

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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## Community News

26th Aug – 9th Sept 2022 | Volume 39 – Issue 17  
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



# TIME TO BLOSSOM

PAGE 15

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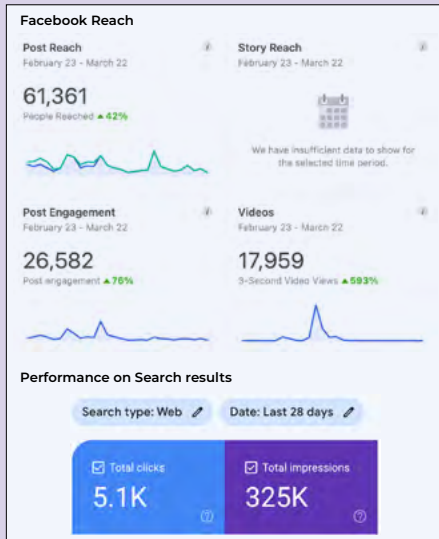
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# Liberal Sarah McMahon elected Hawkesbury Mayor

By TONY BOSWORTH – EDITOR, HAWKESBURY POST

**Hawkesbury councillors have elected Liberal councillor Sarah McMahon as their new Mayor until January 2024 after incumbent Cllr Patrick Conolly recently resigned the position.**

The move comes after incumbent Liberal Mayor Patrick Conolly stood down to spend time with his family, some months after an horrific home invasion – a case of mistaken identity, police have said.

The alleged perpetrators have been arrested and charged by police and are before the courts.

Some members of the public called out “shame on Labor for voting with the Liberals” after Deputy Mayor, Labor’s Barry Calvert, voted for Ms McMahon in the second round of voting at Tuesday’s Council meeting.

Cllr McMahon - previously known under her married name, Richards - says she will be a full time mayor. She will be in the position until January 2024.

As Sarah Richards she lost against MP Susan Templeman in the Federal election back in March, seeing a wafer-thin margin of 371 votes – Macquarie was the most marginal seat in the country – grow to a whopping 14,000-plus margin in favour of Ms Templeman.

There were two rounds of voting in this last week’s Mayoral election. In the first, three candidates put their names forward - independent and one-time mayor Mary Lyons-Buckett, Labor’s Amanda Kotlash, and Cllr McMahon.

In that first round, Cllr Lyons-Buckett got the votes of Greens councillor Danielle Wheeler and Shooters Farmers and Fishers’ Shane Djuric, as well as her own vote. Cllr McMahon got six votes, from Eddie Dogramaci, Les Sheather, Paul Viegel, Jill Reardon, Patrick Conolly and herself.



Cllr Sarah McMahon

***“I believe that tonight has presented itself as an opportunity for a new chapter. As councillors we all know that we must work as one and do our best for the Hawkesbury that we all live in and all love.”***

Cllr Kotlash only got her own vote and that of her Labor colleague Cllr Calvert, so she was knocked out of contention.

In the second round between Cllr Lyons-Buckett and Cllr McMahon, Cllr Lyons-Buckett’s number of votes remained at three, while Cllr McMahon got seven votes, including her own.

The others who voted for her were Labor’s Barry Calvert, Eddie Dogramaci of the Small Business Party, independent Les Sheather and Liberal councillors Paul Viegel, Jill Reardon and Patrick Conolly

“I would just like to say a few small words,” she said as she took the Mayor’s chair.

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

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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

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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](https://facebook.com/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).

# SES Commander Visits

Kevin Jones Unit Commander Hawkesbury SES spoke to residents at Riverside Gardens Retirement Village last week about the recent floods and assured residents that they were nowhere close to being affected by the July floods.

Riverside Gardens Village manager Patricia Campbell said the morning tea provided an opportunity for residents to thank the SES for its great work but also find out more about the work of SES volunteers in the Hawkesbury area.

"Kevin gave a great talk about the role of the SES during any nature of emergencies from people falling down holes, pets stranded in trees and the rescue of flood or fire victims," she said.

"Kevin also pointed out the importance of flood evacuation plans not only as a community but on an individual basis. Many residents said they were sorry he couldn't have stayed longer, but are looking forward to him returning to talk about fire and rescue."

Kevin told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News* it is important that people know where to find out information during floods and know what to do. "A lot of people are concerned about whether they are safe or not and it's good to let people know where to get information," he said. "Our message is be prepared and to heed the warnings, know what your evacuation route will be, where you are going and leave early."

He said the March and July floods peaked at just over 14m but the biggest concern in the July floods was the speed at which the water was rising.

"The water was rising 1.6m an hour which really restricted the time we had to door-knock and warn people," he said.

SES volunteers door-knocked thousands of people during the floods.

He said people are advised to listen to the flood warnings on the radio and keep an eye out on weather reports and SES advice to evacuate.

Visit the SES website: [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au) to find out more about being prepared and to check how vulnerable where you live is. You can also call 132 500 if you want advice or need to talk to local unit about talking to your group.



SES Commander Kevin Jones



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## CRASH GLENORIE

A 35-year-old driver had a lucky escape when his car crashed on Cattai Ridge Road in the early hours of Monday morning, 22nd August.

Emergency services were called at 4.40am. Glenorie Rural Fire Service, Hillside Brigade, police, ambulance and FRNSW attended.

The man was trapped and had to be cut from the wreckage. He was treated at the scene by paramedics and transported to hospital with a broken arm.

## DRUG STOP

Hills Police and Traffic and Highway Patrol stopped a male driving a Porsche Panamera on Norwest Blvd at 1am on Sunday, August 21st.

He allegedly returned a positive reading to a Mobile Drug Test. Police have the capacity to undertake Mobile Drug and Alcohol testing anytime anywhere.

## BIRD HOUSE FIRE

Fortunately no pigeons were harmed when an extensive aviary burnt to the ground in Annangrove Road Tuesday, August 16th.

Rural Fire Service trucks from Round Corner, Kellyville, Kenthurst and Annangrove Brigades responded to the call that a large structure was alight.



## MAN ASSAULTED

Hills Detectives are investigating an assault and robbery that occurred at 1am on Lexington Drive Bella Vista on Saturday morning, 20th August.

Two males were confronted by a group of eight males of middle eastern appearance and one female.

One of the victims was robbed of his phone and ID and scarf. The other male was assaulted. The victims were treated by ambulance officers for minor injuries.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000** or [nsw.crimestoppers.com.au](http://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au). Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via our NSW Police social media pages.

## MOTORBIKE CHARGES

A man, 34, has been charged in relation to the theft of a Harley Davidson motorcycle that was being sold in Carlingford earlier this month.

Police are urging people not to divulge their home address to prospective buyers when selling expensive items on line but arrange to meet in public places near a police station or shopping centre.

The Hills Proactive Police arrested and charged a 34-year-old Guildford man following an investigation into an aggravated break & enter and theft of a Harley Davidson motor cycle on the 13th August at Carlingford.

Police alleged that the owner advertised the motorcycle online, and was telephoned by a prospective buyer. The motorcycle was later stolen from the garage of a home in Carlingford.

Investigations by The Hills Proactive Team located the motorcycle at Grove Street, Guildford U on Thursday the 18th of August 2022 in a garage of a unit complex. A further two motor cycles were seized and are undergoing examination.



## PRAISE FOR RESCUE

Police Minister Paul Toole and Hawkesbury MP Robyn Preston visited Windsor police station earlier this month to thank Probationary Constables Lindsay Morgan and Ryan Blume-Poulton from the Hawkesbury Area Police Command for their courageous acts during the recent flooding crisis.

Lindsay and Ryan waded through neck-deep floodwaters to a submerged vehicle at South Windsor on Tuesday 5th and attempted to smash the window with their batons and a rock, before wedging the vehicle door open and helping the occupant to safety.

Superintendent Andrew Garner commended the officers for their actions in the face of extreme danger: "These officers assessed the situation and took action to ensure the stranded motorist was rescued safely," he said.

"The reality is that police face many dangerous scenarios, and they will do everything they can to protect the community.

"We thank all our police and emergency service colleagues for their continued dedication to helping others, particularly through all the recent challenges we have faced."

## Cross Country Challenge

Serious runners and families wanting a day out are being asked to put on their running shoes and join the 2022 Cross Country Challenge at Bella Vista Farm Park organised by Castle Hill Rotary Club.

The popular event is held in stages for runners of all abilities with the three different courses to suit people of every fitness level, finishing with a Fancy Dress Family Fun Run.

The 2022 Cross Country Challenge is on Saturday, September 11th and will be raising money for the local charities HeadSpace, Youth Insearch and The Positive Vibes Foundation which support young Australians and their families through issues such as mental illness and domestic violence.

You can register as a solo runner, as a family, or register a team with your mates or work colleagues. **Children under 16 have to be accompanied by an adult.**

**Entry costs are:** Child (under 16) \$10, Adult (16 to 60 years) \$30, Seniors (60 plus) \$10. The Expert course is 10.2 Km and starts at 8am, Intermediate is 6.8km and starts at 8.30am, The Family Fancy Dress Fun Run course is 3.4km and begins at 9.30am. Dogs on a leash can be part of the Family Fun Run. There will be a special prize for the best male and female fancy dress or costume. The participant who raises the most money before the run will win three night's accommodation at a luxurious penthouse on Hamilton Island valued at over \$4000.



Police at the 2019 Cross Country Challenge at Bella Vista Farm Park

Organiser Mike Blair said: "We have tried to make this a family event, but at the same time cater for runners of all different levels of abilities."

To find out more visit [www.crosscountrychallenge.com.au](http://www.crosscountrychallenge.com.au)



Nathan Gremmo who donated his organs and gave the gift of life



FAMILY: Michael and Kylie with Nathan's sisters Annaliese (19) and Ashley (16) pictured for the 2021 Jersey Day campaign.

## Jersey Day 2022

By BEV JORDAN

**What started out as a local campaign to get more people to register for organ donation has grown into a major Australia-wide movement with sporting greats, schools, businesses and politicians, all embracing Jersey Day.**

The annual Jersey Day event was founded by the Hills-based Gremmo family in 2015 to encourage people to start a conversation with family and friends about organ donation and to raise awareness of The Organ and Tissue Authority and the Donate Life network.

The Jersey Day campaign honours the memory of 13-year-old Nathan Gremmo who lost his life following a road accident in Glenhaven on April 30 in 2015. The Year 8 Oakhill College student passed away in hospital the next day and his organs were donated, saving six other lives.

Months before his death, Nathan had watched a documentary about organ donation and spoke to his family about it which is why his parents Michael and Kylie and sisters Annaliese and Ashley supported his wish to be an organ

donor. They describe Nathan as: as "a boy with a unique sense of humour, a love for animals and an insatiable energy for life."

His sister Annaliese said: "I believe we all should live our lives the same way as my brother did with his selfless, caring and respectful nature. Nathan's last Instagram post only hours before his tragic accident was: **You only live once, but if you do it right once is enough.**

"Each Jersey Day we are simply asking everybody to wear a Jersey to school or work, and most importantly have a conversation with their friends and family about Organ and Tissue Donation.

"Our family has endured the cruelest possible circumstances. I can only think that if our circumstances were reversed and Nathan was desperate for an Organ Donation we would

move heaven and Earth to save my brother; However, the reality is that we would be waiting for a generous organ donor family to save Nathan's life."

According to Donatelifelife there were 349,947 new registrations on the Australian Organ Donor Registry in 2021 – an increase of 87% on the previous year. In 2020 there were 186,656 new registrations – an increase of 16%.

Make your decision count by joining the Australian Organ Donor Register at [www.donatelifelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelifelife.gov.au).

### THE FACTS

- Organ donation can save up to 7 lives.
- Around 1,750 Australians are currently waitlisted for a transplant.
  - Another 13,000 are on dialysis, some need a kidney transplant.
- In 2021 an amazing 1,174 lives were transformed by organ donations and 2,413 corneal transplants were carried out.
- 7 in 10 Australians are willing to become an organ donor this increases to 9 out of 10 families saying yes, if their loved one is a registered donor.
- When the family is unaware, only 4 out of 10 families agree to donation.
- **Only around 2% of people who die in hospital can be considered for organ donation**
- State based driver's license donor registries no longer exist. To become an organ donor, you need to join the Australian Organ Donor Register at [www.donatelifelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelifelife.gov.au)

For more information about Jersey Day head to the website: [www.jerseyday.com.au](http://www.jerseyday.com.au)

## Norwest Land Sale

Property, funds and wealth specialist company Landen believes investors are turning their focus to land-only options as the development industry weathers the storms of increased building costs and timeline pressures.

Landen's capital raising for phase 1 of its first land-only investment vehicle, the Fairway Fund, is now fully subscribed, attracting \$6.4 million from high-net-worth individuals and Self-Managed Super Funds (SMSFs), highlighting the demand for investment in the busy Norwest area.

Investments in the retail fund, which targets an 8.75% p.a. distribution rate, net of fees, were for a minimum investment of \$100,000. Landen intends to invest the contribution mortgage fund into its 18-lot Fairway Drive land-only project in Bella Vista, adjacent to Castle Hill Country Club.

Already Stage One of the project, comprising 10 lots – each larger than 700sqm – have sold, priced from \$2,300,000 each.

The fund launched to the market in November 2021 and will run until November 2023. Dividends are expected to be paid in December 2022 and December 2023.

Landen's Head of Funds Management, Jeff Li, said: "When people invest money, they definitely like high returns, but recognise these come with high risks. Given the current economic situation in Australia and the issues in the housing market, we are seeing an uptick in investors looking to take an asset allocation approach to balance risk and reward."

Landen has home and land packages available in Rouse Hill, Norwest, Marsden Park and Box Hill. They will soon launch packages in Bella Vista, Grantham Farm, Caddens, Leppington and Kenthurst.

Rashed Panabig, Landen's Director said the popular North West, with its limited land supply remains in demand.

"The Fairway Drive development is in one of the highest-performing priority growth areas in NSW. The area is expected to provide new housing, employment, education, infrastructure and lifestyle opportunities for years to come," he said.

The Fund is overseen by One Investment Group as the independent trustee and responsible entity. They are a leading Australian independent funds management business providing professional fiduciary and administration services to investment managers. It advises on more than 300 funds and is responsible for more than \$35 billion across a wide range of underlying asset classes.





# MP '100% committed' to lowering the Dam Wall level

## A packed meeting hears it needs to happen now

By TONY BOSWORTH - EDITOR HAWKESBURY POST

There are any number of people with opinions on how to lower the risk of flooding across our region, but on Saturday Hawkesbury Community Alliance (HCA) got an expert along to explain what urgent flood mitigation options might be possible if the NSW Government changed legislation to allow Warragamba Dam to be used for flood mitigation as well as water supply.

Time is pressing because five days ago the Bureau of Meteorology sent out a La Nina alert - which typically means wet weather on the way - with NSW SES saying "there remains an elevated risk of flooding" over the next few months.

Quite simply, if the forecasts are correct, another flood could be on the way soon.

Today – Sunday – Warragamba Dam is at 99.9% full, the first time it's been less than 100% full, and spilling, for around two months.

On Saturday, the University of NSW's Dr Stuart Khan, who is a Professor in the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering, as well as Director of the Australian Graduate School of Engineering (AGSE), spoke to a meeting, held at the Richmond Race Club, of almost 300 concerned Hawkesbury residents.

Prof Khan is widely considered one of the leading experts in water management and was

able to discuss all the aspects of lowering the Full Supply Level (FSL) of Warragamba Dam.

He previously spoke to the Post about flood mitigation in a story we published in July. All Hawkesbury councillors had been invited to the meeting, with independents Mary Lyons-Buckett, Nathan Zamprogno, Eddie Dogramaci and Les Sheather, plus Greens' Danielle Wheeler, all making an appearance. No Liberal or Labor councillors attended, while Macquarie MP Susan Templeman sent her apologies and her Chief of Staff.

Hawkesbury MP Robyn Preston was there. The forum was arranged by Hawkesbury Community Alliance (HCA), a new amalgamation of several Hawkesbury community interest groups. HCA is urgently calling on the NSW Government to investigate flood mitigation options ahead of the third La Nina in a row, and Indian Ocean Dipole events, predicted to coincide in Spring 2022.



"To be honest I wish I wasn't here," said MC Samantha Magnussen as she opened the meeting on Saturday. "The reason we are here is an absolute tragedy." She described the likely approaching weather patterns as an "impending disaster".

Ms Magnussen, who is a spokesperson for HCA, and whose family and business are among the many severely impacted by the most recent devastating Hawkesbury floods, said, "the NSW government stubbornly remains focussed on raising the dam wall, a project that will take several years".

"Despite the damning findings of the NSW Upper House July 2022 Flood Inquiry, and the government's response published last week, we still have no commitment to lower the dam level ahead of predicted weather events. Nor do we feel the government feels any real sense of the

*Story continues on page 26*

## Waste matters

### Drop off your household problem waste for recycling

#### Community Recycling Centres

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**Hours:** 8am-4pm, 7 days a week (excluding Public Holidays)

For more information call  
**Hawkesbury City Council on (02) 4560 4444 or visit**  
**cleanout.com.au**

Only household quantities accepted.



This project is a NSW Department of Planning and Environment Waste Less Recycle More initiative.





# THE PLANETS

## HSSO's biggest concert of 2022

It was three years in the writing, 80 commercial recordings have been made since its first performance, the music has been used in at least four movies, and now, after three years in the planning, the Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to be bringing Gustav Holst's incredible work *The Planets* to audiences in The Hills.

Exploring the mystical, symbolic and astrological nature of the planets in our solar system, Holst's master work written between 1914 and 1917, takes us on a journey through life - through war, peace, jollity, magic, and old age - ending with an eerie, misty journey to Neptune, the outermost and most mysterious planet known at the time.

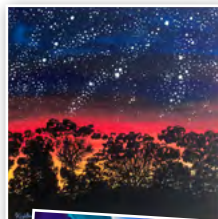
The Hills come alive in September with the much-loved Orange Blossom Festival, featuring a range of events for all ages and interests.

Concurrently with the Festival, the Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra will be performing their major concert of the year. Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Chris Upton said, "... of the four concerts we present annually this will, without doubt, be the biggest and most exciting for 2022! Our usual group of players will be expanded with additional winds, brass, percussion and, most exciting of all, an offstage choir of women's voices symbolising the mysticism of *Neptune*, in the final movement of *The Planets*."

Chris is also featured as an arranger in the world premiere that opens the concert. The first work draws the full orchestra into his arrangement of Rachmaninoff's piano *Prelude in C Sharp Minor*, and orchestra members are very much looking forward to presenting this fine orchestration for the first time.

Not to be left out, Chris' wife, Hayley will be exhibiting some wonderful artworks inspired by *The Planets*. Orchestra member Kayla Flaxman will be displaying her multiple talents as both artist and cellist, and Concertmaster, Dorothy Sercombe's husband, Richard, a well-known local artist, will also be contributing some amazing Planets-inspired pieces. Known collectively as *The Artists of Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra*, Hayley, Kayla and Richard are offering their works for sale to help support the orchestra in presenting this special concert.

Saturday 10th September promises to be a fabulous day of fun and entertainment in Castle Hill. Orange Blossom Festival family activities begin at 3.00pm in Arthur Whitling Park and will continue on into the evening. Why not join in the fun, enjoy something tasty from the food stalls



and then make your way down to the Pioneer Theatre for an evening of music that is 'out of this world'?

Guests are encouraged to arrive from 7.00 pm, to allow time to view the exhibition of 'Planets inspired' artworks. There will also be a 15-minute intermission during which the artworks will be available for purchase and supper will be served.

But, don't forget to book your tickets online now as they are sure to sell out quickly for this unique event. Head to: [www.pioneertheatre.com.au/the-planets-hills-shire-symphony-orchestra](http://www.pioneertheatre.com.au/the-planets-hills-shire-symphony-orchestra)

### GREGORIANA ARCADIA

All singers are invited to join our Gregorian Chant community choir. This sacred music is sung without instrumental accompaniment according to established tradition. We practise on second Saturdays each month (2-4pm) in the beautiful chapel at the Benedictine Monastery, Arcadia. There are no fees and no previous experience is required, just a willingness to learn. For enquiries, email Andrew: [ajjhede@gmail.com](mailto:ajjhede@gmail.com)



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# Why Norwest Should Be On Your Investment Radar

This free information evening will put the spotlight on this rapidly evolving suburb and hidden gem in The Hills that not only has a thriving close-knit community surrounded by convenient transport and amenity, but is forging its way into a highly livable suburb of significant capital growth and lifestyle for all ages.

## THE CURRENT CLIMATE

Cut through the fear-mongering media to truly understand what is happening in the property market locally and nationally.

## NORWEST'S FUTURE

What \$9 billion of investment in education, retail, transport, and civil projects means for the area and those that live and work there.

## MULPHA'S VISION

Hear how Norwest's longest standing developer is taking the suburb into a highly livable, sustainable, and community focussed future.

## GUEST SPEAKERS



**ALEX STUART**

*Director, Urbis*



**TIM SPENCER**

*Head Of Developments, Mulpha*

Tuesday 6th September  
6.30pm - 8.30pm  
Mulpha Sales & Experience Centre  
36 Solent Circuit, Norwest



BOOK TICKETS

# Norwest Quarter

BY MULPHA





# Get prepared for severe weather

The NSW SES is warning communities across NSW to be prepared for heightened risks of severe weather in the coming months.

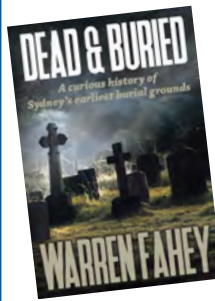
This week the Bureau of Meteorology issued a La Niña Alert, as their three-month climate outlook shows a high chance of above-average rainfall for most of the eastern two-thirds of the Australian mainland between September and November 2022.

The chance of La Niña forming in the coming months has increased to around 70%.

Find out more at [www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/outlook](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/outlook) and [www.ses.nsw.gov.au/news/all-news/nsw-ses-warns-of-flood-risks-due-to-la-nina-forecast](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/news/all-news/nsw-ses-warns-of-flood-risks-due-to-la-nina-forecast). Take the time to know your flood risk [www.ses.nsw.gov.au/flood-resources/before-a-flood/known-your-risk](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/flood-resources/before-a-flood/known-your-risk). Develop your flood plan [www.ses.nsw.gov.au/flood-awareness-nsw/sydney-rivers/hawkesbury-nepean-valley](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/flood-awareness-nsw/sydney-rivers/hawkesbury-nepean-valley)

Simple things like preparing an emergency evacuation kit can be useful in the event you need to evacuate your home.

For the latest weather warnings visit [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). Stay Connected with us [www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil) and [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) and with your local emergency services [www.facebook.com/seshawkesbury](https://www.facebook.com/seshawkesbury); [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au); [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)



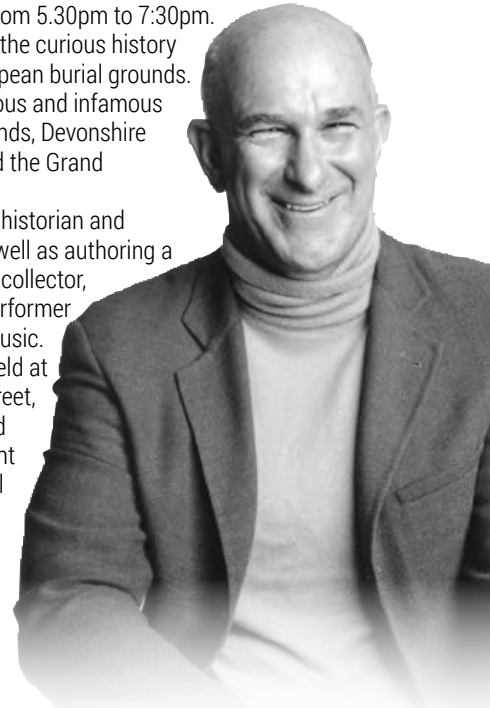
# Warren Fahey presents 'Dead and Buried'

Hawkesbury Library Service is looking forward to hosting social historian and author, Warren Fahey AM for an informative and entertaining discussion about his new book 'Dead and Buried', on Wednesday, 7 September from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

'Dead and Buried' looks at the curious history of Sydney's three earliest European burial grounds. Warren will delve into the famous and infamous - buried at The Old Burial Grounds, Devonshire Street/Sandhills Cemetery, and the Grand Rookwood Necropolis.

Warren Fahey is a cultural historian and Australian folklore legend. As well as authoring a number of books he is an avid collector, actor, artist, songwriter and performer of traditional Australian folk music. This entertaining talk will be held at Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor and anyone interested in history is welcome. The event will cost \$5 per person and will include light refreshments.

Bookings are essential via [www.hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com](http://www.hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com) or call 4560 4460.



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# Lift off for Living Choice Galston

Bulk earthworks will start soon at the eagerly anticipated Living Choice Galston, a luxury retirement community to be located at 330 Galston Road, within walking distance of local shops.

Living Choice Galston will comprise 40 spacious villas, 48 premium apartments and a magnificent two-storey leisure centre offering numerous facilities. There will also be a putting green, bocce court, terrace garden and BBQ area.

The ground-breaking of Stage 1, comprising 9 two and three-bedroom villas, will be held onsite on Thursday 22nd September at 11am.

The project is owned by national retirement community operator, Living Choice, which has a proud 30-year record in the retirement living industry. The company does everything in-house, from design and construction to sales, marketing and the eventual operation of the village. Living Choice has 10 operating villages in three states

and a further four under construction or on the drawing board. The directors, Ian Tregoning and Graham Hobbs, also own EDP Hotels, including The Bridgeport in Murray Bridge, which won Overall Hotel of the Year – Regional at this year's Australian Hotel Association's National Awards for Excellence.

To RSVP for the ground-breaking event, phone 1800 797 333 or email sales@livingchoice.com.au by 16th September.



An artist's impression of the spacious living and dining area in one of the villas at Living Choice Galston.



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## SHINE BRIGHT EQUINE HUMAN SERVICES - EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING AND THERAPY

Shine Bright Equine Human Services is an equine assisted learning and therapy centre situated in picturesque Arcadia, just 35 minutes northwest of Sydney. The centre is owned and operated by Anne-Katrin Liebe, a highly experienced and qualified International Equestrian Level 2 Coach and Sports Scientist.

Shine Bright Equine Human Services offers private and small group equine assisted learning Life skill programs. Shine Bright equine-assisted learning is about contact and closeness to the horse as a living being, as well as its care. Physically superior to humans, horses let themselves be guided by humans when trust and respect are the basis of the relationship. Anne-Katrin believes that this partnership, however, is an intensive emotional and cognitive process that the participant must engage in. Sessions with Anne-Katrin focus primarily on social, recreation and life skills and cover topics such as clear communication, healthy boundaries, leadership, emotional intelligence, spatial awareness and more. The intention of equine-assisted learning at Shine Bright is to help people gain confidence and skills that can have an impact on the participants everyday life.

In addition to equine assisted learning, Anne-Katrin is offering equine assisted therapy for people with various needs such as Down Syndrome, Autism, PTSD, ADHD, OCD, anxiety and depression and others. Shine Bright strives to help people overcome challenges who often find it difficult to consciously perceive their own bodies. In sessions, the horse approaches the person without judgement, triggers actions and reactions and is a motivator. Horses listen silently, live in the "here and now" and perceive the most subtle moods, inner conflicts and unconscious desires in our body language. In this way people can release themselves from old limitations and find their natural flow. Shine Bright equine assisted therapy aims to help people regain their self-assurance, strengthen their self-confidence, and overcome fears, while improving their psychological well-being and achieving increased relaxation and mindfulness.

For more information please visit [www.shinebrightequine.com.au](http://www.shinebrightequine.com.au) or contact **Anne-Katrin** on **0422 279 657** (mob) for further information or to book equine assisted learning and therapy sessions.

# Construction is starting at Living Choice Galston...

22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER



## JOIN US FOR THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY!

We're ready to break ground at Living Choice Galston, which is set to become Galston's finest retirement community! Join us for the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of Stage 1, comprising 9 beautifully designed two and three-bedroom villas.

When complete, Living Choice Galston will comprise 40 x 2 and 3-bedroom villas with one or two garages and 48 x 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments with undercover secure parking. There will also be a world-class leisure centre and extensive outdoor areas, including a putting green, bocce court, BBQ area and terrace garden.

**Where:** Living Choice Galston,  
330-334 Galston Road, Galston.

**When:** Thursday 22nd September 2022.

**Time:** 11am for the Ground-Breaking Ceremony, followed by a BBQ lunch.

**RSVPs essential.**

Phone Gail or Carlie at 1800 797 333  
or email [sales@livingchoice.com.au](mailto:sales@livingchoice.com.au)  
by 16th September.

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





## Top Relay's Wrap And Rock

The Hills Relay For Life community organising committee has been named **Volunteer Committee of the Year** by The Centre of Volunteering.

The award was presented to Hills **Relay For Life** chair Lisa Carruthers on Tuesday 23rd August at a ceremony at Castle Hill RSL. Lisa said she was incredibly proud of members of the hard-working committee.

"Every step we take is a step towards a cancer-free future."

The committee is now planning it's 22nd annual Hills Relay For Life which will be held at Castle Hill Showground on May 19 2023 and raises money for the Cancer Council. Last year's Hills Relay raised over \$220,000 for Cancer research and support programs.



## Wrapping

Hills Relay For Life volunteers will be running a **gift wrapping stall** for Fathers' Day at Castle Towers shopping centre from Wednesday August, 31 to Saturday, September 3 during shopping hours. The wrapping station will be near on Level 3 near the Customer Service Desk. Wrapping is for a gold coin donation with all funds raised going to the Cancer Council.

## Retro Disco

DJ Tony will be bringing back the sounds of the 70s and 80s at Castle Hill Bowling Club on Saturday 3rd September with ALL funds raised will be going to the Castle Council.

Tickets are \$25 a head. There are lucky door prizes, raffles, and prizes for best retro costumes and more. It doesn't matter if you prefer Dancing on Sunshine or Dancing on the Ceiling there will be music for everyone to enjoy.

**Relay Retro Disco** will be held at Castle Hill Bowling Club, 79 Castle St, Castle Hill. Saturday 3rd September, doors open at 7pm.

Dress up, get down and boogie at this great community event. To book tickets email [techsec@iprimus.com.au](mailto:techsec@iprimus.com.au)

## Prostate Cancer

Dural & District Prostate Cancer Support Group are urging men to have their PSA levels tested.

Prostate Cancer is the most common cancer in men in Australia.

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia says 24,217 Australian men will be diagnosed with Prostate Cancer in 2022 and approximately 3,500 Australian men will die of Prostate Cancer in 2022. Men over the age of 50 or 40 with a family history of Prostate Cancer should talk to their doctor about testing for Prostate Cancer as part of their annual check up.

To find out more visit [pcfa.org.au](http://pcfa.org.au). To find out more about the group Phone: Graham 0402 421 062.



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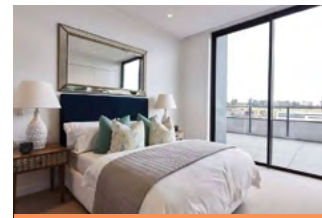
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\*Prices provided are the listed property prices and are current as at 15 August 2022. The entry payment & any other amounts payable if you move in depend on any available contract option you select. You will have to pay a departure fee when you leave this village. Services and facilities are current as at 15 August 2022. Photos are example display units within the village. Unit layout, window coverings, furniture, white goods, fittings and floor coverings are indicative only and inclusions will vary from unit to unit as per purchase contract. Photos are of similar floorplan unit. \*T&Cs apply. See [aveo.com.au/wintergift](http://aveo.com.au/wintergift) for details.

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# The Cold Truth of Homelessness

By GISELA HORNER

Stories about the homeless became the raw truth when Rachel spoke at the Hills Winter Sleepout held at Bella Vista Farm on Saturday 13 August.

"I was homeless. I was living on the street seven years ago this month". Rachel started life in a happy, normal environment with her parents and grandparents, which turned upside down at 12 when her parents split up. After leaving home, her world shrank even more. By 25 she had four small children living in an unsafe situation. Rachel became homeless and the children became wards of the state. Her life became a number, she was moved around, had false reports against her, was looked upon as "a bad person".

At 42, she was introduced to *The Big Issue*. The magazine, started 26 years ago, is sold by people who have endured difficult times. Rachel spoke in a whisper, had no confidence, but with encouragement, she donned the little red cap and said: "I now have my own little spot which I call my business. It gives me time to see myself and connect with community. Most importantly I've gained respect and confidence to lead a better life". As Rachel started to enjoy herself, she was plagued by epileptic fits and PTSD due to a brain injury suffered in her earlier life. Rachel had to start again, but with courage she has learnt to adapt it into her life. She goes out, sells *The Big Issue* but doesn't have to pretend anymore. As she says "we are we".

'CS', a woman suffering extreme violence at home wondered how she was going to survive with her disabled son and twins. She has been given support by Hills Community Aid (HCA) through its Hills Homeless Prevention Initiative (HHPI), part of HCA's financial 'wrap around' programs aligned with supportive organisations. This has given 'CS' financial counselling, emergency relief with food vouchers and has helped to find a home for herself and her three children. Mici Beer, Executive Officer, HCA, said 'CS' wanted to send a huge message of thanks to everyone for such life-changing help.

Mici spoke about the distressing statistics in the past year. "Over 30% of people who have been supported by HHPI have identified as living in a violent domestic relationship, 87% are women and 71% are families with children. 44% of applicants are over 46. In the last financial year \$90,000.00 has been raised, not only for homelessness but for flood relief, multi-cultural funding and other causes".

Money from the Hills Homeless Sleepout will also go to StreetMed which offers support and help to hundreds of homeless people with physical and mental health issues.

Chris Cleary who founded StreetMed in 2014 has also set up StreetPets, Paws for the Homeless, providing veterinary support including microchips, surgery, inoculations, fresh food, canned food, and other vital needs for animals. Chris says: "I can't stress it enough. Every single cent donated makes a difference. I will fight to my last breath to make sure that society's most vulnerable are looked after".

Other charities were represented, all telling of the support they are giving to people who have fallen on hard times.

Azita Abdollahian, President of Norwest Rotary Club and member of Shining Light Foundation, has spent the past five years, meeting large groups of people living on the streets, cutting their hair, providing, socks, beanies, blankets, bedding and loving care.

Dennis Van Someren from Kenthurst Rotary Club spoke about the work being done over the past five years to find and provide transitional housing for women over 55 at risk of homelessness. Dennis said: "We were distressed and ashamed to hear of women and children forced to couch-surf or live in cars due to domestic violence".

Dr Michelle Byrne, founded the Hills Winter Sleepout nine years ago. She said: "Thank you to all the charities and those present who've braved the cold for a night to raise awareness of homelessness in our own. The incredible amount of money raised, especially on the back of COVID and increased cost of living pressures, reflects the generous nature of our community and the desire to help our most vulnerable".

Michelle continued "2023 will be our 10th year and promises to be bigger and better than ever, with more sponsors giving life-saving opportunities to people who have suffered difficult circumstances".

The night of the Sleepout was a crisp clear night with a 'super' moon shining down on those taking part who are fortunate to have homes to go to after the sleepout. Not so for the thousands who live on the street suffering extreme conditions. 78 people and teams registered including *The Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*.

To date, \$48,916.00 has been raised. People can still donate to the Hills Winter Sleepout until the end of August at: <https://the-hills-winter-sleepout-2022.raisedy.com/>.

All money raised goes to Hills Community Aid (HCA) and StreetMed/ StreetPaws.



Rouse Hill Town Centre led by Dave



Bill Tyrell (President Hills Winter Sleepout) with Cameron Cortazzo (IT)



Hills to Hawkesbury Community News Team



Rachel (vendor), Chris (State Ops Manager) Dave (vendor) - The Big Issue



Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club with Michelle Byrne

Street Med's Chris Cleary, Mici Beer from Hills Community Aid







# Hills Men's Shed

*The Hills Men's Shed has been a respected part of the Hills community since August 1st 2009. Over the years The Shed has been a place for men to come together to enjoy each other's company, talk, share knowledge and experiences and give back to the community.*

The Men's Shed movement originated in Australia around the 1980's as a way to improve the health and wellbeing of older men? There are now men's sheds in countries all around the world.

At The Hill's Men's Shed, members are involved in many activities that change from week to week. At the moment, members are engaged in making bee hotels for a client, making puzzles and paddles for an education organisation, repairing chairs, making tables for Westmead Children's Hospital and restoring an antique sewing table. These are just a few of the things that are happening!

Of course, it's not always building and making items. Members are also engaged in a variety of social activities. Our Christmas in July celebration brought all the members together to enjoy a day of wonderful food, laughter, a raffle and a trivia game! Each month members enjoy a barbecue lunch to celebrate birthdays and catch up with each other.

The Shed members have been busily making improvements to their shed to make it safe, comfortable and cost effective and to keep it running smoothly. With the experience and talent of the members, they have been able to build new storage areas, rewire and replace all the LED lights, install fans, install new doors and a new aerial to connect a TV.

Many of these tasks would not be possible without the assistance of our sponsors and supporters. We are extremely excited to be partnering with Grant McEnally and Simon Kowald from Guardian Realty Castle Hill. Their sponsorship means The Shed can now undertake various projects such as adding to our tool collection and installing cooking facilities in the kitchen in order to teach members to cook healthy meals.

There are many opportunities to come and meet us at our upcoming events:

- Bunnings Castle Hill Fathers' Day sale, on Saturday 27th August and Saturday 10th September, for the opening of the revamped store.
  - Our last Market Day for the year is the big one! Father's Day items, tools for sale, cakes, jams, wooden toys, beautiful hand-made items, plants from \$1 and much more!
- Spring Fair Market Day on Saturday 3rd September, 8:30 – 12:30; Eric Mobbs Reserve, Ferguson Ave, Castle Hill With EFTPOS Available  
Facebook – The Hills Men's Shed

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## THE VILLAGE GLENORIE

# Elegant, Stylish and Boutique

Elegantly designed offering unparalleled construction and craftsmanship The Village Glenorie is The Hills Shire centrepiece offering a mixed use retail and residential destination.

Now on offer are a limited number of retail tenancies for lease ranging in size from 30m<sup>2</sup>-310m<sup>2</sup> all of which embrace the village atmosphere and natural open surrounds of Glenorie.

Oversized luxe residential apartments consisting of one, two and three bedrooms all offering spacious interiors and high end quality finishes. Enjoy the mornings and afternoons on the expansive terraces with all apartments providing double lock up garages and additional storage facilities.

The Village Glenorie is a destination for retail operators, business owners, residents and our valued community and surrounding areas. With ample options of undercover and open space carparking for your clients and friends alike. Secure and lease your retail or residential premise now.

Make an appointment today – call Azure Property Agents, Alicia Ghilardi 0422 365 858 or Carla McLenaghan 0424 024 427

*Please see page 28 for advertisement*

# Aussie Fights Climate Change

Australian Pump Industries is hard at work helping to combat global floods, drought and fire. Whether it's floods in the South Sudan or fires in Algiers, Spain or California, their products are there!

"Our preoccupation is to build the best pumps in the world and offer them with free extended warranties and at reasonable prices", said Aussie Pumps' Chief Engineer, John Hales. "Whether it's 6" trash pumps with 80 hp diesel engines being air freighted to the Sudan floods, saving villages, livestock and human lives, or firefighting pumps, like our Aussie Fire Chief, to help save homes in Texas, California and right here in Australia", he said.

The company has had a frantic year combating the extreme weather events, on a global basis.

"Hills and Hawkesbury folk should be aware that after the floods and excessive rain, we've seen a huge growth of fuel. It only takes three days of 35 degree plus temperatures to turn that fuel into serious bushfire danger", said Hales.

Aussie has the answer. Call for your free Bushfire Survival Guide. Aussie Pumps is based at Castle Hill and are an expanding company. They need fitters, storeman, salespeople and admin staff.

Interested in a career that helps save the world? Email [careers@aussiepumps.com.au](mailto:careers@aussiepumps.com.au) and get an Employee Prospectus or check out [aussieumps.com.au/careers/](http://aussieumps.com.au/careers/)





# ORANGE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

# LIGHTS

## beats & sweets

After a two-year hiatus, The Hills' sweetest community event, **Orange Blossom Festival**, returns in **2022** with a new-look main event and exciting community activities throughout **September**.

## ORANGE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

# Main Event

**Thursday 8 to Saturday 10 September**

**Arthur Whitling Park, next to the Castle Hill Metro**

Our main event is back! Every night, treat yourself to a **'DESSERT FEST'** of food stalls or take a spin in the roller rink. Snap a selfie with light installations and enjoy roving entertainment, yard games, glow in the dark face painting and so much more.

**'Move it, groove it' on Thursday 8**

DJs, break dancing and parkour sessions from 4pm to 9pm.

**Chill out on Friday 9**

Enjoy the smooth vibes of music on the main stage by local artists from 4pm to 9pm.

**Movie night on Saturday 10**

Festival fun begins at 3pm. Grab your spot to see the **FREE** family-friendly movie, *Sing 2*, from 6.30pm (see website for details closer to the date).

**Get the juice on OBF - visit [www.orangeblossomfestival.com.au](http://www.orangeblossomfestival.com.au)**





# The Hills Shire Council News

## 'Lights, Beats and Sweets'

The Hills Shire Council's Orange Blossom Festival returns to celebrate everything that makes The Hills such a wonderful place to live, with the main event – 'Lights, Beats and Sweets' spread across three BIG nights, starting on September 8.

Taking place at Arthur Whitling Park (located next door to the Castle Hill Metro Station in Castle Hill), this event features sparkling light installations, toe-tapping live entertainment and yummy sweet treats.

'Lights, Beats and Sweets' promises to have something for everyone and kicks off with Youth Night jam-packed with drumming, breakdancing, a DJ and a performance by Dauntless Movement Crew (featuring acrobatics, parkour movement and flames).

Explore the full schedule of events planned for Orange Blossom Festival 2022, visit [www.orangeblossomfestival.com.au](http://www.orangeblossomfestival.com.au)



## Out of this world experience at the Pioneer Theatre

### Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra: The Planets

On Saturday, 10 September from 7:30pm to 10pm, The Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra is proud to present 'The Planets, Op. 32' – a seven-movement orchestral suite by the English composer Gustav Holst. It is sure to be an evening out of this world!

For more information and to grab tickets, visit [www.pioneertheatre.com.au](http://www.pioneertheatre.com.au)



## Council's Community Environment Centre is Now Open on Saturdays!

Council's Community Environment Centre in Annangrove aims to educate and empower our residents to be more environmentally sustainable in their own homes and now it's even more convenient to visit. The centre is now open on Saturdays in addition to its regular operating hours of 9am – 4pm Thursdays.

Recently over 200 people attended an Open Day at the centre to showcase the all-year gardens and to encourage visitors to become Centre volunteers. The event was heralded as a great way for the community to connect and celebrate the Environment Centre's role in deepening our appreciation and respect for our natural environment.

For more information, visit Council's website and search "Community Environment Centre".



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





## Waves Pool Party

Dive on through to the NEW Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre! The Community Open Day will take place on Saturday, 3 September from 10am to 3pm. The doors will be thrown open and the community can ride the wave of trying the brand-new complex free of charge! Activities during the day will range from free exercise classes, music, kids inflatable fun, free coffee and the chance to meet Olympic Gold Medallist, Brooke Hanson.

For more information, visit [www.wavesfitnessandaquatic.com.au](http://www.wavesfitnessandaquatic.com.au)

## Council Celebrates Gold

The Hills Shire Council has won a Gold Award at the Australasian Reporting Awards (ARAs) for its 2021-2022 Annual Report, which outlines Council's achievements and progress in reaching its long-term vision and goals for the region.

The win marks Council's fifth consecutive Gold Award for its Annual Reports, and was announced during Local Government Week which recognises the work that Council and its officers do to support a more connected, inclusive and vibrant region.

## 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.'

# 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.'

## Council Meetings

Tuesday, 13 September 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.'



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



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# out and about

with MICHELLE BYRNE

Bella Vista Farm is one of the most magical places in the Hills and one of our favourite locations to visit. The first time I took my twins to the Farm they were only a few months old, two tiny babies dressed in Christmas outfits to promote Christmas in the Hills. Since then, we have continued to regularly visit the Farm and have created many more wonderful memories along the way.

When they were little, Maddie and Alexis' favourite things to do at the farm were to try and walk along the rocks bordering the garden closest to the homestead, as well as following the sheep around just hoping maybe they would be able to pat them. As they have grown older Maddie and Alexis have become more interested in the homestead itself, exploring each room, asking questions about the history of the homestead and the people who once lived there and admiring the view from the veranda. The sheep however have remained a highlight, although both girls have learned that it is unlikely the sheep will want to be patted unless you have a handful of feed.

Set high up on the Hill with spectacular views, it is easy to forget that you are surrounded by housing, a rapidly growing business park, metro stations and major arterial

roads. For me, stepping into the Farm is taking a step back into our past. It is one of our last links to settlement times and is an eye opener to what life was like in those early years. There is no doubt life was incredibly tough.

Bella Vista Farm was home to the first Merino Sheep Farm in Australia and also played a role in the Australian citrus industry. Some notable families have lived there. Elizabeth and John Macarthur ran their Merino flock there and the Pearce family, whose descendants continue to live in the area and play a role in its preservation and ensure the history is captured for future generations.

These days Bella Vista Farm is looked after by the Hills Shire Council and the Friends of Bella Vista Farm who continue to be instrumental in driving the restoration and maintenance of the Farm, protecting the

heritage of the site, documenting the history and creating opportunities for people to visit and enjoy the farm. The first Sunday of every month, the Friends run Open Days giving the public access to the homestead and outer buildings. There are Devonshire Teas, a sausage sizzle, tours of the house and grounds, a weaving demonstration, a Trash and Treasure Stall, craft for the kids and live music provided by Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra. The volunteers are incredibly friendly and eager to share the history of the site with you and all funds raised on the day go straight back into the maintenance and improvement of the site.

Every time we visit the Farm it gets better and better, there is more to see and more to do resulting in us loving the Farm even more.

If you have not been to an Open Day then make sure you add it to your list of things to do. You will not be disappointed.



## Dural Scouts Bike Hike



Cycling is one of Scouting's various outdoor activities in which scouts learn and undertake new adventurous activity skills and develop existing skills. On an August evening, the Dural scouts set out around Galston on their bikes and scooters along with Leaders Nathan, Gavin and Steve. This activity was suggested and planned by scout Kiera, in line with our youth-led, adult supported program.

The night started with each scout doing an ABCD pre-ride test, where A is for Air, B is for Brakes, and C is for cranks, chain and cogs. Scouts had fun with the D which refers to a drop test: pick the bike up about 5cm off the ground and drop it. If things fell off (torches, lights, mounted items) or unusual sounds made, then the scout had to help locate and fix the issues.

The scouts cycled on to Hayes Park where they looped the oval in the well-lit skate area and finished the night with a quick review on what they had experienced.

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

Contact Phirooza on 0411 731 976 or phirooza@bigpond.net.au or Simon - thewelf\_1stdural@bigpond.com

## CWA of NSW Awareness Week

4 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2022

A catalyst for the formation of the Country Women's Association of NSW a century ago was the need for adequate maternal health services in the bush. 100 years on, the Association continues to advocate for improvements to maternity services and support in rural and regional NSW and is the focus of this year's annual Awareness Week campaign from 4 to 10 September.

The issue was on the Association's radar at its annual State Conference in May. A number of branch motions were put to members about the need for improved maternity services and care in rural and remote NSW, and for the establishment of a dedicated hotline to support women in rural areas to navigate available maternity support services.

On the final day of the conference, propelled by the release of findings from a NSW parliamentary inquiry into rural and regional health, a motion of urgency was unanimously endorsed by members, calling for immediate action by state and federal governments to address the current crisis in the provision of primary medical services due to the lack of general practitioners and medical staffing in hospitals in rural NSW.

One of the key recommendations from the parliamentary inquiry was around establishing a

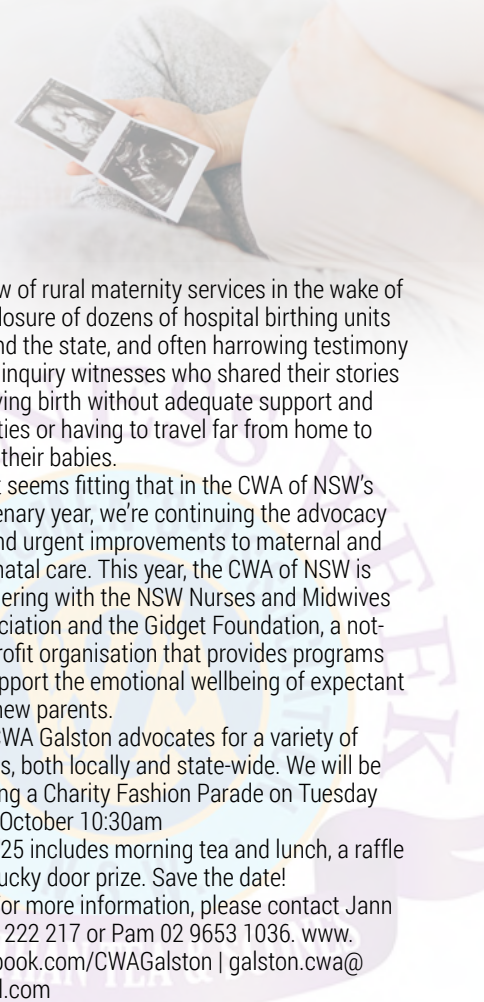
review of rural maternity services in the wake of the closure of dozens of hospital birthing units around the state, and often harrowing testimony from inquiry witnesses who shared their stories of giving birth without adequate support and facilities or having to travel far from home to have their babies.

It seems fitting that in the CWA of NSW's centenary year, we're continuing the advocacy around urgent improvements to maternal and antenatal care. This year, the CWA of NSW is partnering with the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association and the Gidget Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that provides programs to support the emotional wellbeing of expectant and new parents.

CWA Galston advocates for a variety of issues, both locally and state-wide. We will be holding a Charity Fashion Parade on Tuesday 18th October 10:30am

\$25 includes morning tea and lunch, a raffle and lucky door prize. Save the date!

For more information, please contact Jann 0439 222 217 or Pam 02 9653 1036. www.facebook.com/CWAGalston | galston.cwa@gmail.com





# Reptiles can make PERFECT PETS!

By DR BENJAMIN J GRAHAM



Australia is home to a wide range of native reptiles and many of these make ideal pets, provided they are cared for appropriately. While it is illegal to procure reptiles from the wild in Australia, or release captive reptiles back into the wild, there is a safe and legal avenue for purchase of captive bred animals.

Native reptiles must be purchased from a licenced pet shop or licenced animal keeper. The list of available species in our state is called the NSW Native Animal Keepers' Species List; in order to keep one of these species as a pet you must hold a biodiversity conservation licence appropriate to your desired species. Individual licences range from \$10 to \$60 per year. In order to advance through the grades of reptile licences, you must first prove that you can care for easier-to-look-after reptiles. Some licence classes allow you to own venomous species and require you to fulfill additional obligations. These include holding a first aid certificate, having escape proof enclosures, a lockable room, references detailing your skill handling venomous reptiles and a verified emergency response plan.

It is important when considering adopting a reptile as a pet that you research your desired

species and their environmental requirements. Reptiles require their enclosure (vivarium) to provide specific temperatures, humidity and lighting. The most common reason reptiles present to the vet as unwell, is that their environmental requirements are not being met. Reptiles must have appropriate environmental stimulation as comparable to their natural environment. This can include branches, rocks, sand and dirt.

The temperature across the enclosure must vary to allow your pet to choose where it is most comfortable throughout the day. A thermostat must be used to ensure a consistent year-round temperature. Lighting requirements vary by species and breed; ensure you research the correct light source. Diet is equally important and may consist of a single source of nutrition (such as whole rodents) or a varied diet which

may consist of daily or even monthly feeding intervals.

Veterinary care is as important for your reptilian pet as it is for their more common, mammalian counterparts. Veterinarians confident in reptile care are unfortunately rare. Ensure you speak to your local vet to find out whether they are comfortable providing healthcare for your new pet, and if not, source a clinic in your area that can assist. It is important to know where you can turn for help before an emergency occurs.

The key take-home message for aspiring reptile owners is to do your research ahead of time to ensure you become a safe, responsible and legal reptile keeper.

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# Give A Greyhound A Home By BEV JORDAN

*Boris is a good-looking charmer seeking love and understanding. The 14-month-old greyhound is currently being cared for by GAP (Greyhounds as Pets) and was at Kellyville last week as part of a regular adoption drive.*

The day at Kellyville Pets saw seven greyhounds adopted and there are four applications in progress, two greyhounds also found foster carers for the 6-week adoption preparation program.

GAP NSW General Manager Dr Alicia Fuller said: "Our adoption days are very important as they give the public the chance to see the placid nature of the dogs, talk to our expert team to learn more about why greyhounds make great pets and get up close and have a pat."

"A greyhound will make a fantastic addition to any family. This breed is well-behaved and brings nothing but love."

John Grima, Owner and Managing Director of Kellyville Pets believes Greyhounds are dogs well suited as pets in Sydney due to its urban consolidation and increasing population density.

"As the Sydney population continues to grow, we're finding more and more people are living in apartments, and homes are being built on smaller blocks. Greyhounds are actually the perfect pet for this environment because of their calm temperament and they don't require a lot of space to live, they just love a daily walk like all dogs. They really are the ideal apartment dog."

Boris (pictured with GAP volunteer Melanie) is still looking for his forever home.

He is described as a "young energetic boy" who would love a spacious backyard to play in and sunbake during the day.

"Boris requires a home with a playful medium to large canine companion or one with a calm one that may instill some chill out vibes into him."

GAP is a not-for-profit organisation that places greyhounds with loving owners. It also has a six-week Foster Care program and 14 day Foster Care Experience.

To find out more about adopting or fostering a greyhound visit [www.gapnsw.com.au](http://www.gapnsw.com.au) or give the GAP team a call on 1800 696 377.

### Greyhound adoption is a five step process:

1. Fill in the application form
2. GAP matches you with a greyhound it believes will suit your lifestyle – they may even suggest a few!
3. You fall in love with a greyhound and decide to take one home.
4. You will receive a muzzle, lead, collar, worming treatment and information on your greyhounds' history and personality
5. You will receive access to a high level of support from our GAP Team both during and after adoption.



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**The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter**

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

**LAURA** is a one-year-old Domestic short-haired cat. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say Laura is a friendly girl who is always happy to come over for a pat. If you would like to meet

Laura then please visit the shelter to meet her. Laura's adoption price has been reduced to \$49 and includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145

**AT A GLANCE**

NAME: LAURA  
BREED: Domestic short hair  
SEX: Female  
AGE: 1 year  
PRICE: \$49



**SMOKEY** is a three-year-old Domestic short-haired cat looking for a loving home. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say Smokey is a smoochy girl looking for someone to love.

Smokey's adoption price has been reduced to \$49 and includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration. Please visit the Shelter to meet her.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.

**AT A GLANCE**

NAME: SMOKEY  
BREED: Domestic short hair  
SEX: Female  
AGE: 4 years  
PRICE: \$49



# Pet Blessing

Rev Carmel with Mango

An Animal Blessing will be held at Wesley Uniting Church, at Castle Hill at 3pm on Sunday September 11th and all pet owners are invited to attend.

Uniting Church Minister, Rev Carmel Ieraci has held animal blessings in both in Australia and in the UK while serving as a Minister and says animal blessings are an important expression of the Christian faith.

This week she spent time in Annangrove with Mike Smith and his horse Mango who are both missing Ab the Palamino.


"Just this week, Mike had to say goodbye to his dear friend, 30-year-old Ab ...Mike and Ab would ride up to 10 days to raise funds for research into Multiple Sclerosis," said Carmel.

The loss is hard for Mango too who has spent 22 years alongside Ab who is believed to have been among horses trained for singer John Farnham who competed in professional Horse Cutting competitions.

Carmel spent time with Mango, and prayed a blessing of comfort for her and Mike, and peace for Ab.

The animal blessing will take place at 3pm on Sunday, September 11th at Wesley Uniting Church, 32 Showground Rd, Castle Hill. Please bring animals on leads and small animals in carriers or bring a photograph. Children are welcome to bring a soft toy or dress up as an animal for a special blessing. For more information call 9894 8999.





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## Where Eagles Dare

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

*The 2022 Premier Women's AFL Division crown in AFL Sydney is so close to their grasp that the East Coast Eagles can virtually touch it. The Eagles have been outstanding since being promoted to the premier competition in 2019, being the dominant team for the past three seasons without a major trophy to show for it.*

They are hoping to lift their breakthrough title this Sunday, August 28, at Henson Park, Marrickville, at 1:50pm. The Eagles, coached by their former marquee player Renee Tomkins, will take on their nemesis, the Manly Warringah Wolves, who beat them twice in the regular season.

Tomkins or Tonks as she is fondly known in the club, is quietly confident her team can hold off the Wolves and bring home the AFL title to Kanebridge Oval, Rouse Hill.

"We pride ourselves on our ability to compete and take the game on," Tomkins said.

"Manly is a very good team, but if we defend hard, we believe we have the attacking options to kick a winning score.

"The Sydney AFL Women's competition keeps getting stronger every year and it is a credit to our club, the players, and coaches that

The East Coast Eagles play their grand final on Sunday.

## St Bernadette's lift futsal title

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

*St Bernadette's Primary edged out Excelsior Public School 1-0 in a thrilling all-Castle Hill final to win the girls Under 10 title at the recent 2022 Futsal Schools State Championships.*



St Bernadette's Primary Castle Hill won the Girls Under 10 state futsal title.

It was a tremendous achievement by St Bernadette's Primary against some of the best junior sides in NSW. Over 850 teams across 40 different schools competed from 13 regions at the Hawkesbury PCYC.

Excelsior Public School were also unlucky in the boys under 10 final, going down 0-3 to Moriah College. But the Castle Hill school can hold their heads up high for entering two finals on the back of strong performances over four.

The State Championships attracted boys and girls teams from Sydney, Central Coast, Wollongong, Shoalhaven, Newcastle, Bathurst, Orange, Wagga Wagga, and even Canberra.

Football NSW's Community Clubs and Centres Coordinator Jamie Dib said it was a pleasure to provide schools and students from all over NSW the opportunity to play futsal against a variety of different schools after a two-year break.

"The State Championships was the perfect week to end what was a fantastic year of school futsal," Dib said. "Each day of the State Championships was played with an incredible level of quality, enthusiasm, competitiveness, respect, and sportsmanship.

*"It was fulfilling to see each student represent their school with so much pride, and it was fantastic to be able to provide the students an opportunity to play at an exciting tournament with some of their best mates."*

Meanwhile, Football Australia's Sporting Schools funding window for Term 4 is open. More than 5300 schools received funding in term 2 with over half a million participants involved in the programs that are delivered before, during, and after school. Schools can apply via: [playfootball.com.au/schools](http://playfootball.com.au/schools).

we are competing for the premiership this weekend. Winning a premiership would be an incredible accomplishment especially following the two previous COVID-19 interrupted seasons."

Tomkins' optimism is backed by the overall form of the Eagles who soared to the top of the table this season, finishing a game clear atop the ladder and only being defeated four times. It has been a very impressive ride by the East Coast women because the first female side was only introduced to the club in 2017, making it through the finals that season. The club now boasts of three quality women's teams.

The closest the highly fancied Eagles came to Premier Division glory was in 2019 when they were very narrowly defeated by Macquarie University. That same year, however, the Eagles' second division side crushed Macquarie University in the grand final to give the club its first women's title.

In 2020, the Eagles Premier Division team were upset by Inner West Magpies in a preliminary final, only third loss of the season. In 2021, the Eagles were the team to beat, being undefeated at 10-0 before the season was abandoned due to COVID lockdowns, which was a bitter blow for the runaway leaders.

You can cheer on our brave Eagles this Sunday in the women's Premier Division grand final, from 1:50pm at Henson Park, Marrickville.

## Hills United's late surge

Hills United's late surge in the FNSW League One Women's Championship will be putting the shivers on the leaders Gladesville Ravens. Hills United are six points behind Gladesville (70) but have a game in hand.

The Hills United crushed Camden Tigers 7-0 last weekend to sound a huge warning to their rivals that they won't be giving up on the minor premiership easily. Annie Halls and Alix Penne Roberts scored a brace apiece as the Hills United raced to a 3-0 lead at the breather.

This thrashing came on the back of the Hills' 3-1 win over third-placed UNSW FC in round 26.

The Ravens are also heading the Club Championship with 346 points, with the Hills United in second place on 303.



Hills United FC scorer Annie Halls.





# 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)

## Reducing Social Isolation Grants Now Open

Reducing social isolation amongst seniors is a priority for the NSW Government and Hawkesbury fortunately has quite a few senior citizens who could benefit from this grants program.

I am encouraging local councils and not-for-profit organisations to apply for a share of \$600,000 to run programs aimed at reducing social isolation amongst seniors. These grants can provide a social lifeline for seniors who live alone. This funding is about helping foster environments where people can come together, meet new people and enjoy themselves in their local community.

The grants program offers three categories:

- **CATEGORY 1:** \$30,000 grants for known or existing projects.
- **CATEGORY 2:** \$50,000 grants for projects or partnerships run by local council.
- **CATEGORY 3:** \$20,000 grants for new or innovative projects.

Applications are open until 11.59pm on Monday, 19th September. For more information and to apply, please visit, [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/seniorsgrants](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/seniorsgrants).

## Maintenance Blitz for NSW Schools

Every school in Hawkesbury is set to benefit from the NSW Government's \$1.2 billion investment for planned maintenance from the 2022/23 NSW Budget funding.

We are completing priority works whilst also going above and beyond to create exceptional, comfortable and safe learning spaces.

This will include painting, fencing and gate repairs, floor renewal, indow and door repairs, roof replacements and sewage repairs and replacements.

Local trade businesses will also be encouraged to tender for the projects valued up at to \$50,000 through the Local Trade Scheme.

As well as investing in our schools, this program is investing in local businesses by creating more jobs and boosting our local economy.

## MP Set to Retire

State MP for Riverstone Kevin Conolly has announced that he will not be standing for the seat of Riverstone in the March 2023 State election.

The MP was first elected as the Liberal MP for Riverstone in 2011.

In a public statement he said: "It has been my honour and privilege to serve the people of Riverstone electorate as their elected representative during a period of immense change for the region. I have done my best to articulate their concerns, aspirations and values in Parliament, the party room and the public domain."

A former Hawkesbury City Councillor and High School teacher, he encouraged young people to go into politics in his maiden speech to Parliament. One of his six children, Parick Conolly, is on Hawkesbury City council and has just stepped aside as Hawesbury Mayor.

Kevin Conolly noted several achievements during his term as Riverstone MP including:

- The transformation of Schofields Road and Richmond Road from old two lane country roads into major arterial thoroughfares, including an underpass beneath the Richmond rail line.
- The delivery of four new schools and the upgrading and expansion of several existing schools.
- The completion of the North West Metro.
- The building of a brand new, enlarged police station at Riverstone
- The delivery of a 700 space commuter car park at Schofields station.
- The provision of water, sewerage, electricity and other infrastructure to support urban development in the North West Growth area

"I will continue to advocate for the people of the Riverstone electorate over the coming months to ensure that our ongoing commitments are delivered and that the needs of the people in this community remain my focus right through until the election in 2023," he said. "This includes continuing to press for the raising of the wall of Warragamba dam at the earliest possible opportunity, as this is the one measure that can provide substantial flood mitigation benefit to the people of the Hawkesbury-Nepean region."



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# Your Sound - Your Community

By LEONIE DIXON

**"Your sound-your community" is the catch phrase of Alive 90.5 and as such we are here to serve the community. Over the 30 years the station has operated we have been involved in the community in many ways, especially assisting worthy causes.**

One of the most significant ways we contribute is doing outside broadcasts (OBs), which can involve a whole day or just half a day where a group of volunteers take the necessary broadcasting equipment to the specific site and do continuous cross overs to the station, bringing the whole event alive with interesting interviews and how the day is progressing. Recent OBs were held at the Hills Relay for Life and Supanova with their Supertee event. Supertee raises money to aid sick kids in hospital by providing them with super hero tee medical garments and encourages children to think positively about their recovery, aided by super powers from their tee shirts. The Supertee concept is based on the principles of Strength through Imagination. Alive 90.5 has helped this organisation at various venues, with excellent results. The OBs also allow us recognition in the community as we often have free merchandise. Other OBs have taken place at school fetes, shopping centres, council events and local sports grounds.

The Sports team has evolved over the years, with more sophisticated technology allowing

them to call local games with enthusiasm. The grounds they visit include home grounds for Wenty Magpies, Blacktown City and Hills United.

Some of the games have been washed out but the boys always have stand by interviews with players and coaches.

OBs are preceded by community service announcements (CSAs) for several weeks so listeners know all the details for the location and date. CSAs are another way we assist the community. The Community Diary section of our website provides our community with the latest news and upcoming events taking place across Parramatta, Cumberland and The Hills.

If you have an upcoming event or any news from our community that you would like us to promote on air you simply need to visit [www.alive905.com.au](http://www.alive905.com.au) and from the menu bar select IN THE COMMUNITY and scroll to DIARY SUBMISSION.



Our criteria for events and news we will share is that it fits into one or more of the following criteria:

1. Be about Local People, Local Events, Local Places within Parramatta, Cumberland or The Hills Local Government Areas (LGAs)
2. Nationwide and/or State-wide news which has direct impact on listeners in the local area
3. News and events about Local Heroes and Local Champions
4. News about Local infrastructure

Requests for promotion are reviewed before broadcast as an on-air read or to our website. All it costs is your time to fill in the application form.



## PROPOSED VODAFONE CO-LOCATION AT AN EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT RICHMOND INCLUDING 5G

**241316 Richmond UWS: Richmond UWS Campus, Londonderry Road, Richmond NSW 2753 (RFNSA 2753006)**

The proposed facility consists of the addition of new equipment and associated works, including 5G, as follows:

- Installation of three (3) panel antennas, 2.7m long, on a new headframe
- Installation of three (3) panel antennas, 0.8m long, on the new headframe
- Installation of a new outdoor unit, not more than 3.0m in height and with a base area of not more than 7.5m<sup>2</sup>
- Installation of ancillary equipment including fifteen (15) remote radio units, antenna mounts, cabling, and works within the outdoor unit

1. Vodafone regards the proposed installations as Low-impact Facilities under the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* ("The Determination"), based on the description above.

2. In accordance with Section 7 of *C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code*, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Should you require further information or wish to comment, please contact Archie Aparicio at Axicom, 02 9495 9000, [community@axicom.com.au](mailto:community@axicom.com.au) or Level 1, 110 Pacific Highway, St Leonards NSW 2065 by **Monday, 12 September 2022**. Further information may also be obtained from [www.rfnsa.com.au/2753006](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/2753006).



## National Parks and Wildlife Service

### Notice of Ongoing 1080 Program

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting ongoing aerial and ground baiting programs using meat baits, meat bait products and canid pest ejectors containing 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) poison for the control of wild dogs and foxes.

**Aerial Baiting Program: Monday 5th September 2022 - Friday 16th September 2022**

1080 poison baits will be delivered aurally from a fixed wing/ rotary aircraft in the following reserves: Dharug National Park (NP), Manobalai Nature Reserve, Parr State Conservation Area (SCA), Wollemi NP, Wollemi SCA and Yengo NP.

**Ongoing Ground Baiting Program: Monday 9th May 2022 to Wednesday 9th November 2022**

1080 poison baits will be delivered on the ground in the following reserve: Yengo NP

The program is designed to minimise predator impacts on wildlife, especially threatened species, and to minimise impact of wild dogs on neighbouring stock.

Signs will be placed at the entry to the baiting location. Domestic pets are not permitted in NSW National Parks managed lands. Pets and working dogs may be affected (1080 is lethal to cats and dogs). Pets and working dogs must be restrained or muzzled in the vicinity and must not enter the baiting location. In the event of accidental poisoning seek immediate veterinary assistance.

**Please contact the Bulga NPWS office on (02) 6574 5555 for more information.**



# I'LL DRINK TO THAT

Every nation is renown for many things. They may be known for a relaxing lifestyle, culture, history and the like. Here in Australia we are known for our sunshine (if it is not raining), the beaches, the relaxing lifestyle and also known for the ruggedness of the country and hardworking on the land.

One feature of the Australian culture that has been depicted in movies and song is the local pub. We all know of the "Walkabout Hotel" which featured in the Crocodile Dundee movies, and of the hotel scenes in the movie "They're A Weird Mob" and what about the Slim Dusty songs where he sings about having a drink with Duncan in the "Town & Country" or the song "The Pub with No Beer".

In recent times many have asked me about what is happening with the "Bull & Bush"? I have also mentioned in columns recently pubs such as the "Bird in The Hand" and the "Stanhope Arms" which both stood at Kellyville plus "The Bird In The Hand" at Pitt Town.

These thoughts have led me to think of the various watering holes in our Hills to Hawkesbury district. Whilst many of the hotels maybe of recent construction, we do have a few that have some interesting history. Some of the historic inns or hotels still standing and serving their communities within our area include the Wisemans Ferry Hotel, Macquarie Arms Hotel at Windsor, The Settlers Arms at St Albans and The Fiddler (formerly known as The Mean Fiddler) at Rouse Hill. Other hostelries that are of interest include the "Ettamogah" at Rouse Hill.

To start with the "Wisemans Ferry Hotel", once the home of Solomon Wiseman after whom the village is called. He was first buried within the grounds of his home then called "Cobham Hall" later he was reburied in the grounds of the local church and after that

church was damaged in a fire he was reburied once more in Wisemans Ferry Cemetery.

Macquarie Arms at Windsor. This great old pub can safely claim the title of "Oldest Pub In Australia" (on the mainland).

In 1815 a "spacious and commodious inn" was constructed by Richard Fitzgerald adjoining Thompson Square and was known as the Macquarie Arms. In order to save Government the cost of providing such a structure, Macquarie had given "Mr. Fitzgerald a large allotment in the square on the expressed condition of his building immediately thereon a handsome commodious inn of brick or stone and to be at least two stories high." (Macquarie's Journal of his tour s- 12th Jan. 1811)

The Settlers Arms. Established in 1836, the Settlers Arm Inn is built from convict - hewn sandstone. Surrounded by mountains, it nestles alongside the Macdonald River within the tiny village of St. Albans, the heart of the Macdonald Valley. Of Georgian simplicity, the hotel became a stopover for Cobb and Co. stagecoaches travelling between Sydney and Newcastle in the nineteenth century.

The Fiddler. Previously operated under the names "White Hart Inn", "Royal Oak Inn", "The Windsor Wayhouse" and "The Mean Fiddler Inn". The inn is an important example of the early colonial coaching inn of the 1820-1840's period and is the only surviving inn on the Windsor Road, from this time, that operates today as a licensed establishment. By 1818 Windsor Road was still a rough track and in 1821 Charles Davis obtained a land grant for the area that included the site of the inn. In 1829 he leased part of his land to William Cross who constructed an inn, which he named the "White Hart Inn", acquiring a publican's



license in 1830. The inn was one of the earliest licensed premises in the colony. "White Hart Inn" was a single storey building. By 1846 the inn had been purchased by John Booth who changed the name to the "Royal Oak Inn". In 1852 the inn was sold to George Sheffield and sold again in 1858 to John Seath who changed the name back to the "White Hart Inn" and operated the inn until his death in 1876. The construction of the Blacktown-Richmond railway in 1864 saw a downturn in road traffic and hence hard times for the inn and its days were numbered. By 1916 when the site was sold to Thomas Peterson, it had ceased to operate. The building was in need of considerable repair, both internally and externally. By 1923 Peterson had replaced the original shingle roof with tiles and repaired the brickwork. In 1949 the inn, then a residence, was sold to Stuart Bins. In 1962 the Windsor Road was widened and sealed (up to then it had changed little from when it was first used in 1806) and the following year the Kroehnert family aquired the site. The Kroehnert's planned to operate the inn (then in use as an antique shop) as a restaurant, but it was not until 1970 that the inn began trading again as a colonial style restaurant, under the name "The Windsor Wayhouse". In 1976 it was leased to Graham Bridgewater and Kieran Waner who renovated the inn and operated it as a licensed restaurant "The Royal Oak Inn". In 1983 it was sold once more and in 1996 began operating as a licensed tavern under the name, "The Mean Fiddler". It now has new owners and is now called "The Fiddler".

## HAWKESBURY NEWS

### MP '100% committed' to lowering the Dam Wall level *from page 6*

impending disaster," she said. "Our community needs flood mitigation now, not in the distant future. Ten years is too late."

Raising the Warragamba Dam wall, which is one option to possibly help lower the risk of major floods, is at least a \$2bn project which will take an estimated 10 years to build and is not without controversy for its potential effects on the wider environment.

The HCA are more concerned about potential floods which could arrive this Spring and Summer, given the Bureau of Meteorology's new La Nina weather pattern alert, five days ago, and the NSW SES's suggestion we all remain on guard for potential flood events in the next few months, as severe weather is likely.

Professor Khan told the community meeting, "Reducing the current water storage

in Warragamba Dam is a realistic alternative to raising the dam wall."

He said a 12 metre drop in water when the dam is 100% full would mean smaller floods downstream – that means the Hawkesbury - and more evacuation time.

"While no solution provides complete protection from flooding – there is no silver bullet," he said, "maintaining a lower water storage in Warragamba can significantly mitigate many floods, reducing peak flood heights and enabling additional evacuation time".

Professor Khan did warn that reduced storage in Warragamba Dam would decrease Sydney's drinking water supply security and would only be viable if drinking water supply was immediately replaced by alternative sources.

"Any reduction in reliance on Warragamba Dam must be accompanied by the introduction of new rainfall-independent water sources, such as new seawater desalination or water recycling. In addition to enabling flood mitigation at Warragamba Dam, new rainfall-independent water sources will provide significantly enhanced drought resilience for Sydney."

He pointed out that Sydney's water supply from sources other than rainwater and water catchment – mainly desalination and purified recycled water – was around half what every other Australian capital city provided for its residents.

Having said that, Sydney does have a desalination plant – it was running throughout the floods, partly because of poor water quality due to flooding along the river system – and if its output were doubled it would make up the equivalent of a 12m drop in water at Warragamba, so securing Sydney's drinking water supply.



# AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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



Macquarie Arms, Thompson Sq. Windsor



Bird In The Hand, Pitt Town



Mean Fiddler, Rouse Hill



Wisemans Ferry Hotel, Wisemans Ferry



Settlers Arms, St. Albans

In the most recent Hawkesbury flood, water began spilling over the dam wall at 2am, without any warning to the community from Water NSW. The following morning, a press release was put on the Water NSW web page. As a result, the community was caught off-guard.

An unprecedented increase in water level and flow velocity resulted in a much-reduced evacuation timeline, excessive flood damage, and major damage to the riverbank, all of which may have been prevented, if managed differently, says HCA.

"It is essential to consider the 'big picture' for water management in Sydney, rather than look at individual components in isolation," says Prof Khan.

MP Preston, who put up a Motion in the NSW Parliament on August 11 calling for "a change in legislation that allows for the release of larger volumes of water from Warragamba Dam", said towards the end of the HCA meeting she was, "100% committed to lowering the level of Warragamba Dam". But no decision has yet been made by the State government.

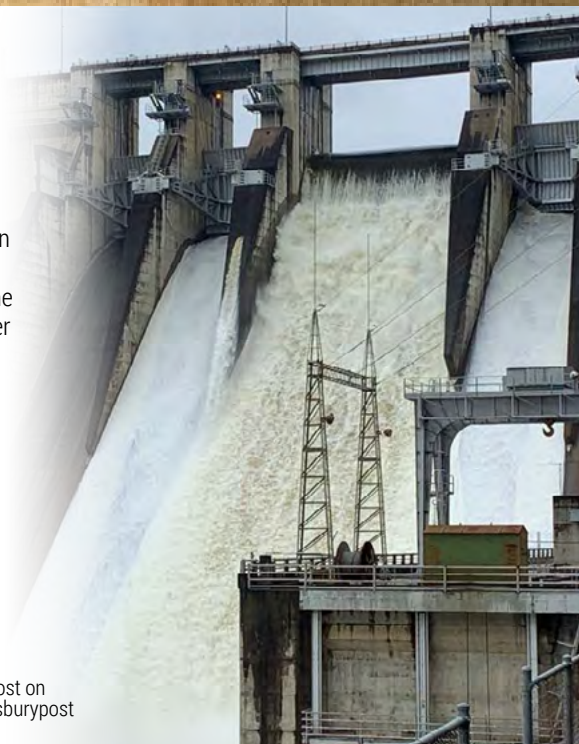
"Today," said Ms Magnusson, "Professor Khan clearly demonstrated that lowering the Warragamba Dam Full Supply Level (FSL) by 12 metres is not only possible but is the best option for urgent flood mitigation for the community, who are filled with fear and uncertainty about what a third La Nina and negative Indian Ocean Dipole weather system in coming weeks might bring.

"Had they used the dam for mitigation in the last flood, we would have recouped all the water from the rain event," she said.

The big issue for Hawkesbury residents is time - with the SES pointing out just last week, that the Bureau of Metrology's three-month climate outlook shows a high chance of above average rainfall for most of the eastern two-thirds of the Australian mainland between September and November - and that includes the Hawkesbury.

Ms Magnusson said on Saturday, "we are now running out of time".

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





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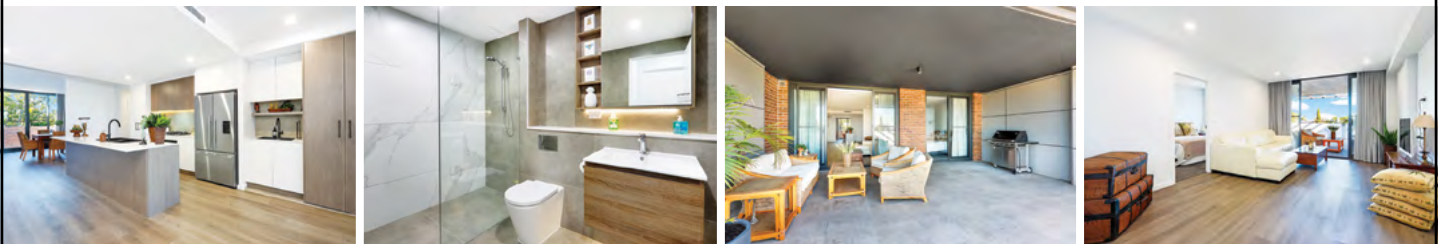
**Work at The Village Glenorie:** The redevelopment of **The Village Glenorie** is continuing with the final construction underway which will provide new retail opportunities ranging in size from 30m<sup>2</sup> through to 310m<sup>2</sup>. We are seeking retailers to complement the existing businesses now operating at **The Village Glenorie** and are looking for, but not limited to

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- fruit/veg
- butcher/deli
- florist
- independent professional services

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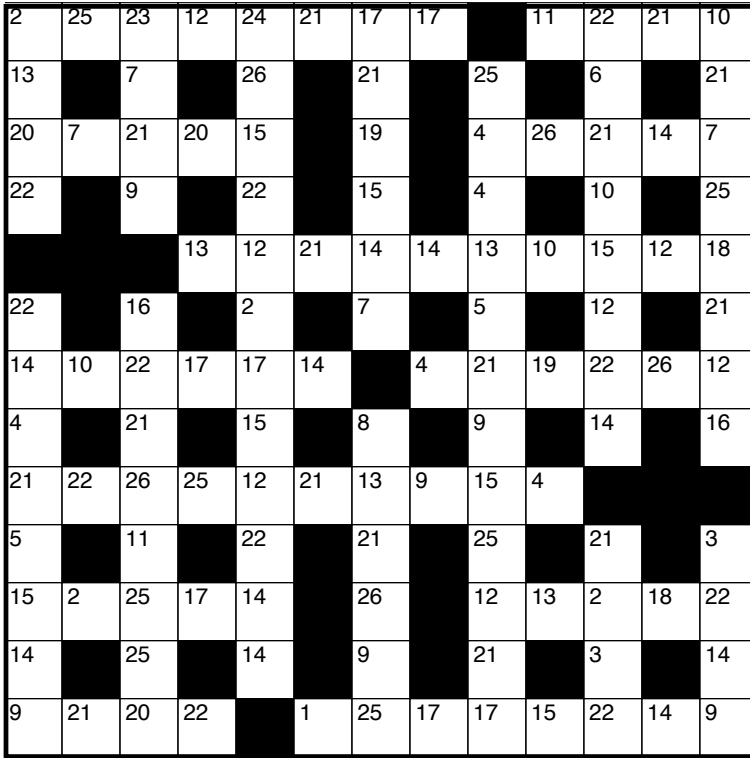
Please contact Azure Property Agents,  
Alicia Ghilardi on 0422 365 858 or  
Carla McLenaghan on 0424 024 427 or view  
[thevillagelkenorie.com.au](http://thevillagelkenorie.com.au) for further information.





# PUZZLE

## CODE WORD

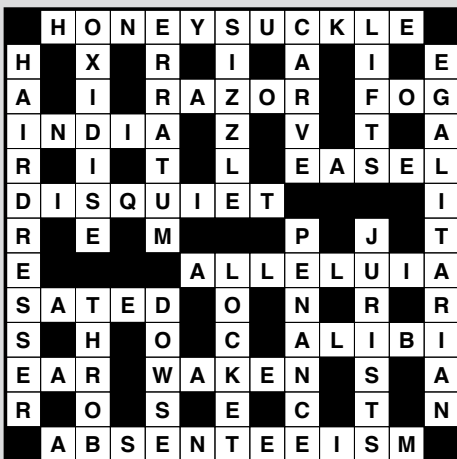


Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

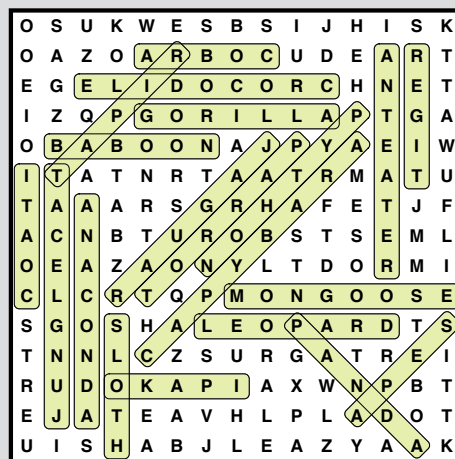
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					X			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	B						L	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

## ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

### CODE WORD



### WORD SEARCH



## WORD SEARCH



### IN THE LIBRARY

AISLES	DOCUMENTS	LIBRARIAN	RESOURCES
ARCHIVES	DVDS	MAPS	SILENCE
BOOKS	FACTUAL	MICROFILM	STUDENTS
CATALOGUES	FICTION	PRINTER	TABLES
COMPUTER	INTERNET	RECORDS	VIDEOS

## SUDOKU

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

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

### SUDOKU

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



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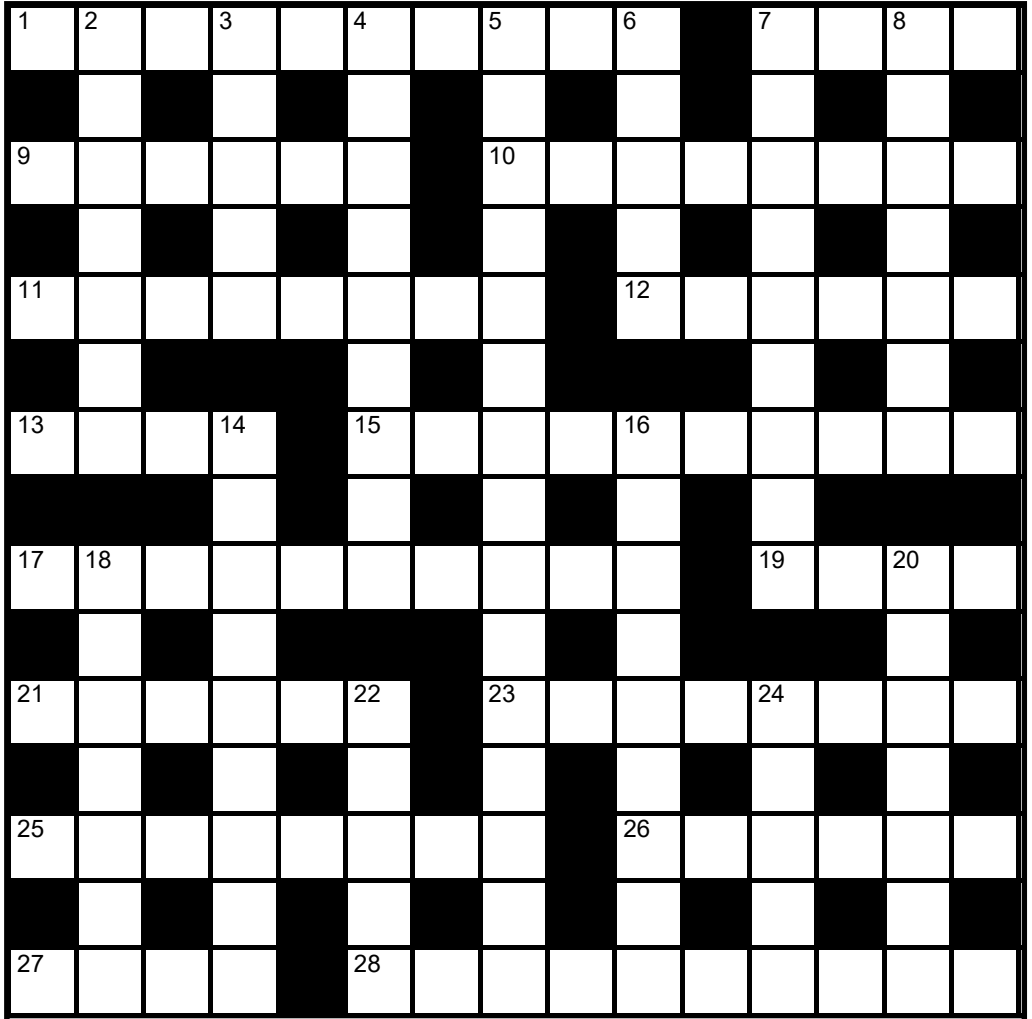
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### Across

- Like rings on a target
- Allegedly factual TV programme
- Ramble
- Having considerable worth
- Shirley Temple or Manhattan, maybe
- Outback horror
- Swamp menace
- Pesky
- Generally useful (3-7)
- Small blemish
- Croatian capital
- One way to order a meal (1, 2, 5)
- Huge fins adjusted for Chinese space system (4, 4)
- Stand for hot dishes
- Body of soldiers
- Chaotic

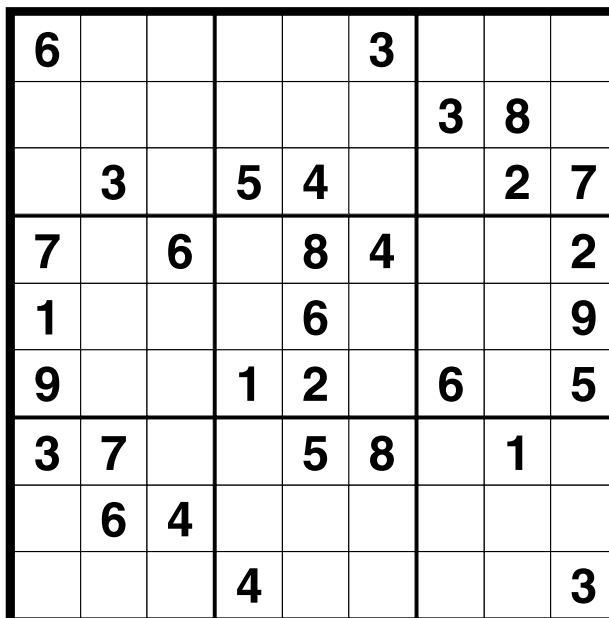
### Down

- Alfresco
- Its produce can be poached
- It's plain short of trees
- Stirrers unveil oratories, stirring things up
- Big star
- Doctor's news
- Bone-building element
- Author's protection
- Eternally (4,5)
- Stet (5, 2)
- Breakfast dish
- Get taken (2, 3)
- She meets a smoking caterpillar

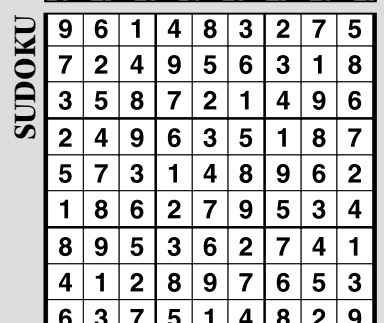
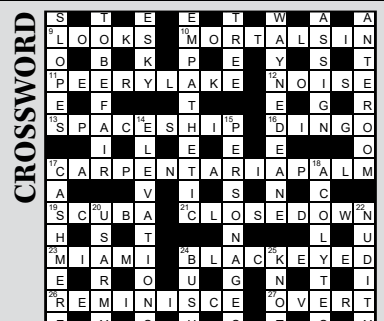
## SUDOKU

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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



### Answers from last issue





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