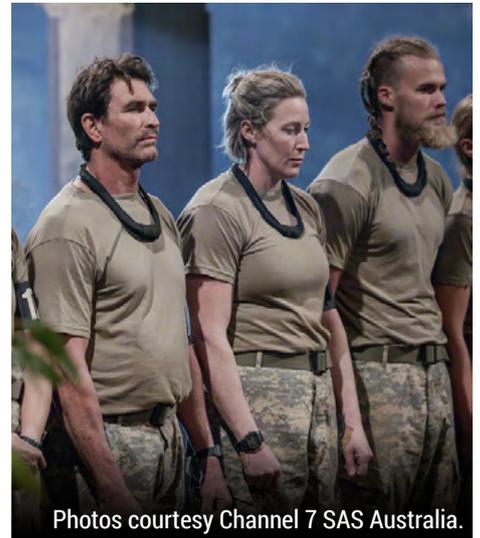
"I was particularly keen to do SAS as I have always wanted to be involved with the Australian Defence Force. I have several family members, including my brother, who have served and I wanted to experience a little of the world they lived in.

"It was what I expected... very, very tough but also incredibly rewarding.

"The moment we arrived they gassed us and stripped us to our undies."

She says the hardest moment on the course was boxing former tennis player Alicia Molik. The scariest moment was being submerged in a vehicle for 40 seconds before being allowed to escape.

According to Jana the fear-based challenges were her favourites.



Photos courtesy Channel 7 SAS Australia.

"I also liked conquering my own mind on some of the team and partner challenges where your body screamed at you to stop, but the group morale pushed you beyond what you thought was humanly possible."

The lessons she learned were: "I am tougher than I thought I was. How important my kids and family are to happiness. How I need to care less about opinions and more about things that matter, such as time with family and making a difference in meaningful things," she says.

"(It was) extraordinary, scary, challenging, mindset-changing and overall one of the greatest experiences of my life."

Three days after filming Jana was back at work at Blacktown Hospital.

She finished a Masters of Reproductive Medicine last year with the aim of becoming an obstetrician/gynaecologist and work in Women's health.

She is an ambassador to the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation and Westmead Medical Research Foundation.

SAS Australia airs on Channel 7 and 7plus, Monday to Wednesday at 7.30pm, which she is watching with her family. At the moment Jana is one of 12 remaining contestants.

FACTS:

LOCATION: Capertree Valley NSW

FILMING: 2 weeks

SLEEP: an average of 4.5 hours

NUMBERS: 18 recruits, 345 mousetraps
200 crew on set
57 cameras and 6 drones

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SKILLING UP IN RETAIL

Visual merchandising graduate Alex Pugliese is looking forward to a strong retail rebound once COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift.

The Rouse Hill resident started his retail career early on by enrolling in a TVET course at school in Year 11 to learn aspects of his preferred vocational trade.

"My passion really stemmed from a retail services TVET course I completed during year 11. I was able to secure some work experience where they allowed me to work on some visual merchandising and I loved it, so they commented that maybe this was something I could look at doing professionally," Alex said.

"As soon as I finished the retail services course I knew I wanted to pursue visual merchandising as a career, and my experience with vocational education had shown me that I would get real, hands-on skills I could put into practice in the workplace."

Alex left school at the end of Year 11 and enrolled in the nationally accredited Diploma of Visual Merchandising with TAFE NSW which builds the high level of knowledge and skills needed to excel as a visual merchandiser or stylist in both the retail and events industry.

He was recently awarded the 2021 Supply Chain and eCommerce Student of the Year at the TAFE NSW Excellence Awards and received second place in the international "Iron Merchant Challenge" during his studies.

Visual Merchandising Teacher Nicola Stewart said though the NSW retail sector was going through a challenging period, Visual Merchandisers like Alex would be critical in ensuring the industry bounces back once lockdowns lift.

"We know that retail experienced a strong bounce-back after the 2020 lockdowns in New South Wales, so it's important to train workers now for once restrictions are lifted," she said.

"Through a mix of theory and practical coursework, students in the Diploma learn to create plans and drawings to communicate ideas, develop visual merchandising creative concepts, design and implement merchandise displays and more."

Alex is now employed as a Furniture Specialist and Visual Merchandising Support at Eden nursery Macquarie Park. "Once you



find your passion – go for it," he says. "Ask a lot of questions and don't be afraid to ask for help from your teachers at TAFE NSW, they are extremely knowledgeable and open to helping you even after the course has concluded."

To find out more about the range of study options available at TAFE NSW including the Diploma of Visual Merchandising, visit www.tafensw.edu.au or call 131 601.

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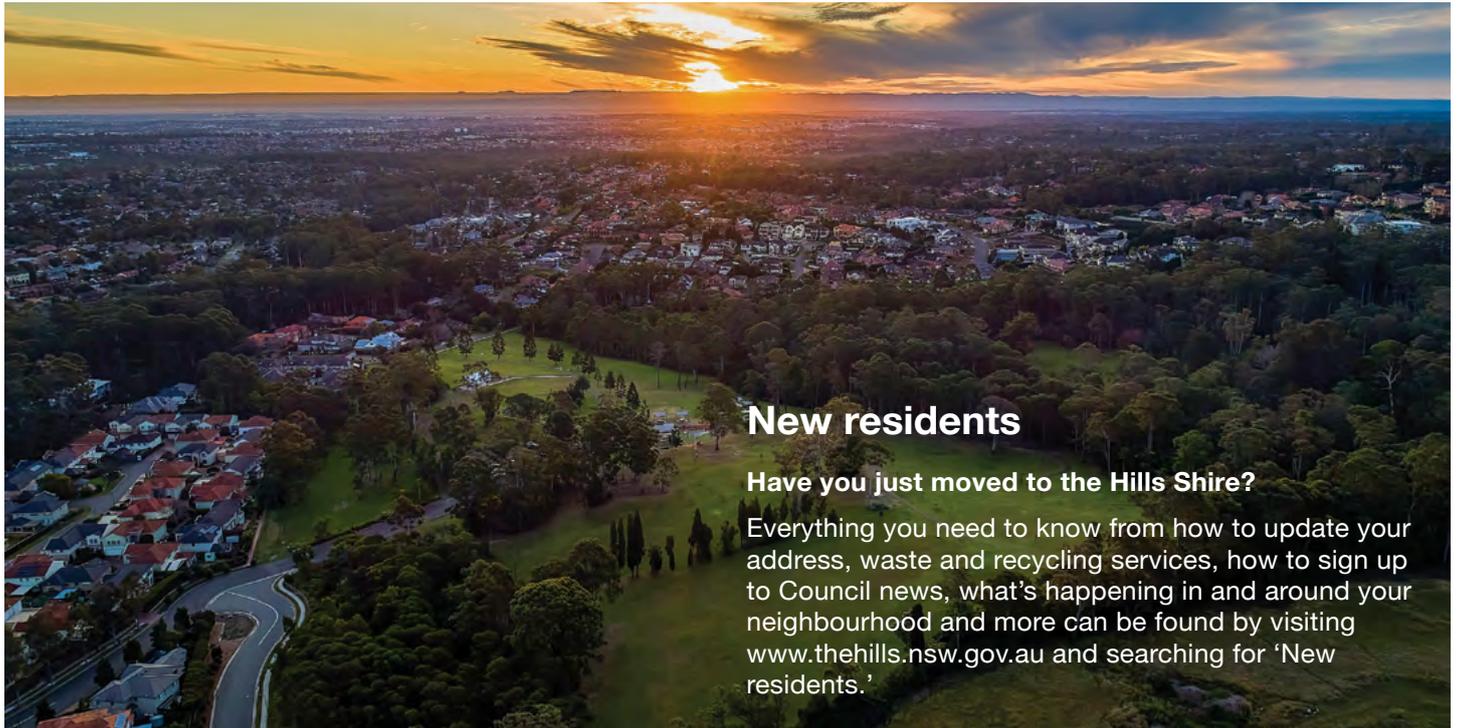
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The Hills Shire Council News



New residents

Have you just moved to the Hills Shire?

Everything you need to know from how to update your address, waste and recycling services, how to sign up to Council news, what's happening in and around your neighbourhood and more can be found by visiting www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and searching for 'New residents.'

Council Meetings

Due to the current NSW lockdown restrictions, Ordinary Meetings of Council will be broadcast live from Council's YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheHillsShireCouncil>

To view Council meeting dates, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Meeting Calendar.'

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.'

Three pawesome ways to be a good dog owner

1. Keep your dog on a leash

Keep your dog on a leash when out and about unless in a designated off-leash area. To view dog off-leash locations in the Hills Shire, visit Council's website and search for 'Off-leash.'



2. Scoop the poop!

Fines of up to \$880 apply for not picking up dog faeces in public places. When taking your dog for a walk, make sure to bring at least two plastic bags to pick after them.

3. Ensure your pooch's microchip details are up to date.

In NSW, all dogs must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age. Your residential address and phone number is required when your dog is microchipped, so it's important to keep these details up to date in case your pet is lost or stolen. To update your details, visit the NSW Pet Registry at <http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au/>

For more information on responsible pet ownership, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search 'Pets & Animals.'

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



Balmoral Road Reserve.

Infrastructure rollout and maintenance works continue so local facilities can be enjoyed

The Hills Shire Council has continued to roll out new infrastructure and maintain its parks, sporting fields, playgrounds, local roads and footpaths to ensure residents can continue to use these facilities during lockdown.

In the past month, authorised workers have been working hard on the renewal of Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre, building the new Balmoral Road Reserve, upgrading

Hezlett Road in North Kellyville, constructing a commuter carpark in Junction Road in Winston Hills, as well as transforming Kellyville Memorial Park into a Premier Rugby League facility.

They have also been filling potholes, repairing roads, carrying out drainage works, conducting safety checks on footpaths and playground equipment, and maintaining and mowing sporting fields and parks in the Shire, including bindii and weed control.

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- Potholes
- Maintenance
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NSW Electoral Commission

Save the date

2021 NSW Local Government elections

Saturday 4 December

Voting is compulsory

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



Are you enjoying The Hills Shire Council News? Scan the QR code to let us know.



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire



BAITING BEGINS IN WILD DOG FOX CONTROL

Biosecurity experts have joined forces with landholders in the Hills, Hawkesbury and Hornsby regions to launch a pest animal control campaign throughout spring.

Led by Greater Sydney Local Land Services, the program is set to target wild dogs and foxes threatening livestock, wildlife, and domestic pets in the area.

Project lead, Biosecurity Officer Jacob French, said the program was going ahead in line with strict COVID safety protocols.

"While the risk of COVID in our region is very real, feral pests don't listen to stay-at-home orders and we know wild dogs and foxes are more active during spring," he said. "That's why Local Land Services has set up contactless bait collection to allow us to continue carrying out this critical work while still protecting ourselves and our customers."

The program will target impacted properties in Cattai, Glenorie, Richmond, Upper Colo, Wilberforce and Laughtondale. Mr French said while this year's program was smaller due to COVID safety protocols, landholder co-operation

and involvement remained strong. "The support of our landholders is critical to achieving the best outcomes and is crucial to the success of our program," he said.

He said the program would see the use of 1080 baits and canid pest ejectors placed strategically on properties in line with strict government legislation.

"Only authorised, fully trained operators with current chemical qualifications are permitted to use 1080 or prepare baits which includes our officers and all involved landholders," he said.

"Rules around use include a comprehensive risk assessment of target areas, extensive public notification processes, placing bait minimum distances from habitation, use of remote cameras to minimise presence of non-target animals, clear signposts as well as bait tethering and/or burying to further protect native wildlife and domestic pets."

Mr French said 1080 was a naturally occurring toxin found in more than 30 species of native Australian plants.

He said it doesn't damage the natural environment, as it's water soluble and readily broken down by naturally occurring bacteria and fungi.

"Australia's native wildlife have evolved tolerance to 1080, unlike the introduced dog and fox. That is why it is considered the best environmental option to control pest animals," he said.

The program began on Wednesday (September 22) and will run until October 20th 2021.

For more information on the use of 1080 visit bit.ly/3BiuP92 or contact Greater Sydney Local Land Services on 1300 795 299 for more information.

SEND US YOUR PICS

We have had some lovely photos sent to us and lately you have all been spotting wildlife.

Paul sent us this great photo of an unmasked "Skippy the suburban Kangaroo" who was having a wander through Castle Hill the other day. Abbey found her brave "Skippy" near the Rouse Hill dog park.

We were also sent this great Mother duck and ducklings photo by Trevor who says he has

found about three families of ducks and their ducklings (the biggest has 14) on his property in Kenthurst.

As he doesn't have cats or dogs but does have a big dam they have found the best duck resort around.

Please send us your wildlife snaps to contribute@hillstohawkesbury.com.au or just contact via our Facebook and Instagram pages.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

BOTANICAL NAME: **INDIGOFERA AUSTRALIS**

COMMON NAME: **AUSTRALIAN INDIGO**

Family: **Fabaceae** | Subfamily: **Faboideae**



Indigofera: From Latin, meaning indigo bearing, after the indigo coloured dye comes from the leaves of some of these species.

australis: From Latin, meaning from the south, referring to its geographic location.

Provides a good nectar and food source for butterflies, bees and other native insects. Regenerates from seed. Can also be grown from cuttings. Drought tolerant, but will flower more profusely if watered. Good garden plant that does well if lightly pruned annually.

HABITAT: Sheltered forests and woodlands.

SOILS: Found on clay-shale soils.

HABIT: Shrub, 1.5 - 2.5m high.

LEAVES: Compound, pinnate, greyish-green, soft, dull.

FLOWERS: Pink to mauve in a many-flowered (to 25+) raceme.

FLOWERING TIME: August to September.

FRUIT: Thin pods containing approximately 10 seeds.

SEED: Requires heat treatment before sowing to break hard seed coat, for example, soaking in hot water overnight.

RANGE: All states and territories of Australia, except the Northern Territory.

This one is found in the north of the shire at Sackville, growing on a clay soil cap.

ROSE GARDEN

Stage One of the Alfred Henry Whaling Memorial Reserve Rose Garden upgrade at Castle Hill is now complete and features a new rose arbour.

Hills Shire Council staff are currently in the process of planting roses which will be trained to climb over the newly constructed arbour, creating a cathedral type focal point for the rose garden.

Council is also working with local women's service group Soroptimist International The Hills to help celebrate the organisation's 100th anniversary in 2021.

The variety chosen by the volunteer organisation is a dwarf variety of rose called 'Little Sunset' and will take pride of place in a dedicated garden bed adjacent to the arbour.

In addition to this, more construction is planned for the garden, including restoration of garden beds, upgrades to the stairs and pathways and more planting works.

The garden, which was established in 1972, is home to more than 4000 roses and 80 different species, which have been carefully manicured into the layout. Many of the varieties have been donated by local nurseries and rose societies.

Some of the special roses on display include the Australian Bi-Centennial Rose, The Hills Centenary Rose and the Olympic Gold Rose.



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MUSIC MAKER

By **GISELA HORNER**
VOLUNTEER FRIENDS OF BELLA VISTA FARM

NOELEEN NEIDECK was born with music in her blood. Her late father was an organist and pianist, her mother a classical singer and her sister Sue plays clarinet.

At age five, Noeleen was learning piano. When she was 11, her father took her to the Sydney Opera House to hear Dvořák's 'New World' performed by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He told her she could choose any instrument to learn. She was completely smitten by the haunting solo played on the cor anglais (the English horn) and wanted to play it. The cor anglais is a double-reed woodwind instrument in the oboe family and is approximately one and a half times the length of an oboe.

Before learning the cor anglais, Noeleen was required to master the oboe. Her passion was always music at school, performing in the orchestra and choir and as school pianist. Part of her talent was arranging music for oboe and clarinet. Her family performed together in church services and at nursing homes and retirement villages, bringing joy to residents.

Since the 1970s, Noeleen has been playing in numerous musical societies, community bands and orchestras, on both the oboe and cor anglais. In 2017, she received an email asking if anyone was interested in forming a community orchestra in the Hills district. She met with conductor Chris Upton and they discussed membership and venues.

Response from contacts was very positive and The Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra was formed. It now has over 70 members and usually performs at Bella Vista Farm each Open Day, the first Sunday of the month. Noeleen teaches at the Hills Grammar School and at

her home studio, now online, three days a week with students of all ages and standards. She says it's not the same as teaching face to face, being challenged by poor internet connections.

Her very young students can have difficulty staying focussed when not in the same room with her, but she enjoys teaching them and they have lots of fun. She is well qualified with an AMusA and a Bachelor of Music (Performance) from the NSW Conservatorium of Music.

Noeleen met her husband when she was 17. She was playing piano at church and David played the electric organ. They have been married for 38 years and are still in harmony!

They have two boys, Matt who plays saxophone and Daniel, a drummer. Their two grandchildren, Sophie (6) and George (1) complete their life.

Despite their busy lives, they like travelling with their caravan, sometimes accompanied by rescue dog 'Tyson', a Jack Russell terrier.

Noeleen also loves sewing: embroidery, patchwork and crocheting. She crochets squares for rugs for her church and Parramatta Mission to give to the homeless.

Once Bella Vista Farm opens its gates again, we look forward to welcoming visitors back. Latest announcements will be found on the website:

www.thehills.nsw.gov.au



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Ray Williams MP

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO
THE PREMIER AND WESTERN SYDNEY

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



THE HILLS LEADS IN VACCINATION RATE

It was great to see the particularly high rates of vaccination in The Hills Shire. As of 17 September, our LGA was well over the State Average with over 93.3 % of the eligible population having received their first dose and 59.7% having received their second. Well Done!!

CARRINGTON AND SHOWGROUND ROAD UPGRADE

Transport for NSW is upgrading the intersections of Showground Road at Carrington Road and De Clambe Drive and widening Showground Road and Carrington Road to provide extra turning lanes and bus lanes. This upgrade is currently under construction as is due to be completed by December (weather permitting).



NEW LIGHTS AT NORTH KELLYVILLE PUBLIC

The new signalised pedestrian crossing in front of North Kellyville Public School on Hezlett Road is now in operation. The fast-tracking of this vital road project was made possible thanks to the NSW Government's Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF) which helps speed-up vital infrastructure projects for growing communities like North Kellyville. The Hezlett Road intersection will provide parents of North Kellyville with peace of mind over the safety of their children getting to and from school.

CALL UP FOR SUPPORT

Head to Health Pop Up services have been developed to support the mental health of people in NSW, of all ages, struggling during extended lockdown.

People are encouraged to reach out and call 1800 595 212 Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5:00pm (except public holidays) even if they have never felt like this or asked for help before.

You may have recognised a change in behaviour in someone around you, or you are aware of someone who has a clinically diagnosed mental health condition you can help them by calling the service.

Anyone can contact Head to Health Pop Up services. This includes referrals from GPs and other mental health providers, friends or family members.

A trained professional will take your call, give you advice, and if you need it connect you to the best support or service for you.

COVID-safe face-to-face appointments are available, if needed, at the Head to Health Pop Up mental health hub in Penrith. The Pop Up mental health hub is one of 10 across NSW. There are also hubs at Blacktown, Parramatta and Thornleigh. The Clinics are funded by the Federal Government.

SALVOS STORES GO ONLINE

You may not be able to walk into your local Salvos stores due to their closure during the Lockdown but you can visit online and purchase their environmentally friendly, pre-loved goods during lockdown.

Salvos Stores average over 1000 new listings every day and have listed 185,000 items since May, meaning there is something for everyone. Since May 2020, Salvos stores have delivered 92,000 orders to customers doorsteps across Australia, which equates to approximately 54 tonnes of goods which have been re-homed instead of being sent to landfill.

All of the profits raised through Salvos Stores go towards The Salvation Army Community Programs supporting Australians doing it tough.

Last year, The Salvation Army across Australia provided more than 1 million occasions of care to those in need, supported more than 40,000 people experiencing homelessness, distributed almost 1.6 million meals through its homelessness services, provided over 43,000 occasions of care to those experiencing family and domestic violence, and distributed almost \$100 million worth of financial assistance to people doing it tough.

To shop online at Salvos Stores visit <https://www.salvosstores.com.au/>

GRAB A GRANT

FRRR's (Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal) Volunteer Emergency Services Fund is encouraging local volunteer emergency services groups serving rural communities affected by the 2019/20 bushfires to apply now for the second round of grant funding to support their recovery needs and/or strengthen their emergency response capabilities ahead of the 2021/22 bushfire season.

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to meet local agencies' needs. Small grants are available too for essentials such as fire blankets and traffic wands. Applications close 5pm AEDT 20 October 2021 with grants to be announced November 2021. For more information, visit FRRR's website - frrr.org.au/volunteer-emergency-services-fund-grant-program/.

HORSE OWNER FIRE ALERT

Horse owners are being urged to protect their livestock as they prepare for the bushfire season.

A spokesman from local company, Australian Pump Industries, said: "The Hills to Hawkesbury region is possibly the most densely populated horse area in the country.

"We are also subject to bushfires that can sweep through at an incredible pace and take even those who are prepared by surprise"

The team at Aussie Pumps has put together a list of its **TOP FIVE** tips on how to keep horses safe this bushfire season.

1. PRACTICE

Develop your own safety plan and carry out the drills. Understand your equipment, its capability and limitations. Make sure you and your team, understand that the pumps should be fuelled and oiled, and run occasionally, testing your water supply to make sure everything works properly.

Attach hoses, move it to the source of water and get the jet, or jets, coming through the pump nozzles to make sure that it's going to give you what you want.

If performance is substandard, you know you've got a problem, possibly an air leak on the suction side, the most obvious and common fault with under performing pumps.

2. UNDERSTAND THE BATTLEGROUND

This means having your horse 'safe area' well established and having the animals familiar with it. It should have primary and alternative access and of course, where necessary, a way out.

3. PREPPING THE HORSE

Experts recommend removing all synthetic material from the animal. That includes lead

ropes, rugs, halters, fly veils. Rope halters burn. They are a danger and should be avoided.

Leather or soaking wet canvas halters are a better option but even then, beware of the buckles which can get very hot and cause injury.

We also recommend drenching the horse and soaking the mane and tail with water if you have to pass through or near the fire. Plaiting the tails may reduce the chance of ignition as well.

Experts also recommend writing a mobile phone number on the haunch of each horse with livestock crayon and removing iron, steel or aluminium shoes. Many horses have an inherent fire instinct. They will gallop along, through or even around the fire front and stand on burnt ground until the fire has passed because of the instinct for self-preservation.

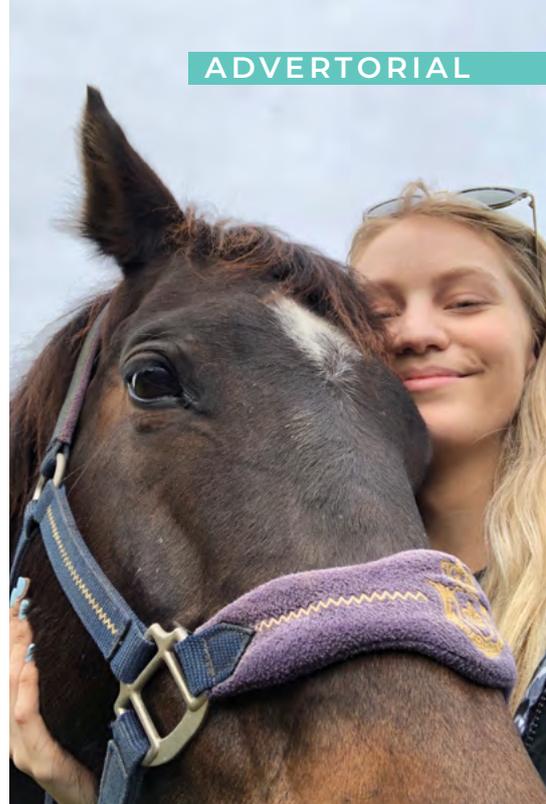
4. SAVE YOURSELF

Since fire fronts move quickly, both through bush and grass, once it hits you there is very little you can actually do. Staying with the horse to comfort it, can have the opposite effect by preventing it from using its own instincts to stay safe. It may also put you in a lot of danger.

The sound of bushfires is deafening and it is highly likely a horse may panic and bolt. Experts recommend "Stand back and give your horse room to run".

5. BUY THE RIGHT GEAR

If you are choosing to stay and protect your equine friends be prepared. Having a big Rapid Spray 20,000 litre tank filled with water is a good start. Match that with an Aussie Fire Chief, regarded as the world's best lightweight portable fire pump and equipped with a quality hose and nozzle kit, a crew that is experienced,



goes a long way towards providing fire protection.

Aussie Pump's unique "Fire Survival Guide" is also a good read and should be regarded as essential for anybody who plans to fight, rather than flight.

Only you can make that decision. The reason the team at Aussie put this story together is because they know just how emotional that decision can be.

Be prepared, have your plans laid out quite clearly, make sure your pump is primed and the family or neighbourhood team know the drill. Although they can hope for the best, you should always be prepared for the worst.

Further information is available from Australian Pump Industries aussiepumps.com.au or Rapid Spray rapidspray.net.

Aussie Pumps

AIR SUPPORT

The Federal government has announced an annual \$4 million dollar boost to the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) to base a Large Air Tanker in Australia.

The funding will secure a Large Air Tanker to be in Australia year-round reducing reliance on overseas firefighting aircraft.

"The use of aerial firefighting aircraft has grown in Australia over the past decade, and they are now a very visible feature of firefighting operations each fire season," said Julian Leeser MP.

He said the Australian Government's annual investment in aerial firefighting was now more than \$30 million per annum.

"A sophisticated fleet of more than 150 specialised, highly mobile aircraft are

pre-positioned around the country to respond to bushfires, protect communities and to support firefighters on the ground.

"By working together to pool our resources, all jurisdictions can get the maximum value for money and ensure that Australians are protected by the best aerial firefighting equipment possible," he said.

BEN TAKES OVER THE REINS

It's rare to find someone starting a new business in these COVID times and thriving, but that's just what is happening in South Windsor with the newly named BVSC (Bligh Veterinary Services Centre) and vet Dr Benjamin J Graham.

For Dr Graham, buying the existing Bligh Park Veterinary Hospital was the fruition of a long-time dream for him to own his own practice. He took over on July 31 and all the staff have remained, including Dr Alan Bennet, who founded the practice in 1993. Now with over 75 years of cumulative experience the practice has expanded to six vets and, as well as small animal veterinary care, it now also offers horse care.

Dr Graham grew up with horses and attended pony club and State Championships before leaving school and studying Veterinary Science and Veterinary Biology at Charles Sturt University, graduating in 2013.

As a vet he has worked at all the Sydney race courses, treating some of the world's best horses.

He now works three mornings a week at Hawkesbury Racetrack and three mornings at Warwick Farm Racetrack, as well as seeing clients in his own practice, the renamed BVSC at South Windsor.

"It's been really busy," he says. "We are seeing a lot of ear infections which is a seasonal issue. Pet owners are out walking their dogs more and grass seeds getting into dog's ears

can easily result in infection. We've seen quite a few bee sting reactions recently too.

"We are also seeing a lot of dental issues." His aim is to make BVSC the premier location for all animals in the Hawkesbury region.

With his trusty companion Kelpie "Chardy" by his side, invigorating the clinic is a labour of love, and it is working. "We have a lot of new clients," he said.

BVSC offers everything from medical and surgical care to grooming and clipping. As well as vaccinations, annual check ups, dentals and desexing it also offers boarding in its customised kennels.

He said their new online system means all appointments can be easily booked and bundled for economical options at www.bvsc.sydney or can be made by calling the team at reception.

BVSC offers full COVID safe protocols and can do contactless consults from the comfort of a client's vehicle, "just make sure you bring your own coffee".



The beloved family vet clinic still has the same heart beating beneath modern changes as BVSC adapts with the times.

Meet the BVSC team at 693 George St, South Windsor, or call (02) 4587 7177.

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- ★ 10% off medications,
parasite treatments and more!

CHERRYBROOK'S OLYMPIAN BOOST

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

Olympians Michelle Jenneke, Jenny Blundell and Georgia Winkcup are powering the Cherrybrook Home Athletic Movement Program (CHAMP) virtual challenge for Little Athletes, and their families.

The trio started their illustrious careers at Cherrybrook LA - established in 1994 - and are sharing their experience and skills with the latest crop of Hills athletes.

While Covid-19 restrictions have forced many summer sports to delay their seasons, Cherrybrook Little Athletics are using CHAMP to keep their young members fit and active, even during lockdown. The Olympians join other former Cherrybrook Little Athletes in leading online warm-up sessions each week, before a program of challenges which young athletes and their families can complete at their local athletic field, any park – or even at home, without the need for specialist equipment.

Cherrybrook Little Athletics president Martin Lubrano said the club's young members were missing out during the long lockdown.

"We all just want to get back to doing what we love – our competition nights every Friday when kids get a chance to learn new skills and improve on their athletic ability by achieving personal bests," Mr Lubrano said.

"Although we don't know when our season can start, many of our families – and particularly the young athletes – were keen to be involved and to find ways to be active and challenge themselves."

Young athletes can compete to achieve personal bests in events, including standing high jumps (measured against



Michelle Jenneke, who represented Australia at the 2016 Rio Olympics, with Cherrybrook LA participants.

a wall or similar), standing long jumps, how many 20m sprints they can do in an allotted time, or even how many steps they can do running on the spot within a given time.

Olympic hurdler Michelle Jenneke and Tokyo Olympians Jenny Blundell and Georgia Winkcup have fond memories of competing at the Friday night competitions at Greenway Oval.

They will join Cherrybrook senior athletes and coaches, including international and national representatives Nick Andrews and Alysha Burnett in leading warm-up videos which will be shared online. The young athletes will then have a week in which to achieve their personal bests on a rotating program of athletic events.

The club said Little Athletes' siblings and parents can join in, with all age groups welcome to participate in the program which will run until the athletics season proper begins. Program events will focus on developing strength, speed, endurance, and personal bests.

Currently Little Athletics NSW registrations are on hold and there is no date set for the possible start of the season. Last year the club boasted nearly 400 members across Little Athletics and Seniors clubs which come under one committee. Cherrybrook LA runs its competitions on Friday nights and athletes aged 12-17 can compete in both LA and senior events. www.cherrybrookathletics.org.au/

FAREWELL TO MARGARET

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

Margaret Mills, who helped found the thriving Riverstone Dolphins RSL Youth Swimming Club, is being mourned as a person whose wonderful legacy will live on.

Margaret, who died aged 79 on August 13, leaves behind not only a highly-reputed organisation but thousands of locals whose love for swimming started at this club.

Margaret and her husband Alwyn were the driving force when the Dolphins started in 1994 and she served as treasurer for 20 unbroken years. Alwyn paid for the first payments to get the club off the ground.

The club she helped establish is now one of the most successful development swimming associations in western Sydney and continues to be the first port of call when children want to learn swimming.

"There will never be another Margaret Mills," Dolphins secretary Denise Kegg told *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*. "Margaret was a beautiful lady with a beautiful soul and a very special lady who not only gave to the club but to the whole of the Riverstone community.

"She was involved with the historical society and other groups, including the primary school her son attended. When she died, a lot of (local) history died with her.

"Everyone in Riverstone knew her and loved her."

Mrs Kegg said Margaret was an amazing treasurer who really knew her books and ensured the club was always on a strong footing. Margaret was the club's treasurer from 1994

to 2014, and remarkably attended every Thursday club race night except one when her husband died.

In 2017, Margaret received the coveted Russell Magennis Award, presented by Riverstone Sports Council in addition to other accolades through the years. The club now has the Margaret Mills Award for those who volunteer their time unselfishly like she did.

Before she started the Dolphins, Margaret was treasurer of Riverstone Swimming Club. Despite scepticism from some quarters that Riverstone could not sustain two swimming clubs, the Dolphins was launched with 25 members and by the time the club was officially opened in October 1994, there were 220 members. When Margaret left the committee, the Dolphins were among the

largest swimming clubs in Blacktown LGA and most financially stable.

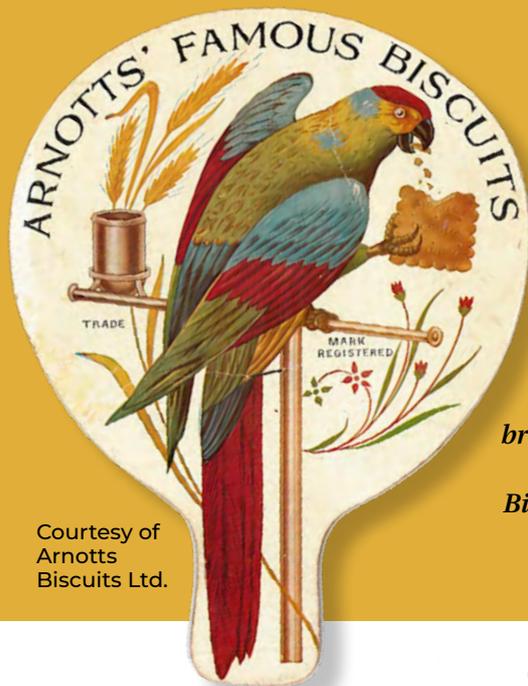
The free learn-to-swim classes offered by the Dolphins proved a tremendous success from day one, attracting more than 70 children and has contributed to hundreds of locals being regular swimmers. Members can recall Margaret ticking off names of the 120 plus children who benefited from this program weekly.

Margaret is also remembered as someone who lobbied Blacktown Council for many improvements to the Riverstone Swimming pool, including new seating and shelter, heating and pool covers, new lane ropes and a clubhouse.

She is survived by her son Paul.



Margaret Mills receives the coveted Russell Magennis and Glenn Hunter from the Riverstone Sports Council.



Courtesy of
Arnott's
Biscuits Ltd.

A CRACKER OF AN IDEA THAT REALLY TOOK THE BISCUIT

By Ivor Jones

As a child in England I have memories of my mother, during the 1950s, bringing home from work broken biscuits which to me was a very welcome treat.

My mother at the time worked in the Avonmouth factory of Peek Freans Biscuits near Bristol in England. Later, after my family had moved to New South Wales, my mother gained employment at Arnott's biscuits at Homebush.

WHEN I ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA there were a number of biscuit companies operating in various states including Swallow & Ariell, T. B. Guest, Menz, Ve-Toy, Brockhoff and quite a few others.

Now both companies have some similarity in their histories and although their names have survived as renowned brand names only Arnott's survived as a company in its own right.

Peek Frean started life as a tea importation company in 1821 in England called Peek Brothers & Co founded by James Peek and his brothers. James Peek and his wife had eight children and two of their sons announced that they did not wish to join the tea business. So James suggested that they start a related business of producing biscuits.

The sons eventually decided that they did not wish to continue with the biscuit business leaving James Peek to seek someone to manage the biscuit side of the business. One of his nieces had married a miller and ship's biscuit maker, George Hender Frean, so James invited George to manage the biscuit business of Peek Brothers & Co.

In 1857 Peek, Frean & Co. Ltd was registered. It started to export biscuits to Australia in 1861. In 1931 the company

established a factory at Camperdown, Sydney. 1921 saw Peak Frean & Co Ltd enter into amalgamation with Huntley & Palmer, another British biscuit manufacturer, which led to the formation of a holding company known as Associated Biscuit Manufacturers Ltd. Jacob's biscuits also joined the group in 1961. The company ceased to exist after being sold to Nabisco in 1981. Various brands and factories were eventually sold off in different markets, Arnott's gaining the Australian operations and brands such as "Vita Weat".

Arnott's became the largest biscuit company in Australia largely by acquisition and merger. It was not the first biscuit manufacturer in Australia, that title has been claimed by Swallow & Ariell which was started by Thomas Swallow in 1858 and joined by Thomas Harris Ariell in 1859. Arnott's was founded by Scottish immigrant William Arnott who established a bakery at Morpeth, NSW along with his brother David. He stuck at this for three years before the lure of gold fever struck and he went searching for gold on the goldfields of NSW. He was not successful in his gold seeking and eventually returned to baking.

In 1865 he started the William Arnott Steam Biscuit Factory in Newcastle NSW. The factory later moved to Forest Lodge and then later still to Homebush. As stated, Arnott's grew by acquisition and merger. In 1949 the company

merged with Brisbane biscuit manufacturer Morrow Pty Ltd but its biggest growth took place in the mid 1960s when it formed a holding company named The Australian Biscuit Company Ltd and acquired the following companies, Brockhoff's, T. B. Guest, Swallow and Ariell, Menz, Mills & Ware, and also Motteram giving the company manufacturing and distribution facilities nationwide. Later it also acquired brands such as "Wagon Wheels" from George Weston Foods.

Many of the now Arnott's brands have come from such acquisitions including "Marie", "Tiny Teddy" and "Salada" You may also be interested to know that the "SAO" biscuit name came about as Arnott's were asked to manufacture a cracker biscuit for the Salvation Army Organisation.

Arnott's Tim Tam biscuits have become the biggest selling biscuit product of all time in Australia. It has been claimed that it came about after a visit to the UK by a Arnott's executive saw and tried the "Penguin" brand biscuit manufactured by McVitties and decided to create something similar in Australia.

The Parrot logo came about after William was gifted a colourful macaw parrot by a ship's captain in the 1870s when he was returning from a visit to his native Scotland – the fated fowl became the face of Arnott's biscuits for more than 150 years – and counting.

GLOBITE CLASSICS

In our last issue of the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News Ivor wrote about the history Globite case and in particular the Globite School cases.

It brought back many memories for readers who talked about their own cases and also the souvenir cases that were given to people at the opening of the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Barbara Brisset even sent us a photo of an old Globite case that she had spruced up with colourful contact and turned into a very useful picnic 'basket'.

"We take this case with us whenever we go on holidays," she wrote.

"It has been all over Australia. We use it to self cater or (to use) in Motels. It is very good (none of this cane stuff!!!) Note the matches!! We went on a trip once to outback Australia with a guide who forgot the "matches" to light the BBQ."

We love to hear your stories and see and photos Please either email to: ivor.jones47@optusnet.com.au or post to 17 Rose St Baulkham Hills NSW 2153.



AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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

The Arnotts van from 1935-1940.
 Courtesy of State Library of NSW.

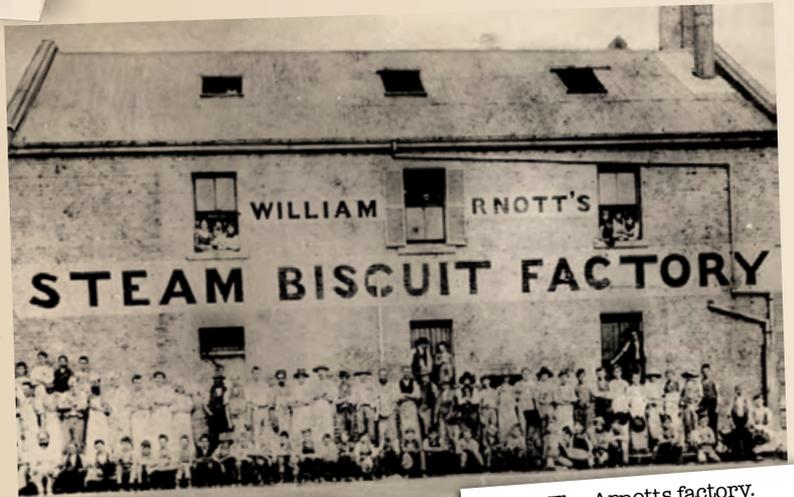
The earlier Arnotts truck
 Courtesy of Arnotts Biscuits Ltd



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

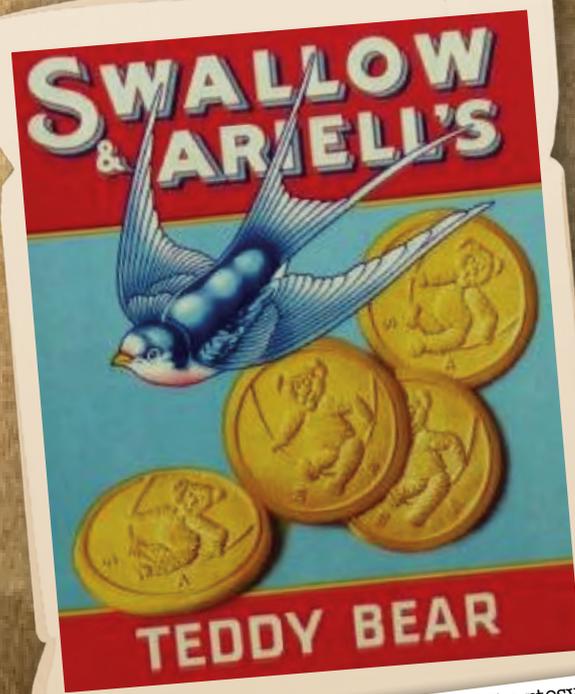
EITHER EMAIL IVOR AT
IVOR.JONES47@OPTUSNET.COM.AU

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



The Arnotts factory.
 Courtesy of Arnotts Biscuits Ltd

Wagon Wheels ad.
 Courtesy of Pinterest



The Swallow & Ariell ad. Courtesy
 of Australianfoodonline.com.au



Guest Teddy Bear Biscuits.
 Courtesy of Flickr.Com

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

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

Castle Hill Art Society

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

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

Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.

Club members invite anyone over 55 to come and meet a very active and friendly group of Seniors who play Carpet Bowls, Cards and Rummikub. The Club building is on the corner of McMullen Ave. and Old Northern Rd., Castle Hill (opposite the new Metro station) with parking at the rear.
9680 3958
castlehillseniors@gmail.com

Combined Probud Club of Cherrybrook

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

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

Cumberland Bird Observers Club

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

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

CWA of NSW - Galston Branch

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

Jann | 0439 222 217

CWA of NSW - Castle Hill Branch

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

Maureen | 0411 724 925

Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Group

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

Denis | 9629 2645 or Maurice | 9654 2138

Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498
www.duralmensshed.org

East Kurrajong School of Arts

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

Ann | 02 4576 5031

Galston VIEW Club

Raises money for The Smith Family "Learning for Life" program. New members are always welcome.
Merle 9634 2378 | 0412 110 698.

Girl Guides Australia

There are great programs for girls aged 6 to 18. They meet once a week in groups relevant to their age groups which are run by trained Leaders and Unit Helpers. There are several Girl Guide Groups meeting in the area. To find out more about the best time and day for your daughter
Margo 0417 657 433.

Glenhaven Probud Club Inc

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

secretary.glenhaven.probud@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
HillsOMI1@gmail.com

Hills Toastmasters

Meets every second Tuesday, 7pm. Restore Church: 47 Britannia Rd, Castle Hill. New members welcomed
Terry | 0488 089 951

Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

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

Allen | 0439 831 531
allendavisguitar@gmail.com

Ladies Probud Club of Baulkham Hills

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

Suzanne Dennis | 0412 424 593
ladiesprobudbh@gmail.com.

Learning in the Hills

To find out more about the huge range of courses available call 9639 7918
www.hca.org.au/learning-in-the-hills/

Lions Club of Richmond Inc.

Geoff | 0412 969 651

Lions Club of Windsor Inc

Pam | 0413 395 145

Macquarie Towns Garden Club

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

National Seniors Australia (Hills Branch)

Meets on the first Thursday of each month at Muirfield Golf Club, 58 Barclay Road, North Rocks. 9.30am for 10am. The group has day outings, short tours and interesting speakers. This very friendly group welcomes visitors.

May | 0414 634 572
maybruce@bigpond.com

North Rocks Evening VIEW Club

Muirfield Golf Club, 58 Barclay Rd, North Rocks. Visit view.org.au
Toni | 9871 1926 or 0411 693 076, or Margaret on 9872 1405

North Richmond Probud 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
northrichmondprobud@gmail.com

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club

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

norwestrotary.org.au

Pennant Hills Mens Probud Club

John | 9487 1385

Pennant Hills Combined Probud 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 Probud 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
Probud Club of Round Corner (Dural)
Secretary, Julie
PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

Probud Club of the Hills Inc

Ken | 02 96296459

Probud Club - Kellyville Castle Hill Mixed

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

Pam | 0417 667 067
pamelaloves66@gmail.com

Probud 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@winstonhillsnorthmeadprobudclub.com.au
Membership Officer | 0421 410 305

Probud 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
glenysclarke@hotmail.com

RDA (NSW) Tall Timbers Centre

Equine assisted programs, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Volunteering Opportunities. Located at Gables/Box Hill
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@siwip.org

The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc

9639 8620

The Hills Learning Centre

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

The Hills Shire Garden Club

9624 5034

The Hills District Pipe Band

Practices 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. 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 or 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/
wandererWindsor Probud Club

Windsor RSL Fishing Club

Meets on the last Tuesday of the month at Windsor RSL club at 6:30pm. The club has been established for over 40 years and welcomes new members. It holds regular fishing outings including in land water and deep sea fishing.
Les Mison | 0421 821 1990.

Windsor Probud 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

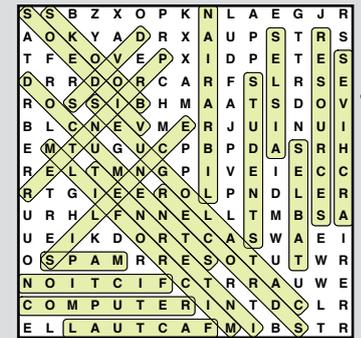
WORD SEARCH

LEGAL TERMS

- AFFIRMATION ESCROW
- ALIMONY EVIDENCE
- APPELLANT EXECUTOR
- BAD FAITH FELONY
- COERCION GOOD FAITH
- COMPLAINT HARASSMENT
- CONFESSION INJUNCTION
- DEFENDANT LITIGATION
- DISSOLUTION PROBATE
- DUPLICITY REPEAL



WORD SEARCH



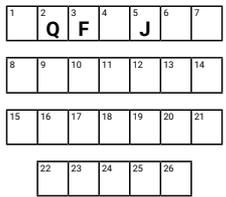
Answers from last issue

CODE WORD



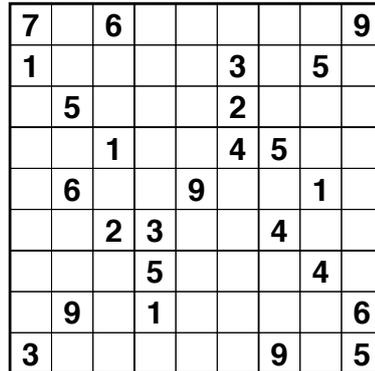
CODE WORD

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.

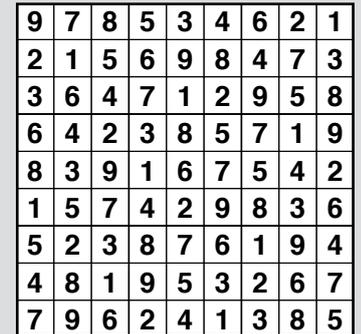


SUDOKU

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



SUDOKU



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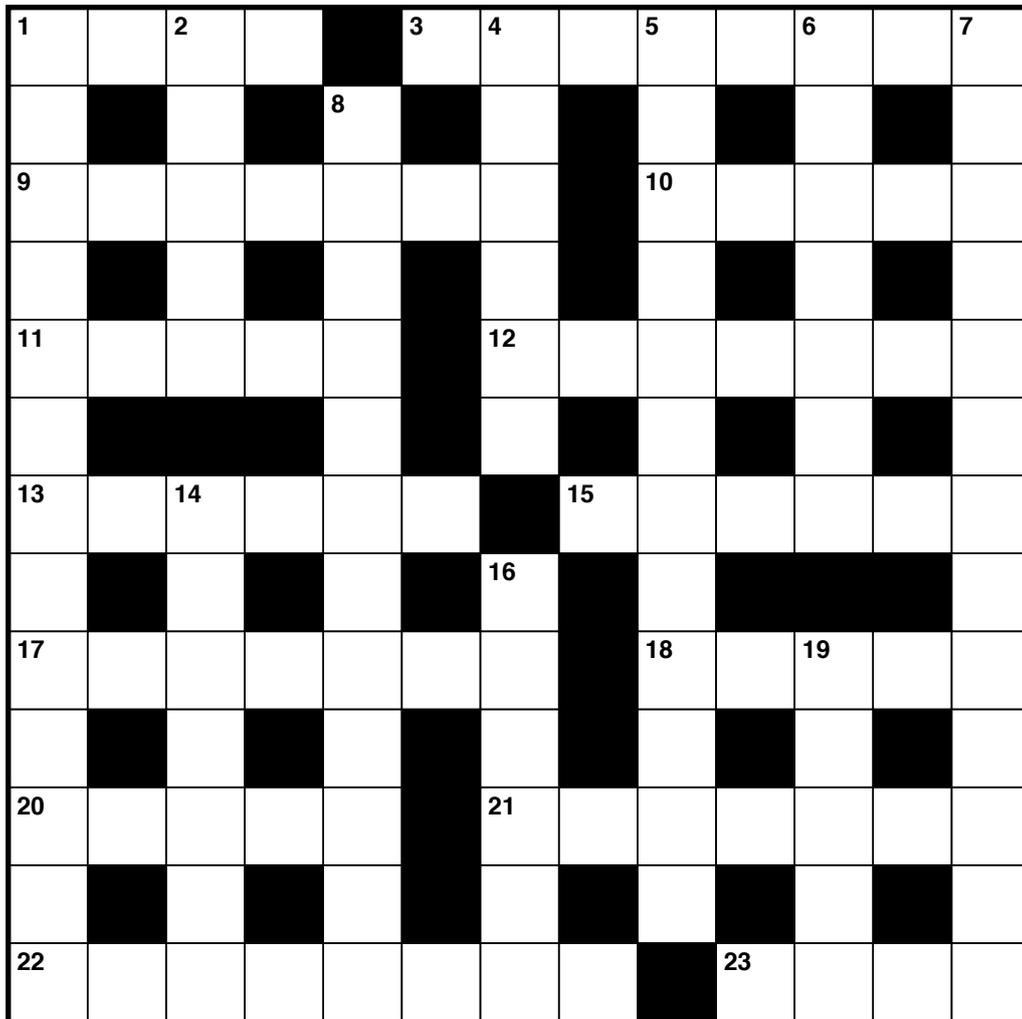
Look after your mental health during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic

If you're feeling overwhelmed, you can talk to a trained counsellor any time, any day by calling the Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Line: 1800 512 348.

For a free telephone interpreter call 131 450 and say the language you need. You can then ask the interpreter to connect you to the Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service.

If what you're going through is making it hard to get on with your daily life, contact your local General Practitioner (GP).

Adapted from Look after your Mental Health Australia, Mental Health Australia, March 2020



Across

1. Platform
3. Frailty
9. Road or roofing material
10. In a slow tempo (of music)
11. Consumed (of food)
12. Three-pronged weapon
13. Element discovered by Marie and Pierre Curie
15. Capital of Massachusetts
17. Soften the effect of
18. Stringed instrument
20. Permeate gradually; drain away from soil
21. Weigh down
22. Giving way under pressure
23. Catch sight of

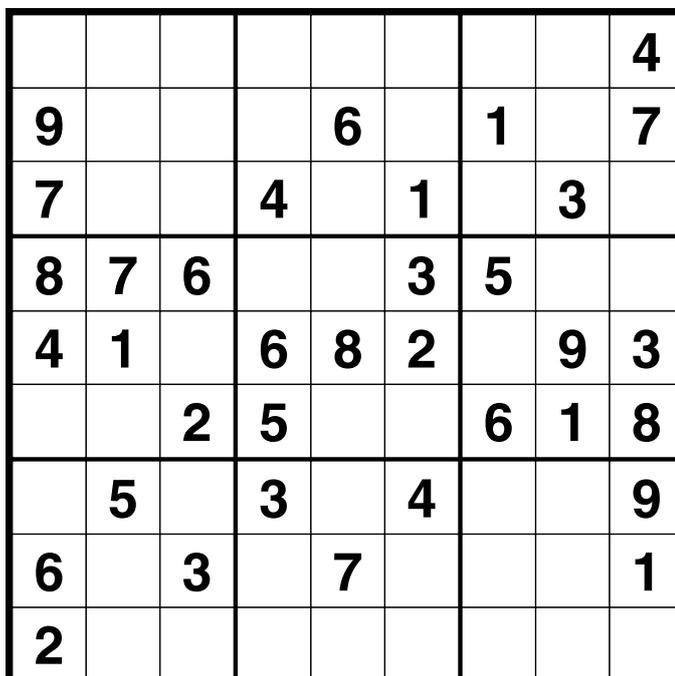
Down

1. Completely (opposed)
2. Data entered into a system
4. Distinct being
5. Children's toy
6. Sincere
7. Impulsively
8. Poorly fed
14. Illness
16. Urge to do something
19. Vegetables related to onions

SUDOKU

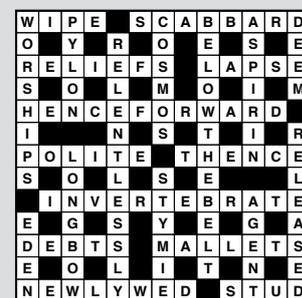
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

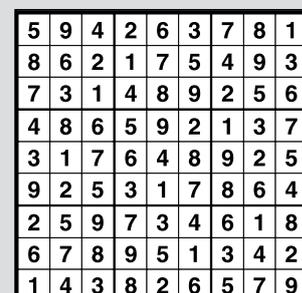


Answers from last issue

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



REMEMBERING 9/11

Hans Kunnen will be the special guest at the next meeting of the Sydney Hills District Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees.

Hans, an Australian Businessman, was staying in the World Trade Centre Hotel on September 11 when the planes hit the building 20 years ago. He left with just the clothes on his back. He talks of the initial shock and devastation also of kindness shown to him in the weeks after the attack. The online meeting will be via ZOOM on Friday, October 1st.

The meeting will be via ZOOM and will commence at 10.45am. New members and visitors welcome

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airsydneyhills@gmail.com

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