

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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## Community News

11th - 25th March 2022 | Volume 39 – Issue 05  
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



# TANYA'S DASH TO SAFETY

FLOOD STORIES PAGES 6 AND 7

Tanya Hosking with her horse Lily and dog Riley

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Relay Chair Lisa Carruthers with (l to R) Relay committee member Councillor Ryan Tracey Clr Jessica Brazier, Deputy Mayor Mark Hodges, Hills Mayor Peter Gangemi, and councillors Mitchell Blue and Frank De Masi.

# HILLS RELAY FOR LIFE

*Despite the wet weather it was a great turn out for the launch of the Hills Relay For Life at Event Cinemas Castle Hill on March 2nd.*

Again, Event Cinemas Castle Hill sponsored the launch and the distributors of Australian movie Ruby's Choice provided the screening for free.

Guests included politicians, sponsors, volunteers and team members who have been part of the community fundraiser for the Cancer Council.

The 2022 Hills Relay For Life on May 21st will be the 21st Relay event held in the Hills Shire, making it one of the longest running Cancer Council relays in Australia.

Chair of the Hills Relay For Life Community organising committee Lisa Carruthers said it will be great to return to the 24-hour Relay format.

"From our Virtual Relay in 2020, to our very successful 20th Anniversary 5-hour event last year, it has been a very interesting and challenging time."

She thanked the Hills Relay Community for being behind each event "every step of the way".

Last year's five-hour relay raised \$150,234. Speaker James Butler, former Chair, who helped establish the Hills Relay For Life said the great community spirit of the event contributed to its great success over the decades.

To find out more or create a team of join a team visit [www.cancercouncil.org.au/hillsrelayor](http://www.cancercouncil.org.au/hillsrelayor) visit the Hills Relay For Life Facebook page.



James Butler with Ray Williams MP



David Hand with CHRG Vice President Mike Yeo and President John Payne



Warwick, Barbara and Brian Stewart with Hills Relay Patron Michelle Byrne.



Lisa Carruthers with Hills Music Academy's Garry Clark and members.

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

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

# LAND VALUE CONTRIBUTIONS

By BEV JORDAN

**Local residents' groups are sounding an alarm over the State Government's proposed Land Value Contributions proposal saying it is effectively a land tax on family homes.**

Members of Box Hill Nelson Progress Association and Rouse Hill Heights Action Group spoke to the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News* saying they were shocked by how quickly and quietly the proposed changes to planning legislation had passed through State Parliament's Lower House.

It is yet to be debated before the Upper House but the Department of Planning and Environment has previously stated that the new infrastructure contributions system is expected to be in place by July 1st 2022.

Currently, the costs of the land acquisition and the construction of infrastructure on new developments are borne by the developer when they develop the land.

The proposed changes will see landowners of rezoned land having to pay Land Value Contributions to the local council when the land is either sold, or developed which can be up to 20 percent of the value of the land or the dedication of land to council for infrastructure of the same value.

Multiple residents groups in North-West and South West Sydney have made objections to the proposals and written to MPs to voice their concerns. It is understood that there have been 800 submissions in relation to the proposal.

The residents' groups say that there has been very little public consultation with people owning acreage and most groups knew nothing about it until the public exhibition period closed just before Christmas.



Box Hill before development

In a letter to Upper House MPs last month Colleen Abela from the Rouse Hill residents' group urged MPs not to vote for the legislation.

"The bill seeks to relieve developers of the need to pay for some of the infrastructure when they develop Greenfield areas, and put that impost on the acreage owners- \_ to put a 20% tax on the price that acreage landowners get when they sell to developers. This is virtually a de facto Capital Gains Tax, and unlike the CGT, it also applies to the family home! This bill won't lower the costs of housing land, it will just lower the developers costs and raise their profits," she wrote.

She has been working with several other groups to get the details of the LVC out into the community. "There are still an awful lot of people who don't know about this," she said.

Vicki Giannoulis, President of the Box Hill Nelson Progress Association said acreage landowners in North Western Sydney were strongly opposed to the proposed changes to development contributions saying it was an additional Capital Gains Tax.

The Nelson Box Hill Progress Association submission stated: "There is already a Capital Gains Tax (CGT) levied by the Federal Government, Land Tax levied by the State Government, and rates charged by the Councils, all based on the value of the land, either annually or when it is sold. This is now an additional tax."

Residents say the introduction of LVC will be a gain for developers who will pay less to develop the land.

A response from the Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts to the submission said:

"This initiative is not a tax but seeks to share the costs of future infrastructure with everyone that benefits from the rezoning of land for more intensive uses."

Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi said: "This component of the reform has the potential to impact residents who own land that may be rezoned for development in the future, although land covered by existing contributions plans won't be impacted.

"It's important that land owners of sites that may one day be the subject of rezoning understand this change means people who receive a significant financial gain may be required to contribute some of their windfall to pay for infrastructure associated with that rezoning," he said.

"While the time for public submissions has formally closed, I urge residents to read the information available at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Infrastructure/Infrastructure-Funding/Improving-the-infrastructure-contributions-system](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Infrastructure/Infrastructure-Funding/Improving-the-infrastructure-contributions-system) and contact the State Government at [infrastructure.contributions@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:infrastructure.contributions@planning.nsw.gov.au) should you have any enquiries or concerns," he said.

## FLOOD WASTE REMOVAL FOR AFFECTED HAWKESBURY RESIDENTS

Planning and preparing for the Hawkesbury community's transition to recovery is well underway. A multi-agency recovery strategy has been planned to coordinate the recovery. These agencies include but are not limited to NSW Police Force, Hawkesbury City Council, NSW State Emergency Services, NSW Rural Fire Service, Hawkesbury Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and Public Works Authority.

Residents want to get back to their homes as quickly as possible however it is important to keep the community safe during this time. An affected area must be assessed as safe before the clean-up can begin. This is going to be a

prolonged flood. Further rises are occurring in some areas and operations are still in the response phase, with the likelihood of further advice, warnings, and potential for further evacuations.

A flood waste clean-up registration process is being developed by Hawkesbury City Council. To receive updates on this process as it becomes available, please register your details on Council's website at [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/fih2021/survey\\_tools/register1](http://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/fih2021/survey_tools/register1)

Registration for flood waste collection will also be through Council's website. Council will inform the community when the registration

process is available and requests will be assessed to ensure there are in a flood affected area.

There will be a focus this year on kerbside flood waste collection during the recovery which will increase the speed and efficiency of the clean-up process, skip bins will be a secondary option for removal of flood waste if kerbside collection is not appropriate.

Residents will be encouraged to move their waste to the kerbside of their property and will need to separate the flood waste into specific piles. Information on this will be provided upon registration.

*Continues on page 8*



## WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Commander of Riverstone Police Area Command, Superintendent Donna McCarthy is joint winner of the 2022 Blacktown City Woman of the Year Award.

She was named alongside foster care advocate Kelly Doyle from Foster Care Angels at a special International Women's Day Breakfast on Tuesday (March 8th). There were 26 nominees.

The 35 year police veteran was nominated for years of work, particularly during the height of COVID-19 lockdowns in 2021.

Blacktown Mayor Tony Bleasdale said: "I congratulate Supt. McCarthy and Ms Doyle on the unwavering commitment they have shown to the communities they serve, especially during the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Supt McCarthy said: "I consider this award the highest honour because of how hard everyone in this community works. At a time when we have just recently appointed our first female NSW Police Commissioner, it's a sign of how much women have to offer.

"It's a privilege to be in this position, especially as a female, and I hope to provide a stepping stone for other women in policing."

Chairperson of the Blacktown City Women's Advisory Committee, Councillor Julie Griffiths, said: "This International Women's Day theme calls us to 'Break the Bias' - to dismantle sexist attitudes and stereotypes that continue to hold women back."

## NEW COPS ON THE BEAT

There are new faces on the beat following the swearing in of new probationary constables, the Class of 351, on Friday (March 4). It was the first attestation ceremony in the top job for NSW Police Force Commissioner Karen Webb.



Among the 193 new probationary constables were five for Riverstone Police District, two for Hawkesbury and two for The Hills Police Area Command.

The new recruits commenced their year as probationary constables this week.

Police Commissioner Karen Webb welcomed the latest intake and said: "It takes a special person to sign up for a career in policing, which is why I am so pleased to personally welcome and congratulate every recruit today.

"It's a job that involves putting others first every time we put on the blue uniform, but it's an extremely satisfying career."

Students who have completed eight months at Goulburn Police Academy will now complete 12 months' on-the-job training and study by distance education with Charles Sturt University.

They officially graduate with an Associate Degree in Policing Practice once they have passed all academic and operation standards. The officers will then be confirmed to the rank of constable.



## ATM SUSPECTS CHARGED

A 22-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman have been charged following an alleged attempted ram raid in Glenorie in January.

Officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command were called to Old Northern Road, Glenorie, at about 11.30pm on Sunday January 30th 2022 following reports of an attempted robbery of an ATM outside the shopping complex.

Police will allege 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 then drove from the scene. An hour later, at 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. Inquiries led police to believe the vehicle was allegedly stolen and linked to the earlier incident.

Following further inquiries and an appeal for information, a 29-year-old woman was arrested at a caravan park on the Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour about 7.30am yesterday, (Tuesday March 8th). Police searched the woman when they located a loaded home-made firearm, which was seized for forensic examination.

The woman was taken to Coffs Harbour Police Station, where she was charged with attempt larceny, destroy/damage property in company, destroy/damage property in company by fire, participate in criminal group, destroy/damage property intend criminal activity group and possess unauthorised firearm.

Shortly after, a 22-year-old man was arrested at a correctional centre in Grafton.

He was charged with attempt larceny, destroy/damage property in company, destroy/damage property in company by fire, participate in criminal group, and destroy/damage property intend criminal activity of group.

Investigations into the incident continue.

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.



In a life threatening emergency dial 000

# NEW CAR BOOSTS TEAM

***There's a new addition to the Crime Prevention Team at Hills Police Area Command that's set to make a big impact on the community.***

The gleaming new Volkswagen Passat 162 TSI was handed over to senior police from the Hills Police Area Command this week at Castle Hill Volkswagen.

Chief Inspector Phil Brooks praised the relationship with Castle Hill Volkswagen saying "We can't do our job alone."

He said there were great benefits to residents in the Hills of having a vehicle to be used exclusively by the crime prevention team.

John Gallico, General Manager Castle Hill Volkswagen said they were happy to sponsor the new Community Engagement Vehicle.

"We are pleased to support the important work Castle Hills police do in the Hills community by providing this sponsorship.

"We look forward to seeing the Community Engagement vehicle out and about as police work in the local community.

"As a business and on a personal level we were very proud to be able to contribute to our local police and support our local community....we hope it helps the community in any way possible."

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Laird, Hills Crime Manager said: "This vehicle will allow more officers within Domestic Violence Team and Crime Prevention Unit to travel throughout the community engaging and educating people of ages about Crime Prevention.



Chief Inspector Phil Brooks (front) Chief Inspector Neil Higgins, Sgt Stephen Balfour and Det Chief Inspector Chris Laird with the new Community Engagement Vehicle sponsored by Castle Hill Volkswagen.

"The donation of this vehicle, shows that business and community groups are committed to providing extra support to victims of abuse and vulnerable members of The Hills Local Government Area."

# OPTIONS FOR FLOOD AFFECTED TENANTS AND LANDLORDS

Tenants returning to unliveable properties due to flood damage face decisions on what to do with their rental and whether to find new or temporary housing but they do have options.

Fair Trading Executive Director Community Engagement, Andrew Gavrielatos, said returning to find a property uninhabitable is devastating and the last thing a tenant needs is having to worry about continuing to pay rent while finding emergency accommodation.

Mr Gavrielatos said "Working out where to live is one thing but trying to extricate yourself from a rental contract at the same time only adds to the woe of experiencing a flood. If the property is destroyed or becomes uninhabitable, the landlord and tenant can agree to end the tenancy."

If no agreement is possible, the tenant or landlord can give a written termination notice

to end the tenancy immediately or a specified date, on the basis the property is unliveable. Alternatively, the tenant can move out temporarily and return once repairs have been carried out. The landlord is not obliged to find or pay for the tenant's temporary accommodation, but a tenant can seek a rent reduction for the time they were unable to live in the premises.

If the property is only partly uninhabitable, the tenant can choose to stay in the property while repairs are being carried out. Tenants should only consider doing this if the damage is relatively minor and there is no ongoing safety risk. In this situation the tenant can ask for a partial reduction in rent.

The tenant and landlord can also decide to formally end the agreement and re-sign a new agreement after the repairs are complete.

"It's important to assess whether to stay or go early on, as payments need to be maintained until there is an agreement to reduce rent or end the tenancy," Mr Gavrielatos said.

"We are conscious of the low supply of alternative accommodation in many regions, exacerbated further by the flooding. We encourage owners, tenants and agents to work together collaboratively to ensure the best outcomes at a time of high stress emotional and financial impact.

"Rest assured we are here to provide advice and support to everyone affected by the floods. Help is at hand so please visit the website or call us."

Visit [fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/publications/natural-disasters](http://fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/publications/natural-disasters) or call 13 32 20.

Visit [nsw.gov.au/floods](http://nsw.gov.au/floods) to find information on emergency accommodation and financial support services. For details on emergency accommodation, visit [www.nsw.gov.au/life-events/living-nsw/if-you-need-emergency-accommodation](http://www.nsw.gov.au/life-events/living-nsw/if-you-need-emergency-accommodation)

# PLEASE GIVE TO GIVIT!

Resilience NSW Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said it was critical that people don't take or send unrequested items into storm and flood-impacted areas. Well-meaning community members are being urged not to donate unwanted goods to NSW communities affected by recent storms and floods.

People wanting to donate goods or financial support are asked to take advantage of the established arrangements between the NSW Government and national non-for-profit GIVIT.

People can also make financial donations to the Red Cross flood appeal.

The NSW Government and GIVIT will work together alongside charities to assess and

advise what critical and immediate material support is needed. They will also assist with managing donated money and offers of goods and services.

"Every time there is a crisis, we see community members standing up to help neighbours and strangers alike," Mr Fitzsimmons said. "This community spirit is an inspiring and uniquely Australian trait that we want to encourage, but we need people to do it in the manner that will ensure local charities and recovery organisations aren't inundated with donations they don't need." The best way people can help communities in times of need is via the official donations channels.

"Our arrangement with GIVIT allows councils, outreach teams, local charities and community groups to tell us exactly what's needed. Then, we work to meet these needs through an online warehouse or by purchasing requested items locally using donated funds.

"We will continue to support communities for as long as it takes them to recover from these storms and floods."

Donate to GIVIT's storm and flood appeal at [givit.org.au/stormsand-flooding](http://givit.org.au/stormsand-flooding), or donate at the Red Cross flood appeal at [redcross.org.au/floodsappeal](http://redcross.org.au/floodsappeal)

To connect with a Customer Care specialist, call Service NSW on 13 77 88



Windsor's Greenway Crescent



Windsor's Riverside shopping centre car park has turned into an underground lake



Suffolk Lane, Windsor

# HAWKESBURY SUFFERS ITS SECOND BIG FLOOD IN A ROW...

BY TONY BOSWORTH | EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

***Two major floods in two years – it's certainly been a tough couple of years for the Hawkesbury and this time it almost seemed like two floods, with a lull in the middle and then flood heights in some areas almost up to the 1978 level.***

Of course, we all should have been used to it the second time around and it has to be said there was a higher level of calmness in general across our region as the waters started to rise.

There will be questions too once this is over about what lessons Hawkesbury Council learnt from the last flood including around some roads still not fully repaired after the 2021 flood, roads which were once again smashed, and an evacuation centre west of the river not opened or even revealed until people had actually been evacuated from their homes.

When the waters rose, and first – as always – swept over Yarramundi Bridge, there were no sandbags readily available through the SES or Council and just 15 minutes before North Richmond Bridge went under it was announced a sandbag point had been opened at McQuade Park in Windsor – not a safe option for those west of the river with Windsor Bridge threatened too.

McQuade Park was the same sandbag venue as last year, and Penrith had sandbags neatly stacked for residents to pick up from Jamison Park a good 24 hours earlier, so you'd wonder why McQuade wasn't opened sooner, given we all had a fair idea what was coming our way, thanks to last year's drenching.

Once North Richmond bridge went under – and no-one took the side rails down which means an extended wait once it reopens - it meant those on the west side had no access to sandbags. Shortly after Northo bridge was engulfed, Council announced those on the west could get sandbags from the depot at Wilberforce, an hour round trip for many along increasingly flooded and potholed roads during a downpour.

Things happened quickly after that - the first evacuation was all residents of 13 streets in North Richmond because the SES had concerns about Redbank Dam failing. This was a new one to pretty much everyone. Locals who were being told to evacuate immediately for fear "the Dam" might fail called *Hawkesbury Post* confused and afraid, and also asked where our evacuation centre was. At that stage there wasn't one, despite

calls – most stridently from Macquarie MP Susan Templeman all this last year – for a specific centre for west of the river. As evacuations began Merroo Christian Centre at Kurrajong was opened as the main west of the river evacuation centre..

Last flood, almost a year ago, evacuees congregated at North Richmond Community Centre but this year that risked being in the firing line, or the flood, if the Redbank Dam burst, so it wasn't a possibility.

Redbank Dam - actually two of them, named 13 and 14 - were tagged with an Amber and a Red alert by the SES.

They sit on the new Redbank housing development above North Richmond. The SES had been concerned about those dams because heavy rain had been falling for days. They escalated the concern up the chain of command and all the way to SES HQ who gave the Amber and Red orders their tick.

Redbank Community – the property developer – said the SES had made a mistake and there was no concern, but as a senior Hawkesbury SES officer told the Post, "far better to be safe than sorry".

As it happened residents were able to return home a couple of days later, given the all clear, though in truth many had returned after only a day away and some didn't even leave. In a twist to the tale, days later a heritage-listed Dam above the sprawling building site did overflow, causing concern among locals, but there was no disaster, with that Dam feeding into one of the new dams, ironically one that had previously had the SES order placed on it.

As the rain continued to fall and the rivers grew rapidly, Windsor's fairly new \$137m bridge went under the waters for the second time in just under a year, effectively cutting the community in two, though in truth by then there were various islands of communities out there.

One lesson that had been heeded from 2021, by the SES in particular, was that the folks living in some of our more remote areas, particularly Upper Colo and the Macdonald

Valley, needed emergency support quick. Last time around the Macdonald Valley – known by locals as Forgotten Valley because, well, they are often forgotten about, only had one single police officer to help with catastrophic flooding. Council's much vaunted Emergency Dashboard didn't cover closed roads in the Macdonald Valley. Back in 2021, it took 4 days for the SES to arrive on scene and locals were furious.

This time the SES were on the ground – or rather in their boats – from day one, delivering foods, medicines, and other supplies, and picking up trapped locals who wanted to get back on some dry land. SES and RFS helicopters were also busy across our region on both rescue and resourcing runs. There were some complaints rescue boats were being driven too fast on the rivers, the wash sweeping into already waterlogged houses on some occasions. The police officer based at Wisemans Ferry brought up community concerns about this with the SES.

Other issues revolved around Council's lack of progress on critical road repairs, especially at Lower Portland where locals are tired and frustrated by the almost year's wait for repairs to 2 one kilometre stretches which have not been finished and now suffered even more damage.

At Wisemans Ferry many locals were essentially trapped after landslides came down blocking Settlers Road. This year councillors briefly discussed allowing local contractors to step in when Council workers couldn't get to remote areas. But so far it's come to nothing so locals step in anyway – they have to, otherwise they would be waiting a very long time for help.

There was a lull before the next stage, which saw another mass of rain combining with already swollen rivers, full dams upstream, and ground that couldn't take any more. That's when the major evacuations began, the low-lying and flood prone areas, Sackville, Colo, McGraths Hill, even some parts of Windsor, plus many others.

Then power was cut to hundreds of homes because of safety concerns and for the first time the lights went off at the new Windsor Bridge. Last flood they were almost a beacon of hope as they continued to shine even while the bridge was swallowed by the river.

It will take days before river levels go down sufficiently to get the power back on, some in more remote areas may wait almost a week.

It's beginning to look like the waters will go down soon, with a peak at Windsor above the 2021 flood but below the infamous 1978 event which literally re-shaped river banks and river flow.

Will it happen next year too? Who really knows, but this is the third flood in three years, which is surely long enough for the authorities to learn the lessons.

# FLOOD EVACUEES By BEV JORDAN

**ARTHAS the Arabian foal is one of 44 horses which has found a safe haven at Castle Hill Showground during the deluge.**

Owner Tanya Hosking from the Tali Equine Lodge in Fairey Rd South Windsor started evacuating horses from the property last Tuesday. The 20 she evacuated included some of her own horses such as Arthas and his mum Hollyford Park and some on agistment.

She also had to evacuate last year because of the flooding.

"It was scary," she told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*. "I had 3 horses on my float, 1,500 kilos of horse on my float, the rain was relentless and the stress levels were already high."

She said trying to negotiate flooded roads and fellow drivers not driving to the conditions increased the stress.

She said everyone just chipped in and helped in "true community spirit" and praised the kindness of strangers since she reached Castle Hill Showground.

"People have been bringing carrots and apples for the horses, and bringing us the basics. People have bought hot food, people have been really great. We have been lucky... we are hoping there's not too much damage to the property."

Peta from Quakers Hill went down to Castle Hill Showground and volunteered to help, spending a couple of days helping with the hay nets and just keeping the horses settled and comfortable.

"I grew up in a stud and we had 50 horses. I don't have any horses at the moment so I really wanted to help out. There is a real sense of community spirit."

The Castle Hill Showground evacuation centre was set up by Greater Sydney Local Land Services in conjunction with Hills Shire Council.

They had also benefitted from the kindness of strangers checking in on their welfare.

Samantha from Cherrybrook did several trips over several days bringing containers of home-made bolognese and vegetable curry for evacuees and Land Services staff. It was something she did during last year's flood.

"Food is one of the basic needs we have. If we all contribute what we can it will make a difference. Every drop of water makes the ocean," she said.

Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi said: "I want to thank the RSPCA and the Greater Sydney Local Land Services for their work at the Showground.

"I went out there on Thursday to see our 'real life Noah's Ark' and I was just blown away by how many residents I saw there offering help and assistance. Our community is a generous and resilient one, and these kind acts just shows that we will once again get through this tough time."

He said council crews and contractors worked throughout the weekend to repair potholes, remove fallen trees, and monitored roads for further damage and flooding.

He also thanked the SES, RFS, police, emergency teams and volunteers.

"The Hills SES have received more than 105 calls for assistance, completed over 89 jobs and given out 5000 sandbags in the last few days.



Tanya with foal four-month old foal Arthas and his mum



Samantha and her husband hand out hot meals at Castle Hill Showground

is fantastic work by the SES and everyone else, especially since these emergency and rescue teams have been working non-stop over the last two years without too much of a break, and yet they are back out there, helping those in need. If you see these heroes out and about, please thank them for everything they do and continue to do."

If you want to help those who have been affected by the floods, donate through GIVIT [www.givit.org.au/whats-needed](http://www.givit.org.au/whats-needed) and the Red Cross [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au).



Windsor Bridge looking north as water continues to rise  
Photo: Paul Caleo, Hawkesbury Post photographer



Looking north-northwest past the lookout below the intersection of The Terrace and Kable Street and across the mighty Dyarubbin (Hawkesbury River) to Macquarie Park.  
Photo: Paul Caleo, Hawkesbury Post photographer



Marine Area Command's water police and divers came across five sheep trapped on a small area of land surrounded by rising water on Portland Head on the Hawkesbury River. All were taken onboard and safely returned to their farm and relieved owners. Photo: Marine Area Command - NSW Police



River Road North Cliftonville  
Photo: Hills Mayor Peter Gangemi



Windsor Bridge looking north from Thompson Square towards Freemans Reach.  
Photo: Paul Caleo, Hawkesbury Post photographer



Caravan floating away from Wiseman's Ferry.  
Photo by Tanya Little

# out and about

with **MICHELLE BYRNE**

The relentless rain has certainly made it more challenging for families to find things to do - especially with most of our favourite places to visit and explore being outdoors and currently underwater!

For some time, my daughters have been asking about museums, so it seemed like the perfect time to visit the Discovery Centre in Castle Hill to show them what museums are all about and to give them an insight into the past.

The Discovery Centre is one of our local hidden gems, containing an impressive collection of objects spanning across social history, technology and innovation, transport, art and design, as well as exhibits demonstrating how science operates in both everyday life and exploration.

Maddie and Lexi were wowed by the transport collection, which includes a vintage school bus, Cobb & Co coach, steam ploughing engine, vintage Australian cars, bicycles, a steam locomotive, a caravan, a tram, a yacht, a fire engine and even an aircraft!

The social history exhibits also generated much discussion especially the original televisions! Both my daughters were left flummoxed that TVs were ever that small and strange looking. I certainly felt my age when telling them that in "the old days" remote

controls didn't exist and someone would have to get off the couch and turn the channel by twisting a knob! The old dentist chair and drill along with the replica of a Giganotosaurus skull were also high on the list of our favourite objects.

From old domestic appliances and household items, commercial and scientific machinery and equipment, porcelain and silverware, biological exhibits, architectural models, furniture, musical instruments and the scientific equipment used by Antarctic expedition; the Discovery Centre has something that will pique the interest from the most discerning history buff to the casual observer.

The Discovery Centre also provides free craft for kids along with other tours, activities and workshops for families to enjoy. In March, there will be a "Discovery Walkthrough" titled "That Sound?"; which showcases the sounds surrounding us and the scientific principles behind them. Other workshops coming up include illustrating, engineering, "dance makers", and "Forest Poetry" slam workshops.

There is no cafe onsite, although there is a limit range of snacks and drinks available. Visitors however, are encouraged to bring their own lunch or snacks with the option of sitting



on the grass or at the undercover outdoor tables. There is also a rope structure for kids to climb on.

The Discovery Centre is currently undergoing an expansion which will include extra spaces for the storage, care, research and viewing more of the Powerhouse Collection, as well as more space for education and public programs, workshops, tours, talks and events.

We immensely enjoyed our afternoon at the Museum and days later we are still talking about the objects we saw and how science, technology and innovation has changed the world we live in.

The Discovery Centre is open on Saturdays and Sundays 10am to 4pm and if you have a spare couple of hours and looking for something different to do then it's well worth a visit. Best of all, entry is free!

We can't wait to visit again soon and are definitely looking forward to when the expansion is complete.

## FLOOD WASTE REMOVAL FOR AFFECTED HAWKESBURY RESIDENTS

from page 3

The following flood waste may be eligible for collection from primary residences or small businesses during the initial phase of clean-up:

- Mixed general solid waste (non-putrescible) such as hard or bulky waste, mattresses, whitegoods, and e-waste
- Green waste
- Household chemicals (less than 20 litres or more than 20 kilograms).

Please note that any flood waste that does not fall into one of the above categories will be assessed and other arrangements for collection may be required.

For guidance on how to manage waste that does not fall into one of the above categories please visit EPA NSW storm and flood updates 2022 at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/news/2022/nsw-storm-and-flood-updates-2022](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/news/2022/nsw-storm-and-flood-updates-2022)

When handling any refuse which has been contaminated with flood water or mud, personal protective equipment must be worn, especially gloves. After clean-up, protective clothing should be washed, and people should shower within the hour for health and safety

**leap** Understand Technology

### COMPUTER CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Leap NGO and Anglicare are seeking multiple volunteers to improve seniors digital skills.

When: Tuesday & Thursday, 9am - 12pm  
Where: Anglicare, Castle Hill

**For enquiries call 1300 163 106**

WHEN EXPERIENCE MATTERS... EST. 1956

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# CONNECT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

By **BEV JORDAN**

Riding for the Disabled, Friends of Bella Vista Farm, Hills Community Aid and the Castle Hill Players are just four of the diverse community groups who will be having information stands at the free Community Connect event at Castle Hill.

The market-stall style event has been organised by the Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club at the 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.

If walking or gardening interest you or working to help others, there will be options galore. There will also 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.

Other groups attending include The Positive Vibes Foundation, 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 attend and get to know who is doing what.

"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.

WHAT: Community Connect

WHEN : Sunday March 20th 11am to 3pm

WHERE: Harvey Lowe Pavilion Castle Hill Showground

COST: Free

BOOK: To book a free ticket visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-connect-tickets-269568004157>



**FREE EVENT**

Are you ready to reconnect?

# COMMUNITY CONNECT

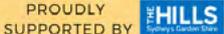
Your chance to discover the community groups of The Hills

**SUNDAY 20 MARCH, 2022**  
11AM - 3PM

**HARVEY LOWE PAVILION - CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUND**

**FREE entry, coffee & sausage sizzle**

Book online @ [bit.ly/HillsConnect](https://bit.ly/HillsConnect)

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# SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT IN MARCH

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 31 MARCH 2022

Small businesses that experienced a downturn over summer can now apply for a NSW Government support payment of up to \$5,000 per week through Service NSW, assisting small businesses' cash flow and ongoing trading.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said "the Small Business Support Program will provide cashflow assistance to help local businesses get through the current COVID-19 outbreak and keep workers employed".

Once customers submit complete and eligible applications, they can expect to receive payment within five to 10 business days of approval of their application. The program is part of a suite of responses to the Omicron wave and is designed to help the businesses in greatest need. It will provide targeted support to businesses with an annual turnover of between \$75,000 and \$50 million that experienced a decline in turnover of at least 40 per cent in January 2022 and the start of February 2022. The payment for employing businesses will cover up to 20 per cent of weekly payroll, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per week. Eligible non-employing businesses, such as sole traders, will receive \$500 per week. Funds can be used to cover business expenses such as wages, rent, loss of perishable goods, professional services and other costs.

The Service NSW Business Concierge team and grant assessors are standing by ready to assist customers with applications and get financial support into the hands of business owners.

Applications can be made online through the Service NSW MyAccount, by visiting a local service centre or by calling 13 77 88.

For more information on the support program, please visit: [www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/2022-small-business-support-program](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/2022-small-business-support-program)



**new menu. coming soon.**



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

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

 **lynwoodcc.com.au**



## A Retirement lifestyle that adapts to you

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

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

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

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

**6 Goolgung Avenue, Baulkham Hills**

 **(02) 8896 3905**

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

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At St Michael's we provide a caring and supportive environment where a quality Catholic education encourages students to be respectful, lifelong learners in a global community.



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To find out how we can make a difference for your child, attend an Open Morning which includes question time for parents and tours of our school.

St Michael's Primary Baulkham Hills 3-5 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills t: 02 9865 1600  
e: StMichaelsBHills@parra.catholic.edu.au www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au



# OPEN MORNINGS FOR KINDERGARTEN 2022

22 March 9:30am-11:00am

31 March 9:30am-11:00am

## ENROL NOW

### St Michael's Primary Baulkham Hills



Scan QR code to register your interest



St Michael's Primary Baulkham Hills 3-5 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills t: 02 9865 1600  
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Helping every student grow in knowledge, faith and love

# HSC EXCELLENCE AT HILLS GRAMMAR

We congratulate the Class of 2021 on their excellent HSC results including

- 1 First in State (Geography)
- 1 Fifth in State (Japanese Extension)
- 2 HSC Top Achievers
- 2 Encore Nominations (Music 1 and Music 2)
- 2 HSC All Rounders
- 70 Band 6 results
- 26 Distinguished Achievers

For a small year group (66 students) to have achieved so much in their second COVID interrupted year is a testament to their efforts and resilience, the dedication of teachers, and the care and support of parents and community.

This year Sarah Wilson placed first in the state in Geography. This is an incredible achievement, and part of a fine Hills Grammar tradition, with previous firsts in Latin Continuers, Music Extension, English Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 1, and Information Technology since 2002. Sarah was also an HSC All-Rounder, with Band 6 results in all six courses she undertook. Sarah completed 11 units, including Japanese Extension, where she achieved 47/50. Other highlights included Japanese Continuers (95%) and Economics (94%). Sarah achieved an ATAR of 98.90 and joins 13 students whose ATAR was above 95.

Dux of the School and HSC Top Achiever – Weimiao (Shysie) Wang’s passion for Japanese

was rewarded when she placed 5th in the state in Japanese Extension. Shysie was also an HSC All-Rounder – a distinguished achiever in all 7 subjects attempted. Shysie completed extension courses in Mathematics (Extension 1 and 2) and Japanese (Extension 1) with her highest results in Japanese Continuers 98%, Japanese Extension 1 (49/50), Economics 95% Mathematics Extension 1 94%. Shysie achieved an ATAR of 99.55 – which places her among the top 0.8% of students in the HSC cohort of 70,000.

Ranked 91 in the SMH Top 100 Schools (18.18% Band 6), our students also achieved 245 (63%) Band 5 and 6 results (80% and above), with 59% completing at least one challenging extension course - a sure sign of

ambition and opportunity, and when combined with the high proportion of 80+ marks, makes a difference to ATAR for our students.

Whatever their results we are proud of all our Hills Originals. A Hills Grammar education is broader than an ATAR, and there are many paths and definitions of success. We look forward to following their exciting futures in the years ahead!



## DURAL SCOUTS BACK FOR 2022

All Sections of Dural Scouts are now back in full swing.

Some of the recent activities of the various Sections include mini raft building by the Scouts and a visit to the local golf driving range by the Cubs. The Joeys learnt about construction by building a bridge, learning about knots and showing confidence in their work by walking on the bridge.

Cubs have planned an interesting term including fire lighting for outdoor cooking, bike safety, including how to repair a puncture, an environmental scavenger hunt, knotting and ropework, use of a compass, navigation and map reading, making a tripod with poles and ropes, boiling a billy and finally an outdoor activity such as ice skating or rock climbing. The older cubs are encouraged to develop leadership skills by managing some of the activities.

The picture shows the Scouts and Venturers practising their abseiling skills before putting them to the test in the bush. A prusik loop is being used for the scout to climb a rope (a loop is made using a prusik knot in which a climber can place his foot to stand or ascend a rope. The loop can slide freely along the larger rope when not under load, but binds up when a load is applied).

Dural Scout Group has vacancies for Girls and Boys from 6 to 25 years. Joeys (5yo), Cubs (8yo), Scouts (12yo) and Venturers (16yo).

Please contact Group Leader Simon Edwards 0410 477 813 or thewolf\_1stdural@bigpond.com

Parents and families! Looking for the right school for your child?

## The Hills Schools Expo

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 April 2022  
Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground  
10am-4pm both days | Free Admission

Showcasing Australia’s leading Independent Day & Boarding, Single Sex & Co-ed Schools from Pre-K through to Year 12.

[www.schoolexpo.com.au](http://www.schoolexpo.com.au)

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# Meet our Hills Originals



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Grammar

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Intentionally small class sizes

Personalised learning journey

Meet our Hills Originals

Find out more on a school tour

[hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au/tours](https://hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au/tours)

# INFORMATION SESSIONS ON LIVING CHOICE GALSTON

*2022 is shaping up to be a busy year for the sales and construction teams at Living Choice Galston, a premier retirement community to be built at 330 Galston Road, Galston.*

2022 is shaping up to be a busy year for the sales and construction teams at Living Choice Galston, a premier retirement community to be built at 330 Galston Road, Galston.

Two Information Sessions will be held at the company's nearby village, Living Choice Glenhaven, on Tuesday 29th March and it is anticipated that the bulk earthworks will commence in the first half of 2022.

Development Approval for the village was granted in September 2021 and since then, Living Choice's in-house architects have been refining the plans for the 40 two and three-bedroom villas, 48 one, two and three-bedroom apartments and a magnificent leisure centre.



Villa streetscape at Living Choice Galston (artist's impression)

Regional Manager, Gail Eyres, said the company had overcome many hurdles to bring the luxury retirement community to the market. "There is a silver lining though. Many more people have come to realise the value of retirement villages in a pandemic. This has been illustrated at Living Choice's villages throughout Australia and especially at Glenhaven, where the residents have been such a terrific support for each other.

"Living Choice Directors, Ian Tregoning and Graham Hobbs, and Group General Manager, Jason Sack, have all indicated they will personally attend the Information Sessions, so this will be a great opportunity for clients to meet them," she added.

## Details of the Information Session are as follows:

**WHEN:**

Tuesday 29th March 2022.

**WHERE:**

Auditorium, Living Choice Glenhaven, 15 Old Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven.

**TIMES:**

10am – 12 noon or 1pm to 3pm.  
(Please advise preferred time when booking.)

**RSVP:**

Gail or Carlie 1800 797 333 or email [sales@livingchoice.com.au](mailto:sales@livingchoice.com.au) by 24th March.

# OPTUS

## PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE OPTUS MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION WITH 5G AT

Existing Monopole, adjacent to

The Hills Centenary Park Commercial Road, Rouse Hill NSW 2155

Optus Ref: S5503, [www.rfnsa.com.au/2155008](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/2155008)

- The proposed facility consists of the addition of new 5G equipment and associated works as follows:
  - Installation of three (3) new 5G panel antennas (0.59m in length)
  - Installation of three (3) new 5G panel antennas (0.79m in length)
  - Replacement of three (3) existing 4G panel antennas (2.53m long) with three new 4G panel antennas (2.69m long)
  - New ancillary equipment including remote radio units, cabling and antenna mounts
  - Reconfiguration of existing equipment on the facility and within the equipment shelter
  - The existing facility reaches a top-out height of approximately 42 metres, and the proposed Optus antennas will be mounted between heights of 31 and 35 metres
- Optus regards the proposed installation as a low-impact facility in accordance with the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 (Amendment No.1, 2021)* based on the description above.
- Notification is being undertaken in accordance with Section 7 of Industry Code C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment.
- Members of the public may obtain further information on the proposed work, and we invite you to provide written comments about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to Optus' representative c/- James McIver, Catalyst ONE Pty Ltd; phone: 02 4022 9533; email: [consultation@catalystone.com.au](mailto:consultation@catalystone.com.au) and post: PO Box 1119, Crows Nest NSW 1585 by **28 March 2022**.

# BIG VAC FLOOD RESCUE

The relentless rain has seen many homes and businesses inundated with floodwater. Local company, Aussie Pumps has Eco Clean heavy duty wet/dry vacuum cleaners capable of sucking up water fast with large 75 litre capacity! The barrels are made from impact resistant polypropylene. They are significantly stronger than stainless steel which can dent and break the vacuum seal.

"The Aussie vacs are stronger, last longer and all feature a unique Microweb 99.9% filter system. The Microweb is a unique polymer fabric that not only filters out dust, protecting motors but also has unique properties of "caking". That facilitates better dust release and improves collection efficiency", said Aussie's Brad Clark.

The company's product range extends from 10 litre machines, all the way up to 75 litre "Jumbo" vacs with 90 mm 'trunks' that can lift everything from machine shop swarf to coke cans!

"We're proud of these vacs because they come with a five year warranty and have proved themselves in the rental industry for the last 20 years".

For more info visit [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au) or contact your local authorised Aussie Pumps distributor.



# GALSTON'S FINEST RETIREMENT LIVING IS READY FOR LIFT OFF!

INFO  
SESSION  
29<sup>th</sup> MARCH



Construction is starting soon on Living Choice Galston, a premier retirement community to be built at 330 Galston Road. Please join the Living Choice team for an Information Session when the plans for the homes and leisure centre will be released. You'll also have the opportunity to meet our directors, Group General Manager and the construction, sales and marketing teams.

Where: The Auditorium, Living Choice Glenhaven, 15 Old Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven.

When: Tuesday 29th March 2022.

Times: 10am to 12 noon and 1pm to 3pm.  
Please advise preferred time when booking.

RSVP: Phone Gail or Carlie at 1800 797 333 or email [sales@livingchoice.com.au](mailto:sales@livingchoice.com.au) by 24th March.

Complimentary refreshments will be served.

*Covid-Safe guidelines will be followed.*



**Ph 1800 797 333**  
[www.livingchoice.com.au](http://www.livingchoice.com.au)

 **Living Choice**<sup>®</sup>  
Galston

# The Hills Shire Council News

## Become a member of an S355 Committee

The Hills Shire Council is seeking applications for membership to our S355 Committees for interested persons who wish to have an active role in providing input to Council on a particular area of interest.

Committees are appointed in line with Council terms following each Local Government General Election. The term of a committee is the same term as the elected Council and members must nominate for re-election following each Local Government General Election if they wish to remain on the committee.

To participate on a S355 Committee, applicants will need to demonstrate:

- Established ties to The Hills Shire community
- Residency of the local government area or an active interest in The Hills community
- A commitment to attend committee meetings held with The Hills Shire
- A willingness to become actively involved in committee issues

For more information and to fill out the nomination form, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'S355 Committees.'

## 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, 22 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.'

# NSW Seniors Festival

25 March – 3 April 2022

The Hills Shire Council is hosting **FREE** events for seniors to **RECONNECT**

### Navigating Council Services Online

Join The Hills Shire Council for a tour of our online services. Stay for a cuppa and a biscuit, meet new friends and see presentations from Customer Service, the Library and the Rates team.

**When:** Wednesday 30 March 2022

**Where:** Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground

**Time:** From 10:30am for an 11:00am start



### FREE Film Screening - The Duke (M)

Starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren

**When:** Thursday 31 March 2022

**Where:** Event Cinemas Castle Towers

**Time:** From 9:30am for a 10:00am screening

*Movie snacks will be provided. Tickets are limited and bookings are essential.*



Bookings are essential for all events and open at 9am on Friday 11 March



For bookings and further information  
[www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/seniorsfestival22](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/seniorsfestival22)



**THE HILLS**  
Sydney's Garden Shire

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

# Let's talk rubbish!

Have your say on your waste service

14 March – 3 April

To access the survey please visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au)



## Let's Talk Rubbish – Have Your Say on Your Waste Service

And go into the draw to win a \$100 gift voucher!

Council is currently undertaking the development of a Resource Recovery Delivery Program 2022-2027. This program will shape our future waste service and align us with the NSW State Government Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy. Council is committed to achieving the waste reduction targets set out in this strategy by increasing recycling rates and diverting waste from landfill.

With this in mind, Council would really like to hear from you! Community consultation is a foundational and essential element of building The Program, and as such it's vital that you have your say. So let's talk rubbish by filling out our online survey. The survey aims to help Council understand our community's priorities, preferences and needs regarding waste services and reducing waste.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Your views are important to us and we appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey.

For more information and to complete the survey, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Let's talk rubbish.'

## Proposed Temporary Road Closure – Hillview Road, North Kellyville

In accordance with Section 115 of the Roads Act 1993, Council has agreed to the temporary half road closure of Hillview Road, North Kellyville between Stringer Road and Warrabah Road for a period of approximately eight (8) between 14 March 2022 and 7 May 2022.

The purpose of the closure is to allow the construction of road works in conjunction with an adjoining subdivision at No. 3-23 Hillview Road, North Kellyville.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Council's Traffic Engineer, Vanathy Kanesan on Ph: 9843 0150.

## The Hills Shire Council e-newsletters

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

- Find out about library services, events, books and more with The Hills Shire Library Service e-newsletter.
- Have your say on current and future community consultations, including Major Plans on Exhibition and other Council projects, with The Hills Have Your Say e-newsletter.
- Be the first to know about upcoming events and activities in the local community with The Hills News and Events e-newsletter.
- And get business help straight to your inbox with The Hills Shire Council Business e-newsletter.

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

# Report it to Council

ANY DEVICE, ANYWHERE, ANY TIME



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

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



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



**THE HILLS**  
Sydney's Garden Shire



# EXTENDED FAMILIES LOOK FOR THEIR OWN HAVEN

Maroota has always been known for its affordable acreages, but prices are on the rise as buyers search for space and lifestyle following the pandemic.

Latest figures from CoreLogic show the suburb's median price has been steadily increasing over the past 12-months hitting \$1.81m in November.

There were just 13 sales recorded in this tightly held pocket of The Hills during 2021.

Lumby Hampson also achieved the highest sale for the suburb last year with the sale of 1484 Wisemans Ferry Road, Maroota for \$2.65m.

An auction campaign for 126 Paulls Rd saw it fetch \$2.3m under the hammer. The 10.52ha estate, known as 'Hillcrest', features a four bedroom renovated single level homestead.

"The size of the property means there is the potential to add another dwelling - subject to Council approval - and this generated a lot of buyer interest," said agent Will Hampson.

"Being able to accommodate extended families is a drawcard for acreage living."

The property was one of 76 properties sold across the Hills District by Lumby Hampson last year, the majority through auction. On average properties spent 43 days on the market and recorded a median sale price of \$3m.

The real estate agency, which started in Kellyville in 1968 as Lumby Real Estate, will this year celebrate 55 years since opening its doors.

"Auctions are a great way to sell because it creates momentum and the result is definite - we've really seen some fantastic nail-biting

competition over the past 12-months," Mr Hampson said.

Cattai, which has a median of \$1.32m, is also popular with buyers looking for a semi-rural lifestyle on a budget. According to CoreLogic, there were 31 property sales in the suburb last year. Its overall median price dropped to \$1.32m as a result of a number of smaller residential lots being released onto the market.

"One of the advantages of Cattai is that it offers diversity with new subdivisions, residential blocks and acreages, so there is something for everyone" said agent and auctioneer Kate Lumby.

"The close proximity to the Hawkesbury River is another big attraction and delivers a wonderful lifestyle for families, particularly those who love being on the water."

For more information: **Kate Lumby - 0414 620 333** or **Will Hampson - 0414 620 222**

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR HILLS RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY FLOODS

Hills residents and businesses impacted by the current floods will receive additional support after Hills Shire Council unanimously supported the Mayoral Minute at last night's meeting (8th March). The package is designed to complement the support that the State and Federal Governments are providing and undoubtedly will continue to put forward.

"The Hills Shire Council will waive numerous fees for those homes and businesses impacted by the floods. When the flood waters subside, Council will focus on reopening the road network as fast as possible as well as assisting the RFS, SES and State Government stakeholders where appropriate. Where necessary, Council will exercise its discretion in enforcement activities arising from landowners reasonably restoring and repairing land to its pre flood condition, i.e. like for like.

The extent of the floodwaters is hard to believe and the water levels may still rise today. Our thoughts and prayers are with our residents and businesses who have had to endure a devastating emotional and physical toll for the second time in twelve months." said Mayor Dr Peter Gangemi

### The adopted package states:

1. Council thank our SES, RFS, police, emergency teams and volunteers for their incredible efforts during this flood event.

2. Council note the ongoing hardship of communities impacted by floods and offer the following forms of assistance
  - a. Should a DA be submitted to Council for construction or reconstruction works on an originally approved development, which was affected by the February-March 2022 flood, the DA fees and Compliance Levy fees will be waived for applications lodged up until 30 June 2023.
  - b. Should a Section 68 application approval for a structure under the Local Government Act be submitted to Council related to a flood impacted property to carry out reinstallation works impacted by the February-March 2022 flood, the application fees will be waived for applications lodged up until 30 June 2023.
  - c. Should a Section 68 application for the approval to install or operate a sewage management system be submitted to Council related to a flood impacted property to carry out reinstallation works impacted by the February-March 2022 flood, the application fees will be waived for applications lodged up until 30 June 2023.
  - d. Should a Section 68 application for the approval to operate a Caravan Park be submitted to Council, the application fees

will be waived for applications lodged up until 30 June 2023.

- e. Where possible, DAs, construction certificate applications and the like from flood impacted areas be prioritised by Council's assessment team for any applications lodged up until 30 June 2023.
- f. Waiving the fees for Council work to assist with the piling and clearing of vegetation or debris caused by the flood, for removal by others, on private land where such access is required.
3. The General Manager be delegated authority to approve the conduct of work by Council officers on private property should the need arise to complement the clean-up activities being coordinated by Government agencies.
4. Council authorise the General Manager to incur expenditure on restoring Council assets, whether it be roads, parks and removal of debris and disposal to carry out the clean-up operations and that be regularly reported to Council through Budget Review reports. The General Manger also takes steps to recover any funds either from insurance or any other funding available.
5. Where necessary, Council exercise its discretion in enforcement activities arising from landowners reasonably restoring and repairing land to its pre flood condition, i.e. like for like.

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# HOW HEARING WELL CONTRIBUTES TO OUR OVERALL WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE.



With one in six Australians experiencing hearing loss, causes can be from various 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 this 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. However 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.

At Ear Studio, hearing rehabilitation programs, communication strategies, hearing protection, an annual ear wax clean, and hearing aid solutions can all assist in improving and protecting your hearing - while also significantly contributing to your overall well-being and quality of life.

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

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

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# A NEW WAY OF HOUSING

**Tiny Home Expo is coming to the Hawkesbury Showgrounds following sell-out events in Brisbane and Melbourne recently.**

Featuring over 25 display tiny homes, including cute ones on wheels, modulares and containers, huts and granny flats as well as domes and backyard pods, the Expo also exhibits a full range of off-grid ideas showing how buildings no longer need mains power, sewerage or water connection.

Organiser, Phae Barrett says "from humble beginnings over 10 years ago when alternative life-stylers were getting interested in tiny homes for sustainability and lower footprints, the pandemic and lockdowns have seen Tiny Home and alternative living ideas gain massive interest and go fully 'mainstream'. With the growing housing crisis, Phae goes on to say, "Young people are looking at living in mum and dad's backyard whilst saving for traditional property, retirees are downsizing and the flexibility of Tiny Homes overall, together with

the ability to up and move areas/suburbs or states is appealing to everyone".

Tiny Home Expo is an opportunity to explore all the different designs and discover that 'going tiny' can be quite an exciting journey. With the devastating storms experienced recently they could be an excellent interim option. Speakers and experts are on hand to assist with rules, regulations, services, associations, community projects and an array of subjects that answer the many questions people have.

For information go to [www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au](http://www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au)

Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd April - Hawkesbury Showgrounds Children 16 and under do not require a ticket. There are also links to buy tickets from the website which are priced between \$20 - \$35. Dine and Explore vouchers can be used at the online check out.

WITHERS ROAD RESERVE  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PLAN, FEBRUARY 2022



"HAVE YOUR SAY"

## A NATURE THEMED RESERVE FOR NORTH KELLYVILLE

A brand-new nature themed reserve has been proposed for North Kellyville and The Hills Shire Council is encouraging residents to "have their say". Withers Road Reserve will feature a playground catering to a wide range of age groups and abilities, along with a picnic area and turf kick-about space.

In addition to this, concrete pathways are located throughout the site, including a loop track around the playground, which is suitable for scooters and bikes. Security lighting has also been proposed.

Mayor of The Hills Shire Council, Dr Peter Gangemi said the new Reserve will be an exciting addition to the nature inspired park recently completed at Equinox Drive in Box Hill.

"This new Reserve will be a place where children can play, learn and explore, and where families and residents can appreciate the natural environment. The pandemic has highlighted how important our parks and playgrounds are to our residents for sport and outdoor recreation, and I'm happy to see plans underway for a new local park," he said. 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 4.30pm on 14th March 2022. Simply click on the "What's Happening" tab and then click on "Current Plans on Exhibition".

# Tiny Home Expo

**Hawkesbury Showgrounds**

Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd April

Tickets: staggered entry system

A diverse amount of  
Tiny Homes on display.  
Tiny Home Builders to talk to.  
Speakers & Accessories.

Everything you ever wanted to know  
about Tiny Homes  
all in one place



**TICKETS ONLINE**

[www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au](http://www.tinyhomesexpo.com.au)

# SENIORS EQUESTRIAN GAMES

Calling all senior riders. The inaugural Seniors Equestrian Games will be held at the Hawkesbury Riding Club grounds in Clarendon on Saturday, April 2nd.

The one day Seniors Equestrian Games is a joint venture between Hawkesbury Riding Club and Seniors NSW and is designed to attract senior riders over 60 years of age and riders over 50 years with a disability card.

The program on the day will consist of dressage, show jumping, hacking and specialised clinics.

Hawkesbury Riding Club President Wendy Pike said: "We are thrilled at being given a grant by Seniors Council NSW to run an equestrian festival exclusively for the Over 60s. Usually, we are out there competing with 20- and 30-year-olds and while we are often right up there in the placings, this time it will all be oldies having a go with a competitive edge which will make it very interesting. Instead of being grooms for our children and grandchildren, this time they will be the spectators and we will be competing".



It is hoped that the event will become an annual event for senior riders from all over NSW.

The Hawkesbury Riding Club Seniors Equestrian Games will also feature two clinics on the day. One is a mounted and ridden clinic with noted dressage rider and trainer Judy Dierks. The other clinic is with Pilates expert Rebecca Ashton, to be held in the club house without horses.

All participants must be registered members of Equestrian Australia.

Spectators are welcome at the Hawkesbury Riding Club Seniors Equestrian Games 2022. But are reminded that dogs must be left at home.

**WHAT:** The inaugural Seniors Equestrian Games

**WHEN:** From 8am on Saturday April 2nd

**WHERE:** Hawkesbury Riding Club grounds, Gate 5 Racecourse Rd Clarendon.

**INFO:** Visit website [www.hawkesburyridingclub.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyridingclub.com.au)

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parasite treatments and more!

HOLST | ELGAR | WOLF | SCHUMANN | HERBERT

# "NORTHERN SERENADES" CONCERT TOUR

The Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra begins its 2022 Concert Season in Kenthurst with a sublime program that speaks to connoisseurs and lovers of string music through masterpieces of the Romantic string repertoire.

The Orchestra's co-artistic director Rachael Beesley (pictured), will direct this program from the violin. Rachael says "We have heard so many stories recently about people's desperate longing to hear live music. We're thrilled to be able to meet our audience back in the concert

hall again, and we want to assure everyone that Covid-safety measures are in place in all our venues."

In addition to Elgar's beautiful *Serenade for Strings in E minor* and Hugo Wolf's *Italian Serenade*, the audience will be treated to Gustav Holst's energetic *St Paul's Suite* as well as a rarely heard gem by Victor Herbert – a man far better known as a giant of the American musical. A touch of the new will be added to this program through a new Australian string arrangement by Shauna Beesley of Robert Schumann's imaginative *Fantasiestücke* (Fantasy Pieces).

The first performance is on **Sunday 20 March 2022** at 4.00p in the R J Phipps Performing Arts Centre, The Hills Grammar School, 43 Kenthurst Road, Kenthurst (NSW).

To find out more and book tickets, visit: [www.arco.org.au/northern-serenades](http://www.arco.org.au/northern-serenades)

## CASTLE HILL PLAYERS PRESENTS THEIR MARCH-APRIL SEASON CHARLES LUDLAM'S THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP - A PENNY DREADFUL

Irma Vep is a quick moving gothic farce as **Paul Sztelma** and **Richard Littlehales** take on multiple roles with fast costume changes and a sparkling script. This Penny Dreadful staged by Castle Players at the Pavilion Theatre promises a great evening of entertainment.

Audiences will be on the edge of their seats in this mystical farce - a quick-change marathon with a lord and lady of the manor, mummies, werewolves, maids and more! Set in the seemingly haunted Mandacrest Estate, Lord Edgar Hillcrest, while continuing to mourn the death of his beloved 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. 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, well, things start to get a little out of hand!

Meredith Jacobs, who has directed some great comedies at The Pavilion - such as *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*, *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, the Neil Simon classic, *Biloxi Blues*, and 2021's smash hit *Always a Bridesmaid* - is really enjoying the challenge and the fun of putting this show together. Costumes by Annette Snars.

The Pavilion Theatre is located within Castle Hill Showground, adjacent to the new Metro Hills Showground Station; enter at the lights between Gilbert & Carrington Rd and Doran Drive, Castle Hill.



**Friday 18 March – Saturday 9 April -  
Wed, Fri, Sat 8pm; Sun 4pm  
Tickets: \$30  
discounts for Concessions/Groups  
Bookings at [paviliontheatre.org.au](http://paviliontheatre.org.au)**

## ROTARY MARKET

Tools, plants and books will be on sale for bargain prices at the Kenthurst Rotary Market Weekend in April at the John Benyon Rotary Park at Kenthurst (April 2 and 3).

Nearly all the tools are new, at rock bottom prices. Many battery and electric tools at 40% off or less if they have been used including electric rock hammers, drills and chisels etc.

If gardening is your thing, there is strawberry patch in a tub, Kangaroo Paw and mature trees from \$6 including the rare Queensland Bottle Tree. There are gardening implements at give away prices.

There are hundreds of books to choose from starting in price from \$1, perfect for long winter nights.

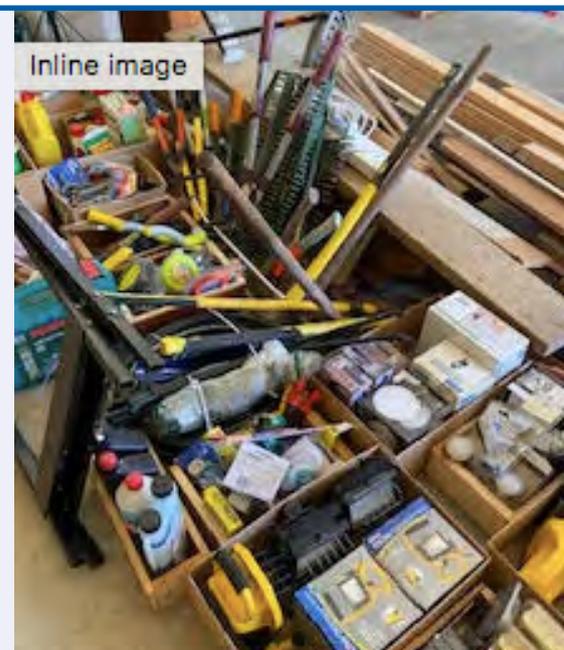
Organiser Graham Webb says a lucky person can grab the camping special for

that special Easter escape which includes, a 4-person tent with gazebo, mattress inflator, tent fan, 2 gas stoves plus several cans of gas for \$225.

There will be an all day barbecue and tea and scones will be available.

Graham said: "This is one of the first fundraising events we have been able to hold for a long time. We hope people will come along, browse, buy and help us to help disadvantaged children in Australia. 100% of the money raised by Rotary goes to charity."

It is on April 2nd and 3rd, 10am to 3pm, both Saturday and Sunday. John Benyon Rotary Park, 135 Kenthurst Rd, Kenthurst. For more information visit [www.kenthurstrotary.com.au](http://www.kenthurstrotary.com.au) or Facebook: Kenthurst Rotary





# ROBYN PRESTON MP

## MEMBER FOR HAWKESBURY

### How my office and I can help you

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

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

## HAWKESBURY RESIDENTS ARE FACING YET ANOTHER NATURAL DISASTER FOLLOWING A SUMMER OF HEAVY RAINFALL.

Resultant catastrophic flood waters are the biggest in 40 years and are extending into the second week, making them the fourth biggest in living memory. The Hawkesbury River is destroying businesses, farmland and roads.

The deluge seen in recent weeks marks the second major flooding event within a 12-month period, prompting the NSW Government to declare the Hills Shire Local Government Area (LGA) and the Hawkesbury LGA natural disaster zones. If you are affected by the flooding contact the NSW SES on 132500, or if you are in danger call 000.

For those seeking support, a recovery centre will be open every day at 6 Greenhills Way, South Windsor, from Saturday, 12th March between 10am-3pm. Recovery Service Agencies

including Service NSW, Resilience NSW, DCJ Housing, Red Cross and more, will be available to speak with.

Small businesses and not-for-profits in NSW impacted by severe weather and floods over February and March can now apply for up to \$50,000 in grants under a State Government initiative to assist with the costs of the clean-up and repairs or to help businesses reopen.

Families and individuals whose homes are damaged by natural disasters may be eligible for funding and can apply for a Disaster Relief Grant. I encourage those affected by the floods to apply for support via the Service NSW website or by calling the Service NSW Business Concierge on 137788.



## MOSQUITO ALERT

While mosquito bites are generally no more than a nuisance, they can transmit infection with mosquito borne viruses, such as Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus or Japanese encephalitis virus. Pools of stagnant water create the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. It only takes two to three weeks to produce large numbers of mature mosquitoes.

To avoid mosquito bites and prevent infection:

- cover up while outside with loose, light-coloured clothing and covered footwear
- avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk
- apply insect repellent on exposed skin that contains DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- use insecticide sprays, vapour dispensing units and mosquito coils to help repel mosquitoes
- cover openings such as windows and doors with insect screens
- remove water-holding containers outside your house where mosquitoes can breed
- protect rabbits with mosquito proof hatches and keeping indoors in early morning and evening
- when camping ensure your tent has flyscreening in good condition.

The following tips may assist in minimising the chances of mosquitoes breeding around the home:

- remove all water-holding rubbish from around the yard
- regularly flush out pot-plant bases
- keep guttering clear
- mow lawns regularly and clear any areas of moist, tangled undergrowth
- make sure openings of septic tanks and water tanks are covered and screened securely.

Mosquito trapping is conducted at various locations in Western Sydney during the breeding season by local Councils and testing is performed at the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Laboratory at Westmead Hospital.

For more information please see the fact sheets [www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/mosquito.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/mosquito.aspx) and [www.health.nsw.gov.au/.../japanese\\_encephalitis.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/.../japanese_encephalitis.aspx) or contact the your local Environmental Health Officer on 4560 4444 or Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District on 4734 2022 or 1800 253 511.



# STARC INSPIRES LITTLE AS

By BEV JORDAN

*Youngsters at Hawkesbury City Little Athletics Centre welcomed two-time Olympian and Commonwealth Games high jump champion Brandon Starc to their home turf at Tamplin Field, Hobartville on February 21st.*

Starc, a former Baulkham Hills resident and Hills Sports High student is the reigning 2018 Commonwealth Games high jump champion and finished fifth at the recent Tokyo Olympics.

The 28-year-old managed a height of 2.33m, just 0.04m short of the gold medal jump.

Rebecca Broughton from Hawkesbury City Athletics Centre said Starc was very generous with his time, spending about two hours chatting with young athletes and their parents.

"We have so many young athletes who aspire to be the best they can be," she said. "It was great motivation for the kids to meet and speak to Brandon, he spent so much time talking to them and giving them pointers and tips."

He also emphasised the importance of warming up and stretching and prepping the body. The high jump champion's visit to Hawkesbury City Little Athletics was part of the Coles Community Round, a fun celebration of Coles' partnership with Little Athletics.

Youngsters took to Tamplin Field dressed up in red and white while volunteers dressed up

as bananas for various novelty events including banana relay and throwing the banana discus-style.

Starc said: "Having come through Little Athletics, I know how much it means for kids to have a chance to meet an Olympian.

"It's something you always remember as a kid and it inspires you to reach the next level. I've really enjoyed meeting all the kids and volunteers at the different Little Athletics centres over the past couple of weeks for Coles Community Round. It's been terrific to see all the creative costumes and seeing centres run different Coles-themed relays and activities."

Hawkesbury City Little Athletics has over 230 youngsters registered ranging in age from three to 17 years old. Around 150 braved the damp conditions to meet Starc who also paid a brief visit to **Riverstone and Rouse Hills Rams Little Athletics Centres** on Friday (February 24th) but wet weather curtailed some of the planned activities.



## CODY: BORN TO SPEED

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

From a very young age, Cody Brewczynski loved thrills and speed. The Acacia Gardens local started competitive karting when he was eight-years-old and was a natural. He was soon bringing home trophies and championships, his first being at his local club, North Shore Kart Club in 2011.

Cody powered past his rivals, not only in NSW but even in Victoria and South Australia. His breakthrough year was in 2016 when he was crowned Australian champion and finished as the maximum round winner at the 2016 New Zealand Rotax. Cody then claimed seventh out of 86 at the Rotax World Championship.

Now Cody, 20, has changed gears to join the Battery World Aussie Racing Cars Super Series, making a terrific debut, securing runner-up spot in Sydney. Judging by his incredible performance last weekend – he also won his practice and qualifier – he could be one of the brightest prospects this season. His next super series race is on March 26-27 in Tasmania.

"After competing in go-karts for 13 years, I am very excited for the new venture," Cody said. "I was given this great opportunity by the Topgun Racing Team and FCL transport in the Aussie racing car series. I'm looking forward to the new challenge though I have never raced these cars before."

"I still do the national series in karting," Cody said. "I couldn't do both sports without all my sponsors and partners to help prep cars and karts. Aussie racing car championships is one of the natural progression choices you have to choose from."

Compared to his 175kg kart, his racing car weighs 595kg, has a 1300cc Yamaha engine and can reach 230kph, almost double the speed of his kart.

"There is more to karting than just going fast, there are many areas that you need to be good at like chassis setups, engine tuning and race tactics," Cody explained. "So hopefully

what I have learnt from karting will help me progress into car racing. My main goals are to be the highest-placed rookie in the racing cars championship and to hopefully get podium finishes. On the international front I may have a chance to represent Australia at the worlds again if I do well at the karting championships."

Cody is sponsored by Shell Rimula, FCL transport, Hornsby Diff's and Gearboxes, North Shore Bearings, PJ Bartlett Transport, MIR Racewear and Shred fitness Blacktown. "We have sponsorship packages and huge giveaways plus fantastic opportunities to drive my race car and be a passenger," Cody said.



Cody Brewczynski is enjoying his new career as a racing car driver. Picture: Aussie Racing Cars.



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FREE QUOTES

# WHO CAN YOU BANK ON?

Remember the days when the leading citizens of the town or suburb included the local bank manager? The bank manager would be invited to the local charity balls or invited to present prizes and awards to worthy citizens at various presentation ceremonies. This perhaps had nothing to do with the facts that they handled everyone's bank deposits or had the power to approve loans for various purposes. It was seen that they were responsible and, hopefully trustworthy, respected pillars of the community. Some were quite humble people.



My late mother-in-law once was asked to take on the role of cleaner at a bank. She turned up one morning to start cleaning and found that she did not have a key to the door of the bank. She called at the manager's residence which was attached to the bank and was shown in. The manager took her through the kitchen area of the residence to get the key and she was surprised to see the family sitting around the kitchen table having breakfast with the table covered with newspaper instead of a tablecloth. It was a surprise as she was used to seeing the manager in suit and tie always neatly dressed and to see the kitchen table in such a way without a tablecloth.

A cousin of my wife (Keith Gray) who was involved in Little Athletics in the Hills district also became a bank manager and at the time was the youngest appointed Commonwealth Bank manager in Australia. He later transferred to Papua and then to the Philippines and passed away during 2020.

Local bank managers are becoming scarce in the community now and, that said, I thought I would look at the history of banking in the country. When I arrived in this land of opportunity back in December 1958 there seemed to be a bank on every corner in the CBD's of virtually every town or suburb. There were branches of the CBC (Commercial Banking Company of Sydney), the CBA (Commercial Bank of Australia), the ES&A (English, Scottish and Australian Bank), the Rural Bank of NSW, as well as those now called the Big Four (Commonwealth, National, ANZ and the Bank of NSW now renamed Westpac). As well as those banks, there were also smaller institutions where you could also lodge your savings by making deposits or by making withdrawals. These smaller institutions were largely known as Building Societies or as Credit Unions. There were no Credit Cards, Debit Cards or ATMs back in the 1950s and 60s.

The first bank in Australia was the Bank of New South Wales, established in Sydney in 1817. It was to remain the dominant, non-government owned bank until 1960. The Federal Government-owned Commonwealth Bank was established in 1911, and by 1913 had branches in all six states. In 1912, it took over the State Savings Bank of Tasmania (est. 1902) and did the same in 1920 with the Queensland Government Savings Bank (est. 1861). As with many other countries, the Great Depression of the 1930s brought a string of bank failures. In 1931, the Commonwealth Bank took over two faltering state savings banks: the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales (est. 1871) and the State Savings Bank of Western Australia (est. 1863). In 1991, it also took over the failing State Bank of Victoria (est. 1842). It later went on to also acquire the Perth based Bankwest.

Other prominent mergers or acquisitions took place among other banks. In 1835 a London-based bank called the Bank of Australasia was formed that would eventually become the ANZ Bank. In 1951, it merged with the Union Bank of Australia, another London-based bank, which had been formed in 1837. In 1970, it merged with the ES&A Limited, another London-based bank, formed in 1852, in what was then the largest merger in Australian banking history, to form the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited. The Bank of NSW merged with the CBA (Commercial Banking Company of Aust) to form what is now Westpac. Whilst the National Bank merged with the CBC (Commercial Banking Company of Sydney) and changed its name to National Australia Bank.

Following changes in regulations, many building societies and credit unions underwent changes with some demutualising and becoming banks or remaining mutual organisations that were allowed to use the term "bank" in their trading names. Some of the demutualised building societies that had

become banks then acquired some smaller State based banks. The NSW Permanent Building Society had changed its name to the Advance Bank and went on to acquire the Adelaide based Bank of South Australia, whilst another demutualised society had become known as the Bendigo Bank went on to merge with the Bank of Adelaide. Advance Bank was later acquired by Westpac who also acquired St. George, a former building society that had demutualised, as well as the Bank of Melbourne.

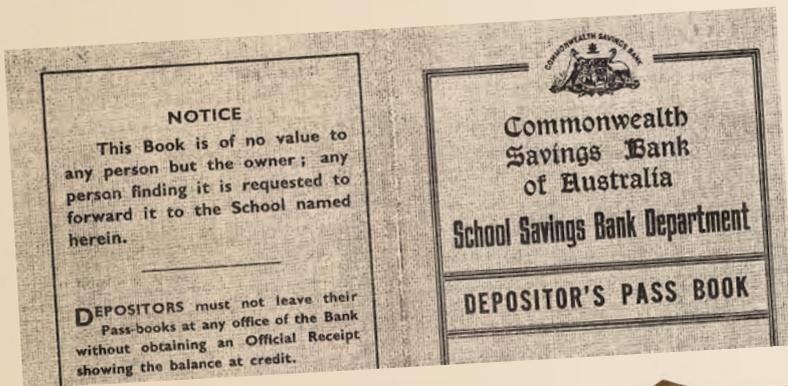
Credit cards first arrived in Australia in 1968 with the introduction of "Bankcard" which was supported by all the major banks. The banks posted out the "Bankcard" credit card to virtually every customer at the time. It was reported that some children and pets received cards in the post. Many people could not fully understand the implications of purchasing something with their Bankcard and soon found themselves heavily indebted to the banks who had issued the card to them. As the Bankcard could not be used overseas and because of the financial problems incurred by many from overuse or misunderstanding of the terms of use, its popularity waned. Overseas credit card companies such as Diner's Club, American Express, Visa and Mastercard gained an increasing foothold in this country. More and more retailers and other companies were starting to accept credit card payments for goods and services. As one company said in its advertising and promotion "You wouldn't leave home without it."

My wife and I have long been supporters of Credit Unions or Mutual Banks and, in fact, my wife served on the Board of Directors of a small Credit Union back in the early 1970s. Our private company that we operated in the 1990s and early 2000s also served a number of Credit Unions and assisted a few in conducting mergers or takeovers of others with some eventually becoming Mutual Banks.

# AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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



Photos of banks from the Hawkesbury & Hills districts  
 Bank of NSW Castle Hill & National Bank Castle Hill  
 courtesy of Hills Dist. Historical Socy others from Hills  
 District Memories or from my own collection



# 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

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 Probuc 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 2nd 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

## CWA of NSW – Toongabbie Branch.

Monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at Brigade House, 3 Junia Street, Toongabbie from 10:30am. We also have a social or craft day on the third Tuesday of the month.  
ToongabbieCWA@gmail.com

## Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Group

Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Blue Gum Centre, ARV Glenhaven Green, 599-607 Old Northern Rd, Glenhaven. For details of future meetings call.  
Denis | 9629 2645 or Maurice | 9654 2138

## Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

## Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498  
www.duralmensshed.org

## East Kurrajong School of Arts

First Tuesday each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity you're interested in, bring pencils or brushes to practice your

drawing or painting with Ruth, browse the library for a book to read or simply just relax, have a cuppa and enjoy a chat from 10am to 1pm. Gold coin donation for morning tea.  
Ann | 02 4576 5031

## Galston VIEW Club

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

## Girl Guides Australia

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

## Glenhaven Probuc 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.fffnc.com

## Hawkesbury West Probuc Club

Meets at 10:15am on the first Monday of each month at Panthers North Richmond. New Members Welcome  
Membership Officer Fay | 0414 341 253  
hawkeswest.probus@gmail.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

Meets fortnightly on the first and third Mondays of the month, 10am to 12.30pm at Castle Hill. The group is aimed at retired men over the age of 55 and provides an opportunity to chat in a non-judgemental, safe and supportive environment.  
Ron | 0424 462 153  
HillsOMI1@gmail.com

## Hills Toastmasters

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

## Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays 7.30pm Northmead Scouts Hall 17 Whitehaven Northmead. Beginners to professionals all welcome.  
Allen | 0439 831 531  
allendavisguitar@gmail.com

## 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 Probuc 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  
ladiesprobushh@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 Probuc Club

John | 9487 1385

## Pennant Hills Combined Probuc 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 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Oatlands Golf Club at 11am. Meetings include a two course lunch followed by an interesting guest speaker. Visitors & new members are welcome. On the 4th Tuesday of the month a social outing is arranged for members.  
Margaret | 9873 2402

## Pitt Town Probuc 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

## Probuc Club of Round Corner (Dural)

Secretary, Julie  
PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

## Probuc Club of the Hills Inc

Ken | 02 96296459

## Probuc 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

## Probuc Combined Kellyville Club

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

## 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/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 Probuc Club

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

## Winston Hills Joey Scouts

9862 8482  
hsara@optusnet.com.au

## Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed Inc

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

## YMCA NSW Community Visitors Scheme

9633 8209 or 0402 255 193

## Zonta Club of Sydney Hills

0414 641 408  
www.zontadistrict24.org

# PUZZLE

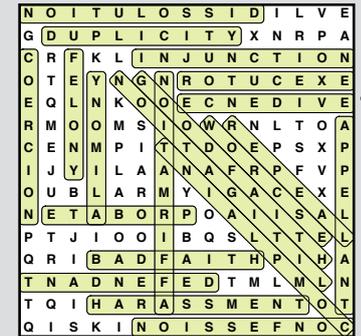
## WORD SEARCH

### NEW YORK

- ALBANY                    MANHATTAN
- BROOKLYN              MARBLE HILL
- CENTRAL PARK         MIDTOWN
- CHELSEA                MONTGOMERY
- CHINATOWN             MURRAY HILL
- CONY ISLAND          QUEENS
- GREENPOINT            SOHO
- HARLEM                 STATEN ISLAND
- HUDSON RIVER         THE BRONX
- LITTLE ITALY          TRIBECA

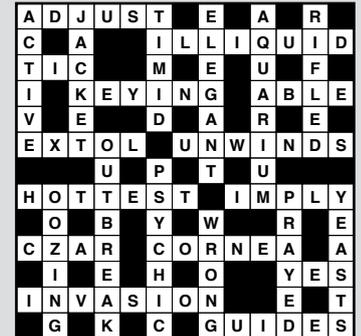


## WORD SEARCH



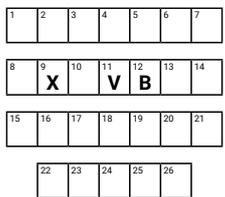
Answers from last issue

## CODE WORD



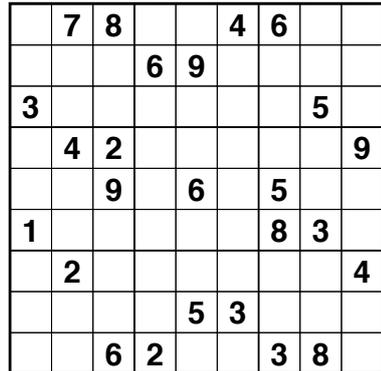
## CODE WORD

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

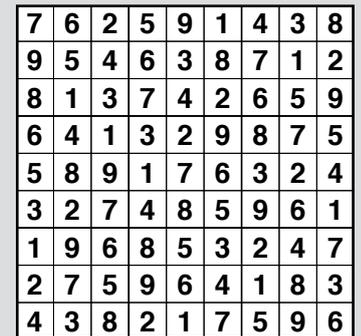


## SUDOKU

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



## SUDOKU



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1	2		3	4		5	6		7		8	
9						10						
11								12				
13	14									15		
16			17		18			19		20		
21								22				23
24								25				
26								27				

**Across**

- 1. Such as Jarndyce v Jarndyce
- 5. Declares as fact
- 9. Available to rent
- 10. Part of a literary team (2-6)
- 11. Dealing with a subject
- 12. Poverty-stricken (2, 4)
- 13. Victorian surf pioneer and board designer (5, 5)
- 15. Sometimes syphoned in bars
- 16. Sour
- 18. Study of pictures and painters (3, 7)
- 21. Work schedules
- 22. Not normal
- 24. Widespread type of fern
- 25. In recent times (2, 4)
- 26. Educates
- 27. Wheeled status symbol

**Down**

- 2. Covered with water
- 3. Vagabond
- 4. Overall (2, 5)
- 6. Iberian tongue
- 7. Prolongs
- 8. Bundaberg hockey striker who won Olympic Gold in 2004 (4, 5)
- 10. Important tropical crop tree (7, 4)
- 14. Boozy
- 17. In reality (2, 5)
- 18. Gun collection
- 19. Refresher on a stick (3, 4)
- 20. Small, noisy, black and white bird
- 23. Communion table

## SUDOKU

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

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

Answers from last issue

### CROSSWORD

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

### SUDOKU

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

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