

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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## Community News

19th Nov - 03rd Dec 2021 | Volume 38 – Issue 22

Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

## GEMSTONE & JEWELLERY FESTIVAL SET TO SHINE

STORY ON PAGE 17

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## ORANGE GLOW OF ACTIVISM

The old Hawkesbury hospital building in Windsor is set to be bathed in an orange glow from Thursday, November 25th to December 10th to highlight the devastating effect of domestic violence in communities.

The 16 Days of Activism event has been organised by the local woman's organisation, The Zonta Club of Cumberland West in conjunction with Hawkesbury City Council.

President of The Zonta Club of Cumberland West, Margaret McDonald, said The club supports women's refuges and domestic violence services in the Hawkesbury and Blacktown LGAs with club members providing toiletries and care packs and also assisting in funding programs run in the refuges.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign is a UN campaign and runs from 25 November (the International day of no violence against women and children) to 10 December (Human Rights Day) each year.

The old hospital building in Windsor will be lit in orange each night for the whole 16 days in support of the UN campaign. Club secretary Karen Hickman said: "We are doing our bit to 'Orange the

World'. The idea behind the campaign is to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge deep seated attitudes of discrimination and advocate for fairer laws and more services to end violence against children.

"This goes to the heart of what our organisation Zonta International, is all about. Zonta's main focus is to advocate for equality for women and girls around the world. Zonta's key statement is: Zonta says no to violence against women."

As well as its work with women's refuges, club members also produce breast care cushions for women undergoing breast cancer treatment in the local area and hold Birthing Kit Assembly days which help to save the lives of women giving birth in developing countries.

The club meets at Blacktown RSL on the 4th Thursday of the month. New members welcome. For details call Karen on **0432 938 246**

## PAYMENT TO HELP DV VICTIMS

A one-off payment of up to \$5,000 to help women establish a life free of violence is now available through the Federal Government.

Under the two-year Escaping Violence Payment trial women will receive financial assistance of up to \$1,500 in cash with the remainder available for goods and services or direct payments of bonds, school fees or other support to help establish a safe home.

The UnitingCare Australia Consortium has been selected as the service provider to deliver the payments and will also support women to engage with other relevant services that support women and their children.

This includes other Commonwealth or state and territory government funded community services.

Minister for Women's Safety Anne Ruston said the payments would help address the financial barriers that may stop women leaving violent relationships.

"We know that financial hardship as well as economic abuse, which may involve interfering with work or controlling or withholding money, reduces women's ability to acquire and use money and makes it difficult to leave violent relationships," Minister Ruston said. "The new Escaping Violence Payment aims to help address those issues, so women have more security when making that brave decision to leave any form of intimate partner violence – including physical violence, coercive control and financial abuse."

As part of the individualised support packages, UnitingCare Network agencies will provide tailored assistance and engage with other relevant agencies that support women and their children including other Commonwealth or state and territory government funded community services. The Escaping Violence Payment is not considered taxable or reportable income and will not impact on any other social security payments a recipient may be receiving.

More information is available at [unitingvictas.org.au/escaping-violence-payment](http://unitingvictas.org.au/escaping-violence-payment). If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence, call **1800RESPECT** on **1800 737 732** or visit [www.1800RESPECT.org.au](http://www.1800RESPECT.org.au)

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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

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

# A BLUE REMINDER

An old tree, which is now used as a bike rack at Bella Vista Farm, has been turned a vivid blue as a stark reminder to check-in with loved ones.

Local artist Samuel Kim, with the support of The Hills Shire Council, transformed the wooden bike rack into a striking and functional sculpture as part of the Blue Tree Project, which aims to encourage people to speak up about mental health.

Kim, who also painted a giant sunflower canvas during a live art performance at Council's Australia Day celebrations in January, said the project "struck a chord".

"This particular project has been more meaningful than usual as the mural's purpose is to promote the Blue Tree Project and their mission to encourage difficult discussions surrounding mental health and the strong message that 'it's ok to not be ok,'" he said.

Hills Shire, Dr Michelle Byrne said that while people were being more open about their mental health struggles, it was still viewed negatively.

"According to Beyond Blue, about 45 per cent of Australians will experience a mental illness at some point in their life. This is a confronting statistic, yet there still remains a cultural taboo surrounding mental health. That's because those who suffer from a mental health

condition can feel ashamed to open up and tell others. They fear being judged!

"It's been my goal to change this belief and to normalise mental illness by encouraging people to talk about their struggles and to share their experiences, and for others to be there to support them in their time of need.

"I hope this functional sculpture does just that! I want people to check-in on their own mental health and to also reach out to their loved ones and ask that important question:

"Are you OK?"

"That one question could just save a life," she said.



## CAN YOU PLAY?

The Hills Shire Council is inviting talented residents, 16 years and older, to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the chance to perform live as part of Council's Australia Day celebrations on Wednesday, January 26.

This is a paid initiative, and applicants aged 16 and 17 will need parental or guardian permission to sign-up. The EOI will close on Friday, **December 10 at 4pm**.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome, and those who are successful in the EOI will be assigned a location, timeframe and promotional signage. To apply, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Australia Day Local Artists Activation'.

## DAM WALL RISING

The public exhibition period of the proposed Warragamba Dam Raising Project has been extended and will now end on November 29th.

People are being urged to visit the portal and click the "Have Your Say" button at [www.watarnsw.com.au/wdr](http://www.watarnsw.com.au/wdr)

Environmental groups have raised concerns about the impact inundation will have on a world heritage area and critically endangered species if plans to raise the height of the Warragamba Dam wall go ahead.

The EIS summary states that raising the dam wall by 14 metres will reduce the risk to life and reduce flood damage downstream by 75 per cent.

## Riverside GARDENS



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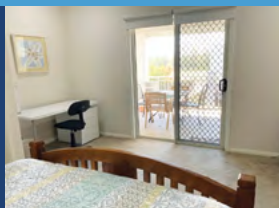
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## FATAL CRASH

A 22-year-old man has been charged with dangerous driving occasioning death over a crash involving a ute and a truck on the M2 at West Pennant Hills on Monday, November 8th.

Emergency services were called to Pennant Hills Road, near the intersection with the M2 at West Pennant Hills, about 3.20pm where a Toyota Hilux utility and a truck had collided.

NSW Ambulance paramedics rendered assistance to the passenger in the utility, a 22-year-old man from Granville; however, he died at the scene.

Officers from Ryde Police Area Command arrested the driver of the utility, a man also aged 22, and the driver of the truck, a 39-year-old man, for mandatory testing. The truck driver was released. The utility driver, aged 22, was taken to Ryde Police Station where he was charged with dangerous driving occasioning death – drive manner dangerous, negligent driving occasioning death, and drive while licence suspended.

The Merrylands man has been granted conditional bail to appear in Hornsby Local Court in December.

## DRIVER CHARGED

A 20-year-old man has been charged with dangerous driving occasioning death – drive manner dangerous and negligent driving occasioning death over a crash which claimed the life of Bede Polding College teacher Gemma Thompson.

The science teacher was driving to the South Windsor School on The Northern Rd on Tuesday (November 2nd) when the crash happened at 7.30am at Llandilo. Gemma died at the scene.

The driver of the truck, aged 20, sustained minor injuries and was taken to Westmead Hospital for treatment and mandatory testing.

Officers from the Crash Investigation Unit commenced an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The 20-year-old was arrested at Mt Druitt Police Station on Monday (November 15th) and is due in court on November 24.

Gemma Thompson was due to be married on Thursday (November 18th) to finance Max Cunningham.

The popular science teacher was remembered by family, friends and the school community at a special service at Bede Polding College on Saturday (November 13th).

It was the school she had attended as a student and was Dux of her year,

Gemma was described as a “generous, vibrant and dynamic young woman” and a dedicated teacher.



## CAREFLIGHT RESCUE

A woman aged in her 70s was airlifted to hospital in a stable condition after she suffered a serious medical episode at a residence in Upper Macdonald.

The Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter was tasked to the incident by NSW Ambulance shortly before 9.30am on Tuesday, November 9th and landed around 20 minutes later on the property in a clearing around 150 metres from the residence.

NSW Ambulance paramedics arrived by road around the same time and worked with CareFlight's medical team as initial treatment was provided.

CareFlight's specialist doctor and NSW Ambulance critical care paramedic performed a clinical assessment on the woman before she was transferred to the Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter to Westmead Hospital.

## COURT FOR UNLICENSED TRADIE

A man has been charged after allegedly fraudulently obtaining more than \$220,000 from homeowners for unfinished and defective work to their homes in the Carlingford area.

Police at The Hills Police Area Command commenced an investigation after receiving a referral from NSW Fair Trading relating to suspected fraudulent activity of an unlicensed tradesman.

Following extensive inquiries, a 55-year-old man was arrested and charged with over 32 offences including doing residential building work while unlicensed, doing residential building work without insurance and dishonestly obtain financial advantage by deception.

Police allege that the man purported to be a tradesman and was paid a total of \$222,350 by four homeowners for residential building work, which was either defective or not completed between October 2020 and May 2021.

Inquiries are continuing.

Homeowners can safeguard against becoming a victim by following a number of simple tips:

- Never let anyone inside your house or unit if you don't know them
- Always ask for identification - a business card is not enough
- Never keep large amounts of money around the house
- If you are uncertain about the credibility of tradespeople, obtain their details and contact NSW Fair Trading: [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/online-tools/home-building-licence-check](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/online-tools/home-building-licence-check) or call **13 32 20**
- Contact your local police or Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**

Anyone with information about fraudulent tradespeople and building-related or other scams is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence.

## BRAWL NEAR METRO

Police were called to a brawl involving six people at about 1.45am on Sunday, November 14th at Bella Vista Railway Station.

A 16-year-old boy was treated at the scene by NSW Ambulance paramedics for a cut to his forehead and grazing to his arms, before being taken to Westmead Hospital.

Officers from The Hills and Riverstone Police Area Commands, with assistance from the Dog Unit and PolAir, attended and commenced inquiries into the incident. A short time later, officers stopped five men at Old

Windsor Road, Parklea. The men were spoken to and released as investigations continue into the circumstances surrounding the brawl.

Police are urging anyone with information that may assist, or who may have mobile phone, dashcam or CCTV footage from the area, to come forward.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence.



## GUN AMNESTY

Guns, replica firearms, knuckle dusters and illegal batons have been handed in great numbers at local police stations in the NSW Gun Amnesty. The haul at Castle Hill police station has included 12 rifles, three revolvers, eight gel blasters, two starter pistols and one inert hand grenade.

Under the amnesty, people can register or surrender illegal firearms, unregistered or unwanted firearms, ammunition and firearm parts at no cost and without penalty. They can be surrendered to a police station or licenced firearms dealer.

NSW Crime Stoppers says that since the Gun Amnesty started in July this year over 1,700 firearms have been handed in. More than 2,200 firearms have been registered across the state.

Sgt Steven Balfour, licensing supervisor at the Hills Police Area Command said: "What we are finding is people are still purchasing Gel Blasters (online) and not doing their research to understand that they are illegal in NSW as they are deemed to be a replica. Most of the time they are made to look and feel identical therefore being deemed replica.

"There have also been other items, such as a hand grenade and side handle batons, that the owner was unaware were illegal. Any items that can be used as a weapon will require a licence or a permit, including nunchucks, batons and a lot of martial arts style weapons."



Illegal items handed into Hills police as part of the gun amnesty

Recent arrests by Hills police include a 54-year-old man carrying knuckle-dusters which are illegal. CEO of NSW Crime Stoppers Peter Price urged other people to give in their weapons.

"There may be old firearms that you haven't used for a long time or no longer want or need, or firearms that previously haven't been registered," he said. "All of us have seen the harm that is caused by the unlawful use of a firearm and the impact on community confidence that often follows, which is why we all have a part to play in making our community safer – that's our aim."

Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Baulkham Hills MP David Elliott said that any firearm left unchecked in the community poses a significant risk. "We all have a common goal of a safer community. Taking illegal guns

and ammunition out of the community is the first step," Mr Elliott said. "Ensuring that legal firearms are stored safely is vital to making sure they do not fall into the wrong hands."

The amnesty coincided with the launch of Gun Safe – a new online portal for managing firearms transactions in NSW. It is the first of its kind replacing manual licence applications with real time information and verification.

Participating dealers can now accept and record unregistered firearms through the NSW Police Force's new Gun Safe platform.

More information about the amnesty and surrendering, registering, or selling unwanted firearms is available from [crimestoppers.com.au/firearmamnesty](https://www.crimestoppers.com.au/firearmamnesty)

Call your local police station to make an appointment before handing your guns in.

## HOME INVASION ARREST

Two men have been charged as investigations continue into a home invasion in Dural in March. They were arrested at Port Macquarie on Thursday, November 18th.

Emergency services were called to a home on Kenthurst Road, Dural, at about 4.20am on Wednesday, March 10th, following reports a man had been injured during a home invasion.

Police were told entry was forced into the home, before one of the occupants – a 21-year-old man – was shot in the hand and sustained a laceration to his torso. A second occupant – a 20-year-old man – was uninjured.

The injured man was treated at the scene before being taken to Westmead Hospital.

During an extensive search of the surrounding areas, police located two firearms, ammunition, \$7800 cash and cannabis. All items were seized for further examination.

Detectives attached to The Hills Police Area Command subsequently commenced investigations into the shooting under Strike Force Sangria.

Following investigations, Strike Force Sangria detectives, with the assistance of Port Macquarie Proactive Crime Team, arrested the 20-year-old resident on Murray Street, Port Macquarie, this morning. He was taken to Port Macquarie Police Station where he was

charged with possess shortened firearm (not pistol) without authority, possess unauthorised prohibited firearm, acquire prohibited firearm – subject prohibition order, not keep firearm safely – prohibited firearm, possess unauthorised pistol, acquire pistol – subject to firearms prohibition order, not keep firearm safely-pistol and possess ammunition without holding licence/permit/authority.

The 21-year-old resident was also arrested at Port Macquarie Police Station, where he was charged with possess shortened firearm (not pistol) without authority, possess unauthorised prohibited firearm, acquire prohibited firearm – subject prohibition order, not keep firearm safely – prohibited firearm, possess unauthorised pistol, acquire pistol – subject to firearms prohibition order, not keep firearm safely – pistol, possess ammunition without holding licence/permit/authority, acquire ammunition subject to prohibition order, and recklessly deal with proceeds of crime.

Investigations are continuing with further charges expected.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](https://www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence.

## SCAM ALERT

Almost 9 out of 10 people have received at least one nuisance or unwanted call every week and some people are receiving more than ten nuisance or unwanted calls each week, according to a recent consumer survey undertaken by Crime Stoppers (NSW).

Financial losses of \$66.8 million reported to The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Scamwatch in the first nine months of 2021 – a 104% increase in losses and an 87% increase in reports.

The message to the community is simple: **JUST HANG UP.** Reputable organisations like financial institutions and the ATO will never ask you for passwords or for access to your computer, **JUST HANG UP.**

### WHAT TO DO:

- If there is a distinct delay when you pick up the phone and the person does not announce who they are before starting the conversation, **just hang up.**
- If someone asks for your personal information, **just hang up.**

A fact sheet with advice on how to spot and deal with a phone scam is available at [www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](https://www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au).

\*Puppy scams on the rise. See page 36



# DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

By **BEV JORDAN**

Election day used to be a good day to grab a democracy sausage at a local polling booth after you voted and catch up with your community in the queue.

But things have changed. Local Elections were always low key affairs compared to their State and Federal counterparts but the elections on Saturday, December 4th are taking on a whole new energy and yes, they have become very political.

Hawkesbury residents have a choice of 79 candidates standing for the 12 seats available at council.

While one Independent candidate, sitting councillor John Ross, is standing alone, the rest of the candidates are in 12 groups including former Liberal Councillor Nathan Zamprogno who is standing as an Independent.

At The Hills Shire Council there is guaranteed to be several new faces sitting in

the Hills Council Chamber after what has been called a "faction fight" saw the Liberal State Executive select the candidates rather than the local Liberal branches (as reported in the Hills to Hawkesbury October 22 to November 5).

The move resulted in the current popularly elected Mayor Michelle Byrne, missing out the Liberal endorsement to run as Mayor in this election to current Liberal councillor Peter Gangemi.

Several Liberal Councillors who had sought endorsement were also bypassed by selectors at the State Executive including Deputy Mayor Sam Uno and Alan Haseldon from East Ward; Liz Russo from Central Ward and Brooke Collins from North Ward.

The full list of candidates standing in the Hills Shire Council election is on page 8. For a full list of candidates standing for Hawkesbury City Council turn to page 10.

The Hills to Hawkesbury Community News is an Independent, family-owned newspaper. Election advertisements and advertorials have been paid for by the parties and individuals concerned. The magazine is published by Adelphi Printing Pty Ltd. Email [diana@adelphi.net.au](mailto:diana@adelphi.net.au)

## CHOOSING THE MAYOR

While Hills residents got to vote for the Hills Shire Mayor for the first time in the 2017 Local Government Elections the Hawkesbury City Mayor is selected by the councillors.

The Hills to Hawkesbury Community News contacted all five candidates standing for Hills Mayor and asked them why they were motivated to stand and what their priorities were. This is what they said in the order they have been drawn on the ballot paper.

### VIDA SHAHAMAT

THE GREENS

- Funding for more parks, trees, and waterways to reduce extreme heat
- Building more public spaces for community interaction and cultural experiences (libraries, and performing arts centre)
- Providing more bike lanes and an additional library and swimming pool



### RYAN TRACEY

LABOR

- Support an audit of Council's social infrastructure as our expanding population needs more facilities and better services.
- Commit Council to Climate change initiatives and support a 100% Renewable Energy target by 2030 for electricity used in Council premises.
- Recognise and celebrate the diversity of our community.



### PETER GANGEMI

LIBERAL

- A Council that listens more closely to residents
- Genuinely fighting back against over development and maintaining the character of The Hills
- Fast tracking improvements to roads and intersections



### JERZY "GEORGE" ROZYCKI

INDEPENDENT

- Listen to North Ward Communities and deliver
- Review current contracts
- Implement strategic procurement planning for the next term



### ALEXIA YAZDANI

INDEPENDENT

- A connected and inclusive Hills Shire – including an Acknowledgement of Country at Council meetings..
- Creating and enhancing green spaces, protecting waterways, bushland and wildlife, increasing recreation spaces.
- Transparency in all that council does, allowing the community to participate in decision making.



 **NSW Electoral Commission**

[www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au)

## WHERE TO VOTE

### HAWKESBURY LGA

Pre-election voting venues for Hawkesbury LGA from Monday, November 22, until Friday, December 3: (Monday to Saturday from 9am-5pm) include:

- Hawkesbury Returning Officer's Office, 18 Macquarie Street, Windsor
- Richmond School of Arts, 6 West Market Street, Richmond

### Voting venues on election day December 4th.

- St Albans School Of Arts, 7 Upper MacDonald Road, St Albans
- St Andrews Uniting Church auditorium, Richmond, 24, West Market Street, Richmond.
- Bilpin District Hall, 2596 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin
- Bligh Park Public School, 64 Alexander Street, Bligh Park
- Comleroy Road Public School, McMahons Road, Kurrajong
- Ebenezer Public School, 531 Sackville Road, Ebenezer
- Glossodia Community and Neighbourhood Centre, 160 Golden Valley Drive, Glossodia
- Grose View Public School, Grose Wold Road, Grose Vale
- Hobartville Public School, Valder Avenue, Hobartville
- Horrie Eley Memorial Hall, 2996 Putty Road, Colo Heights
- Kurmond Public School, Bells Line of Road, Kurmond
- McGraths Hill Community Centre, 1 Phillip Place, McGraths Hill
- Oakville Public School, Ogden Road, Oakville
- Pitt Town Public School, 17 Buckingham Street, Pitt Town
- Richmond Public School, Windsor Street, Richmond
- North Richmond Community Centre, 33 William Street, North Richmond
- The Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor
- Wilberforce Public School, Macquarie Road, Wilberforce
- Windsor South Public School, Church Street, South Windsor
- Wisemans Ferry Public School, Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry
- Vineyard Public School, 4 Bandon Road, Vineyard
- Yarramundi Community Centre, Thornbill Way, Yarramundi

Pre-election voting venues for the Hills LGA are open from Monday, November 22, until Friday, December 3: (Monday to Saturday from 9am-5pm):

- Wrights Road Community Centre, Wrights Road, Kellyville
- Castle Hill Cultural Centre - The Rebellion Room, 14 Pennant Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154
- The Hills Returning Officer's Office, Conie Avenue, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

*continues on page 10*



# WHEN AND WHERE TO VOTE

By **LAWRENCE MACHADO**

Residents, who are unable to vote for their councillors on election day, **Saturday, December 4th**, have three options to cast their votes before the date.

- Pre-voting at selected venues
- Postal votes
- iVote

Early voting or pre-polls will take place from Monday, November 22nd, until Friday, December 3. Postal votes are open, and the receipt of postal vote applications closes at 5pm, on Monday, November 29th.

The NSW Electoral Commission has said that any applications received after this time will not receive a postal vote pack.

To check if you are eligible for iVote, call 1300 248 683 or at [www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Voters/Online-voting-iVote](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Voters/Online-voting-iVote). The iVote applications open on Monday, November 22, and close at 1pm on Saturday, December 4.

Voting is compulsory for council elections. Residents, who are unable to vote for their councillors on election day, Saturday, December 4th, have three options to cast their votes before the date. The Hills residents are also electing their Mayor by popular vote.



**Pre-election voting venues for the Hills LGA are open from Monday, November 22, until Friday, December 3: (Monday to Saturday from 9am-5pm):**

- Wrights Road Community Centre, Wrights Road, Kellyville
- Castle Hill Cultural Centre - The Rebellion Room (under Castle Hill Library), 14 Pennant Street, Castle Hill.
- The Hills Returning Officer's Office, Baulkham Hills Community Centre, Conie Avenue, Baulkham Hills.

**Pre-election voting venues for Hawkesbury LGA from Monday, November 22, until Friday, December 3: (Monday to Saturday from 9am-5pm):**

- Hawkesbury Returning Officer's Office, 18 Macquarie Street, Windsor
- Richmond School of Arts, 6 West Market Street, Richmond

## A FULL TEAM

The Greens are running **12 Councillors, including one Mayoral candidate for the Hills Shire Council elections.**

Speakers at the recent launch included David Shoebridge: NSW Greens MLC and Hornsby Greens councillor Emma Heyde.

The audience heard about a range of issues from the push to get property developers excluded from councils, to the threat of rising heat on health, to the existence of platypus in Cattai Creek North ward.

Candidates talked about their vision for net zero emissions from council buildings before 2035, increasing tree canopy to cool our suburbs, and more local amenities like libraries and pools. The Greens candidates were selected by local members from the area in contrast to the local Liberal candidates who have been pre-selected by a non-local executive panel.

The reason for the ousting of the popularly elected Liberal Mayor Byrne along with 5 out of 8 Liberal candidates has not been revealed to the public. The Greens group in the Hills has been mobilised and organised with their candidate pre-selection and a campaign launch.

The local candidates are ready to bring new leadership to Council. These candidates vow to listen to what the community wants and will be the voice for the people.

*Paid advertising content.*

## The Hills Community deserves a council that's accountable, collaborative, progressive

### Local jobs

Creating opportunities by switching council buildings & vehicles to renewable energy

### Better facilities

Developing playgrounds, parks and pools, libraries and arts centres

### Preserving

our precious rural land and the Garden Shire's beauty

### Protecting

our bushland, essential green spaces and vulnerable wildlife

while listening to and acting on behalf of the community



**Dr. Vida Shahamat**  
Mayor + Central Ward



**Erica Hockley**  
East Ward



**Dr. Mila Kasby**  
North Ward



**Daniel Pehlivan**  
West Ward



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Suite D, Level 1, 263-279 Broadway, Glebe NSW 2037





# THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

This will be an interesting election with many new faces set to join Hills Shire Council after December 4th. The Liberal Party dumped several sitting councillors who had nominated to stand and selected just 3 of them. The full list is in the order they have been drawn on the ballot paper. \*Denotes sitting councillor

## CENTRAL WARD

### GROUP A

#### THE GREENS

Vida SHAHAMAT, *Glenhaven*  
Seyed HOSSEINIPOUR, *Glenhaven*  
Denice FINNEGAN, *Annangrove*

### GROUP B

#### THE LIBERALS

Jessica BRAZIER, *Castle Hill*  
Mark HODGES, *West Pennant Hills*  
Jagmohan DHALIWAL, *Glenhaven*

### GROUP C

#### LABOR

\*Tony HAY, *Baulkham Hills*  
Tina CARTWRIGHT, *North Kellyville*  
Steve MARKS, *Castle Hill*

### INDEPENDENT

Amir SOREH, *Kellyville*

### LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Curtis KRAUS, *Castle Hill*

## EAST WARD

### GROUP A

#### LABOR

\*Ryan TRACEY, *Baulkham Hills*  
Carol CHAN, *Baulkham Hills*  
Chris WORTHINGTON, *Baulkham Hills*

### GROUP B:

#### LIBERAL

Jerome COX, *Thornleigh*  
\*Reena JETHI, *Baulkham Hills*  
Raylee HODGES, *West Pennant Hills*

### GROUP C

#### THE GREENS

Erica HOCKLEY, *Baulkham Hills*  
Catherine WOOLNOUGH, *Baulkham Hills*  
Ghazaleh Zabihi AALI, *Kellyville*

### INDEPENDENT

Lu GUITANG, *Norwest.*

## NORTH WARD

### GROUP A

#### THE GREENS

Mila KASBY, *Kenthurst*  
Danielle PACKER, *Baulkham Hills*  
Paul HARVEY, *Nelson*

### GROUP B

#### LIBERAL

\*Peter GANGEMI, *Box Hill*  
Virginia ELLIS, *Kenthurst*  
Mitchell BLUE, *Glenhaven*  
Rory O'CONNOR, *Castle Hill*

### INDEPENDENT

George ROZYCKI, *Beaumont Hills*

## WEST WARD

### GROUP A

#### THE GREENS

Daniel PEHLIVAN, *Castle Hill*  
Matthew COX, *Kenthurst*  
Soodeh MEMARI, *Kellyville*

### GROUP B

#### LABOR

Barbara BURTON, *Dural*  
Alex KARKI, *Bella Vista*  
Monika TRACEY, *Baulkham Hills*

### GROUP C

#### LIBERAL

Rosemarie BONEHAM, *Thornleigh*  
Frank DE MASI, *Bella Vista*  
Terrisa MURRAY, *Stanhope Gardens*

### INDEPENDENT

Tiger LIU, *Baulkham Hills*

## HOW TO VOTE LABOR

Vote 1 Labor on  
Saturday 4 December

**SCAN**  
THE QR CODE  
to see our How to Vote  
Card, Pre-poll and  
Election Day locations

**ELECTION OF MAYOR**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>2</b>	SHAHAMAT Vida <small>THE GREENS</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>		GANGEMI Peter <small>LIBERAL</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>		ROZYCKI Jerzy (George) <small>Independent</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>1</b>	TRACEY Ryan <small>LABOR</small>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>3</b>	YAZDANI Ereboni (Alexia) <small>Independent</small>

## RYAN TRACEY FOR MAYOR

VOTE

Number boxes as shown.

\*No need to number the rest

### EAST WARD

VOTE 1  
GROUP A ABOVE THE LINE

GROUP A

1

LABOR

☐ TRACEY Ryan  
LABOR

☐ CHAN Carol  
LABOR

☐ WORTHINGTON Christopher  
LABOR

VOTE 2  
GROUP C ABOVE THE LINE

GROUP C

2

THE GREENS

☐ HOCKLEY Erica  
THE GREENS

☐ WOOLNOUGH Catherine  
THE GREENS

☐ ZABIHI AALI Ghazaleh  
THE GREENS

### WEST WARD

VOTE 1  
GROUP B ABOVE THE LINE

GROUP B

1

LABOR

☐ BURTON Barbara  
LABOR

☐ KARKI Alex  
LABOR

☐ TRACEY Monika  
LABOR

VOTE 2  
GROUP A ABOVE THE LINE

GROUP A

2

THE GREENS

☐ PEHLIVAN Daniel  
THE GREENS

☐ COX Matthew  
THE GREENS

☐ MEMARI Soodeh  
THE GREENS

### CENTRAL WARD

VOTE 1  
GROUP C ABOVE THE LINE

GROUP C

1

LABOR

☐ HAY Tony  
LABOR

☐ CARTWRIGHT Tina  
LABOR

☐ MARKS Steve  
LABOR

VOTE 2  
GROUP A ABOVE THE LINE

GROUP A

2

THE GREENS

☐ SHAHAMAT Vida  
THE GREENS

☐ HOSSEINIPOUR Seyed  
THE GREENS

☐ FINNEGAN Denice  
THE GREENS

PRE - POLL VOTING COMMENCES FROM MON 22 NOV

PRE - POLL LOCATIONS:

**Rebellion Room**, Castle Grand, 14 Pennant Street, Castle Hill  
**Baulkham Hills Community Centre**, Conie Ave Baulkham Hills  
**Wrights Road Community Centre**, Wrights Road, Kellyville

You **DO NOT** need to number any box under the line to make your vote count.

Authorised by Catherine Tracey Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch) 97 Oakes Road Carlingford NSW 2118.





**My name is Ryan Tracey and I'm Labor's Mayoral Candidate for Hills Shire Council. I'm a tried and true local – raised in Carlingford, proud graduate of Oakhill College, now living in Baulkham Hills with my wife Monika.**

As well as running for Mayor, I'm also running for re-election to East Ward which I've been honoured to represent since 2012. I have significant experience as a community advocate, having been a candidate in three State elections for the seats of Baulkham Hills and Castle Hill. I work in the community services and disability sector. I've also long participated with our local volunteers and associations on initiatives such as Clean Up Australia Day and as a Committee member for Hills Relay for Life.

Like you, I love living in the Hills. We are uniquely positioned close to major infrastructure, economic centres such as Parramatta and Norwest, as well as major retail at Castle Hill. But we are also a sanctuary from the big city stresses. Our unique bushland environment makes us an ideal place to raise kids or enjoy retirement – or if you're like me, enjoy gardening, bushwalking, cricket and rugby league.

I'm running for Mayor for a simple reason: we need change on Hills Shire Council. Having a monopoly by one party on Council is unbalanced. Unfortunately, the current Council has become unstable as we've recently witnessed with the ousting of Liberal Mayor Michelle Byrne alongside other sitting councillors.

As Mayor, I would bring a fresh, moderate and progressive approach to Council decisions. I will only support balanced development that preserves our District's essential character. For example, I've stood with locals in opposing the redevelopment of the former IBM site at Coonara Avenue, West Pennant Hills, imposed by the State Liberal Government. We seem to be gazetted for population growth, yet don't have the corresponding infrastructure to meet demand. This includes schools, hospitals, police, ambulance services, libraries, community facilities and sporting fields – as well as solutions to deal with our growing traffic.

Being a safe Liberal area, we are taken for granted. As your Mayor I will be a strong voice for our community to get our fair share. I'll lead Council to take advantage of the economic opportunities from supporting climate change initiatives. It's time for us to join the rest of Sydney by acknowledging traditional custodians at council meetings. I'll also advocate for a state-of-the-art performance and arts centre in the Hills, as well as new programs to foster social inclusion and engage young people.

I ask for your support as Mayor on December 4 – to bring much needed change to Council, support new services and opportunities for our people, and preserve our Hills way of life.



## **BETTER SERVICES**

### **MY TEAM WILL:**

- Deliver better services
- Provide more community facilities to meet the needs of our expanding population
- Support a biennial audit of Council's social infrastructure and a review of fees and charges
- Support replacing The Hills Centre with a new state-of-the-art Performance and Arts Centre

## **PRESERVING THE HILLS WAY OF LIFE**

### **MY TEAM WILL:**

- Commit to Climate Change initiatives and support a 100% renewable energy target by 2030 for all forms of energy used in all Council property and assets
- Seek to improve traffic flow and reduce traffic congestion particularly in newly developed areas
- Fight to preserve our heritage
- Retain open space and community zoned land and promote better access to these areas
- Reject inappropriate development and protect our environment and rural lands

## **CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY**

### **MY TEAM WILL:**

- Recognise and celebrate the diversity of our community and reflect this in all Council events
- Acknowledge the traditional custodians of our lands at Council meetings, and develop a reconciliation action plan

# HAWKESBURY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

Candidates: There's a lot of choice in the Hawkesbury City Council elections with 79 candidates standing for the 12 seats at the December 4th election. While one Independent candidate is standing alone, the rest of the candidates are in 12 groups.

The field includes several current councillors, two former councillors, several business owners and volunteers. The Hawkesbury City Mayor is chosen by the elected councillors and not by public vote.

The full list is in the order they have been drawn on the ballot paper. \*Denotes sitting councillor

## GROUP A

### INDEPENDENT

\*Nathan ZAMPROGNO, Oakville  
Ben NEWTON, Grose Vale  
Bindi CORPE, Mountain Lagoon  
James JACKSON, Tennyson  
Donna PELLEW, Wilberforce  
Zed SPARKS, Kurrajong Heights  
Liam HOLLAND, Richmond

## GROUP B

### THE GREENS

\*Danielle WHEELER, Wilberforce  
Rosalind CHIA, Kurrajong  
James LUKERE, Bligh Park  
Ashley AVCI, Richmond  
Karen KOBIER, South Windsor  
Brian CROWTHER, Kurrajong

## GROUP C

### LIBERAL

\*Sarah RICHARDS, North Richmond  
\*Patrick CONOLLY, Bligh Park  
Paul VEIGEL, Windsor Downs  
Jill REARDON, Grose Vale  
Matthew BENNETT, Freemans Reach  
Hannah STACK, North Richmond  
Mark JACKSON, North Richmond

## GROUP D

Les SHEATHER, Ebenezer  
Warwick MACKAY, Wilberforce  
David COALDRAKE, Wilberforce  
Morgan MACKAY, Wilberforce  
Gerard HODGSKIN, Wilberforce  
Michelle SHEATHER, Ebenezer

## GROUP E

### THE SMALL BUSINESS PARTY:

Eddie DOGRAMACI, Pitt Town  
Mario FENECH, Richmond  
Esma DOGRAMACI, Pitt Town  
Emilio HARTOUNIAN, Windsor  
Charlie SALIBA, Freemans Reach  
Stephen BURKE, Maraylya

## GROUP F

### INDEPENDENT

Lichell FARRELL, East Kurrajong  
Timothy RYMER, Bilpin

Margaret TADROSSE, Bilpin  
Margaret MILLER, Bilpin  
Santo (Sam) RAMACI, Bilpin  
Jim NEWTON, Mountain Lagoon

## GROUP G

### INDEPENDENT

\*Mary LYONS-BUCKETT, Kurrajong  
David GEARIN, South Windsor  
\*Emma-Jane GARROW, Windsor  
Peter RYAN, Pitt Town  
Stacy O'TOOLE, Pitt Town  
Richie BENSON, Cumberland Reach  
Tara VIGOUROUX, Clarendon

## GROUP H

### LABOR

\*Barry CALVERT, Kurrajong Hills  
\*Amanda KOTLASH, Kurrajong Heights  
Stuart GALE, Richmond  
Simon GRIFFIN, South Windsor  
John DADLEY, Kurrajong Heights  
Michele DREW, Richmond

## GROUP I

### INDEPENDENT

\*Pete REYNOLDS, Windsor  
Darren WURTH, Grose Vale  
Colleen TURNBULL, Grose Vale  
Phil DUNESKY, Pitt Town  
Tiffany MORRISON, Richmond  
Kirsten RADUNZ, South Windsor

## GROUP J

### INDEPENDENT

Andrew CADMAN, Wilberforce  
Michelle TAPARA, North Richmond  
Gabrielle BAKER, Wilberforce  
Ian MacGREGOR, Bligh Park  
Catherine CADMAN, Wilberforce  
Kristine WATERS, Wilberforce

## GROUP K

### INDEPENDENT:

Preeti KARAN, Kurmond  
Colin LYONS, St Albans  
Trent GREENTREE, Glossodia  
Brian MORGAN, South Windsor  
Andrew GRECH, Glossodia  
Nat KARAN, Freemans Reach

Rayleen COCHRANE, St Albans  
Sunny KARAN, Freemans Reach  
Brayden SMITH, Freemans Reach

## GROUP L

### SHOOTER FISHERS AND FARMERS:

Shane DJURIC, Pitt Town  
Allen DOGRAMA, Pitt Town  
Brooke DJURIC, Bligh Park  
Melissa FOLLINGTON, McGraths Hill  
Troy CICOLINI, Pitt Town  
Luis VRINAT, East Kurrajong

## UNGROUPEE CANDIDATE

### INDEPENDENT

\*John ROSS, Windsor

## WHERE TO VOTE

Voting venues The Hills Shire on December 4th (8am-6pm):

- Beaumont Hills Community Centre, 2-4 Arnold Janssen Drive, Beaumont Hills
- Beaumont Hills Public School, The Parkway, Beaumont Hills
- Castle Hill High School, Castle Street, Castle Hill
- Castle Hill Public School, Les Shore Place, Castle Hill
- Glenhaven Public School, Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven.
- Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Showground Road, Castle Hill
- Kellyville Anglican Church, 45 President Road, Kellyville
- Kellyville High School, Queensbury Road, Kellyville
- Maraylya Public School, Neich Road, Maraylya
- Sherwood Ridge Public School, Rosebery Road, Kellyville
- Samuel Gilbert Public School, Ridgecrop Drive, Castle Hill.
- West Pennant Hills Community Church, 41-43 Eaton Road, West Pennant Hills
- North Kellyville Public School, Hezlett Road, North Kellyville
- Rouse Hill High School, 240 Withers Road, Rouse Hill
- Wrights Road Community Centre, Wrights Road, Kellyville
- Tallwood School, 44 Redden Drive, Kellyville

## INDEPENDENT VOICES. GOOD GOVERNMENT.

VOTE 1  
GROUP **A**

RE-ELECT  
COUNCILLOR

**NATHAN ZAMPROGNO**

INDEPENDENT HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCILLOR

- ✓ Against over-development
- ✓ Defending our heritage
- ✓ Protecting the environment
- ✓ Supporting flood mitigation
- ✓ Accountable and responsive government
- ✓ Fixing Council's poor service
- ✓ Independence with integrity
- ✓ Focusing on core issues - roads and infrastructure



← FIND OUT MORE

COUNCILLORZAMPROGNO.INFO

Authorised by Nathan Zamprogno, 332 Saunders Road Oakville.



# WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

By **SONYA PHILLIPS**

**From the perspective of Local Government; leadership by women in The Hills Shire has been in short supply over more than 100 years.**

There have been only three women Mayors of The Hills Shire since its proclamation in 1906. The first female Mayor was Peggy Womersley who led the Council out of a grave financial situation.

I was the first Independent Emeritus Mayor. I retired in 2008 after almost 15 years and during my time I took the local government area to a new height. It was a difficult time with the collapse of the overseas financial markets but the council remained debt free and during a time of enormous growth it was 'managed.'

Dr Michelle Byrne followed as the first popularly elected Liberal Mayor and she was outstanding in her role and much respected until she was unceremoniously dumped by the Liberal Party.

The 2021 Local Government Elections will be held on December 4th and it is now time to vote for a woman again. There are two female candidates who have submitted their name for the position of Mayor in 2021.



Dr Vida Shahamat a Greens Candidate is not known to me; however her policies are directed at Federal issues and whilst laudable I feel she will be only an influencer but I wish her every success in her endeavours.

The other candidate is Alexia Ereboni Yazdani, an Independent who is passionate about justice. She is not aligning herself to any political party. She is an empowered woman and candidate. She is more than familiar with The Hills at a local level; about how local government affects your day to day life. Alexia is a local business woman and lawyer with a family and lives locally.

She has thought through the local issues and is prepared to fight for what 'local' means.

From my understanding she is about bringing people together and not dividing them.

All I ask is that you consider Women in Leadership in The Hills when you cast your vote on 4th December.

## HOW VOTES ARE COUNTED

Once you have voted and placed your ballot papers in the ballot box they remain untouched until voting closes at 6pm on election day. The ballot boxes are then opened and the ballot papers sorted and counted. A series of counts are undertaken before the final results are declared.

Initial count is of ballot papers for mayor, sorting and counting the ballot papers according to the first preference for each candidate and initial count of ballot papers for all councillor positions, sorting and counting the ballot papers according to the first preference for each candidate, and where applicable, the first preference votes for each group marked in its group voting square.

In the week following election day, the returning officer will complete: any initial counts that weren't completed by the end of election night, the initial count of declaration votes (which includes postal votes).

In the week(s) following election day, ballot papers will undergo a second count. This is referred to as a check count. The check count is the official count to determine the elected candidates. For both mayor and councillor the distribution of preferences is performed by the computer count system to determine the elected candidate(s). The optional preferential voting system requires a candidate to receive more than 50 per cent of the non-informal, non-exhausted ballot papers. This is called the absolute majority of votes.

## Alexia Yazdani

### Mayoral Candidate

**Alexia is the only truly independent Mayoral Candidate in the upcoming Local Government elections.**

She lives in Rouse Hill with her husband and two children. A solicitor, her Baulkham Hills law firm has been providing legal services to our community for the past ten years. Alexia's first encounter with The Hills was in the late 80's, when she attended St Gregory's Armenian School in Beaumont Hills. She has watched the area grow and change to become the place she is proud to raise her family.

Alexia is able to serve and represent the people of The Hills, with her knowledge of the area, her ability to listen, and her empathy. As an Independent, she is not tied to the external demands of any political party. She believes that Local Government is not the place for party agendas or politics and, as a strong Independent, she will represent the community – not political parties or vested interests.

## Independent

### From The Hills. For The Hills

Authorised by Alexia Ereboni Yazdani Level 5/4 Columbia Court Baulkham Hills NSW 2153



# SWING A CLUB TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

The Riding for the Disabled Association Tall Timbers Centre at the Gables is holding its first Charity Golf Day at Lynwood Country and Golf Club on Friday, December 3, to raise funds to continue and improve its services.

Over the years, this not-for-profit organisation has benefited hundreds of people using the gentle and proven methods to improve the lives of those with disabilities. RDA's staff coach Nicole King said they are looking for 25 teams of four to compete in the event in their first major fundraiser since the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown all their usual events.

"We have been forced to cancel our usual fundraisers like barbecues, horses' birthday lunches, chocolate sales and the Bunnings sausage sizzles for more than a year," Ms King said. "So, we thought we will try something different outdoors as this will have a greater chance of going ahead."

"We are counting on the success of this Charity Golf Day to provide the necessary funds to retain our specialist staff and get more horses as we had to put on hold our plans to acquire more due to the uncertainty faced during lockdown."

"However, we were absolutely delighted when we reopened in the second week of October. RDA plays an important part in our community."

"The lockdowns, however, have impacted on the level of our services because the number of volunteers has reduced due to various reasons."

"There are also mandatory vaccination rules which have delayed the start of some programs."

Ms King has been with the organisation since 2005, having previously served as a volunteer for 16 years. She was a groom for then equestrian star and now wheelchair basketballer Hannah Dodd, at the 2012 London Paralympics.

The RDA runs individual programs while classes are varied and can include the use of games, music, co-ordination exercises and trail rides. All the RDA (NSW) coaches are qualified and have skills in horsemastership, safety, medical knowledge, first aid, teaching and the selection and training of horses.

To register for the golf day event, contact: [admin@rdanswtalltimbers.org.au](mailto:admin@rdanswtalltimbers.org.au) or 96791246.

*\* Turn to page 40 to read about how Lynwood Country Club's last amazing charity golf day*



## Apply now for a Road Safety Grant

The Community Road Safety Grants Program provides funding to community groups across NSW to undertake projects to address specific road safety issues.

The program supports the implementation of small scale, localised projects to increase road safety awareness and promote safer road use.

Grants of up to \$5000 and \$30,000 are available for road safety projects that involve education and/or community engagement activities.

**Applications close Wednesday  
15 December 2021.**

**Eligibility and selection criteria apply.**



For more information and to apply visit:  
[roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au](https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au)



## PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION WITH 5G AT SEVEN HILLS PLAZA, 224 PROSPECT HIGHWAY, SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147

1. The proposed upgrade to the existing facility on the existing building rooftop involves:
  - Replacement of existing and installation of new ancillary equipment, including Mast Head Amplifiers (MHAs), cabling and other items associated with safety and operation of the facility; and
  - Reconfiguration and installation of equipment within the existing equipment shelter
2. Vodafone and Optus regard the proposed installation as Low Impact Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low impact facilities) Determination 2018* based on the description above.
3. In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Should you require further information or wish to comment, please contact: Daniel Hay from Nokia Solutions & Networks on 0406 001 832 or at [communityrelations.vha@groups.nokia.com](mailto:communityrelations.vha@groups.nokia.com) by **Monday 6 December 2021**. Further information may also be obtained from [www.rfnsa.com.au/2147004](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/2147004).



# WIN YOUR CHRISTMAS WISH

Commencing  
27 November

Simply spend \$40  
or more in any specialty  
store **OR** \$100 or more at  
Woolworths, Coles or Aldi  
at Grove Square to enter!

**Complete an entry from  
any participating retailer,  
and pop it into the  
barrel located at  
Customer Care**

We're spreading some Christmas cheer by giving you the chance to  
**WIN your Christmas Wish from Grove Square valued at \$100!**

**10 WINNERS DRAWN WEEKLY**  
27 November - 17 December

\*T&Cs apply.  
Visit [grovesquare.com.au](http://grovesquare.com.au) for details.



## SANTA PHOTOGRAPHY

**4 DECEMBER - 24 DECEMBER**

**11am - 3pm daily**

\*Pre-bookings are essential. Visit [grovesquare.com.au](http://grovesquare.com.au)



## SANTA'S ARRIVAL

Free entertainment & giveaways

**SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER**

**from 10am**

The Hills - Kellyville  
**Rotary**  
Club



## GIVING TREE CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

**IN FRONT OF CUSTOMER CARE**



Scan the QR code to find out more about what's on at Grove Square!

**f** [GroveSquareTheHills](https://www.facebook.com/GroveSquareTheHills) **@** [GroveSquareTheHills](https://www.instagram.com/GroveSquareTheHills) **🌐** [grovesquare.com.au](http://grovesquare.com.au)

**375 - 383 Windsor Rd, Baulkham Hills**

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**GROVE  
SQUARE**  
- THE HILLS -



# DARREN'S JOURNEY OF HOPE

By BEV JORDAN

**DARREN KWAN is 36 and has a lot he is grateful for. The Gables resident is married to his high school sweetheart Vanessa and they have a busy and involved, 10-year-old daughter, Layla.**

But the past four years have been a test of strength for them after Darren was diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer. To date he has undergone six surgeries, over 20 courses of radiation and over 40 cycles of chemotherapy.

An automotive mechanic by trade he was running an automotive spares department for a luxury car brand at the time of his diagnosis.

"I was working in the office 10 to 11 hours a day ... I was working so hard and never had a sick day but I started to get constipated and started to lose weight," he said. "I was so busy, I didn't have time to check it out. I knew something was wrong with me but I didn't know what."

It was when Darren saw blood in his stools some time later that he went to see his doctor to organise a colonoscopy.

The week before he was due to have it he took his first sick day off to go to the nearest hospital emergency department because of excruciating pain in his stomach and back.

"They did all these tests and found nothing," he said.

He thought his colonoscopy a week later would be fairly routine but that's when the tumour was discovered. Surgery removed 25cms of his bowel and cancer was also detected in his liver and lymph nodes.

Throughout his journey he has been supported by Bowel Cancer Australia's tele-nursing service which enables him to call nurses from home whenever he needs help. They also call him.

"They have been very supportive, they ring and email to see how I am going," he told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*.

"There's always going to be physical problems with having cancer but this helps the mental side because it can be a struggle. I am blessed that I have very good family and friends as a support base and I have my faith. I'm a positive person but for people who really struggle it is very beneficial."

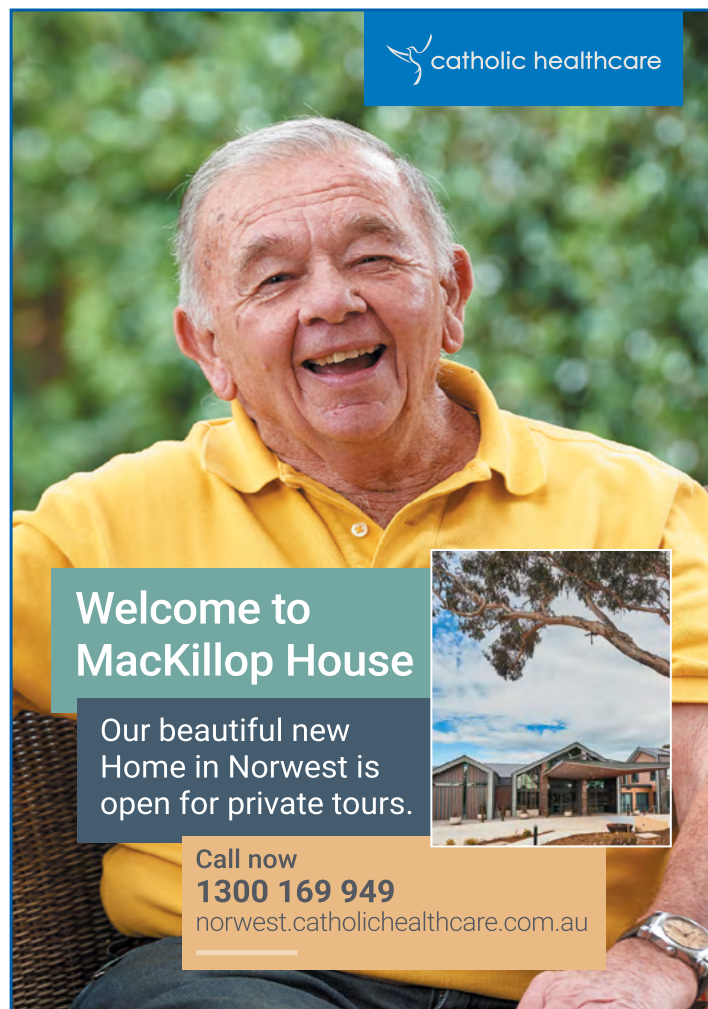
He says cancer takes away the ability to plan for the future. "It's hard because everyone else is moving along, living their lives, but our life is at a standstill. We do what we can and have faith that everything happens for a reason. We live, learn and then we can appreciate it for what we have. I'm praying for a miracle and have been since I was diagnosed."

Bowel Cancer Australia was one of 33 organisations to benefit from the Dry July fundraiser with a \$130,000 donation to assist in providing cancer patients with the tele-nursing service and \$25,812 for the tele-nutrition service.

Both his wife's parents, Janice and David Lawrence did Dry July, joining 38,000 Australian who raised funds for those affected by cancer.

Darren and Vanessa's daughter Layla has also been fundraising by selling hand-made bracelets.

*Story continues on page 20*



**catholic healthcare**

**Welcome to MacKillop House**

Our beautiful new Home in Norwest is open for private tours.

Call now  
**1300 169 949**  
[norwest.catholichealthcare.com.au](http://norwest.catholichealthcare.com.au)

## BUYING A FIRE PUMP CHECK THE FACTS

We're lucky to live in a beautiful place like the Hills District. We love our trees and bushland and realise the dangers of impending fires.

Many home and property owners will buy a fire pump this season. The pump they buy will be the centre of their fire protection program, with everything depending on the quality, performance and ease of operation of that product.

One local company, Aussie Pumps, have done a careful analysis of major competitor pumps on the market. Their comparison against Davey pumps particularly, clearly shows major differences in performance, features, warranty and price. A copy of their handy comparison sheets, are freely available on the website or in hard copy by contacting local distributors.

"Don't be fooled by bright coloured paint jobs. It's the performance of the pump that counts and the quality of its components", said Aussie Pumps Brad Farrugia.

For more info, call Aussie Pumps **02 8865 3500** or visit [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au)





# The Ponds Village

Over 50% sold

## Final Stage – Now selling!

Tucked away and surrounded by green parklands, The Ponds Village offers a wonderful retirement lifestyle in a tranquil yet convenient setting. This pet-friendly Village has the latest community facilities:



CAFÉ



POOL



GYM



WORKSHOP



LIBRARY



HAIRDRESSER



BOWLING  
GREEN

**Residential care home also available onsite.**

## The Ponds Village

2 View Street, The Ponds 2769

1300 111 278

[thepondsvillage.org.au](http://thepondsvillage.org.au)



Anglicare

*Please note: Residents may need to pay a departure fee when they leave the Village. Image is indicative only*



## A Retirement lifestyle that adapts to you

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

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

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

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

**6 Goolgung Avenue, Baulkham Hills**

**(02) 8896 3905**

**[baptistcare.org.au/Aminya Village](https://baptistcare.org.au/Aminya_Village)**

*Because we care*



# GEMSTONE AND JEWELLERY FESTIVAL WILL SHINE

By BEV JORDAN

The largest crystal and gemstone festival of its kind in Australia is heading to the Central Coast.

The Central Coast Crystal Festival at Gosford Showground will be the first post COVID event run by Crystal Festivals Australia and will feature more than 100 stalls with traders from all Australia in line with current COVID restrictions.

There will be large crystal displays as well as valuable diamonds and opals and rare gemstones and fossils. New to this show will be exhibitors of rare Australian gold crystals and Australian Opal shell clusters from Coober Pedy SA.

It will be the seventh annual Central Coast Crystal Festival and attracts people from all over the Hawkesbury and Hills region. This year's event will run from November 19th to November 21st.

The Scott family established Crystal Festivals Australia (CFA) in 2015 after accumulating knowledge about the gem industry over three generations.

Rob Scott says it's in the blood. His mother Rebecca owned and operated multiple silver and sapphire mining operations and his grandparents were prospectors.

"We wanted to bring professional retail events to Australia that specifically focus on the trading of gem quality crystals, Australian opals, minerals, fossils and gemstone jewellery," Rob told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*.

"Such events have existed in Europe and the USA for decades in the form of gem and mineral shows, but in Australia, this industry was small and disconnected through our vast distances and inter-industry specialisation.

"Our company's vision is to advertise Australia to the world as a leading locality for the rarest and highest grade of gemstones, crystals, minerals and fossils."

He says CFA has coordinated the marketing of Australia's "unique and highly valued gem quality crystals, gemstones, opals and fossils" for the past seven years.

"Our Crystal Festivals have become sought - after retail destinations for Australian and international buyers. The COVID period has allowed us the opportunity to expand in our reach within the Australian opal and gemstone prospecting community and we are looking forward to a very successful 2022 and beyond."



The Central Coast Crystal Festival is a family-friendly all-weather event, trading both inside and outside. There will be stunning displays plus jewellery, gems and fossils to buy. There will be a great array of food stalls and coffee plus COVID-Safe seating areas for lunch. Only fully COVID vaccinated staff and patrons are allowed.

Tickets are \$10 with free entry for children under 12. No concessions. Opening hours are:

- Friday 19th November 12pm - 5pm
- Saturday 20th November 9am - 5pm
- Sunday 21st November 9am - 4pm
- Gosford Showground, Showground Rd, Gosford.

For more information visit the website [www.crystalfestivalsaustralia.com.au](http://www.crystalfestivalsaustralia.com.au)

There are 12 Festivals planned for the 2022 event calendar year, three in Sydney.

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### Our top 3 reasons for downsizing

#### 1. Community and companionship

Moving to a Uniting retirement village gives you an instant neighbourhood of like-minded residents in a welcoming community. Sharing garden space and entertaining areas, and taking part in village activities, leads to friendships and looking out for each other.

*"Take the leap - you'll find it's probably the best thing you've ever done. We've made some fabulous friends."*

~Julie

#### 2. More time for you

Downsizing means less hassle and more freedom. Uniting manages general upkeep by:

- Cleaning common areas and amenities
- Tending gardens

- Paying water rates
- Arranging for the maintenance of fixtures and fittings in your home.

*"We have more time to focus on the things we enjoy."*

~Carmel

#### 3. Peace of mind

- All our homes are fitted with the INS LifeGuard emergency system.
- Mobile pendants are available, connecting you with a nurse if needed.
- Uniting also provides in-home care and residential aged care.

*"I feel a sense of freedom and I'm more relaxed about life, because I know there's always a helping hand nearby."*

~Margaret

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

## AUTHOR TALK

Best-selling Australian author JUDY NUNN will be at Hawkesbury Central Library in Windsor on Thursday, December 9 in person from 11am to 12pm, following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.



Her latest novel, Showtime! Takes readers on a scintillating journey through the Golden Age of Australian show business, from the cotton mills of England to the magnificent theatres of Melbourne.

The novel mixes historical facts and figures with well-drawn characters. Audience members are encouraged to dress up in show-time glam to be in the running for a free copy of Judy's book, Showtime!

This year celebrates Judy Nunn's 30th year of writing popular Australian fiction. Hawkesbury Library Service is fortunate to be able to host this special author talk.

The event is free but bookings are essential via [hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com](http://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com) or call Hawkesbury Library Service on 4560 4460.

A morning with Judy Nunn will be held in the Tebbutt Room at the Deerubbin Centre at 11am and will be followed with the opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

Attendance to the event will be as per the Public Health (COVID-19 General) Order 2021. Any person attending the author talk will need to show their vaccination status, wear a face mask and check in using the Service NSW app.

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## DARREN'S JOURNEY OF HOPE from on page 14

"She's so switched on," says proud dad Darren. "She raised \$800 selling bracelets out the front of our house."

Darren's message to others is, don't wait to see a doctor. "If you don't feel right just go to the doctor," he said. "If (my cancer) had been detected earlier it would've been sweet. Bowel cancer is one of those cancers that's okay if it is detected early."

According to Bowel Cancer Australia, Australia has one of the highest rates of bowel cancer in the world. Almost 99% of bowel cancer cases can be treated

successfully when detected early. Bowel Cancer Australia is a 100% community-funded charity which offers information, resources and support to anyone with issues related to bowel cancer.

For details visit [bowelcanceraustralia.org](http://bowelcanceraustralia.org) or, to speak with a bowel care nurse call 1800 555 494 Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm.

Dry July donations topped \$13.3 million in 2021 with more than 38,000 Australians giving up alcohol to raise money for those affected by cancer.

## COMMON SYMPTOMS (FROM BOWEL CANCER AUSTRALIA)

A recent, persistent change in bowel habit such as looser, more diarrhoea-like poo, constipation, or going to the toilet more often, or trying to go - irregularity in someone whose bowel habits have previously been regular

- A change in shape or appearance of your poo
- For example, narrower poos than usual or mucus in poo
- Blood in your poo or rectal bleeding
- Bright red or very dark blood should never be ignored
- Frequent gas pain, cramps
- A feeling of fullness or bloating in the bowel or rectum
- Unexplained anaemia
- A low red blood count causing tiredness, weakness or weight loss

- A feeling that the bowel has not emptied completely after going to the toilet
- Pain or a lump in the anus or rectum
- Abdominal pain or swelling

Not everyone experiences symptoms, particularly in the early stages of bowel cancer. The symptoms may be suggestive of bowel cancer, but they can also be due to other medical conditions, some foods or medicines.

Don't delay in talking to your GP if you are experiencing any of the described symptoms for two weeks or more. When diagnosed early almost 99 percent of cases can be successfully treated.

Blood in the stool or rectal bleeding should never be ignored.

## BLUE SERVICE

**Wesley Uniting Church at Castle Hill will be holding a Blue Service on December 18th at 4pm.**

Minister Carmel Iraci said the special service was a chance to pay respects and reflect on loved ones who are no longer with us and for those "whose hearts are hurting at Christmas" time.

The service will enable attendees to come to a quiet space where prayers, music and readings bring comfort and peace and also light a candle in memory of loved ones, family members and friends.

## ONLINE MARKET

**Hawkesbury City Council has launched A special online Christmas market to support our local businesses.**

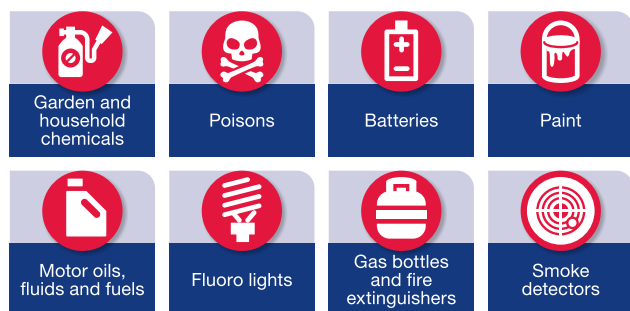
It's time to start helping our local businesses to recover and bounce back from what has been a challenging two years.

The online Christmas markets will run from mid November to December. Products available include clothes, jewellery, stamps, coins, art, skincare and more at [discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/link/om](http://discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/link/om)

Visit Hawkesbury Events Facebook facebook.com/hawkesburyevents and Council's homepage [hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) for event updates.

## Hawkesbury. It's time for a Chemical CleanOut.

**You can drop off for free:**



**Your next local event:**

- 🕒 Saturday 4 December 2021, 9:00am – 3:30pm
- 📍 Hawkesbury Showground  
Racecourse Road, Clarendon (Entry Via Gate 1)
- 🌐 [www.cleanout.com.au](http://www.cleanout.com.au)

Only household quantities accepted (20L or 20kg), except paint. Up to 100L (in 20L containers) of paint accepted.



## GETTING MOBILE

**A mobility scooter enhances the independence of its user. It opens up possibilities for someone with limited or restricted mobility.**

Comfort Discovered has a huge range of mobility scooters and accessories in stock. Some are also on sale. Established in 1984, Comfort Discovered staff have a wealth of knowledge about mobility aids and can help select the most appropriate mobility equipment.

There is an opportunity to test drive a variety of models. The most commonly used accessories for a mobility scooter are also in stock.

A Scooter Flag is a must for every scooter as it improves the visibility of mobility equipment as they are out in the public or private space. Using a flag ensures that the mobility scooter is safe not just for its user but also for the general public. There are bags and baskets that can be fixed either in front or rear of the scooter and a canopy to shield the user from the sun and light showers. Other specialised accessories include a walking stick holder, walker carrier, crutch holder, bottle and phone holder.

If people need help with bigger items they are available too including an oxygen tank holder, golf bag carrier, wheely bin carrier and that all-important pet carrier. Distance is no longer a problem either as there are scooters that will travel up to 40 km and can take appropriate weights.

Visit [www.comfortdiscovered.com](http://www.comfortdiscovered.com) for more information or call 9987 4500 to arrange a test drive. Comfort Discovered has a large showroom at 73, Jersey St North Hornsby (Cnr of Bridge Rd).





# DON'T IGNORE THE MENTAL TOLL OF COVID-19

Over the past 18 months, our governments have worked tirelessly to halt the spread of COVID-19. In order to be effective, they relied on the cooperation of all of us to live very differently. For many of us this dramatic and sudden change was extremely confronting.

We cannot escape the fact that controlling this virus changed how we see our world and how we live. Social distancing goes to heart of what it is to be human, creating a great sense of loss at a time when we would usually rely on our connection with others for comfort.

The necessary response to bring this virus under control brought with it a combination of things which can have the greatest impact of our emotional wellbeing – great uncertainty and loss of connection with others.

On their own, either of these things can have a big impact on a person's mental health and emotional wellbeing. Now many of us experienced them together and to a degree probably never before felt. We know that rates of depression and anxiety have increased over the course of the pandemic and many people have relied on alcohol to cope with the upheaval and isolation in their lives.

Calls to Lifeline spiked in July as the impacts of the NSW lockdown took hold with a reported record of 3345 calls on August 3rd 2021, the most in the organisation's 58 year history. This compared to an average of 2500 calls per day in 2018-2019, an increase of 34%.

St John of God Richmond and Burwood Hospital's CEO, Colman O'Driscoll (pictured) believes that "More than ever we need to connect and reassure ourselves and one another, that we are not in this alone.

"I, like many people I'm sure, have often wished for life to slow down a little bit. Now we find ourselves wishing it would get back to normal. "Perhaps, it is a good time to reflect on whether or not there are parts of 'normal' that were not so helpful in our lives; bits of 'normal' that we might do well to not rush back to so quickly."

If you or a loved one have experienced the mental toll of COVID-19, St John of God Richmond and Burwood Hospitals can help you return to a rewarding and fulfilling life. Our experienced team provides the best care to you and your family as you recover in hospital or continue your journey through our Counselling and Therapy Centre day programs.

We offer a range of treatments for depression, mood disorders, anxiety, perinatal mental health issues, post-traumatic stress injuries, addictions and general psychiatry services including ECT and TMS. Phone: Richmond 4570 6100 or Burwood 9715 9200.



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health care  
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## Return to a rewarding and fulfilling life

Treatment for depression, mood disorders, anxiety, perinatal mental health issues, post-traumatic stress injuries, addictions and general psychiatry services including ECT and TMS.

[www.sjog.org.au/mentalhealth](http://www.sjog.org.au/mentalhealth) P: 9715 9200 or 4570 6100

Mental Health Services



**ST JOHN OF GOD**  
Health Care

Richmond | Burwood



# SMALL BUSINESS AND COVID

Small businesses have been hit enormously by COVID Lockdowns and restrictions.

Hawkesbury residents Jerome Youkhana and his wife Sam were hit by COVID restrictions just days after their first official day of trading at their Castle Hill cafe Piccolo Spot.

"Our official first day of trading at Piccolo Spot was on March 16th 2020- a week later we were told to pack away our tables and chairs because we would no longer be able to serve dine-in due to the worsening COVID-19 situation," said Jerome.

"The actual purchase and takeover of the business

had been in the works since late 2019, before anyone would have seen this situation coming and so knowing we had just committed to this business whilst watching this pandemic evolve was incredibly daunting."

When they started negotiations for the business it seemed the perfect time. Jerome had accumulated over 15 years working in hospitality and had spent two years as the head Barista at an Italian restaurant in the CBD.

He and Sam had married in October 2019, bought a house in the Hawkesbury and were keen to start their own business.

"I knew I wanted it to be between the Hills and the Hawkesbury as I had grown to really love these areas because of the sense of community and the amazing opportunities they offered," said Jerome.

He says the next 19 months were a rollercoaster of highs and lows. "We were quite anxious that we had just taken this huge step at the worst time possible- newly married, a mortgage and the hopes of starting a family soon, it really was a curved ball."

He says being situated under the Spotlight store at Castle Hill, which became really busy in the first round of COVID regulations as people came to the store to buy supplies for craft, hobbies and updating their homes, was fortunate.

He says COVID 2021 was a completely different ball game.

"People couldn't leave their LGAs, non essential retail (meaning Spotlight) was closed and the fear about the situation seemed to intensify.

"Whilst we don't disagree with any of the measures put in place and absolutely believe the safety and health of the community is the number 1 priority, this time round was definitely the one that hit hardest."

"We watched all the businesses around us have to close once again but this time felt much more significant and people seemed to really be struggling with the mental fatigue of it all. Whilst we felt extremely fortunate to still be allowed to trade (takeaway) we had to question the value of doing so. We truly only continued to trade because mentally I needed to feel that I was still actively contributing to keeping my business afloat and we wanted to look after our most amazing and loyal regular customers whose unwavering support meant the world to us."

With his wife he avily pregnant, Jerome started working 7 days a week non-stop for 15 weeks.

A week prior to 'Freedom Day' the couple welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Isaiah.

"I am so grateful to be back open and be able to trade as close to normal as we have been in a long time but the impacts of COVID really are so much more far reaching and long lasting on small business than can be imagined, speaking from personal experiences and the experiences of colleagues in the industry," said Jerome.



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**SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
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# The Hills Shire Council News

## Declutter your home at The Hills Shire's Free Household Chemical Cleanout Event

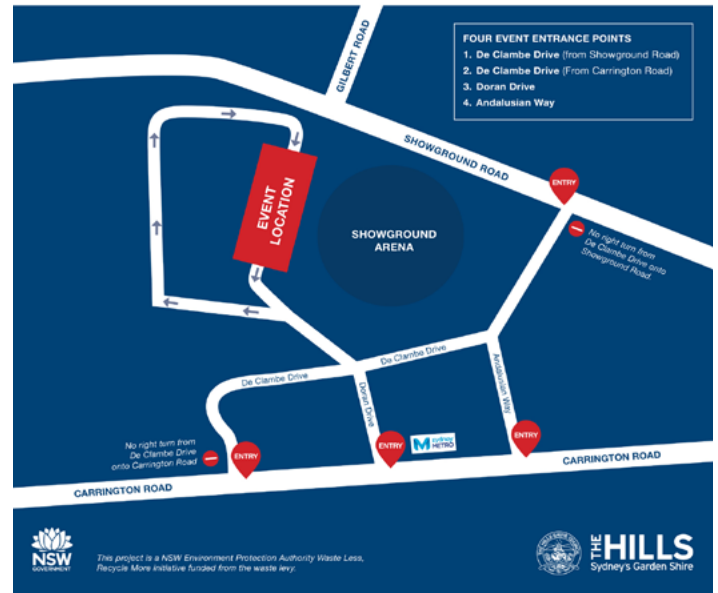
Have you got expired floor chemicals lying around your home, or paint tins from a long ago house renovation that you're not going to use?

The Hills Shire's annual Chemical Cleanout event at Castle Hill Showground on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 November 2021 is a free service that gives residents the opportunity to dispose of household chemicals that are usually difficult to get rid of in a safe and environmentally friendly way.

From pool chemicals to pesticides, a range of chemicals can be disposed of up to a maximum of 20 litres or 20kg of a single item. To view the full list of accepted chemicals or for more information about this service, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Household Chemical Cleanout.'



Saturday 20 and Sunday 21  
November 2021, 9am - 3:30pm



**Save the date**  
**2021 NSW Local Government elections**  
**Saturday 4 December**

Voting is compulsory

[elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21](http://elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21)  
1300 135 736

Visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) to find out which ward you're in.

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

## Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Kumbatine Crescent, North Kellyville

In accordance with Section 115 of the Roads Act 1993, it is intended to temporarily close half of Terry Road between Kumbatine Crescent, North Kellyville between Stringer Road and Warrabah Road for a period of approximately seven (7) weeks commencing on 22 November 2021.

The purpose of the road closure is to assist the reconstruction of Kumbatine Crescent between Stringer Road and Warrabah Road.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Council's construction Engineer, Robert DiNatale on Ph: 9843 0546.

## 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.'

[www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) | 9843 0555



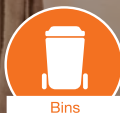


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and search 'Report it to Council.'



## Metro Walk – Bella Vista to Norwest Stations – The Wetlands Wildlife Walk

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

The Wetlands Wildlife Walk takes you to a number of small lakes and creek lines home to local birdlife and wildlife. The walk finishes at Norwest Station, a hub of activity with a selection of cafes and restaurants nearby, making it the perfect place to stop and grab a coffee or a bite to eat.

This walk features paved paths that are pram and wheelchair friendly and can take one to two hours to complete, and can also be broken down into smaller walks.

To view the self-guided walking map for the Wetlands Wildlife Walk or to view other walks, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Metro Walks.'

## Council Meetings

Tuesday, 23 November 2021 – 7pm.

For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for '2021 Meeting Agendas and Minutes.'



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# CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS

LOCAL GP and resident Dr Kim Loo who is also NSW Chair of Doctors for the Environment Australia is urging local councils to take major steps in reforming and improving building codes to mitigate heat stress.

She says local councils could be leading the way by insisting on simple guidelines for new builds including roof color, double glazing, solar panels and eaves.

"More people have died in heat waves than all natural disasters combined (\*Exploring 167 years of vulnerability - An examination of extreme heat events in Australia 1844-2010).

"I have been doing house calls in three different council areas (Hills, Hawkesbury and Blacktown) since 1995 and seeing the landscape transformed to a sea of black roofs is beyond heartbreak and disappointing ... as it is my patients who are being impacted."

Dr Loo, a member of The Hills Doctors Association and the NSW Council Australian Medical Association, has spent six years advocating for "better policies" at all levels of government, saying heat waves can have a catastrophic impact on all aspects of life and work.

"Western Sydney during heat waves is frequently 10 degrees hotter than the rest of

Sydney because of this Urban Heat Island effect and where it is located geographically.

"The urban heat island effect is being perpetuated with houses built with poor thermal efficiency, close together with dark roofs. The outcome is that to have a safe temperature inside the house, air conditioning is needed," she said.

"Air conditioning increase ambient temperatures by emission of hot air outside and increases power bills. It is a vicious cycle."

She says the resultant "hot boxes" are expensive to run and often there are no trees nearby or greenery to offer a cooler option.

"Policy makers have known for years that building our communities in this way increases trapped heat. There is so much evidence that trees and green spaces help cool. And yet houses are built with no ability for the owners to plant trees or other plants to do this."

Dr Loo said: "As heat waves and extreme hot days are on the rise with global warming,

our built infrastructure, community is not prepared. There is no formal framework at a local, state, or federal level to deal with heat at this moment in time.

"Global warming has been recognised as the greatest threat to our health in the 21st century by the Australian Medical Association and all medical colleges in Australia. Including my medical college, The Royal Australian College of General Practice.

"Australia has already reached 1.5 degrees higher than the preindustrial age which translated to temperatures close to 50 degrees in Richmond and Penrith."

\*Exploring 167 years of vulnerability - An examination of extreme heat events in Australia 1844-2010) Published In the journal Environmental Science and Policy. Authors are Lucinda Coates, Katherine Haynes, James O'Brien, John McAerney, Felipe Dimer De Oliveira.

## SAFE DISPOSAL NEEDED

Residents are being urged to dispose of unwanted and out-of-date chemicals and batteries in a safe and correct manner after one of The Hills Shire Council's garbage trucks caught fire.

While the incident is still under investigation, the likely cause is due to the incorrect disposal of hazardous waste, such as a lithium battery.

Council is urging residents to be careful about what they put in their red, yellow and green lidded bin and take advantage of this weekend's Household Chemical CleanOut.

Single-use batteries and rechargeable batteries found in phones or laptops, as well as light globes and ink cartridges cannot be thrown out with regular waste. They must be disposed of in a safe and correct manner to prevent fires and environmental contamination.

Hills Shire residents can drop-off unwanted and out-of-date chemical products from their homes at the free Household Chemical CleanOut Event on Saturday November 20 and Sunday, November 21 at Castle Hill Showground between 9am to 3.30pm, on both days.



Common household items for collection include paint and paint related products, pesticides and herbicides, poisons, solvents and household cleaners, motor oils, fuels and fluids, batteries, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, pool chemicals, acids and alkalis, hobby chemicals and fluorescent tubes.

For more information on the Chemical CleanOut Event, visit The Hills Shire Council website: [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Services/For-Residents/Waste-Recycling/Where-to-recycle-household-items](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Services/For-Residents/Waste-Recycling/Where-to-recycle-household-items).

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

## facebook feedback

Kenthurst resident Hugh Vaughan wants all candidates in the The Hills Shire Local Government Election to answer a questionnaire on their position on climate change.

"It is my belief that, in this election, climate transcends all other issues. It is incumbent on us, the voters, to prioritise climate leadership and decisive action from our council here in the Hills," he said.

He has set up the Facebook page ClimateMattersHills2021 which aims to explain the issues, show why local government action is so important and highlight some of the actions taken by neighbouring councils.

"As the election nears, we intend to ask every candidate about their position on climate via a questionnaire. And we will make the results available, without comment, to anybody following our page," he said.

Hugh is urging all candidates in the Hills LGA election to get in touch via the Facebook page [facebook.com/ClimateMattersHills2021](https://facebook.com/ClimateMattersHills2021) or at [climate.matters.hills.2021@gmail.com](mailto:climate.matters.hills.2021@gmail.com).

# IT'S A WRAP FOR CHARITY

If you need your presents wrapped beautifully this Christmas head on down to the Relay For Life Christmas wrapping station which will be at Castle Towers from Monday, December 6.

Castle Towers has been sponsoring the charity wrap by Hills Relay For Life volunteers for over 10 years, providing ribbon and paper, which means all the money raised can be donated to the Cancer Council for research and support programs.

Despite COVID-Restrictions the Christmas wrap raised over \$14,000 last year and in 2019 raised over \$15,000 for the Cancer Council.

Hills Relay For Life volunteer and Castle Towers wrap co-ordinator Ruth Didsbury said this year's wrapping station will be on level three near Peter Alexander. Volunteers will be wrapping during Castle Tower's opening times, 9am to 5:30 pm most days and then 9am to 9pm on Thursdays and the week leading up to Christmas.

If you have ever visited the wrapping station you would have met Ruth who has been a volunteer since wrapping started and has co-ordinated the multiple numbers of volunteers needed since 2016.

"I just cannot believe how generous people are with their time," she said. "Some people come after work or on their days off to help. The generosity of the people we are wrapping presents for is always special and it is fun seeing what gifts people are buying. Castle Towers supply quality wrapping paper and we ask for a gold coin donation. There's such a community spirit and the joy that Christmas brings."

"It's also an opportunity to listen to people who have been through cancer or being treated for cancer, it's about giving support. Last year we raised over \$14,000 which was amazing during the Covid pandemic. I would like to raise more than this year."

"All that money goes to the Cancer Council and goes towards research but it also support programs run by the Cancer Council, it helps people during financial hardship, provides free legal help and financial advice. It's really important to our volunteers to know that they are helping support that process."

Volunteers are always needed. If you can help wrap for one or more two-hour shifts between December 6th and Christmas Eve please email Ruth with the days or times you are available at [thedids28@gmail.com](mailto:thedids28@gmail.com).

Volunteer Darryn Capes-Davis with Ruth Didsbury at the 2019 Christmas wrap.



## FESTIVE SPIRIT SHINES IN THE HILLS

Roving Christmas carollers from the Blackout Theatre will be singing in the Hills on special dates in December to add some Christmas cheer. They will be at George Suttor Reserve in Baulkham Hills from 7pm to 8pm on Thursday, December 2 where Hills Shire Council has erected a six metre Christmas tree and nativity scene.

On Sunday, December 5th the carollers will be at Bella Vista Farm between 10am and 11.30am for the historic homes' first Open Day since Lockdown restrictions were lifted.

The carollers will also be singing near Norwest Lake on December 10th and 16th (7pm to 8pm) Castle Hill Heritage Park on Saturday December 18 (10am to 11.30am) and George Suttor Reserve at Baulkham Hills on Thursday, December 23rd from 7pm to 8pm.

Christmas lights and decorations are ready to dazzle residents and visitors to Castle Hill town centre and a Christmas star will also light up the glass atrium at Council's Administration Building.

For more information on Christmas activities in The Hills, visit The Hills Shire Council website, [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au).

# BING CROSBY'S MAGIC

Sydney Hills District Branch of The Association of Independent Retirees will be holding a face to face December meeting with a festive theme.

There will also be a Zoom option for those unable to attend the club's Christmas Celebrations on Friday, December 3rd.

The fun starts at 10.45am with guest speaker Graham Spindler and his talk entitled:

"Crosby at Christmas". As a believer that, "every song has a story" he will discuss how and why the songs were written or performed, together with each song's social, and historical significance.

If you want to come along or join in on zoom email Mal Steel: [airsydneyhills@gmail.com](mailto:airsydneyhills@gmail.com)

Find that perfect Christmas gift!

## ART XMAS MARKET

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 9am-2pm

ART WORKS \* GIFT CARDS \* CRAFT \* TRASH & TREASURES

Castle Glen Community Centre, 157 Ridgeway Drive, Castle Hill  
(Behind Knightsbridge Shops)



## DANISH CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Danish Church is happy to once again welcome you to our annual Christmas Market.

Order Danish food, lollies, Christmas decorations and danish design - online from November 13-26.

Pick up your order on November 27 at the Danish Church, 35 Hillcrest Rd, 2120 Pennant Hills.

You can buy hotdogs and beautiful handmade christmas decor when you pick up your order.

Start shopping at <https://danishchurch.org.au/shop> Or scan the QR-code and order online now!





# Christmas

## IN THE HILLS

By BEV JORDAN

If you love Christmas carols and gathering together for some festive entertainment then save the date : Wednesday, December 15th, for Christmas in the Hills.

This year's Christmas in the Hills will be live-streamed for the second year with a packed program of entertainment from 6.30pm.

The evening starts with some family-friendly pre-show entertainment before moving into the Carols by Candlelight program which ends at 9pm. Hugh Olivier from CiTH organising committee said that with so much uncertainty about COVID restrictions the decision was made to hold an online event this year and return to Bella Vista Farm in 2022.

Last year's online event is estimated to have reached 15,000 people.

This year the event is the 10th Christmas in the Hills and will be raising funds for The Fit Kidz Foundation at Dural, a not-for-profit Early Intervention Service supporting children with Autism or other Developmental Disabilities and The Sanctuary \_ The Hills Women's Shelter. ABC24 newsreader and former William Clarke

College student Johanna Nicholson (pictured) will again MC Christmas in the Hills and will be joined by Santa. Music Director Fiona Fitzgerald will be leading the specially formed Christmas in the Hills ensemble and community choir.

Churches involved in the service are St Paul's Anglican Church Castle Hill and Wesley Uniting Church Castle Hill. Chairman of the organising committee Rev John Gray said the \$30,000 in sponsorship would cover production costs and studio time to enable the event to reach lounge rooms, halls and churches.

"We're very grateful to our sponsors - and more so to Dr Michelle Byrne, Jim Taggart and Darryn Capes-Davis (Spotlight and Alive 90.5). Without their significant efforts we would not have attracted sponsors and there'd not be a 2021 CiTH," he said. "This year we anticipate raising some thousands of dollars for our charities and bring a little joy and a message

of hope and comfort to people emerging from lockdowns."

The event will be accessible via the Christmas in the Hills website [www.christmasinthehills.com.au](http://www.christmasinthehills.com.au) and via the special Facebook Event; [www.facebook.com/events/315149510047357](https://www.facebook.com/events/315149510047357). Donations to the two charities, The Fit Kidz Foundation and The Sanctuary \_ The Hills Women's Shelter, can be donated via the Christmas in the Hills website Donate Now button with 100% of all donations going directly to the charities.

- Major Sponsor: Karen D'Angola - Di JONES Real Estate
- Platinum: McDonalds, Signature Projects Australia
- Gold: Capital Corporation, Castle Hill RSL Club, Riverside Oaks Golf Resort
- Silver: Insight Intelligence, Paramatta Eels
- Bronze: Linden Electric

## FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES

Local Rotary clubs will be selling freshly cut Christmas trees in December with 100 per cent of the profit going to Rotary projects and local charities.

Sales start on the weekend of Saturday, December 4th and 5th and then the following two weekends. The Christmas trees are cut fresh in the Southern Highlands on each Saturday and trucked down each weekend.

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club members will be selling fresh trees in the corner of the Norwest Shopping Centre carpark off Norwest Blvde between 8am and 4pm (until stocks last) on all three December weekends before Christmas.

Members of the Rotary Club of The Hills - Kellyville will be selling freshly cut Christmas trees from two locations: The Bull & Bush Hotel (car park), cnr Windsor Rd & Seven Hills Rd,

Baulkham Hills and The Ettamogah Hotel (car park), cnr Windsor Rd & Merryville Rd, Kellyville Ridge.

All three locations have plenty of space to park and select a Christmas tree in a COVID safe way. Rotary members can even help load the tree.

Both Rotary clubs have also organised Giving Trees to enable people to donate gifts for children who would otherwise miss out. The trees are outside Coles at Norwest Marketown and inside Grove Square (formerly Stockland Mall) at Baulkham Hills.





## LET'S US KNOW

We are looking for Christmas stories for our December issues (December 3rd and December 17th).

If your organisation or group is holding a fundraiser or if you know where there are some great Christmas lights, please let us know.

Email: [contribute@hillstohawkesbury.com.au](mailto:contribute@hillstohawkesbury.com.au)





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BELLA VISTA FARM OPENS on SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021

# STEP INTO THE PAST

By **GISELA HORNER** | Volunteer Friends of Bella Vista Farm

Bella Vista homestead awaits its visitors with a bright, fresh face. The exterior and rooms have recently been painted and restored by heritage specialists.

Over the past months of lockdown, dedicated Friends of Bella Vista have provided daily maintenance. They have fed the sheep, tended the gardens, re-hung the curtains, mended and restored furniture.

## PEARCE FAMILY

Bella Vista began life modestly in the 1840s when it was known as "Robertson's Farm". William Thomas Pearce purchased acreage for 287 pounds, part of it once owned by John and Elizabeth Macarthur where they grazed their merino sheep.

Mark Pearce, a direct descendant of the original owner and a Friend of Bella Vista Farm says: "I feel very privileged it is owned and restored by the local council and I am excited the whole community can enjoy the farm and the surrounding park".

William bought enough land to give each of his five surviving sons a 500-600-acre working farm. Bella Vista went to Edward H Pearce.

In 1864, after the farmhouse was damaged by fire, Edward commissioned a builder and carpenter to restore and enlarge the homestead.

Eleven years later, he married Isabella Adelaide Archdall and their five children were born at Bella Vista. There have been many memorable times over the 108 years the family owned the property. It witnessed two visits by Governors of NSW, Sir Hercules and Lady Robinson in 1872 and Lord and Lady Carrington in 1887, visiting the farm for its famous citrus orchard.

The Sydney Morning Herald proclaimed that "Mr Pearce's orchard is reputed to be one of the largest, if not the largest, in the colony, something like 300 acres are covered with rows of orange and lemon trees and the fruit seem to rival the leaves in number" - (SMH 13 Sep 1887).

During this time, Bella Vista even became a brandy distillery using grapes grown on the property. The school room at Bella Vista (pictured) was where Edward's children were home schooled - today, that term has special significance for us all!



Edward H Pearce lived a full life. He died in 1912 and son Edward W.C.A Pearce (Toby) inherited the farm. Toby and Nellie Hedges married in December of the same year and following the family tradition, they too had five children born at Bella Vista, one of them being Mark's father, Keith Hamilton Pearce.

Keith lived at the farm until he left to serve in WWII. After the war he lived at Bella Vista until he married Paula Anne Mocatta in 1950. In that year the property was sold to a brick-making company and 24 years later was 'compulsorily resumed by Sydney Water'.

## FORMING FRIENDS

The future of Bella Vista remained in doubt in the '70s but fortunately Bella Vista homestead was deemed an important historical site in 1982 and placed on the Register of the National Estate.

A Commission of Inquiry under the Heritage Act re the granting of a Permanent Conservation Order declared the importance of ".... the rural setting, important landscape features, hilltop location and views to ..... from Bella Vista".

In 1998 ownership of Bella Vista Farm Park was transferred to Baulkham Hills Shire Council, now Hills Shire Council.

On 14th September 2006, Mayor Sonya Phillips set up an inaugural meeting which led

to the formation of the Friends of Bella Vista Farm Park and this continues to the present day. Of course, any history of Bella Vista is not complete without acknowledging the land on which Bella Vista stands. The Darug people have been custodians for some 4,000 years.

The Friends of Bella Vista Farm are proud to help maintain this beautiful historic building in whatever capacity they can.

You can read in more detail about its history in the book: 'Bella Vista Farm Its past and its people: A Chronology' by Mark Pearce, Carolyn Gould and Sharon Rawstron, available at the house for \$20.

I'd like to acknowledge the authors of this book. It was most useful to me in writing this article - Gisela Horner

## OPEN DAY

Sunday, December 5th will be a special day at Bella Vista Farm when the gates will open to the historic gardens and house between 9am and 2pm.

Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra will be playing in the grounds, there will be tours, Devonshire Teas, childrens' games and a Trash and Treasure stall.

There is plenty of parking and COVID regulations will apply.



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**9AM TO 2PM**

**Cnr Norwest Boulevard and Elizabeth Macarthur Drive Bella Vista**

**ATTRACTIONS:**

Chronology of Bella Vista \$20

- Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra
- Heritage House Tours (Gold coin donation)
- Free entry to gardens and historic outbuildings
- Childrens' games
- Trash & Treasure Stall
- Plenty of parking

**DEVONSHIRE TEAS**



# JAZZ AT THE PINES

The much-loved Jazz at The Pines returns to the Hills this month for a delayed start to the 2021-22 season after being put on pause with lockdowns.

Run by The Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville in conjunction with The Hills Shire Council, this month's event on Sunday, November 21st runs from 12.30pm to 4pm and will feature the Bridge City Jazz Band.

There will be a three month break followed by more Jazz events in February through to May 2022. Jazz at The Pines is held in the historic grounds of Roughley House, Dural.

President of The Rotary Club of The Hills-Kellyville, Thomas Cann said Jazz at The Pines had been entertaining visitors to the Hills for more than 20 years and attracts people from all over NSW.

"It's a place where you can sit outside in the fresh air, unwind and spend an afternoon with family and friends lapping up good music, food and views of the historic venue. The Hill Shire Council is a long-time supporter of this wonderful event as a service to the community," he said.

Tables and chairs are provided so visitors can bring a packed picnic lunch and take a seat among the tall pines and lavish gardens which surround Roughley House. The homestead was



built in 1856 and has been associated with the Roughley family for more than 150 years. Clive Roughley – James' grandson – bequeathed the property to the community several years before his death.

Freshly baked cakes, tea and coffee will also be available at every Jazz event. Entry tickets cost: **\$20** (adults) and **\$18** (concessions). Online reservations are encouraged at [www.jazzatthepines.org.au](http://www.jazzatthepines.org.au)

Next year's program which starts in February includes: Carolyn Packer's Stompin Rhythm Aces, Geoff Power Jazz Band, Zenith Jazz Sextet and the Riverside Jazz Band. There will also be some guest appearances of local high schools performing as "warm up" bands

prior to the main Jazz bands. Details can be obtained on the website [www.hillsrotary.org.au](http://www.hillsrotary.org.au) via email to [info@jazzatthepines.org.au](mailto:info@jazzatthepines.org.au) or by calling Dural Information Centre on **9651 4411**.

Funds raised go entirely to projects of The Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville including, literacy Initiatives for students. Further afield the club continues its Bourke Public School Breakfast Club project, support for drought and bushfire affected communities and humanitarian projects in Sri Lanka and India.

To be part of an inspired group that is making a difference, contact the club through the website [www.hillsrotary.org.au](http://www.hillsrotary.org.au) or Facebook page.

# DIWALI LIGHTS

The Kadukar/Kusoorkar family from Schofields has been named overall winner in this year's Blacktown City Diwali Lights Competition.

Last year the household at 62 Ward Street, Schofields, received the runner-up prize.

The competition celebrates the ancient Hindu festival of Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, which is typically celebrated over several weeks in October and November to recognise the victory of light over darkness.

Winner Apurv Kusoorkar, who entered the competition with his wife Sarita Kadukar, said Diwali was a special time for his family, who moved to Schofields in 2019 and have participated in the competition ever since.

"This festival is very important for our family as we were born in India and we feel it is a great way to let our daughter know about our culture," Apurv said. "This competition is a great integration with Australian culture. Diwali is even more special to my family as our daughter was born on Diwali in 2019."

Apurv and Sarita used their spare time during the COVID-19 lockdown to decorate their home, taking them up to 20 weekends to complete.



Many of the colourful decorations, including lotuses and lanterns, are handmade from recycled materials, including plastic bottles, cardboard and spoons.

"Winning is not as important as the pride and happiness we get when cars drive past

and see the house and tell their kids what the festival is about. The award is the cherry on top," Apurv said. Ward Street won the best decorated street award. 106 Mosaic Avenue, The Ponds also won an award.





The Gallery is open in compliance with the Public Health (COVID-19 General) Order 2021 with vaccination requirements applying to both staff and customers aged 16 years and older.

For further details on hours of opening, exhibitions and activities go to [hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery](http://hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery) or [facebook.com/hawkesburygallery](https://facebook.com/hawkesburygallery)

# HAWKESBURY ART FAIR

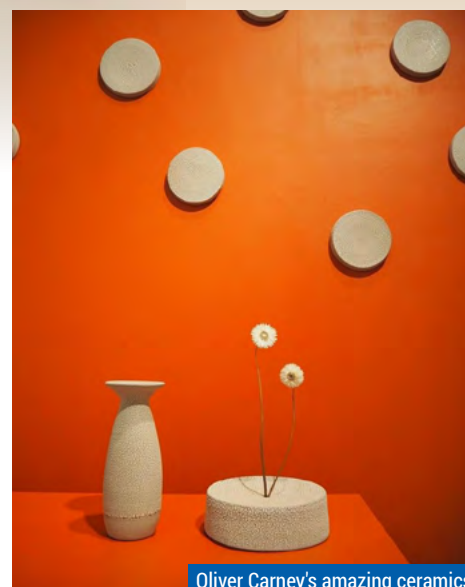
The Hawkesbury Art Fair is on at the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery at Windsor until Sunday, December 5th. The annual event is a celebration of local creative activity.

It is a great exhibition to view but also provides an opportunity for local artists to sell their work and for residents and visitors to the area to buy original art from the region's best-known and most accomplished artists.

All works are for sale. Organisations represented at the fair include Ferry Artists Gallery, Hawkesbury Artists and Artisans Trail, Hawkesbury Community Arts Workshop, Hawkesbury Camera Club, Macquarie Towns Art Society, Piggery Lane Studios and Friends of

the Hawkesbury Art Community and Regional Gallery Inc. Also on exhibition at this time is Oliver Carney: Observation in Function.

Oliver Carney is a self-taught ceramicist living and working in the Blue Mountains. In his first solo exhibition, Carney has produced a striking collection of stoneware objects using handmade glazes and wheel thrown assembly techniques. The Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, is on the 1st floor, Deerubbin Centre 300 George Street, Windsor. Cost: Free



Oliver Carney's amazing ceramics

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# BEAUTIFUL BROMELIADS

By DIANNE TULLOCH

The Bromeliad Society of Australia will hold its next meeting at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground on Saturday, December 11th with plant sales to the public commencing at 10am until 12noon.

Access is via the Showground entrance off Showground Road into Doran Drive, Castle Hill, with plenty of parking on site.

As this is the final meeting for the year, it will also be the last opportunity to buy beautiful bromeliads direct from the local BSA members and growers for Christmas.

Bromeliads make wonderful gifts and are perfect house plants to decorate homes for Christmas. Following the formal part of the meeting at 12noon it will be time to celebrate, share goodwill and reflect on the past couple of years and to appreciate the return of the BSA meetings.

BSA Meetings include plant sales, club news, raffles and competitions as well as providing an opportunity to meet with like-minded people in a friendly and inviting environment. Contact Ian Hook - mobile **0408202269**, email: [ianhook1@bigpond.com](mailto:ianhook1@bigpond.com) website: [www.bromeliad.org.au](http://www.bromeliad.org.au)

Membership to the Bromeliad Society of Australia for a friend or family member for Christmas is also a great gift. Membership is \$40 initially then \$35 annually. For further details email [MembSec@bromeliad.org.au](mailto:MembSec@bromeliad.org.au).

Currently, COVIDSafe restrictions do apply for the shopping public, all BSA members and their guests - masks must be worn, proof of immunisation and signing in through the Service NSW App is compulsory as is the 1.5m distance. Inside the hall a 2msq rule applies for seating during the meeting.



# HILLS GARDEN COMPETITION WINNERS

By JOHN COLLIGNON

While most community events went into isolation, the Sydney Hills Garden Competition was held this year as the only Orange Blossom Festival event running in 2021.

The first competition ran in 1959 as the forerunner of the Orange Blossom Festival.

Gardens entered into the competition were judged in their spring glory from mid-September culminating in an award ceremony held in the Hills Shire Council Chambers auditorium on October 29th. Prize winners were delighted to receive their awards from special guests including the Mayor Michelle Byrne and Castle Hill MP Ray Williams.

Gardens were judged by professional and experienced horticulturists and gardening experts including Ross Miller and Lucia Fowler.

Ross Miller said: "Even with all the variable weather, we saw magnificent gardens. So many beautiful gardens in the competition this year - from small to large, from modern to traditional. "Every year we are delightfully surprised by the sheer beauty that's created by the hard work of proud gardeners of the Hills District".

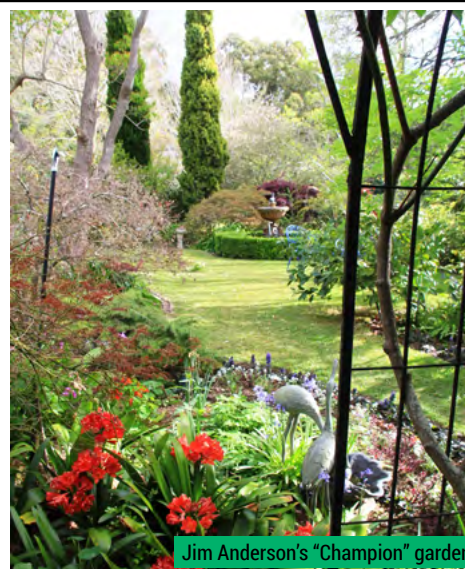
The Garden Competition is run each year by The Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville and has a

variety of categories for gardeners from small Town Houses to residential gardens, to gardens of industrial, commercial and retirement complexes.

The garden competition is open to gardens located in the Hills Shire and adjoining parts of surrounding suburbs.

This year was different with a record number of entries and a changing of the guard with new prize winners for two of the major awards. Jim Anderson was awarded "Champion of Champions" for his beautiful garden at Kenthurst and also won first prize in the Large Residential Garden category and in the Senior Citizens Entire Garden category.

Danuta Szczypior was awarded the 'George Eric Mobbs Award for Excellence in Gardening' and first prize in two of the highly contested Residential Garden categories. The Environmental Awareness Award was won by Stewart and Margaret Hunter.



Jim Anderson's "Champion" garden

## FULL LIST OF WINNERS WERE:

- Small Residential Garden Owner Maintained 1st Danuta Szczypior
- Large Residential Garden Owner Maintained 1st Jim Anderson
- Residential Front or Back Garden Owner Maintained 1st Danuta Szczypior
- New Garden - Owner Maintained 1st Ian and Jill Bleakley
- Townhouse, Villa or Courtyard Garden Owner Maintained 1st Ron Perrau
- Senior Citizen's Entire Garden 1st Jim Anderson
- Senior Citizen's - Front Garden 1st Brian Graf
- Senior Citizen's Townhouse or Courtyard Garden 1st Ron Perrau
- Senior Citizen's Garden in a Retirement complex 1st Keith McGill
- Strata or Community Title Property Professionally Maintained "Central Park"
- Good Neighbour Gardens: Villas 65-72 at Living Choice Glenhaven
- Specialty Gardens and features Mark and Rochelle Robbins
- Industrial, Commercial or Institution Garden: Living Choice Glenhaven





# PARADISE LOST

## Did you ever go to Paradise Gardens Cattai?

In the 1970s and '80s, numerous amusement parks could be found in and around Sydney. The Hawkesbury's contribution was Paradise Gardens at Cattai which was owned by the famous Bullen family who also operated Bullen's Animal World at Wallacia and the African Lion Safari in Warragamba.

Opening in 1976, on the riverside site of Bungool and operating until the mid-1980s, Paradise Gardens was best known for its life-size fibreglass dinosaur replicas, its 'Cave Walk' display of archaic humans and the 'Enchanted Forest' filled with model fairy-tale characters. The new exhibition Paradise Lost at Hawkesbury Regional Museum will highlight the long forgotten, once popular Paradise Gardens through historical souvenirs, photographs, film footage, memorabilia and stories.

There will also be an opportunity for visitors to relive their memories of this much-loved amusement park, by recording them at the memory wall, enabling a new generation to enjoy and share recollections of the park. It opens at Hawkesbury Regional Museum from December 3rd.

### Opening hours:

Wednesday - Monday 10am- 4pm

Closed Tuesdays.

366 George Street, Windsor



## THE GREAT OUTDOORS



This plant was found in Castle Hill.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

# PALM LILY

Botanical Name: *Cordyline stricta*  
Common Name: *Narrow-leaved Palm Lily*  
Family: *Asparagaceae*

**Cordyline:** From Greek cordyle, referring to the stem shape of some species, meaning swelling.

**stricta:** From Latin meaning straight or rigid, referring to the long stems.

- Grows well as a pot plant. Can be pruned.
- Frost tender - needs some protection.
- Drought tolerant when established.
- Tolerates low light, grows in sunny and shady positions.
- Food plant for the Miskin's Swift Butterfly.
- Easily grown from seed and cuttings.

**Habitat:** Rainforests and damp sclerophyll forests.

**Soils:** Shallow and deep soils, both moist and dry.

**Habit:** Slender shrub to 5m.

**Leaves:** Long, slender, 30-50cm long.

**Flowers:** Lilac.

**Flowering time:** Summer.

**Fruit:** Black berries 1-1.5cm.

**Range:** Coastal lowlands from Sydney to Queensland.



SYDNEY'S  
— PLANT MARKET —  
NURSERY GARDEN HOMEWARES

## SPECIALS



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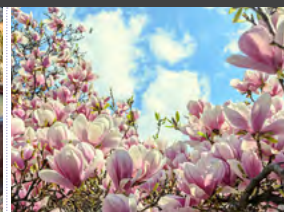
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# ITCHY PETS

By **DR BENJAMIN J GRAHAM**

One of the most common reasons that pets are presented to the vet outside of their annual general health check and vaccinations is due to itching.

Some itching is seasonal, some is due to allergies to food or materials, some is due to fleas, mites or other parasites and insects, and some itching is due to either primary or secondary infection.

(There are also a myriad of other hormonal, autoimmune and behavioural reasons that we won't go into detail about today).

Itching can cause excessive scratching, biting or licking of the skin and coat.

This can result in damage to the skin, saliva staining of the coat (brown staining of the fur on the paws and face is common) and it can result in hair loss, not to mention the incessant and annoying sound of a constantly scratching pet – just imagine how they feel!

Damage to the skin also increases the risk of a secondary bacterial or fungal infection. If this happens, scratching may continue long after the initial cause is gone!

Diagnosis of your itching pet starts with a thorough clinical examination by your vet and may also require samples to be examined under the microscope or at the lab.

Your vet will ask LOTS of questions to help identify the initial cause. Rest assured though, all itchy pets can be treated or managed with great success to improve quality of life for your companion, and reduce that annoying scratching!

Vet Dr Graham is from BVSC South Windsor [www.bvsc.sydney](http://www.bvsc.sydney)



# PUPPY SCAM

Puppy scams increased five-fold during the COVID Pandemic. According to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Scamwatch, Australians lost nearly \$300K to puppy scams last year.

Leading animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA) says puppy scams have caused a lot of heartbreak and anger, and unwittingly involve legitimate businesses in Australia.

## TIPS TO SPOT SCAMS

- Scammers set up fake websites or ads on online classifieds and social media. Email is the only way to contact them.
- Scammers normally ask for up-front payments via money transfer to pay for the pet and transport it to you. They will find new ways to ask for more money, such as claiming higher transportation costs to get across interstate borders.
- If the price looks too good to be true, it probably is!
- Only buy or adopt a pet you can meet in person.
- Research the seller online using the exact wording in the ad and do a reverse image search for pictures of the specific puppy to see if you can find matching images or text on multiple websites.
- If you are in doubt, seek advice from a reputable dog breeders association, veterinarian or local animal shelter.

For more information, visit [www.scamwatch.gov](http://www.scamwatch.gov).

## ONLINE BOOKINGS NOW AVAILABLE!

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parasite treatments and more!



# CHIPPING YOUR PET VITAL

**Pet owners are being urged to ensure that their pet is microchipped and tagged and that all the contact details are up to date.**

Having correct information means that pets can be reunited with distressed owners as soon as possible.

A council spokesperson said: "Shelter staff do their utmost to ensure that as many lost pets as possible are reunited with their owners or found suitable new homes, thanks to our positive partnerships with a number of rescue organisations and regular Facebook posts.

She said shelter staff can reunite lost pets with owners even before they are taken to the shelter which can prevent further stress on both pets and owners if the owner can be contacted quickly.

"It can even save you money if Council staff can return your pet before going to the Shelter. For this to be possible, ensure that your pet is microchipped and that your cat or dog also wears a tag on a collar with your current contact details. That way if your pet gets out and someone picks them up, whether it is Council Shelter staff or a neighbour or a stranger, they will be able to contact you straight away and save your pet a trip to the Shelter," she said.

"Too often pets are microchipped but their owner's details are out of date, which means staff cannot inform the owner that their pet has been found.

"Pet registration details are like the registration details of your car, when you change your car's details then change your pet's details."

Owners can either update their contact details themselves at [petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://petregistry.nsw.gov.au) or call the Hawkesbury Animal Shelter on **4560 4644** and they will update it.

In NSW, all cats and dogs, other than exempt cats and dogs, must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or before being sold or given away, whichever happens first.

A microchip is required by law and a permanent method of electronic identification that cannot be lost – never rely on a tag alone.

If you find an animal roaming on the street, check to see if they are wearing a collar or have a tag with a contact phone number.

Take them to the vet to scan for a microchip and potentially contact the owners.

If you are unable to locate the animal's lawful owner within a short period of time, contact council and give the details to the Animal Shelter staff. Hawkesbury collects animals from several local council areas including Hawkesbury and The Hills.

You can search for lost pets and new pets at [hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/services/places-and-facilities/animal-shelter](http://hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/services/places-and-facilities/animal-shelter) or visit the Hawkesbury



Companion Animal Shelter at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave. Opening hours:

- **Monday to Friday** – 9am to 12:30pm and 2pm to 4:30pm
- **Saturday** – 9:30am to 11:30am
- **Sunday** – 7am to 9:30am
- Please call **4560 4644**
- [companionanimal@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:companionanimal@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



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**Chaff From \$22**

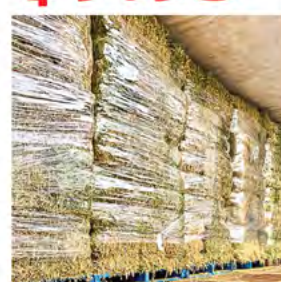


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**0405 05 05 05**

**MON-FRI  
SATURDAY  
SUNDAY**

**8AM-5:30PM  
8AM-4PM  
8AM-12PM**




## 2021 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FUNDING ANNOUNCED

Twelve community organisations throughout the Baulkham Hills Electorate will benefit from \$400,000 in funding under the NSW Government's 2021 Community Building Partnership Program.

The grassroots funding will deliver positive social, environmental, and recreational outcomes while promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion.

I congratulate the following organisations on their successful applications:

	Project Title	Amount Funded
Sunnyfield	Sensory haven	\$11,262
Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)	Autism therapy and employment facilities expansion (Aspect Baulkham Hills)	\$20,000
P&C Association Baulkham Hills High School	Erecting shade covers outside of Houlston Center terraced area	\$42,000
Jasper Road Public School P&C Association	COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area)	\$63,477
Learning Links	Learning Links site refurbishment - Bella Vista	\$23,856
Baulkham Hills North Public School through the P&C Association	Junior infants play space	\$50,000
Cumberland Community Radio Inc	Upgrade broadcasting equipment to digital audio	\$35,096






The Hon  
**David Elliott MP**  
Member for Baulkham Hills  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

As your local Member in the NSW Parliament, I am here to help.

- ✓ Assisting with accessing NSW Government services
- ✓ Preparing congratulatory messages
- ✓ Providing Justice of the Peace Services
- ✓ Attending your local community event

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

 Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153  
 02 9686 3110  baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au  davidelliott.com.au

Proudly serving the people and communities of Baulkham Hills, Bella Vista, Carlingford, Castle Hill, Kellyville, North Rocks, Norwest and West Pennant Hills.

Authorised by David Elliott MP, Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153. This publication is funded using parliamentary entitlements.

	Project Title	Amount Funded
Bella Vista Public School P&C Association	Shade structure over playground	\$35,000
The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc	Upgrade at Learning in the Hills	\$43,185
Renegades Rugby Inc	Renegades Rugby crowd experience enhancement	\$47,200
Holy Trinity Anglican Church Baulkham Hills	Much needed storage shed for grounds maintenance equipment	\$8,924
Castle Hill RSL Soccer Club	Grandstand seating at Eric Mobbs Reserve	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$400,000</b>

In 2022, \$400,000 will be allocated throughout each electorate. Applications for the 2022 Program will open in early 2022.

## THE MORRISON GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED OUR PLAN FOR NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2050.

As part of that plan, the Government is investing \$20 billion in low emissions technologies, which are expected to further unlock at least \$80 billion in private sector investment over the next decade in technologies like clean hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, soil carbons, battery storage and low emission aluminium and steel.

Additionally, unlike many countries, we are committed to accountability and transparency regarding our efforts on climate change.

Every five years, the Productivity Commission will be generating a report to record reductions in emissions and their effect on the economy.

We have already come a long way. We met and beat our 2020 emissions reduction targets and our emissions are now down more than 20% compared to 2005 levels. At the same time our economy has grown by 45 percent. Reducing emissions provides us with an opportunity for greater economic growth.

We went to the last election with a 2030 emissions reduction target in place and we are on track to not just meet but beat that target.

Our emissions have fallen faster than comparable countries like the United States Canada, New Zealand, and Japan. Ninety percent of our exports are to countries with net zero commitments. Global momentum to tackle climate change is building. Countries with net zero commitments make up over 80 percent of world GDP.



Our export partners and global financial markets are already making the decisions that this is where they want to go, and Australia needs to meet the market for our exports.

If we take action now Australia can be a leader in emerging low emissions technologies which take advantage of our natural resources.

Our plan will provide a pathway that ensures we will protect our environment as well as strengthening our economy.



**JULIAN LEESER MP**  
Federal Member for **Berowra**

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120  
 9980 1822  julian.leaser.mp@aph.gov.au  
 julianleaser.com.au  julianleeserm

**As your MP, I am here to:**

- ➔ Assist with accessing federal government services
- ➔ Attend your local community event
- ➔ Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

Authorised by Julian Leaser MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120.





## 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](mailto:castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au) Website: [www.raywilliamsmp.com.au](http://www.raywilliamsmp.com.au)



## \$400,000 CHRISTMAS "BOOST" TO COMMUNITY

The Castle Hill electorate secured \$400,000 in funding for a total of 26 projects through the NSW Government's 2021 Community Building Partnership Program.

This funding will help deliver improvements to local facilities and help create a more vibrant and inclusive local community. Congratulations to the successful applicants.

1st Castle Hill Scouts, 1st Kellyville Scouts, 1st Rouse Hill Scouts, Australia Foundation For Disability, Care and Concern Ministries, Castle Hill BMX Club, Castle

Hill RSL Dolphins Swimming Club, Castle Hill United Soccer Club, Endeavour Foundation, Fit Kids Foundation, Hills Basketball Association, Kellyville Anglican Church, Kellyville Preschool, Kellyville Rural Fire Brigade, Kellyville Soccer Club, Kellyville United Football Club, North Kellyville Public School, Our Lady Of The Rosary Kellyville, Restore Church, Riding for the Disabled Tall Timbers, Rotary Club of Kenthurst, Rouse Hill Anglican Church, Sherwood Ridge Public School, St Bernadette's Catholic Church, Sunnyfield, The Hills Shire Council

## MERRY CHRISTMAS CASTLE HILL

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

We made it through the hardest two years in modern history, and have come out of it a much stronger and united community. Never have I been prouder to

represent the communities of The Hills with our LGA being the first in Australia to reach the 95% double vaccination rate! A tremendous effort! The Hills and its residents are truly #1!!

## Congratulations!

CELEBRATING THEIR

**100th  
BIRTHDAY**

ARTHUR KELSHAW  
AND  
EVE MARTYN

CELEBRATING  
**60th Years  
ANNIVERSARY**

JOHN & GLORIA  
**ALTON**

## POPPY DAY TO REMEMBER

Remembrance Day on November 11th was restrained due to COVID restrictions and uncertainty.

Many services were cancelled or held online.

Castle Hill RSL sub-branch held a private event inside the auditorium with veterans, serving defence force personnel and the Hills High School ANZAC Ambassadors.

Over 120 people attended. Guest speaker was Flight Lieutenant Anthony Bertolucci. This year is the 100th Anniversary of the

Royal Australian Airforce. 2019 Hills ANZAC Ambassador Elizabeth Rodd spoke on behalf of the 2021 Ambassadors.

The RSL was covered with knitted poppies made by sub-branch auxiliary members both inside and out.

This year marks 100 years of Poppy Day. To donate visit [poppyappeal.com.au](http://poppyappeal.com.au)



Photos by Chris Bennett





Charles Vella,  
Joe Scuglia,  
Terry Jones &  
Romeo Joson

## Yellow Day at LYNWOOD

Members at Lynwood Country Club teed off in a sea of yellow for a charity Golf Day on November 10th in memory of professional golfer Jarrod Lyle.

Even wet weather and storm clouds did not dampen the community spirit at the Lynwood golf course on the day. The #DoingItForJarrod campaign was created by Challenge, the PGA of Australia and Golf Australia as a fundraising campaign that could be enjoyed by the entire golfing community each year.

Jarrod, who passed away in August 2018 at the age of 36, was an ambassador for Challenge which provides practical support throughout a child's cancer journey. He himself was a teenager when he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Golf professionals at Lynwood, Lucy Harris and Darren Robel said the main aim of running the charity golf day was to create a sense of community amongst our members again.

Lucy said: "This year has been tough for our golfing community after experiencing the Hawkesbury floods for the second time in two years, this was followed by 85% of our members losing access to the course through the lockdown."

"The Jarrod Lyle event was seen as an opportunity to come together as a club and raise money while remembering Jarrod and the impact had on the golfing community. The overwhelming response from our members after such a tough year blew us away."

Lucy said the \$600-worth of merchandise sold out in less than 48 hours which meant ordering more for the event itself.

"On the day of the event the weather was less than attractive but still 80 players showed up and even in the massive downpour they continued to keep playing and not a single complaint was heard," she said.

Merchandise sales and fundraising raised a total of \$2499 which was topped up by a generous donation of \$2000 from the CHRG board of directors.

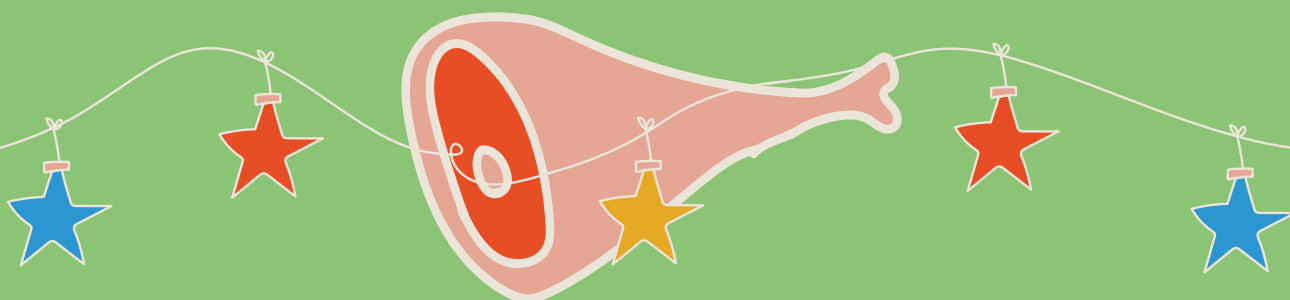
Lucy said: "For me personally the highlight was the stories shared by members of their personal experiences with Jarrod at various events across the country as well as the enjoyment throughout the day from everyone involved."

"After the response this year, we definitely will be running the event again next year."

To find out more about the charity visit [challenge.org.au](http://challenge.org.au)

Lorraine Gowen and  
Jannine Smith on the Green

# XMAS HAM RAFFLES



## SUNDAY 5TH, 12TH & 19TH DECEMBER

TICKETS ON SALE FROM 6PM AND DRAWN FROM 7.45PM



CASTLE HILL  
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[castlehillrsl.com.au](http://castlehillrsl.com.au)

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PARRAMATTA  
[clubparramatta.com.au](http://clubparramatta.com.au)

Lynwood  
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB  
[lynwoodcc.com.au](http://lynwoodcc.com.au)





# MATILDAS PATHWAY IN THE HILLS

By **LAWRENCE MACHADO**

Women's football is kicking big goals in the Hills with a pathway to the state and national leagues providing opportunities to represent Australia.

According to Hills Football general manager, Matt Rippon, the sky's the limit for our talented female players after the association was allowed to compete in the Football NSW Women's State League competition from next year.

"We are thrilled and honoured to be developing the next batch of future Matildas players," a delighted Rippon said. "The announcement of a Hills United FC licence in Football NSW's Women's State League competition is a historic one for the Hills community and its football members."

He admits there is a lot of hard work to be done but is confident Hills United and member clubs are on the right track and, "no doubt will be responsible for the development of many future Matildas in the years to come".

Football is booming in the Hills, with female participation alone growing by 20 per cent this year, doubling the number of teams among the 21 member clubs.

"Hills women have been confirmed an entry into the 2022 Football NSW Women's League One competition," Rippon said. "Things are fast moving, with the appointment of head coaches and open trials already under way ahead of their pre-season schedule. It's an extremely exciting time for the association because for the first time in our history, the Hills LGA has its own Talented Player Pathway for female players – a clear opportunity for community players to progress all the way, from the under-10s Skill Acquisition Program to first grade without having to leave the area to participate."

It is a remarkable achievement for this association, which is just five years old. Rippon pointed out the bright future for our female players is due to the tireless work of the

committee, supporters, and football community to promote a women's program.

"It's hard to imagine a more exciting time for female football in our area, with female participation growing by 20 per cent in 2021, female teams doubling across all age grades," Rippon said.

"This result, while tremendous for the club and Association, is symbolic of the growth, desire and actions undertaken by those within the Hills grassroots football landscape, specifically our member clubs in facilitating best practice female football opportunities."

"The association has had significant growth in non-traditional football activities such as summer and walking football, and in less than two years we will play host to the largest female sporting event on the planet – the FIFA Women's World Cup."

Rippon acknowledged the positive, developmental club culture and the commitment to develop, encourage and support not just female players but coaches, referees, and administrators in the Hills.

# TRIPLE TREAT FOR TRICKER

By **LAWRENCE MACHADO**

Mackenzie Tricker is not a one trick pony, showing yet again she has what it takes to make it to the top. She showed her bagful of tricks to complete a "three-peat" of the prestigious American National Enduro Championships, braving a big crash during one of the rounds.

The 26-year-old Vineyard star's latest triumph is all the more remarkable because she was coming back to competition after knee surgery, causing her to miss the start of the 2021 season. Making her year even better was marrying Dylan Bean, who is her full-time mechanic.

"I am super stoked to bring home my third AMA National enduro title in a row," Mackenzie said. "Coming from motocross, the last thing I ever expected was to love enduros, but nothing beats some awesome single track. This year was rough (because) I started in a hole coming off a massive knee surgery and then dug myself deeper in round two with some bad luck, but I was glad to finally get myself out of that hole as the year went on."

Mackenzie finished second in the final round nine, after crashing "pretty big in one of the tests," but fortunately her bike was not damaged.

"I was just a little winded and banged up. Luckily, I was able to wrap the championship up early at the last race, because (today) was pretty tough," she said.

"I had one of the biggest crashes I've had in a long time in test two and I really thought my day was over. But I clawed myself back to throw it away in the last test, getting stuck in a rut, and getting caught in some vines to lose the day by three seconds!

"All in all, it's been a good year considering and I'm ready to go home to Australia and see

Hills star Mackenzie Tricker in action at the American National Enduro Championship.



my family, and thanks to everyone that helps me." Mackenzie has been riding virtually all her life and moved to the United States several years ago to pursue her dream of competing in the American Amateur Motocross Championships, having stamped her class over there by capturing a hat-trick of Loretta Lynn titles as a teenager. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mackenzie was unable to make her annual visit for Christmas for two years and she cannot wait to see her family.

"I'm coming back to visit my family as I haven't seen them for a few years due to COVID," the former top-ranked Aussie junior motocross rider said. "I'll be home for about four weeks. I'll be doing some riding in Australia but no racing. I am going to just enjoy my time there to go on the river and to the beach and then head back to the USA in early January to get ready for the next season."



Hills star Mackenzie Tricker and husband Dylan Bean with her American National Enduro Championship trophy

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# VOTING FOR DEMOCRACY

By Ivor Jones

**It seems that as we are in an election period at the moment, with Local Government Elections to be held on Saturday, December 4th and a Federal Election to be held sometime within the next six months, it may be time to look at Election memories.**

Did you know that Australia has been at the forefront of elections for over 100 years?

**WOMEN:** South Australia was amongst the earliest jurisdictions to grant women the right to vote and stand for Parliament in 1894.

The Federal Government and the New South Wales parliament both introduced the right to vote and stand for election for women in 1902.

Edith Cowan became Australia's first female Parliamentarian when she was elected in Western Australia's Legislative Assembly in 1921. The first woman elected to NSW Parliament was Miss Millicent Preston-Stanley in 1925.

In 1943 Enid Lyons and Dorothy Tangay (pictured) became the first women elected to Federal Parliament.

**MY STORY:** Having worked professionally in the electoral field for more than 35 years both with the Australian Electoral Commission, 1974 to 1998 and our (my wife's and I) own private election company (Metro-Poll) from 1998 to 2017, I have experienced and seen many interesting elections.

I have witnessed the antics of candidates and supporters in their campaigning. A number were questionable but perhaps not illegal whilst some have been quite comical.

I have seen cases where my staff have had to gain access through locked gates where schools had not provided keys for staff to open for polling day.

Situations where gazetted polling places had ceased to exist and emergency accommodation in the form of caravans or private garages had to be utilised.

The Electoral Commission is independent and impartial within the Electoral field but that has not stopped some members of the public voicing their opinions to staff on various matters.

On one occasion a woman called my office upset over the figures being posted at the tally room which showed at one point that her favoured candidate had a swing against him which indicated that he could lose his seat in Parliament. He was however successfully returned as the local member.

Apart from all Federal elections from 1972 up until the 1990s, I have also been involved in the first multi-racial election for South Africa in which Nelson Mandela was elected President, I also worked on the National Song poll held in May 1977 which eventually led to adoption of "Advance Australia Fair" as our National Anthem.

In 1978 former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam telephoned me to say that he was going to resign from Parliament and sought my advice on when the resultant by-election should be held.

During that period the Chief Electoral Officer (then equivalent to today's Electoral Commissioner) and I worked very closely together in my office, with him taking directions and advice from me.

**ELECTORAL ROLL:** When I first started with the then Department of the Interior's Commonwealth Electoral Office, each Electorate had a Divisional Returning Officer appointed, staffed by two people on a permanent basis.

The electoral roll was maintained by hand with names added handwritten each day as people moved into the electorate or names

deleted each day as voters moved out of the electorate or became deceased.

When the then electoral authorities deemed it necessary to reprint the roll a temporary staff member was employed to type the names of the new electors in alphabetical order for submission to the Government Printer.

During 1975 it was decided to begin to prepare the electoral rolls by means of computerisation. This was implemented in all electorates by the end of 1976 and saw an increase with the former temporary typist in each electorate now required to work fulltime. Added responsibilities were given to Divisional Offices over time, the numbers of staff in each office grew even more so that within 20 years since I joined the now Australian Electoral Commission they had more than doubled.

**BALLOT PAPERS:** Before the 1970s candidates' names would appear alphabetically on the ballot paper in order of surname.

Later amendments to the Electoral Act determined that the names appear by way of double draw selection method.

Queensland introduced compulsory voting in 1915 and became the first place in the then British Empire to do so. Amendments to the Federal Electoral Act made voting compulsory in the 1925 Federal election. Victoria introduced compulsory voting in 1926, NSW and Tasmania in 1928, WA in 1936 and SA in 1942.

There are currently 32 countries in the world with compulsory voting, of which 19 (including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Greece, Fiji and Singapore) pursue it through enforcement.

**Don't forget to vote on Saturday, December 4th. To find out more visit [www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au).**



# AS WE WERE

## PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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

Senator Dorothy Tangey and Enid Lyons  
entered Federal Parliament in 1943



Tent-style polling booth 1917

Election advertising 1906 style



Gough Whitlam casting his  
vote in 1974

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

EITHER EMAIL IVOR AT

[IVOR.JONES47@OPTUSNET.COM.AU](mailto:IVOR.JONES47@OPTUSNET.COM.AU)

OR WRITE TO

17 ROSE ST, BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153.



Votes for Women in 1913



# 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-know artists are held monthly and members can participate in several exhibitions during the year. New members always welcome.

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

## Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.

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

## Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook

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

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

## Cumberland Bird Observers Club

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

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

## CWA of NSW - Galston Branch

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

Jann | 0439 222 217

## CWA of NSW - Castle Hill Branch

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

Maureen | 0411 724 925

## Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Group

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

Denis | 9629 2645 or Maurice | 9654 2138

## Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

## Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498  
www.duralmensshed.org

## East Kurrajong School of Arts

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

Ann | 02 4576 5031

## Galston VIEW Club

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

## Girl Guides Australia

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

Margo 0417 657 433.

## Glenhaven Probus Club Inc

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

secretary.glenhaven.probus@gmail.com

## Glenwood Men's Shed

James | 04 0333 8450

## Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail

02 4567 7400  
Leanne@mellowcrest.com

www.haat.com.au

## Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn

4577 3591 (BH)

www.hawkesburyshow.com.au

## Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the First Fleeters

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

## Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

4721 8709

## Hills District Women's Bowling Club

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

## Hills Older Men's Network INC

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

Ron | 0424 462 153  
HillsOMNI@gmail.com

## Hills 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 Probus Club of Baulkham Hills

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

Suzanne Dennis | 0412 424 593  
ladiesprobusbh@gmail.com

## Learning in the Hills

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

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

## Lions Club of Richmond Inc.

Geoff | 0412 969 651

## Lions Club of Windsor Inc

Pam | 0413 395 145

## Macquarie Towns Garden Club

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

macquarietownsgardenclub.wordpress.com

## National Seniors Australia (Hills Branch)

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

May | 0414 634 572  
maybruce@bigpond.com

## North Rocks Evening VIEW Club

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

## North Richmond Probus Club

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

Joan Bruce | 0404 290 484  
northrichmondprobus@gmail.com

## Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club

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

norwestrotary.org.au

## Pennant Hills Mens Probus Club

John | 9487 1385

## Pennant Hills Combined Probus Club

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

Lorene | 0429 396594

## Pennant Hills VIEW Club

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

Margaret | 9873 2402

## Pitt Town Probus Club

Meets at 10.00am on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Pitt Town and District Sports Club, 139 Old Pitt Town Rd Pitt Town. New members welcome.

Denise Fairfax | 0435 447 414  
Probus Club of Round Corner (Dural)  
Secretary, Julie  
PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

## Probus Club of the Hills Inc

Ken | 02 96296459

## Probus Club - Kellyville Castle Hill Mixed

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

Pam | 0417 667 067  
pamelaloves66@gmail.com

## Probus Club - Winston Hills Northmead Combined

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

secretary@winstonhillsnorthmeadprobusclub.com.au  
Membership Officer | 0421 410 305

## Probus Combined Kellyville Club

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

Glenys | 0419 616 431 OR  
Veronica | 0408 025 577  
glenysclarke@hotmail.com

## RDA (NSW) Tall Timbers Centre

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

## Red Cross - Castle Hill Branch

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

0419 431 084.

## Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club

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

Christine Walshaw | 0416073483

## Scouts Australia - Greater Western Sydney Region

9639 2488  
www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

## Sleep Disorders Australia - NSW

02 9990 3514  
www.sleepoz.org.au

## Soroptimist International The Hills

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

Cathy | 0435 837 118  
sithills@siwp.org

## The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc

9639 8620  
The Hills Learning Centre  
02 8850 0555  
RSVP | info@thehillslc.com.au.  
facebook.com/thehillslc

## The Hills Shire Garden Club

9624 5034

## The Hills District Pipe Band

Practices 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 Probus 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 Probus Club

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

Membership Officer Alan | 0407721461 or Secretary Ann | 0414298945

## Winston Hills Joey Scouts

9862 8482  
hsara@optusnet.com.au

## Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed Inc

Meeting Tues and Sat 9am - 5pm  
Alan Hunt | 4566 4626 or 0428 784 425  
Adrian Acheson | 0488 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

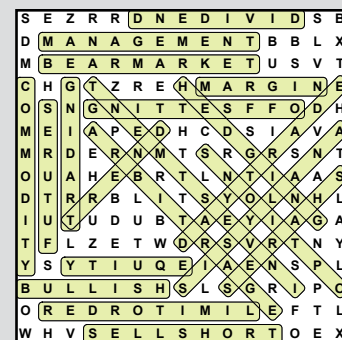
## WORD SEARCH

### WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ANNE HATHAWAY	KING LEAR
BARD OF AVON	KING'S MEN
COMEDIES	MACBETH
CORIOLANUS	OTHELLO
DRAMATIST	PLAYS
FIRST FOLIO	PLAYWRIGHT
HAMLET	POET
HENRY V	SONNETS
HISTORIES	THE TEMPEST
JULIUS CAESAR	TRAGEDIES

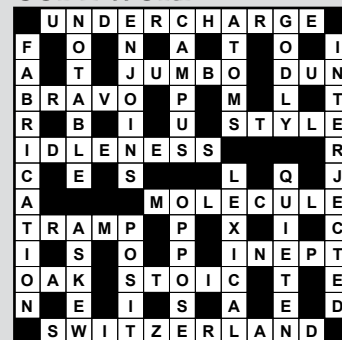


## WORD SEARCH



Answers from last issue

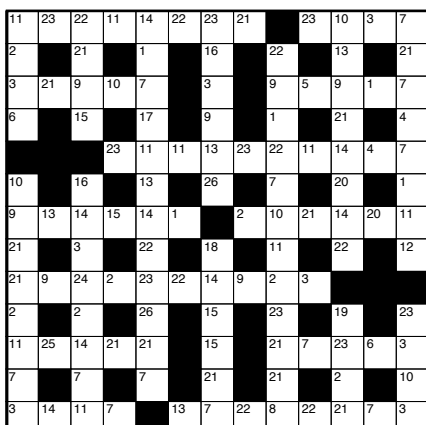
## CODE WORD



## CODE WORD

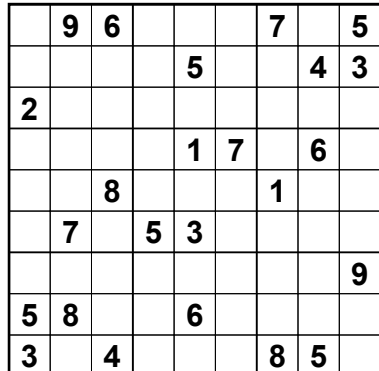
Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

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

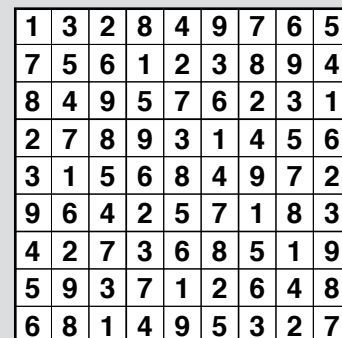


## SUDOKU

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



## SUDOKU



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## GIFTS TO HELP

Peppercorn is asking THE Hawkesbury community to donate unwrapped Christmas presents for males between the ages of three years to 17 years old and females between six years to 16 years old.

Peppercorn Flood Recovery Support Service has a team of Recovery Support Workers who are assisting residents across the Hawkesbury to recover from the impact of the March floods.

The work is supported by Resilience NSW and the Commonwealth Government who jointly fund organisations and agencies across the state to support communities to recover from the devastation of natural disaster events.

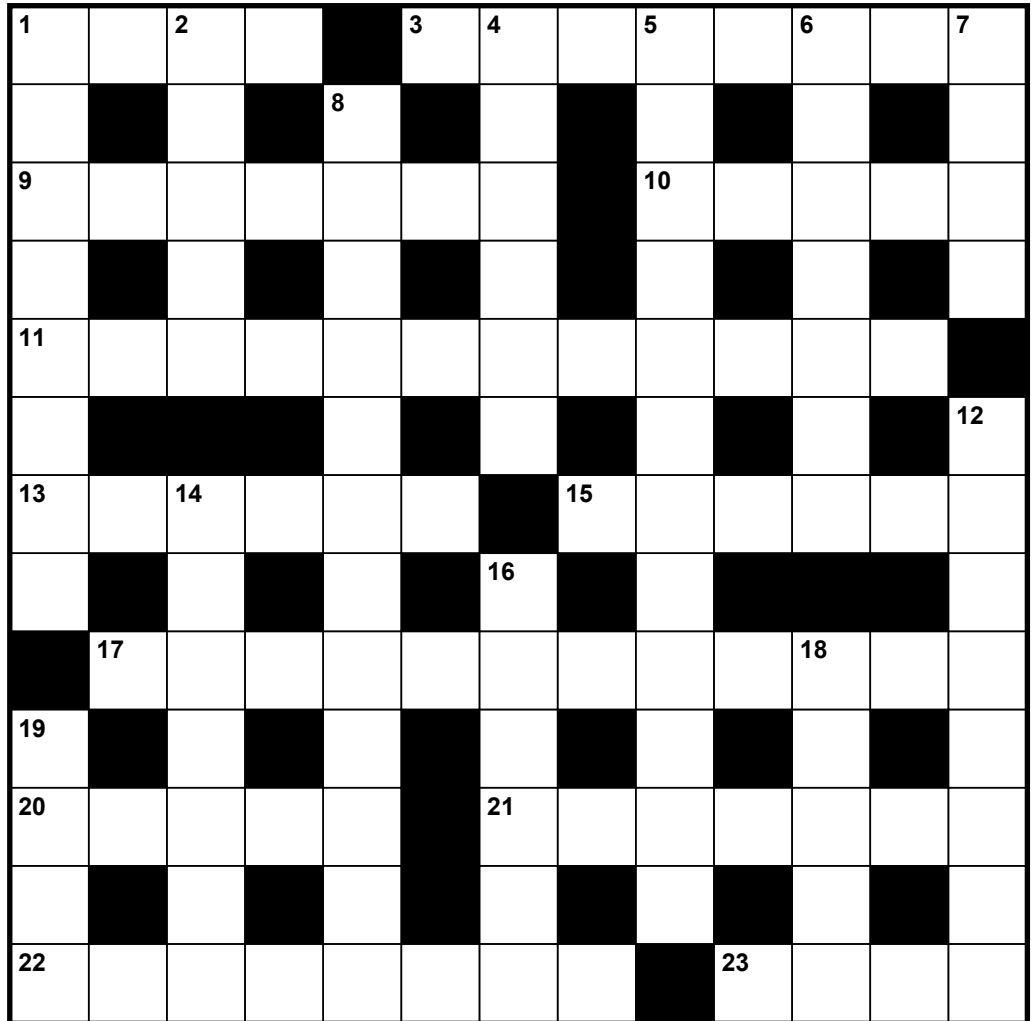
Gift ideas include board games, card games, outdoor games, sport equipment, tool kits or gift vouchers from local shops that offer items such as books, clothes, ice cream shop, lollies, stationery or sporting goods.

Gifts may be dropped off up until December 17th at either the Council Administration Building, 366 George Street or Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor or at Peppercorn Place 320 George Street, Windsor and Hawkesbury Leisure and Learning Centre, 114 March Street, Richmond

## ART SHOW

Castle Hill Art Society will be holding a Christmas market on Saturday, November 27th from 9am to 2pm.

The market will be held at its premises at Castle Glen Community Centre in Ridgecrop Drive, Castle Hill. There will be art works, cards, crafts, gifts plus trash and treasure for sale.



### Across

1. High-pitched flute
3. Observing
9. Single-horned creature
10. Gardeners sow these
11. Dictatorial
13. Flash intermittently
15. Representation of a plan or theory
17. Make a guess that is too high
20. Small marine fish
21. Tax imposed on ships
22. Perceived
23. Transparent camera part

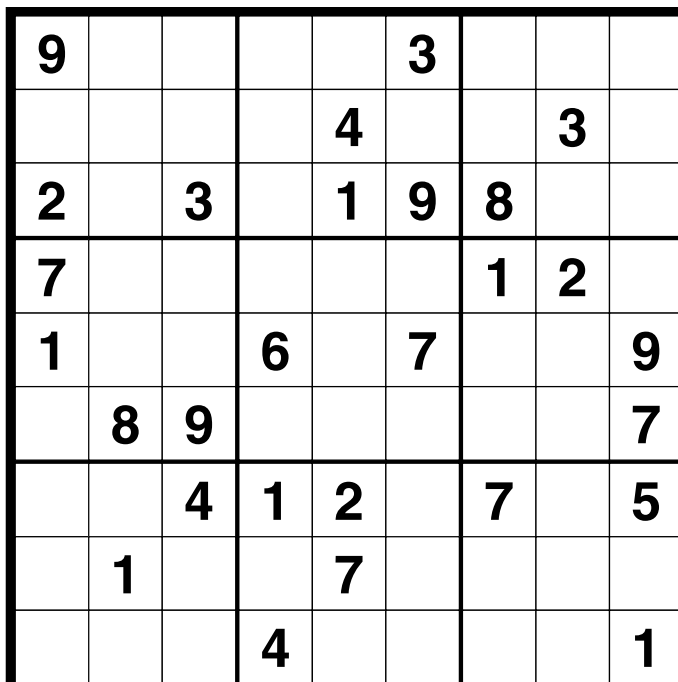
### Down

1. Fruit sugar
2. Force upon
4. Elaborately adorned
5. Directions
6. Do repeatedly
7. Lesion
8. Fellow plotter
12. Groundless
14. Returns to a former state
16. Insect that transmits sleeping sickness
18. Not asleep
19. Capital of Norway

## SUDOKU

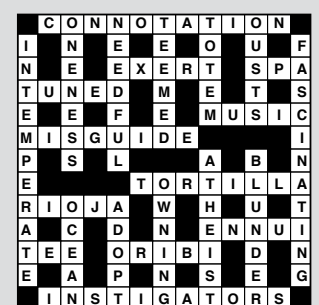
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

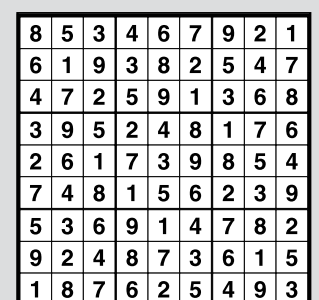


Answers from last issue

## CROSSWORD



## SUDOKU





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