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Community News

21st April – 5th May 2023 | Volume 40 – Issue 8
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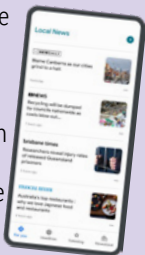


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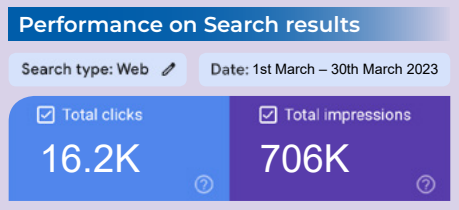
If you like reading the latest news all in one place, well now you can. The Hills to Hawkesbury Community News is now featured on Google News. With the Google News app (or via a web browser) you can now read local, national and international news all in one place. Just search our name, then 'follow' 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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Hills Relay for Life

By BEV JORDAN

You may be surprised to know that the Hills Relay for Life is not a race but a community gathering which does more than raise funds for cancer research and support programs.



This year's event starts at 9am on Saturday May 20th at Castle Hill Showground and promises something for everyone with all-day on-stage entertainment, stalls, food, coffee and trackside activations.

The first lap of the track is for Cancer survivors and carers which will be followed by a special survivors and carers morning tea.

The twilight candlelight ceremony of Remembrance starts at 6pm. There is a silent disco from 11pm to take people through the night and on Sunday May 21st there will be the return of dog hour.

So far, there are 70 teams registered for the 2023 Hills Relay including local businesses, schools, service groups, churches, youth organisations and groups of families and friends.

There are hundreds of reasons why people Relay. Mother of two Lisa Carruthers, joined Hills Relay For Life as a team member 8 years ago, motivated by her mum's journey with breast and liver cancer.

Lisa said: "She was and still is my inspiration, every day." Lisa now chairs the community organising committee.

"There is such a carnival atmosphere at Relay," said Lisa. "As you walk around you see neighbours and friends catching up and there is so much to see and enjoy. You really can see

four generations in action to make a difference in the cancer journey."

This year's event will have the added value of pedal power with a 24-hour static cycle challenge for Hills Relay For Life participants. The highest fundraising team in the challenge will win an Electra Townie Go eBike valued at \$2,400 donated by Trek Cycles at Rouse Hill.

Lisa said the trackside activations will keep people moving and entertained during the day and also include a box car rally and a fancy hat parade.

Since Hills Relay was founded in 2001 the Hills participants have raised over \$5m for Cancer Council NSW.

Lisa thanked all the event sponsors but in particular the Purple sponsors: Castle Towers, Event Cinemas and CHRG (Castle Hill RSL Group).

To register visit The Hills Relay For Life website at <https://www.relayforlife.org.au/register/hills-2023> and follow the Hills Relay For Life Facebook Page for updates and details.

Hills Relay for Life volunteers will be wrapping Mother's Day gifts for a gold coin donation at Castle Towers from Monday May 8th to Saturday May 13th during centre shopping hours. All funds raised will go to the Cancer Council.

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. Printed copies are available at local shopping centres and other outlets. For a full list visit our website www.hillstohawkesbury.com.au.

ICAC Inquiry into Council

by BEV JORDAN

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has reportedly launched an investigation into alleged impropriety within the Hills Shire Council.

A spokesperson for the Premier, Chris Minns, confirmed to the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News that at the request of the corruption watchdog the newly elected State government would not, at this stage, be pushing ahead with a public inquiry into the council as it may impact on the ICAC investigation.

The ICAC investigation follows the tabling of a report by an Upper House Committee Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region.

That 478-page document report, tabled on March 2nd, weeks before the State election, asked for certain matters to be referred to ICAC.

The eight member Upper House committee, included 3 Liberal MPs, 1 Nationals MP and 3 Labor MPs was chaired by Greens MP Sue Higginson who said the "serious allegations of collusion between members of the Liberal party and a developer to replace elected members of The Hills Shire Council with new councillors" and revelations about "branch-stacking activities in The Hills area" were concerning.

The report stated: "We stress that none of the allegations raised in this inquiry reflect on the professionalism and integrity of (Hills Shire) council staff, who are required to work with whichever councillors are elected."

The Upper House inquiry was set up to examine matters raised by the then Castle Hill Liberal MP Ray Williams in State Parliament on June 23rd last year which were made under parliamentary privilege.

Mr Williams claimed in parliament that Toplace owner Jean Nassif had given Liberal members "significant funds" to replace elected members of the council with new councillors who would be more amenable to new developments.

Mr Williams was elected as Liberal member for the newly named seat of Kellyville in the March 25th 2023 election. Hills councillor (and then Deputy Mayor) Mark Hodges was elected as Liberal MP for Castle Hill.

The committee recommended that the influence of property developers and others in political, legal and democratic processes in the Hills Shire region be referred to the

Independent Commission Against Corruption for investigation.

The Upper House report was handed down on March 2nd and has been tabled for a Government response on June 2nd.

A spokesperson for Hills Shire Council said: "The Council will not be making any comment about ICAC's investigation into the matters which have been the subject of media reporting to allow the ICAC to do its important work without causing prejudice to any investigation.

"Council will take all necessary steps to assist ICAC with their inquiries should it be called upon to do so and will not make any further statements on the matter until the investigation is complete.

"In the meantime, Council remains focused on delivering services and providing facilities that Hills residents expect and rely upon."

To find the Upper House report visit <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/inquiries/2908/Report%20no%2018%20-%20PC%207%20-%20Hills%20Shire%20Council%20inquiry.pdf>

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MURDER SUSPECTS

A 33-year-old Castle Hill man and a 58-year-old man faced Parramatta court today (April 12th) charged with the alleged murder of 86-year-old Kalim Saliba at his Cherrybrook home nearly three years ago.

Emergency services were called to the Saliba family home in Tallowood Avenue, Cherrybrook at 12.30am on Wednesday 29th April 2020 following reports two men had forced entry to the home.

Police found Mr Saliba and 83-year-old wife Josephine with serious head injuries. They were treated at the scene before being taken to Westmead Hospital, where Mr Saliba, who had been defending his wife during the alleged home invasion, later died.

Officers from Ryde Police Area Command commenced initial inquiries into the incident before detectives from the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad took carriage of the investigation under Strike Force McCleery.

Following extensive inquiries Danny Stephen aged 33 was arrested at Castle Hill (pictured) and 58-year-old Tony Tadrose at a facility in Silverwater. They were charged with murder and specially aggravated break

and enter and commit serious indictable offence.

Detective Superintendent Danny Doherty said the men had distant family ties to the couple.

Police will allege it was a targeted robbery, with Saliba a well-known businessman in the area. The Saliba family owned an apple orchard in Bilpin which was up for sale at the time of the attack.

Supt Doherty said: "They would have seen him as an easy target for money ... it also demonstrates how callous, craven and cowardly this act was, picking on an elderly couple in their own home".

He said Saliba, a beloved husband, grandfather and father, was "brutally" and "horribly" attacked.

"Police allege a blunt instrument was used to cause serious head injuries to both husband and wife."

A \$1 million reward announced by police in December 2021 for information had helped lead to the arrests.



The Saliba family said they were extremely thankful to police for their persistence over the past three years.

In a statement released today the family said: "This has understandably been a traumatic and emotional time for our family.

"We lost a treasured family member, and continue to grieve the loss every day.

"While the court process is underway, our family requests privacy at this time."

Both men are due back in court in June.

DAD CHARGED

A dad dropping off his 6-year-old at a local primary school has been charged with drink driving.

Officers from The Hills Highway Patrol were conducting school enforcement at a Public School in Baulkham Hills at about 8.20am on Wednesday 5th April when they noticed a vehicle stopped in a sign posted "No Stopping" area.

The 45-year-old driver from Baulkham Hills was dropping off his 6-year-old child.

When the driver was spoken to officers observed his movements to be very slow with slurred speech. Another 12-year-old child was seated in the vehicle.

The driver was breath tested returning a positive reading to alcohol.

Police arranged for the 12-year-old child to be driven to the local High School. The driver was arrested and conveyed to Castle Hill Police Station returning a reading of 0.100 grammes of alcohol per 210 litres of breath.

His drivers' licence was immediately confiscated and suspended. He is due before Parramatta Local Court this month for Drive with Mid-Range PCA – 1st Offence & Disobey "No Stopping" sign (school zone).

Due to the seriousness of the offence and the age of the children, The Hills Highway Patrol reported the incident to Family & Community Services.

PASSENGER INJURED

P-Plate driver was arrested for drink driving following a crash in Carramarr Rd, Castle Hill at about 1.45am on Saturday, April 15th.

Officers from the Hills Police Area Command attended the scene following reports that a Toyota Hilux Utility had crashed into a pole.

A female passenger was conveyed to Westmead Hospital with minor injuries.

The driver, a 22-year-old man, underwent a roadside breath test which returned a positive result. He later returned a reading of 0.076 back at the station. He was issued a traffic infringement notice and License was suspended.

DRAMATIC ARRESTS

Five teenage girls were arrested following a pursuit of a stolen car which ended up in Amphitheatre Circuit (off Seven Hills Rd) at Baulkham Hills at around lunch time on Tuesday, 11th April.

The small hatchback, which had been reported stolen over 140kms away from Jesmond near Newcastle earlier in the day, had been tracked by PolAir, the police helicopter.

The occupants of the car fled near Astoria Park Road but were rounded up by the police and a police dog. The 16-year-old female driver has been charged with several offences. Her four 12-year-old passengers were issued with Cautions.

FOUND SAFE

PolAir, the Police Aviation Command's helicopter located a missing 73-year-old woman in Kenthurst. Family members reported the 73-year-old who has dementia, missing at 10pm on Easter Sunday.

A ground search was conducted by Castle Hill Police and the Police Dog Unit. PolAir located the missing person in nearby bushland just after midnight.

Police say she was suffering from cold and scratches but otherwise was ok.

HISTORIC ABUSE

Police have launched an investigation into reported child sex abuse offences in the state's Hawkesbury region during the 1980s.

Detectives attached to Hawkesbury Police Area Command established Strike Force Twill in October 2022, following a number of reports of alleged child sex abuse that occurred at a holiday park in Wisemans Ferry.

Police have been told between the years 1982 and 1987, a resident of a holiday park allegedly sexually assaulted a number of young boys.

As inquiries continue, police are appealing for anyone who may be able to assist detectives, including anyone who holidayed in the area at that time and witnessed suspicious behaviour.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

Warragamba Dam Wall Won't Be Raised

By JOSH KERWICK

The new Labor government has officially announced that they will not be proceeding with the Liberal plan to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

Minister for Water Rose Jackson made the party's stance on the dam clear in response to questions asked by Hills to Hawkesbury Community News: "We have always opposed the raising of the Warragamba dam wall. We went to the election with this position," she said. "The project will not guarantee communities in Western Sydney will be safe from flood events. We know raising the wall will flood the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area; inundating 1,200 Aboriginal sites and artefacts, destroying habitat for critically endangered species and risk Blue Mountains' World Heritage listing."

Hawkesbury Mayor Sarah McMahon was "furious" about the news. She passed a Mayoral Minute on Tuesday night asking Premier Minns to attend a council meeting to discuss plans for flood mitigation the day before it was announced the dam wall plan was scrapped. Ms McMahon criticised the move as an abandonment of the recovering Hawkesbury community who are still grappling with the repercussions of flooding.

"We may have a new State Government, but there is no time to delay when it comes to flood mitigation, flood recovery and flood resilience for the Hawkesbury," Ms McMahon said. "As your Mayor, this will continue to be

one of my top priorities for our community. I'm therefore inviting the new Premier of NSW to the Hawkesbury, to urgently inform us how his new Government will help us when it comes to devastating floods."

The proposal for the Warragamba Dam wall's raising has been subject to heavy debate, especially given the severe flooding that Hawkesbury has recently experienced. In just sixteen months, there have been four major flooding events which still continue to affect many residents who are yet to fully recover. The previous Perrotet government had declared the project as Critical State Significant Infrastructure and vowed to commit to the build if re-elected.

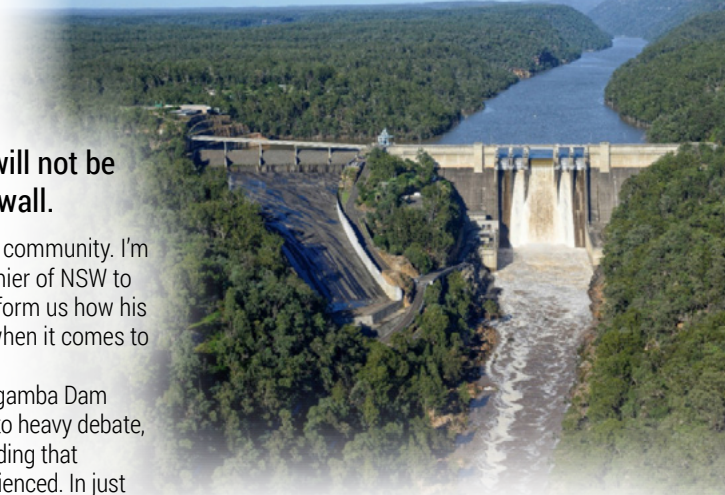
The Warragamba Dam Wall project was first introduced as part of a Hawkesbury-Nepean flood management proposition in 2017 and immediately became a contentious issue. The wall would have been raised by 14 metres with the goal of preventing serious flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean area. However, those who opposed raising the wall cited environmental concerns and questioned its ability to be a viable long-term solution.

Many are very pleased with the State Government's decision. Local activist group GIVE A DAM have been fighting against the wall

raising for years and are extremely pleased that their protest has paid off. They thanked their supporters on Facebook, saying that "we could not have achieved this without your support." Harry Burkitt, who has campaigned with GIVE A DAM for many years, also expressed his gratitude to the Federal Government for repealing the plan.

Gundungurra activist and traditional owner Kazan Brown is also deeply pleased with the news, describing it as a huge relief that the plan will not go ahead. Burratorang Valley, which Kazan's family has strong connection to, would have been one of the areas to have local culture destroyed in times of flood.

Rose Jackson reiterated the promises of levies in key areas, investment in evacuation routes and protection of key communication infrastructure that were made as part of Labor's recent state election campaign.



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The RuffTRACK Difference

By BEV JORDAN

Having a few laughs with friends is always a good idea but the Comedy For A Cause Event at Castle Hill RSL on Friday, May 5th has a serious intent behind it.

The comedy showcase is a major fundraiser for RuffTRACK charity which has been making a huge difference to troubled youngsters in the Hawkesbury region for over four years with the help of dogs.

Founded by Farmer Dave (Dave Graham) at a Riverstone farm it has helped over 80 kids aged between 12 and 17 in the past four years by bonding them with dogs and working with them over a 10-week program.

One group (pictured) has just finished a packed 12-days showing off their dogs and new learned skills at the Royal Easter Show where they held 108 demonstrations.

Farmer Dave has spent his life with dogs and farm animals and he knows the power they have to trigger change in people.

"When you see a kid and dog bond, that is magic. Animals create doorways that don't exist and allow us to be able to break down barriers and increase kindness, compassion and healthy communication," he said.

Dave had been involved in the BackTRACK program set up by Armidale by Bernie Shakeshaft in Tamworth when he was approached to run a local program in the Hawkesbury by Hawkesbury Youth Liaison Officer Constable Belinda Flynn.

"The need for this program in the Hawkesbury area was so evident," said Dave. "This type of program is all about the future and how to make change happen."

The RuffTRACK team are working with disengaged youngsters to give them skills, a sense of worth and reconnect them with their community.



Farmer Dave and the RuffTRACK crew at the Easter Show

At the "heart" of the program are the dogs which each participant gets to choose and is paired with throughout the program.

"It is through that dog they can understand about healthy relationships, kindness, compassion and compatibility," says Dave. "They understand that there is no place for violence in a relationship. They do sheep herding with their dogs to understand that if you work alongside your mate you can achieve things. The dogs are a bridge for kids. When you can take violence out of the toolkit of a kid you can take violence out of society."

The results have shown increased school attendance, a decrease in police contact, a reduction in family violence and attendance at events.

At the moment there are 25 youngsters on the RuffTRACK program with new students coming in every term. There are currently 55 on the waiting list.

It costs \$4000+GST to support a participant through the 10 week program. As well as raising money to support teenagers through the program RuffTRACK is working hard to raise \$3million to buy its own farm in the Hawkesbury region to expand the program.

According to Hawkesbury Police there has been a 65% success rate with youngsters it has placed on the program.

RuffTRACK has just received a grant to run a coffee and food trailer at local markets and its own shows to help its participants gain skills in customer service and hospitality and so improve their employment opportunities.

If you want to know more about RuffTRACK visit www.rufftrack.com or visit its Facebook Page. If you want a good laugh book a ticket to the comedy night on Friday 5th May at Castle Hill RSL.



Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

Give a little time for someone who's out of time

Caring for someone approaching the end of their life can be a uniquely rewarding and enlightening experience.

The Nepean Hawkesbury Palliative Care Volunteer Service, coordinated through Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District, is seeking volunteers who are patient, flexible and non-judgmental.

Jenni cared for her husband, Jeff who had motor neurone disease. Sadly, Jeff passed away in early 2019.

"Our volunteer carer Margaret seemed like an instant friend. She and Jeff hit it off from the beginning. I needed to get out for different things and knowing Margaret was there made those times easier," says Jenni.

Volunteer carer Margaret (pictured middle) says, "It's a privilege to be welcomed into someone's home at such a difficult time. For me, it's about doing what I can to ease the burden, both for the carer and for the patient."

The Nepean Hawkesbury Palliative Care Volunteer Service is inviting enquiries from people interested in supporting someone at end-of-life. There is also opportunity to become a Volunteer Biographer, capturing someone's reflection of their life in a written memoir.

Volunteers only need to commit up to four hours of their time each week. Clearance checks, training and ongoing support are provided. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator on 0401 715 851 for more information.

Nepean Hawkesbury Palliative Care Volunteer Service

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LEST WE FORGET

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH 2023

5am

• **RICHMOND**

Richmond RSL Sub-branch: ANZAC dawn service will be at 4:45 for a 5am start at Richmond War Memorial in Richmond Park.

5.30am

• **RIVERSTONE**

Riverstone-Schofields Branch of the RSL: ANZAC service at the Riverstone Cenotaph located on Riverstone Parade, Riverstone.

6am

• **CASTLE HILL**

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. Colonel Don Tait (Retired) who served in the 12th Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery in Vietnam during 35 years of Defence Force service will be the speaker at the Dawn Service.

• **GALSTON**

Dawn service Galston Cenotaph. Lt Commander Steve Pringle giving the address. Organised by Hills District RSL chapter. 6am sharp.

• **GLENORIE:**

Glenorie RSL sub-branch Dawn Service: Glenorie Memorial Cenotaph.

• **WINDSOR**

Windsor and District RSL Sub-branch Dawn Service: McQuade Park Cenotaph Windsor. 6am

• **WISEMAN'S FERRY**

Attendees asked to gather at the Cenotaph for a service at 6am followed by a gunfire breakfast at Wiseman's Ferry Bowling Club.

• **PITT TOWN**

ANZAC Day service and ceremony (9am) cnr Bathurst and Eldon Sts arrive before 8.45am.

10.30am

• **WISEMAN'S FERRY MARCH**

Participants in the March are to Muster at Wisemans Ferry Public School at 10am sharp for the March to the Wisemans Ferry War Memorial at 10.30am which will be followed by the morning service.

11am

• **ANNANGROVE**

Anzac Day service organised by Annangrove Progress Association at Annangrove Park, Currie Ave, Annangrove. Please arrive before 10.55am for 11am start.

12.30pm

• **THE HILLS CLUB**

Baulkham Hills: ANZAC Commemoration and wreath laying. 1- 18 Jenner Street.

3.15pm

• **GLENORIE**

Glenorie RSL Memorial Club service includes the 226 Army Cadet Unit of Normanhurst, Historical Army Tanks, Bikes and Jeeps, The Hills District Pipe Band, The RSL Sub Branch, musicians Isaak Koorey, Rewi and David Coleman, local school children and a guest speaker. Assemble for the march at 2:45 pm in the Woolworths car park.

New Deputy Mayor

Councillor Mitchell Blue has been elected Deputy Mayor at Hills Shire Council at a council meeting on Tuesday (April 18th) and will remain in the role until the 2024 Council election.



As a long-time resident and committed volunteer, Clr Blue is a volunteer firefighter with Glenhaven Rural Fire Brigade which he joined six years ago.

In addition to this, he was the founding Chairperson of the Friends of Glenhaven, which is a resident advocacy group with a membership of more than 500 people and a social media reach of 5000 followers. He is also the patron and a past Chairperson for the Glenhaven Christmas Carols.

Clr Blue expressed his enthusiasm for his new position saying: "This is not a role I take for granted."

"Firstly, I am honoured to be a Councillor and now as the Deputy Mayor of this outstanding organisation. I thank my fellow Councillors for supporting me and I look forward to working alongside them, as well as the Mayor and Council staff as we deliver great outcomes for this region. I also thank the community for their ongoing support and look forward to continuing to advocate on their behalf.

"As Deputy Mayor, I wish to fast-track key infrastructure in our new release areas, strengthen Council's community engagement and continue to build community resilience in our flood-impacted areas.

"Most of all, I want to continue advocating for our residents and give them a voice they deserve," Clr Blue added.

Hills Mayor Peter Gangemi also welcomed the appointment saying: "Clr Blue has consistently demonstrated a long-standing commitment to serving the needs of residents by taking a leadership role in several community initiatives.

"I am delighted to welcome Clr Blue as our new Deputy Mayor. His integrity, hard-working nature and community-driven approach will be an asset to Council and to the people we serve."

Mayor Gangemi also thanked the outgoing Deputy Mayor, Clr Mark Hodges who was elected as Castle Hill MP at the March 25th State Election.



RICHMOND RSL SUB BRANCH
of the The Returned and Services League
of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

ANZAC SERVICES 2023

RICHMOND WAR MEMORIAL

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.

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

For additional information about the ANZAC Day commemorations 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.



LEST WE FORGET

Anzac Day Kenthurst

Ray Hancock being driven to last year's parade by Stuart Frost in his War2 era jeep with Ray's granddaughter Lauren Marshall and wife Jenny in the rear. Photo: Zac Hojel

The march down Kenthurst Road at Kenthurst on ANZAC Day (Tuesday, April 25th) will bring the community together to acknowledge the sacrifice generations have made for their country.

Former Spitfire pilot Ray Hancock, 96, will be walking alongside a vintage WW2 era Jeep with his flying helmet and jacket and fighter pilot's silk scarf as he has done for several years. His wife Jenny will march to remember her family who served in World War 1.

A Rural Fire Service volunteer and Kenthurst Rotarian, Ray has spent a lifetime of service.

He always insists on walking in the Kenthurst ANZAC Day march rather than sit in the vehicle and wears his RFS and World War 2 service medals and his Royal Naval fighter pilot "wings" with pride.

Ray grew up in Warwickshire and lived on an estate near Warwick Castle. His father Jack was the chauffeur and mechanic at Guy Cliffe House (home of Lord and Lady Hebert Percy) while his mother Margaret looked after the estate's chapel.

During World War 2 Guy Cliffe House housed children evacuated from London. Ray's father was in the Auxiliary Fire Service and Ray joined the Civil Defence as a motorcycle messenger.

Too young to join the Royal Air Force and fly fighter planes as he wanted, Ray joined the Royal Navy as an apprentice aircraft mechanic and later passed pilot selection. He mastered several types of planes and at the end of the War Sub-Lieutenant Ray Hancock was monitoring Japanese shipping in a Corsair fighter bomber.

He came to Australia as a trouble shooter for Rover Motors in the 1950s and moved to Kenthurst when he retired. His wife Jenny is also an RFS volunteer.

He told the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News: "Marching on ANZAC Day in Australia as a naturalised Australian is an honour and it brings back so many memories of the time I served my Home Country in World War 2 as a Pilot in the Fleet Air Arm.

"The March is a wonderful way for Jenny also to march with the World War 1 group in honour of her Father who served and the Uncle she never knew who died in the 20s from wounds he received when his horse fell in a Light Horse charge. It is a big day for us both. It is an honour to see so many from Kenthurst marching in honour of all those who served and the thousand who lost their young lives."

This year's Kenthurst ANZAC Day march starts at 8.10am and will be led by the Governor Macquarie Memorial Pipe Band followed by Dural Pony Club members leading horses and dogs to represent the animals lost in wars, they will be followed by veterans and people marching to remember family members. RFS volunteers will march at the back.

The march will end at John Benyon Rotary Park, cnr Nelson Street and Kenthurst Rd. There will be a flyover by a C-130 Hercules from RAAF Richmond at 8.30am followed by a service of remembrance. The service will include

representatives from several local schools including Kenthurst Public, Hills Grammar, Marian College and Galston High School.

Keynote speaker will be Wing Commander Brent Vujcich from RAAF Richmond followed by Lance Corporal Nathan Vaurela who will talk about the defence force work in North Sumatra after the 2004 tsunami when over 2000,000 died.

Organisers from Kenthurst Rotary Club say they expect over 150 people to be in the march and hundreds to cheer them on.



Veteran Ray Hancock

Specialised centre for cancer care, GenesisCare at Norwest!



Team at GenesisCare Norwest

GenesisCare has opened its doors and officially welcomed its first patient! The new Norwest centre, which is adjacent to Norwest Private Hospital, brings together a team of radiation oncology specialists with extensive experience in their areas of expertise to provide consulting, radiation therapy and access to allied health, close to home!

GenesisCare at Norwest offers the latest in techniques and technology combined with compassionate care to ensure the best possible patient experience and outcomes.

TREATMENTS AND SERVICES:

Rapid access to high quality, personalised treatment

Patients will receive care from cancer-specific experts including: radiation oncologists, nurses, radiation therapists, physicists, allied health specialists, and a comprehensive team of support staff, and will have access to:

- The highest possible quality, evidence-based care available, delivered with the latest treatment techniques, technology, and innovations
- Highly experienced consultants and care team, including allied health professionals
- A dedicated cancer nurse consultant to coordinate each patient's care
- An efficient, integrated, and personalised patient care experience
- Rapid access to consultation and treatment
- Free, undercover parking next to our department

MEET OUR SPECIALISTS:

A/Prof Eric Hau - Radiation Oncologist
B.Sc (Med), M.B.B.S, Grad Cert (Biostat), FRANZCR, PHD

A/Prof Amy Hayden - Radiation Oncologist
Bsc (Med) MBBS (Hons) FRANZCR

A/Prof Jayasingham Hayamohan - Radiation Oncologist
MBBS, MRCP, MSc, FRCR, FRANZCR

A/Prof Puma Sundaresan - Radiation Oncologist
BSc (Hons), MBBS, FRANZCR, PhD

A/Prof Tim Wang - Radiation Oncologist
MBBS, MPH, FRANZCR
The radiation oncologists are available for consultation and treatment now, at the new centre!

ALLIED HEALTH

GenesisCare at Norwest offers comprehensive cancer care coordination, allied health, and wellness initiatives. These include access to:

- Dietitian
- Exercise Physiologist
- Speech Pathologist
- Lymphoedema Therapist
- Massage Therapist
- Psycho-Oncologist

Free WiFi access and under-cover parking is available at this centre. If you would like more information on the centre, scan this QR code



GenesisCare Norwest New specialised centre for radiation oncology services

Now open

GenesisCare has opened a new cancer centre located adjacent to Norwest Private Hospital.

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.

The new centre offers the latest in techniques and technology combined with compassionate care to ensure the best possible patient experience and outcomes.

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



Scan QR code for more information

Where to find us

8 Elizabeth MacArthur Drive
Bella Vista NSW, 2153

Contact us

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

genesiscare.com

*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.





Shared Stories at Bella Vista Farm

By GISELA HORNER

Sunday, 7th May is Open Day at the Farm and celebrates the Australian Heritage Festival; themed - *Shared Stories*.

A new publication - *Bella Vista Farm Stories* will be launched on the day, compiled and written over months of diligent research by Carolyn Gould, Sharon Rawstron and Mark Pearce, members of the Friends of Bella Vista Farm.

The stories delve into the Farm's early past, the narrative of its people, how families lived, their impact on the environment and landscape and agricultural development over the ensuing years. Nine individual folios encapsulate this history. Visitors can purchase them either separately or as a complete work in an attractive folder.

The project was supported by *Create NSW's Cultural Program*; an exclusive funding program administered by The Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW government. The Friends of Bella Vista Farm are delighted to have received a Cultural Grant from RAHS enabling the production of the publication.

The usual delights are there to enjoy as well – tours of the house (a gold donation), Devonshire Teas accompanied to the music of the Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra ensembles set in the charming grounds of the homestead. If your fancy is a delicious sausage sizzle with onions and home-made chilli jam, that too can be purchased for a small price. The popular and extensive Trash and Treasure stall will be there for you to find some real treasures. Plants to buy, vintage lingerie, wool processing from the sheep's back to knitted products – "The Long Yarn" are on display and for the children, heritage games, flower posy-making and story writing.

All donations go directly to support the restoration of the grounds and buildings. You will be well rewarded when you spend a day at Bella Vista Farm. Hours are from 0900 – 1500 (extended by one hour) at the corner of Elizabeth Macarthur Drive and Norwest Boulevard, Bella



Vista. Public transport is nearby with Buses – 664, 665, 730; Metro or Train.

If you can't make our next Open Day, the farmhouse is open the first Sunday of each month from 0900 – 1400 (excluding January). Check on the Hills Shire Council website for details - www.thehills.nsw.gov.au



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MEET OUR TEAM: **BRENDON** 5 MINUTES WITH **VESTIBULAR AUDIOLOGIST**

What is your favourite thing about being a Vestibular Audiologist?

It's kind of like detective work. You have all these pieces of a puzzle to put together; so that's the clients overall health, their ear health, their balance and their musculature and we must put all of this together to hopefully find the cause of their dizziness.

If someone was to book in for a Balance & Dizziness Assessment and they are feeling nervous, what can they expect in an appointment?

It's perfectly normal to be nervous as it's not the kind of thing people have necessarily experienced before. Your initial consultation will take about an hour and half, firstly we would establish what your concerns are and do some initial testing of various parts of your balance system; including your hearing, this is because your hearing and balance systems are quite closely related to each other.

There are a couple of causes of dizziness that are both easy to detect and quite common. If we find one of these causes, we can treat it there on the spot. If it is something that's a little more complicated and can't be treated on the spot, we will do a range of screening tests to give us an idea of what further testing may be required.

We will be able to determine if the source of dizziness is coming from the ears and therefore, we will consider what further testing can be done to help you and how we can solve the issue. In some cases, where the dizziness is not originating from the ear, our testing may also indicate to us what other body system may be responsible. If this is the case, we will discuss the results and assist you in providing recommendations to the appropriate medical professional.

Do people experience pain or discomfort in their assessment?

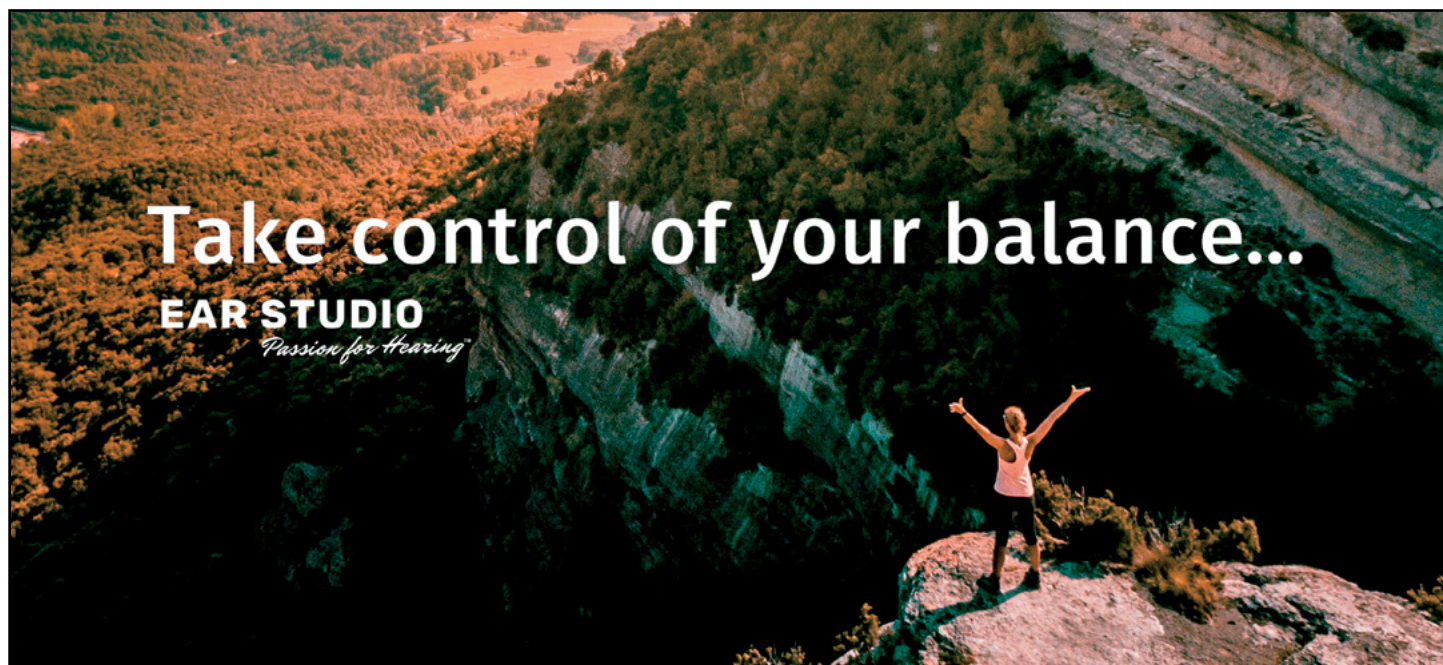
The assessment is not painful. However, if you are coming to us actively experiencing dizziness, it may be inevitable that we could trigger your dizziness in the session. We clearly explain what each test involves, what you might expect and whether you are happy to engage in that testing. We also share what we hope to achieve with each specific test (there are no surprises).

Is there anything people need to do to prepare for this appointment?

You can do two things, avoid alcohol 24 hours before and no big meals leading up to your appointment. You are not required to obtain a referral prior to this assessment.

Do you have a favourite success story to share?

I saw a client a couple of months ago for Ear Wax Removal and when we were discussing her main concerns as part of that appointment, we enquired about how her balance was and if she was ever affected by any balance or dizziness. The client said "Yes, for a number of years!" and has always struggled to get out of bed quickly. She would need to steady herself for a few minutes before getting out of bed in the mornings because she was experiencing a spinning sensation – Vertigo. After her wax removal, I performed a quick assessment of her dizziness which showed us she had a problem with "crystals" in her inner ear system, which is easily treated. I was able to perform the treatment on the spot. On this occasion, only one treatment was needed, and her dizziness was resolved and she hasn't had it back since.



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◀ HCA volunteer drivers Norm Scott, Kevin Arthur and Terry Donoghue with Roly Broady.



At the moment volunteers drive the community bus for several groups including Hills Friendship club and several weekday travel groups.

"These groups provide social opportunities for the community ... it is important for people to remain connected," said Mici.

Robin Slattery runs the Baulkham Hills Monday Group and says Kevin, their driver, is very much part of their group. She says for many of their 20 members, the Monday outing is the one time they get to go out.

"For some it is the only time they meet with other human beings," she said. "Without our driver, there would be quite a few very unhappy people. You get on the bus and everyone is catching up, people talk almost the whole way."

Roly started volunteering after he retired because he said "he was looking for something to do". A retired mechanic, he also volunteered as a driver with Anglicare. He still volunteers with Friends of Fagan Park's Netherby House fixing the tractors.

Now 85, he decided not to renew his Light Rigid licence but said he has enjoyed meeting different people and going to different places driving the HCA Community Bus.

If you would like to hear more about the opportunity to help, call 9639 8620 (9.30am to 3pm) or email sanyam@hca.org.au. There is also a volunteer application form on Hills Community Aid website hca.org.au.

Drivers in Demand By BEV JORDAN

After 20 years of volunteering as a bus driver, Hills local Roly Broady has handed in his keys (several of them).

The fact that Roly held a Light Rigid licence which he kept up after retiring as a mechanic has been an absolute life-changer for groups and individuals who Roly has driven around the Hills and beyond.

Hills Community Aid has benefited from his volunteering spirit. When he started driving their then "new" HCA bus it had 200kms on the clock. When he handed in his keys earlier this month (April 14th) it had 465,830kms on the clock.

He was farewelled by the three other volunteer bus drivers that have been donating

their time to driving the HCA Community Bus, Kevin Arthur, Terry Donoghue and Norm Scott (pictured).

Executive Officer at HCA Mici Beer said the drivers were a valued part of Hills Community Aid and Learning in the Hills team and they needed at least 3 more volunteers able to drive the manual bus. "Volunteers can drive as much or as little as they want. We can't put on any more social groups without more drivers and if we don't get more drivers we may not be able to commit to the groups we have," she said.



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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Jess Hill in her book entitled "See what you made me do" talks about domestic abuse being "not Just violence" but being something far worse. She states that domestic abuse is "a unique phenomenon, in which the perpetrator takes advantage of their partners love and trust and uses that person's most intimate details – their deepest desires, shames and secrets – as a blueprint for their abuse".

If you only read one book this year, make sure it is this one. Hill's book will completely change the way you see the world. It's honest, it's raw, it's heavy going in parts but it does challenge our understanding of domestic abuse through an in depth examination of the behaviour of the perpetrator, the impact on the victims and offers potential solutions and a call to action for all of us together to stand up and push back against domestic abuse within our own communities.

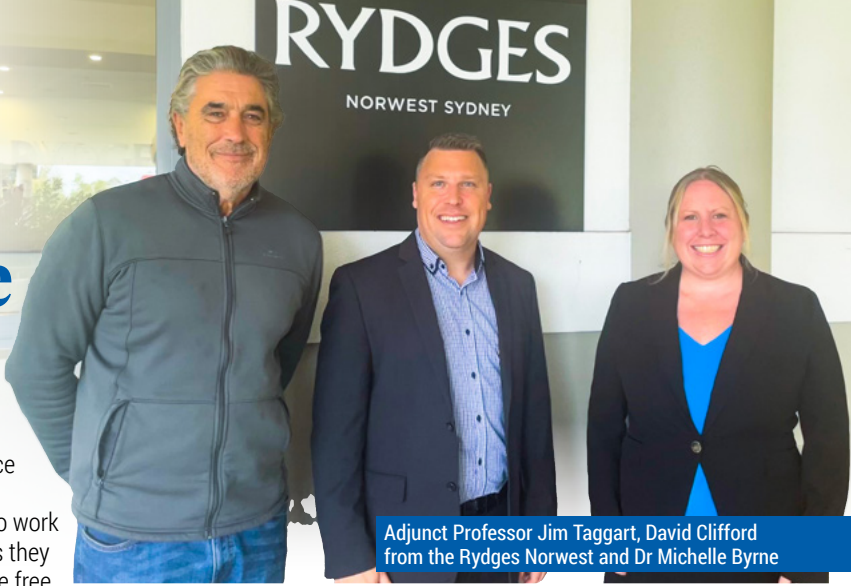
No community is immune to domestic violence, it isn't restricted to particular post codes, demographics or socio-economic groupings. Last year, according to the NSW Bureau and Crime Statistics (BOCSAR) there was 33, 410 domestic violence related incidents recorded by the NSW Police Force including 25 murders and 4 attempted murders related to domestic violence. Closer to home, in the January- December 2022 period, according to BOCSAR there was 355 DV related assaults in the Hills Shire Local Government Area.

The question remains what is it that we can do as a community to arm ourselves with knowledge about domestic violence, to know where to go if we or someone needs help and

how to support domestic violence survivors and organisation who work with survivors as they transition to a life free of abuse and begin the process of rebuilding their lives.

May is Domestic Violence Awareness month providing an opportunity for community events that raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence in our own backyard whilst sending a clear message that we say no to domestic abuse in our own community. May 4 itself is also Domestic Violence Remembrance Day, a National Day to reflect and remember those who have lost their lives to domestic abuse in the past 12 months.

A group of community and business leaders under the auspice of Hills Community Aid have organised a community event at the Rydges Norwest on May 4 to not only reflect on the lives lost to domestic abuse but to start the conversation around domestic abuse and what we can do as a community to put a stop to. The guest speaker for the evening is The NSW Police Commissioner Karen Web APM, the first female Commissioner in over 160 years and who began her policing career at Castle Hill Police Station. Assistant Commissioner Leanne McCusker Region Commander for North West Metro Region will also be present along with Superintendent Darrin Batchelor from Castle Hill Police. Well known local identity Adjunct Professor Dr Jim Taggart will be the Emcee on the evening.



Adjunct Professor Jim Taggart, David Clifford from the Rydges Norwest and Dr Michelle Byrne

The secondary aim of the event is to raise much needed funds for the domestic violence support programs run by Hills Community Aid as well as to support the transitional housing project for older women being established by Kenthurst Rotary Club.

Domestic Violence is one of the key drivers of homelessness as women and children leaving abusive homes and relationships to seek safety. Certainly, in the Hills the most common forms of homelessness is couch surfing and women and children escaping domestic abuse. Older women over +55 are the fastest group of homelessness in Australia and although domestic violence is not always the reason a woman over 55+ finds themselves homeless it is certainly one cause among many possible causes including divorce late in life, death of a partner, loss of employment and the increase in the cost of living. All funds raised through ticket sales, raffles and auctions on the night will go to support these worthy causes.

I encourage those who are able to, to purchase a ticket and attend this important event or make a donation to support those impacted by domestic abuse and homelessness in our own community.

For more information on the event or to purchase tickets go to <https://hca.org.au/event/the-hills-domestic-violence-fundraiser>

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Community Connect By BEV JORDAN

The very successful Hills Community Connect event is returning to Castle Hill for a second year with a mission to connect residents with community groups and charities by showcasing what they do and how people can get involved.

Organised by Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club, the free Community Connect event is being held at the Harvey Lowe Pavilion at Castle Hill Showground on Sunday, April 30th from 11am to 3pm. Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club President Azita Abdollahian said: "Community is such an important part of our society and it's what makes the Hills a special place to live and work.

"The power of this event lies within connecting all these community organisations with residents seeking to get involved. If you are looking at doing something meaningful you may find what you are looking for at Community Connect."

Rotarian and co-organiser Krissie Webb said the first Community Connect was held to combat the isolation many people felt during 2020 and 2021 and the response was so strong it was decided to make it an annual event.

"Many people have found they have free time for various reasons, either newly retired, recently graduated, new to the area or they are now on their own, and they would like to join something but don't know what is available."

Last year 40 community groups got involved and hundreds of people visited resulting in many charities finding new volunteers and interest groups finding new members.

Rotarian Ron Parnell who runs the Older Men's Network is urging residents to come along and see what community groups are there: "By getting out and mixing in the community you get to know yourself better, feel better, and feel a connection. A lot of people feel isolated. This is a way people can make connections. Having a commitment to go somewhere is essential for me."

Rotarian and co-organiser Deb Salkeld said: "We have a very diverse range of groups attending.

Whatever your interests, I am confident we will have a group here you will want to engage with."

Visitors are welcome to pop in at any time between 11am and 3pm on Sunday, April 30th at the Harvey Lowe Pavilion Castle Hill Showground.

Thanks to a Community Grant supported by The Hills Shire Council, it is a free event for both groups and attendees.

The market-stall set up will allow attendees to browse and chat to the representatives of each group. There will be a coffee cart on site and a Rotary sausage sizzle.

Community groups wanting a free stall should email norwestsunriserotary@gmail.com or call Deborah on 0490 723 163 by Monday April 24th.



Rotarians Ron Parnell, Deb Salkeld and Azita Abdollahian are urging people to connect



War Widow Jean Cuthbert

Jean Cuthbert, a 97 year old War Widow and a long-standing member of the Hills Shire Garden Club, is seen here cutting her cake to share with the members.

Although Jean doesn't do a lot of physical gardening now, she still enjoys the garden magazine and coming to the meetings with her daughter Sandra. She has a passion for flowers and some of her garden roses are over fifty years old.

The Hills Shire Garden Club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1pm at Barton Hall 178 David Rd Castle Hill. All welcome. Enquiries 9624 5034.

CWA Castle Hill Branch are holding a

Mother's Day

MARKET DAY

SATURDAY 29TH APRIL

FROM 10AM - 2PM

CWA Cottage

2 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst

Devonshire Teas will be served as well as craft items including rugs and beanies.



The Hills Shire Council News

Rose Garden Blossoms Following Upgrades

Upgrades at the Roxborough Park Rose Garden, in Baulkham Hills, are now complete – and visitors to the popular garden can now enjoy a more modern and accessible facility. The project was jointly funded by the Australian Government and The Hills Shire Council. The Australian Government funding of \$660,000 was provided through the LRCI Program which supports local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia.

Visitors can find the Rose Garden at the corner of Roxborough Park Road and Mileham Avenue in Baulkham Hills. For more details, visit Council's website and search 'Roxborough Park Rose Garden'.



Mayor Gangemi pictured at the ribbon cutting at Roxborough Park Rose Garden.

FREE Environmental Workshops

Join us at our Community Environment Centre in Annangrove for some free workshops or simply come through to visit and appreciate the gardens. The Centre is open on Thursdays 9am – 4pm and Saturdays 10am – 2pm.

Upcoming workshops:

- **Pickling & Preserving** | Thursday, 27 April from 10am – 12pm
- **Nature's Recyclers - Compost & Worm Farms** | Thursday, 4 May 2023 from 10am – 12pm
- **Growing Food for Wildlife** | Saturday, 13 May from 10am – 1pm

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



The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Catch the NSW Amateur Premiere of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at the Pioneer Theatre in May!

Based on the Victor Hugo novel and songs from the Disney animated feature, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* showcases the film's Academy Award-nominated score, as well as new songs by Menken and Schwartz. Peter Parnell's new book embraces story theatre and features verbatim passages from Hugo's gothic novel.

To find out more and to secure your tickets, visit www.pioneertheatre.com.au



Council Meetings

Tuesday, 9 May 2023 – 7pm

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

NEW YOUTH WEEK 2023

YOUTH GOES LIVE

Saturday 29 April



Art Therapy, 10am – 12pm

Henry Rooke Room Vinegar Hill Memorial Library, Rouse Hill

Open mic and Public speaking 1pm – 4pm

Market Square Rouse Hill Town Centre, Rouse Hill

Youth Goes Live!

Join us at Rouse Hill Town Centre's Market Square on Saturday, 29 April from 1pm – 4pm for our conclusion to Youth Week 2023. There will be several feature stands, a stage program showcasing our talented youth and the introduction of The Hills' 2023/2024 Youth Ambassadors.

There is also still time to register and participate in the following Youth Week Events:

- **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

For more information, visit Council's website and search 'Youth Week'.

Nominate a Business for the Disability Inclusion Award

There is still time to nominate a business for the Disability Inclusion Award. The award was introduced by Council in 2022, with the aim to acknowledge and celebrate businesses that 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.

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

Have Your Say on the Draft 2023-2024 Hills Shire Plan

Council's Draft 2023-2024 Hills Shire Plan is now on exhibition for viewing and comments. The five-part document provides the framework by which the organisation plans to operate during the next financial year.

The Hills Shire Plan will be on exhibition from Wednesday, 19 April 2023 - Wednesday, 17 May 2023. To find out more and to Have Your Say, scan the QR code on the right or visit Council's website and search 'Draft 2023-2024 Hills Shire Plan'.

Have Your Say

Draft 2023-2024 Hills Shire Plan on public exhibition



Scan the QR Code for more information



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



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New chef...
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Nobles Restaurant is thrilled to announce the arrival of their new head chef, KiKi!

With years of experience working at various fine dining venues across Sydney, KiKi brings a wealth of culinary knowledge and expertise to Nobles Restaurant. His passion for cooking is evident in every dish he creates, and he is excited to share his love of food at Nobles Restaurant.

Nobles Restaurant also has a special Mother's Day High Tea coming up. All mums will receive a special gift and champagne on arrival. Book something special for your mum this Mother's Day! Tickets are \$65 pp, From 1pm until 3pm - Sunday May 14th.

Call: 9680 3800

Email: bookings@hillslodge.com.au

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Raffle begins at 5:30pm

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Win a Mum-cation

WIN ONE OF THREE INDULGENT PACKAGES FOR YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY



When Tamara* and her 3 children arrived at The Sanctuary, they only had a small bag of precious belongings. Her children would not let her out of their sight, and she was near exhaustion from managing the tension in her home.

With her Sanctuary case worker by her side, Tamara was given a safe place to live while she prepared to start a new, safe life. Tamara said, "I didn't realise I was a victim of domestic abuse because Gary* never hit me. But the underlying tension was unbearable as he controlled everything including the finances. I now know that is called Coercive Control".

Coercive Control has recently been recognised in NSW as a criminal offence and is a form of domestic and family violence that is very common. Most women don't think they are a victim of domestic abuse but physical violence is only one aspect.

The Sanctuary- the Hills Women's Shelter is a 6 room home that provides crisis accommodation for 6 women and their children. Each family is supported by a caseworker as they build new, safer lives. "Being at The Sanctuary meant I could relax for the first time in years and the children slowly started to smile and laugh again" explains Tamara.

The Sanctuary relies on community support to keep their doors open and help women and children escaping domestic abuse. You can show your support by visiting thesanctuaryshelter.org.au and making a donation or joining an event.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger call 000 now.

If you need advice or shelter accommodation please call 1800 65 64 63 or 1800 152 152.



2023 HILLS SHIRE COMMUNITY ClubGRANTS ROUND IS OPEN!

Are you a local charity or not-for-profit organisation delivering services, support and assistance that benefits the wellbeing of residents of The Hills Shire? If so, you may be eligible to apply for a ClubGRANT.

ClubGRANTS is one of Australia's largest grant programs, providing more than \$100 million in cash each year to a variety of worthy causes across NSW. Charities and not-for-profit community groups are among tens-of-thousands of worthy causes funded through the program each year.

The 2023 Hills Shire ClubGRANTS round will open for applications for **Category 1** projects on Monday 3 April, 2023. To be eligible for funding, applications must be for projects and/or services that contribute to the welfare and broader social fabric of the local community, including:

- Domestic Violence Prevention & Recovery
- Mental Health & Suicide Prevention
- Community Participation and Education Opportunities
- Health services and Employment Assistance
- Community Welfare & Social Services

Scan to make an application



Scan to download an information pack



Applications Open: 9.00am Monday 3 April, 2023
 Applications Close: 5.00pm Friday 12 May, 2023
 Link to apply: www.clubgrants.com.au/find-your-local-grant-round?round=248735



Max Strikes Gold In Fencing

By JOSH KERWICK

It was by chance three years ago that young Baulkham Hills local Max Wang and his mother Echo saw the Hills Athletic Fencing Club, right next to the taekwondo centre Max used to attend. Now, at only 10 years old, Max is travelling interstate and winning gold for fencing while juggling school work and training.

After seeing the fencing club by chance, Max took to fencing immediately. When talking to Max about it, his passion for the sport is apparent. "I enjoy the ability to think and try to outplay your opponent," he said. "Fencing is a sport that mostly everyone knows about, but not many people try it out. It's really fun - it combines elements of a lot of other sports as well, like agility, accuracy and strategy."

Travelling interstate to pursue his passion has been very exciting for Max. Increasing levels of schoolwork has meant that Max isn't training quite as much as he used to, meaning he savours every chance to get in gear and fence.

Hills Athletic Fencing Club épée coach Chris Xu has praised Max's increasing ability while wielding the sword: "Max is good at using his brain during competitions, which is why his results have always been very stable," she says. "He has never fallen out of the top three."

The recent gold medal Max secured was as part of a team at the February 2023 Australian Youth Circuit in Melbourne. His team of four participated in the Men's Épée Teams event, and were able to beat the other groups through a strong unified strategy, talking with one another about tactics and analysis of their opponents -



Max says: "We have serious discussions about who should play whom and work together to achieve our common goal."

Echo has been very supportive of Max in his endeavours. She's been very appreciative of how it's helped to build his confidence in doing something that he's genuinely passionate about: "We wanted an interesting sport for Max after school time." She said that when Max showed real interest in the sport she was pleased to support him.

Now in Year 6, Max trains three or four times a week while attending Matthew Pearce Public School. Both a straight-A student and House Captain, he easily juggles all his responsibilities while still finding the time to

shine in other sports like rugby and softball.

Yet Max speaks most highly of the discipline that fencing has taught him: "I have learned to gain experience and learn from others' strengths through the defeats to win in the next competition and to build up my confidence." Max aspires to compete at the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games and start a fencing club at his school, and upon seeing the many medals he's won, it's easy to imagine that Max will achieve it.



PETS OF THE WEEK

AT A GLANCE

NAME: DIANA
BREED: Short Hair Cat
SEX: Female
AGE: 3 years
PRICE: \$29



DIANA is a 3-year-old short hair cat who is very friendly. According to the staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter, Diana is very adaptable and fine with other cats. If you have been looking for a cat to join your family, come and meet Diana. As cat of the week her adoption price has been reduced to \$29. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, microchipping, desexing and life-time registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation
Number is: R251000145.

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



PABLO is an active and well behaved boy according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter who say he is looking for a family to call his own. If you can give Pablo a loving home please visit the animal shelter with your whole family. As one of 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: PABLO
SEX: Male
BREED: Staffordshire
AGE: 2 years
PRICE: \$49



TYSON is a submissive boy with a gentle nature according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. They say Tyson has been good with the other dogs while he has been at the shelter. If you are interested in meeting Tyson please bring your family dog and children to the animal shelter to meet him so that staff can be sure they will all get on well together. As one of this week's featured dogs Tyson's 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: TYSON
SEX: Male
BREED: American Staffy
AGE: 3 yrs 8 mos
PRICE: \$49





By LAWRENCE MACHADO

Hills Bulls aim to bounce back

Reigning Ron Massey champions Hills Bulls will hope to rebound this Sunday against the Mounties RMC at Crestwood Oval, Baulkham Hills.

The Bulls went down to Kaiviti Silktails 36-24 in Fiji last Saturday, in a pulsating fifth round match. The 2022 Ron Massey Cup Player of the Year Brad Keighran slotted four conversions after tries from Dion Narayan, Harrison Leonard, Dane Francis and Ceiza James kept the Bulls in the hunt against the Silktails.

The Bulls have won two and lost two this season, earlier going down to pacesetters St Marys 32-12 in the second round.

Incidentally, the Mounties outclassed the Fijians 44-18 in their encounter which means the Bulls need to be at their best to see off the visitors on Sunday. The match will kick off at 3pm.

The Bulls lie fourth in the standings and will be looking for maximum points to move up the ladder. Dane Francis, Logan Aldridge and Dion Narayan are among the leading try scorers this season and can give the Bulls the edge they need.



The Hills Bulls are looking to regain their winning form this Sunday. Picture: Hills Bulls Facebook page

Francis and Aldridge helped themselves to three tries each in their 48-10 thrashing of Canterbury Bankstown in the fourth round, with ace kicker Keighran converting six of the nine tries.

At the start of the 2023 season, the vastly-experienced Keighran, who has played for several clubs, said the Bulls are keen to retain the title they won in style last year.

"Personally, I'd love to get a back-to-back title, it's a good thing to do in a career... a good memory to look back on," Keighran told nswrl.com.au.

He was one of the stars for the Bulls in his debut season with the Hills club, finishing as the competition leading scorer with 141 points.

St Marys and Glebe Dirty Rats are the leading teams in the Ron Massey Cup with 10 points each from four wins. Ryde-Eastwood Hawks and Hills Bulls are chasing them on six points apiece.

Hills United men show their mettle

By LAWRENCE MACHADO

The Hills United team are clear at the top of the FNSW League One Men's competition after reeling off victories in their last five games.

They are sitting on 26 points from eight wins, two draws, and one loss to set the pace this season in the 16-club championship. They have a healthy goal tally with 25, while conceding just 11 from their 11 matches. Their impressive winning streak was halted by a 10-man Blacktown Spartan FC last week, their game ending in a 1-1 draw.

Jamal Belkadi scored the equaliser for Hills United after a pass from Nathan Rayner in the 52nd minute after Franco Scarcella had put Blacktown ahead in the 23rd minute.

Spartan goalkeeper Michael Figueira was sent off just before half-time after bringing down Nathan Rayner, but the Hills outfit were unable to make the most of the advantage.

St George FC are a close second on the table with 25 points, followed by Northern Tigers (19)

In their previous two matches, Hills United beat Dulwich Hill and Mounties Wanderers with



Hills United's Senior WNPL Player of the Match for round six, Aisling Davidson, with Under-20 coach Paul Tasses.

identical 1-0 margins. Thomas Makko scored the all-important goal against Dulwich Hill in the 75th minute to maintain their rich streak.

In-form striker Mitchell Smith was the goal-scoring hero against the Mounties, striking in the 61st minute, soon after coming on as a substitute for Wade Giovanali.

Hills United take on St George in a clash of the leading contenders on Saturday, April 22, at 7pm.

HILLS WOMEN'S STREAK STOPPED

The Hills United women's team's momentum was halted by Central Coast Mariners in their top-of-the-table game at Bella Vista last Sunday. The Mariners pulled off a 1-0 victory to take the top spot.

Hills United missed regulars Isabella Sciberras and Cassandra Wheeler who are due to return for this Sunday's game when they are away to Marconi Stallions. Kick off is at 3.45pm

The setback saw Hills United in second place on the table, on 13 points, with four wins, a draw, and a loss. The Mariners have a two-point cushion over their Hills rivals, with a game in hand.

It was a complete change in fortunes for Hills United, who had thumped Inter Lions FC 9-0 in the fifth round. Ellen Berios led the way with a hat-trick, with Bianca Galayini (2), Brooklyn Meredith (2), Stefanie Trovato, and Imogen Lane being the other scorers.

This was the second time this season that last year's premiership finalists had run riot against their rivals. They had begun their season with an emphatic 7-1 rout of South Flame..



Join me in honouring the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served Australia.



JULIAN LEESER MP
Federal Member for Berowra

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120
P 9980 1822 E. julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au
W. julianleeser.com.au

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

Anzac Day 2023

Every Anzac Day, Australians acknowledge the Anzac spirit. On 25 April 1915, 16,000 Australian troops landed at Gallipoli. Thousands of Australian troops were killed or injured on that day.

We now embrace Anzac Day as a day to not only acknowledge those troops, but also to recognise all the Australians who have served in conflicts and peace-keeping missions since that time. We also pause to acknowledge the qualities of bravery, camaraderie, mateship, service, loyalty, and honour that characterise the very best of the Australian spirit.

This year is particularly notable because it marks the 50th Anniversary of the end of

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Our involvement in the Vietnam War is a vitally important chapter in Australia's history and one that helped to grow our Anzac spirit and national identity. This was evident across every engagement in the Vietnam War, from battles to humanitarian missions.

We are also marking 70 years since the end of the Korean War. Like those who served in Vietnam, Australian troops in Korea played

a crucial role in helping to stop the spread of totalitarian aggression throughout the Asia-Pacific Region.

Every contribution to our country's national security matters deeply. Without the courage and dedication of all those who have served out country, Australians would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have today. It's important that we acknowledge and celebrate those contributions.

I encourage you to attend a local Anzac Day service if you can. Services are being held in Wiseman's Ferry, Galston, Glenorie, Kenthurst, and Annangrove. It's a valuable opportunity to pay tribute to the veterans who live among us, those who have since passed away, and their families.

Lest we forget.

As your Federal Member for Greenway,
I'm here to help.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office.



Minister Michelle Rowland MP

- PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148
- (02) 9671 4780 @mrowlandmp
- Level 1, Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown
- Michelle.rowland.MP@aph.gov.au
- michellerowland.com.au

Authorised by Michelle Rowland MP, Australian Labor Party, Blacktown NSW 2148

As your Federal MP, I am here to help.

- ✔ Assisting with accessing Federal Government services
- ✔ Attending your local community event
- ✔ Arranging congratulatory messages
- ✔ Helping you resolve federal issues, including NDIS, NBN and Centrelink

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

ALEX HAWKE MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MITCHELL



📍 Suite 8, 23 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154 📞 9899 7211 ✉ alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au 🌐 www.alexhawke.au 📺 AlexHawkeMPMitchell

Authorised by Alex Hawke MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 8/23 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154.

ANZAC Day 2023

For over a century Australians have served in conflict and peace around the world, protecting values of freedom and democracy.

Our national spirit of remembrance has found a home on ANZAC Day which marks that brave and fateful moment in 1915, when 16,000 Australian troops landed at Gallipoli.

That spirit was reinforced on the Western Front and the battles of subsequent conflicts such as World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. While national commemorations will be held on 18 August, our involvement in the Vietnam War is a vitally important chapter that helped grow our ANZAC spirit and national identity: from battles such as Long Tan to the humanitarian missions which evacuated

Vietnamese orphans (Operation Babylift) after the fall of Saigon. To acknowledge the 50th anniversary a Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration is available to veterans' and families of veterans' who served in the Vietnam War. For details visit <https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/commemorations/commemorative-services/commemorative-services-australia/50th-anniversary>

This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the Korean War where, like Vietnam, Australian troops fought to stop the spread of totalitarian aggression throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Their sacrifice is why Australia has the freedoms we all enjoy today; why we have our sovereignty.



This ANZAC Day we remember and give thanks for the service of all those who have fought for our freedoms; and we give thanks for all those serving our country today.

To learn more about the ANZACs, please visit anzacportal.dva.gov.au

SUSAN TEMPLEMAN MP

Federal Member for Macquarie

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www.susantempleman.com.au

Authorised by S. Templeman MP, Labor 299 George St Windsor NSW 2756

It's the Fashion for the MEN

whilst Men's shoes are considered effeminate



As we have gone through the decades of past centuries in Australia since the arrival of Europeans there has been considerable changes in the fashion worn by the population. At times economic times have depicted what has been worn. We may have heard tales of what our grandparents or great grandparents have worn from the flour sack with arm and head holes cut into, in times of depression, though to Speedos and Board Shorts.

European settlers, when first arriving in Australia, brought with them the fashions of their European homelands. The colder climes of Europe were vastly different to that of the Great Southern Land hence people were wearing clothing unsuitable to the hot humid climate that we are now accustomed too. Underclothes, as well as outer clothing to footwear and head wear, have all changed with fashion through the years.

Dress standards at around the time of Federation were vastly different to today. Swimwear was virtually neck to knee for males and females alike - No board shorts or Speedos for the blokes at the time. Male office staff during the late 1800s and early 1900s (Victorian and Edwardian eras) were expected to wear a stiff collar, a waistcoat, suit, boots (not shoes which were considered effeminate at the time). The more conservative male members working in the offices wore hard black felt hats whilst

those less conservative often wore soft hats. A writer in the publication "The Haberdasher" in 1908 writing about the stiff collar that male office workers were expected to wear stated that the collar should be least 2" high and should "conceal the anatomical protuberance in front" He obviously was referring to the "Adam's Apple" which he must have felt should be hidden. The colours worn by males were drab and conservative. There were however individuals who railed against the fashions of the day.

A fashion writer of the times commented in another publication during 1908 that *"I saw a man in brilliant purple the other day - hat, tie suit and boots. I did not like it, but he fairly livened up the whole street with his splash of colour."*

"Another man I met on Sydney station had a rich brown velvet knickerbocker suit - hat, tie, shirt, stockings and boots, all in accord - and he was a pleasure to see. A perfect tone poem in clothes with everything in harmony. But it would not do for the average man in Australia."

Whilst Australians have in past decades showed a degree of conservatism with fashion there has been a trend towards more individualism as time has passed. During the 20th Century men have not always followed what their fathers and grandfathers have worn. We have had fashions that have followed sporting, music and surfing trends. I recal,

during the 1950s men and boys rolling up their white shirt sleeves and turning up the back of their shirt collars to imitate the music and movie stars of the rock 'n' roll era. In the 1960s it was bleached peroxide blonde hair or jet black swept back hair which was either slicked down with Spruso or Brylcreem depending on whether you identified as either a "Rocker" or "Surfie" and later during the mid 60s it was the mop top look of the British pop bands such as the Beatles and you could also purchase plastic "Beatle Wigs". Clothing also changed to "drain pipe" trousers or "bell-bottomed" trousers. Paisley patterned shirts became popular as did Hawaiian patterned shirts. There were also gaudy wide neckties, narrow string ties, Western style shirts, Safari Suits and the list just goes on. Getting to the bottom of the wardrobe, we have during the same past period seen changes in footwear. Shoes were no longer considered effeminate as they were around 1908 but are regularly worn. The variety of male footwear is anything from the humble Aussie thong to boots and includes sandshoes, runners or joggers to more formal round toed shoes or pointed shoes. Some still wear what they consider their favourite wardrobe pieces from past eras. I guess that some time in the future others will be writing about the male fashions of today and how they differ from the fashions of that future period.

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AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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



Male fashions of this period were characterized by a great diversity of headwear. The silk top-hat, known to Australians as the belltopper, was still the badge of the gentleman. The most popular hat for general wear was the round-crowned hard hat, which the Englishman calls a bowler and the American a derby. In Australia it was known variously as a boxer, bocker, hard-hitter, egg-boiler, hop-harry, and pea-dodger. The hard straw hat, the English boater, worn by the younger or more raffish Australian in holiday mood, was sometimes derisively called a nan-man. All these types, and some interesting variants on the standard boater, are well represented at this picnic of New South Wales Treasury officials, taken at Chowder Bay (now Clifton Gardens) in 1894. Note also the popularity of the white waistcoat.



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The Minister for War Organisation of Industry, Mr. Dedman, wearing the "Victory" suit, which is the only style permitted to be manufactured after 27th July, 1942. Double-breasted coats, "action-back" coats and waistcoats prohibited.



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Radio Active Live

It could have been the start of one of their plays but four hours before Radio Active Live was about to hold its first production of the year at The Hills Lodge at Castle Hill one their founding cast members phoned in to say they were sick and had been rushed to hospital.

Robyn Dalton is now recovering from an infection but the team that produces and performs Radio Active Live kicked into gear to ensure that the show featuring several short radio plays opened on Sunday 16th April and was a great success.

Co-director Diane Abbott said: "It's every director's nightmare, that last minute call saying an actor can't make it. Robyn has never missed a production in 11 years."

Radio Active Live has already notched up 10 years of performances which they say is

amazing for something that started as a bit of an experiment to see what kind of reception there was in the community for radio plays.

It started with one performance and grown to several each year following the resoundingly good reception to its first production. Since then more than 170 plays have been delivered by the enthusiastic RAL group who are great friends.

Performers Marc Kay and Diane Abbott took on the Role as directors for last weekend's performance and will be doing the same this Sunday, April 23rd, with Marc directing the first half and Diane the second.

The program includes some great vintage Peter Cooke and Dudley Moore sketches such as the "Frog and Peach", a unique restaurant situated in a bog in the heart of the Yorkshire moor and a BBC gem called "Clare in the Community", the saga of an empathy challenged Social Worker in Britain.

The cast is made up of drama enthusiasts who have been involved with Castle Hill Players and other theatrical groups for many years. Stephen Comey, Phil Lye, Annette van Roden and Annette Dix are in the current production.

Radio Active Live productions take place at The Hills Lodge, 1 Salisbury Rd, Castle Hill. Sunday April 23rd, 3pm to 5pm.

Tickets for Sunday's performance are \$30 and include afternoon tea. Bookings are essential, ring Janelle on 0481 741 440.

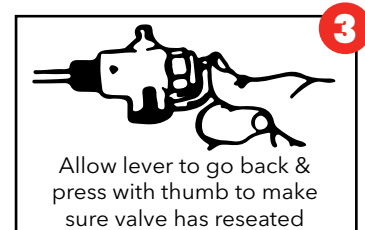
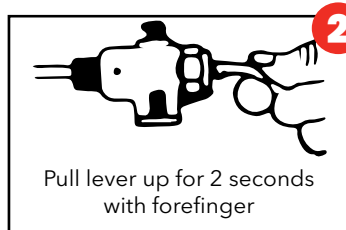
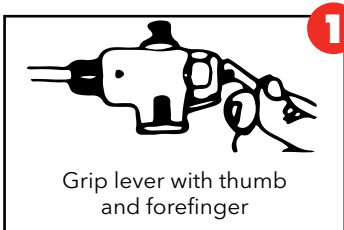
For more information visit the RAL website at <https://radioactive-live.com/> and follow the facebook page at 'Radioactivelive Australia'.

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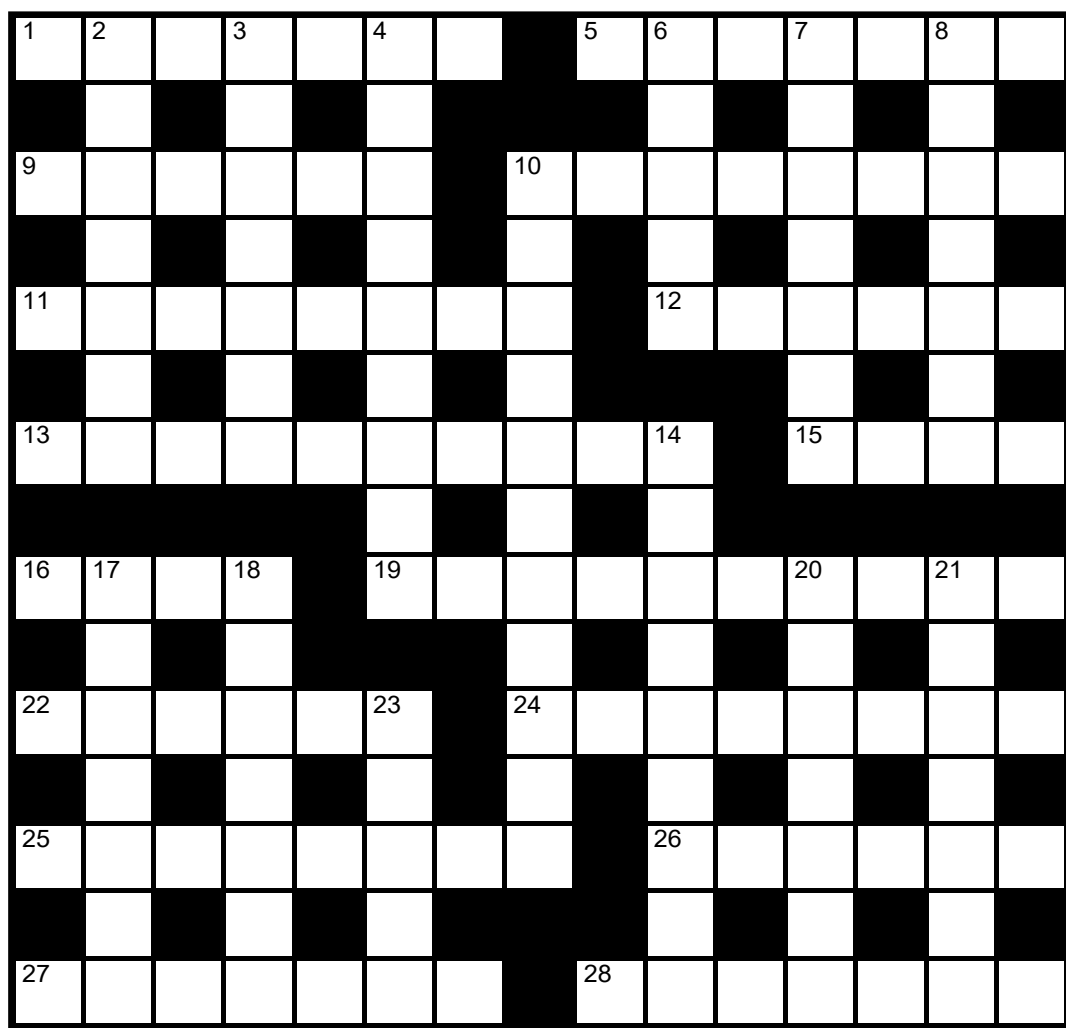
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Across

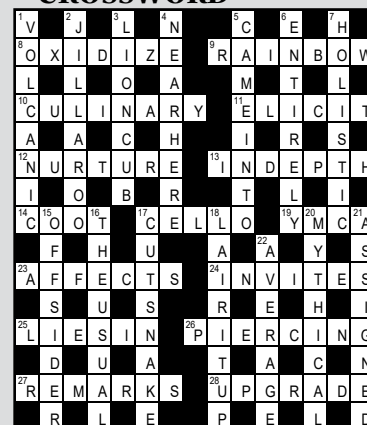
1. Incident
5. Arts hub reinvigorated common shrub (3, 4)
9. Printers' or Tasmanian
10. Fire-resistant tree
11. Take it easy! (4, 4)
12. Large beer bottle
13. Scissors grinder
15. Repose
16. Global airline body (1, 1, 1, 1)
19. Reliance
22. Part of a car's steering system (3, 3)
24. On the books
25. Sydney surfing beach (4, 4)
26. Pro bono
27. If you're doing it, you're on this (3, 4)
28. Unfavourable

Down

2. Triumph
3. Earth-shaking
4. Twisted out of shape (Shakespeare - and Conan Doyle)
7. Chatterbox
8. Beach habitués
10. Former national cricket captain (3, 8)
14. Evasion
17. Horizontal bearing
18. Popular type of paint for artists
20. Overshadow
21. Closing items, usually, on TV screens
23. Just what the doctor ordered

Answers from last issue

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

WORD SEARCH

THE MARKETS

- ANALYSIS
- INVESTMENT
- ARBITRAGE
- LIMIT ORDER
- BEAR MARKET
- MANAGEMENT
- BULLISH
- MARGIN
- COMMODITY
- OFFSETTING
- DAY TRADE
- OPTIONS
- DIVIDEND
- SELL SHORT
- EQUITY
- SHARES
- FUTURES
- TRADING
- HEDGING
- TREND

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
		P				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26		
H	N					

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

Answers from last issue

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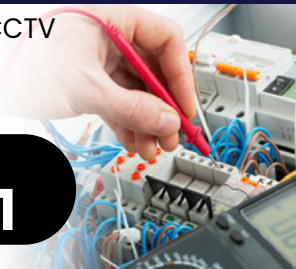


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