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COMMUNITY NEWS

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on Google News. With the Google News app (or via a web browser) you can now read local, national and international news all in one place. Just search our name, then 'follow' us. Often we carry the same local stories as some of the larger outlets, but ours are free and not behind a paywall.

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Performance on Search results

Search type: Web Date: 1 Sept 2022-30 Sept 2022

✓ Total clicks

6.38K

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Kids with Cancer

It was a room filled with love when the Hills-based Kids with Cancer Foundation held a 25th birthday celebration and presented a \$1 million cheque to Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation.

Kids with Cancer Founder Peter Bodman presented the cheque to pediatric oncologist Dr Luce Dalla-Pozza and Cathryn Cox head of the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network to fund a genetic predisposition service for patients and families of the Cancer Centre for Children at The Children's Hospital Westmead.

More than 120 people gathered at Sophia's. Mullane's Hotel, Baulkham Hills to celebrate the work of the small team at Kids with Cancer which has provided over \$30 million in funding nationwide - including direct financial support to families of kids with cancer through paying bills and buying groceries, salaries and infrastructure, cancer research, Care Packs and wigs. CEO Todd Prees thanked everyone for their support including Kids with Cancer Ambassador mezzosoprano Viktoria Bolonina who enchanted the room with two songs.

Viktoria is about to embark on her own national opera-meets-pop tour after finishing treatment for stage-4 brain cancer.

Ambassadors, racing-car driver, Jimmy Vernon, and AFL Giants player, Adam Kennedy, were also at the event.

Two brave families also told their stories on







Natasha and Nathan's second born son, Ashton, was diagnosed with congenital acute myeloid leukemia when he was just five days old. A whirlwind of treatments including chemotherapy, was followed by a bone-marrow transplant. Ashton is now two years old and thankfully in remission.

Danielle's six-vear-old son. William, was diagnosed with Stage 4, Neuroblastoma and underwent a year of chemotherapy and other intense treatments as well as a bone-marrow transplant only to discover the cancer had returned more aggressively than before.

Both families shared how Kids with Cancer Foundation helped support.

Kids with Cancer Foundation, founded in the Hills in January 1998, originally fundraised primarily through its raffle ticket sales and funded the first Oncology research and fellowship at the Children's Hospital Westmead and the Oncology Pharmacist at Sydney Children's Hospital in its first year. Since then it has provided \$18 million to Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.kidswithcancer.org.au



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

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

\$700M Rouse Hill Hospital Vow By BEV JORDAN

Premier Chris Minns has confirmed that \$700million has been earmarked by the new Labor Government to build a 300-bed Rouse Hill Public Hospital with an Emergency Department.

In a response to questions by the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News following the State Election result, the Premier's office confirmed it would be going ahead with the pre-election promise to more than double the Coalition Government's commitment to health in the North-West.

The Coalition government had promised a \$300 million Rouse Hill Hospital. The then Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, turned the first sod on the development on March 2nd, weeks out from the State election which saw a change in Government.

The new hospital site is located at the corner of Commercial Road and Windsor Road, opposite The Fiddler hotel.

New Health Minister Ryan Park told the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News this week that Rouse Hill Hospital will deliver comprehensive healthcare services to this growing population, especially to young families.

The expansion of Rouse Hill Hospital will include:

- An Emergency Department including urgent care centre and emergency medicine
- Comprehensive maternity services and women's health services

- Dav surgerv unit
- Adult and pediatric short stay unit
- Ambulatory and outpatients care including day chemotherapy and infusion, renal dialysis, mental health, and ante/post-natal care
- Comprehensive medical imaging services
- Prehabilitation and rehabilitation services

Mr Park said: "The Liberals promised this hospital for eight years without taking any action to see this much needed facility delivered. Labor is committed to delivering Rouse Hill Hospital.

"We will have more to say on this project as it progresses."

Labor's pre-election promise was that: Any new hospitals built under Labor will move to a full campus model, starting with Rouse Hill which will have a childcare centre and healthcare worker housing, both on site.

The pre-election promise also announced \$150 million to expand the capacity of Blacktown and Mt Druitt Hospitals - including an additional 60 beds and additional services such as chemotherapy, cancer treatment, and dialysis.

The likely date for completion of Rouse Hill Hospital is late 2027 or early 2028.

- The timeline for announcements about a hospital at Rouse Hill began in March 2015 when the then Premier Mike Baird said his Government would set aside \$300 million to build a new hospital at Rouse Hill if re-elected.
- Money was allocated In the 2017/18 Budget to undertake the planning of Rouse Hill Health
- In the 2018/2019 Budget the Government allocated \$75 million for land acquisition for the new hospital.
- In March 2021 The Government confirmed a site on the north-eastern side of Windsor Rd for the hospital.
- In November 2022 a Master plan for a \$300million Rouse Hill Hospital was released.
- January 2023 the then Labor Opposition leader Chris Minns announced a \$700 million commitment to the new Rouse Hill Hospital with an Emergency Department should it be re-elected.
- April 2023. The newly elected Premier Chris Minns and Health Minister Rvan Park confirmed the \$700 million investment for the new Rouse Hill Hospital.

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MAN, 50, ON GUN CHARGE

Numerous 000 (Triple 0) emergency calls were made to police after a man was seen carrying a large firearm down Windsor Rd, Rouse Hill on Wednesday, March 29th, at around 5.30pm.

Officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command commenced a search of the area and conducted a review of CCTV footage from surrounding businesses, which led officers to an unlocked and unattended vehicle in a nearby church car park.

A search of the vehicle by police allegedly located an imitation AK-47 assault rifle. With the assistance of Polair, officers found a man in nearby grassland.

He was arrested and taken to Castle Hill Police Station where he was charged with possess unauthorised firearm and intimidation.

A day later a replica assault rifle and bolt action rifle were surrendered at Castle Hill police station under the firearms amnesty. They were unrelated to the Rouse Hill incident.

Police are again warning people that replica firearms including Gel Blasters are NOT toys and are illegal under the Firearms Act 1996 (NSW). They can be handed in at local police stations under the Firearms Amnesty.

DID YOU SEE THIS CRASH?

Police are appealing for witnesses and dashcam footage of a crash in Withers Road, Rouse Hill on the evening of Sunday, March 26th.

Emergency services were called to Withers Road, near Mile End Road, at about 9.45pm following reports a Mazda CX9 SUV and a BMW i4 coupe had collided.

The driver of the BMW, a 45-year-old man, underwent a roadside breath test, which allegedly returned a positive result. He was then taken to Westmead Hospital for treatment and for mandatory testing.

The front passenger in the BMW, a 31-yearold woman, was taken to Westmead Hospital in a serious condition.

The driver and passenger of the Mazda, a 49-year-old man and an 18-year-old man respectively, were both taken to Westmead Hospital in a stable condition. The driver also underwent mandatory testing.

Officers from The Hills Police Area Command established a crime scene, with officers from the Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) investigating the circumstances surrounding

As inquiries continue, anyone with dashcam vision or further information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers.

GARBAGE TRUCK FIRES

Homeowners are again being asked not to dispose of batteries in their waste bins. There have been two recent fires in garbage trucks which had to tip out their burning loads. One was at 8am on Monday, March 27th at Loyalty Rd North Rocks the other was at Arcadia. In the second incident the garbage truck driver dumped his burning load next to Arcadia RFS. Crews wearing breathing apparatus extinguished the fire. The cause was found to be several discarded batteries which had ignited



in the collected rubbish. Lithium-ion batteries should not be placed in household waste or recycling bins. They can be recycled at centres which include local libraries. For safe options to dispose of batteries visit recyclingnearyou.com. au/batteries.

SPEEDY RESPONSE

A driver has been fined \$2,580 for driving at 147km/h past Parklea Markets on Sunnyholt Road on Tuesday March 28th.

Police from Riverstone Highway Patrol say they saw the vehicle travelling towards Old Windsor Road at a speed of 147km/h in a signposted 70km/h speed zone. The driver was stopped. As well as the fine he was issued with a suspension notice and advised his licence was suspended for six months. His number plates were seized for a period of three months.

The night before Hawkesbury Highway Patrol detected an 18-year-old P1 licence holder travelling at 207km/h on the M4 Motorway. P1 (red) licence holders are restricted to 90km/h. He is due in court to face charges of driving

at speed dangerous to the public and exceed speed by more than 45/km/h.

Officers from The Hills Highway Patrol have suspended the licence of a P2 licence holder who was detected driving a Toyota Hilux at 65 km/r over the sign posted speed limit on the M2 Motorway at Baulkham Hills at about 12.20am on Sunday 19th March.

Officers stopped the vehicle and spoke with a 32-year-old male driver from Greystanes who was a holder of an NSW C Class P2 licence. The driver returned negative results for alcohol and drugs. He was fined for exceeding the speed limit and his licence has been suspended for 6 months. As the vehicle was not owned by the driver the plates remain on the vehicle.

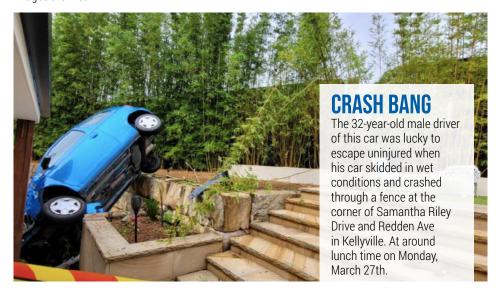
SEXTORTION WARNING

Hawkesbury Local Area Police are warning young people about the dangers of sextortion following an increase in reports to Windsor Police.

The social media platform 'Snapchat' has been used by offenders to persuade the victim into sending sexualised or explicit images. Once the images are received the offender threatens to share the content with others unless their demands for money or further images are met.

Police are warning youngsters to be cautious when interacting online and not to share any personal information with people. Parents are being warned to be vigilant over their children's online behaviour and have open discussions about sextortion and the consequences.

The eSafety Commisioner website has further information at https://www.esafety.gov. au/.../take.../deal-with-sextortion



Tiny Homes, Big Potential By BEV JORDAN

The TINY HOME EXPO is back at the Hawkesbury Showgrounds in May (12th May to 14th May), with around 40 exhibitors.

Last year's extensive flooding limited the number of exhibitors to 25 homes at the Hawkesbury Showground but all homes were sold by 11am on the first day for people needing emergency accommodation. Many were towed away after the three-day event.

Tiny Homes Expo organiser Phae Barrett said: "It was touch and go if we held the exhibition as there was so much flooding, it was dreadful. We had to limit the size of the houses on show but the community really welcomed us."

She says ticketing at this year's event and staggered entry times should mean there aren't long queues to see inside the houses which range in size from one-room wonders to three bedroom homes, and price with designs from gypsy caravans and domes to split level homes with luxury finishes, bathrooms and full decks.

The expo aims to help people get to know the variety of alternative dwellings available.

"Tiny Homes have gone from being an alternative lifestyle choice for people looking for a sustainable way of living with less stuff, to single women over 55 at risk of becoming homeless and now people aged 34 to 39 with families," Phae told the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News.

She said the interest in Tiny Homes has been pushed by COVID ("People started thinking how they lived their lives") the floods ("displaced people seeking accommodation") and the current rental shortage and interest rate rises.

Tiny Homes are popular because they offer an affordable and secure housing solution that can be moved to a different location if needed, she says.

"A growing number of people like living Off the Grid in a Tiny Home which has toilet and solar systems that can make an entire house easy to Park, Plug in and Go without needing expensive utility connections."

She said in the past 5 years the number of businesses involved in Tiny Homes had grown from 30 to over 500.

"In the past two years interest in Tiny Homes has just exploded. At our last expo a psychologist spoke about the mental well-being of people who owned their own Tiny Home, " she said.

The Expo provides a chance for people to see the homes and there are talks during the

day in the speaker hall covering aspects from grey water, solar and finding land, to finance, councils and basic design ideas.

Displays include single level and double story tiny houses on wheels to live in, shipping container homes, domes, huts, frames and trailers for DIY, luxury airBNB houses and cabins, modulars that can be used for granny flats, backyard retreats and 'add-on' rooms to your house.

The Expo is being held at the Hawkesbury Showgrounds, Friday 12 to Sunday 14 May, but due to its popularity it is a ticketed event. Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$35.

Visit the website for entry details. www. tinyhomesexpo.com.au



Election Roundup: Voters Have Spoken?

by JOSH KERWICK

The Blue ribbon seats in the Hills and Hawkesbury are a little thinner after the State Election delivered a minority Labor government with 45 seats, making Chris Minns New South Wales' 47th Premier.

Liberal candidates kept many electorates in our region like Castle Hill and Hawkesbury, as well as securing newly named electorates such as Kellyville and Winston Hills. However, Labor did gain the safe Liberal seat of Riverstone for the first time in 12 years.

The reshuffled Castle Hill electorate was won by Liberal Hills Shire Councillor and Deputy Mayor Mark Hodges, who secured 61.3% of the preference votes in the area, despite an 11.1% swing to Labor's Tina Cartwright with 38.7% of votes.

Mr Hodges said: "I have experience serving my community, first as a police officer and now as Councillor and Deputy Mayor. I'm looking

"I have experience serving my community, first as a police officer and now as Councillor and Deputy Mayor. I'm looking forward to continuing the Liberal Party's record of delivery and being a strong voice for the people of Castle Hill in the New South Wales Parliament."

"I am here for everyone in Hawkesbury and will work tirelessly for our community. I want to acknowledge your effort and belief that we could bring it home,"

forward to continuing the Liberal Party's record of delivery and being a strong voice for the people of Castle Hill in the New South Wales Parliament."

Hawkesbury's eight-candidate race yielded similar results, with current MP Robyn Preston securing 60.3% of votes through preference, though Amanda Kotlash and Labor took 39.7% of votes with a positive 6.3% swing. This is Ms Preston's second term as MP, having first been elected in 2019.

Ms Preston thanked those who supported her in the run-up to the election, stating that it was a privilege to be re-elected in the Hawkesbury. "I am here for everyone in Hawkesbury and will work tirelessly for our community. I want to acknowledge your effort and belief that we could bring it home," she said.

The new seat of Kellyville took over much of the old Castle Hill electorate, bringing with it a majority of its voter base. The Liberal Party's Ray Williams took home the new electorate with



New Coles Box Hill at Carmel Village Shopping Centre

As part of an ongoing investment in Sydney's rapidly expanding northwest, Coles has created 120 new jobs in Box Hill with the opening of their store at the brand new Carmel Village Shopping Centre.

The new Coles store has an open-front bakery, with gourmet sourdough bread and hot flatbread flipped daily and an extensive patisserie and cake range. The large deli features local and imported cheeses, cured meats and seafood on ice. With a focus on convenience, the store has been configured so that Coles' much-loved RSPCA-approved hot roast chickens, hot roast beef, and hot roast lamb are available at the front of the store, making dinners easy for busy families. In addition hot convenience snacks such as popcorn chicken are ready for customers to grab and go. The store also offers an authentic Indian grocery range and an extensive selection of ready-made meals including lasagnes and curries for added at-home convenience and. Furry friends haven't been forgotten either; there's a pet treat station with a pick and mix selectin of tasty treats for cats and dogs.

Tying into Coles' focus on sustainability, customers have the option to use free cardboard boxes to take their groceries home. The boxes are housed in a dedicated unit at

the front of the store, which is also made out of 100% post-consumer plastics. As part of Coles' ambition to become Australia's most sustainable supermarket, Coles Box Hill Carmel Village will be working toward zero waste and zero hunger, through community partnerships with the food rescue organisation SecondBite which collects surplus fresh food from the supermarket at the end of each day and redistributes it to those in need.

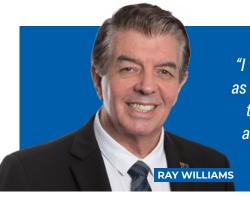
The new supermarket is complemented by a sleek new Liquorland store to give customers a single, convenient destination for food and drinks.

A Click & Collect service is available at the store, where customers can save time by ordering their groceries and liquor online from Coles Online and have them brought out to their car boot at the store, with dedicated parking bays for Click & Collect customers. Coles Online vans will also deliver directly to customers homes.

Coles Box Hill can be found at the new Carmel Village Shopping Centre on the corner of Mount Carmel Drive and Windsor Road. Trading hours are 7am – 10pm every day.



ELECTION NEWS



"I will continue to represent the area as I have done previously, continuing to advocate for important services and infrastructure that our growing area deserves."

61.1% of the preference votes, while Labor's Alex Karki secured 38.9% with a 12.0% swing.

Mr Williams said: "I will continue to represent the area as I have done previously, continuing to advocate for important services and infrastructure that our growing area deserves." He hopes to see the delivery of Rouse Hill Hospital and the completion of Memorial Avenue in his term.

Winston Hills was also a new electorate this year, replacing Seven Hills while gaining Glenwood and parts of Lalor Park. Previous Seven Hills Liberal MP Mark Taylor won the Winston Hills race, taking 52.2% from preferential votes while Labor candidate Sameer Pandey took home 47.8% of the votes.

On running for a new electorate, Mr Taylor said that he was fortunate to have made many

meaningful connections in the area before it was formed and is excited to make and strengthen more in the growing community. "I will continue to be the voice of our community and ensure the current Government does not neglect the hard-working residents of the Winston Hills electorate."

Labor's Warren Kirby won the safe Liberal seat of Riverstone after long-time MP Kevin Conolly retired from the position with 53.5% of the preferential votes and a 9.7% swing. Mohit Kumar, who aimed to succeed Conolly, earned 46.5% of the votes. Though once a safe Labor seat, it had since become a safe Liberal seat for three terms before Mr Kirby's victory.

Mr Kirby was quick to show his appreciation to Riverstone for placing their trust in him. "There is much to be done but before we roll up our sleeves I just want to take the time to acknowledge my supporters, and say thank you," he said.



"I will continue to be the voice of our community and ensure the current Government does not neglect the hard-working residents of the Winston Hills electorate." "There is much to be done but before we roll up our sleeves I just want to take the time to acknowledge my supporters, and say thank you."

e done but ur sleeves the time WARREN KIRBY

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*While stocks last. Cost includes teddy bear & birth certificate. Clothing & accessories are available at an extra cost. Once daily limit of 160 bears is reached, cost will increase to \$14 plus accessories extra.









375-383 Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills





Anzac Day and Sunday Services By BEV JORDAN

For Peter "Pedro" Inglis the annual Sunday ANZAC march through the streets of Richmond is a very special day.

This year the Sunday ANZAC service at Richmond is on April 16th and the retired Warrant Officer with 46 years of service will be marching to remember all service personnel who have lost their lives in war time and

He was just 18 years old when he signed up to join the RAAF in July 1968 after two years working on a farm and although it was during the Vietnam war he never served there.

His service included Gulf War 1 and 2, Peacekeeping tours of the Sinai, aid deliveries to New Guinea and Somalia and operations in Iraq and Kuwait. He has also been involved in winching people to safety in flood zones and received an Imperial Award for Bravery from Queen Elizabeth II.

Starting as a clerk he then trained as a crewman with Iroquois helicopters and survived two crashes during operations, which left him with multiple broken bones.

After 10 years on helicopters he worked with C-130 Hercules and trained as a Loadmaster before moving onto Boeing 707s and the Boeing Business Jet where RAAF crew were responsible for transporting VIPs across the country and overseas including Prime Ministers and Governors General. One of his most moving trips he says was taking the then PM Paul Keating to unveil a memorial in Sandakan in Borneo where over 2,000 allied prisoners were made to march 260km to Ranau as World War 2 was ending. Only six Australians survived.

"We flew the six survivors to the ceremony on 10th July 1995. It was very moving."

Peter has a real passion for war history and remembering the sacrifices made. He has spent ANZAC Day at ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli and while in the Sinai spent ANZAC day in Beersheba, where the famous Australian Light Horse Charge captured the garrison in October 1917.

His father served as a commando in the Z Special Unit in World War II. a joint Allied special forces unit formed to operate behind Japanese lines in South East Asia, but he didn't speak to his son about his wartime service until he was in his 70s.

Peter says: "To me ANZAC services are an appreciation of what our forebearers have gone through," said Peter.

"Most people who join Defence hope they never see combat but they do. It's important for me to recognise those guys who were killed during training exercises. There were many."

SERVICES

SUNDAY, 16th April: Richmond

March starts from outside the Richmond RSL sub-branch premises at 24 West Market Street at 2.30pm the commemorative service will be at Richmond War Memorial at approximately 3pm.

Members of the public with a descendent involved in any form of action of any conflict are invited to participate in the march wearing the medals or carrying a photo or displaying the name of the person.

Organisers are also encouraging members of the community and their families to attend the commemoration and line the streets around the park to support those in the procession in recognition of those who served and those who are still serving the country. Veterans from Windsor RSL sub-branch will be joining the march and service with over 300 marchers expected and up to 80 veterans.

SUNDAY APRIL 23rd: Galston

Sunday ANZAC Service the Galston Memorial Club. The ANZAC service, concert and afternoon tea has been a tradition at Galston for many years.

Organised with the Hills District RSL Sub-branch, the service starts at 2.15pm. The address will be given by Matt Kean MP. The service and wreath laying will be followed by a recital by the Hills District Pipe Band and afternoon tea. Seating is limited.



father's medals and his own

TUESDAY April 25th

- 5am: Richmond RSL Sub-branch: ANZAC dawn service will be at 4:45 for a 5 am start at Richmond War Memorial in Richmond Park on Tuesday 25th of April
- 5.30am: Riverstone-Schofields Branch of the RSL ANZAC service at the Riverstone Cenotaph located on Riverstone Parade, Riverstone. Wiseman's Ferry ceremony is at 5.30am with attendees asked to gather at 5.15am
- 6am: Windsor and District RSL Sub-branch: McQuade Park Cenotaph

Castle Hill RSL Sub-branch: Dawn Service at Centenary of ANZAC Reserve at Wright Road, Castle Hill (Opposite Kellyville Shopping Village). Attendees are asked to arrive by 5.30am. More information and story on page 19. Hills District RSL chapter: Galston Cenotaph. Lt Commander Steve Pringle giving the address.

- 9am: Pitt Town, Memorial in Bathurst Street and Wilberforce War
- 11am: March from Wisemans Ferry Police Station. March, led by the Pipers, will proceed down the main street the ANZAC Cenotaph situation.



RICHMOND WAR MEMORIAL

ANZAC SUNDAY MARCH AND COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

We would like to encourage members of the community and their families to attend this Commemoration and line the streets of Richmond to support the procession in recognition of those who served and those still serving for our country.

DATE: Sunday 16th April 2023 WHERE: Richmond War Memorial

TIME:

March commences from West Market Street at 2:30pm

Commemorative Service at Richmond War Memorial at

approximately 3:00pm

Members of the public who are a descendant of a former Veteran, of any conflict, are also invited to participate in the March wearing the medals of their Veteran, and/or carrying a photo or displaying the name of their Veteran.

ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

The community is invited to join members of Richmond RSL Sub-branch in solemn observation of the Dawn Service at 4:45 for a 5am start at the Richmond War Memorial in Richmond Park.

DATE: Tuesday 25th April 2023 WHERE: Richmond War Memorial 4:45am for a 5:00am start TIME:

For additional information about the ANZAC Day commemorations, marching as Descendants and the laying of wreaths, please contact the Richmond RSL Sub-branch Secretary, Gillian Fletcher on 0438 782 419 or the Publicity Officer, Lynette Bowles, on (02) 4578 2804.

House Down

COMMUNITY NEWS

Roald Dahl, possibly the greatest children's author of all time continues to entertain generations of readers despite his death in 1990. I can vividly recall as a small child reading Matilda, the BFG, George's Marvellous Medicine, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and all the classic Dahl stories. Recently I have been reading these books to my own daughters and despite the passing of time these books continue to appeal to the younger generations.

The latest novel we have read is the Twits, a story of two nasty adults, Mr and Mrs Twit who out of sheer hatred play horrible tricks on each other. The Twits make their own pet monkeys stand on their head for hours on end, much to the irritation of the monkeys who dream of being free. Eventually the monkeys plan their revenge and with the assistance of their bird friends, literally turn the Twit's house upside down leading to the Twits developing "the shrinks" and disappearing.

We tried to imagine what it would be like to enter our own home and find it upside down

with the furniture on the roof, the paintings upside down on the walls, the carpet stuck to the ceiling and the floor painted to look like the ceiling.

Fortunately, we didn't have to imagine for long thanks to the opening of the House Down Under, Australia's first inverted house at Rouse Hill Town Centre. The inverted house is designed to look like it has randomly dropped from the sky "Wizard of OZ" style. Stepping into the inverted house is like entering into another dimension and can be a sensory overload as your brain adjusts to everything being upside down. It takes the phrase "turn your world upside down" to a completely new level.

The inverted house is an opportunity to let your imagination run wild and create some unique and hilarious photos whilst you explore the various inverted rooms including a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, study area, kids play area, lounge room and more. We laughed as we walked on the walls, danced and cartwheeled on the ceilings, did handstands on the furniture,

jumped so high on the bed and cooked whilst upside down.

There is no limit on how long you can spend in the inverted house allowing you plenty of time to enjoy endless laughs and to capture the perfect photos. The staff are incredibly friendly, offering advice and suggestions on funny photo poses and taking group photos for you.

We concluded that as much fun as exploring a topsy turvy house was, to live in one like Roald Dahl's Twits did would be impossible. We also concluded that there is no way that the Twit's house would be as elegant or as lovely as the inverted house at Rouse Hill Town Centre.

If you are looking for something different to do these school holidays, then make sure you check out the inverted house. We can't wait to visit again and to create more fun memories. For more information on Australia's Inverted house including open hours and tickets go to https://housedownunder.com.au







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Box Hill Nelson Hall

Box Hill Nelson Progress Association has moved its meetings to the Salvation Army centre at Nelson following the sale of its premises.

The closure, at the end of last year, marked the end of an era for the hall which was built on donated lands with funds donated by the local community. A new hall to better meet the growing community's needs will be built on the opposite side of Nelson Rd.

The following was taken from a history of the hall by Jilly Warren.

The Box Hill and Nelson Progress Association was formed in 1944 and in 1947 the Association set up a Committee to raise funds to acquire land and build a Hall.

Two years later the Association's secretary Anthony Skarratt generously donated a 1 acre portion of his land fronting Nelson Rd to the Association as a gift. Members worked hard raising the funds to build the Hall.

In 1952 the Title transfer was completed and Council granted consent for the erection of the community hall. Members of the Association lent money towards the erection of the Hall.

The first meeting was held in the Hall in 1955 and it became the sole meeting place and community heart of the area.

Sometimes meetings catered for up to 100 people coming from both Box Hill and Nelson.

Over the last 75 years the members of the Progress Association have been committed to ensuring that

our local community has a local venue in which to meet.

In 1966 Council approached the Association purchase a small strip of land fronting Nelson Rd in order to widen the road.

In the 1970s the Chief Secretary's department was threatening to revoke the BHNPA's license to operate the Hall unless various repairs and upgrades were undertaken. Council proposed acting as trustees of the hall so that the necessary repairs could be carried out and insurance would be funded by Council as the BHNPA was struggling to cover the costs required due to dwindling membership.

In 1986 Hills Shire Council resumed the land. The Progress Association has always lobbied to have the site named "The Anthony Skarratt Reserve".

The new Box Hill Nelson Community
Centre will be located at the future Anthony



embers of Box Hill Nelson Progress Association at the farewell to the old hall

Skarratt Reserve, approximately over the road from the existing Nelson Road/Flower Street intersection.

The foyer is proposed to house the history of the old community Centre.

The next meeting of the Box Hill Nelson Progress Association will be on Monday, April 17th at the Salvation Army Hall at Nelson starting at 7pm.



New specialised centre for radiation oncology services - Now open

GenesisCare has opened a new cancer centre -GenesisCare Norwest, where patients have access to a team of radiation oncology specialists with extensive experience in their areas of expertise.

The centre is located adjacent to Norwest Private Hospital and will provide consulting, radiation therapy and access to allied health.

GenesisCare Centre Leader Samantha Redfearn says "We are thrilled to bring The Hills District and the surrounding area patients access to local, well-coordinated, patient centred care, delivered with the latest techniques and technology by a multidisciplinary team of cancer-specific experts.

The new specialised centre for radiation oncology services offers the latest in techniques and technology combined with compassionate care to ensure the best possible patient experience and outcomes close-to-home.

Patients will receive rapid access to well-coordinated, patient-centred care delivered by a multidisciplinary team of cancer-specific experts, including: radiation oncologists, nurses, radiation therapists, physicists, allied health specialists, and a comprehensive team of support staff.

Scan QR code for more information

*Any medical procedure or treatment involving the use of radiation carries risks, including skin irritation and associated pain. Before proceeding with treatment, you should discuss the risks and benefits of the treatment with an appropriately qualified health practitioner. Individual treatment outcomes and experiences will vary



GenesisCare Norwest New specialised centre for radiation oncology services

Now open

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At GenesisCare Norwest, you have access to a team of radiation oncology specialists with extensive experience in their areas of expertise - providing consulting, radiation therapy and access to allied health.

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Where to find us

8 Elizabeth MacArthur Drive Bella Vista NSW, 2153

Contact us

Tel: (02) 8811 8400 norwest@genesiscare.com

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"Any medical procedure or treatment involving the use of radiation carries risks, including skin irritation and associated pain. Before proceeding with treatment, you should discuss the risks and benefits of the treatment with an appropriately qualified health practitioner. Individual treatment outcomes and experiences will vary.



The Hills Shire Council News

Connect. Participate. Celebrate.

Youth Week is back and bigger than ever this April with a range of events and activities supported by The Hills Shire Council.

Outdoor Cinema + Youth Festival

Tuesday, 18 April from 1pm - 4pm at Aub Juleff Arena, Castle Hill Showground

Hills Community Aid - Family Fun Day!

Thursday, 20 April from 10am - 1pm at Balcombe Heights Estate, Turner Buildings Carpark

Youth, Get Moving! 3x3 Basketball Competition

Friday, 21 April from 1pm - 4pm at Bernie Mullane **Sports Complex**

Youth Skate Jam!

Thursday, 27 April from 3pm - 6pm at Crestwood Reserve Skatepark

Art Therapy

Saturday, 29 April from 10am - 12pm at Vinegar Hill Memorial Library & Community Centre, Level 2

The week will conclude with Youth Goes Live! at Rouse Hill Town Centre's Market Square on Saturday, 29 April from 1pm – 4pm. There will be several feature stands, a stage program showcasing our talented youth and the introduction of The Hills' 2023/2024 Youth Ambassadors.

To find out more, visit Council's website and search 'Youth Week'.

Sydney Hills Local Business Awards - Disability Inclusion

There's still time to nominate your business for the Disability Inclusion Award. The award, which was introduced by Council in 2022, acknowledges and celebrates businesses who are accessible and inclusive to people of all abilities, including their staff and customers. Nominations and voting close on Wednesday, 26 April 2023. Self-nominations are also welcome. Winners will be announced at the Sydney Hills Local Business Awards Gala Presentation on Tuesday, 30 May 2023 at Castle Hill RSL Club.

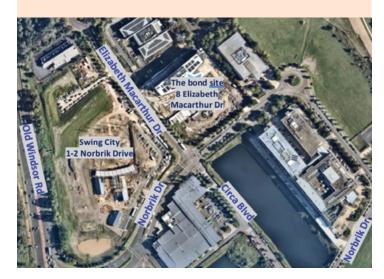
To find out more, visit Council's website and search 'Local Business Awards'.



Proposed Extension of Median Island - Elizabeth Macarthur Drive

In accordance with Section 116 of the Roads Act 1993, notice is hereby given that the existing concrete median island is to be extended on Elizabeth Macarthur Drive across the approved development (DA 1994/2018/JP/A) at No. 8 Elizabeth Macarthur Drive (Bond Site) and No. 1-2 Norbrik Drive (Swing City), Bella Vista.

All interested persons are hereby invited to provide their feedback by 5pm, Friday, 5 May 2023. For more information and to make a comment, visit Council's website and search 'Elizabeth Macarthur Drive'.



www.thehills.nsw.gov.au | 9843 0555



Wisemans Ferry Park Reopened

One of the Shire's most beloved parks and tourist destinations has been restored and reopened just in time for the Easter holiday period.

Wisemans Ferry Park, located on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, has undergone extensive repairs after it sustained severe damage in the July 2022 flood, including the removal of roughly 120 tonnes of waste and 7000 tonnes of sand.

The pathways, picnic areas, barbecue facilities and children's playground were all restored, and over 12,000m² of new turf was replaced for visitors to enjoy.

For more information visit Council's website and search 'Wisemans Ferry Park'.

Council Meetings

Tuesday, 11 April 2023 - 7pm

For more information, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Meeting Agendas and Minutes.'

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.'

A love of reading

Council's largely popular Year One Reading Club has returned in 2023 and is now open to Year One students across The Hills.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi said the Club aims to instil a love of reading in young people while helping to boost literacy skills and social performance.

Those who participate will receive a logbook and activity sheets and will earn rewards along the way, including a FREE book.

To find out more, search 'Year One Reading Club' on Council's website.





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



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Looking for ways to keep the kids entertained these school holidays?

All roads lead to The Richmond Inn

Brimming with family-friendly energy, The Richmond Inn is a watering hole for local Hawkesbury families. Take the kids for a dive in their giant ball pit, or treat them to a pub meal on Monday from 5pm, where kids eat for free! When school holidays roll around, parents can hang up the oven mits Monday through Friday, with 'kids eat free' available from 5pm on weeknights.

And the menu does not disappoint! Award-winning Chef, Brad Sloane, who was voted NSW Australian Hotels Association Chef of the Year in 2013, has curated an affordable pub menu for the whole family. From pizzas to pastas, nuggets and fish and chips, the little tikes are sure to leave with full bellies and big smiles! As the cold weather sets in for winter, parents can indulge in delicious pub classics, including homemade chicken schnitzels and quality steaks. Better yet, round out the week with a succulent Sunday roast (and the best Yorkie in town!), and entertain the kids with free face painting and balloon twisting from 1-3pm on Sunday afternoons.

Forwarding thinking for next school holidays? Mark your calendars! In July of 2022, The Richmond Inn was set to drop 50 tonnes of real snow on the pub for an all-out winter wonderland. Elsa & Olaf were set to pay a visit to the pub, winter movies were queued, and hot chocolates were ready to be poured aplenty, before the heavens opened and floods took over the region. In 2023, The Richmond Inn plans to welcome Snow Festival back to the Hawkesbury for an even bigger and better snowy spectacular.

Keep up to date with The Richmond Inn and give them a follow on socials! @richmondinnnsw.

Contact details 90 March Street, Richmond / Ph: (02) 4578 1044





Anzac Day Ambassadors

BY BEV JORDAN

This year's Castle Hill RSL Sub branch Anzac Day Dawn Service will see four young High School students talk about the Vietnam War to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's participation in the conflict.

More than 50,000 Australians served in Vietnam. Figures from the AWM show that 520 died as a result of war and almost 2.400 were wounded.

Year 11 students nominated by nine High Schools in the Hills were interviewed for the Hills Anzac Ambassadors roles. The four selected by the panel are: Aryan Roy from Oakhill College, Heidi Wilkinson from Castle Hill High, Damon Buchanan from Marian Catholic College and Gemma Oaklands from Northholm Grammar. The program, sponsored by Castle Hill RSL

Sub-branch, was started in 2015. Over the past eight years there have been 32 ambassadors.

President of Castle Hill RSL Sub-branch David Hand said it was an amazing program that added young voices to remembrance services.

"The program continues to bring out the best in the students. The sub-Branch members enjoy sharing their stories with the ambassadors and they support the continuation of the program into the future," he said.

Elizabeth Rodd who was an ANZAC Ambassador in 2019 and is a mentor said: "To me, the program represents an intergenerational promise of remembrance.

"As an ambassador, you get the opportunity to meet people with such incredible stories from a time of which young people have no concept.

Bryan Mullan (program co-ordinator), David Hand (President sub-branch), Damon Buchanan, Aryan Roy, Heidi Wilkinson, Maria Oaklands, Cheryl Hill (VP sub-branch) and Elizabeth Rodd (former ambassador)

These stories truly stick with you and can be quiet perspective-altering. My absolute favourite part of being a mentor is getting to see the faces of veterans as they tell their stories to the ambassadors. It's such a simple thing to do - just listen - but so often in these times it is a forgotten skill. For the veterans, as the ambassadors listen and engage with their stories, I see that promise light up their faces: a promise that all they endured is important and will be remembered."

Retired Colonel Don Tait who served in the 12th Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery in Vietnam during 35 years of Defence Force service said: "The Ambassador program has been a huge success, with both the students and the public benefiting from it.

"They do themselves, their families, and schools proud at each commemoration service. Australia is in good hands with young people of the calibre of the Ambassadors. I encourage the community of the Hills to come to the ANZAC Dawn Service to listen to the Ambassadors' presentations.

This year's Hills Dawn Service is on Tuesday April 25th at the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve on Wright's Road (opposite Kellyville Village shopping centre).

People are encouraged to get to the Reserve by 5.45am at the latest. The ceremony starts at 6am. There were an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 people at last year's ceremony, this year a much larger crowd is expected.



LEST WE FORGET 25TH APRIL 2023

ANZAC DAY



6AM AT CENTENARY OF ANZAC RESERVE, CASTLE HILL



CLUB OPENS AT 9AM

FOOD & BEVERAGES

AVAILABLE ALL DAY

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YOUTHFEST 2023

Connect. Participate. Celebrate.

Young people of the Hawkesbury are invited to YOUTHFEST 2023, a free event in celebration of youth!

YOUTHFEST 2023 will be held on Friday, 21 April from 1pm to 4:30pm at North Richmond Community Centre, 33 William Street, North Richmond. It is for youth aged 12 to 25 years and no bookings are required, just come along to enjoy an afternoon of live music, an obstacle course, taekwondo demonstrations, face painting and glitter tattoos, books/chess/Connect 4, a BBQ, coffee, ice cream, slushies and more!

Other local activities held in the Hawkesbury to celebrate Youth Week this year will be:

- Bowen Mountain Hub Nature Craft Workshops: Thursday, 13 April from 1pm to 2:30pm (12-18 years) Bowen Mountain Park Hall, 103 Lieutenant Bowen Road, Bowen Mountain. Bookings required by emailing taryn.leahy@hawkesbury.nsw.qov.au
- Wilberforce OOSH Futuristic Transport Craft Workshops: Wednesday,19
 April from 9:30am to 10:30am and 11am to midday.
 8 Macquarie Road, Wilberforce. Bookings required by calling 4575 1860 or emailing wilberforceoosh@hotmail.com
- Glossodia Community Centre Karaoke and Disco Party: Thursday, 20 April from 11am to 1pm. 162 Golden Valley Drive, Glossodia – Bookings required by calling 4576 5542
- Platform Youth Services Nearest and Dearest Dinner: Thursday,
 20 April from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Bookings required by calling 4760 0800 –
 address and more information available when booking
- Bligh Park Youth Centre (Tiningi) Karaoke Night: Thursday, 20 April from 4pm to 8pm.139 Colonial Drive, Bligh Park – Bookings required by calling 0476 946 858.
- Juice for Youth (hosted by PCYC) Richmond Marketplace: Thursday, 27 April from 4pm onwards. Richmond Marketplace, 78 March Street, Richmond.

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Bright Agreement

New energy saving street lights are set to save money and reduce greenhouse gasses in seven council areas including Hills Shire Council and Hawkesbury City Council.

Thanks to an agreement with Endeavour Energy, the electricity distributor for greater Western Sydney, the councils will install 52,200 new energy-saving LED streetlights, replacing older, less efficient 'mercury vapour' light bulbs.

The rollout of the LED streetlights in the Blacktown City LGA, Blue Mountains City, Cumberland City, Hawkesbury City, The Hills Shire, Lithgow City, and Liverpool City is expected to save Western Sydney ratepayers more than \$3.2 million in energy costs each year and reduce greenhouse gases. Residents across the seven council areas will also benefit from brighter, more reliable, and higher-quality street lighting and improved public safety.

Andrew Pitman, General Manager of Business Services, Endeavour Energy said the Western Sydney Energy Program will save more than 14,000 of tCO2. each year – the equivalent to taking over 6,000 cars off the road for a year.

"The new LED streetlights are up to 60 per cent more energy efficient and have a significantly longer life than mercury lights lasting up to 20 years," he said.

The Western Sydney Energy Program is coordinated by Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC), the peak body representing councils in Greater Western Sydney.

"Street lighting makes up a very large part of councils' electricity bill," said WSROC President, Councillor Barry Calvert. "Public street lighting costs ratepayers millions of dollars each year, with street lighting dominating councils' energy costs. So, anything councils can do to reduce costs — and carbon emissions — will allow councils to redirect funding to other projects, infrastructure and wider services."

For details about the Western Sydney Energy Program, go to https://wsroc.com.au/projects/project-western-sydney-energy-program



Non-stop laughs at the Pavilion Theatre

by JOSH KERWICK

It must have been a struggle to keep all the laughter within the walls of the Pavilion Theatre for the packed opening night of *Funny Money*, the latest production from Castle Hill Players.

The story follows Henry Perkins (Ben Freeman) after he brings home the wrong briefcase, finding £735,000 instead of his belongings. The play runs at a million laughs a minute, audience members barely done chuckling before they burst out in more laughter.

Despite Castle Hill Players' storied history, Funny Money is still a production of many firsts. For one, it's the first time directing at the Pavilion for theatre veteran Julian Floriano, but theatre regulars will notice some fresh faces in the cast too, particularly in the character of Detective Davenport, played by 22-year old Baulkham Hills local and actor Ben Wheeler in his first role at the Pavilion Theatre. He was drawn to audition for Funny Money due to both his love for comedic acting and the Pavilion's reputation for high quality productions.

A bent copper, Davenport is always looking to get the one up on the other characters, proudly bribing and blackmailing his way through the play's two-hour runtime.

Ben describes Davenport as a cheeky character: "If he sees someone come up with

a narrative that he knows is not correct, he's thinking 'I'm gonna use this and blackmail this guy on the spot to get more money,' which is hilarious to play."

Ben has spent the last year on a variety of film and television sets after graduating from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in theatre studies, after a few years of pandemicaffected tertiary education. From extras roles on *Home and Away* and *The Australian Wars* to spending months on blockbuster movie sets rubbing shoulders with A-list stars and directors, Ben couldn't have predicted how his life in the last year was going to go: "It's really shaped my view of the film and television industry

and pushed me into overdrive to go yep, this is exactly what I want to do."

Left to Right are Ben Wheeler (Davenport)

Stephen Snars (Vic) and Ben Freeman (Henry)

ENTERTAINMENT

Yet there's an element to community theatre that Ben finds equally bedazzling as an actor. "Community theatre, it's fascinating to see because everyone there comes from so many different walks of life. We've had this real camaraderie with each other, and it's fun to play our characters who haven't interacted with each other, but offstage we're all just talking, having fun in the green room. It's just this mashup of people that are all there to create a piece of art."

You can see Ben and the rest of his exceptional cast in *Funny Money* until 22nd of April at the Pavilion Theatre.





MACK is a lovely sweet boy who staff at the

been an absolute pleasure to look after. They

say Mack walks well on the lead and has been good with the other dogs while at the shelter.

If you are interested in adopting Mack please

visit the animal shelter with your whole family.

As one this week's featured dogs his adoption

price has been reduced to \$49. The adoption

price includes the first vaccination, desexing,

Number is: R251000145.

microchipping and life-time council registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation

Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say has

time council registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation

BANDIT is an active and obedient dog according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. Staff say Bandit would be best suited to a family who are able and willing to take him out on weekend adventures with them. If you are interested in adopting Bandit please bring your family dog and children to the animal shelter to meet him. As one this week's featured dogs, Bandit's adoption price has been reduced to \$49. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and life-

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

Number is: R251000145.

MITCH is a friendly and well-behaved boy according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. They say Mitch would be best-suited to a home where he will be allowed to spend time with the family. If you are interested in meeting Mitch please visit the animal shelter with your whole family and dog so that staff can be sure they will all

get on well together. As one this week's featured dogs his adoption price has been reduced to \$49. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and life-time council registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.



AT A GLANCE

NAME: MITCH SEX: Male BREED: American Staffy AGE: 3 year PRICE: \$49

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Local Aussie Success

Hills based manufacturing company, Australian Pump Industries, celebrates 30 years in business this month.

From humble beginnings in a large green shed in Arcadia, the company has flourished to become a major force in the water industry, not just in Australia but in export markets globally.

Founded on the simple principle of putting users first, the company has developed a product line of self priming pumps and pressure cleaners that are leaders in the market.

Based on a 2 ½ acre complex in Castle Hill, the company recruits, trains and develops locals from the Hills District.

The ISO 9001 accredited the company is now forging ambitious expansion plans as they search for a larger base in the area and new staff to support the projected growth. Aussie is expanding production and warehousing capability. Expansion means they need more customer focused sales and marketing professionals.

"It's been a really exciting journey and reflecting back on the progress we've made makes you proud to be part of such a success story," said Hamish Lorenz, Aussie Pumps Operations Manager and one of the founding members. "Of course we also salute and thank our loyal Aussie Gold Distributors who provide local support and advice for our customers both in Australia and around the world."

Contact Aussie Pumps for more information about the positions and job opportunities available.



By GISELA HORNER

BELLA VISTA FARM opened its gates last Sunday 2nd April. With a visit by the Easter Bunny, an Easter Egg Hunt, Easter story time, craft, face painting, a baby animal farm and a visit by the Mayor of Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi, the children's delight couldn't be dampened - despite the weather.

Tours were held at the House. The Trash and Treasure stall, Devonshire Teas/Hot Cross Buns and Sausage Sizzle served by the Friends helped to instill the usual warmth emanating from the Farm's delightful setting. On a rainy day, it takes on a misty beauty and highlights the majesty of the trees and greenery. Bella Vista Farm is worth a visit at any time. It is situated Corner Elizabeth Macarthur Drive and Norwest Boulevard, Bella Vista. Open the first Sunday of each month (excluding January). Next date is Sunday 7th May 0900-1400 with Heritage Celebrations





COMMUNITY NEWS



Ann loves to cook moussaka and share it with her friends.

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Kellyville rower Michelle Lee yearns for pancakes after epic voyage

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

Kellyville's all-conquering Michelle Lee arrived safely in Port Douglas and stepped off her boat The Australian Maid at 9.49am AEST on Wednesday, 5th April to the cheers of family, friends and a crowd of onlookers. Her GP, Dr Adrian Cohen, was the first to greet Michelle after her 237-day journey rowing 14,000km to become the first woman to row solo and unassisted across the Pacific Ocean, surviving five hurricanes and four cyclones.

Her arrival via the Great Barrier Reef was put back a few days due to strong outgoing tides, according to her team, though her spirits remain high as "I'm now dreaming of stepping on land". "At the moment it's some really conscious focused hours of the oars with the finish line now in sight," she posted a few weeks ago.

The courageous 50-year-old will become the first woman to row solo, unassisted, and with no stops across the Pacific Ocean,



celery, capsicum, and cucumber – plus of course a shower and sleeping on a bed with clean sheets.

Her perilous solo rowing odyssey across 14,000km began back on August 8 in Mexico.

"My patience has been tried and tested, I'm ready to land. I'm now just dreaming of stepping on land," Michelle said. "That stack of pancakes is going to be so amazing, as is a bunch of celery, some chopped capsicum, and cucumber.

"A bed with fresh sheets – so divine – and a shower, and to get my hair done as well! I expect it will take me a week to become a socially acceptable human again."

This is the second huge solo rowing journey the massage therapist has completed, with her 5000km Atlantic Ocean crossing over 68 days seeing her being crowned Australian Geographic Adventurer of the Year in 2019.

Michelle's 14,000km journey in the 7.7x2m carbon fibre boat, The Australian Maid, took

her across the Equator and into the path of hurricanes and cyclones, including Cyclone Gabrielle which saw her locked down for more than a week.

Kellyville's Michelle Lee is the first woman to row solo,

unassisted, and with no stops across the Pacific Ocean.

A month ago, Michelle enjoyed her last full moon at sea with some Easter eggs and sparkling wine. Her journey has included stunning marine life encounters including orcas, giant blue whales, and migratory birds.

The Quays Marina owner Richard White, one of her supporters said Michelle's tenacity in planning her journey won the support of his business: "I watched her never give up and that's the tenacity needed to complete a recordbreaking row like this."

The Hills local certainly inspires all of us, as she stays true to her motto: "Don't die wondering. Start thinking you can and you will."



New sports fields will transform The Hills

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

North Kellyville is being transformed into a haven for sports lovers and families with three facilities under construction including Samantha Riley Reserve, Withers Road Reserve, and Stringer Road Reserve.

New playgrounds are also being built at the Deepwater Circuit Reserve and Kumbatine Crescent Reserve, in North Kellyville.

The Hills Shire Council is keen to provide more sporting opportunities to the Hills residents with the new sporting complexes also coming up at Bridle Parkway Reserve, Box Hill, and the George Thornton Reserve at West Pennant Hills.

"It is a key priority of council to provide new and upgraded facilities for our growing region, catering for our new residents, athletes, teams and sports," Mayor Dr Peter Gangemi said. "Our Shire is home to more than 300 parks, reserves and playgrounds, as well as a world-class fitness and aquatic centre.

"As mayor, I am so proud that council is delivering these fantastic sporting complexes that will allow people of a range of ages and abilities to train, socialise and play the sport that they love. It's also in these local grounds where sporting legends are born, and future record breakers are made.

There will be two cricket ovals and practice nets at the Brindle Parkway Reserve in Box

Hill. This includes an amenities building with accessible toilets, change rooms, storage, and a kiosk. The reserve will feature a playground, a picnic shelter, and a car park.

Over at the Samantha Riley Reserve, there will be four multi-purpose rectangular natural turf sports fields that can also reconfigured into two ovals and two cricket wickets. There will be two practice cricket nets, a basketball half court, a 200-space car park, an amenities building, a referees room, storage facilities, and a kiosk.

The Stringer Road Reserve will boast four multi-purpose rectangular natural turf sports fields that can also be reconfigured into two ovals and one cricket wicket, cricket nets, and two multi-purpose basketball courts. Other facilities include a playground, car park, amenities building, and pathway around the fields.

At the Withers Road Reserve, there will be a half basketball court, a turf kick-about area, and a playground to cater to a wide range of age groups and abilities.

The Kenthurst Park expansion has been completed, increasing the size of the southern sports ground area to accommodate two

The Hills Mayor Dr Peter Gangemi turns the first sod at the George Thornton Reserve.

SPORTS NEWS

full-sized playing fields. There is an improved cricket outfield and the retainment of the turf cricket square.

A new synthetic cricket pitch and practice nets will make the George Thornton Reserve a much sought-after field. When completed, this reserve will have a larger playing field area on the western side, which will feature a full-sized sports ground and lighting.



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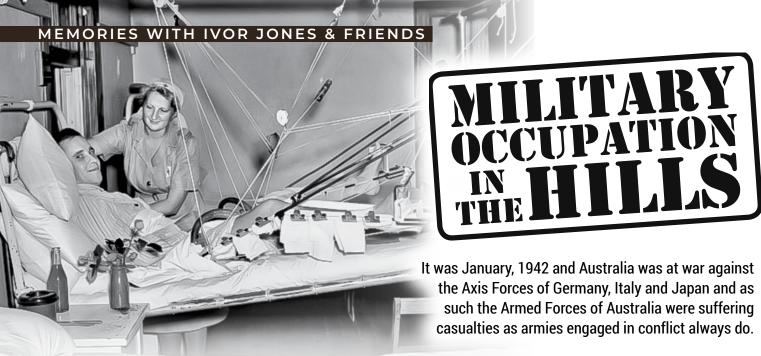
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Where to send the wounded troops, airmen and naval personnel? Well one such place well away from zones of conflict would have to be the Hills district of Sydney.

A letter was sent from the Eastern Command of the Army to the Freemasons in NSW requesting that they make Masonic Schools at Baulkham Hills available as a site for a Military Hospital. The Freemasons agreed as long as the complex was returned, after hostilities ceased, in the same condition as when the Army took control.

As it turned out, however, much damage had been sustained by the Masonic School during the military occupation but there were also some improvements in that a sewerage system had been installed and some roads had been laid down. The school had not been returned to the Freemasons at the cessation of hostilities and the Minister for Defence was asked why. Repairs to the school after it was eventually returned to the Masons were in the vicinity of 58,741 pounds of which the Army eventually paid 50,000 pounds.

After some preparatory work on buildings and grounds the Military Hospital, named

the 103rd General Hospital, had moved in by September of 1942. Ten school dormitory blocks had been converted to hospital wards. Other buildings were converted into the main kitchen, an operating theatre, dental surgery, dark room and x-ray room. Tents were also erected as temporary accommodation for staff which were eventually replaced with 52 prefabricated huts in October 1944. The army also erected ablution and latrine blocks and accommodation huts for the nursing sisters and other personnel. Slit trenches were dug in the grounds to provide protection from air raids.

The ABC Staff War Funds Committee organised the building and equipping of a recreation wing at the hospital and a Red Cross Centre was established. The school's swimming pool was well used for relaxation by the staff and by the patients, many of whom were amputees, who also used the facilities for specialised physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

It had been proposed back in January 1942 that the school would be a 1200 bed General Hospital however it was revealed in January 1943 it had only 700 beds available for those

suffering wounds or malaria from the front lines in New Guinea and the Middle East. It was not until the following September that it was able to cater for more patients.

After the repairs to the school had been completed and the Army had moved out, the complex was officially reopened as a school in November 1947 when the children returned. By 1974 many of the buildings were in need of repair and changes in ideas of institutionalising children were being reconsidered. The Masons decided to sell the site and the, then Baulkham Hills Shire Council, (now The Hills Shire Council) bought the site, subdividing and selling off some of the site for residential homes. Areas were retained for recreation and sporting purposes and many of the buildings for use by community groups including a building currently used as a museum operated by the Hills District Historical Society and another nearby building for a community radio station and studios operated by Alive 90.5. Both are worthwhile community organisations with which I have had past association, serving in Executive positions with both groups.

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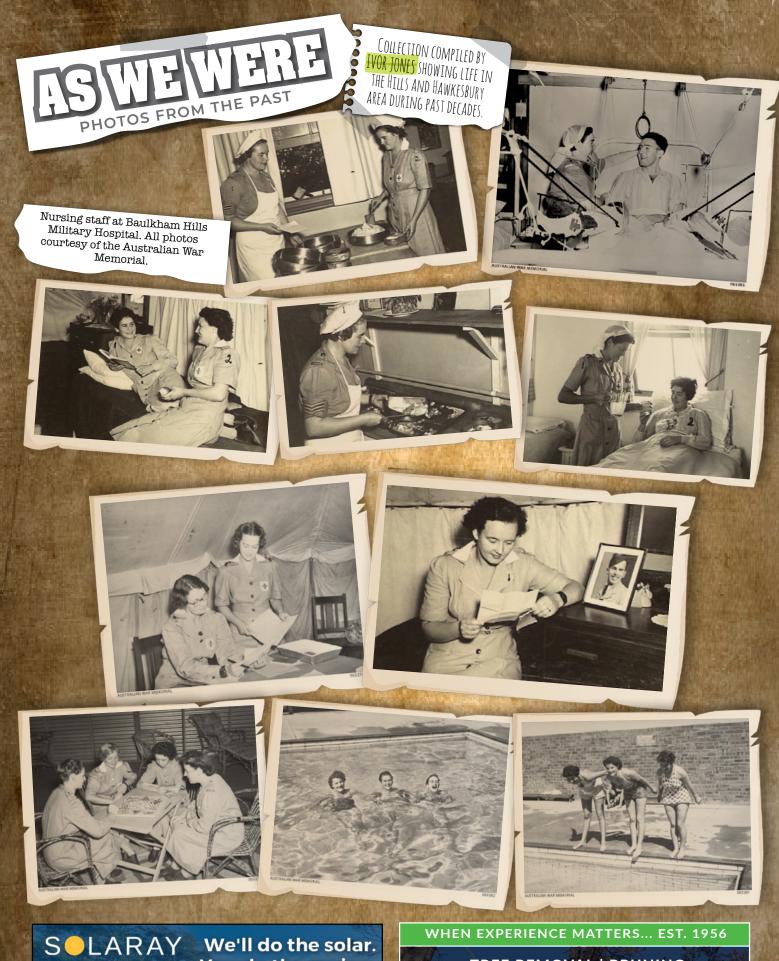
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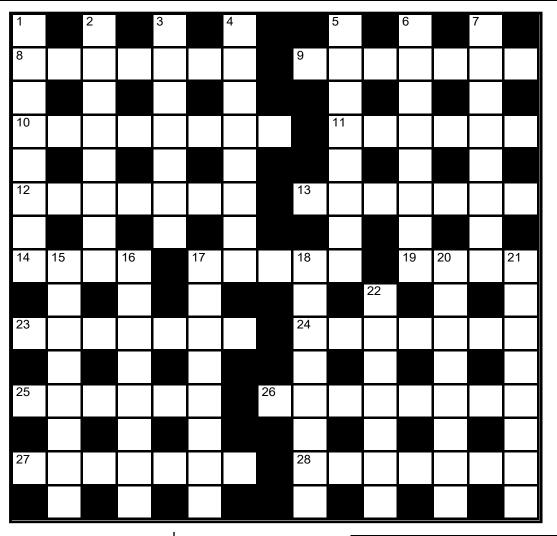
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Across

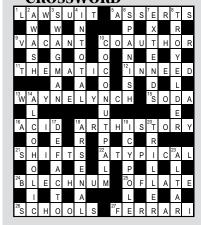
- 8. Burn
- 9. Illusory pointer to gold
- 10. Used in cooking
- 11. Bring forth
- 12. Bring up
- 13. Very detailed (2, 5)
- 14. Dark-grey waterbird
- 17. Second largest stringed instrument
- 19. Youth charity (1, 1, 1, 1)
- 23. Impacts
- 24. Asks over
- 25. Gets up late (4, 2)
- 26. Shrill
- 27. Comments
- 28. Frequent-flyer perk

Down

- 1. Explosively violent
- 2. Cattle station trainee
- 3. Pride young 'un (4, 3)
- 4. Not far away (4, 4)
- 5. Inherited (4, 4)
- 6. Wholly
- 7. Kind of medicine
- 15. Assistant
- 16. You know what I'm drinking (3, 5)
- 17. In a rage, you might get as mad as one (3, 5)
- 18. Behave in a vulgar way (4, 2, 2)
- 20. Like unicorns
- 21. Designated
- 22. Unremarkable

Answers from last issue

CROSSWORD





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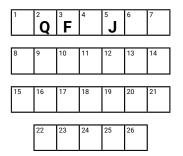




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CODE WORD

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.



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

WORD SEARCH

RIDING A BIKE

BALANCE HELMET

BEARINGS HORN

BELL LIGHTS

BICYCLE PEDAL

BRAKE PUMP

CABLE PUNCTURE

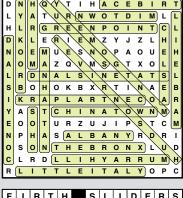
CHAIN SADDLE

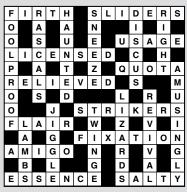
DYNAMO SPOKE

GEAR UNICYCLE

GLOVES WHEEL

Answers from last issue







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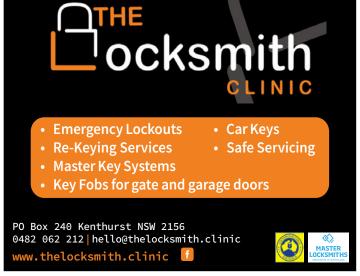












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