

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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Community News

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Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



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FULL STORY ON PAGE 9

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# HILLS SHIRE CITIZENS OF THE YEAR WE ARE IN GOOD HANDS

By **BEV JORDAN**

**MERCEDES DURANTE**, a dedicated volunteer with numerous organisations has been named The Hills Shire Council's Australia Day Citizen of the Year. Honoured at the same ceremony last week were council's youngest ever recipient, 12-year-old **Scarlet Bradatsch** (Young Citizen of the Year) and one of the area's longest-serving volunteers, **Shirley Purser** (Senior Citizen of the Year) who turned 91 on Australia Day.

The **Lisa Harnum Foundation** was awarded Community Group of The Year and **Chris Jones** received the Environmental Citizen of the Year Award during a special award ceremony at the Pioneer Theatre on Wednesday, January 19.

Mercedes Durante from North Kellyville who volunteers with The Hills Women's Shed and Positive Vibes Foundation, and is also a Board Member, actively supports programs promoting

good mental health. She is also a St John Ambulance volunteer and President of Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club.

She told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*: "I was so shocked when I got the phone call telling me about my nomination. I was so happy to be a finalist. That was enough for me. I am so honoured to be named Hill Shire citizen of the year. I am happy that the good work of the groups I am involved with has been recognised. I couldn't choose a better country to live and raise my family, I am a very proud Australian."

Young Citizen of the Year **Scarlet Bradatsch** was in Year 6 at Kellyville Public School when she decided to do some research during the lockdown last year and put a presentation together about women's rights and gender inequality.



(L + R): Lisa Harnum Foundation Founder Aileen Mountfield, Mercedes Durante, Chris Jones, Scarlet Bradatsch, Mayor Peter Gangemi, Deputy Mayor Mark Hodges, Councillors Jessica Brazier and Reena Jethi and Senior Citizen of the Year Shirley Purser.



Young Citizen of the Year Scarlet Bradatsch receives her award from the Hills Mayor Peter Gangemi.

Hills Citizen of the Year, Mercedes Durante receives her award from Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi.

A keen footballer herself (she plays for Kellyville Kolts Soccer Club) she sent the presentation to the Football Federation of Australia where it was well received.

She also wanted to help women and children impacted by domestic and family violence and in the second lockdown Scarlet, with the help of four friends, filled 150 backpacks with school supplies to donate to The Sanctuary – The Hills Women's Shelter.

### Sagarika Venkat received a Highly Commended award in the Young Citizen category.

Senior Citizen **Shirley Purser** from Castle Hill has dedicated her life to The Hills community with a long list of volunteer achievements including charter member of the Zonta Club of Sydney Hills, a founding secretary and current co-chair of Western Sydney International Women's Day Committee and executive member of Red Cross Castle Hill Branch.

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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**DIANA PATON**  
PUBLISHER

contribute@  
hillstohawkesbury.com.au  
0408 011 193



**KAREN TAYLOR**  
ADVERTISING

advertise@  
hillstohawkesbury.com.au  
0499 040 726



**BEV JORDAN**  
SENIOR JOURNALIST

bev@  
hillstohawkesbury.com.au  
0439 034 187



**TONY BOSWORTH**  
EDITOR/JOURNALIST  
HAWKESBURY POST

Info@hawkesburypost.  
com.au  
0414 236 142



**LAWRENCE MACHADO**  
JOURNALIST

lawrence@  
hillstohawkesbury.com.au  
0403 798 686



**IVOR JONES**  
CONTRIBUTOR

ivor.jones47@  
optusnet.com.au

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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).

# HSC RESULTS

James Ruse Agricultural College at Carlingford headed the 2021 HSC rankings as it has done since 1996. Second was North Sydney Boys, third Baulkham Hills High and fourth Cherrybrook Technology High.

## HSC FIRST IN COURSE MERIT LIST (LOCALS)

- Agriculture: **OSCAR DONG**, James Ruse High, Carlingford.
- Geography: **SARAH WILSON**, The Hills Grammar, Kenthurst
- Korean Beginners: **ANDREW SUHAILI**, Baulkham Hills High.
- Advanced Maths: **KEVIN WONG**, The King's School, North Parramatta
- Mathematics Ext II: **LUCHITH YAHAN THENUWARA**, Baulkham Hills High
- Music 2: **JOSEPH CLEMMIT**, Northholm Grammar, Arcadia
- Religious Studies II: **HANNAH COOK**, Oakhill College, Castle Hill



**SARAH WILSON** from The Hills Grammar

**SARAH WILSON** from The Hills Grammar also received band 6 in Geography, Economics, Advanced English, Advanced Mathematics, Japanese Continuers and Japanese Extension.

**ANDREW SUHAILI**, from Baulkham Hills High received band 6 in Advanced English, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, Music Extension as well as Korean Beginners.

**LUCHITH YAHAN THENUWARA** from Baulkham Hills High received band 6 in Chemistry, English Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2 and Physics

**JOSEPH CLEMMIT**, Northholm Grammar School, English Advanced, Legal Studies, Mathematics Extension 1 and Music 2.

The great grandmother runs a volunteer sewing group making a bra support she designed for breast cancer patients who've had a mastectomy.

"I got so many lovely messages on Facebook (after the award)," said Shirley. "I felt very humble receiving the award because I know there are many people like me who spend time giving back. I am one of many seniors who are still volunteering and contributing to the community. You are never too old to volunteer, it certainly keeps your mind young."

## Highly Commended Awards For Senior Citizen of the Year were also presented to: Lesley Lawson, John Love and Jacqueline Matthews.

Aileen Mountifield who founded the Lisa Harnum Foundation said: "LHF has now been serving the Hills community for close to eight years, supporting women and children experiencing domestic abuse, all without government funding. To receive this recognition for the work that LHF carries out is a true honour. Both myself and our two caseworkers feel very blessed and are immensely proud of the support that LHF provides."

## Highly Commended Awards were presented to: Soroptimist International The Hills, Hills Bulls Sport Club and Castle Hill RSL Youth Band

Chris Jones is a member of the Cattai Hills Environment Network and a long-time volunteer at the Environment Centre at Annangrove. At the Centre, he has helped to establish various gardens that educate the public about gardening and the environment.

Hills Shire Mayor, Dr Peter Gangemi thanked the winners and finalists for all their hard work in the community.

"They've worked hard despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and are dedicated to making this region the best place in the world to live. I thank them for their kindness, generosity and their unwavering support to others."

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## CHILD ABDUCTION

Four people have been arrested and charged following the abduction of a 4-year-old girl in Stanhope Gardens on Friday, January 21st.

Officers from Riverstone Police Area Command were called to outside a property on Midlands Terrace at about 12.30pm (Friday 21 January 2022), after reports of an abduction.

Police were told a four-year-old girl was outside the location with her dad when a Honda CRV stopped nearby, and an unknown man and woman got out.

The woman grabbed the girl and put her in the car while the man kept the girl's father distracted. The vehicle then fled the scene.

A police operation commenced and with assistance from Traffic and Highway Patrol Command and PolAir, the vehicle was located travelling north on the M1 motorway.

The vehicle was stopped by police at Kinta Drive, Beresfield, about 2.20pm and two women – one of whom is known to the girl – and two men were arrested.

The girl was found in the vehicle distressed but uninjured and was reunited with her father.



An investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident was commenced by officers attached to State Crime Command's Robbery and Serious Crime Squad.

They have charged two women, aged 75 and 53, and two men, aged 52 and 60, with take/detain child with intent to remove from parental control.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence.

## HOUSEBOAT TRAGEDY

The body of a 32-year-old father-of-two who disappeared while swimming in the Hawkesbury River was found on Wednesday January 19th afternoon, almost 48 hours after he disappeared at Loughtondale, near Wisemans Ferry.

The man and his family and friends were on a house boat when the men and two children decided to use the tender, on approaching the rear of the house boat the 32-year-old dived from the tender to swim a short distance to the house boat.

He dived and surfaced near the ladder, dived again and did not surface.

A search was commenced by the other men prior to emergency services being contacted.

A search by emergency services was not able to locate the male before darkness.

The search involved NSW Water Police and Divers, NSW Maritime, SES, NSW Marine Rescue and PolAir.

His body was found just before 3pm on Wednesday, January 19th. A report is being prepared for the coroner.

Police urge any person, no matter how good a swimmer you are, to wear a life jacket when on or in the water.

## FATAL FIRE

The body of a woman was located following a house fire at Northmead on Friday, January 14th. Emergency services were called to a duplex apartment at Hammers Road, Northmead following reports of a house fire.

Fire & Rescue NSW attended.

With a person unaccounted for, crews immediately gained access to the property when they arrived at Hammers Road at 9.30 am.

More than 30 firefighters, in specialised breathing apparatus, battled the flames while setting up protection hoses to ensure a neighbouring property remained safe.

Crews extinguished the fire that had spread throughout the home. One person was located deceased inside the premises.

Officers attached to Parramatta Police Area Command established a crime scene and have commenced an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fire. FRNSW Investigation Research Unit will be onsite to help determine the cause of the fire.

A report will now be prepared for the information of the Coroner.

Superintendent Scott Dodson from Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) said it is a timely reminder that calling Triple Zero (000) for a fire emergency can be the difference between life and death, or a building or other property being saved or destroyed.

"The Triple Zero (000) service is the quickest way to get the right resources from emergency services to help you. It should be used to contact Police, Fire or Ambulance services in life-threatening or time-critical situations."

## KENTHURST CRASH

A 5-year-old child died and the driver was seriously injured in a head-on crash in Kenthurst on Thursday, January 13th.

Emergency services were called to Annangrove Road, near Aston Road, Kenthurst, shortly after 4pm following reports a red Mazda 2 and grey Toyota Hilux had collided.

The driver of the Mazda – a 33-year-old woman – and her passenger – a five-year-old boy – suffered serious injuries.

The boy was transported to the Children's Hospital at Westmead, in a critical condition but later died. The woman was taken to Westmead Hospital in a serious condition.

The driver of the Hilux – an 18-year-old man – was uninjured and taken to hospital for mandatory testing.

Officers from the Crash Investigation Unit attended, and the scene was forensically examined.

As inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the crash continue, investigators urge any witnesses or anyone with dashcam vision in the area at the time to come forward.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence.

## POOL SHOCK

A man, aged in his 30s, was taken to hospital in a stable condition after suffering an electric shock during swimming pool maintenance at a pool Carlingford on Tuesday, January 25th.

NSW Ambulance paramedics arrived by road and provided initial treatment, before the critical care medical team arrived.

The Mounties Care CareFlight Helicopter was tasked to the scene shortly before midday, landing within 10 minutes at Murray Farm Reserve.

CareFlight's specialist doctor and NSW Ambulance's critical care paramedic conducted a full trauma assessment on the man and provided treatment at the scene.

The medical team provided ongoing monitoring for the man as he was transported by road with NSW Ambulance in a stable condition to Westmead Hospital.



In a life threatening emergency dial 000

# LOCALS HONoured

By **BEV JORDAN**

***A dozen locals have been named in the Australia Day Awards List, sadly three of them have passed away since their nomination.***

The Hills to Hawkesbury Community News has compiled a list of the local winners who include the late Lionel Smith (pictured) who volunteered with the Rural Fire Service for over 70 years, and netball veteran Carol Murphy (pictured) for a life-time of service to netball both locally and State-wide.

Family Court Judge and Hills local **Justice Garry Allan Watts** has been awarded an AM for significant service to the law, and to the judiciary, particularly to the Family Court.

He has been a Judge in the Family Court of Australia since 2005 and has held significant roles while in office.

He was a solicitor from 1976-2005 and was a senior partner at Watts McCray before being appointed a Judge of the Family Court.

Justice Watts was Co-author, Report on 'Protocol for the division of work between the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court'. He is a member, Family Law Council, Attorney General's Department, 2004-2012, former President, Parramatta and District Law Society. Former Independent Children's Lawyer, Australian Legal Aid Office and Legal Aid Commission.

Former Volunteer and Duty Solicitor, Minda Children's Court.

## OAM

**KAZI KHALEQUZZAMAN ALI OAM** of Cherrybrook has been awarded an OAM for service to the Islamic community.

He has been Chairman of the Cemetery Trust, Rockwood Cemetery, since 1983 and a member of the Riverstone Muslim Cemetery Board, since 2001. He is also Chairman of the Muslim Lawn, Kemps Creek Cemetery, since 2018.

A holder of various Interfaith roles, he is a supporter and benefactor of The Lions Club of Sydney South Shapla Shaluk. President, Islamic Society of NSW (aka Surry Hills Mosque), 1983, founding member, Quakers Hill Mosque, (Bangladeshi) Rooty Hill Mosque, Parramatta Mosque and Sefton Mosque (Bangladeshi).

Associate Member, Institute of Credit Management Australia. Justice of the Peace, NSW, since 1984. Financial Accountant, Cooperative Wholesale Society (Meat Group), prior to 1981.

**JAMES BRICE OAM** from Castle Hill (*photo*) For service to music education and performance.

James has been Musical Director of the Castle Hill RSL Youth Wind Orchestra and Musical Director of the North West Wind

Ensemble, since 2006. He is also the Musical Director, NSW State Youth Concert Band, a role he has held for the past 10 years.

James is Head of Co-Curricular Performing Arts, at Knox Grammar School (since 2013) and Director of Instrumental Performance, since 2008 and was Seasonal Guest Conductor, Monash University Wind Symphony (2012-2017)

He has been on several committees and is currently Music Advisor, State and National Band competitions. A private music teacher, he was Principal Euphonium/Trombone and Tuba in the Royal Australian Air Force Air Command Band and has recorded, conducted and produced several CD recordings including for ABC Live and 2MBS FM.

**LORNA CLAYTON OAM** from Glenhaven (*photo*) For service to the community through a range of organisations.

Member of U3A Greater Western Sydney (University of the Third Age) since 1993. Committee member for 15 years and Vice-President, 2002. Made Honorary Life Member in 2010. Publications include: *Old Enough to Know Better*, U3A, 1999 and *Many a Good Tune*, U3A, 2003.

Founded the Writers Festival Group for residents Living Choice Glenhaven in 2015 and is a founding member of the Poetry Group. Winner of The Premier's Seniors Award in 2000.

**KAY DE LUCA** and her late husband, **ANTHONY DE LUCA** from Glenhaven, have both been awarded OAMs for service to motoring clubs, and to the community.

Anthony was a member of the Council of Motor Clubs for over 35 years and was a former Vice President. He co-ordinated the annual Concours Event (now known as Shannons Sydney Classic), for over 25 years. He was a founding Member, BMC-Leyland Australia Heritage Group, circa 1998 and former Secretary of the Leyland P76 Owners Club NSW.

Anthony was a volunteer with the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers for 40 years and an executive Committee Member, 10 years. A Justice of the Peace for over 30 years, he was a Founding Member of the Hornsby Branch of the NSW Justices Association (2004) and Vice-President (2015-2016). He was a member of Friends of Bella Vista Farm and a volunteer with the St Vincent De Paul Society.

Kay De Luca was Treasurer and Committee Member of the Council of Motor Clubs for 12 years and is secretary of the BMC-Leyland Australian Heritage Group (since 2012), Secretary and treasurer of the Leyland P76 Owners Club of NSW since 2010. And is the Public Officer. She was Director of Lenity Australia (formerly Chatswood Community Care Association) from 2002-2018. She has been a Justice of the Peace for 28 years and a member of the NSW Justices Association, Hornsby Branch since 1997 and has held several executive roles including secretary and treasurer. Her volunteering has included the St Vincent De Paul Society and Friends of Bella Vista Farm, 2006-2017.

**BEVERLEY GARSIDE OAM** of Glenhaven (*photo*) For service to community health

Beverley has been President of the Australian Thyroid Foundation since 1999. A member since 1996. For the past five years she has been the Chief Executive Officer.

Beverley is the Australian representative with the Thyroid Federation International.

*Continues on page 10*



James Brice OAM



Lorna Clayton OAM



Beverley Garside OAM



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# LYNWOOD'S JUNIOR GOLF ACADEMY ON PAR FOR SUCCESS

Lynwood Golf and Country Club held its inaugural Junior Golf Open on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – with the event attracting some of the Hills and Hawkesbury regions best junior golfers, along with junior golfers from throughout the entire Sydney metropolitan area. Lynwood Junior Golf Academy's scholar, 14-year-old Chayse Thorpe, took home the trophy with an impressive -2 under par 70. (Pictured)

The Lynwood Junior Open is just one of many junior golf activations the Club has invested in for 2022 and beyond. The team at Lynwood has a passion for nurturing and developing junior golfers from the grass roots up and has the facilities to cater to any young golfing enthusiast. In addition to Lynwood's Junior Golf Academy, Lynwood also provides opportunities for children to attend weekend junior clinics, one-on-one coaching sessions and 7-day access to their driving range.

General Manager of Lynwood Golf and Country Club, Matt Bailey, said "Growing the game of golf in the Hawkesbury and Hills region is a focus of CHRG and Lynwood Golf and Country Club as the sport of golf continues to gain momentum in our communities. Golf is rapidly growing as a sport of choice for many children, so much so, that Lynwood's Junior Golf Academy, run by Head Golf Coach Blake Dowd, was expanded in mid-2021 to cater for up to 30 junior golfing scholars."

Lynwood's Junior Golf Academy consists of a four-tiered scholarship system, catering to children of all ages and levels of experience - from beginners right through to the more experienced athletes. Along with the Junior Golf Academy, Lynwood has also created a Cadet Program that runs on Saturday afternoons – another initiative that focuses on introducing kids to the game of golf and provides them the opportunity to learn basic skills in a fun, friendly environment.

"It is so rewarding to see the growth and development of children in our golfing community. We have many talented juniors in our academy giving our more experienced golfers a real run for their money!", Mr Bailey added.

If you would like more information on any of the Junior Golf programs offered by Lynwood Golf and Country Club, please contact the Pro Shop on p 02 4580 8555.



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# NEW WAYS TO ACCESS BOOKS ON THE GO

*The new library lockers at Baulkham Hills Library will provide Hills residents with a new and easy way to get their hands on their favourite reads, as well as other library resources.*



Open 24/7, the lockers located outside the front of the Library will operate similar to a parcel locker, or click-and-collect service. Library card holders can reserve their items online through the Library Catalogue and select the "library lockers" as the pick-up location. When the items have been picked, an email and SMS will notify the borrower, along with a code to unlock the locker. Items can be collected for up to three days.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi congratulated the Council in ensuring residents continued to have access to services, especially at these challenging times. "We know how popular our libraries are and we also know how busy our lives can get. That's why we

want to make sure our residents can access this popular service at any time of the day, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. We also want them to remain safe.

These lockers are an innovative way to access and borrow from our library collection without needing to set foot in our libraries. It's perfect for people on the go and those who are needing to be extra cautious, especially at this time," Mayor Gangemi said.

Adding to this service, Grab and Go Bags are now available for pick-up from your local Library branch. These themed bags - such as fantasy, action, sci-fi and much more - come pre-packed with five books hand-picked by our librarians. Both children and adult

bags are available.

The Hills Shire Library Service is also hosting a virtual seminar for parents, guardians and carers of Year 12 students on Wednesday 16th February. The online talk, which is presented in partnership with the Positive Vibes Foundation and Headspace, will provide tips on how to support your Year 12 student as they complete their final year of high school. All library items can also be returned contactless at the 24-hour return chute at all Hills Shire Library branches.

To book your place at the How to Support your Child's Wellbeing during the HSC seminar, visit the Hills Shire Library Service website [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library)

## LOCAL SCHOOL LEAVERS TO UNLOCK THEIR FUTURE

Local school leavers are being encouraged to explore their vocational education options at TAFE NSW Richmond Information Sessions this January.

Robyn Preston MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Science, Innovation and Technology and Member for Hawkesbury, said with students having received their HSC results, now is the perfect time for young people to attend a TAFE NSW information session.

"Local students can learn all about what's on offer at TAFE NSW Richmond through virtual information sessions about exciting course areas such as Business, Leadership and Management, and Information and Communications Technology," Ms Preston said. "Choosing TAFE NSW is an obvious choice for school leavers who want training that is relevant and focused on job readiness. At TAFE NSW Richmond they have plenty to choose from, such as Horticulture and Veterinary Nursing."

Minister for Skills and Training Alister Henskens said the information sessions will provide prospective students with an invaluable opportunity to explore the innovative range of course options at TAFE NSW.

"TAFE NSW students are in high demand because of the quality of their education and ability to hit the ground running with the job-ready skills that employers are looking for," Mr Henskens said. "There has never been a better time to study at TAFE, with the NSW Government funding a range of fee-free courses and training programs to help people get the skills they need for the jobs they want."

To register for an information session visit [www.tafensw.edu.au/information-sessions](http://www.tafensw.edu.au/information-sessions).



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# ACTING UP WITH LYNNE MCGRANGER

By BEV JORDAN

*Sitting in a Kellyville coffee shop with Lynne McGranger to chat about her newly released book **Acting Up** is an entertaining jaunt down memory lane with the down to earth actor who loves a good yarn.*

The book (subtitled: Me, myself and Irene) is as relaxed as Lynne who has spent nearly three decades playing Irene Roberts on the Logie-winning Home and Away series on Channel 7 which is syndicated to over 80 countries around the world.

What began as a three month stint on the popular soapie filmed on Palm Beach has turned into a 29-year-life changing experience for the former primary school teacher who honed her acting craft at the Q Theatre, Penrith before doing an audition for a "guest role" on Home and Away.

"I was told there was an opportunity it would be an on-going role and I thought, yes right," she laughs. "I had learnt not to get emotionally attached to auditions."

Her daughter Clancy was not even 2 years old when she landed the role in January 1993.



She is now the longest-serving female cast member of any Australian TV show.

The book covers the Hills resident's early life (she was born in Paddington), her childhood, teaching and the years leading up to Summer Bay and beyond.

It's an easy-to-read book, full of warm humour and emotion. It's like listening to an old friend.

Lynne says while she loves to chat and tell stories she was unsure about the writing element when she was approached to write a book during COVID.

"I am not a writer, but I can talk under wet concrete," she laughs. After six months with co-writer Summer Land she is more than happy with the result saying it was like putting together a patchwork quilt.

"In the middle of the night I would remember something and write myself a note, memories would prompt other memories."

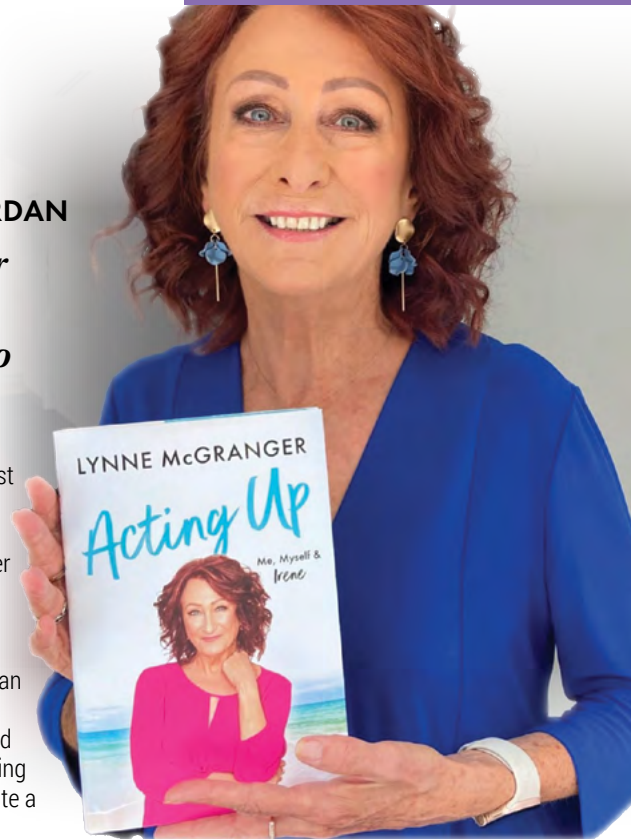
Neither her husband Paul nor daughter, Clancy got to read anything until the book was published. She also did an audio book which she found exhausting. As Lynne tells it she grew up in a close-knit family and decided to go into teaching because she didn't want to be a nurse or a typist.

"It was the early '70s and those were the choices, it didn't take me too long to realise that I wasn't cut out for teaching."

She says she is very grateful for college (Riverina College of Advanced Education Wagga Wagga) for giving her the love of theatre: "It made me realise I wanted to be an entertainer".

She said being paid to do something she loved was amazing. She left the Q Theatre in 1983 and joined the Murray River Performing Group which is where she met her musician husband Paul McWaters.

The book covers this early life and the parade of personalities she has acted alongside in Home and Away.



She says while she did leave some things out she also changed the names of some people.

"I didn't want to hurt or embarrass people," she says.

Lynne does talk about the onset bullying she endured but does not name the culprit.

"I wanted to make people aware that there will often be people who can't help themselves."

Her huge fan following in the UK and Ireland has resulted in numerous Panto performances in England during the Christmas season which have been interrupted by COVID restrictions.

Lynne says she has missed being the annual "Panto baddie" which she has been doing for over 20 years.

She says her biggest joy in life has been watching her daughter Clancy blossom into the talented woman she is, running her own business and engaged to be married to local Luke Dickson.

Lynne's an AFL fan and a dedicated Swans fan (she is an ambassador), loves cricket and supports several charities including the Hills Relay For Life.

Lynne turns 69 on January 29th and her advice is: "Live your life not your age. If ageing disgracefully is your thing, go for it, just don't post too many photos on Instagram."

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Carol Murphy OAM



Brian Powyer OAM



Lionel Smith OAM

## LOCALS HONoured

*continued from page 5*

Her community roles have been varied including seven years as a counsellor with Child Abuse Prevention Service, canteen manager with St Matthew's Netball Club, Baulkham Hills, 1995-1997 and President, School Council, Model Farms High School at Baulkham Hills (1992-1995). She has been a director at Autoplex Pty Ltd, since 1986.

**CAROL MURPHY OAM**, North Kellyville (photo) For service to netball.

Carol Murphy has had a major presence not only with the Baulkham Hills District Netball Association but with the state organisation.

She has been a Board director with the New South Wales Netball Association since 2009 and is a Life Member, having held several State positions including Deputy Chair and NNSW Delegate to NSW Commonwealth Games Committee. She has been a member of Baulkham Hills District Netball Association since 1993 and has held several key positions and is currently a member of the Finance, Complex and Strategic Development Committees. She was President, Vice-President and Treasurer, between 1993 and 2008.

She has been a member of the Impalas Netball Club for 35 years and has been President, Treasurer and Umpires Convenor.

Carol was Team Manager, Under 23s, Greater Western Sydney Fury, Netball NSW Premier League from 2019 - 2021.

**PATRICIA D'APICE**, OAM from North Rocks For service to people with Vision impairment.

**Royal Institution for Deaf and Blind Children**

- Senior Consultant / Teacher Vision Impairment, current.
- Adjunct Lecturer, Renwick College, 2005.
- Organiser, Braille camp.

### Educational

- Teacher, Education Program, Fiji, 2006-2010. Teacher, Vision Australia School, 2006.
- Deputy Principal and Teacher, St Lucy's School, 1985-2006.

### Other

- Pacific Regional Secretary, International Council for Education of People with Vision Impairment, since 2006.
- Former NSW Convenor, South Pacific Division, Educators in Vision Impairment, 1990s.
- Honorary Life Member, South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment
- Convenor, Sydney Braille Forum, Australian Braille Authority, 2016-2017.

**THE LATE BRIAN POWYER OAM** (photo)

formerly of Northmead For service to the community through history preservation organisations.

Brian Powyer, a retired school principal, was a former President and Deputy president of the National Trust NSW and a Board director for five years (2014 to 2019)

He was an active member of the Parramatta Branch, National Trust NSW and was chairman for four years and former treasurer. He was a volunteer guide at Old Government House, Parramatta and at Hambledon Cottage Parramatta. He was an executive member at both Parramatta and District Historical Society and Blacktown and District Historical Society holding several positions, including President.

Brian was President of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Member of the Roxy Theatre Action Group. A former member of the Hills Shire Bushland Conservation Committee, he was on the Bidjigal Reserve Trust Board,

Former Secretary, Excelsior Park Bushland Society and Former Treasurer, Cumberland Land Conservancy Group. His long career in education included being Assistant Director Curriculum, NSW Department of Education and head of NSW Primary Principals Association.

He was school principal at several schools across Sydney including Winston Hills Public School (1997-2002).

**THE LATE LIONEL SMITH OAM** formerly of Kenthurst (photo). For service to emergency response organisations, and to the community.

Lionel was an RFS member for over 70 years. He joined the Rural Fire Service in 1944s and was foundation member of the Oakville Brigade. He was a Life member of Kenthurst RFS and Deputy Captain for over 30 years.

He was Deputy Controller of the Windsor State Emergency Service from 1955 to 1982 and a former SES volunteer. He held several roles with the RFS and was Chair of the Fire Control Officers Association of NSW for 10 years.

A great community volunteer he was President and Secretary of Computer Pals for Seniors - The Hills from 1998 and was a member, President and secretary of the Mercedes-Benz Club New South Wales

He was a Justice of the Peace for 50 years.

**BASTIAAN JOHN VAN DONGEN, OAM**

Cherrybrook. For service to the Dutch community of Sydney.

Treasurer of the NSW Klaverjas Federation for over 20 years. Former Hills Police Commander Detective Superintendent Robert Anthony Critchlow has received the Public Service Medal (PSM) for outstanding service to the NSW Police Force.

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# HAWKESBURY'S ONLY LATE NIGHT GP CLINIC TO CLOSE END OF THE MONTH

BY TONY BOSWORTH | EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

***The Hawkesbury will be left without a late night after-hours GP clinic with the closure of the clinic at Hawkesbury Hospital from next week, January 31.***

The closure means Hawkesbury residents have neither a late-night GP clinic or a late-night chemist, with the nearest at Rouse Hill and Penrith. The Hawkesbury District Health Service (HDHS) say they are making the clinic closure move due to low demand and "recruitment challenges".

It means that if you need a doctor after 7pm in the Hawkesbury after Monday January 31, your only option is to visit the hospital's Emergency Department or to travel to Penrith where there are several late night GP services.

"The decision to close the clinic has been made in consultation with Wentworth Healthcare (the provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network) and the

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District," say the HDHS in a statement.

The shut-down means there are only a handful of GPs in the Hawkesbury open until 7pm, but it may be hard to get in to any of those unless you are registered with that doctor or surgery.

At the hospital, you could simply turn up and see a doctor. Hawkesbury District Health Service CEO, Strephon Billinghamurst, said the clinic was opened 6 years ago to meet a gap in after-hours health care in the region. "In that time, the service has provided more than 30,000 patient consultations," he said.

"GP practices in the region have steadily increased their after-hours services, with 11 now operating in the evening and on weekends,"

he says. "As such, this has led to a decline in demand for the hospital-based service."

We found 3 medical centres in the Hawkesbury open until 7pm – well short of the 10pm the hospital offered – and one open on a single day until 7pm.

Some others are open to 6pm, often on individual days, but it's hardly late-night. Mr Billinghamurst said difficulties in recruiting for positions within the after-hours GP clinic had also made it hard to provide a reliable service to the community. "While this decision is regrettable, we are confident that our community has a range of after-hours health care services available to them, including our Emergency Department for urgent and acute care," he said.

*You can read more Hawkesbury news at Hawkesbury Post at [www.hawkesburypost.com.au](http://www.hawkesburypost.com.au) or [facebook.com/hawkesburypost](https://facebook.com/hawkesburypost).*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### SOUTH CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL SPILL UPDATE

Council is continuing to investigate the cause of the rising main failure at South Creek that caused sewage to leak into South Creek and determine the extent of the leak.

Water samples have been taken daily since the leak was detected on Monday, 17 January. The first of these results is expected to be received shortly. We will provide further advice when it is available.

As part of our investigations, Council is working to develop a timeline of when the leak occurred. The damaged rising main has been isolated and there is no further risk of a spill to the environment. Work will begin shortly to repair the main.

It is recommended that there is no swimming and fishing between South Creek at the Windsor Boat Ramp and Windsor Beach in Macquarie Park as a precaution until Council can determine if there is any contamination. Signage has been erected at Macquarie Park and Governor Phillip Park to advise river users.

Council will continue to provide regular updates to the public. Council is also sending a letter update to residents living near the affected section of South Creek.

### NEW WASTE SERVICES SURVEY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

***Hawkesbury City Council is inviting the community to have its say on the future of waste services in the Hawkesbury in a new survey, the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly has announced.***

"The waste services that Council provides to the community are essential services and it is an important issue for our community members," Mayor Conolly said.

"We are seeking your feedback to assist with Council's decision-making in relation to new waste services contracts and the development of a long-term Waste Strategy. With Council's current waste services contracts expiring in 2023 and Council's landfill reaching capacity within the next four years, it is vital for Council to determine the type of waste services that should be provided to the community into the future."

Council is committed to meeting the community's expectations in protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment for current and future generations as outlined in the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan.



"We want to provide waste services that meet our community's needs, whilst ensuring the waste services are reliable, affordable and sustainable," the Mayor said.

Council's Waste Strategy aims to realise the community's vision and to meet the State Government's Waste Strategy and targets.

It is an important survey on Council's waste services – we want to hear from you. Click on the survey at [yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/wss](http://yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/wss) so we can include your feedback. **Be sure to have your say before the survey closes on Monday, 28 February 2022.**

Council is also promoting the survey at various local events and in various Council facilities.

# \$8M FOR NEW WILBERFORCE-BASED HAWKESBURY FIRE CONTROL CENTRE FROM NSW GOVERNMENT

BY TONY BOSWORTH | EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

**NSW Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, Steph Cooke, has announced \$8m has been earmarked for a new Fire Control Centre for the RFS at Wilberforce.**

The money is part of a \$31 million injection of funds for the construction of three new Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) and Fire Control Centres (FCC) at Hawkesbury, Moruya, and Tumut

The Hawkesbury Centre will be based at the Woodlands Reserve off Sackville Road at 295, Sackville Road, Wilberforce - Ironbark Drive, opposite Woodlands Oval.

The site was given the tick by Hawkesbury Council back in November, and today the funding was officially announced.

Minister Cooke said the RFS identified a number of existing FCCs as sub-standard and in need of an urgent upgrade, following recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry.

"The NSW Government is committed to ensuring our emergency services and local communities have the infrastructure and resources needed for future emergencies right across our State," Ms Cooke said today.

"We're investing \$15 million in a new hub at Moruya, and \$8 million each in facilities at Tumut and Hawkesbury to ensure our emergency services have purpose-built infrastructure in place to respond to future major emergencies.

"As we have seen throughout the horrific 2019-20 bush fire season, recent floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, our emergency services personnel do a remarkable job responding to threats to the community's safety and wellbeing," she said.

Hawkesbury was identified as one of the next priority projects by the RFS, after construction began on previously funded facilities at Armidale and Mudgee.

RFS Commissioner Rob Rogers welcomed the news and said the Hawkesbury facility would drive efficiencies in the response to future emergencies.

"When a major disaster strikes, it is critical that all the relevant agencies can come together to coordinate their activities to protect and assist the community," he said.

"Our existing Fire Control Centre at Hawkesbury is long past its use-by date. The development of a new centre answers one of the vital priorities identified in the NSW Bushfire Inquiry."

*You can read more Hawkesbury news at Hawkesbury Post at [www.hawkesburypost.com.au](http://www.hawkesburypost.com.au) or [facebook.com/hawkesburypost](https://facebook.com/hawkesburypost).*

## THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

# NEW HILLS AUSSIE SAYS THANK YOU AUSTRALIA

**Geethu Raju is one of 80 Hills Shire residents who became an Australia citizen during a special Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at The Hills Shire Council on Wednesday, January 26.**

The cardiac sonographer from the Gables moved to Australia from India in 2015 after securing work. Her husband joined her permanently in 2017.

She initially moved to Hurstville before setting up home with her husband in the "beautiful" Hills Shire.

Ms Raju said becoming an Australian citizen has been a milestone achievement.

"I now belong to this amazing country where everyone is respected and happy," she said.

Apart from becoming an official Aussie, Ms Raju added that she is now able to vote in elections, help decide on important democratic decisions, as well as have the opportunity to work in government.

Wednesday's occasion was equally significant for Logeswary Vinoth who also took her final step in her citizenship journey at Council's special Citizenship Ceremony. Mrs Vinoth moved to Australia to be with

her husband in 2013. They were childhood sweethearts, having first met at school.

Mrs Vinoth, who now works in aged care as an assistant nurse, said moving to Australia from Sri Lanka had been a "dream come true".

"Every step of our life has progressed very well, and we felt so happy and protected living here [in Australia]," Mrs Vinoth said.

"We call Australia the "country of opportunity" and it's a proud moment of my life to become a citizen of this great nation," she added.

New citizens making the pledge originally came from more than 19 countries, including India, Iran, Chile, the Philippines,

Korea, Russia, Turkey, Thailand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi, said attending a citizenship ceremony was one of his favourite things to do on Australia Day.

"Everyone is just so happy, excited and proud to become an Australian citizen. It just reinforces how lucky we are to live in this great country of ours," Mayor Gangemi said.

"I want to congratulate our new Australian citizens on this incredible achievement.

"We have such a diverse and multicultural community, and I know our new citizens will continue to commit to this region and its people, and contribute a new chapter in The Hills' story," Mayor Gangemi added.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# GET YOUR TICKETS TO THE PREMIER'S GALA CONCERT



Christine Anu, Shannon Noll and Phil Burton from Human Nature will lead the line-up for the highly anticipated Premier's Gala Concerts during this year's NSW Seniors Festival.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said free tickets to the concerts, to be held at ICC Sydney on 30 and 31 March 2022, will be available through Ticketek from 9am next Friday 28 January.

"The NSW Government hosts the Premier's Gala Concerts each year to thank seniors for their contributions to our communities," Mr Williams said.

"These concerts are hugely popular among our seniors for good reason. They provide a great opportunity for them to enjoy musical and variety acts from some of Australia's favourite artists, as well as have fun and meet new friends. The concerts will be live-streamed so that Castle Hill residents who can't attend in person can still enjoy the shows."

Thousands of seniors are expected to attend the concerts and the NSW Seniors Festival Expo, which will be running over the same two days at ICC Sydney. The free expo will feature more than 50 exhibitors showcasing the latest in travel, health, lifestyle and services, along with creative workshops and giveaways for all to enjoy.

Minister for Seniors and Multiculturalism Mark Coure said the concerts and expo are highlights of the annual NSW Seniors Festival, which this year runs from Friday 25 March to Sunday 3 April.

"The NSW Government is proud to fund the NSW Seniors Festival, which is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere," Mr Coure said.

"The theme of this year's festival is 'reconnect,' and there is no better way to come together after the disruptions caused by COVID-19 than to enjoy the hundreds of free and

discounted events on offer across NSW during the festival."

Singer Shannon Noll said he is looking forward to performing at the 2022 Premier's Gala Concerts. "Seniors have done so much for ours and future generations. It's really important to celebrate and support them. Performing at these concerts is my small contribution to giving back to them," he said.

Tickets to the Premier's Gala Concerts tickets can be booked via Ticketek online at [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au) or by phone on 1300 130 613.

The NSW Government will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure the Premier's Gala Concerts are run safely. For more information about the concerts (including the live-stream link), expo and other events and activities happening during the NSW Seniors Festival, visit [www.seniorsfestival.nsw.gov.au](http://www.seniorsfestival.nsw.gov.au).

## FLAG CEREMONY

BY DON TAIT



Photos by Chris Bennett

For the last 14 years, the Castle Hill RSL sub-Branch has been conducting an Australia Day Flag Ceremony in the veteran area at the Castlebrook Memorial Park supported by the Castlebrook Memorial Park Board and staff.

The 2022 ceremony commenced at 7am and involved a commemoration service, replacing the old Australian Flag with a new one and wreath laying.

It was again supported by the 336 Australian Air Force Cadet Unit and the Castle Hill RSL Club Pipe Band.

As for the last 14 years, sub-Branch members were joined by members of our community including the Minister for Veterans, the Hon. David Elliott MP, the NSW Member for Baulkham Hills. Covid protocols were adhered to. Following the ceremony, 14 teams of sub-Branch members joined by community personnel placed approximately 1100 Australian flags on the graves and in the walls where veterans are entombed in the Park.

This is our way of remembering and honouring the veterans for their service to our nation. The Park is covered with Australia flags. Let us Not Forget. After this activity, the Castlebrook staff provided breakfast for all attendees. With an early rise breakfast and a coffee were much appreciated.

What a great activity on Australia Day!

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# The Hills Shire Council News

## The Hills Shire Council e-newsletters

The Hills Shire Council has a variety of e-newsletters, designed to keep residents up to date with what's happening in The Hills.

Find out about library services, events, books and more with The Hills Shire Library Service e-newsletter.

Have your say on current and future community consultations, including Major Plans on Exhibition and other Council projects, with The Hills Have Your Say e-newsletter.

Be the first to know about upcoming events and activities in the local community with The Hills News and Events e-newsletter.

And get business help straight to your inbox with The Hills Shire Council Business e-newsletter.

Sign up for one or all of our e-newsletters today by visiting [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and searching for 'e-newsletters.'



## YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Hills Youth Army is a growing network of young people who work in partnership with Council to empower local youth through programs and activities.

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To register please scan the QR code.  
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or send us an email at [volunteers@thehills.nsw.gov.au](mailto:volunteers@thehills.nsw.gov.au)



## Waves Aquatic Centre Upgrade

Keep up to date with the progress of The Hills Shire's biggest construction project by visiting Council's website and searching for 'Waves Aquatic Centre Upgrade.'



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





## Your Mayor & Councillors

Dr Peter Gangemi was elected as the new Mayor of The Hills Shire, following the Local Government Election on December 4, 2021.

Mayor Gangemi, as well as 12 Councillors, was officially sworn in on Thursday, December 23 2021 at the Council Chambers. They will represent the community until September 2024.

Returning to Council is Clr Frank De Masi, Clr Reena Jethi, Clr Ryan Tracey and Clr Tony Hay OAM. Barbara Burton, who was a Councillor from 2008 to 2012, also makes a return to Council.

New Councillors include Mitchell Blue, Jessica Brazier, Mark Hodges, Virginia Ellis, Mila Kasby, Rosemarie Boneham and Jerome Cox.

For more information on The Hills Shire Council's new Council, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Mayor and Councillors.'

## 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.'

## Council Meetings

Tuesday, 8 February 2022 – 7pm.

For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for '2022 Meeting Agendas and Minutes.'

## We're hiring!

Looking for a job? Join our team at The Hills Shire Council. Employing more than 600 staff, The Hills Shire Council recruits people who have a commitment to providing exceptional service to our growing community.

To explore current job opportunities, visit <https://thehillsshirecounciljobs.com/Vacancies/>

## Report it to Council

ANY DEVICE, ANYWHERE, ANY TIME

Have you seen something that needs our attention? You can report an issue from anywhere, on any device, at any time.

To get started, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search 'Report it to Council.'



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



**THE HILLS**  
Sydney's Garden Shire



Councillor Sarah Richards, Councillor Eddie Dogramachi, SES Hawkesbury Unit Commander Kevin Jones, Mayor Patrick Conolly, Councillor Danielle Wheeler

# HAWKESBURY AUSTRALIA DAY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

*Hawkesbury City Council is proud to announce the Hawkesbury Australia Day Winners for 2022. Australia Day presentations were a little different this year with recipients being delivered their awards – a civic reception is planned to be held for winners and nominators at a later date.*

The Hawkesbury Australia Day awards are an integral part of Australia Day, recognising and honouring the outstanding achievements of everyday Australians in the Hawkesbury.

The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly, recently re-elected on 11 January, congratulated all award recipients, including the 2022 Citizen of the Year – Diane Williams; 2022 Young Citizen of the Year – Sophie Wills; and Community Organisation of the Year – Hawkesbury State Emergency Services.

“Congratulations and thank you for the many wonderful contributions you have made to our Hawkesbury community,” the Mayor said.

“Our SES volunteers worked fearlessly during and after the March 2021 flood event, and they are always on hand, day or night to help and support our community whether it is during fire, floods, storms or other emergencies. We thank you all.”

“Thank you also to Akash Arora - Digital Editor/Journalist at Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Australia, for being our 2022 Hawkesbury Australia Day Ambassador.”

## 2022 HAWKESBURY AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

- DIANE WILLIAMS - Citizen of the Year - Commitment to Girl Guides
- SOPHIE WILLS - Young Citizen of the Year - Defibrillator installation program
- ANNE ROBBIE - Volunteer of the Year – Rescues, rehabilitates cats and Animal Shelter volunteer
- PENNY MCKINLAY - Local Hero Award - Member RFS, BRAG, Mountain of Joy
- MICHAEL PAYNE - Sports Person of the Year - Commitment to Swimming
- LILLIAN PAGE - Junior Sports Person of the Year - Commitment to Athletics
- PHILLIP ROUTLEY - Community Arts Award - Commitment to arts and music in the Hawkesbury
- NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES HAWKESBURY - Community Organisation of the Year - Volunteer work during the 2021 floods

To see and hear from our winners, see the special video of the award winners on Council's YouTube channel [youtube.com/c/HawkesburyCityCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/c/HawkesburyCityCouncil)

The Hawkesbury will also welcome 36 new citizens from a range of countries, Philippines, India, Fiji, South Korea, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, France, New Zealand, Germany, South Africa, Jersey, Indonesia, Northern Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Morocco, Ukraine and Colombia as part of Australia Day. The Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies will be held online today to ensure that family and friends can participate in and watch the ceremonies from the comfort of their homes in a COVID-Safe way.

*“Congratulations to all of the Australia Day citizenship candidates on becoming Australian citizens.”*

~ Mayor Conolly



Councillor Jill Reardon, Mayor Patrick Conolly, Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett, Australia Day Award Winner Penny McKinlay, Councillor Eddie Dogramaci



Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett, Councillor Paul Veigel, Mayor Patrick Conolly, Australia Day Award Winner Michael Payne and nominator Jenni Payne



Australia Day Award Winner Lillian Page and family and Mayor Patrick Conolly and Councillor Paul Veigel



Nominator Maureen Rose, Australia Day Award Winner Diane Williams, Mayor Patrick Conolly and Councillor Jill Reardon



Australia Day Award Winner Phillip Routley with his family and Mayor Patrick Conolly



Councillor Sarah Richards, nominator Patrina Carter, Australia Day Award winner Anne Robbie, Mayor Patrick Conolly and Councilor Danielle Wheeler



# THE AUSTRALIAN ROMANTIC AND CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO THE HILLS

Featuring the work of Elgar, Holst, Schumann, Wolf and Herbert, the Sunday afternoon 4pm concert at Hills Grammar School, Kenthurst is the orchestra's first of the year and first of the series which will continue on to Newcastle City Hall, Sydney's City Recital Hall, the Queensland Conservatorium in Brisbane and the Melbourne Recital Centre.

In the late 19th century, the serenade was the vehicle for exquisite, expressive writing by some of the biggest names of the era. Edward Elgar and Hugo Wolf both wrote serenades that remain among their best-loved works, filling these relatively brief pieces with beautiful, tuneful music that highlights the expressive and emotive way that string musicians were performing at the time.

Another composer who knew his way around a tune was American Victor Herbert, whose serenade shows you why no less a judge than Dvorák thought he had promise beyond the Tin Pan Alley songs he was famous for.

This program also features an arrangement of *Schumann's Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73 in a world premiere of a rich new arrangement by Australian composer Shauna Beesley. Originally for solo instrument and piano, this enlarged arrangement highlights the superb playing of co-artistic director and violin soloist Rachael Beesley against a lush, enchanting torrent of strings. Schumann's title suggests uninhibited imagination, and that is precisely what you will hear!

Rachael Beesley directs an ensemble of outstanding Australian international musicians - all experts in Historically Informed Performance or 'HIP' and playing authentic period instruments.

Founded under the artistic direction of renowned musician and educator, the late Richard Gill AO, and already a dynamic influence on the Australian music scene, the orchestra's twin goals of performance and education are delivered through live concerts in Australia's capital cities and in metropolitan and regional centres, collaborations with guest ensembles, radio broadcasts, innovative education programs, pre-concert presentations and specialist online resources. Bringing together leading Australian and international exponents, the Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra brings historical insights and new perspectives to masterpieces from the Classical and Romantic periods. Its Young Mannheim Symphonists youth orchestra program will hold its 2022 National Winter Academy in July at the Kings School, North Parramatta.

"*Northern Serenades*" is the first of this year's ambitious and exciting concert series, which continues in 2022 with "*Austrian Encounters*" (featuring the Australian Boys' Choir), "*Sounds of Vienna*" and "*Tempestuous Skies*".

"The past two years have taught us a great many things," says Rachael, "but what we

## THE AUSTRALIAN ROMANTIC AND CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

Northern Serenades, Sunday 20 March 4pm  
Hills Grammar School, Kenthurst

**EDWARD ELGAR**

Serenade for Strings in E minor, Op.20

**GUSTAV HOLST**

St Paul's Suite in C major Op.29, No.2

**ROBERT SCHUMANN/SHAUNA BEESLEY**

Fantasiestücke, Op.73

for violin & strings (world premiere)

**HUGO WOLF**

Italian Serenade in G major (strings version)

**VICTOR HERBERT**

Serenade for Strings in F major, Op.12

have learned above all else is how deeply and profoundly we love performing with our dear friends and colleagues, and for our loyal friends and audience.

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For more information, concert schedule and programs, tickets etc, visit [www.arco.org.au](http://www.arco.org.au)



# HOW WELL DOES YOUR BRAIN PROCESS WHAT YOU HEAR?

Auditory processing is how the brain processes what you hear. In short, it's how the brain recognises and interprets speech and sound. When there is an error in auditory processing, it is known as an auditory processing disorder (APD).

This processing disorder can affect both children and adults, even if they have normal hearing on a standard hearing test. For children, this may present as misunderstanding when listening, difficulties following instructions, difficulties listening in the presence of background noise such as a classroom, unable to maintain their attention or being easily distracted. With the school year about to begin, be alert to how your child is, or is not, interacting, engaging and understanding at home and in the classroom.

For adults, many people complain that they need to constantly asks for repeats during conversations, struggle hearing in background noise, always getting music lyrics wrong or they must use subtitles to understand the television.

In a general population, approximately 6% of people will have an auditory processing disorder. However, the prevalence of APD is higher in marginalised and vulnerable populations. APD can also occur alongside

autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and brain injury. Additionally, the incidence of APD is higher if a child has had middle ear pathologies during early childhood.

APD can be frustrating, confusing, and isolating. However, the good news is that research has shown that APD can be tested and treated in children as young as 3.5 years old. The process of identifying if you have any auditory processing concerns must start with an evaluation by an audiologist who specialises in this field. Your audiologist will assess your hearing to understand what sounds you can and cannot detect. An individual, or child can have hearing that appears to be normal on a standard hearing test, but still have an auditory processing disorder. Once a deficit has been diagnosed, we can match the problem that you or your child is having to a treatment. This involves auditory training to improve a specific auditory skill.

At Ear Studio, we have specialised audiologists who assess auditory processing. If you have concerns about your own, or your child's auditory processing skills, an appointment can be arranged at Ear Studio online at <https://earstudio.com.au/> or over the phone on (02) 9159 6122.



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*Passion for Hearing*

# WINNING VIBE AT ALIVE 90.5

BY BEV JORDAN

**Local community radio station Alive 90.5FM has been named the 2021 “Outstanding Small Station” in Australia by The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA).**

It is a huge accolade for the station which operates from Baulkham Hills.

With more than 320 entries across 30 award categories, and representing a diverse cross-section of the community radio sector, this year’s contest had some stiff competition.

It was a double win for Alive 90.5FM at the national awards with previous Deputy Chair Darryn Capes-Davis winning the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution award.

The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA) supports over 450 community radio, local and independent media organisations.

Jon Bisset, CBA’s CEO, said, “This year the entries were difficult to judge because the

standard of work is always high, and we congratulate everyone who participated. These awards are important for stations because they can help secure funding and sponsorship. We are very pleased for our winners.”

Tony Salerno, Chairman of Alive 90.5FM said, “This award is a testament to everyone involved at the station. The presenters play a big role but this award is evidence of how well the station was run under the previous board which included the likes of Jerome Vagg, Darryn Capes-Davis and Andsley Dennis.

“Alive 90.5FM is very proud of its volunteers and the systems and processes they have put in place over the past 12 months. The processes coupled with the work the station has done with other charities is something we wished to showcase to the CBA. To be acknowledged for this award is fantastic but to win the category, knowing how strong the field was, is humbling,” said Tony.

The award criteria were very broad with Alive 90.5FM having to demonstrate a strong vision, diligence in policy enforcement, community-interest based programming, local community benefits and its approach to the station’s technical operations.

Darryn took on several volunteer roles to assist with the effective running of Alive 90.5 FM, including technical manager (since December 2018), content manager (since March 2019), interim Programming Committee Chair (since February 2021) and Deputy Chair.



Alive 90.5FM Chairman Tony Salerno



Darryn Capes-Davis the CBA's Outstanding Volunteer Contribution winner

He is now focussed on the development of Spotlight. During time as interim Programming Chair of Alive 90.5 FM, Darryn facilitated many hours of Presenter training, including seeing promise in a guest, Matthew Caruana, who is now co-host of Business Insights with Mario Bekes.

“My community radio journey has been a wealth of great learning experiences, leading to starting Spotlight with Jim Taggart back in July 2020” said Darryn. “To now be recognised with this national community radio award is a great accolade and I am proud of what I have done for Alive 90.5 FM and Spotlight”.

Alive 90.5 serves Parramatta, Cumberland and the Hills area. Programs include Breakfast and Drive with regular news, weather and traffic updates, Morning Magazine with news and special guests such as local community leaders, politicians and personalities, plus a range of special interest programs.

**WEBSITE:** [www.alive905.com.au/](http://www.alive905.com.au/)  
**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/Alivefm90.5](https://www.facebook.com/Alivefm90.5)  
**INSTAGRAM:** @alive905fm  
**LINKEDIN:** [au.linkedin.com/company/alive-90-5-fm](https://au.linkedin.com/company/alive-90-5-fm)



Board member Ross Fear congratulating presenter Steve James on his long service to Alive 90.5FM

# NEW VIRTUAL COURSE AT TAFE NSW DELIVERS A FLYING START TO THE BANKING INDUSTRY

For the first time local Hawkesbury residents can gain a competitive edge to start a career in the banking industry, thanks to a new virtual course in Certificate IV in Banking Services offered through TAFE NSW.

This exciting opportunity is currently advertised on ‘online employment marketplace’, Seek across New South Wales.

TAFE NSW Head Teacher Alex Arfanis said graduates develop real-world skills in financial services, banking products and compliance to meet industry financial regulations and hit the ground running.

“We’ve seen the banking industry undergo a rapid transformation in the last two years to meet increased customer demand for digital

services and a shift to flexible working as a result of COVID-19,” said Ms Arfanis.

“Offering the course via virtual delivery opens access to regional NSW and enables students to develop strong digital literacy skills, including the ability to work collaboratively virtually”.

Former Qantas work mates Gary and Julie opted for a voluntary redundancy earlier this year and are flying high after completing the course virtually last month. Studying at TAFE NSW has helped them transfer 30 years of experience at Qantas to jumpstart a new career in the banking industry.

Currently there is a significant digital literacy skills gap in Australia and 87% of jobs



now require these skills. Banking may not have been on the career agenda, but learning banking technology and developing new skills, such as how to sell products and services, gives a solid grounding for an entry-level position. If you are thinking about a career change or just starting on the job ladder, why not consider the Certificate IV in Banking Services as a future career? The course can be studied virtually full-time or part-time from anywhere in NSW and is currently open for enrolment.

Visit [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au) or phone 13 16 01. It could be your lucky day!

# VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

*The Animal Welfare League NSW Hawkesbury Branch is always looking for volunteers.*

Volunteers are needed as foster carers which is considered one of the most rewarding ways to help the dogs and cats.

Fostering provides them with a stable home environment where they can learn to trust people while they become used to everyday situations while developing their social skills as they wait for the new forever homes.

Volunteers are also needed for fundraising, administration or providing transportation for carers and their charges to their appointments.

AWL is always seeking items associated with caring for animals: such as, dog collars and leads, cat litter trays and litter, blankets and towels for bedding and consumable items of pet foods for cats and kittens, puppies and dogs.

Cash donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

The Animal Welfare League NSW Hawkesbury Branch can assist financially in desexing pets via the Companion Animal Assistance Scheme (CAAS) which is available to Pensioner and low income earners in the Hawkesbury area. **Contact Leonie on 0402 086 580 for details.**

**The Hawkesbury Branch meets on the 1st Saturday of each month from 11am at the Richmond Club, 6 Market Street, Richmond.**

The Western Suburbs and Hills District Branch has rescued over 3,000 animals from local pounds and has provided subsidised desexing to thousands of local residents every year since it was established in the 1970s.

To find out more about the subsidised pet desexing or cat and kitten adoptions email: [awl@westernsuburbs.com.au](mailto:awl@westernsuburbs.com.au)

**Western Suburbs Branch meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month** at the Reg Byrne Community Centre, located on the corner of Fyall and Darcy Roads, Wentworthville NSW, from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

The Animal Welfare League NSW Animal Shelter is at 1605 Elizabeth Drive, Kemp's Creek. In the past 12 months it has helped find homes for 2,166 pets through adoption and found foster homes for 530 pets.

The past 12 months has seen Animal Welfare League NSW desex 7,015 domestic pets.

To find out more about what animals are available for adoption or how to help visit [www.awlnsw.com.au](http://www.awlnsw.com.au)



Batman is a 12-week-old male short-haired kitten seeking a forever home. To find out more visit [www.awlnsw.com.au](http://www.awlnsw.com.au)



BAYLEE is a female Kelpie aged 2 years 2 months available for adoption. To find out more visit [www.awlnsw.com.au](http://www.awlnsw.com.au)

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# HAWKESBURY GALLERY'S NEW SHOW

TAFE NSW Kingswood visual arts students have wowed audiences with their expertly curated 'We're all going on a summer holiday' exhibition, in collaboration with Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.

TAFE NSW Head Teacher Cath Barcan said the thought-provoking exhibition has provided a unique opportunity for 11 local students to showcase their creative talent and build industry connections.

"The project is a great opportunity for our talented Advanced Diploma of Visual Arts and Bachelor of Creative Practice students and graduates to put into practice what they have learnt. Their passion, dedication, and creative flair are well and truly on show."

Werrington County local and mother-of-three Ilona Bruckard is following her dream of becoming an art teacher, after completing an Advanced Diploma in Visual Arts at TAFE NSW Kingswood, specialising in ceramic sculpture.

"Since finishing high school, I've always wanted to be an art teacher. When I was approaching 40, I decided now is the time to follow my dreams, so I took the plunge and enrolled at TAFE NSW," Ms Bruckard said.

"I'm currently studying a Bachelor of Creative Practice along with a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, so I can fulfill my dream of empowering the next generation of artists. Being selected to be part of the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery exhibition has been incredibly

exciting. I've gained so much confidence throughout my time at TAFE, thanks to the support of my teachers, and it's great to see all of my hard work come to life."

Gallery and Museum Director Kath von Witt said Hawkesbury Regional Gallery's ethos has always been to support the creative life of the region.

"Working with TAFE NSW fine arts students and alumni for our end of year exhibition creates a strong connection between the gallery and the broader community. We are very lucky to have such a strong arts community in the region, and we all need to celebrate our good fortune to live in such a creative and diverse space," Ms von Witt said. "While COVID-19 lockdowns and other natural disasters in the past few years have been a dreadful burden, sometimes there is a silver lining! Such as this exhibition."

"The artists have risen to the challenge and have created a thought-provoking, technically interesting, and accessible exhibition I encourage everyone to visit."

The 'We're all going on a summer holiday' exhibition at Hawkesbury Regional Gallery runs until 6 February 2022.

To find out more about the range of arts courses available at TAFE NSW, visit [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au) or call 131 601.



## REGISTRATION OF INTEREST ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The proponent, Dexus Funds Management Limited (PO Box R1822, Royal Exchange NSW 1225) are undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed development at 3 Brookhollow Avenue, Norwest NSW (Lot 2021, DP831173). The proposal includes the development of an integrated precinct including a new Norwest High School as well as Norwest Park and wider precinct. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform a State Significant Development (SSD) application under Part 4 Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the Minister for Planning within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in their consideration and determination of the SSD application.

We are inviting Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in the area of the proposal to register an interest in the project. If you would like to register your interest, please provide name of group/individual, nominated contact person and contact details. Note, we are required to provide details of all Registered Aboriginal Parties to Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless otherwise advised. Please advise us in writing if you do not wish your details to be released.

If you would like to register your interest in this project, please respond to us in writing by 11th February 2022. Registration can be sent to us C/O Coast History and Heritage, 15/112 McEvoy Street, Alexandria NSW 2015 or [admin@coasthistory.com.au](mailto:admin@coasthistory.com.au). For any inquiries call 1800 450 995.





# Ray Williams MP

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL  
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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)



## A NEW ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND AT BOX HILL

It was a great honour to join Michelle Byrne, former Mayor for The Hills Shire and The Hon. Alex Hawke MP Federal Member for Mitchell, to open brand new Equinox Drive Reserve, in Box Hill. With the support of the State and Australian Governments, The Hills Shire Council could deliver this wonderful new facility just before Christmas.

## \$200,000 TO REFURBISH LOCAL SPORTS FACILITY

Riding for the Disabled Tall Timbers is off to a winning start in 2022 following the awarding of a \$200,000 NSW Government grant from the \$20 million Greater Cities Sports & Recreational Facility Fund. Only 32 organisations across NSW were successful in being awarded funding in Round 2 of the Fund, so a fantastic result for this very worthwhile organisation.

## RENT RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses that are continuing to face challenges due to COVID-19 will benefit from an additional two months of rent relief, with the NSW Government extending its rent relief regulation until March 13. For more information visit: [Commercial leases and COVID-19 FAQs](#) | [Small Business Commissioner](#) ([nsw.gov.au](http://nsw.gov.au))

**Congratulations!**

**CELEBRATING THEIR**  
**90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**NOLA DENT**

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**91<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**MARGARET LEMAIRE**  
.....

**JOAN LOUGHMAN**

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**93<sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**DORIS PROCTOR**

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**96<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**HEATHER MADDEN**  
.....

**RONALD BENDALL**

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**99<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**IGNACIA DOCTOR**

## COVID-SMART PLAN FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

The safety and education of Hawkesbury children is of top priority and I am therefore pleased that every student and teacher in NSW government and non-government schools will be able to receive rapid antigen test (RAT) kits before school returns on February 1. This is part of the COVID-Smart Plan designed to keep schools open and students safe. Other measures within this plan include:

- Twice a week surveillance testing for primary and high school students, school staff and early childhood staff. Surveillance testing will be undertaken for the first four weeks of term, with two weeks of supply distributed before term starts
- Mandatory mask wearing for all staff and high school students, with masks encouraged for children in primary schools
- Limiting interaction between year groups
- Limiting visitors to those providing essential curriculum and wellbeing support
- COVID-safe settings in place for music, sport and excursions
- Maximising natural and mechanical ventilation, with air purifiers dispatched to where they are needed
- Contingency plans in place to manage any disruptions to the workforce

We need to ensure stable and consistent education for our children within the school environment. The health measures will assist in preventing the disruptions that students have faced throughout the pandemic.

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Hawkesbury school leavers who are considering vocational education options with TAFE NSW have access to more than 1,700 information sessions scheduled across the state to help them get skilled and kick-start their careers.

The NSW Government is also funding numerous fee-free courses and training programs to enable people to obtain the skills required for their desired jobs, so I encourage anyone interested in an information session to visit <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/information-sessions>.

# ROBYN PRESTON MP

## MEMBER FOR HAWKESBURY

**How my office and I can help you**

- Represent you in Parliament and raise local issues with the appropriate Minister or Department
- Answer questions, help you access government services and provide information about community groups and events
- Facilitate applications to become a Justice of the Peace or to obtain a Seniors Card
- Update your electoral enrolment details
- Send a congratulatory letter for anniversaries and birthdays of significance
- Provide you with details on how to apply for government grants

**The office is located at Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Campus Building R4, College Drive, Richmond. M: PO Box 505 Richmond NSW 2753 T: 02 4578 0300 E: [hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au)**



The U10s Hills Barbarians Whites celebrate a win.

# HILLS BARBARIANS SET THE PACE

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Hills Barbarians president Steve Wickman and his son Jared.

**The Hills Barbarians Junior Cricket Club are enjoying a successful season, after overcoming challenges off the field due to COVID-19.**

Despite players moving inter-state and numbers dropping off the senior teams, the Barbarians are in the driving seat in the 2021/22 Parramatta District Cricket Association season.

This weekend, the top-placed and undefeated Barbarians host second-placed Baulkham Hills CC in a decisive A Grade match, knowing a win will strengthen their premierships hopes. The 70-over match will be played at the George Thornton Reserve, West Pennant Hills, starting at 1.30pm on Saturday, January 29.

Evergreen club president and A grade bowler, Steve Wickman said they have a very competitive

team who have performed well all season. "I have been playing for the Barbarians for the past 36 years, and still love the competition, though my bowling has gone from fast to a very medium pace," Wickman said with a smile. "The senior team is doing very well this season, and it pays to play in a competitive side.

"We are fielding 22 teams competing in junior, seniors, girls and mixed competitions, and it has been a challenge this season due to Covid. We are in the middle of the pandemic, but we have to focus on the positives."

# HILLS FOOTBALL EYES MORE SUCCESS

**Hills Football is looking ahead to a very successful year on all fronts, following last year's COVID-interrupted season.**

In addition to several measures in place to ensure safe playing conditions, the association is offering returning players a 40 per cent refund on all 2021 Hills Football registration fees (association component) for local players.

Hills Football General Manager Matthew Rippon said they wanted to help the players. "We want to demonstrate that value proposition to our players and ensure that we were able to give something back to players right across the board," Rippon said. "Last year, we had our highest ever registrations with just shy of 13,000 players in our association.

"We actually grew by 2,000 players between 2020 and 2021, so that's a massive leap forward for us and in 2022 we really want to see as many of those players as possible return. From our point of view, we've taken a lot of measures to ensure the safety of participants, so parents

and players alike can be confident that Hills Football competitions will be a safe and healthy place for them to enjoy their sport in 2022."

Rippon said they are focusing on attracting more females to their teams, especially with Australia and New Zealand hosting the Women's World Cup next year.

"A big focus is the continued growth of female participation following a 20 per cent increase in 2021," Rippon said. "Last year we launched the Women's Premier League, which really provided a buzz among our clubs, and we also doubled female teams.

He pointed out that Hills Football was also keen to provide pathways for women to get involved in football coaching or administration.

"The callout for players of the Hills this year is to 'JustPLAY, JustCOACH or JustREF'," Rippon said.

Cricket runs in the family, with Wickman's son, Jared, playing in the U-13s.

"We have less teams for the first time during my time at the club, because we usually grow," Wickman said. "A lot of adults have decided to sit out this season, while some players and their families have moved inter-state. However, people are being sensible with their safety precautions, though we had a few players who have had Covid or been a close contact."

Wickman and his club are particularly proud that one of their juniors, Tim Ward, is being touted as a future Australian player, after joining Tasmania's Sheffield Shield team last year. Ward, who also played for Parramatta in the premier grade with much success, failed to make the NSW Shield team despite his obvious talent. The opening batsman is now thriving in Tasmania, after being called up by their coach Jeff Vaughan. According to former Australian Test captain and Tasmanian teammate Tim Paine, Ward, "has a great character and temperament, and a huge future".

The Barbarians, formed in 1976/77, are one of the largest clubs in the competition, and have strong junior pathways. Junior players are still welcome to join, and are assured of a strong grass roots program, backed by a family-friendly atmosphere. The Junior and Master Blast programs begin this weekend.

Details: Hills Barbarians Cricket Club



Female participation is booming at Hills Football

"It illustrates there is an offering for everyone in the family whether that be a returning player, someone new to the game (at any age) or perhaps getting involved in a non-playing role such as coaching, refereeing or volunteering on one of our club committees.

"Like all community sports, we are eager to return to as normal a playing environment as possible. We have collectively between Football NSW and our member clubs been working to ensure a safe, enjoyable environment exists for players returning for the season."

Details: <https://hillsfootball.com.au>

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REDEX



# A TRIAL TO REMEMBER

By Ivor Jones

**A trial that has lived long in the memory of many in Australia is not a criminal trial but one of reliability of Australian ingenuity and endurance. I am referring to the world famous “Redex Reliability Trials” of the 1950s – a rally around the nation in a motley collection of motor vehicles driven by an even more motley collection of drivers and navigators, some of which were to become household names in Australia and even further afield.**

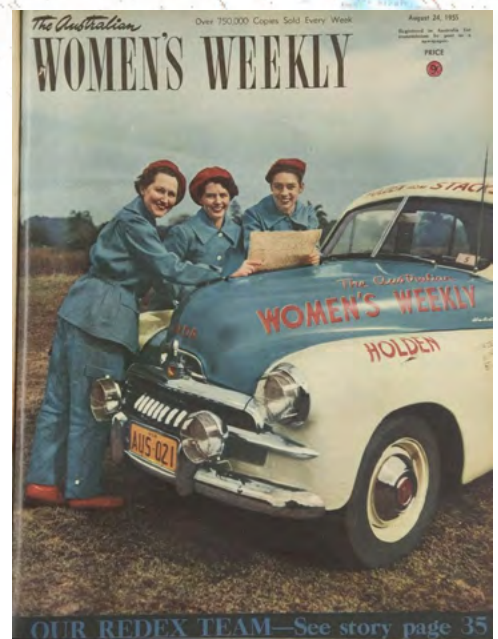
One such person was the legendary larrikin, “Gelignite Jack Murray”. Jack was definitely a true blue Aussie character with a dry sense of humour. During the 1953 Redex Trial, Jack’s Plymouth overturned on a bush track. A passing competitor yelled out - “You alright Jack?” Jack replied “Got a ring spanner? Nine-sixteenths SAE?” Thinking ... followed by the puzzled query: “A ring spanner. What the hell do you want that for?” “I thought I’d do the brakes while the wheels were up like this.” Silence ... then everyone started to laugh.

Gelignite Jack once said that he got the nickname during the 1954 Redex Trial as “They christened me ‘Gelignite Jack’ after the big bang in the tin outhouse at Townsville Showground”, he is quoted as saying “Gelignite wouldn’t hurt a flea out in the open. It’s just the same as a cracker, only louder. Jack’s co-driver and navigator at the time was Bill Murray (no relation). Bill Murray was a construction and explosives expert. The two Murrays took boxes of gelignite on the trial with the intention of clearing any fallen

trees or other obstacles blocking the narrow outback roads. It was never used or required for this intended purpose. The gelignite became Jack’s toy.

The first Redex Trial in 1953 was organised by Dunlop executive Harry James, and there were 187 cars entered for that first trial. Some commentators referred to it as a race whilst others referred to it as a Rally which it was.

Each car had to be kept stock standard, except for limited underbody protection and changes to seating, exhaust, carbys, shock absorbers, lighting and instruments. Repairs were allowed to be made on the run. Drivers lost points for lateness at check in points along the route. They would lose one point for every minute late to enter a control point, as well as a further 100 points for disobeying a direction from race adjudicators. If a driver had to swap a part at any point during the race, they would also have 500 points deducted from their overall score. The 1953 route ran Sydney - Bundaberg - Rockhampton - Mackay - Townsville - Mount Isa - Darwin



- Tennant Creek - Alice Springs - Kingoonya - Adelaide - Melbourne - Albury - Sydney. From Townsville to Adelaide, except for the bitumen between Mt. Isa, Darwin and Alice Springs, the route was little more than a collection of faint tracks criss-crossing claypans and saltbush.

There were 50,000 people at Sydney Showground to see the start, which saw the first competitor, Ted Hoy in the Airnow, leave at 2pm. and the last, Queenslander, Miss J. Hill, in a Renault 750, at 11.33pm. The leaders averaged about 50 mph (80 km/h) up the Pacific Highway to Brisbane, with mechanical failure taking points from some of the novices.

The eventual winner of the first Redex Trial in 1953 was 37 year old Ken Tubman in a Peugeot 203 who had won by 25 seconds from Ken Robinson driving a Humber Snipe - 25 seconds after 10,500 kilometres of murderous country.

“Gelignite” Jack Murray and Bill Murray were the winners of the 1954 Redex Reliability Trials.

# AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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



# COMMUNITY groups

## 2nd Castle Hill Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

## Annangrove Environment Centre

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

## Arcadian Quilters

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.fffhnc.com

## Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

4721 8709

## Hills District Women's Bowling Club

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

## Hills Older Men's Network INC

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

Ron | 0424 462 153  
HillsOMI1@gmail.com

## Hills Toastmasters

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

## Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

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

Allen | 0439 831 531  
alldavisguitar@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 for 10am. The group has day outings, short tours and interesting speakers. This very friendly group welcomes visitors.

May | 0414 634 572  
maybruce@bigpond.com

## North Rocks Evening VIEW Club

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

## North Richmond Probus Club

Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am at Panthers, North Richmond, Beaumont Rd, N. Richmond.  
Joan Bruce | 0404 290 484  
northrichmondprobus@gmail.com

## Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club

We are a breakfast Club and meet every Friday morning at 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  
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 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

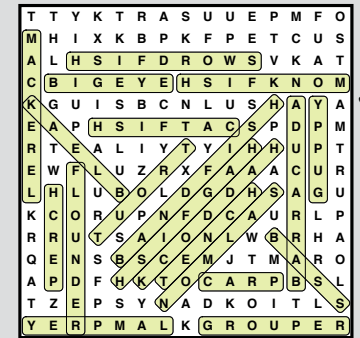
## WORD SEARCH

### IN THE JUNGLE

- ANACONDA      JUNGLE CAT
- ANTEATER      LEOPARD
- APES            MONGOOSE
- BABOON        OKAPI
- CAPYBARA      PANDA
- COATI           PARROT
- COBRA          PYTHON
- CROCODILE     SLOTH
- GORILLA        TAPIR
- JAGUAR         TIGER

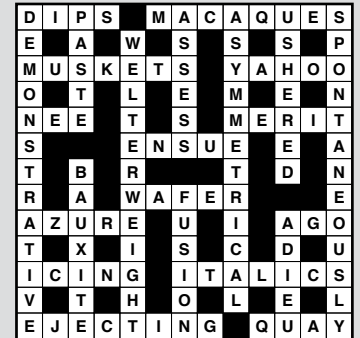


## WORD SEARCH



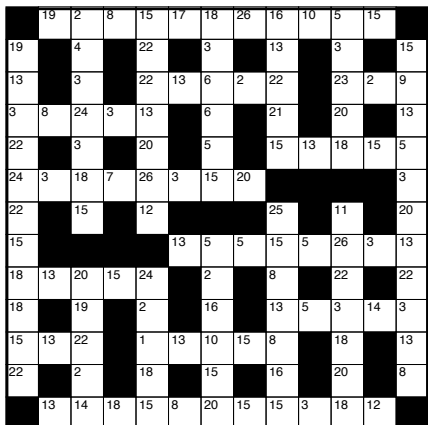
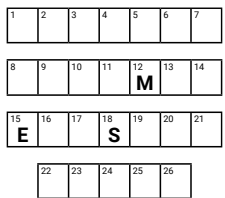
Answers from last issue

## CODE WORD



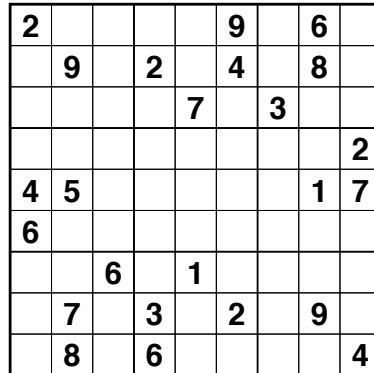
## CODE WORD

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

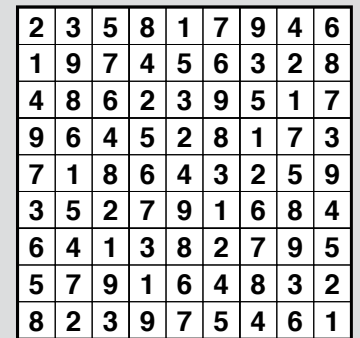


## SUDOKU

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



## SUDOKU



# ANIMAL JUSTICE MP CALLS FOR A BAN ON GREYHOUND RACING

*Richmond Racing Club was Australia's deadliest greyhound racing track in 2021, recording 10 deaths and 572 injuries, according to data collated by the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds.*

Richmond's 2021 injury tally of 572 is more than the combined total of the second and third worst tracks in the state (The Gardens, 295 and Wentworth Park, 228), with its death toll of 10 narrowly topping tracks in South Australia (Murray Bridge) and Queensland (Albion Park), each recording 9 deaths.

Upper House MP for the Animal Justice Party Mark Pearson has called for greyhound racing at the track to be banned until the venue is investigated by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.

"Ten deaths and 572 injuries: if these statistics are applied to any human sport, this

venue would be torn down and heads would roll," he said.

Mr Pearson is calling on Minister for Hospitality and Racing, Kevin Anderson, to halt all races at Richmond until the cause of its "disproportionately high" number of injuries and deaths is investigated and addressed.

"These dogs deserve justice. And if Mr Anderson doesn't act, he'll begin 2022 with blood on his hands – aiding and abetting criminal behaviour in allowing racing at this death-trap to continue."

Richmond Race Club is located an hour from Sydney's CBD in the Hawkesbury and is

located as "Western Sydney's premier greyhound racing track".

Last year, Richmond and Wentworth Park shared in \$1.6 million of funding to "undertake work to meet stringent new minimum safety standards to drive down injury rates in the sport".

Over \$23 million was allocated by the New South Wales Government to greyhound racing clubs across the state, in addition to another \$7 million already spent on "safety works" through the Government's Greyhound Raxing Capital Grants Program.

In April 2021, Richmond opened the state's first straight track, which the industry lauded as "a great step forward for NSW, with huge racing and welfare benefits".

"Where is this money going? And how many races at Richmond last year actually took place on that straight track?" Mr Pearson said.

"The numbers just aren't adding up. This track has seen a share in close to two million dollars and dogs are still dying virtually every week."

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# PUZZLES

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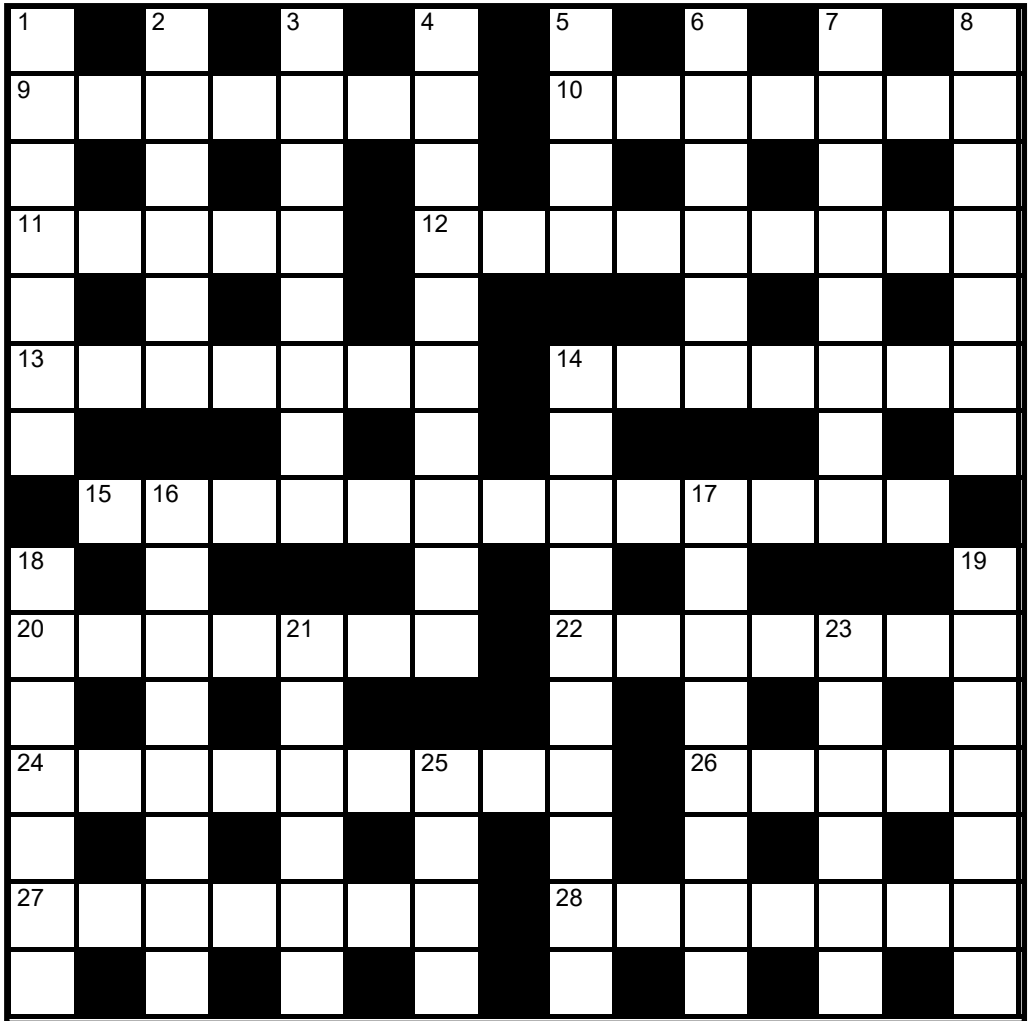
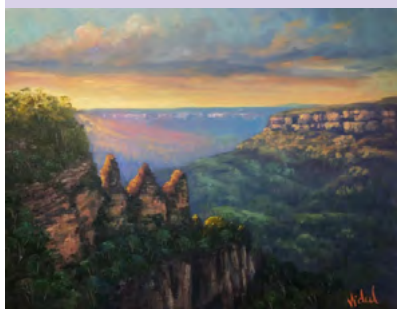


### CHRISTOPHER VIDAL

## “Painting a lake scene with distant mountains”

MARCH 22, 2022

Christopher Vidal is a Sydney artist who loves to paint the landscape as well as other subjects in oils and acrylics. His style of painting is contemporary realism influenced by classical painters and by recent impressionists, so join his workshop and learn how to create such artworks. The fee is \$90. Phone Luce Lopez on 0419496621 to register your interest.



### Across

- 9. Fit
- 10. Small long-tailed bird (3-4)
- 11. Claire Hooper, for example
- 12. Misnamed fruit bat (6, 3)
- 13. Utopian
- 14. Some arts
- 15. Sydney-born country singer (7, 6)
- 20. At the start (5, 2)
- 22. Flat-bottomed canal or harbour barge
- 24. Coiner of “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”
- 26. Register
- 27. Mocked
- 28. Developed over time

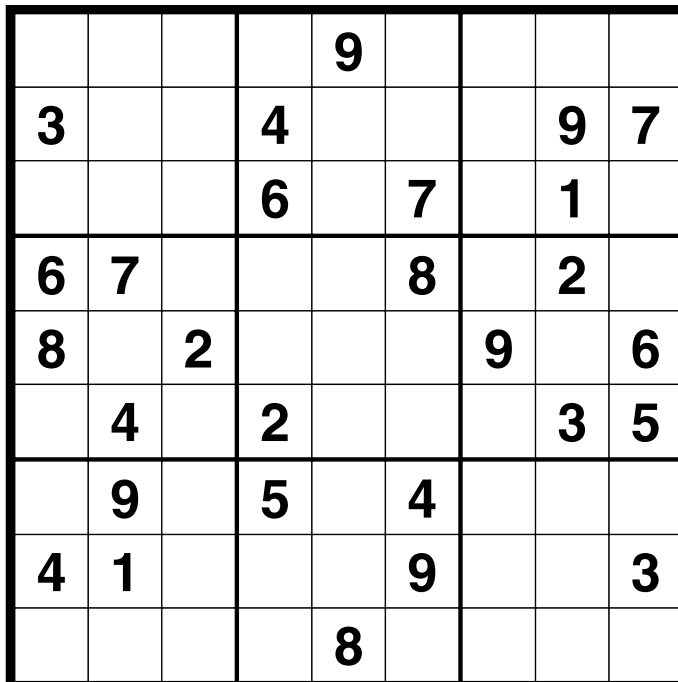
### Down

- 1. Clairvoyant
- 2. Consternation
- 3. Powerful
- 4. Enforce pit discipline to achieve improvement
- 5. 180-degree turn
- 6. Disposable mobile phone
- 7. Some wall art
- 8. Banished (2, 5)
- 14. Popular NSW National Park (5, 5)
- 16. Bombastic monologue
- 17. Enlisted (6, 2)
- 18. Mass-to-volume ratio
- 19. Musical introduction
- 21. Like fresh bread
- 23. Prosper
- 25. Chucks in

## SUDOKU

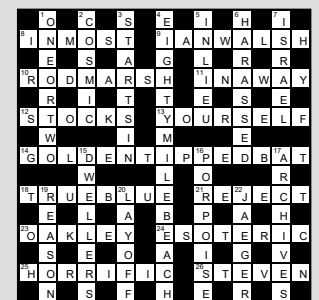
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

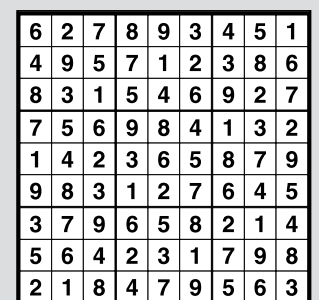


### Answers from last issue

## CROSSWORD



## SUDOKU



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