

Christmas Greetings

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# BY JOVE THEY'RE GOOD

**TAMARA LEE BAILEY and JOSEPHINE LEE are rising stars to watch in the theatre and screen world.**

The emerging directors and actors - and proud women of colour - are completing a Director Mentorship Program run by the award-winning theatre company, Sport for Jove.

As part of the eight-week program, they've been learning "on the job skills" while working on the company's latest production of *As You Like It*, at historic Bella Vista Farm, until December 30th.

Both Tamara and Josie are excited to return to the stage and bring the light-hearted Shakespearean comedy to life, especially after the 106-day Greater Sydney lockdown which saw many industries, including the arts, completely shut down and leave people without work.

"It's been beautiful [to be back]," Tamara said of the production. "Everyone has craved it and missed it for so long."

Josie agreed. "The whole rehearsal process has been fantastic, and getting artists working again and in their niche has been great," she said.

While the pandemic has been disheartening for many artists, Tamara used the time to reflect on her own work and look at ways to up skill.

"There has been a halt [in work] because there has been a lack of opportunities during

the pandemic," Tamara said. "I had to sort of find something that was my niche, and build upon and practice [my craft] so that I could sustain myself in the pandemic."

"The Mentorship Program has been great way to do just that. We could continue to do the course online and that is a rare opportunity in itself," Tamara added.

Meanwhile, Josie said the pandemic opened doors for her in the acting world.

"If COVID didn't happen, I wouldn't be here today," she said. "Last year, I was able to participate in Sport for Jove's Second Age Project [youth program] after I was offered a BIPOC/CALD scholarship with them. At the time, I was doing my HSC, so I couldn't drive all the way to Surry Hills to participate and being in school, I couldn't afford the cost of the program. Thanks to the scholarship and the program being run online, I was able to be involved and be in the position that I'm in today."

Adding to their directing work, the pair are in the Shakespearean reproduction as part of the ensemble.



Josie said the show was a great alternative to watching a screen.

"We've been in our homes and watching theatre through our screens for far too long," she said. "Outdoor theatre is just a totally different experience. It's truly magical to watch!"

*As You Like It* follows the story of the rebellious Rosalind, who is banished from court with her cousin Celia. But before they leave for exile, Rosalind catches the eye of the lovelorn Orlando. What ensues is a web of lies, false identities, romance, songs and plenty of laughs.

For tickets and times visit [www.sportforjove.com.au](http://www.sportforjove.com.au).

## Merry Christmas

FROM THE H2H TEAM

It's hard to believe that this is our last magazine of the year and what a year 2021 has been.

We have been so privileged to bring you community news in what has been a year punctuated by long lockdown periods and the associated anguish.

Thanks to our wonderful advertisers we have been able to keep publishing our fortnightly community newspaper to keep our community connected, informed and inspired. Please support them. **Our first Issue for 2022 is due out on January 14th.**

We would love to hear from you. Let us know what you like, what you want added and what you could do without, email [contribute@hillstohawkesbury.com.au](mailto:contribute@hillstohawkesbury.com.au). Our local team wishes you all the best for a great Christmas and New Year. 2022 has gotta be better.

**Diana Paton:** "I hope all our readers have a lovely Christmas. Please think of those who might not be so fortunate. Donating the cost of a small Christmas present to Hawkesbury Helping Hands or other local charity could help them provide support and happiness to others. If you have a

relative with everything why not look at Oxfam's Christmas Goat gifts. [unwrapped.oxfam.org.au/gift/christmas-goat-3](http://unwrapped.oxfam.org.au/gift/christmas-goat-3)

**Karen Taylor:** "Wishing everyone a Christmas filled with love, laughter and relaxation."

**Ivor Jones:** "My wish for our readers. is for peace and happiness for all. May all have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year after two years of COVID."

**Bev Jordan:** "Happy Christmas. My wish is that we can all spend some time with the people we love and that we all look out for those who may feel disconnected in any way this festive season."

**Lawrence Machado:** "My wish is for a blessed and safe Christmas with our loved ones, and that the New Year brings more kindness, more jobs, and, of course, open borders."

Cover image of Scarlett, Archie and Zep in Box Hill by Lizanne Perry Photography.

## Hills to Hawkesbury

Community News | Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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# \$700M TALLAWONG PLAN MOVES ON

*A development application to build nine apartment towers containing approximately 900 units at Tallawong Road, directly opposite Tallawong Metro station, is due to go on public exhibition soon.*

CDMA Australia's \$600million development proposal is for a 4 hectare site at 34-42 Tallawong Rd, near the future town centre. The DA was lodged with Blacktown City Council last month and will go on Public Exhibition from mid December for six weeks as part of the approval process.

In 2018 the developer lodged a planning proposal to increase the height limit from 16 to 26 metres, together with a Voluntary Planning Agreement to provide a public plaza of 2,200sqm for community use.

CDMA Australia Development Manager, Alex Guan said after three years of coordination with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and local Blacktown Council, the planning proposal was gazetted and officially took effect on September 30th 2021.

The height limit of the buildings was increased to 26 metres and the residential yield

was increased from 630 units to approximately 900 units subject to DA approval.

He said the development has set a new precedent for heights in the area.

Designed by architecture practice, **Kann Finch**, the \$700 million master-planned development will include nine buildings each at eight storeys in height and, subject to DA approval, is due to be completed within six or seven years. The plans include a public piazza with two main zones, an open paved piazza fronting the street and internal green lawns plus a children's play area.

A green spine, comprising a village green lawn and communal facilities, will run through the middle of the development surrounded by an extensive running track.

The developer has already seen strong demand for its current residential development, Rosella Place located at 56 Cudgegong Road,

Rouse Hill, selling \$30 million in sales since July. Rosella Place has 357 apartments set across five mid-rise buildings located within a short 100m walk to the newly opened Tallawong Metro Station.

CDMA Australia's CEO Richard Wu said since CDMA had entered the Australian marketplace in 2017, the company's development pipeline had grown gradually with three significant projects either underway or in planning.

"Our first project, Rosella Place has completed its first stage and is now sold out and settled while the second stage will start construction early in the new year."

The second project is 34 Tallawong Road and the third project is a large-scale master planned community in Leppington.

For further information on CDMA visit [cdmaustralia.com.au](http://cdmaustralia.com.au) or call 1300 828 803.

## Riverside GARDENS



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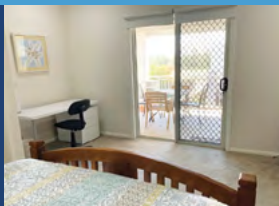
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*Merry Christmas  
to everyone*  
from Riverside Gardens

## FATAL CRASH

A crash at Agnes Banks on Monday December 13th claimed the life of a driver and left a 10-year-old boy, a passenger in his car, critically injured. The driver of the second car was seriously injured.

Emergency services were called to the Castlereagh Rd, Agnes Banks at 3.50pm on Monday afternoon following reports a Holden Commodore and a Nissan utility with a trailer had collided.

Police say that the driver of the Holden – a man believed to be aged in his 40s – died at the scene. The sole passenger of the Holden – a 10-year-old boy – was taken to Westmead Hospital in a critical condition. The driver and sole occupant of the Nissan – a man believed to be in his 20s – was also taken to Westmead Hospital in a serious condition.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage is urged to contact police immediately. A report will now be prepared for the information of the Coroner.

An hour later emergency services were called to the scene of a multi-vehicle crash near Richmond following reports that two cars and two trucks had collided on Richmond Road, between Llandilo and The Northern Roads at Berkshire Park.

Police say that the male driver of one truck was trapped; before being freed by police, Fire & Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance paramedics. He was taken to hospital for treatment. A woman was transported to Westmead Hospital for treatment. Officers attached to Hawkesbury and Nepean Police Area Commands are investigating the circumstances.

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

## RUNAWAY CAR

A teenager sustained head, chest and suspected spinal injuries when his broken-down vehicle rolled over him at the intersection of Bali Drive and Hambledon Road, Quakers Hill on Wednesday, December 8th.

The Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter was tasked shortly before 10am and landed 15 minutes later in a nearby oval.

NSW Police escorted CareFlight's medical team to the scene of the incident where NSW Ambulance paramedics were providing initial treatment for the patient.

CareFlight's specialist doctor and NSW Ambulance critical care paramedic conducted a clinical assessment on the patient, which included an ultrasound and administering pain relief, while undertaking spinal precautions.

CareFlight's medical team provided ongoing observation for the patient as he was taken by road with NSW Ambulance in a stable condition to Westmead Hospital.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGE

A 35-year-old Castle Hill man will face court on Thursday (December 16th 2021) charged over the alleged sexual assault of an 18-year-old woman in Castle Hill. On Thursday 25 November 2021, officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command commenced an investigation into a report of aggravated sexual assault.

Police were told an 18-year-old woman had allegedly been followed by a vehicle on her walk home about 2am on Sunday, November 21st, 2021, before the driver stopped on Cecil Avenue, Castle Hill, and sexually assaulted her.

Following extensive inquiries and assistance from State Crime Command's Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Squad, police attended an address at Castle Hill and arrested a 35-year-old man on Wednesday, December 15th.



During a subsequent search, police seized a firearm and prohibited drugs, as well as other items relevant to the investigation.

The man was taken to Castle Hill Police Station and charged with aggravated sexual assault and possess unauthorised firearm.

## \$1MILLION REWARD

A \$1 million reward has been announced for information into the 2020 death of 86-year-old Cherrybrook man, Kalim Saliba following a home invasion.

Emergency services were called to a house on Tallowood Avenue, Cherrybrook, just before 12.30am on Wednesday, April 29th 2020, following reports two men had forced entry to the home.

Police attended and found an 86-year-old man and 83-year-old woman, with serious head injuries. They were treated at the scene before being taken to Westmead Hospital where the man, Kalim Saliba, later died.

A \$1 million NSW Government reward for information which leads to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons responsible for Kalim's death was announced on Monday, December 6th.

Homicide Squad Commander, Detective Superintendent Danny Doherty, said Strike Force McCleery detectives are seeking new information from the public and continue to explore several lines of inquiry.

"Please know that any information given to investigators is treated with strict confidence, that it will help provide some answers to a heartbroken family, and that you may be compensated, should it lead to a conviction," he said.

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

## NEW COPS ON THE BEAT

There are new faces on the beat as probationary constables from Class 350 commenced duties last week (December 6th).

Hawkesbury Police Area Command has two new faces, The Hills PAC 3 and Riverstone PAC 3 new probationary constables.

They will complete a year of on-the-job training and the Associate Degree in Policing Practice by distance education with Charles Sturt University before being confirmed to the rank of constable.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott congratulated the new recruits on the beginning of a career dedicated to keeping the people of NSW safe.

"As police officers, you play a crucial role in our communities – often seeing the best and worst of people, but always upholding the law, and serving and protecting the people of this state," Mr Elliott said.

"I wish you well as you step up to your new role as Probationary Constable and thank you for choosing a career in policing. The NSW Government is behind you, and I wish you all a long and successful career."

NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller welcomed those attesting to the NSW Police Force and said the 218 recruits were joining at a unique time in the state's history.



In a life threatening emergency dial 000





## AWARDS FOR ST JOHN VOLUNTEERS

By BEV JORDAN

Fiona Briggs was on holiday on the South Coast of NSW at the beginning of 2020 when the Hills Division St John Ambulance volunteer put on her uniform and spent over a week providing First Aid at the Cobargo bushfire relief centre.

Fellow Hills volunteer, Damian Orts, was deployed to Narooma on January 1 and spent a week helping hundreds of traumatised residents during the bushfires. Road closures meant it took two days for him to get back home. Both were presented with National Emergency Service medals by Emergency Services Minister David Elliott at a special ceremony last week.

Damien was deployed to Narooma as part of a team of four volunteers prepared to provide support for approximately 800 evacuees.

"On arrival we learnt from the RFS that the wind changed and more people would be arriving at the end of the second day 1500 evacuees signed up at the evacuation centre."

By the third day a second venue was utilised as the overflow was full. There was no power or mobile reception for the first five days and a shortage of all kinds of medications.

"Luckily we took in with us enough supplies to cover all needs until the roads opened again," said Damian. "We not only provided first aid and support to evacuees and firefighters, but also provided mental first aid to those who experienced loss of property and loved ones."

He had completed his Mental First Aid training certification just a few months before the deployment, and said it was a rewarding experience "to apply those skills and help people through their hardest times".

"I joined St John Ambulance to be able to continue developing and improving my health care skills while giving back to the community, but later, I've found that one of the greatest benefits of volunteering with St John is not just the friendship or professional and practical skills we learn when on training or on duties, but also warmth and emotions we feel with every experience," he said.

Fiona, a registered nurse, said: "I joined St John because I wanted to give back to the community. When the kids were young I volunteered in the sporting areas but when they grew up I thought what a great opportunity to give back in an area that I loved and that is nursing so here I am five years later and loving it."

The awards night was held at the Balcombe Heights Estate and saw 19 Hills Division St John Ambulance volunteers receive awards. Some received multiple awards including Damian who also received a Certificate of Appreciation for volunteering during this year's floods, a Grade VI Officer Warrant and the National Emergency Medal.

*Story continues on page 30*

## WEEKLY

**Monday 27 December 2021  
to Friday 7 January 2022**

**Free drop-off for residents  
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Facility for large cardboard  
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**Follow Council's Facebook  
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## RECYCLING



 **Hawkesbury  
City Council**



# ELECTION RESULTS

By **BEV JORDAN**

*Final results from the Local Government Elections will be officially declared next week as postal votes continue to be counted and preferences allocated as there are still a few seats to be decided.*

In the **Hawkesbury LGA** 48,349 voters had a choice of 79 candidates for 12 seats with eight Independent Groups and one ungrouped Independent standing against the major parties.

Former councillor for 20 years **Les Sheather** (Independent) from Ebenezer collected a seat after his Independent group polled 7.3% of the vote and The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (7.1%) picked up a seat with **Shane Djuric** from Pitt Town elected.

The Liberal Group picked up the biggest portion of votes with 34.7% of those counted. Liberal councillors to return are: **Sarah Richards** and **Patrick Conolly** who will be joined by **Paul Veigel** and **Jill Reardon**. Sitting Independent councillors voted back are: **Nathan Zamprogno** (8.3%) and **Mary Lyons-Bucket** (9.8%). Labor picked up 12.1% of the vote returning **Barry Calvert** to council and The Greens (7.2%) will see **Danielle Wheeler** returned to council.

Two seats are still undecided. The Mayor is elected by the councillors.

In **The Hills LGA** one seat is still undecided.

There was a swing against the Liberals but the party secured 60.4% of the vote across the four wards securing eight of the 12 seats on The Hills Shire Council. Liberal candidate for Mayor **Peter Gangemi** was also elected (see separate story).

Labor gained a seat on the three wards it stood candidates in with sitting councillors **Ryan Tracey** returning for East Ward and **Tony Hay** returning for Central Ward. Former Labor councillor **Barbara Burton** gained a seat on council to represent West Ward.

The eight Liberal councillors are: sitting councillors **Frank De Masi** (West Ward) and **Reena Jethi** (East Ward), **Jerome Cox** (East), **Jessica Brazier** and **Mark Hodges** (Central); **Rosemarie Boneham** (West) and **Virginia Ellis** and **Mitchell Blue** (North).

The undecided seat is in North Ward where the seat could go to either the Liberal's **Rory O'Connor** or Dr **Mila Kasby** from The Greens.

## HILLS NEW MAYOR PETER GANGEMI

**The Hills Shire's new Mayor after gaining 53.5% of the vote.**

The 36-year-old has represented North Ward since 2012 and has been a Liberal Party member for 15 years.

A senior acoustic engineer, he and wife Nicole live in Box Hill with their young son.

In a statement he said: "It is an incredible honour to have been elected as the Mayor of The Hills Shire Council.

"The Hills is the greatest part of the world and myself and the Liberal team are so thankful to have this opportunity to serve you in the upcoming term of Council. In this campaign we listened to you about your vision for The Hills community and we stand ready to fight for your cause. The Hills Liberal team stands for strong financial management, engaging the community, maintaining the character of The Hills, pushing back against overdevelopment, fast tracking road and intersection upgrades, rolling out parks and sports fields, upgrading playgrounds and community facilities, supporting our rural areas and helping local businesses."



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## GET SET FOR BUSHFIRES

Living in the Hills District means living 'Bushfire Ready'. One local company **Aussie Pump Industries** has released an updated **Bushfire Survival Guide** to assist residents prepare for the fire season.

The guide not only covers basic home preparation but includes detailed information for those looking to actively protect their properties. It assists with pump selection and setting up a reticulation system with sprinklers to defend buildings. That 'halo' protection around the house can be a lifesaver!

"While we all hope for the best, we should prepare to the worst," said Aussie Pumps **Brad Farrugia**. "We live in the beautiful Urban Interface and should be prepared for bushfires well before there's smoke on the horizon."

The new issue includes preparation checklists, as well as tips for livestock and horse protection. There are even links to videos of fire pump installations to show what is possible.

Copies of the Aussie Bushfire Survival Guide are available from Aussie Pump distributors or on their website [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au).



Local Hills resident **Anne Wilde** checks out the Aussie Bushfire Survival Guide.



# The Ponds Village



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





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

*Because we care*



# ACTS OF KINDNESS

By BEV JORDAN

*This Christmas CHRg (Castle Hill RSL Group) is urging visitors and guests to consider a random Act of Kindness to someone they don't know and drop a gift into one of the special wishing wells.*

To start the ball rolling CHRg has partnered with Event Cinemas to provide Foster Care Angels Incorporated with \$13,750-worth of "Movie Experience" vouchers to distribute to foster children and families across the Hills, Hawkesbury and Parramatta local council areas.

Andy Abey, CHRg Head of Corporate Affairs said: "Our Christmas donation will see 150 vulnerable families across our three local council areas receive tickets to a movie of their choice, along with candy bar vouchers to complete the experience"

There are Acts of Kindness Wishing Wells at Castle Hill RSL, Club Parramatta and Lynwood Golf and Country Club for people to leave a donation of their own.

"We are collecting new and packaged children's toys, school supplies, and vouchers for fun family experiences. Think vouchers for Bowling, Laser Tag, Rock Climbing, the Zoo, or even a voucher to a local restaurant or cafe. Any family-friendly activity would be an amazing gift to share," she said.

The wishing wells will be at the venues until mid January to accept donations after the Christmas rush has eased.

"It's important we all support local families doing it tough, not only during Christmas, but into the New Year and beyond, said Andy.

All vouchers and gifts received will be distributed to Foster Care Angels Incorporated as well as CHRg's the Domestic Violence Prevention Partners, The Sanctuary\_ The Hills

Women's Shelter, Lisa Harnum Foundation and Youth Resolutions.

Wendy Bennett from Foster Care Angels said they were very grateful for the generous donation. "A lot of foster families have been struggling during the lockdown," she said. "They tend to be the larger families with their biological children as well as foster children. These vouchers will allow them to take their children out for a treat ... something they can't normally afford."

Foster Care Angels was established 10 years ago to help children in foster care and has a data-base of just over 200 families which it has helped over the years through various programs it runs.

"We look for gaps and try to fill gaps," said Wendy. "At the moment we are supporting children transitioning to adulthood. For a lot of foster kids when they reach 18 they are classed as an adult and foster care funding stops. The statistical outcomes are "really quite poor" for foster children leaving the system. 35% are homeless, 65% don't finish school and 50% of males are in juvenile justice. They are at such a big disadvantage. Foster Care Angels has a pilot program called, The Launch Pad for foster children over 18. We support them until their 25th birthday with long-term subsidised rental accommodation and life skill support."

So far six young women have been supported including one who is now at university studying social work. Foster Care Angels also has an online app for good mental health aimed at over 13s. For more details visit the website [fostercareangels.org.au](http://fostercareangels.org.au)



RICK CUMMING Director CHRg and LISA WEST State Marketing Manager Event Cinemas with WENDY BENNETT Vice President Foster Care Angels

## ACTS OF *Christmas* KINDNESS

Help us spread kindness and joy to children and families this Christmas. CHRg is collecting vouchers and gifts for Foster Care Angels and our Domestic Violence Prevention Partners.

We are able to accept experience/activity vouchers, Woolworths, Coles or Aldi vouchers, new packaged toys for children of all ages, new packaged stationery and school supplies.

**PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE WISHING WELLS LOCATED IN OUR FOYERS AT CASTLE HILL RSL CLUB, CLUB PARRAMATTA AND LYNWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB BEFORE 19TH DECEMBER.**



[chrg.com.au](http://chrg.com.au)





## GLENWOOD HIGH UPGRADE

A State Significant Development (SSD) application has been lodged with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for a major upgrade to Glenwood High School.

The redeveloped school will deliver a new three storey building which will include 47 learning spaces, the refurbishment of the ground floors of Buildings A and D, and the refurbishment of Buildings E and J, as well as landscaping throughout the school.

Riverstone MP, Kevin Conolly said the upgraded school will deliver modern resources for the growing student population.

"Our schools are the centre of our communities and we want our children to have the best education possible. Providing high-quality school facilities is a key part of that," he said.

Minister for Education Sarah Mitchell said the upgraded high school will deliver modern resources to local students now and into the future.

The community can also visit the Virtual Information Room by following the link on the School Infrastructure NSW project page: [www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/g/glenwood-high-school-upgrade.html](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/g/glenwood-high-school-upgrade.html)

## WRAPPING UP

Hills Relay For Life volunteers will be gift wrapping with style at a special gift wrapping station at Castle Towers.

There is a special gift wrapping "shop front" on Level 3 in the Food Court area.

Castle Towers have donated quality wrapping paper and ribbon so that all proceeds go to the Cancer Council.

Volunteers are at the stall every day during shopping hours until close of business on Christmas Eve.

Hills Relay For Life Patron Dr Michelle Byrne at the gift wrapping station with Volunteer Ruth Didsbury.



## FESTIVE BITES



## LET IT SNOW

*It will start snowing in Windsor on Saturday December 18th in the lead-up to the much-anticipated Light Up Windsor Festival.*

There will be a light projection display on the Deerubbin Centre and the Old Hawkesbury Hospital every night from December 18th through to Christmas Eve, 8pm to 10pm.

The main event will be on Wednesday, December 22nd with a giant Christmas market, lights, snow and so much more from 5pm to 9pm including illuminated hula hoopers and stilt walking elves.

With more than 50 stalls offering Christmas decorations, homewares, pet gifts, handmade jewellery and more, plus many of the Windsor Mall shops open for trading, it will be the perfect opportunity for a spot of last-minute Christmas shopping.

Local cafes and restaurants will also be open, alongside carnival food vendors. Santa and his special elf helper will be joining in the fun.

## JANUARY FUN

Hills Community Aid wants to make the January Holidays fun for all and are offering a range of affordable face to face and online workshops for children, youth, families and adults. Workshops include: Upcycling Workshops, Puppets, Mad Science, Bricks4Kidz, Creative Craft, Drawing, Canvas Painting, Buttercream Frosting, Origami, Family Yoga and Zumba Family Fun. More information and to purchase your tickets go to: [www.hca.org.au/whatson-old](http://www.hca.org.au/whatson-old)



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# COCO'S QR SANTA

*Santa checking in with a QR code on the roof of a home he is visiting has proved a winner for 11-year-old COCO MORRISBY.*

Her "COVIDSafe" artwork won the 2021 Hawkesbury Mayoral Christmas Card competition and was on the official Christmas Cards sent out by Mayor Patrick Conolly.

Coco, a Year 6 student at Cattai Public School said her thought that "even Santa needs to use a QR reader" was a reflection of everyone's life during the past year.

Coco said: "It took me two days to design the theme of my card.

"Not long really, as drawing and art are daily hobbies which I enjoy, along with Taekwondo and cycling. It was a huge surprise to win and I'll be treating my family to some of the goodies which are part of my prize".

Creativity runs in the family as her mum, Kat, is a hairdresser and her dad, Brad, won an art competition as a student, designing a book cover.

A spokesperson from Hawkesbury Council said the competition was open to all Hawkesbury children aged 5-16 years old.

"We are looking forward to this becoming a must-do activity for all Hawkesbury children over the next few years," she said.

Suzanne Stuart, Manager, council's Corporate Communications and Events said: "Coco's card was fun and colourful, and cleverly captured the unique Christmas we are celebrating this year."



Coco Morrisby with her winning design

# CHRISTMAS STAR

An impressive 3-D crafted Christmas tree image by 6-year-old Louis Zheng (Ni) is the winning design chosen for the official 2021 Christmas Cards sent out by Baulkham Hills MP David Elliott.

The MP presented a \$100 Castle Towers gift voucher to the Year 1 student at Matthew Pearce Public School, Baulkham Hills last week.

His wife Nicole Elliott judged the winner after 57 designs were received from students at seven local schools on the theme: The Christmas Star.

It is the 11th year that MP has run the competition to find the official Christmas Card design.



MP David Elliott with Louis Zheng



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## From our families to yours, have a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year.

We will be taking a break from  
Friday 24th December and returning  
on 11th January.

Thank you for your ongoing support this year,  
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## Breaking the myths around retirement living



For some, a retirement village offers the perfect blend of security, community and low-maintenance living. However, there's a few common myths about village life that we're here to clear up.

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### Retirement villages aren't good value for money.

Retirement villages are an affordable way to downsize from the family home and free up equity. Before moving in, we'll calculate the exact amount you can expect to pay before, during and after your stay. There'll be no unexpected fees or charges.

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)



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

After 40 years serving the community, The Hills Community Medical Equipment Pool needs volunteers if it is to continue operating.

The Hills Community Medical Equipment Pool (HCMEP) is a registered charity that supports the community with short-term loans of mobility aids (such as crutches, wheelchairs, push walkers and shower stools) at very low cost.

President John Goulding said: "HCMEP was launched on the May 30th 1981 and remains completely staffed by volunteers. Due to this fact and to donations received, it has never increased prices. Given that the organisation has been serving the community for forty years many of the volunteers are now aged 70 and over. Despite their continued commitment to the HCMEP and the community, without an intake of new volunteers, the organisation faces the difficult decision to permanently close its doors within the next 6-12 months."

Successful team members will have basic computer skills, compassion and good communication skills. On the job training is provided. Minimum commitment is one hour per week. HCMEP is located in the Balcombe Heights Estate on Seven Hills Road, at Baulkham Hills and is open Mondays to Saturdays between 9.30am and 10.30am and also on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 5pm and 6pm. Volunteers typically work in teams of two to three during those hours.

Staff meetings are held every six weeks at 10.30am on a Saturday. Visit the website [www.hcmep.org.au](http://www.hcmep.org.au) for further details and call **(02) 9686 1878** or email [info@hcmep.org.au](mailto:info@hcmep.org.au) if you would like to join the team.

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# MULPHA MENTORING

*The Norwest Mentoring Program continues to thrive despite the disruption of the past two years, fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation, and lifelong learning.*



Now in its third year, the program aims to build the Norwest community and connect local business leaders with a new generation of employees and entrepreneurs.

Numerous professionals and business owners in Norwest have signed up to the mentoring program from areas spanning information technology, healthcare, management consulting, property investment, leadership coaching, customer services, marketing and advertising. Some mentors have found it so rewarding they have returned to participate the next year.

Mulpha introduced the mentoring program in 2018 to bring together suitable mentors and mentees and provide a structured framework to ensure a sharing of knowledge for both parties.

In the 2021 program, Irene Mafara, a Chartered Accountant who works in the education sector, was teamed up with mentor Greg Robinson whose expertise is in information technology. Greg's background includes service delivery, strategic selling and organisational transformation for government, utilities, and education.

Irene's aspirations were to continue her career in finance, but at the same time launch

a start-up business that would foster financial literacy in her extended community.

"My mentoring experience has been amazing. Greg has been a great anchor for me as I have mapped out my future career. I have moved to a new job that aligns with my values, beliefs and vision for the next generation and Greg was instrumental in that process," she said.

Greg Robinson became involved in the mentoring program after attending a Mulpha sponsored community meeting regarding the Smart City Business and Innovation Hub.

"The best business leaders provide encouragement, guidance and direction to colleagues including staff, customers and other stakeholders. This is mentoring. These same leaders have mentors. Understanding mentoring and adopting this approach in the workplace and at home has a positive influence and achieves better results," said Greg. "The advantage of an organised program is structure. The Norwest Mentoring Program provides support and makes you realise the positive influence you are having and the positive impact the mentee is having on you. I learned something new in each meeting and I'm sure Irene did as well."

Mulpha Head of Developments, Tim Spencer said: "Fostering lifelong learning is the key to driving business innovation and creating the vibrant entrepreneurial economy of the future."

"It all starts with people and this program is designed to tap into Norwest's most valuable resource, the quality of our people. Norwest already has the key attributes for an innovative workplace culture as we have a high proportion of university educated people and a growing number of small-to-medium business start-ups, with over 800 great businesses employing over 30,000 people. If we can harness that expertise and energy, the future of Norwest as an economic hub is very bright indeed. As a manager and developer, it's not just about having the physical infrastructure to support the economy and jobs of the future, it's about creating a social and business culture to drive innovation."

Mulpha has partnered with Sydney Hills Business Chamber for 2022's Norwest Mentoring Program. To be involved in next year's program, which will run from March to October 2022, visit [norwestcity.com.au/community/Norwest-mentoring-program](http://norwestcity.com.au/community/Norwest-mentoring-program).

## 100 ACTS OF KINDNESS

By BEV RICHARDSON

*2021 has been a year of significance to Soroptimists around the world as we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*



Soroptimist International started as a women's protest movement in North America to advocate for the preservation of the large redwood trees in California threatened by loggers and went on to evolve into the modern organization it has become over the years.

Soroptimist International advocates for improvement in the lives of women and girls around the world through education, empowerment and enabling, with a seat at the table of the United Nations.

As part of the celebrations members of Soroptimist International of The Hills took part in the '100 Acts of Kindness' initiative undertaken by Soroptimists around the world.



Members donated luxury items, everyday necessities and gift vouchers to include in pamper packs for women in the community experiencing difficulties in their home lives and also gift vouchers for a number of children also affected. The kindness initiative was done in partnership with Hills Community Aid. We also worked with The Hills Shire Council to be a part of the re-vamped Roxborough Park Rose Garden at Baulkham Hills with a special planting of a rose bed to mark 100 years of Soroptimist International.

Ten Little Sunset rose plants are part of the new Rose Garden and Commemoration Plaque was installed in the garden next to the arbor by Dr Michelle Byrne in one of her last official roles as The Hills Shire Mayor.

Members of Soroptimist International of The Hills held a Dedication ceremony.

Soroptimist International The Hills meets on the third Monday of the month. Visitors are always welcome. For details email [sithehills@siwp.org](mailto:sithehills@siwp.org)



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# The Hills Shire Council News

## Shakespeare in the Park

Sport for Jove Theatre Company returns to Bella Vista Farm for their much anticipated summer season that will run from December 11-30.

This will be the first time audiences will have the opportunity to see a live performance at one of The Hills Shire Council venues since the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

The company will be performing their adaptation of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, *As You Like It*, underneath the stars, and amongst the venue's historic buildings and rolling parklands.

Sport for Jove's director Damien Ryan said he is happy to be back at the Farm.

"It's an incredible place to host a play, so bring your picnics, bring your friends and join us in the Forest of Arden," Ryan said of his production.

The Baulkham Hills local also encouraged residents to support the arts – one of the hardest hit sectors impacted by the pandemic.

"The pandemic has been unbelievably difficult and the arts has really taken a hit. If you can, get out this summer and see your favourite theatre companies. Actors, musicians, playwrights and story tellers cannot wait to see you again and commune with you," he added.

To get tickets to Sport for Jove's performance of *As You Like It* at Bella Vista Farm, visit [www.sportforjove.com.au](http://www.sportforjove.com.au)



## Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Hynds Road, Box Hill

In accordance with Section 115 of the Roads Act 1993, it is intended to temporarily close Hynds Road, Box Hill between Pitor Street and Terry Road for a period of approximately eight weeks commencing on 10 January 2022.

The purpose of the closure is to allow the construction of road works in conjunction with an adjoining subdivision at No.47 Hynds Road.

Residents, school and route bus services in the area will not be affected by the closure.

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

## Report it to Council

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## The Hills Shire Council's Christmas Opening Hours

With the festive season just around the corner, The Hills Shire Council has approved its Christmas and New Years operating hours for its facilities.

Council's Administration Centre, located at 3 Columbia Court, in Norwest, will close at 1pm on Friday, December 24 at 1pm and will resume operations at 8.30am on Tuesday, 4 January 2022.

Residents can contact the After Hours Call Centre if they are seeking urgent assistance during the temporary shutdown period.

The four Hills Shire Library Service branches (Castle Hill, Rouse Hill, Dural and Baulkham Hills) will close from 1pm on Friday, December 24. Vinegar Hill Memorial Library at Rouse Hill Town Centre and Castle Hill Library will reopen from Wednesday, December 29 at reduced holiday hours and will shut on the New Year's Day public holidays on Saturday, January 1 and Monday, January 3.

All Hills Shire Library branches will re-open at normal hours from Tuesday, January 4. Please check The Hills Shire Library Service website ([www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/library)) for exact operating hours.

All of Council's Child Care Centres will also be closed from Thursday, 23 December, and will re-open on Tuesday, 11 January 2022. And Hills Community Care will operate until 4.30pm on Friday, December 24 and will resume duties on Tuesday, January 4.

Waste collection services will also continue as normal during the Christmas holiday period. Residents are reminded to leave their wheelie bins out as normal, even if the scheduled rubbish collection day falls on a public holiday, like Christmas Day.

For more information on Council operations and services available over the holiday period, visit The Hills Shire Council website, [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Council operations.'

## Sing along with Christmas Carollers

Roving Christmas carollers from Blackout Theatre will treat residents to holiday tunes throughout December at various locations in The Hills.

For more information about when and where the carollers will be performing, visit the Hills Shire Council's website and search for 'Illuminate the Hills.'



## Making a Submission to Council?

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



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# HARDY'S PUBLIC EYE By BEV JORDAN

*Davo Hardy spent most of 2021 at home in Bella Vista producing and directing his feature film **Public Eye**, with the assistance of local technical and creative talents.*

He was fortunate in that the brief period between lockdowns "fitted perfectly" with the shooting schedule, which is remarkable, considering the cast and crew consists of over 50 people.

The R-rated film is about a children's entertainer, Elliott Sinclair, who posts NSFW (Not Safe For Work) footage on social media which then circulates widely.

The dark comedy drama follows his fall from grace and his eventual redemption.

Hardy studied Film Production at the International Film School of Sydney (now known as The Academy of Film, Theatre and Television) and made his first film seven years ago, aged 25, after working in a completely different industry.

"I was working in Disability Support Services, but it wasn't what I ultimately wanted to do," he said. "Most of my peers were getting married, having kids ... and I thought I should get back into film making and make a couple of shorts. From the moment I did that I hit the ground running and haven't stopped since."

Hardy, who is fluent in Auslan sign language, is well known for his screenplays which include profoundly deaf characters such as *A Silent Agreement* (2017) starring Paul Mercurio which was the first feature film made in Australia to showcase Auslan sign language and an LGBT romance involving a profoundly deaf character.

Hardy learned Auslan in his teens to manoeuvre around a severe stammer.

A lecturer advised him to seek another vocation, as one could not expect to be a film director and have a stammer. "I was filled with that wonderfully potent 'I'll show you' energy," says Hardy.

*Public Eye* is his fifth film. Hardy not only wrote, produced and directed it, he plays the main role of Elliott. "I was writing it in the first wave of COVID in March/April/May 2020," he said. "In October 2020 I had a table read with actor friends to hear the words aloud. They connected with the characters so readily, that most of them actually appear in the finished product, which is very gratifying. We went into 2021 thinking, if we can make it – we will. And there was a period between March and June that we could, fortunately."

It's a difficult subject to cover but one that Hardy says was prompted by seeing the excessive use of social media in the entertainment industry and the need to be "seen".

"Seeing the words spelled out 'to be successful, you MUST have and maintain a profile on every social media platform' was disheartening," he said. "The people in my industry seem to need to have an open door to their lives, as if nothing really happens unless it's documented and validated with emojis."

*Public Eye* screens at the Palace Chauvel Cinema at 249 Oxford Street, Paddington on January 8th/15th/22nd and 29th with a special Q and A session on February 19th.

Tickets are \$30 through Eventbrite only. [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/public-eye-palace-chauvel-cinema-screenings-tickets-206131784717?ref=estw](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/public-eye-palace-chauvel-cinema-screenings-tickets-206131784717?ref=estw)



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## GETTING CREATIVE

Have you used your 2021 NSW Government's Creative Kids program grant yet? Time is running out if you haven't as they have to be used by the end of the year.

Parents, guardians and carers can apply for a voucher with a value of up to \$100 per calendar year for each student aged 4.5 to 18 years old enrolled in school.

The voucher may be used with a registered activity provider for registration, participation and tuition costs for a range of creative activities, including arts, drama, dance, digital design, coding, and music lessons. The voucher can be used at any time during the calendar year it was issued.

If you're a parent, carer or guardian, the student will be eligible if they are:

- a NSW resident
- aged between 4.5 and 18 years
- enrolled in school (from Kindergarten to Year 12, including those who are home-schooled or enrolled in secondary school education at TAFE NSW)
- a current Medicare card holder.

You can apply for a voucher for each eligible student. You can use the voucher for registration, participation and tuition costs with approved Creative Kids providers. What you need is a MyServiceNSW account and one proof of identity document for the parent, carer or guardian.

# THE BOY FROM OZ

*Blackout Theatre is bringing one of the most successful musicals of all time, The Boy From Oz to the Pioneer Theatre in Castle Hill in January.*

The jukebox musical tells the life story of singer and songwriter Peter Allen through song and dance, especially songs written by the beloved Aussie performer.

President of Blackout Theatre John Hanna said the cast and crew were "ecstatic" to return to the Pioneer Theatre after their production was postponed not once, but twice due to COVID-19.

"With so much uncertainty surrounding ongoing restrictions, we rehearsed for three months via Zoom and were ecstatic to resume

in person rehearsals in October 2021," Hanna said of the upbeat musical. The cast, production team and crew can't wait to return to the Pioneer Theatre stage in January and kick-off our 2022 season with this classic Australian show that has delighted audiences all around the world for over 20 years," Hanna added.

*The Boy From Oz* will be at the Pioneer Theatre from January 13 to 16. Tickets are available at: [www.pioneertheatre.com.au/Events-directory/The-Boy-from-Oz](http://www.pioneertheatre.com.au/Events-directory/The-Boy-from-Oz)

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# BELLA VISTA FARM TAKES A BREAK

By GISELA HORNER | Volunteer, Bella Vista Farm

The Friends of Bella Vista would like to thank all our visitors for their support during this past year. Although it has been a very difficult time for so many, Bella Vista has thrived thanks to the dedication of its volunteers.

On Sunday, December 5th, we welcomed visitors and although it was an overcast day, it was well attended and supported.

The orchestral groups played popular tunes and a bell-like vocalist sang carols during the morning, creating an atmosphere of great happiness throughout the grounds. It felt like we were back to normal!

The newly painted homestead looked magnificent and the abundant gardens added charm with the heritage roses in full bloom.

Bella Vista Farm would like to thank Bev Jordan, Senior Journalist, at the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*, for publishing the stories I write each month.

Bella Vista Farm also thanks Dr Michelle Byrne for her interest, passion and enthusiasm in supporting us. She has done a great job as Mayor of Hills Shire, serving the community on the Council with dedication beginning in 2008.

We wish Michelle well in her future endeavours. **There will be plenty to see and do at Bella Vista Farm in 2022.** All of us at Bella Vista Farm wish you a safe, healthy and happy festive season and we look forward to welcoming you again. The house will open its gates on Sunday, March 6th 2022 (9am to 2pm).

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A BRIGHT NEW YEAR

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# KEEPING PETS HAPPY

By **RYAN FLOYD** | HAWKESBURY COMPANION ANIMAL SHELTER

*As the Christmas season approaches, and our minds turn to holidays, summer weather and celebrations, it is important that we make plans that involve our pets.*

In the hot weather, with their fur or feather coats, they can quickly overheat. Make sure you leave them somewhere with plenty of shade and access to plenty of water. Check the weather ahead of time – if you suspect that the weather is going to be extreme, please make arrangements for your pets to be taken care of somewhere cool.

If you see any of the following symptoms – change in gum colour (bright red or pale), drooling, dizziness or disorientation, dullness and collapse, increased heart and respiratory rate, vomiting and/or diarrhoea, muscle tremors, and seizures – your pet may have heat stress. Please seek veterinary assistance immediately.

If you are away during the day, make sure you leave your pets with plenty of things to keep them occupied. Dogs love snuffle mats, treat balls and scavenger hunts. Even something as simple as cardboard boxes will keep your kitty entertained.

If your pet has toys, make sure you rotate which ones are available to keep things interesting.

Pets can also be very sensitive to loud noises or flashing lights, such as thunderstorms or fireworks. If they are:

- Give your pet a safe place they can retreat to if they feel scared. It could be something as simple as a corner, or a kennel with blankets, with their favourite toys. Not only will they feel safe, it will help muffle the noise.

- Give them their favourite toys, play games with them, or give them some food or a treat. Turn on the radio or TV to help hide the sound.
- If you know ahead of time there will be fireworks, taking your pet out during the day for exercise can help them rest and sleep through the noise.
- Just being with your pet during a storm or fireworks can help them feel safe.
- Make sure your yard is secured, and that there isn't any way for your pet to leave the yard. Check ahead that there aren't any storms or fireworks planned while you are out.
- **Make sure the information on their microchip is up to date, and that your pet is wearing a collar with a tag with your contact details, just in case they escape while scared. That way, shelter staff can return them to you.**

**Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter is open these hours during the holiday break:**

- Dec 24th – 9am to 2pm
- Christmas Day – Closed
- Boxing Day, Sunday, Dec 26th – 7 to 9.30am
- Dec 27th and 28th – 7am to 9.30am
- Dec 29th – 9am to 12.30pm & 2pm to 4.30pm
- Dec 30th – 9am to 12.30pm & 2pm to 4.30pm
- Dec 31st – 9am to 2pm
- New Year's Day, January 1st 2022 – 9.30am to 11.30am
- January 2nd and 3rd – 7am to 9.30am
- Standard operating hours will be in effect all other days. Phone: 4560 4644

PETS

## FIRST AID FOR PETS

A new 3-hour virtual TAFE NSW course can give pet owners the skills to potentially save their animal's life in a medical emergency.

The TAFE Statement in First Aid for Pets online webinar, provides crucial tips in responding immediately to a sick or injured pet before taking it to a vet.

Local veterinarians have backed the course, saying just like in humans, a basic knowledge of animal first aid can be the difference between life and death.

TAFE NSW Head of Agribusiness Skills Team Rebecca Coventry said, "This course is designed to provide pet owners and people working in the industry with a range of skills that they can use on their pets when they're ill or emergencies arise.

"They'll learn how to correctly medicate a pet, apply ear and eye drops, how to look after diabetic animals, the correct way to restrain animals and how to administer CPR. Knowing how to act in those first few minutes when your pet is injured or unwell can be crucial, so it's important that all pet owners are educated correctly."

To find out more about this short course visit the TAFE NSW website [www.tafensw.edu.au/course/-/c/c/800-000541/TAFE-Statement-in-First-Aid-for-Pets](http://www.tafensw.edu.au/course/-/c/c/800-000541/TAFE-Statement-in-First-Aid-for-Pets)

## OLIVER'S VET CAMP ROLE

*OLIVER WHETTON is a 15-year-old with a big dream to be a vet.*

The Winston Hills resident will be taking part in his sixth Future Vet Kids Camp in January and has been invited to be the 2022 Ambassador.

He was nine years old when he took part in his first camp.

"I enrolled because I love animals and want to be a vet," he said. He is the proud owner of spotted python - Bindji; Chickens Blu, Millie, Misty, Luna and Cinnamon plus parrots Zazu, Zara and Peanut. Not surprisingly he wants to be an avian and exotics vet. "I love birds, reptiles and other exotics," he said.

He says the Future Vet Kids Camp gives him the opportunity to visit animal hospitals, zoos and rehabilitation facilities to find out how they care for the animals and the skills he has learned have helped him when caring for his injured chickens.

"The camp inspired me to become a vet even more than before. I am very excited to become a Future Vet Kids Camp Ambassador.

I want to encourage people and kids to take proper care of their pets and to raise awareness for wildlife conservation."

Future Vet Kids Camp will be running from January 10th to 14th and January 17th to 21st at Waverley College in Waverley. A Virtual Online Camp will run concurrently to the HQ Sydney Camp with the ability for kids to join the classroom virtually and participate with questions in real time.

The 5-day school holiday program is designed by veterinarians and run by vet twins Drs Audrey and Alison Shen from the Bondi Vet TV show and Aussie Mobile Vet. It caters to kids aged 9 to 16 years and encourages responsible pet ownership, the profession of veterinary medicine and a love and appreciation of all animals and their habitats.

Campers learn about different animal-related professions, genetic diseases, pet nutrition, exotic animals, surgery, animal rescue and wildlife conservation. Register your interest at [futurevetkidscamp.com](http://futurevetkidscamp.com).





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Conditions

\* Dental checks are 5 minute consults about teeth only.

\*\* As long as booking is made in December procedure can occur later.





# BRING A TOUCH OF PARADISE TO YOUR HOME BY ADDING PALM TREE

*Palms are perfect for adding a tropical look as well as cool shade to a garden or entertainment area. They have very lush attractive green foliage and with very little maintenance, can be a welcome addition to your garden.*

It is best to sort out the aspect and position where you may be planting a palm before going to the nursery. For taller palms which can take sun and exposed positions, you could select an Alexandra or Bangalow palm. They are not only tall, but have a clean smooth trunk and a graceful appearance as well as being quick growing. It is best to plant taller palms first to create an upper canopy before under filling with smaller plants.

Another excellent specimen palm is the Majestic palm. It has a beautiful shape and is highly ornamental and self cleaning. It could be planted alone as a central feature in a garden bed or alternatively used as a container plant for a patio whilst it is young. If you require smaller palms, there are many varieties available. Plant a parlour palm in a pot indoors or use it to fill in a shaded area underneath taller palms. The parlour

palm is very popular as it has attractive graceful fernlike leaves.

Another understory shade lover is the Lady palm or *Rhaphis excelsa*. It can grow from between one and three metres in height, is slow growing and extremely hardy even as an indoor plant. It is a multi stemmed palm and has a segmented leaf making it highly desirable. Finally, I can't finish without mentioning the ever so popular golden cane palm. It has a clumping habit with beautiful golden stems and grows in a sunny or a partly shaded position. This versatile palm is of medium height but remains much smaller if kept in a pot.

We have a huge selection of palms to choose from at Sydney's Plant Market so come and visit us and we will help you add a touch of paradise to your backyard today.



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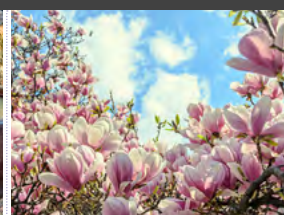
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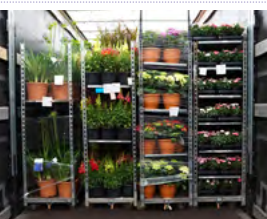
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Electorate Office: Suite 202 Rouse Hill Town Centre, 10-14 Market Lane, Rouse Hill NSW 2155  
Phone: (02) 8882-9555 Email: [castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au) Website: [www.raywilliamsmp.com.au](http://www.raywilliamsmp.com.au)



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

The start of each New Year is a time to reflect on the year just past, and make plans for the future. Given how challenging

2021 has been for us all, it feels especially important to express our hopes and dreams for better days ahead for us all.

*So Happy New Year Castle Hill!  
Wishing you a happy, safe and healthy 2022.*

## AUSTRALIA DAY – 26 JANUARY 2022

This Australia Day, the community is encouraged to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate our nation and our people – especially our strong sense of community as we work towards reconnecting. Australia Day 2022 is a time to recognise the resilience of all Australians and to focus on what we can achieve when we move forward as a community and a unified nation. Australia Day means

different things to different people and everyone is encouraged to acknowledge Australia Day in a way that's meaningful to them. Regardless of our origins or our past, 26th January is a day for Australians from all backgrounds and communities to come together to share stories, embrace our diversity, and celebrate our unity. If you see me at one of the local Australia Day activities, please come and say G'Day!

## FREE 2022 DIARY FOR SENIORS

The 2022 Legal Topics for Older Persons Diary is a great resource for seniors in our local community. The free diary is full of helpful tips and advice, including how to access the NSW Government's cost saving initiatives. The Diary can be ordered by emailing: [publications@legalaids.nsw.gov.au](mailto:publications@legalaids.nsw.gov.au) – or you can collect a copy from my office.



# CHRISTMAS: A TIME FOR HOPE AND LOVE

2021 continued to be impacted by COVID-19, locally, the Mitchell community has excelled during these difficult times over the past year. Thank you to the Hills community for your perseverance, sacrifice and good spirit you have shown to get through this period.

Christmas is a time when we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. A wonderful opportunity for families, friends and neighbours to come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and Australia's Christian heritage. Christmas is a time to be grateful for the blessings of peace and prosperity we enjoy as a nation.

Finally, on behalf of my family, Amelia, Jack, Lachlan, Thomas, Jonathan and I would like to wish you and your family a happy and holy Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Volunteers are an integral part of our society, especially during difficult times.

Thousands of volunteers in Mitchell contribute their skills, services, and time to make life better for those around them. I am pleased to announce \$136,178 funding has been approved across 34 local volunteer organisations in Mitchell under the 2021 Volunteer Grants.

These volunteer organisations, including Hills Community Aid, Scout groups, Lions Club of Crestwood, Riding for the Disabled - Tall Timbers, The Sanctuary – the Hills Womens Shelter, St John Ambulance – North Rocks Cadets, and a variety of Sports Clubs, have had a major impact on the ground for the community - both socially and economically.

Our volunteers are the backbone of community life and I thank them for their service and the essential role they have played in keeping our communities safe, resilient, and thriving.



## ALEX HAWKE MP

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[alexhawke.com.au](http://alexhawke.com.au)



[AlexHawkeMPMitchell](https://www.facebook.com/AlexHawkeMPMitchell)

Authorised by Alex Hawke MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 8/23 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154.



# MAGPIES' MAGIC WIN

By **LAWRENCE MACHADO**

For a club still in its infancy, sharing the prestigious Panthers Juniors Club of the Year title is a phenomenal achievement for the North West Magpies JRLC. The award was shared with Colyton Colts, and St Marys JRL.

Formed in 2018 by five passionate parents Angela Jones, Melinda Cooper, Ben Nash, Anthony Magann and Darrin Rawlings, the Magpies have grown from five teams to more than 20, with "enjoyment for all" being their motto.

The Magpies draw players from the North West Corridor, including the Hills and the Hawkesbury, and train pre-season at 332 Windsor Road, Vineyard, while their home ground from April is Tamplin Fields, Hobartville.

President Darrin Rawlings said they wanted their players to be treated equally regardless of their abilities or budgets. Thanks to local businesses, and parents, the club is proudly forging its own destiny, and ensuring there is a close family connection, and that all players enjoy the game.

"It is fantastic to share this award, because both Colyton, and St Marys

are well established and it validates what we are doing at the club," Rawlings said. "In addition to the five founders, there are many great people backing the club.

"We feel we are tracking the right way, and the award means we are doing something right. Of course, there are things on which we can improve.

"The previous club we were attached to, were mainly focused on the higher levels, but we wanted every kid to have an equal chance. We have never turned away a kid. We started with the Under 6s, 7s, 9s and 13s, and now we have up to Under 20s in the Panthers Junior League."

Like the other founders, Rawlings wanted his sons, John, and Matt, to learn and play rugby league the proper way, and also appreciate how important families are to them.

"Running the club is challenging at times, but very rewarding in the end,"



North West Magpies Under 6s and 16s players with club officials.

Rawlings said. "We are a not-for-profit club, and keep enough money for the uniforms, and the special events like Mother's Day and Grandparents Day."

The Magpies also owe their successes to seasoned coaches in Wayne Brennan (who played with the legendary Peter Stirling), Colin Murphy, and Barrie Jones, the junior development coach.

The Panthers JL is regarded as the world's largest rugby league district with more than 8000 players. The Panthers Junior Club title is awarded to a club or clubs where the entire membership has contributed to fostering participation and enjoyment for all participants and ... representation of their teams on and off the field.

Details: [www.northwestmagpies.com](http://www.northwestmagpies.com)

## OASIS FOR YOUNG AT HEART

Who said football is only a sport for the young? Take the rising popularity of OASIS, which caters to the passionate over 60s footballers, who still love playing, and most importantly having fun, while making friends.

Last weekend, OASIS (Older And Still Into Soccer) held their first over 60s gala day, hosted by the Hillsbillies team at Ted Horwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills.

OASIS president and Hillsbillies manager, Keith Pierce said the winner was football with Alive N Kicking, Balmain FC, Canberra Old Boys, Hillsbillies, Northern Beaches and South Coast Rhinos competing in the 11-a-side format over 40 minutes on a full length field. Each team played five games,

"The aim is to bring over 60 teams together more regularly to play up to once a month and each team/region can host

these weekend gala games," Pierce said.

"We had competitors (aged) from 58-82 years at this event, we allow a few under age players but many are in their 70s and a couple of 80s."

Hills star Terry Minton 79, the oldest registered player in Australia, took part though the oldest on the day were sprightly 82-year-olds, Jimmy Morland and Eric Anderson.

The Hillsbillies started in July 2020 after Baulko FC played in the Australian Masters Adelaide in 2019.

"We needed more players, so the Hills Association promoted us as the Hills over 60 rep teams," Pierce, 68, explained. "We have 35 players on our books but many more from the Hills want to join now that Covid is easing."

"OASIS has been formed to give regular games for players over 60 years, and

there are many players that currently get together for a kickaround.

"To play proper over 60 matches, they only have the annual Masters Games in Australia or the World Masters every four years."

He said OASIS has banded together 15 teams from across Australia, including Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, and Tasmania, in addition to NSW sides from Newcastle, South Coast, and nine groups from around Sydney.

"We aim to look for other teams to join us in the future," Pierce said. "The reason is to keep them playing."

Pierce said OASIS is sending teams for the Australian Masters in Perth in April 2022, and the Pan Pacific Masters at the Gold Coast in November 2022. They also plan to attend the World Masters Game in Osaka, Japan, in 2023. He said it will be great if Hillsbillies players can represent the Hills at the pinnacle of Masters' football.

The Hillsbillies are also thinking of fielding an over 65s side, and are keen to gauge interest for an over 50s ladies team too. OASIS is looking at putting an over 70s team together for Japan.

Details: To join OASIS, visit [oasismf60.com.au](http://oasismf60.com.au); To join the Hillsbillies, contact [hillsbillies60s@gmail.com](mailto:hillsbillies60s@gmail.com)

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# Christmas

## THE SILLY SEASON

By Ivor Jones



"Bring a plate along" is often said to people when inviting them to a Christmas function, however when said the first time to someone born overseas it can be confusing. They may think that you are short on crockery and to help out if you bring a plate along it would ensure that everyone would have a plate from which to eat. Christmas in Australia can be confusing to many from other lands. In the Northern Hemisphere it is winter in December and naturally hot dishes would be served whereas here in the Southern Hemisphere it is mid-summer and whilst one would perhaps murder a cold ale and also cold dishes that is not always the case.

A lot of Northern Europeans holidaying down-under go to Bondi Beach to get sand between their toes and perhaps share a cold Barbecued chicken and salad whilst a lot of Aussies sit down to a hot roast turkey with cranberry sauce, roast potatoes or maybe a Barbecue with an Eskey full of the drink of their choice.

In this article I want to take a look at Christmas as celebrated by various cultures around the world. The name Christmas would indicate that it is a Christian celebration celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas celebrations start at different times in many countries. Most nations have celebrations that are common to all. Many of these traditions started in the 1800s in Germany but there are

also some local traditions which may have been started by some enterprising individuals and have been adopted by their neighbours or others.

In Norway, the Christmas season, called julebord, begins Dec. 3, filling up local bars and restaurants throughout the month. Families celebrate Little Christmas on Dec. 23; each have their own ritual for the day that may include decorating the tree, making a gingerbread house, and eating risengrynsgrot (hot rice pudding).

In Wales, one of the oldest Welsh Christmas traditions, Plygain, is still celebrated today. In history, the earliest known recording of a Plygain service is from the 13th Century.

People would gather together in rural churches where men belt out their favourite Welsh carols into the early morning.

Another Welsh tradition is that of Mari Lwyd. It involves decorating the skull of a horse and wearing it above your head. The earliest documented occurrence of Mari Lwyd was in the 17th Century.

Groups of men come together to follow a makeshift hobby horse around the town. The Mari Lwyd Welsh Christmas horse would be carried by the 'leader'. He would be followed by his men dressed in costume or fancy attire, such as the playful characters of Punch and Judy. They would make their way from door to door, requesting entry into the homes of locals in song. Those dressed as Punch would tap on

the door or knock on the floor to keep up the song's pace. Judy would brush the windows and walls with a broom. The owners of the homes would deny entry, again through the power of song. This continued back and forth until one or the other gave up.

If the homeowners were first to yield, they had to let the group in for food and merriment. The homeowners also had to ensure they warned Punch not to touch their fireplace; otherwise, he would rake out ember and ash from the open fire grates.

As I mentioned earlier, many of our Christmas traditions originated in Germany and Austria but there are some localised traditions in Germany and Austria that have not been adopted widely.

One such celebration is Krampus Night, celebrated in some parts of Germany and Austria. During Krampus Night strong men wear furry coats, devil masks and demonic garb while going from house to house. When the parents let them into the house, they try to scare the children to ensure they behave well.

A misbehaving male teenager may be gripped by the hands and feet and dragged outside. The teenager is then dunked in the snow a few times to the enjoyment of their siblings. Krampus and all of the devils then celebrate the night at the local pub.

These are just a few of the different celebrations from the Northern Hemisphere.

# Heavenly Voices!

By Anita Stevens

They huddled round the camp fire. Smoke rose into the air.  
The moon and stars shone brightly. All seemed so peaceful there  
When singing broke the silence - such a heavenly sound!  
It swelled and grew much louder - Amazed, they looked around...

The voices seemed above them, angelic, from on high  
And suddenly they saw them appearing in the sky!  
A joyous host of angels - such a wondrous sight  
Singing to the shepherds. It gave them quite a fright!

One angel sang the sweetest with a melodic range  
Sharp as a violin with a message, quite strange:  
"Fear not!" She reassured them, "We've tidings of good will.  
Get up, go to Bethlehem. Leave your flocks on the hill.

There you will find a baby who was just born tonight  
In a lowly cattle stall - Don't miss this wondrous sight!  
He's your promised Messiah - Glory to God on High!  
Tread softly, do not wake Him; your salvation is nigh!"

They sang another chorus,  
gently faded away  
Leaving those shepherds awestruck,  
not knowing what to say...

"A baby in a manger! -  
Saviour of the world!  
Why tell us? We're just shepherds,  
this wondrous news, unfurled?"

We'd better go and find him to see if this is true,  
This message from the angels who came out of the blue."  
And just as they predicted a star shone brightly there  
Above that lowly stable, so they entered with care

And found that tiny baby sleeping there on the hay  
With his mother and father at the break of the day  
"Hosanna in the highest!" that host of angels sang.  
"Glory to God in the highest!" Heavenly voices rang!





# AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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# COMMUNITY groups

## 2nd Castle Hill Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

## Annergrove Environment Centre

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

## Arcadian Quilters

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

## Castle Hill Art Society

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

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

## Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.

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

## Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook

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

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

## Cumberland Bird Observers Club

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

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

## CWA of NSW - Galston Branch

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

Jann | 0439 222 217

## CWA of NSW - Castle Hill Branch

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

Maureen | 0411 724 925

## Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Group

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

Denis | 9629 2645 or Maurice | 9654 2138

## Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

## Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498  
www.duralmensshed.org

## East Kurrajong School of Arts

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

Ann | 02 4576 5031

## Galston VIEW Club

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

## Girl Guides Australia

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

Margo 0417 657 433.  
**Glenhaven Probus Club Inc**  
Meets 10 am on 2nd Tuesday of each month at Castle Hill Bowling Club.  
secretary.glenhaven.probus@gmail.com

## Glenwood Men's Shed

Jim | 0438 701 275

## Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail

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

## Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn

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

## Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the First Fleeters

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

## Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

4721 8709

## Hills District Women's Bowling Club

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

## Hills Older Men's Network INC

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

Ron | 0424 462 153  
HillsOMI1@gmail.com

## Hills Toastmasters

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

## Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

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

Allen | 0439 831 531  
allendavisguitar@gmail.com

## Ladies 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.  
winstonhillspobusclub@gmail.com  
Membership Officer | 0421 410 305

## Probus Combined Kellyville Club

Meet 2nd Monday of the month at 10am. At The Glenhaven Community Centre: 76 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven. New members welcome.  
Glenys | 0419 616 431 OR  
Veronica | 0408 025 577  
glenysclarke@hotmail.com

## RDA (NSW) Tall Timbers Centre

Equine assisted programs, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Volunteering Opportunities. Located at Gables/Box Hill  
9679 1246  
admin@rdanswtalltimbers.org.au  
www.rdanswtalltimbers.org.au

## Red Cross - Castle Hill Branch

Meetings 2nd Friday of the month 10.15am to 11.45am at Wesley Uniting Church, 32-34 Showground Rd, Castle Hill. New members always welcome.  
0419 431 084.

## Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club

Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club Which Supports The Smith Family Learning for Life meet on 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 11.30 at The Richmond Club  
Christine Walshaw | 0416073483

## Scouts Australia - Greater Western Sydney Region

9639 2488  
www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

## Sleep Disorders Australia - NSW

02 9990 3514  
www.sleepoz.org.au

## Soroptimist International The Hills

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

Cathy | 0435 837 118  
sithehills@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/thehillsllearningcentre

## The Hills Shire Garden Club

9624 5034

## The Hills District Pipe Band

Practices at Stamford Hall, Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills every Wednesday night from 7pm-9pm. The band warmly welcomes new members and gig enquiries.  
Instagram: @hillsdistrictpipeband  
Suzie Whitaker  
pipeband.hillsdistrict@gmail.com  
www.hillsdistrictpipeband.com

## The Hills Trefoil Guild

Elaine | 0417 330 196

## The Inner Wheel Club of Baulkham Hills

Meets at Aveo Retirement Village, Bella Vista on the 4th Monday of each month at 6.00pm (dinner optional), for meeting at 7.00pm.  
Robyn | 9639 2742

## The Sydney Hills Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees

Meeting on Friday, at Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall, Welham Street Beecroft. Meeting commences at 10.45am. The future topics will be Health, Centrelink, Retirement, Technology Safety and others.  
Lauris Rennie | 9634 1186 or  
Pam | 0412 737 234  
airsydneyhills@gmail.com

## Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition in the Hills District

hillsladiestennis.org

## Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8 pm at Crestwood Community Centre, Cnr Crestwood Drive and Conway St, Baulkham Hills.  
Ted | 0429 790 091  
www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/wanderers

## Windsor RSL Fishing Club

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

## Windsor Probus Club

Meets at 10am on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Windsor Golf Club, McQuade Ave, South Windsor. New members always welcome.  
Membership Officer Alan | 0407721461 or Secretary Ann | 0414298945

## Winston Hills Joey Scouts

9862 8482  
hsara@optusnet.com.au

## Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed Inc

Meeting Tues and Sat 9am - 5pm  
Alan Hunt | 4566 4626 or 0428 784 425  
Adrian Acheson | 0448 833 781

## YMCA NSW Community Visitors Scheme

9633 8209 or 0402 255 193

## Zonta Club of Sydney Hills

0414 641 408  
www.zontadistrict24.org



# PUZZLE

## WORD SEARCH

### DANCES

BALLET	JIVE
BARN DANCE	LINDY HOP
BEGUINE	MAMBO
BOLERO	MERENGUE
BREAKDANCE	QUICKSTEP
CHA-CHA	RUMBA
FANDANGO	SALSA
FLAMENCO	SAMBA
FOXTROT	TANGO
JITTERBUG	TWO-STEP

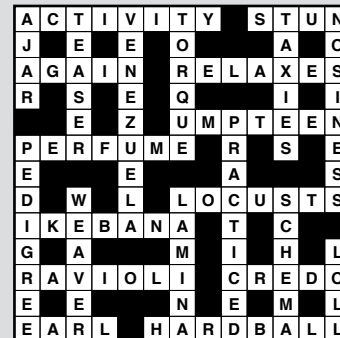


## WORD SEARCH



Answers from last issue

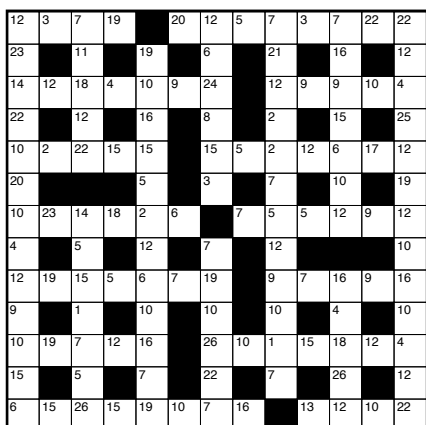
## CODE WORD



## CODE WORD

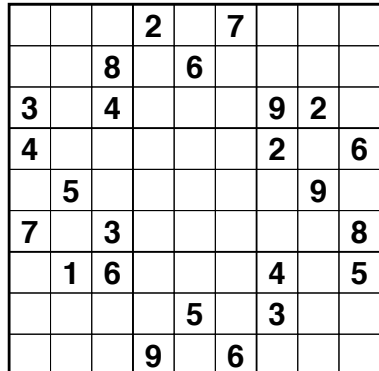
Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

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

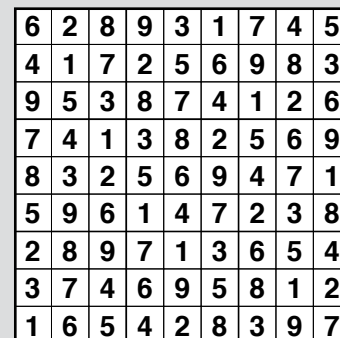


## SUDOKU

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



## SUDOKU



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0414 428 707  
Fergiestreeworks@gmail.com

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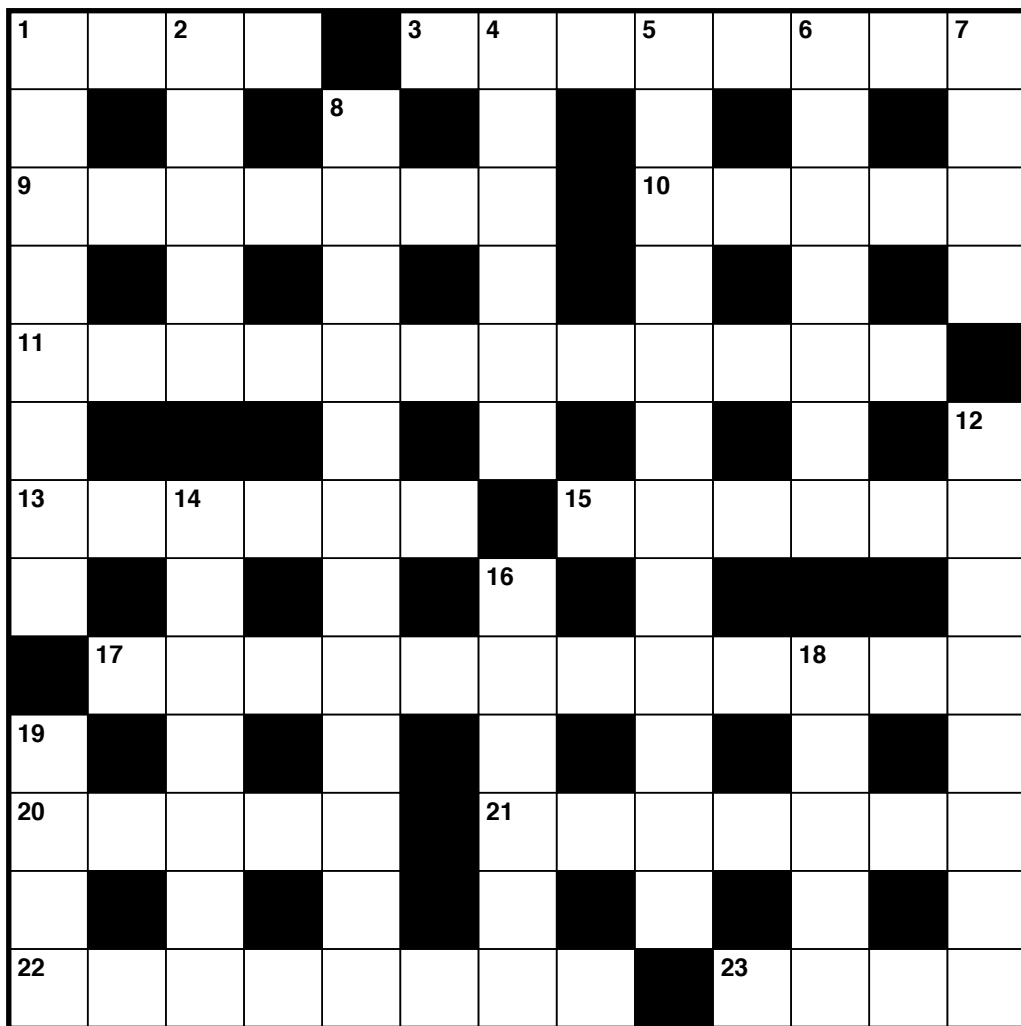
## AWARDS FOR ST JOHN VOLUNTEERS

*from page 5*

There were 13 members who received St John Service Awards for their years of service to the organisation/community including Chris Khong (joined 2000) and Diane Anderson (2001) and 11 received Certificates of Appreciation for assisting the community during the floods of 2021. The Hills Division manned the evacuation centre set up in the Castle Hills RSL.

The Hills Division of St John Ambulance has 69 members. Ages range from 18 up to 89. To find out more about joining St John Ambulance go to the website [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au) and click on the link 'Volunteer with Us'.

Superintendent Jennie Page said: "I am truly proud of the commitment, dedication and selflessness of the Hills members. I look forward to another year of us working in ours and the wider community. Providing both physical and psychological first aid."



### Across

1. Drains of energy
3. Muddled
9. Contrary to
10. Country in the Middle East
11. As a result
13. Push forcefully
15. Accuse; run at
17. Female fellow national
20. Skewered meat
21. Sailing ship
22. Cowboy films
23. Requests

### Down

1. Ascot cat (anag)
2. Clear and apparent; obvious
4. Move faster than
5. Unseen observer (3, 2, 3, 4)
6. More straightforward
7. Bond movie (2, 2)
8. Untimely
12. Definitions
14. Equilateral parallelogram
16. Starting point
18. Confronts
19. Slanting; crooked

## SUDOKU

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

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

### Answers from last issue

## CROSSWORD

C	O	I	N	C	I	D	E	N	C	E
C	R	A	P	I	D	A	G	E		
O	A	R	A	P	I	D	A	G	E	
M	O	T	E	T	E	R	O	I	C	
R	O	U	L	R	O	N	D	O		
A	I	R	B	R	U	S	H		M	
D	S	E			G	H	M			
E				O	B	L	I	G	A	T
S	T	Y	L	E	A	N	P	E		
H	O	A	R	G	A	P	E	D		
I	L	K	G	L	Y	P	H	I	E	
P	E	E	O	A	E	D				
A	S	T	R	O	N	O	M	E	R	S

## SUDOKU

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



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