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## Community News

25th Feb - 11th March 2022 | Volume 39 – Issue 04  
Local News, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



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# DANCING WITH THE STARS

By BEV JORDAN

**Busy mum and business woman Leanne Shelton has the Cha Cha on her mind as she washes the dishes or whisks around her Kellyville home these days.**

The clock is ticking down to when the 36-year-old takes to the floor in The Stars of Western Sydney gala night on Saturday, March 26th to raise money for the Cancer Council.

While her daughters, Gabrielle, 8 and 5-year-old Indiana won't be part of the family cheer squad at the gala night they have been giving their mum helpful advice and helping with her aim to raise \$5000.

For Leanne, raising money for cancer is a cause close to her heart as her father, Garry Belinfante is currently undergoing treatment.

"Dad has been battling cancer on and off for five years. While he has remained high-spirited as possible for the family, he's experienced many ups and downs – including unexpected allergic reactions to treatments that sometimes put his life on the line," she said. "I'm hoping the money I raise for The Cancer Council goes towards research to uncover why

these things occurred and stop them from taking place in the future. I'd also love for us to keep moving towards a cure."

She says taking part in The Stars of Western Sydney is a perfect fundraising opportunity as she and her dad have a shared love for dancing.

Although Leanne started dancing when she was two in Physical Culture classes she is not used to dancing with a partner.

She's had a handful of dancing lessons with Matthew Murphy from Move With Me in Castle Hill and practices on her own at home.

Leanne is one of 11 community leaders across the Hills, Blacktown and Parramatta districts, who have been paired with a dancer teacher to learn a dance routine in just 8-12 weeks for Stars of Western Sydney.

Andy Abey from CHRG will also be taking part in the event and is dancing in memory of best friend Rosa who lost her battle with cancer 5 years ago.

The Hills mum said: "I'm completely out of my comfort zone and trying to remember to dance after 30 years. It's so much fun and for the most wonderful of causes."

She is dancing a contemporary dance with teacher Rachel Lawrence who owns Powerhouse Dance Factory.

The "Stars" will all perform their routine in front of a panel of judges and the audience during an evening of entertainment, laughter, and fundraising.



Leanne Shelton with dance partner Matthew Murphy.

Cancer Council NSW Community Relations Coordinator, Danielle Sammut, says "The demand for our support services has increased by 20 per cent during COVID, with cancer patients needing our support more than ever before."

To to support Leanne's fundraising efforts, visit [stars.cancercouncil.com.au/fundraisers/leanneshelton/stars-of-western-sydney](https://stars.cancercouncil.com.au/fundraisers/leanneshelton/stars-of-western-sydney). To find out more about the event which is being held at Wentley Leagues Club or to buy tickets (\$135 for 3-course meal, drink on arrival and entertainment) visit [stars.cancercouncil.com.au/event/stars-of-western-sydney/home](https://stars.cancercouncil.com.au/event/stars-of-western-sydney/home)



A young Leanne dancing with her dad Garry Belinfante.

## Hills to Hawkesbury

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

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# CASTLE ISLAND RELEASE

By BEV JORDAN

*The first stage of the \$300 million Castle Island project has just been released by KWG Property.*

Fronting Fishburn Crescent, Castle Hill, the development, when completed, will feature seven towers ranging in height from 7 to 8 levels with a total of 295 units.

Stage one consists of 76 units in 8-levels with construction proposed to start towards the end of the year with completion expected in 2024. It includes a roof garden and gym. Stage 2 will start in 2024.

Sales for the first stage opened at the weekend (February 19th). Eddie Mansour, Managing Director and Partner Ray White Projects said: "We have had just over 40% of the apartments that were released sell over the past weekend. We have had a high level of owner occupiers that are prominently downsizers and first home buyers."

Castle Island is one of several major developments planned around the Showground

Metro Station and the revitalisation of the Castle Hill Showground precinct which will provide for shops, medical centre, childcare centres, leisure and community spaces as well as walks and cycle tracks. The precinct is considered a state-significant development and the \$1 billion town centre precinct project was awarded last year to OCULUS- and Cox Architecture.

The development will include nine buildings, ranging in height from three to 21 storeys and accommodate 13,000 square metres of commercial floor space. It will also include 4,900 square metres of new public open space, 500 square metres of community facilities and at least five per cent affordable housing for a minimum of 10 years.

Castle Hill Showground has been a much-loved community and sporting destination for 130 years. The Hills Shire Council's Masterplan

for the area highlighted six areas including The Village, a Promenade, the arena, the Terraces and Paddocks.

The implementation of the Castle Hill Showground Master Plan is proposed to be carried out in stages over a 30 year period. The site will become a primary civic space for a new precinct of 20,000 residents.

Hill Shire Council also released a concept plan last year for a green link between Middleton Avenue through to Carrington Road, and onto Showground Road, Castle Hill for walkers and cyclists. Green Space

The plan will create a "green spine" with new pathways, seating and connections for pedestrians and cyclists near the Showground Metro station. The project will also see valuable ecological areas protected and the Cattai Creekline rehabilitated.

## Riverside GARDENS



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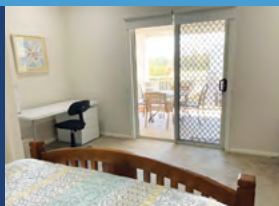
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Police from Riverstone Police Area Command have been praised for their quick thinking in rounding up a runaway cow in Schofields on Monday afternoon (February 21st). Motorists are familiar with Zebra Crossings but a Cattle Crossing was unexpected! The errant bovine was escorted home.



## CARJACKING CHARGES

Robbery and Serious Crime Squad detectives have charged a second man as part of ongoing investigations into a spate of alleged car jackings and armed robberies committed at gunpoint in January this year.

Investigators from the State Crime Command's Robbery and Serious Crime Squad – assisted by officers from The Hills Police Area Command – established Strike Force Bellinger to investigate a number of motor vehicle thefts and assaults including 3 incidents on January 8th.

- **3.15am: West Pennant Hills:** Police say that on Saturday January 8th two males armed with handguns approached a man and woman – aged 58 and 59 – inside a black BMW 640i as they drove into the driveway of a West Pennant Hills home at about 3.15am. It's alleged the males demanded the keys to the vehicle before smashing the passenger's side window and stealing a handbag, then fleeing in a black Lexus sedan.
- **3.35am: Northmead:** Police allege that about 20 minutes later a 37-year-old man was approached by two males and threatened with a firearm, then assaulted, as he exited a service station on Windsor Road at Northmead. It's alleged one of the males then fled in a white Hyundai, while the second male left in the man's black Range Rover Evoque.

## STABBING IN HILLS

Police are appealing for public assistance following a stabbing at Winston Hills over the weekend. Emergency services were called to a hall on Edison Parade, Winston Hills, following reports of a brawl at around 11.10pm on Saturday, February 19th.

Officers attached to Parramatta Police Area Command attended and found an 18-year-old man with a stab wound to his thigh.

Police were told a group of people arrived at a party uninvited and were directed to leave. They left the scene; however, returned a short time later and a physical altercation occurred which left the 18-year-old man injured.

He was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics at the scene before being taken

- **3.50am: Blacktown:** On the same day, a 36-year-old man stopped his white Hyundai on the side of Prospect Highway, Blacktown at about 3.50am when two vehicles approached his car. Police were told two males, armed with a machete and a handgun, forced the man into one of their vehicles, as a third male stole the Hyundai. It's alleged the duo then made a range of demands for cash and other property, before releasing him.

The stolen Lexus and Range Rover were found abandoned later that day and have undergone forensic examination.

A 26-year-old man was charged on Monday, February 21st with three counts of robbery while armed with dangerous weapon and other charges including take/detain person in company with intent to obtain advantage. A 24-year-old man from Lithgow was charged on January 11th.

Investigations under Strike Force Bellinger continue.

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

to Westmead Hospital in a stable condition, where he underwent surgery. His injuries are not considered to be life-threatening.

During a search of the crime scene, officers located and seized a number of exhibits, including a knife police believe to be linked to the incident. All items will be forensically examined.

Police would like to speak to a man who they believe may be able to assist with the investigation. He is described as being of Pacific Islander/Maori appearance, with a large build. He was wearing a black hoodie, black gloves and black ski mask.

Anyone with information, or who may have witnessed the incident, is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

## DRINK DRIVING CHARGE

A 24-year-old female driver has been charged with high-range PCA after allegedly failing to stop following a crash with a marked police vehicle in Marsden Park on Friday (February 18th).

Officers attached to Riverstone Police Area Command were travelling along Garfield Road West, Marsden Park, when at the intersection of Richmond Road, a Hyundai sedan allegedly failed to stop at a red light and the two vehicles collided at around 11.50pm.

The Hyundai sedan continued to drive from the scene; however, was stopped by police a short time later on Excelsior Avenue.

The driver of the sedan was subjected to a roadside breath test and allegedly returned a positive result. She was arrested and taken to Riverstone Police Station where she underwent a breath analysis, which returned a reading of 0.189.

The Lethbridge Park woman was charged with five offences: Negligent driving (no death or grievous bodily harm), Interlock licence holder – not have approved device installed, Not give particulars to other driver, Proceed through red traffic light (not toll booth), and Drive with high range PCA – 2nd offence.

The occupants of the police vehicle were uninjured during the incident and minor damage was caused to the vehicle.

## ATTEMPTED RAM RAID

Police have renewed their calls for information following an attempted ram raid in Glenorie last month.

Officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command were called to a shopping centre on Old Northern Road, Glenorie, at about 11.30pm on Sunday, January 30th following reports of an attempted robbery of an ATM outside the shopping complex.

Police have been told a white Toyota Hilux drove to the location before the three occupants attempted to dislodge the machine.

Following a number of unsuccessful attempts, the three unknown people drove from the scene.

About 12.30am on Monday, January 31st, emergency services were called to a vehicle fire on McClymont Road, Kenthurst.

Fire and Rescue NSW officers extinguished the blaze a short time later; however, the vehicle – a Toyota Hilux – was destroyed.

Initial inquiries have led police to believe the vehicle was stolen.

As police continue their investigations into the incidents – which are believed to be linked – they are appealing for anyone with information or who has dashcam footage to come forward and contact Crime Stoppers.

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.



# SES KEPT BUSY

By BEV JORDAN

*A month of rain fell in just a few hours on Tuesday with Box Hill, Kenthurst and Glenorie the hardest hit areas locally.*

According to the Bureau of Meteorology Box Hill was inundated with 103mm of rain in two days.

More than 100 requests for assistance were recorded by The Hills SES on Wednesday with more jobs being reported on Thursday.

Runoff and localised flooding affecting new developments in Box Hill resulting in a high number of calls for sandbagging

Flooding closed several roads across The Hills and Hawkesbury including Blue Gum Rd, Annangrove which had 2m over the road, McClymonts Rd, Marayla with water 3m over road and Cattai Ridge Rd (pictured) which was severely damaged. Flooding also closed Terry Rd at Box Hill, Old Hawkesbury Rd and Wolseley Rd at McGraths Hill and Brennan Dam Rd/Commercial Rd at Vineyard.

The Hills SES had 42 unit members in the field dealing with storm and flood damage, helped by teams from Campbelltown and Kogarah SES units.

NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers had teams working to clean up damage in both Glenorie and Box Hill. An additional six SES volunteers were working in incident management and logistics.

Joe Vurchio, Deputy Commander The Hills SES said: "While we cannot control what nature occasionally throws at us, there are some

Cattai Ridge Road at Maraylya  
(The Hills Police Area Command)

simple things we can do to reduce or even prevent the impact on life and property.

"If you are advised that a storm is on its way, you should park your vehicles under cover and away from trees. To prevent water damage, gutters, downpipes and drains should be checked and cleaned periodically. Blocked gutters and drains are a major cause of damage to internal ceilings, walls, furniture and floor coverings and can be easily prevented.

"If you are driving when flooding occurs, please be safe and never drive through flood waters. Be aware of driving hazards such as mud, debris, damaged roads and fallen branches or trees. If driving conditions become dangerous, safely pull over away from trees, storm drains, low-lying areas and floodwater."

If you require assistance for storms or floods, call the SES on 132500 or visit the Facebook page at [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au) for information and updates.

## OVEN FIRE

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) officers were faced with a tricky fire in an industrial oven at South Windsor last week. About 10 workers evacuated a building in Walker Street when a gas-fuelled industrial oven caught fire about 8.45am on Thursday, February 17th.

Firefighters, from Windsor and Richmond, cut the gas and electricity supply and, wearing breathing apparatus, used numerous carbon dioxide (CO2) portable extinguishers to suppress the flames.

The oven, used to heat plastic tank moulds, kept re-igniting due to its contents - highly flammable plastics. Firefighters had to re-enter

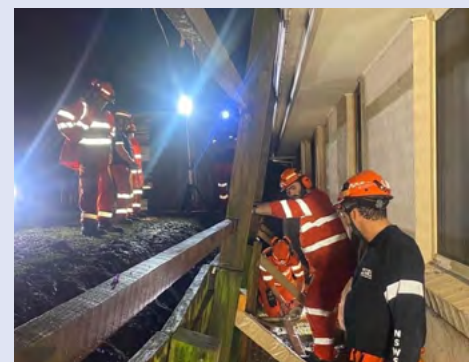
the factory and hit the seat of the fire with additional carbon dioxide from a FRNSW bulk CO2 truck at the scene.

The company's maintenance crew removed the front of the oven, to enable firefighters to rake out the remains of the burning plastic and extinguish it outside.

Fire crews used thermal imaging cameras and gas detectors to monitor the area and prevent re-ignition. The cause of a fire which caused severe damage to a two storey home house in Iwan Place, Beaumont Hills on Tuesday, February 1 has been traced to an air-conditioning unit.



Tree down at Roland Ave, Northmead  
(The Hills Police Area Command)



SES volunteers attending a retaining wall and fence that failed in Rouse Hill and was sliding towards the house next door. The Hills team had to erect shoring across the length of the wall to stop it falling further and removed the fence to release water that had built up against the wall. (Photo The Hills SES)



The Hills SES working on a collapsed roof in Northmead on Wednesday, February 23rd (Photo The Hills SES)



In a life threatening emergency dial 000



# out and about

with **MICHELLE BYRNE**

One of our favourite things to do as a family is to explore the region we live in, find new and interesting destinations and events as well as supporting local businesses along the way.

For our adventure this week we headed to Dural Putt-Putt. Despite having lived in the Hills most of my life this was also the very first time I had visited and what I found was well beyond my expectations.

Nestled in beautifully landscaped gardens, Dural Putt-Putt would be the prettiest mini-golf course I have ever come across. Nature lovers are not disappointed when they visit, as peace and tranquility soothes the senses amid a vista of spectacularly manicured gardens. One could almost forget that they are there to play mini golf!

There are two 18-hole themed courses to play. The "Space Trek" course is the easier of the two, with spaceships, rockets and aliens appearing throughout the course. It is still challenging, with a Par 3 on each hole, which for most holes I didn't putt anywhere near! The "Camelot" course is for more battle-hardened mini-golfers, with castles, wizards, knights and swords presenting numerous challenges along the way.

At the end of the course there is a fabulous café offering freshly ground coffee along with homemade treats including sausage rolls, fruit

pies and pastries and scones. There is also covered seating area next to a fountain and a rose garden to sit and unwind after you have finished playing.

Dural Putt-Putt also has large tables located in the gardens, which cater for birthday parties and corporate events, providing an enjoyable way for companies to have team-building days for their staff.

Local grandparents, Mary and Tom Nolan have been running Dural Putt-Putt for the past 23 years and are incredibly proud of what they have created for the local community to enjoy. Mary is passionate about their business and finds it "very interesting with lots of baking and preparations for each day and especially with kids parties – every day is different with different faces coming through and enjoying the gardens and the mini golf."

When asked what she loves about her business most, Mary said "it's the smiles of her grandchildren and other children enjoying the home baked goods along with the ice cream."

Despite the difficulties Covid has presented Mary would "miss her business if it didn't exist" and the joy it brings to others.

Dural Putt-Putt is definitely worth supporting and make sure you say hello to Mary and Tom whilst you're there!





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**THE HILLS FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

"The Hills Friendship Club is looking for new members to join our friendly, mature, mixed social group which meets for morning tea on the second Tuesday of each month at Wesley Uniting Church, Showground Road, Castle Hill from 11.00am. Our Club enjoys day outings, short tours and a bus trip every third Wednesday to places in Sydney and its surrounds."

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## AUTHOR TALKS RETURN LIVE TO HILLS SHIRE LIBRARIES

New York Times bestselling author, Heather Morris, will kick-off The Hills Shire Library Service's live and in-person author talk series at The Pioneer Theatre on Thursday, March 10.

Heather, who is best known for her award-winning novel, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, will discuss her newest book, *The Three Sisters*, at the special appearance. The story follows the astonishing bond of three sisters – Magda, Cibi and Livia – as they fight for survival in one of the largest and worst concentration camps of WWII, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Tickets cost: \$13pp.

Historical fiction writer Nicole Alexander is up next, discussing her latest novel *The Last Station* at Vinegar Hill Memorial Library on Thursday, March 31. Tickets cost: \$7.80pp.

Bookings are essential and can be made online, via The Hills Shire Library Service website, [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library).

## ACTIVE YOUNG BODIES FOR ACTIVE YOUNG MINDS

In today's digital world, being active has never been more important for both physical and mental development. This school holidays MINIFIT Kids Clinics will be coming to CHRGS Castle Hill RSL with their FREE school holiday clinics for children aged 5-12 years.

MINIFIT uses simple, proven methods designed to help kids to feel a level of passion and fun for fitness that will build foundations for a healthy future for them. These clinics are an interactive, hands-on and exciting day of events led by former NRL legend, Anthony Minichiello who is passionate about children's health. Encouraging health, fitness and fun, these clinics give your children a chance to build both physical skills and lasting friendships.

MINIFIT know there's more to exercise than just physical fitness & good health. Exercise also has a profound effect on cognitive abilities and mental health. Clinical trials have found evidence of a link between low physical activity levels and poor movement skills with low scores in brain development tests and poor social behaviour. Neuroscientists studying the impact of physical activity on brain activity report an increase in brain function from base levels of 15-25% to 65-75% when academic tasks are performed following physical activity. Brett Andrews, CHRGS General Manager of

Health Fitness & Sport said "The end-goal is to help children include exercise in their life in a positive way rather than think of it as something they should do."

"As an organisation committed to sport, health and wellness we are excited to be partnering with MINIFIT to help improve young local children's overall mind and body health by providing these fun and educational exercise programmes."

Mr Andrews added "As the GM of CHRGS Castle Hill Fitness and Aquatic Centre, I see first-hand just how important it is to encourage our children to enjoy sports and fitness from a young age. Encouraging children to participate in sport and fitness early in life, holds them in good stead to continue those healthy habits, well into adulthood."

Castle Hill RSL Club will be hosting two (2) free MINIFIT clinics in the Lyceum on Tuesday 19th April:

- 10.00am – 12.00pm for children aged between 5-8yrs
- 1.00pm – 3.00pm for children aged between 9-12yrs

Places are limited and bookings are essential, to confirm your place at either of these free clinics please contact



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# FEARS RICHMOND TAFE FACES CLOSURE AS EQUINE COURSES GET THE CHOP

BY TONY BOSWORTH  
EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

*If you love horses and want to work with them safely there is a place in the Hawkesbury that can teach you all you need to know, but Richmond TAFE's equine courses are being axed and there are fears it is just the first step in closing the TAFE down or even privatising it.*

"If they close the TAFE here, the local students of the Hawkesbury are going to have to travel to Scone, that will be the next closest place they can do these courses," said Phil Chadwick who is the NSW Teacher's Federation Deputy Secretary for TAFE, and who says there is a pattern emerging.

Mr Chadwick joined Macquarie MP Susan Templeman, along with Tim Crakanthorp, Shadow Minister for Skills and TAFE in the NSW Parliament, and a large group of concerned students, teachers and industry members, at the entrance to Richmond TAFE to voice their concerns.

Some 12 members of staff are set to lose their jobs with the axing of the equine courses, but there is rumour – no-one will comment publicly – that Racing NSW will step into the breach and offer the same courses.

"What's happening here kind of mirrors what happened this time 12 months ago in Scone where TAFE NSW said it was not going to close, that they had no plans to sell," Mr Chadwick told the Post this morning.

"The Connected Learning Centre offside of the campus opens and lo and behold, just 6 months later the TAFE college in Scone has been sold for less than replacement cost to Racing NSW," said Mr Chadwick.

"If they were to close the college in one fell swoop that would be too noticeable so what they do is cut a course here and cut a course

there. What they will do here is whittle away one course at a time and then we may see Richmond TAFE up on realestate.com.au in the same way we found Scone TAFE last year," says Mr Chadwick.

Labor's Mr Crakanthorp said, "it's an appalling situation. We have seen this happening all over the State. First of all they cut courses and cut so many teachers. 5500 staff and enrolments 150,000 less since the [state Coalition] government came in. We have seen apprenticeships halved and TAFEs sold off.

"That's why it's important here at Richmond to take a stand. Here the Minister is using 'enrolments have decreased' but in fact he's using a figure when this TAFE had to train everyone in the industry across the State. He's being very sneaky by saying the course enrolments are decreasing. Here today we have an example of how important equine is to this area. I'm from the Hunter and we were devastated to see Scone TAFE sold off [to Racing NSW] and I'm getting that feeling here as well. You mention Racing NSW – it's privatisation by stealth which really goes to the heart of the matter. Since the Coalition has got in they have run down TAFE, downgraded it, cut the staff, cut the courses, the enrolments have gone down. They just don't see themselves in the role of public educators and vocational education. TAFE has had a wonderful brand for well over 100 years, and this government came in and trashed it."

Montana Jonker went to Richmond TAFE when she was 16 to do a Certificate 3 in Performance Horses. It meant she could confidently go into track riding at Hawkesbury Race Club, and she hasn't looked back since.

"I learnt everything about horses at Richmond TAFE," said Montana, now aged 20. It gave me so many opportunities in the industry and if they stop the courses it's going to take those opportunities away from so many kids."

Montana's mum also pointed out her daughter was a very shy 16-year-old and during the course she blossomed and is now clearly a confident young woman with a set of industry standard skills.

MP Susan Templeman said, "closing these courses will have a profound impact on the teachers and the students.

"This industry is one of the pillars in the Hawkesbury. This is the place where people can come and learn how to stay safe in an industry which is so potentially dangerous because we are dealing with extraordinary animals who have extraordinary power, and people need to know how to be safe around them and how to treat them with respect.

"It worries me deeply because it's not just about a group of horses going, but it's about a TAFE being undermined. The equine programs here have been so highly prized by this community. This TAFE is too important for this community to lose."

Brooke Somers who is an experienced trainer at Hawkesbury Race Club and responsible for 25 horses – she got her accreditation at Richmond TAFE – said the move to close the courses was worrying and she didn't believe replacement courses – if they happened – from Racing NSW would fill the gap.

"If these courses are not here it means we are going to have a harder time to find people who can fill the roles. We have them do the Safe Horse NSW certificate. If this closes down here, it means I have to do my job as well as train someone to do their job, so we lose out.

"At Richmond TAFE they learn management of the horses, how to manage wounds, and injuries to look out for, caring for the horses, checking whether it needs treatment. They have a riding program here at Richmond TAFE so you can learn safely how to manage the horses, and how to manage different horse temperaments.

"If it doesn't exist we are going to have to do it on the job, but that will lead to more workplace accidents, that is a strong possibility."

"Racing NSW is offering on the job training, so I have to take time out to train them. What they teach here at TAFE is learning, the horses here are older horses, so they can learn safely."

Ms Templeman urged people to voice their concerns to the NSW government.

"I plead with people have your say about this and let the NSW government know it's not good enough. People here are standing up. We will not give up on this, we will keep going."

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



# MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR KURRAJONG HEIGHTS, BILPIN, MACDONALD VALLEY CASH SPLASH FROM FEDS

BY TONY BOSWORTH | EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

***Liberal Senator for Western Sydney, Marise Payne, fronted the cameras to officially unveil funding to Hawkesbury community members and groups in some of the worst hit areas during the 2019-20 Black summer bushfires.***

Several groups and organisations are set to receive large amounts of funding for much-needed community projects.

The big winner is the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club which gets a whopping \$811,695 which will allow a fire staging area to be set-up and for the buildings to be better prepared for future fire situations.

Almost half a million dollars - \$453,212 - is being handed over to Rufftrack Limited to upskill and engage vulnerable young people through nine land rehabilitation projects in the Macdonald Valley, but that's not all, there's also \$455,000 earmarked for a community hall upgrade to St Albans School of Arts to create a 'Refuge & Social Hub' in the Macdonald Valley and that will include a new kitchen and improved access points.

Hawkesbury Independent School gets \$185,656 for risk reduction and resilience projects which means the installation of two large capacity water tanks, a rooftop sprinkler system to reduce the risk of ember attack and a solar and battery system which would run access to the water supply even in times of emergency.

Successful funding for projects under the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants and the Connected Communities grants had been due to be announced by the Federal government in December last year but was delayed by two months, keeping community groups waiting.

Hawkesbury Council has been handed over \$4m under the Connected Communities Through Disaster Recovery and Beyond fund to work with Telstra to install three new base stations at Berambing, Central MacDonald and Upper Colo. In addition to the new base stations, a 4G Small Cell at St Albans and two new 4GX-lite Mobile Satellite Small Cells at Upper Macdonald and Higher Macdonald will also be installed.

Hawkesbury Council will receive over \$330,000 to design and construct a new car park next to the Bilpin Community Centre. The carpark will double as a key staging area.

The Council will also receive \$78,000 for the installation of new shade shelters at Bilpin Oval, Colo Heights Reserve and St Albans Park playgrounds, and just over \$158,000 for the production and presentation of a new exhibition that will explore residents' experiences of the bushfires - Burnt into Memory.

The Macdonald Valley Association will receive over \$280,000 to help provide residents with access to and training in critical 2-way radio communications and emergency kit resources, under the 'Connected and Prepared Hawkesbury' banner.

Hawkesbury Council will also receive just over \$196,000 for new signage for the St Albans area that identifies roads, bridges, creeks and other key features.

Hawkesbury Mayor, Patrick Conolly, said today, "I'm very pleased to see such a significant investment from the federal government following our advocacy. It's going to make a huge difference in future emergency situations."

## Here's the full list of grants announced today:

- Hawkesbury Independent School Risk Reduction & Resilience Project - \$185,656
- Fire Recovery & Land Rehabilitation in the Macdonald Valley - \$453,212
- St Albans and surrounding district - \$196,350 for new signage that identifies roads, bridges, creeks and other key features.
- Bilpin Hall car park - \$330,225
- Community hall upgrades to create a Refuge & Social Hub in Macdonald Valley - \$455,000
- To Hawkesbury Council - Connected Communities Through Disaster Recovery and Beyond - \$4,146,780
- Connected & Prepared for residents in Macdonald Valley - \$280,227
- Playground Shade Sails - \$78,000
- Bilpin District Recovery and Resilience Project - Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club - \$811,695
- Burnt Into Memory, which goes to Hawkesbury Council and is already underway - \$158,740

Macquarie Federal MP Susan Templeman congratulated those Hawkesbury community groups that have been announced to receive the long-awaited bushfire recovery funding.

"Community groups put in some very hard work applying for this funding, and I not only congratulate them for their success in securing millions of dollars, but thank them for their patience," Ms Templeman said.

"There are some communities who'll be very happy to see projects announced in the latest bushfire recovery funding, from the tough-as-boots Kurrajong Heights and Bilpin community who might end up with a bowling club that actually meets their needs - to the Macdonald Valley," Ms Templeman said.

"St Albans and the surrounding community are still finding their feet not just from fire but from two floods, and they'll see things like an upgrade to their community hall. There's also a Connected Communities Program and other smaller projects that have been announced in the Hawkesbury. These grants are the result of the hard-fought battle I took to the federal government in January 2020, speaking about it in every Parliamentary sitting and sharing stories of survival and recovery.

"Now - more than two years after the fires devastated our area and just weeks out from an election - we are seeing the result.

"I am sorry for those who missed out, and I will continue to fight for mitigation and preparation funding from the government's \$4 billion Emergency Response Fund. Not a cent has been spent and it has now earned the government \$800 million in interest. Now we need to see this promised money delivered as soon as possible, so work can begin. No doubt the Prime Minister, who has not visited bushfire-affected communities in our area, will find time to pop in within the next few weeks to take a few photos on the back of this announcement," said Ms Templeman.

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



# HILLS COMMUNITY CONNECT

By BEV JORDAN

*If you have some time on your hands and want to get involved in your community then Community Connect may be the place to start.*

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club is hosting a special community market day at Harvey Lowe Pavilion Castle Hill on Sunday, March 20th to showcase the different groups operating in the Hills area and the variety of options to join or volunteer.

There will be a free coffee from The Hills Daily Grind plus a free sausage sizzle for attendees who can then browse the stalls and chat to people from various organisations in the area. Community Connect is supported by Hills Shire Council and aims to break down the barriers of isolation and connect people with community groups who are making a difference.

Groups attending so far include The Positive Vibes Foundation, Friends of Bella Vista Farm, The Hills Historical Society, Castle Hill Art Society and the Wanderers Bushwalking Club as well as BushCare volunteers and several service clubs.

President of Norwest Rotary Club Mercedes Durante urged local community groups to get involved by having a stall and urged people considering joining a club or group to come along.

"Community Connect is a project Norwest Sunrise Rotary club has been working on for quite some time now," she said.

"The involvement and relationships within the community is something we feel is incredibly important especially after two years of living in isolation because of COVID.

"This connection is ultimately good for people's health and mental well-being. We hope many people will come to our event, say hello and see what other groups are doing in our community; and perhaps be inspired themselves to get involved."

Entry is free for community groups wanting to have an information stall and to attendees. For more information please call Deborah from Norwest Sunrise Rotary on 0490 723 163 or email [norwestsunriserotary@gmail.com](mailto:norwestsunriserotary@gmail.com).



Connecting the Community: Norwest Rotary President Mercedes Durante with Community director Deb Salkeld, Chereyn Suzuki, Ron Parnell and Krissie Webb.



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## CALLING ALL SCHOOL LEAVERS

*One Hills based company is on a huge recruitment drive to build staff levels. Australian Pump is keen to hire energetic locals looking for junior roles that can progress into a rewarding career.*

"At Aussie Pumps, we're seeing a surge in demand for our products as life returns to somewhat normal while agricultural production soars," said Aussie's Sales Manager Brad Farrugia.

Full-time junior roles include Receptionist, Admin Clerk and Sales Cadets. The company is keen to hear from enthusiastic, self-motivated Hills based youngsters looking for a bright, fresh start.

"We train our staff to put the customer first, from product development through to customer service. We're proud to be an Australian manufacturer," said Farrugia.

Located on a 2 ½ acre site in the Hills Norwest Commercial area, with onsite parking, good public transport links and many retail businesses nearby, working locally certainly offers many benefits.

Further information on employment opportunities available check the careers section of the Aussie Pumps website or call 02 8865 3500 [aussiepumps.com.au/careers/](http://aussiepumps.com.au/careers/)





# KIDS TO FARM PLEA

A call has gone out to extend the Kids to Farms Program run by the Federal Government to the end of the year, enabling more local farmers and schools to get involved.

Federal Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman said that under the fund, which began last year, schools receive up to \$1500 towards the costs of an excursion to a local farm, with a program that fits with the curriculum but it ends in the middle of the year.

"It's a great idea to encourage schools to do excursions to farms, and our local farmers are keen to take part," she said. "Unfortunately, since the Kids to Farms program began, the pandemic has consistently interrupted children's schooling, and the last thing teachers have had the energy for is planning excursions that probably wouldn't have taken place."

"These excursions are not only beneficial to a child's education, but to their well-being. Extending this deadline would mean more schools can take the classroom out on the road after such a disruptive couple of years."

Aaron Brocken of Harvest Farms in Bilpin is one local destination that is taking bookings so local school children can find out about where their food comes from.

"We grow about 30 different varieties of fruit and vegetables here and sell through local outlets ... for me, this is a chance to help children learn



Susan Templeman MP and Bilpin farmer Aaron Brocken at Harvest Farms.

about sustainability and how food is produced, and even just what it looks like when it grows."

Ms Templeman has written to the Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, David Littleproud, asking him to extend the deadline to the end of the year. The Kids to Farm program is a joint initiative of NSW Farmers and the Federal Government.

"I really urge the government to extend the deadline for this program for the benefit of our school children and our family-owned farms," she said.

Harvest Trails and Markets, a not-for-profit organisation aimed at bringing consumers and farmers closer together, runs the Farmers' Markets at Castle Hill Showground. It is getting behind the project and has an interactive map for people to find its farm members open to schools and the general public.

For more information about Harvest Farms, visit [harvestfarms.com.au/](http://harvestfarms.com.au/) and to have a look at farms open in the Hawkesbury visit Harvest Trails and Markets at [www.harvesttrailsandmarkets.com.au/visit-a-farm/](http://www.harvesttrailsandmarkets.com.au/visit-a-farm/)

# CWA Celebrates 100 years

Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW is proud to celebrate its centenary this year and be part of a legacy that continues to positively contribute to local and regional communities in so many different ways. On April 20, 1922, women formed an organising committee for the CWA of NSW. Grace Munro, founder and first State President, mobilised members to save women and children dying because of lack of maternity care in rural hospitals.

"These women were initiators, fighters, and lobbyists, who were passionate about making rural and regional NSW better for those who lived there. For 100 years the members of the CWA of NSW have continued the legacy of those trail-blazing foundation members by improving the social, educational, recreational, and medical realities for their communities," said Stephanie Stanhope, President, CWA of NSW. In the Galston district, many local roads are named after the earliest farming families whose second and third generations established the Galston CWA branch, which was inaugurated in 1958.

To become a member of the Galston branch please contact Jann 0439 222 217 or Pam 02 9653 1036. Check out our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/CWAGalston](https://www.facebook.com/CWAGalston) | [galston.cwa@gmail.com](mailto:galston.cwa@gmail.com)

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Hills Mayor Peter Gangemi gets planting at Wesley PreSchool with Jane Harvey and (l-r) Eleanor, Parker, Harrison and Anaisha.

## SUNRISE START AT WESLEY PRE-SCHOOL

By BEV JORDAN



National TV arrived in Castle Hill early on Tuesday morning to shine a light (and a camera) on what young children at Uniting Wesley Pre-School have been doing to create a beautiful environment in which to play and learn.

The pre-school was one of 1500 recipients of a Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant last year and this year it was chosen to launch the 2022 grants program nationally and featured alongside Sam Mack, the weather reporter on Channel 7's Sunrise program.

Youngsters showed off their garden, made mud pies, sang to the audience and had a great time during the two-hour program.

Pre-school director Jane Harvey said: "At Uniting Wesley Preschool we believe all children deserve a beautiful natural learning space to belong and play in."

"With the Woolworths Landcare grant we created a Bush tucker and Indigenous garden where we can continue to provide a strong Aboriginal perspective and help the children develop the knowledge of our First Peoples' nation and our traditional custodians, The Dharug people and country."

"We also wanted to create shade, so we planted trees that will become the legacy of Wesley Preschool, gorgeous flowering gum trees for the children to play beneath."

She said the garden became a wonderful community project following the research and design, with children, families, staff and former staff joining management committee members and the Wesley minister for the community planting day complete with barbecue by star volunteer groundsman Harvey Weir.

Entries are now open for the 2022 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants with schools and early learning centres able to apply for up to \$1,000 each, to develop projects that focus on sustainable food production, improving waste management practices or enhancing native habitats.

Hills Mayor Peter Gangemi also got to see how beautiful the gardens were at Wesley Pre-School and congratulated the centre (pictured).

Woolworths NSW/ACT State Manager, Michael Mackenzie said: "Educating young kids on how we can grow a greener future through hands-on learning is an incredible way to make an impact for future generations, and help our local communities today."

Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish said: "Our goal is to encourage, influence and educate students on how to care for their local environment in a hands-on way. To date the program has seen more than 110,000 fruit, vegetable and herb plants added to school gardens across the country. Through taking part, students learn new skills and knowledge such as composting, worm farming and planting bush tucker gardens, as well as an increased awareness of sustainability issues."

The Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants program has been funded via the sale of Woolworths Bag for Good when Woolworths went single-use plastic bag free in 2018.

Applications for the 2022 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants close on March 18th. To find out more about and to apply, visit [landcareaustralia.org.au/woolworthsgrants](http://landcareaustralia.org.au/woolworthsgrants)



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# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**The World Day of Prayer will be held at Castle Hill on Friday March 4th.**

The international day of prayer is held annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March at a service attended by churches of all denominations. It was first held in 1927.

This year's local World Day of Prayer will be held at Wesley Uniting Church at 32 Showground Rd, Castle Hill at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. There will also be World Day of Prayer services at St James Castle Hill at 10am on Friday, March 4th and at St Benedicts at Arcadia at 10am.

For Rev Carmel Ieraci, the Minister at Wesley Castle Hill it will be her 20th World Day of Prayer service having been involved in services in Australia, Italy and the UK.

"The importance (of World Prayer Day) is unity in Christ regardless of denominational differences and the common thread is the love of Jesus Christ and that is demonstrated by coming together to pray for the needs of the world and the needs of one another on the same day."

Lesley Martin from Wesley has been involved with organising the annual Hills service for several years. She said the service is attended by members of the Uniting, Presbyterian, Catholic and local Anglican churches.

"It is shared among the churches in the Hills and we all participate in the service wherever it is held," she said. "We would really like to see more churches involved."

She welcomed visitors to the service.

For more information about the Castle Hill World Day of Prayer contact Wesley Uniting Church on 9894 8999 or email [admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au](mailto:admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au) or visit [www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org)



# CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

In 1989, Clean Up Australia Day was started by the late Ian Kiernan. His daughter Pip is still heavily involved and now it is a global day to help rid the world of rubbish.

For the past five years, Phillip Combe and volunteers have been collecting rubbish along the banks of Pyes Creek, Keighran Place, Cherrybrook. Some items they collect amaze him. 9 kg cylinders, motor bikes, real estate signs, tyres and shopping trolleys along with the usual soft plastics and bottles. "It is a day when we do some environmental good for our waterways. To make it a bit of fun for the volunteers and to encourage them to come back each year, I put on a sausage sizzle with drinks afterwards. It is so good when we know we aren't in this alone", Phillip said.

If you would like to be involved in Clean Up Australia Day, register for Sunday, 6th March, 2022 on [cleanupaustraliaday.org.au](http://cleanupaustraliaday.org.au)

We all want a cleaner environment so step up and join the cause! Our site is open for registration and briefing from 0945 am, Sunday 6th March. We meet at the bottom of the cul de sac of Keighran Place Cherrybrook. There is ample parking.

For further details, contact Phillip on mobile 0418 413 837 or [phillip.combe@gmail.com](mailto:phillip.combe@gmail.com)



# A GREAT GOTHIC NIGHT OUT

A good old dollop of gothic farce is just what the doctor ordered to shake off the cobwebs and keep everyone on their toes.

*Irma Vep* is the next production at the Pavilion Theatre at Castle Hill Showground and it features nobility, lost love, mummies, werewolves, maids and a whole lot more.

Seasoned director and comedy queen Meredith Jacobs is at the helm of the Castle Hill Players' production which promises to have audiences on the edge of their seats with expectation and laughter.

*Irma Vep* is set in the "haunted" Mandacrest Estate of Lord Edgar Hillcrest who, while still mourning the death of his beloved wife Irma, has remarried the Lady Enid, a stage actress!

The uppity housekeeper, Jane, has her doubts Enid will ever measure up to the esteemed Irma and behaves accordingly.

Meanwhile, dear old Nicodemus, who fancies Jane and the local milk maid, does his best to serve his Lord and master and keep the wolves at bay. When Lord Edgar decides to travel to Egypt, things start to get a little out of hand and a bit silly.

And no, there isn't a large cast ... just two talented and busy actors, Paul Szelma and Richard Littlehailes, changing from one character to another, sometimes right before the audience, with the help of spectacular costumes by Annette Snars from Baulkham Hills.

It's definitely worth a trip to Castle Hill to watch them at work.

Paul Szelma and Richard Littlehailes in action in *Irma Vep* Phot by Penny Johnson.



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# Council News





## Landscape Master Plan Unveiled for George Thornton Reserve

The Hills Shire Council has developed a landscape master plan for George Thornton Reserve, West Pennant Hills. The plan aims to address an identified shortfall of sport fields in the West Pennant Hills area, as identified in Council's Recreation Strategy (2019), and proposes to include an additional full sized sport field, additional change rooms, and car parking.

As part of the public exhibition process, Council is inviting the general public to provide feedback on the design. To make a written submission or to view the plan electronically, please visit The Hills Shire Council's website and search for 'George Thornton Reserve Landscape Master Plan'. Submissions will be accepted via the online submissions form until 4:00pm, Thursday 17 March 2022.

### 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 March 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.'

## 2022/2023 Youth Ambassador Program Applications

Do you want to represent the people of your generation?

Applications are now open for the 2022/2023 Youth Ambassador Program. Youth Ambassadors are important representative voices for young people in the Hills Shire. From April 2022 – 2023, Youth Ambassadors will be expected to:

- Be involved in youth activities during Youth Week, Mental Health Month, and other Council youth-led events
- Volunteer at council events such as Australia Day and Orange Blossom Festival (OBF)
- Be an active participant of the Hills Youth Army and provide direction to the Hills Youth Army initiatives
- Represent young people at functions and events throughout The Hills Shire in a ceremonial capacity.

### How to Nominate

Please note that youth ambassadors must be aged between 15 to 24 years old and live in The Hills Shire.

For more information or to nominate yourself or someone else, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Youth Ambassador Program'.

Applications close 5pm Monday, 25 March 2022.



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**THE HILLS**  
Sydney's Garden Shire



# ZERO CARBON PRECINCT AT NORWEST

The first stage of a zero carbon retail and residential precinct to be built by Norwest developer Mulpha is set to go on sale soon.

Each apartment in Norwest Quarter, off Solent Circuit, will consume two thirds less energy than a typical code compliant apartment and will underpin residents' aspirations for zero carbon living at up to 25 percent less cost.

The first stage of the \$1billion master planned community will include two residential apartment buildings spanning a 9,450 sqm master planned landscaped site and will provide 196 apartment homes, as well as convenient retail and commercial space including a full-floor commercial gym, fresh food grocer, medical services, and restaurants.

The 115-apartment Banksia building designed by Bates Smart will be launched off-the-plan on March 5th, and the 81-apartment Lacebark building by Smart Design Studio will be launched a month later. Every Norwest Quarter building will feature rooftop solar panels, electric vehicle charging with fast chargers, and high-performance, centralized air-conditioning.

Apartments will have high efficiency lighting and appliances, induction cooktops, and electric hot water. Smart passive design initiatives include high performance glazing and insulation, use of light-coloured materials, building orientation and facades that invite winter sun to penetrate whilst blocking summer sun.



Mulpha Head of Developments, Tim Spencer, said as well as making a real contribution towards mitigating the effects of climate change and decreasing the urban heat environment at Norwest, this precinct targeting zero carbon will lower energy bills while increasing well-being through healthier buildings, better air quality and greater access to nature.

"Our goal in developing Norwest Quarter has been to truly deliver a zero carbon precinct, renewably powered with a low environmental impact," he said. "I believe people will choose to live here for the opportunity to be part of a community, aiming for a better future, with 100 percent electric, no gas, reduced waste, and efficient use of resources including perhaps the most precious of all, clean water."

There will be rainwater harvesting and water recycling, on-site organic waste separation and treatment, worm farms and composting, a share

and repair centre and community upcycling market days.

Other sustainable community initiatives will include car sharing, communal electric BBQs, lobby book libraries, communal gardens, and productive beehives for enhanced pollination.

When complete, the Norwest Quarter masterplan will transform over 3.8 hectares of greenfield land into a vibrant village centre for over 2,000 residents, with 70 percent of the site used for landscaping. There will be nine residential towers containing 864 apartments, with 6,000m<sup>2</sup> of space provided for cafes, restaurants, neighbourhood shops and childcare facilities.

For further details and sales information on Norwest Quarter, contact the sales team on 1300 103 580 or visit the Mulpha Sales Experience Centre at 36 Solent Circuit, Norwest.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Norwest developer Mulpha has enlisted the support of Norwest Community Association and the Hills Women Shed to manage a community garden on the Norwest Quarter development site.

Residents have the option of becoming a member of the group, which will give them access to the communal veggie pods or they can hire their own veggie pod for 12 months.

The community garden, located on the corner of Natura Rise and Solent Circuit, Norwest, will not only supply the local community with fresh, seasonal, organically grown produce but will also enable people to connect with nature and each other through a healthy enjoyable activity that is great fun for people of all ages.

Beekeeping, worm farms and a large rainwater harvesting system will also be part of the new community. After an initial training workshop, the Norwest Community Gardening Group will manage most of the veggie pods and the allocation of others based on public interest, as well as training new members.

Coordinator of the Norwest Community Garden Group, Tuula Schaeffer, said: "We have had a very positive response to the community garden group with over 10 residents interested in joining the group. The community garden will enable people to grow fresh, organic food in a productive and sustainable way, while providing a welcoming space to relax and enjoy the company of others. No experience is necessary, just an interest in growing your own food and learning and sharing with others. We will provide initial training and aim to hold regular workshops to engage the community and develop gardening skills."

Norwest master developer Mulpha is supporting the new community garden as part of its commitment to build its Norwest Quarter development as a zero-carbon precinct, incorporating sustainable design principles from conception through to its construction and long-term performance. The aim is to lower energy bills while increasing wellbeing through healthier buildings, better air quality, and greater access to nature.





# Norwest Quarter

BY MULPHA



Artist impression. Indicative only and subject to change.

## Beautiful homes that don't cost the Earth. (It's in our nature)

Norwest Quarter is a bold mixed-use masterplan, a fresh start, and a ground-breaking neighbourhood that will begin with Banksia and Lacebark residential apartment buildings on Norwest Quarter's Solent Circuit.

**Hassle-free sustainably driven apartments in this Zero Carbon precinct  
are launching in March.**

**Enquire now to learn more.**

Mulpha Sales & Experience Centre  
36 Solent Circuit, Norwest  
Open 7 days 10am - 4pm

[norwestquarter.com.au](https://norwestquarter.com.au)  
1300 103 580



**Norwest**  
*feel alive* 



# BETTER HEARING.

## TAKING ACTION AND GAINING BACK CONTROL.

For some individuals during the last couple of years, many have experienced social isolation due to COVID-19. Now starting to emerge once again out into socially starved communities in which they live. However, for those with hearing loss, isolation is an ongoing issue.

Recent studies indicate hearing loss can occur at any age and stage of life. With one in six Australians experiencing hearing loss, causes can be from health conditions, trauma, genetics, ear infections, exposure to prolonged noisy environments, and as we mature with age our hearing can naturally decline. In addition to these causes, it can also simply be as a result of ear wax build up.

Individuals with hearing loss can find it difficult to communicate with friends and family, constantly struggling to hear and understand what is being said. As a result, the impact of this miscommunication can bring with it feelings of isolation, fatigue, frustration, embarrassment, irritability, stress, depression, and a reduction in self-confidence. Hearing loss can present difficulties in communication within school, work, home, and social situations.

Specifically, when discussing age related hearing loss, research has linked age-related hearing loss with a decline in cognitive function such as dementia. This seems to be not an effect of the hearing loss as such but more a

result of the social disengagement caused by hearing loss. But there is good news, there are options and solutions to alleviate the impact of hearing loss and with that, significant well being improvements. Lifestyle changes, stress management solutions, doing things you love and enjoy, and generally keeping an active mind and body will also assist in these positive changes. And quite importantly, also increased communication and social stimulation.

Hearing rehabilitation programs, communication strategies, hearing protection, an annual ear wax clean, and hearing aids can all assist in improving and protecting your hearing - while also significantly contributing to your overall wellbeing and quality of life.

It's been an uncertain and disruptive time, with many of us having deferred important health checks. Now is the time to reconnect and seek the professional advice you need. Be sure to include a comprehensive hearing assessment on that list.

As trusted hearing care professionals and local Audiology Competency Centre, Ear Studio listen to you, talk through your needs and concerns, including what your hearing and wellbeing objectives are so that you can achieve them - together.

The month of March hosts both World Hearing Day and Hearing Awareness Week.

**EAR STUDIO**  
*Passion for Hearing*

*we support*  
**HEARING  
awareness  
WEEK**



What better time to make the commitment to hear better, live better, communicate better and truly connect with those that mean most to you.

Make your actions count. Call today to book a comprehensive hearing assessment, wax removal appointment or hearing aid trial.

Ear Studio is located at Suite 9/60 Cecil Avenue, Lawton House Castle Hill. And at Terrey Hills Family Surgery, 50 Booralie Road, Terrey Hills. Call (02) 9159 6122; Email [reception@earstudio.com.au](mailto:reception@earstudio.com.au) or visit [www.earstudio.com.au](http://www.earstudio.com.au)

**TRADING HOURS:** Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturday by appointment only.

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#### REFERENCE AND RESEARCH SOURCES:

- The Hearing Journal ([www.com](http://www.com))
- Dementia-Hearing-Loss-Hearing-Care.pdf ([hcia.com.au](http://hcia.com.au))
- About ear health | Australian Government Department of Health
- Hearing Loss, Loneliness, and Social Isolation: A Systematic Review ([nih.gov](http://nih.gov))

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# EXHIBITION OF STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

## Maroota Friable Sandstone Extraction Project

<b>Application No</b>	SSD-10410
<b>Location</b>	Lot 7005 DP 1055724; Lot 202 DP 752025; and Lot 213 DP 752025 located at Wisemans Ferry Road, Maroota 2756
<b>Applicant</b>	Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
<b>Council Area</b>	The Hills Shire
<b>Consent Authority</b>	Minister for Planning or Independent Planning Commission

### Description of proposal

The establishment of a quarry to extract up to 500,000 tonnes per annum of friable sandstone from a resource of approximately 30 million tonnes. The proposal involves constructing and operating a processing plant to produce sand products and the transport of products to market by road. The proposal would operate for 28 years and would require the upgrade of Wisemans Ferry Road/Patricia Fay Drive intersection.

### Exhibition Details

The application for State significant development (SSD), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and accompanying documents will be exhibited from **Thursday 24 February 2022** until **Wednesday 23 March 2022**, and are accessible electronically on the Department's website ([pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/maroota-friable-sandstone-extraction-project](http://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/maroota-friable-sandstone-extraction-project)).

At the time of publishing this advertisement, the Minister for Planning has not directed that a public hearing should be held.

### Controlled Action under *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*

The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy has decided that the proposed development is a "controlled action" under the EPBC Act.

The EPBC Act Part 3, Division 1 controlled provisions are Sections 18 and 18A (Listed threatened species and communities). The proposed development ER-17844724 will be assessed under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The assessment will be in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement between NSW and the Commonwealth, made under the EPBC Act. The assessment will be done in the manner specified in Schedule 1 of the Bilateral Agreement. The public notice for the project may be found at: [environment.gov.au/epbc/public-notices](http://environment.gov.au/epbc/public-notices)

### Have your say

The Department encourages online submissions, particularly during times when mobility may be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. To have your say online, search for this project at [pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/maroota-friable-sandstone-extraction-project](http://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/maroota-friable-sandstone-extraction-project) and click on the proposal and then 'Make a submission'. You will need to log in or create a user account.

If you cannot submit online, post or drop your submission to the address below, to arrive before the close of exhibition. If you want your personal information to be withheld before publication, please clarify this at the top of your cover letter and do not include personal details in your submission.

If you choose to send a paper-based submission, it is important that both the submission and mailing envelope are addressed to the nominated contact below:

Please be aware that if you choose to send a paper-based submission and it is not addressed to the nominated contact, the submission will not be received by the Department and will instead be returned to sender.

### Please include:

- Your name and address at the top of the letter only (or in a separate cover letter if you want your personal details to be withheld from publication);
- The name of the application and the application number;
- A statement on whether you 'support' or 'object' to the proposal or if you are simply providing comment
- The reasons why you support or object to the proposal; and
- A declaration of any reportable political donations you have made in the last two years (visit [planning.nsw.gov.au/DonationsandGiftDisclosure](http://planning.nsw.gov.au/DonationsandGiftDisclosure) or phone 1300 305 695 to find out more).

**Privacy statement:** Before making your submission, read our Privacy Statement at [planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy) or call 1300 305 695 for a copy. We will publish your submission on our website in accordance with our Privacy Statement.

**For more information:** 1300 305 695

**Address:** Contact, Director – Resource Assessments, Planning and Assessment Planning and Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.



# PETS OF THE WEEK

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter  
is at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave.  
Call 4560 4644 or visit Hawkesbury  
Council's Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil](http://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil)



## AT A GLANCE

NAME: PRINCESS  
BREED:  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
SEX: Female  
AGE: 6 years old  
PRICE: \$99



**PRINCESS** is a mature, gentle girl. According to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter the six-year-old staffy just loves to be the centre of attention. Staff say Princess would be better suited with a family who spends a lot of their time at home as she loves to be kept company. If you are interested in adopting Princess please visit the shelter with your family dog and the children to meet her so that staff can be sure they will all get on together. As the featured dog her adoption price has been reduced to \$99. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and life-time registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation  
Number is: R251000145.

**CHAISE** is a two-year-old female Oriental cross domestic short hair cat. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say Chaise is a lovely girl who enjoys being patted and given attention. If you think you would be happy to share your home with Chaise pay her a visit. Her adoption price has been reduced to \$29 which includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and life time registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation  
Number is: R251000145.

## AT A GLANCE

NAME: CHAISE  
BREED:  
ORIENTAL CROSS  
SEX: Female  
AGE: 2 years old  
PRICE: \$29



**NATASHA** is a one-year-old female Domestic medium hair cat, According to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter Natasha is a friendly girl who loves attention. If you are interested in adopting Natasha please visit the shelter to meet her. As she is already desexed she is able to leave the shelter with you. Her adoption price has been reduced to \$29 and includes the first vaccination, microchipping and life time registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming  
Organisation Number is: R251000145.

## AT A GLANCE

NAME: NATASHA  
BREED: DOMESTIC  
MEDIUM HAIR  
SEX: Female  
AGE: 1 year old  
PRICE: \$29

## ONLINE BOOKINGS NOW AVAILABLE!

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Saturday: 9am-11am

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parasite treatments and more!



# BRUCE JONES A BOY FROM BELLA VISTA FARM

By GISELA HORNER

In 1953, Bruce Jones came as a newborn to Bella Vista Farm, the eldest of 3 siblings - Ken, Eleanor and Gwen. The previous year, Bruce's grandmother Ellen Jones, signed the lease for a 1000-acre farm at Bella Vista. They came with 100 dairy cattle and farmed for nearly three decades. Albert and Ellen, Bruce's grandparents, had eight children. Along with Bruce's parents William and Joan, his uncle Charlie and aunts Kathleen and Daisy lived and worked on the farm. The rest of the family married and moved elsewhere. Flora, a niece, did the books for Bella Vista Farm.

William and Joan lived upstairs on the western side of the big house, but they had to be careful where they walked as the floors were full of white ants. Once Bruce was born, they were glad to set up home in the shop, believed to be the original Seven Hills Post Office. They lifted the ceiling to accommodate the fireplace they built. Ellen and Charlie operated the farm as Ellen Jones & Son, employing Bruce's parents. Bruce's mother would sit Bruce in his pram in the cow shed while she hand-fed the cattle, 19 at a time. When older, Bruce helped to feed the cows, but never did the milking. The family was self-sufficient, growing vegetables and raising poultry for consumption. Any excess went to market. There were big family lunches on Sundays in the kitchen next to the house. Bruce recalls the difficulty he had catching a 28lb turkey for Christmas dinner! Daisy plucked and cleaned the bird and Ellen dressed and cooked it for over three hours in the fuel stove. The family was well fed that day. Every 6 months Bruce's job was to clean the

stove. A very messy and time-consuming job! The stove never went cold so Bruce would wait until it cooled enough to scoop all the soot out. Then it had to be polished with a lead-based polish, an absolute no-no today! He also remembers feeding the birds in his father's large aviary, built adjacent to their living quarters. There were flocks of budgies, parrots, finches, doves, quails and canaries. Bruce attended Kellyville Primary School and then went to Castle Hill High in its foundation year of 1963 until he was 16. As he was always interested in farm machinery and engines, he started work at 18 with an auto/electrical business in Parramatta, doing an apprenticeship at TAFE. This became his life's work and passion. Bruce left Bella Vista Farm in his 20's and moved into a caravan park at Vineyard, finally buying his house in the late 90's in Richmond. On Ellen's death in 1978, the 99-year lease expired and the Jones family were given notice to quit. By 1979 they had sold all their farm machinery and stock at a large clearing sale. Bruce's parents William and Joan retired to Taree and ran a hobby farm until 2007. William died in 2008 and Joan still lives in Taree, aged 98.

Bruce loves restoring old cars and is currently rebuilding the original engine of his 1981 Valiant Regal. He belongs to an historic car group, ensuring members keep their cars in peak condition and their registrations up to date. Bruce



likes reading and taking walks with Lucy his Border Collie Cross Mastif. "I feel very lucky to share my passion with like-minded people", he said.

Bella Vista Farm will open on Sunday, March 6 from 0900-1400. Free parking. All welcome. Plenty of attractions. Cnr Norwest Boulevard and Elizabeth Macarthur Drive, Bella Vista. For further details write to us at [friends.bellavistafarm@gmail.com](mailto:friends.bellavistafarm@gmail.com)



Bruce (R) with brother and sisters at Bella Vista Farm

## DEADLY PARASITES... IT ISN'T JUST TICKS THAT KILL!

Pet owners along the east coast of Australia are rightly concerned about the health and financial risks of paralysis ticks affecting their dogs, but canine heartworm is also deadly and has been called the 'silent killer' because of the tendency to overlook it until it is too late. It has also been referred to as 'a preventable condition that starts with a mosquito bite and ends with a long treatment or death'.

Deadly heartworm infects the heart and lungs of dogs and cats and is spread by mosquitoes. One study from America showed that 70% of the mosquitoes living in the kennel of a heartworm-infected dog had the ability to spread the heartworm to other dogs.

As you might have gathered, at Sydney Animal Hospitals we want to prevent every nasty parasite that we can, and preferably do it from the time your puppy is born. We might not be able to stop mosquitoes biting your dog, but we sure can stop your puppy catching heartworm.

We know that pet owners are busy people. Kids...work...shopping...pets...catching up with friends and family. Our preferred mode of prevention is a vet-administered long-acting product for the prevention of heartworm in dogs. One less thing for you to remember. The wonderful news is that we can administer a dose of this long-acting product when you come in for your puppy vaccinations and it will protect your puppy.

Simplicity, convenience, and certainty against deadly heartworm infection.

This March, we are offering a FREE first dose of year-round heartworm prevention at Sydney Animal Hospitals for 12 week old puppies.

Contact us at Norwest on 8883 0411 or Kellyville on 8883 0533 to discuss your dog's heartworm prevention to make sure they are adequately protected.

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



## Heartworm Is your puppy at risk?

Forgetting monthly treatments is one of the leading causes of deadly heartworm in dogs.<sup>1</sup> Let us take care of it for you.

Get your **FREE** dose of year-round heartworm prevention, 4 weeks **FREE** tick and flea protection, a **FREE** Puppy Health Check, 4 weeks **FREE** pet insurance, and a sample bag of Hill's puppy food.



**Sydney Animal Hospitals**  
Caring for all your family



Kellyville 8883 0533 Norwest 8883 0411  
[www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au](http://www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au)

Reference: 1. Nelson C, McCall J, Jones S et al. Current Canine Guidelines for the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Heartworm (Dirofilaria immitis) Infection in Dogs American Heartworm Society 2020. <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/veterinary-resources/american-heartworm-society-guidelines> (accessed 23.8.20). \*T&Cs apply. Free heartworm dose available 1/1 - 31/3/2022 for puppies aged 12 weeks only. Free puppy health check-up and insurance available all year for new patients aged 12 weeks to 12 months. Free puppy health check-up not valid for veterinary consultations for specific illnesses or injuries. Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd. ABN 94 156 476 425 Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard, Rhodes NSW 2138. © 2022 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. January 2022. MM-18144C.



# TIME TO REMEMBER

*As Minister for Veterans it was a great honour to represent NSW Veterans in Darwin for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin.*

The air raid on 19 February 1942 was the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australia. This was the start of over 100 air attacks on Northern Territory and Western Australia and continued until November 1943. On 19th February at the Cenotaph in Darwin, at 9.58am, a World War II air-raid siren sounds to mark the precise time of the first attack. We owe our eternal gratitude to those who served during our darkest hours.

## RAIL LINK

As Minister for Transport I know my constituents are very interested in the progress of the North West Metro Rail link from Chatswood to the City. Tunnelling between Chatswood and Sydenham finished in March 2020. Work is progressing on building the stations as part of Stage 2 of the project.



The Hon  
**David Elliott MP**  
Member for Baulkham Hills  
Minister for Transport and Veteran Affairs

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

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

📍 Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153  
📞 02 9686 3110 ✉ [baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au) 🌐 [davidelliott.com.au](http://davidelliott.com.au)

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

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

## GALA CONCERT

This year March sees the return of the popular Premier's Gala Concerts as part of the NSW Seniors Festival which runs from Friday, 25 March to Sunday 3 April. It is great to see many Hills Seniors applying for free tickets to these concerts show-casing the talents of Christine Anu, Shannon Noll and Phil Burton from Human Nature. The Concerts are being held at the Aware Super Theatre in the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour. I know many of the Hills residents will use the North West Metro Rail to travel to the CBD.

# PLANTING TREES FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Last month we celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years on the throne serving our country and the Commonwealth.

Her reign has outlasted 16 Australian Prime Ministers, 20 NSW Premiers, 14 US Presidents, and 67 Melbourne Cup winners. She has been a constant in an ever-changing world.

Her service is remarkable, and her timeless values of duty, service and responsibility are an inspiration to people across our community, our country, and the world.

In recognition of this special occasion, community-based tree planting events will be held across Australia.

Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee will run over the next three years.

The program will provide up to \$15.1 million in grant funding to eligible groups and organisations for community-based tree planting events.

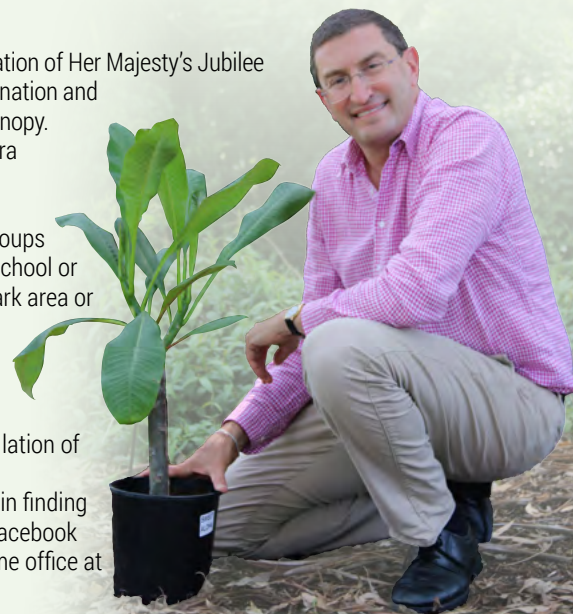
The program also intends to:

- increase community awareness and celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee
- create a legacy of tree plantings across the nation and
- increase and/or enhance the area of tree canopy.
- Several projects will be funded in the Berowra Electorate ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000.

The program will be community led, giving groups the option of planting large shade trees in a school or civic centre, the chance to enhance a local park area or to commence a local greening project.

To be considered, projects must include formal commemorative events in 2022 to mark the Jubilee, plantings of regionally appropriate tree species, and installation of commemorative signage or plaques.

If you or anyone you know are interested in finding out more information, please check out my Facebook page (Julian Leeser MP) or you can contact me office at [julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au).



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

As your MP, I am here to:

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

📍 Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120  
📞 9980 1822 ✉ [julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au)  
🌐 [julianleeser.com.au](http://julianleeser.com.au) 📺 [julianleesermp](https://www.facebook.com/julianleesermp)

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



# NEW FIELDS PLANNED

Plans to create three full-sized sports fields at George Thornton Reserve in West Pennant Hills are now on public exhibition and residents have until Thursday, March 17th to comment on them.

Hills Shire Council's draft landscape master plan proposes to expand the playing opportunities at George Thornton Reserve by realigning the existing Reserve.

Suggested improvements to the site, depending on funding becoming available, include an expansion of the amenities building to provide additional change rooms, as well as an extension to the existing car park to make more spaces.

One of the proposals is to use a synthetic playing surface on one of the three fields but is dependent on public response, as well as funding.

Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi encouraged residents to "have their say".

"Our community highly values our sporting facilities and that's why we want to hear from them about these new plans," Mayor Gangemi said.

George Thornton Reserve, West Pennant Hills  
Landscape Master Plan



"It's always important that Council plans strategically to ensure our community has the necessary infrastructure in place, such as additional sporting fields, to support both our existing and future Hills residents. Thankfully our Council benefits from strong financial management which allows us to provide these great outcomes for our community," Mayor Gangemi added. Residents can have their say by making an online submission via Council's

website, [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au), by 4pm on March 17th 2022. Simply click on the "What's Happening" tab and then click on "Current Plans on Exhibition".

Once the public consultation is complete, all feedback will be considered and a final version of the plan will be presented to Council for adoption. Following this, Council anticipates a staged implementation of the adopted plan.

# SPORTING WINS

Four multi-purpose rectangular turf sports fields that can also be reconfigured into two ovals, along with an amenities building with accessible toilets, change rooms, kiosk, referee room and storage are set to be built in North Kellyville.



Works on the brand new Samantha Riley Drive Reserve could commence as soon as April after The Hills Shire Council accepted a multi-million dollar construction tender.

The approved plans also include a basketball half court, two practice cricket nets, sports field lighting, a maintenance storage building, a local playground with picnic facilities, an onsite car park with 200 spaces, concrete shared pathways, a field irrigation and underground storage tanks to collect rainwater.

Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi said: "Our parks, reserves and playgrounds are more important than ever before and I'm proud that this Council is working hard to deliver more of the facilities that are vital to our residents' health and wellbeing."

Council has also accepted a tender to increase the size of the playing field area at Kenthurst Park to accommodate an additional full-sized sports field.

The end result will see three senior-sized playing fields in the area along with the retention of the existing turf cricket pitch at Kenthurst Park.

# GLENORIE COURTS UPGRADED

Recently completed work at Les Shore Reserve, Glenorie has seen two existing tennis courts upgraded on the site and the repurposing of two other courts into multipurpose areas for basketball and netball.

The project was made possible through \$215,000 funding from the Australian Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. This program supports local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, visit The Hills Shire Council website ([www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au)) and search "Les Shore Reserve".

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# FAREWELL TO AN OLD MATE TO MANY.

Almost a year ago I wrote a piece in this publication about Albert (Bert) Collins who at the time was said to be the oldest surviving soldier in Australia from the Second World War. Bert had just celebrated his 105th birthday at the Bankstown RSL and the celebration was carried on several news programmes on television in Sydney at the time. As well as my article in this publication, Lawrence Machado, a colleague on the "Hills to Hawkesbury Community News", also wrote a piece regarding an interview that he had with Bert just after his 104th birthday in 2020. Whilst Bert's home may have been located at Bankstown he also had family ties with the Hills district where he often stayed with his niece, Lorraine, who had provided care for him over many years.

My wife and I, together with Lorraine and a few friends, also celebrated Bert's 105th birthday at a local club on the day after the Bankstown RSL celebration. Bert was very chatty and enjoyed our little celebration where memories and jokes abounded.

Bert was a fighter throughout his life. At the age of 100, Bert had been diagnosed with a severe case of Melanoma and had been given a sentence, when told he would only survive

for another six months. Instead, Bert, after receiving an injection to remove the melanoma, continued until February 13th of this year at almost 106 years of age. Bert's next birthday was to fall in March. He passed away just weeks short.

Bert was a generous person who, for many years, built dolls houses of all sizes and colours for children right up to his 90s. As he told Lawrence Machado in 2020, "I enjoyed making the dolls houses as it gave so much pleasure to the children and their families, many keeping them for years after their children had grown up". Bert went on to tell Lawrence "I bought all the pieces and did everything in my shed and even got some equipment made to my specifications."

Bert had many talents and also loved Ballroom dancing and, as I had once been a ballroom dancer myself having given it up some 55 years ago, we both reminisced about the dances we once enjoyed and the ballrooms and dancing competitions of the past. Bert remained dancing up to his 90s. He said that it helped keep him fit and healthy.

During the evening that Bert and I spent together he told me a tale that he claimed

happened during his war years. He said that whilst on duty as a sentry at an army base he spotted a Senior officer approaching the gate. Knowing that his army buddies were behind a building playing an illegal game of "two-up" he asked the Senior Officer for the password before he could be allowed to enter the camp.

The officer did not know the password so Bert refused him entry. The officer said that he would come back the next day. One of Bert's mates asked "What is the password?" Bert replied "Hell if I know, I just wanted to stop him before he discovered you lot playing two-up. As far as I know there isn't a password."

Bert was a humble man who never forgot his mates and told Lawrence back in 2020 "I am one of the luckiest men alive. I am grateful to return from the Second World War alive whilst many of my mates never made it back. I have a spirit within me and I hope that spirit never leaves me".

Sadly, on February 13th Bert said farewell to this world and has gone to join his mates who never made it back during the Second World War. RIP Bert. Your face will be missed at the ANZAC DAY marches after many years of marching with your comrades.

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PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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

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

## Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.

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

9680 3958  
castlehillseniors@gmail.com

## Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook

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

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

## Cumberland Bird Observers Club

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

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

## CWA of NSW - Galston Branch

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

Jann | 0439 222 217

## CWA of NSW - Castle Hill Branch

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

Maureen | 0411 724 925

## Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Group

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

Denis | 9629 2645 or Maurice | 9654 2138

## Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

## Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498  
www.duralmensshed.org

## East Kurrajong School of Arts

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

Ann | 02 4576 5031

## Galston VIEW Club

Raises money for The Smith Family "Learning for Life" program. New members are always welcome.

Merle 9634 2378 | 0412 110 698.

## Girl Guides Australia

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

Margo 0417 657 433.

## Glenhaven Probus Club Inc

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

secretary.glenhaven.probus@gmail.com

## Glenwood Men's Shed

Jim | 0438 701 275

## Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail

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

## Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn

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

## Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the First Fleeters

Meets on 2nd Saturday of each month.

Pamela Hempel | 0407 660 579  
www.ffhnc.com

## Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

4721 8709

## Hills District Women's Bowling Club

Jenner Street, Baulkham Hills

9639 2733  
www.thehillswomensbowls.com.au

## Hills Older Men's Network INC

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

Ron | 0424 462 153  
HillsOMNI@gmail.com

## Hills Toastmasters

Meets every second Tuesday, 7pm. Restore Church: 47 Britannia Rd, Castle Hill. New members welcomed

Terry | 0488 089 951

## Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

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

Allen | 0439 831 531  
allendavisguitar@gmail.com

## Kurrajong Hand Spun Craft

Come and learn a beautiful old craft at North Richmond Community Centre. Friendly group just bring yourself. Thursdays at noon.

Margaret | 0403 819 165

## 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

## 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

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

## Red Cross - Castle Hill Branch

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

0419 431 084.

## Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club

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

Christine Walshaw | 0416073483

## Scouts Australia - Greater Western Sydney Region

9639 2488  
www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

## Sleep Disorders Australia - NSW

02 9990 3514  
www.sleepoz.org.au

## Soroptimist International The Hills

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

Cathy | 0435 837 118  
sithehills@siwp.org

## The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc

9639 8620

## The Hills Learning Centre

02 8850 0555  
RSVP | info@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 | 0488 833 781

## YMCA NSW Community Visitors Scheme

9633 8209 or 0402 255 193

## Zonta Club of Sydney Hills

0414 641 408  
www.zontadistrict24.org



# PUZZLE

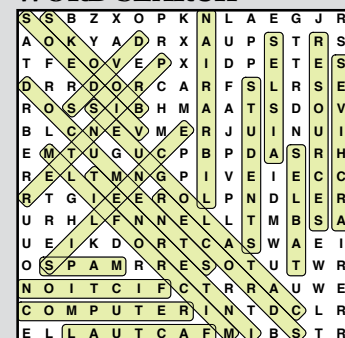
## WORD SEARCH

### LEGAL TERMS

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

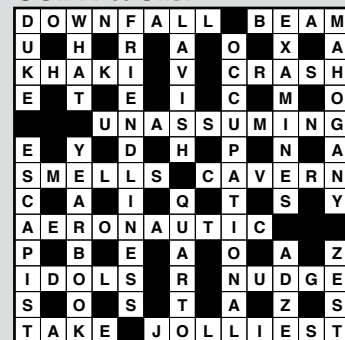


## WORD SEARCH



Answers from last issue

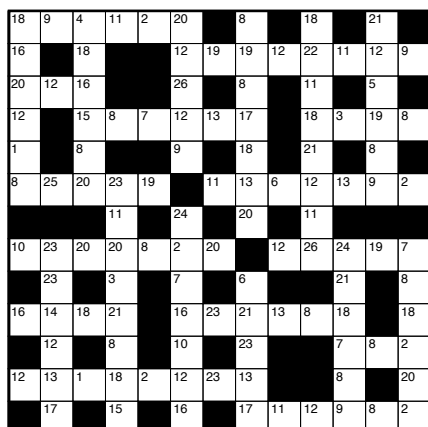
## CODE WORD



## CODE WORD

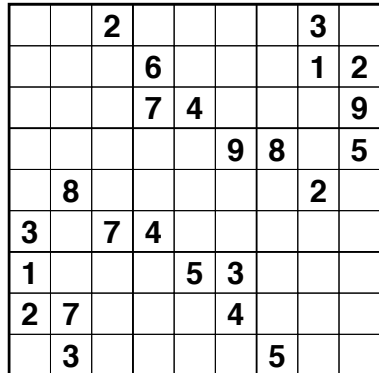
Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

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

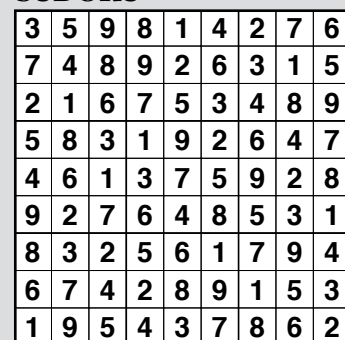


## SUDOKU

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



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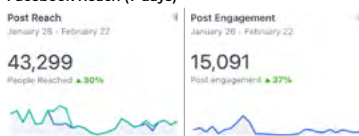
fergiestreeworks@gmail.com

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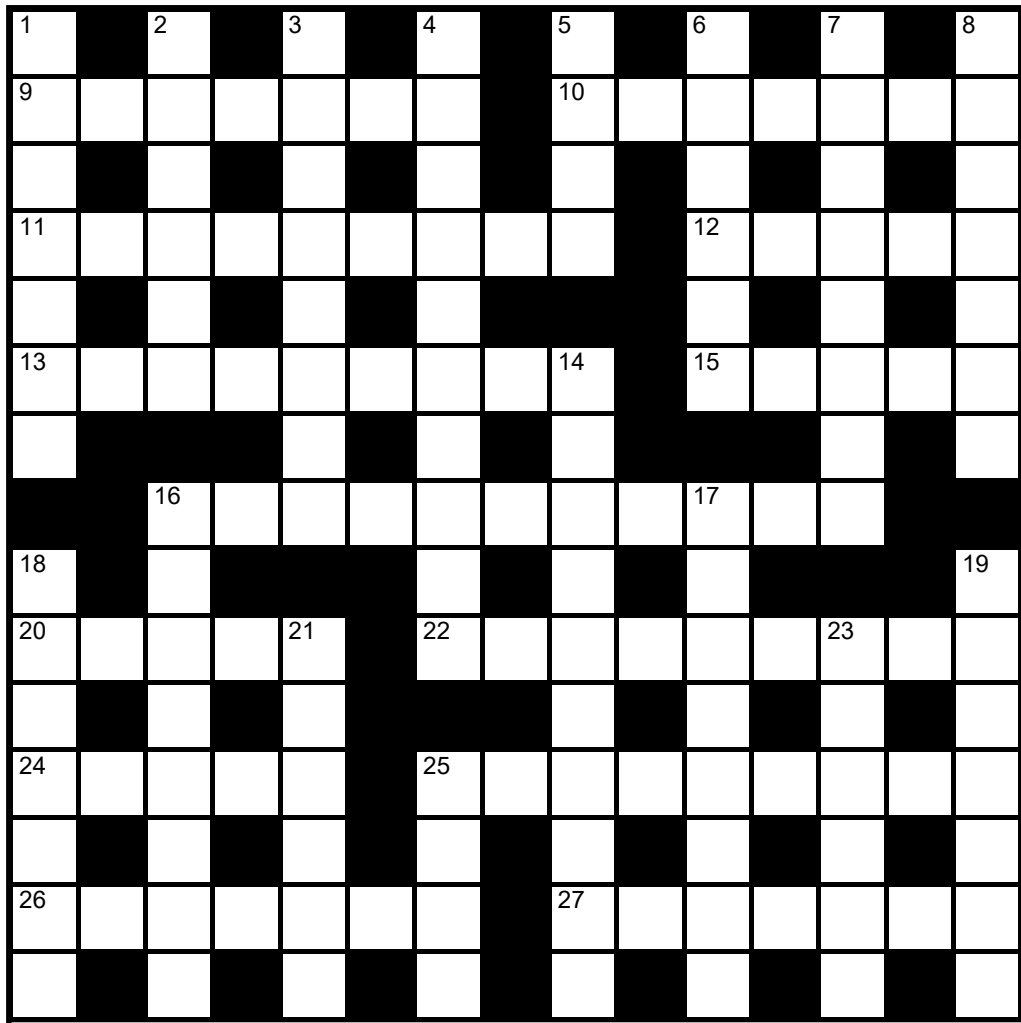
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### Facebook Reach (7 days)



### Website Traffic for 30 days



### Across

9. Fully owned (4-3)
10. Musical entertainment
11. Carried on (9)
12. Elevate (5)
13. Hero type (4,5)
15. Storage centre (5)
16. Controversial WA settlement between Lancelin and Cervantes (5,6)
20. Person used as one's excuse
22. Institution for abandoned children
24. Prague resident
25. Asian ---, a shorebird seen in summer in the North
26. Energetic
27. Bigger than the rest

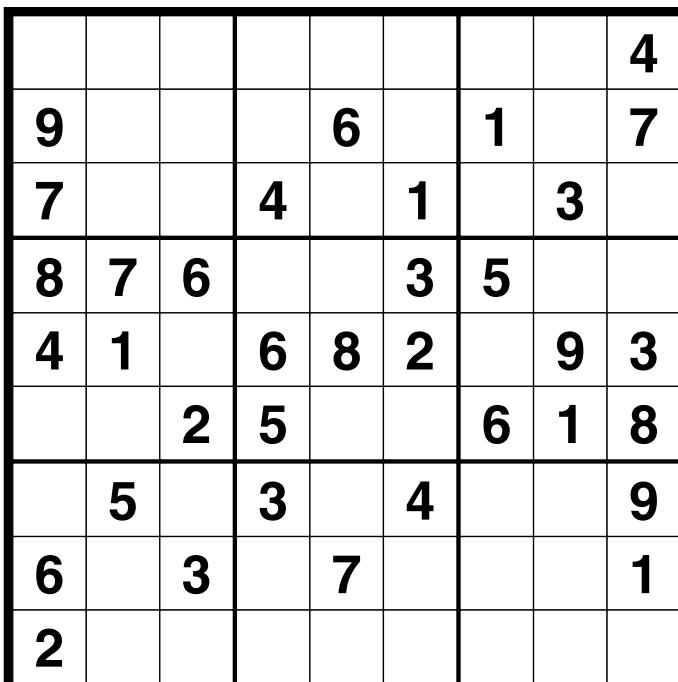
### Down

1. Discriminating diner
2. --- Murphy, radical judge
3. Swore
4. Nuclear point of detonation (6, 4)
5. Cricket World Cupper --- Hogg
6. Beat the goalie
7. Bare
8. Canadian oil province
14. Olympic gold-winning Hockeyroo forward (4, 6)
16. Undermine
17. Interconnecting devices
18. Series of waterfalls
19. Rues
21. Residence-based (2-4)
23. Former tennis Grand Slammer --- John Cooper
25. Evade

## SUDOKU

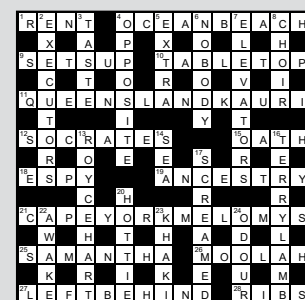
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

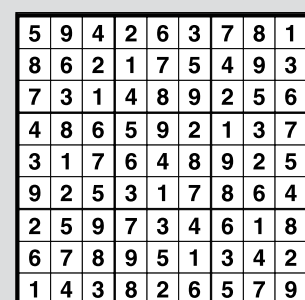


### Answers from last issue

## CROSSWORD



## SUDOKU





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