

Hills to Hawkesbury

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Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses



MICAH'S MAGIC TOUCH

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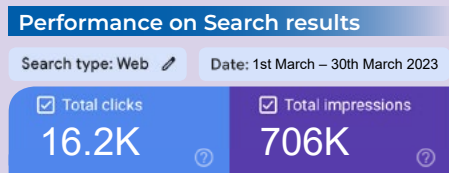
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George Thornton Reserve reopens

BY JOSH KERWICK

Following 12 months of upgrades that cost nearly \$1 million, George Thornton Reserve in West Pennant Hills is now open again to sports teams and local residents to fully utilise. The most major upgrade for the reserve is the addition of a new field that brings the total number up to three; an important upgrade for locals in the densely populated West Pennant Hills area. Other key features include the implementation of new walking paths and cricket nets, better grounds for the pre-existing fields and improved drainage systems.

For local sports clubs like Redbacks FC, the new upgrades are a terrific boon for their operation as more locals become interested in trying out football. Club President Phil Simmons says: "Now that we have these new beautiful grounds, we're really excited for the year ahead. They're attractive for both new and experienced players because the grounds are so neatly manicured. That makes it attractive to high grade players too! We also have a nice pedigree of players in the club - Chloe Legato is an ex-Redbacks player, and she's now in the Matildas. So is Soccerroo Aaron Mooy - we're very proud of that legacy."

After the heroic Matildas run in the Women's World Cup last year, Phil says that more people are becoming interested in trying out football - especially young women. "Our registrations are doing really well so far," he says. "We're expecting that we'll be filling all the grounds every Saturday and Sunday, and every night during the week for training sessions as well. Mostly, though, it's a great open space that kids and families can come to have a nice little kick around!"

Phil was in attendance with NSW Legislative Council Member Peter Primrose and Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi to commemorate



L-R: Peter Primrose MP, Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi and Redbacks FC President Phil Simmons

the completion of the park's upgrades. Mr Primrose, who was representing NSW Sports Minister Steve Kamper, spoke to why the State Government finds it essential to fund projects like this: "Spaces like George Thornton Reserve aren't just great for sport and bringing people together, they're also important for the mental health of local communities. People like exploring quiet green spaces full of trees to get away from everyday life. This contribution from the State Government has really allowed the Reserve to become something I hope the community will be very proud of."

Mayor Peter Gangemi encouraged Hills Shire residents to visit the Reserve and see what premiere features it has to offer residents: "It's very important to us as a Council for our residents to live an active and healthy lifestyle. Here in West Pennant Hills, we saw a need for additional facilities as more families choose to live in The Hills, and so we wanted those facilities so that people can play grassroots sports, walk around the oval and use the cricket nets while being amongst nature as well. The benefits are endless for the people of both the local area and the wider Hills area - there's really something for everyone here at George Thornton Reserve."

Redbacks FC are hosting an open day on Sunday, February 25th from 10am-1pm at George Thornton Reserve - come along for a great day of fun and trying out football.

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.

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Councils Angry Over Density

BY BEV JORDAN

Three local councils have rejected proposed NSW Government planning reforms which will encourage low and medium density levels near town centres and train stations.

The State Government proposal, which aims to increase housing stock, has been roundly condemned by Hawkesbury, Hills and Hornsby councils.

The reforms will allow residential buildings of 3-6 storeys high, terraces, townhouses, duplexes and smaller 1-2 storey apartments in suburbs where they aren't currently permitted.

Hawkesbury City Mayor Sarah McMahon said the plan could put the lives of current and future residents at risk.

"The proposed reforms are at odds with the State-acknowledged risks that exist in the Hawkesbury with relation to natural disasters like floods and bushfires," she said.

"It is already well acknowledged the difficulty and risks we would face if we had to evacuate 60,000 residents using the existing evacuation routes that have been sorely neglected by successive state and federal governments. "Adding more people to that mix is a disaster waiting to happen. Instead of talking about increasing our population, the government should be listening to this Council when we tell them that so much more needs to

be done to provide better flood resilience and evacuation routes for the Hawkesbury."

Hawkesbury City Deputy Mayor Barry Calvert said: "Council is sympathetic to the issue of housing undersupply in NSW, however – this proposal would undermine the unique character of the Hawkesbury, put lives at risk, and supercharge road and public transport congestion, while barely making a dent in NSW's housing shortfall."

Hills Shire councillors are asking the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure to provide it with an exemption saying the **Hills Shire Council** has already zoned and planned for 50,000 new dwellings.

Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi said: "Our family-friendly suburbs are now at risk of being overrun by 2-to-6-storey apartment blocks, duplexes, terrace houses and manor homes. The proposed changes will lead to increased traffic, fewer school places, less on-street parking, and overcrowding in our already struggling hospitals.

"It is of particular concern that there's been no mention from the NSW Government on how it will support Council to provide more parks, better roads, and other services for

everyone who will live here. Council is already a leader in housing supply - being one of the fastest growing areas in the country, exceeding our housing targets and determining more Development Applications last financial year than any other council in Metropolitan Sydney.

"There are thousands of dwelling approvals yet to be acted upon and land zoned for 50,000 more homes in our Shire, so I believe these reforms will not solve the housing crisis. Instead, they will make housing prices even more unaffordable for our young people and will stifle the progress of legitimate opportunities for housing delivery that already exist,"

At its General Meeting on 14th February, **Hornsby Shire Council** also showed little love for the proposal saying the state-wide approach to deliver housing will impact the character of the Shire's suburbs, heritage, environment and tree canopy, infrastructure and risk over-development in areas prone to risks such as bush fires and flooding.

Hornsby Shire Mayor Philip Ruddock said: "We're concerned by the 'one size fits all' approach that is outlined in this proposal."

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SPEEDING P-PLATERS

Officers from The Hills Highway Patrol stopped a P2 licence holder on Friday 9th February at about 8.55pm after he was detected driving along Green Road, Kellyville between 109 km/hr and 99km/hr in a 60km/hr zone. The 19-year-old male from Kellyville behind the wheel of the white Ford F6 Typhoon was a holder of an NSW C Class P2 licence.

The driver was not displaying P plates on the vehicle. The Ford F6 Typhoon is listed on the high-performance vehicles which is banned for P1/P2 drivers.

The driver copped over \$2,000 in fines after he was issued an infringement notice for P2 driver Exceed Speed Limit - over 30 km/hr (\$1,036), Not Display P Plates (\$302) and Not Comply P1/P2 High Performance Vehicle restriction (\$644). His NSW driver's licence was suspended and confiscated on the spot for a minimum period of 3 months where he accumulated a total of 14 demerit points for the 3 offences.

In another incident officers from The Hills Highway Patrol detected a white Mazda CX-5

along Samantha Riley Drive, Kellyville travelling up to 124 km/hr in a sign posted 60 km/hr zone at about 10pm on Tuesday 6th February.

When the 18-year-old male driver from Kings Langley was stopped officers sighted his mobile phone connected to the entertainment unit within the car which was playing music at the time.

Drivers with a provisional P1 or P2 licence are not allowed to use a mobile phone (which includes music and/or navigation), whether or not held by the driver while the vehicle is moving or stationary but not parked.

The driver was issued an infringement notice for P1 driver Exceed Speed Limit - over 45 km/hr and Provisional P1 or P2 licence holder use mobile phone while driving.

His NSW driver's licence was suspended and confiscated on the spot for a minimum period of 6 months where he accumulated a total of 11 demerit points. The vehicle was not owned by the driver and the number plates remained on the vehicle.

In one week officers from The Hills Highway Patrol confiscated Provisional Drivers licences from five P-Plate drivers due to speeding.

1. 7/2/24 at 10.30pm in Baulkham Hills – 146 km/hr in 100km/hr zone
2. 9/2/24 at 2.45pm in The Gables – 92 km/hr in 50 km/hr zone
3. 11/2/24 at 12.40am in Castle Hill – 96 km/hr in 60 km/hr zone
4. 12/2/24 at 2.00pm in Bella Vista – 105 km/hr in 70 km/hr zone
5. 12/2/24 at 2.15 pm in Bella Vista – 105 km/hr in 70 km/hr zone

All drivers were issued infringement notice for exceeding the speed Limit - over 30 km/hr. Their NSW driver's licences were suspended and confiscated on the spot for a period of 3 months.

Highway patrol officers are actively stopping speeding drivers, just remember anywhere-anytime. Don't risk it! Slow down, obey the road rules and help keep our roads safe.

PHOTO from The Hills PAC Facebook



LIGHTNING STRIKES

The Hills SES dealt with multiple calls during a short intense storm and lightning strikes on Monday (19th February) at around lunchtime.

A direct hit on a house in Grevillea Grove, Baulkham Hills (pictured) caused a fire in the roof. Emergency services including Fire and Rescue NSW and SES were called. Fortunately no one was home when the lightning struck.

The intense downpour and winds caused havoc on the roads and brought down trees. The NSW SES were quick to respond, removing fallen trees in the hills district suburbs of Kenthurst and Castle Hill. Numerous power lines were down in the Hawkesbury area during wild storms earlier closing several roads and causing power cuts.

TRIPLE MURDER CHARGES

State Crime Command Homicide Squad officers have charged a 49-year-old man with triple murder after a man was found dead at his Watkins Road home in Baulkham Hills on Tuesday morning (20th February) and the body of his wife and child were found several hours later in North Parramatta..

Taekwondo instructor Kwang Kyung Yoo (also known as Master Lion) was charged in hospital with the murder of Steven Cho, his wife, Min Cho and the couple's seven-year-old son Benjamin, a student at Winston Hills Public School.

Police were notified after the taekwondo instructor was admitted to Westmead Hospital early on Tuesday morning with serious stab wounds and underwent emergency surgery. He told police he had been attacked in the carpark

of a supermarket on Church Street in North Parramatta earlier that evening.

Just before 10.30am on Tuesday 20th February officers attached to The Hills Police Area Command were called to Watkins Avenue Baulkham Hills where they found the body of Steven, 39, with several fatal stab wounds.

About 12.30pm the same day, police located the bodies of Min, 41, and her son at Lion's Taekwondo academy.

Master Lion, a father-of-two from North Kellyville was kept under police guard while he was treated for his injuries, before being charged at about 9pm on Wednesday 21st February by officers from Strike Force Bernarra with three counts of murder.

SUSPECT UNCOVERED

A 34-year-old man who allegedly caused more than \$10,000-worth of damage to six vehicles in local shopping centre car parks has been charged. He appeared in court on Monday.

Three Teslas, an Audi, a Mercedes and a Golf were allegedly damaged during January and February this year, while parked in shopping centres in Rouse Hill, Box Hill and Schofields.

Following an appeal on Police Facebook pages with a photograph of a suspect which asked for assistance, a member of the public called police to a shopping centre car park in

Schofields on Sunday 18th February where a 34-year-old man was arrested.

Police alleged in court, a three-bladed metal multi-tool was found in the man's possession when he was searched.

Officers from Riverstone Police Area Command charged the man with six counts of malicious damage, and one count of custody of an offensive implement in a public place.

Police have been advised the repair bill for the six vehicles is estimated to be more than \$10,000. Inquiries are continuing.

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SONIA AND TODD Soldiering On for Charity

BY JOSH KERWICK

Early this morning (Friday February 23rd), Sonia and Todd Young tied up the laces on their walking shoes and fastened their travelling packs to begin their 422km on-foot journey from Bligh Park to Port Macquarie.

The long walk is all to raise money for Soldier On, a not-for-profit organisation that looks to assist both former and current members of the Australian Defence Force by delivering important support services. It's a cause close to Sonia's heart, knowing first hand the effect that war can have on veterans returning home.

"My dad, Morrie, was conscripted into the Vietnam War," Sonia says. "He was badly injured there in an incident where an APC hit a landmine. Over the years, he was in and out of hospital and he was eventually confined to a wheelchair, but through it all kept a good outlook on life. He used to say 'There's always someone worse off than yourself.' My mum was his full-time carer, but they would travel around Australia a lot in a Kombi Van and motorhome. Although he died in 2017, we thought the story of my mum and dad was inspiring, and that this was a good cause to help other people."

Having heard the experiences of her father firsthand, Sonia and Todd find it important

to raise funds for current members of the ADF and veterans. Sonia says: "We've had discussions where we both agree we would not be the people to go to war. When people come back, they have all of these memories and things to cope with. And that's what Soldier On is there for, to help them through those difficult times."

After spending the last few years living healthier lifestyles, Sonia and Todd see the walk as an opportunity to use their health to help those who really need it. Todd says: "I'm already on my feet 8-10 hours a day, this time it's just for much longer with about 10-12 kilos on our backs. We'll have Soldier On labels on our backpacks and QR codes on us to spark interest along the way."

For the couple's health and wellness coach Leanne Gerber, seeing their training take form in such a selfless manner makes her feel very proud. Leanne says: "I've had the privilege to be a part of the journey - Sonia inspires our healthy community anytime she shares her story. People are so moved and touched, and I admire her bravery and willingness to step out of her comfort zone." To Sonia, Leanne directly said: "I could not be prouder of you two - I can't even express it with words. Go you!"



L-R: Todd Young, Sonia Young and Leanne Gerber

By now, Sonia and Todd will have begun their walk after being seen off by Hawkesbury Mayor Sarah McMahon, with their first stops planned for Castle Hill and Terrey Hills. Although the pair are feeling a little nervous, they're also really excited. Sonia says: "Well, we know how to walk! I'm going to do Facebook posts every day on the way, and my hope is that anyone who follows our journey will read something that inspires them, all for a good cause."

Donate to Sonia and Todd's cause here: <https://fundraise.soldieron.org.au/fundraisers/soniayoung/march-on-from-bligh-park-to-port-macquarie>

Follow their journey on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/sonia.young.904/>



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

There are a huge range of events being organised to celebrate International Women's Day over the next few weeks with many supporting local charities.

WEDNESDAY

6th March

The Community Migrant Resource Centre and Worldwide SHEROES

will be holding an IWD panel discussion at Western Sydney University on Wednesday 6th March, 9.30am

to 1.30pm at the historic Female Orphan School, Building EZ - Conference room EZ.G23, Parramatta South Campus, Victoria Road, Rydalmer

Guest speakers include: Jodie Harrison MP, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Anya Meade, Dean, School of Psychology, Western Sydney University, Melissa Monterio, CEO Community Migrant Resource Centre, Sahera Sumar, CEO Worldwide SHEROES and Global leadership Consultant and Emilee Gilbert, Associate Dean, Research, Western Sydney University.

Panelists are: Naomi Steer AO- Human Rights Leadership, Founding National Director Australia4UNHCR, Yvonne Kelly- CEO & Co-Founder Glow Careers, Ubah Gabris- Finance Professional and Executive Coach, Priscella Mabor- Inclusion Strategy and Innovations Manager. For more information contact: CMRC on 9687 9901.

Freedom For Humanity will be holding a symposium and cocktail event called My story, Your Story, Our Story at 6.30pm in Darling Harbour. The Hills-based charity is raising funds to support the survivors of modern slavery through its scholarship program.

Speakers include Tahera JB Nassrat (Afghan Peace Foundation, Sahera Sumar (UNAA & Worldwide SHEROES), Lawyer Katherine Hawes, Genille Gordon (Community Migrant Resource Centre - CMRC) Dr Michelle Byrne (Former Mayor, Hills Shire Council and Bianca Hoare (Barker College).

The event is being held at the Blackbird Cafe, Wheat Road Balcony Level 1, Cockle Bay Wharf Darling Harbour. Tickets are \$65. To book visit <https://events.humanitix.com/international-women-day-2024>



FRIDAY 8th March

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club

will be holding a breakfast event featuring three powerful speakers at Maurice's Café, The Hills Shire Council Chambers, 3 Columbia Court, Baulkham Hills on Friday 8th March from 7am to 8.40am.

Cost is \$35 which includes breakfast and tea or coffee.

Cheryl Landon-Jones - Team Leader, Castle Hill Days for Girls will be joined by

Ellen Kulbicki - Service Director, Fit Kidz Foundation and Hills Shire Citizen of the Year and Lara Perrett - empowering women through family/work/health balance.

To book tickets visit www.trybooking.com/CPFJY or call Robert on 0425 233 783.

Zonta Club Sydney Hills has organised the Western Sydney International Women's Day Breakfast 2024 to raise money to buy starter kits for women seeking refuge at The Sanctuary - The Hills Women's Refuge.

The breakfast will be held at the Novotel, Sydney Parramatta on Friday March 8th starting at 6.45am (for 7am start) to 8.30am. Cost is \$75 adult or \$35 student. Guest speaker is Lawyer Esther Adeyinka who sits on the Department of Home Affairs' NSW Youth Reference Group and Multicultural NSW Advisory Board.

For tickets visit trybooking.com/CMVIA or Kaye Amies at kaye094@gmail.com or call Kaye on 0415 710 798.

WEDNESDAY March 13th

Hills Soroptimists are holding a small morning tea for IWD this year in a private room at "Vanilla Cream" cafe at Amaro Park, 233 Annangrove Rd Annangrove.

Key speaker will be Yumi Lee from the Older Women's Network.

There is a choice on the menu for either brunch or morning tea when you make a booking. Tickets are \$30. Book through Humanitix <https://events.humanitix.com/sihills-international-women-s-day-brunch-morning-tea>



Powerful Empowered Women will be holding a special evening of fashion and inspiration at historic Cropley House, Baulkham Hills on Friday evening March 8th starting at 6pm.

The theme is: Count Her In: Accelerating Gender Equality through Economic Empowerment.

Part of the evening will include the Women's Success Story Awards and awards for Business Woman of the Year, Community Woman of the Year and Powerful Empowered Woman of the Year. There will also be a fashion show, entertainment, guest speakers on women's health and dinner.

Powerful Empowered Women was founded by Pratibha Banushali in 2019 to give women and small business owners a platform to share their stories and to raise money and goods for local charities so far it has supported i4Give Foundation, StreetMed, The Sanctuary - The Hills Women's Shelter, Hills Relay For Life, Pink Ink Australia and charities working with the homeless and domestic violence support groups.

"When women support other women, incredible things happen,"

Tickets are \$75. For more details email info@powerfulwomen.org.au or call Pratibha on 0431347 200. Tickets are available through <https://events.humanitix.com/powerful-empowered-women-international-women-s-day?fbclid=IwAR2ZwJvYUk3YDvufMy3qfaYtp2-iSqV4Xz0uiL3dELHPSxkjB6HBoJlwzME>



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www.retirementexpo.com.au

Wonderful opportunity to ask questions and gather information



Harmony at Riverside

Some of the residents at Riverside Gardens spent a delightful Saturday afternoon in their community centre with afternoon tea followed by a concert put on by the Riverland Harmony Chorus.

It was a truly delightful experience and the residents are eagerly looking forward to seeing these lovely talented ladies again soon

Birgit Walter said the group is always looking for new members. If anyone would like to get in touch with them, either to discuss booking them, or to visit a rehearsal to see whether they would enjoy singing with them, they can be contacted at info@riverlandharmonychorus.org or call 0434 351 612.

The Chorus was formed in November 1992 and chartered in 1996. Membership is drawn from a wide area from the Blue Mountains, Windsor through Penrith to Merrylands and Camden. They meet every Monday evening and vocal training, simple stretch exercises and breathing techniques are incorporated into their rehearsals. Many lasting friendships have been formed both within the Chorus and with other members throughout Australia and the Chorus aim to have fun whilst improving its vocal techniques.



The Chorus has competed in various Eisteddfods in the area, sung on the Nepean Belle, at the Joan Sutherland Centre, the Evan Theatre, Blacktown Civic Centre, Sydney Town Hall and at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, plus many other local engagements and some further afield.



EXHIBITION OF THE RIVERSTONE EAST STAGE 3 PRECINCT Riverstone East, Blacktown City Council

Location Riverstone East
Council Area Blacktown City Council

Stages 1 and 2 of the Riverstone East precinct were rezoned in 2016 and the draft precinct plan for Stage 3 is now on exhibition for public feedback.

Stage 3 is in the North West Growth Area in the Blacktown Local Government Area, where we are aiming to develop a more inclusive community by rezoning land for more homes, including affordable homes, and creating a new neighbourhood where people will want to live.

Exhibition details

The draft precinct plan for Riverstone East aims to deliver a new neighbourhood of up to 3,600 new dwellings, including a 10% affordable housing target to support entry into the housing market for key workers and low-income earners. Riverstone East, Stage 3 covers approximately 174 hectares for urban development.

Planning for a new neighbourhood in Stage 3 includes educational facilities, each co-located with a community centre and double playing fields. It will also provide better connections with the broader North West Growth Area.

Amendments will be made to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts-Central River City) 2021 (the proposed SEPP) to rezone the precinct primarily for residential purpose.

Have your say by **14 March 2024** by visiting planning.nsw.gov.au/riverstone-east to view the draft plans, including details on where you can meet the team to provide more information on the draft precinct plan to inform your submission.

Community drop in sessions

The Riverstone East project team will be attending the Rouse Hill Community Centre to answer any questions you might have about the precinct plan. Details below:

Location: Rouse Hill Community Centre -39-41 Clower Avenue, Rouse Hill
Session 1: Wednesday 28 February 11:00am -1:00pm
Session 2: Wednesday 28 February 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Session 3: Thursday 29 February 12:00pm -2:00pm.

Have your say

The Department encourages online submissions. To have your say online, go to planning.nsw.gov.au/riverstone-east and click on 'Make a submission'.

If you cannot lodge online, you can write to the address below.

In your submission, please include:

- your name and address (at the top of the letter only);
- the name of the project and the application number;
- a statement on whether you 'support' or 'object' to the application or if you are simply providing comment;
- the reasons why you support or object to the application;
- a declaration of any reportable political donations you have made in the last two years.

For more information, including a copy of the Department's submissions policy, please go to planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say.

For more information: Contact 1300 420 596 or email riverstoneeast3@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Address: Director -Precinct Planning and Assessments
Regions, Industry and Key Sites | Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Doris turns 100

BY BEV JORDAN

When Doris Lobb (nee Taylor) was born Stanley Bruce was Australia's Prime Minister and King George V was on the throne. Last week the 100-year-old received a birthday card from that King's great grandson, King Charles III and his wife Camilla to mark her amazing milestone.

The Royal greeting was among several from politicians and Governors which were admired at a special birthday gathering for Doris at the Anglicare retirement village at Castle Hill where she has lived for the past 17 years..

Doris was born at home in Kogarah where she lived with her parents Mary and William Taylor and her three siblings (Norma, Billy and Bobby).

She met her husband Ainsley at Kogarah Railway Station where he worked in the kiosk selling sweets and gum. He definitely liked the look of this particular commuter and would give her free gum and sweets. Doris was a machinist at the Betta Shoe Factory and so would pass the kiosk several times a week.

It took a while but he eventually plucked up the courage to ask her out on a date and they were married in 1944. They celebrated for over 70 years of marriage together before Ainsley passed away.

They had four children (Maxwell, Brian, Coleen and Alan), four grandchildren (Kelly, Russell, Andrew and Christopher), At the

moment Doris has five great granddaughters (Hannah, Ashleigh, Lauren, Emma and Evelyn) with a sixth grandchild due any day now.

Doris and Ainsley raised their family in Seven Hills before retiring to the Blue Mountains after 24 years working for Prospect County Council. The couple then moved to Baulkham Hills to live before moving to the Anglican Retirement Village at Castle Hill in 2007.

Her grand daughter Kelly said it was a lovely celebration lunch with family, including her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

"My memories include spending many summers taking Nan to the SCG to watch the Cricket – she loved it, and also to live musicals.

"She loved spending time with her family, watching the daytime soap operas and reading the weekly magazines and would talk fondly about her working life where she worked hard as a machinist for Hestia and Playtex.

"She (also) has a huge sweet tooth (probably keeping Cadbury in business)."



A young Doris



Doris Lobb on her 100th birthday

Dural Scouts Hike Over Summer

Over the Summer holidays, a group of 1st Dural Scouts and Venturer Scouts undertook an adventurous journey from Murray's Beach to Stockton Beach via the Glenrock State Recreation Reserve. The weather was hot and humid, but they persevered and achieved their goal after four days' worth of hiking. Along the way they overcame many challenges - from heat stress, waterlogged shoes, rescuing a baby ringtail possum that had fallen from its mother's back (they called it Todd and gave it to a W.I.R.E.S volunteer). They experienced many things they wouldn't have had the opportunity to if they were stuck in front of a screen all holidays.

The youngest on the hike was Jack, who has only recently moved up to Scouts from Cubs but proved to be 'the stuff real Scouts are made of', never complaining about the weight of his pack, nor the heat. The conditions meant that the Scouts had to support each other as the heat made the hike even more physically demanding than usual, and the 1st Dural Group are all particularly proud of them and their wonderful achievement.

This term all Sections have organised programs with a lot of outdoors activities, challenges, and fun – from canoeing and of course there's camping planned!

Dural Scout Group has vacancies now for Girls and Boys from 5 to 25 years. Joeys (5yo), Cubs (8yo), Scouts (12yo) and Venturers (16yo). Please contact Phirooza: 0411 731 976 or phirooza@bigpond.net.au or Simon: thewolf_1stdural@bigpond.com)



Hills Relay For Life

CELEBRATE. REMEMBER, FIGHT BACK

REGISTER TODAY!

Sat 18 & Sun 19 May 2024
9am - 9am

Help us achieve a cancer free future by starting or joining a team! Celebrate cancer survivorship, remember loved ones lost and fight back against cancer.

Every dollar raised will go towards funding world-class research, prevention and support services, as well as helping patients both today and in the future.

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& so much more

Join us at
Hills Relay
For Life 2024

Sat 18 & Sun 19 May
9.00am - 9.00am

Castle Hill Showground
Castle Hill

Register NOW!

Scan me!

Contact Yvette Haines by email or phone
yvette.haines@nswcc.org.au (02) 9354 2007

Celebrate
 Remember
 Fight back

www.relayforlife.org.au/event/hills-2024
www.facebook.com/groups/289806063683739



Open Day Events

We invite you to experience our beautiful retirement communities



Join us for a free morning tea and tour of our local retirement living communities.

Bring along your family and friends to explore our villages, meet our residents and hear why residents love living in our communities!

Register today



RSL LifeCare

rsllifecare.org.au

Event Details

Lakes of Cherrybrook
10A Kenburn Avenue,
Cherrybrook, NSW 2126

Wednesday 28 February
10.30am – 12.30pm

Rowland Village
301 Galston Road,
Galston, NSW 2159

Saturday 2 March
10.30am – 12.30pm

Understanding the Lifespan of Hearing Aids: How long should they last?

When it comes to investing in hearing aids, understanding their lifespan is crucial for optimal usage and cost-effectiveness. Usually, hearing aids last about 5 years. But, how long they last depends on how well you take care of them.

Firstly, it's essential to note that most manufacturer warranties cover repairs for up to 3 years, leaving users with 2 years where any repairs would typically be out-of-pocket expenses. Given the considerable cost of hearing aids, it's important to take proactive steps in caring for them.

Daily maintenance plays a significant role in prolonging the lifespan of hearing aids. Keeping them clean and free from wax buildup is essential. Additionally, storing them in a dry environment away from moisture is crucial. Since humidity can affect the functionality of hearing aids, we strongly advise that you store them in an appropriate environment away from moisture or humidity (for instance do not store them in your bathroom, kitchen, laundry or even an open window).

Sometimes it is difficult to avoid humidity in the warmer months or even sweat can interfere with your devices – Therefore we recommend attending your hearing services provider for your review appointments. At Ear Studio we help our clients take care of their devices and have particular methods and machines that

we can remove debris and humidity build up to keep their devices working to their optimal level of performance. Just as you regularly service your car to keep it running well, it's important to maintain and service your hearing aids too.

Comparing the lifespan of hearing aids to other technologies, such as mobile phones, offers valuable perspective. While 5 years may seem relatively short, considering the rapid advancements in technology, it's consistent with the lifespan of many consumer electronics. What was once considered cutting-edge technology in hearing aids may become outdated within a few years due to ongoing innovations.

You also may discover, after 5 or 6 years, repair options can become limited as manufacturers may discontinue certain parts. This can pose challenges for individuals seeking repairs beyond the typical lifespan of their devices.

From the Australian government's standpoint, it's provision of hearing aids for eligible pensioners every 5 years supports this timeframe as a reasonable life expectancy for hearing aids. This shows that hearing aid technology keeps changing and over time particular devices may even become unsuitable for the wearer as their needs may also change. This supports the fact you will occasionally need to update them.

At Ear Studio, we understand the importance of addressing hearing health needs comprehensively. As a privately owned and independent audiology clinic, we offer support to individuals at various stages of their hearing journey, whether they are just beginning or seeking upgrades. Whether you're eligible for government subsidies or privately funding your devices, our dedicated team is here to assist you.

If you're considering a hearing test or contemplating upgrading your hearing devices, we encourage you to reach out to our friendly team. You can contact us on 02) 9159 6122 or visit our website www.earstudio.com.au for more information or to schedule an appointment online. We look forward to partnering with you on your journey to better hearing.

“Comparing the lifespan of hearing aids to other technologies, such as mobile phones, offers valuable perspective”



Struggling to hear?

Let us help you become part of the conversation again.

To book your comprehensive hearing assessment
Please call us on **02 9159 6122**



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Located inside Lawton House
Suite 9-10 / 60 Cecil Ave, Castle Hill

Castle Hill High Asbestos

BY BEV JORDAN

SafeWork NSW has initiated legal action against the NSW Education Department over an asbestos scandal at Castle Hill High School following results of an inquiry which began in 2022.

A spokesman for SafeWork told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*: "On the 15th February 2024, SafeWork NSW filed charges in the District Court of NSW against the New South Wales Department of Education. The charges were filed under sections 19(1)/32, 19(1)/33 and 19(2)/33 of the Work Health and Safety Act (NSW) 2011. They relate to alleged failures by the Department to discharge its health and safety duties to workers and other persons between April 2015 and October 2018 regarding asbestos issues at Castle Hill High School. As the matter is before the court no further information can be provided at this time."

Allegations that positive reports of asbestos found at Castle Hill High School in 2016 were falsely reported to staff and the school community as negative were raised by Castle Hill MP Ray Williams in 2022.

He said staff had been complaining for several years about white dust and fibers falling from the ceiling, the positive test results weren't revealed to staff until May 11, 2020. Parents were notified a few days later. Remediation work was carried out in 2020.

The MP's claims were investigated by the Department of Education and SafeWork NSW.

A Department of Education spokesman said: "The health, safety, and wellbeing of students and staff are our highest priorities. We have cooperated fully with SafeWork NSW throughout its investigations and will continue to do so. We will also continue to consult independent experts and relevant regulators on the best course of action when managing and remediating asbestos in schools."

The spokesman said the Department of Education has made significant improvements to asbestos management as part of a detailed review it initiated.

Meanwhile one local school was closed to students last week after the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) confirmed the presence of bonded asbestos in mulch at St Luke's Catholic College, Marsden Park

Testing of recycled mulch laid at public parks, supermarkets and schools started on January 10th with more than 800 sites tested. Since 20th February there have been more than 40 positive tests returned including St Lukes at Marsden Park, Riverstone Sports Centre and St John of God Hospital Richmond.

A statement from the hospital on its social media said the contaminated mulch was



Ray Williams MP

located within the recently landscaped gardens around the hospital's redevelopment site.

"The work site has been fully secured throughout the development and not accessible by patients, visitors or caregivers. NSW Health advises bonded, or non-friable asbestos, is considered low risk to human health and the environment. Our priority is the safety of our caregivers and patients, and we are working closely with our construction partners who are taking all necessary steps as directed by the EPA. The area will remain securely fenced until the necessary remediation works are complete."

The NSW Government has established an Asbestos Taskforce to co-ordinate government agencies and assist in prioritising sites considered of highest risk to the public.

The EPA says negative results have been returned for 798 sites since 20th February.

To find out more visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au

Find the right school for your child at the (bigger!) Hills Schools Expo

The Hills Schools Expo will be held on Saturday & Sunday March 16 – 17, 10am – 4pm, at Castle Hill RSL.

Attention parents! The Independent Schools Expo is coming to a new venue this year. Due to growing demand, the Expo has moved from its traditional Showground home to Castle Hill RSL. With a bigger space, and air-conditioned, child-friendly facilities, the Expo will showcase more schools to more families than ever before.

This free event is a rare opportunity to meet with teachers and principals from Australia's leading independent schools and discover the many options available to local families.

The Hills district has long been home to a huge variety of excellent schools, offering a diverse range of facilities and teaching styles. Now, thanks to the new Metro North-West train line and expanded school bus services, families have easy access to more schools than ever.

At the Expo, parents are invited to engage in detailed discussions with school staff to deeply explore a school's offerings and suitability for their child. From information on scholarships to extracurricular opportunities and specialised

programs for gifted and talented students, families can learn everything they need to know to take the next step in their school search.

You can conduct days of research in a single outing while also establishing a personal connection with your school of choice.

Every child is unique. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to find the school to which your child is uniquely suited.

For more information visit: <https://schoolexpo.com.au/hills-school-expo.html>



Hills Schools Expo

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th March 2024, 10am-4pm
Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle St Castle Hill | Free Entry

Looking for the right school for your child? Don't miss the Hills Schools Expo! Showcasing Australia's leading Independent Day & Boarding, Single Sex & Co-ed Schools from Pre-K through to Year 12.

schoolexpo.com.au

Helping
you find the
right school
for your
child

Cherrybrook Tech's New Principal

Matt Townsend is the new principal of Cherrybrook Technology High School, one of the largest public schools in the State, after serving as Deputy Principal for the last decade.

The school is expected to have more than 2070 enrolled students in 2024, having welcomed 325 new Year 7 students for the new school year. With more than 20 years of experience at the school, Mr Townsend has developed strong relationships with the staff, students and the Cherrybrook Tech community at large and is enthusiastic to be stepping into the principal role.

Mr Townsend said: "We are a very large school, but I'm lucky that I have strong systems and structures in place, as well as a great staff and school community around me to support our students to achieve their goals."

Mr Townsend is one of 36 new principals in the Sydney metropolitan area, who Minister for Education and Early Learning Prue Car has said play an essential role in student learning. "The new principals will bring plenty of energy, expertise and new ideas to the roles and I know that they can't wait to get started," she said. "I'm confident they will lead with dignity and kindness, setting our students up with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive."

After teaching at various schools in Sydney's West, Mr Townsend came to Cherrybrook Tech in

2001, teaching Technological and Applied Studies, Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Engineering Studies, and later became the Head of Teaching and Learning.

For the past three years, Mr Townsend has helped to plan and develop Cherrybrook Tech's recently completed STEM building, which features science laboratories and design spaces. Science and other STEM subjects are hugely popular at the school, and the new building will provide students with the resources they need to thrive in these subjects.

With his long-term tenure at the school, Mr Townsend is committed to leading the school with respect to its past. He said: "Cherrybrook Technology High School has a proud history of being a successful school, and I want to continue that legacy. Our core focus is on teaching and learning, professional development for staff that is critical to our students' academic success."

"We're also focused on accessing the best technologies and resources to provide strong support to our students so that they can achieve their very best across all domains."



My Kids Market

With cost of living pressures impacting families, there has never been a better time to attend a My Kids Market, held multiple times a year in Penrith, Stanhope Gardens and Kellyville.

A unique in-person event connecting buyers and sellers of pre loved and new baby and kids goods providing an opportunity for parents and grandparents to purchase quality preloved items at huge savings, in some cases up to 90% off retail prices with many items still having tags still on them.

Families can host a stall and earn hundreds of dollars by selling items their kids have outgrown instead of adding to landfill

Each market sees 60 - 70 local stallholders selling their family's gently used items and with this many stalls, there's always a huge selection to choose from and no shortage of bargains so it's best to get there early as the market attracts hundreds of shoppers.

Everything from pregnancy and newborns to approximately 12 years can be bought and sold at the market including clothing, shoes, toys, books, prams, bikes, cots, highchairs and other nursery items. Small businesses are welcome to showcase their unique brand too!

Regulars to My Kids Market events can vouch for us when we say that this is the place to nab yourself a deal or two. To find out more visit the website www.mykidsmarket.com.au



my kids market

My Kids Market is bringing **BIG** savings to families with their hugely popular baby & kids event in

Penrith

SUNDAY 10th MARCH | 9AM - 12PM
Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre,
Herbert St, Cambridge Park

Stanhope

SUNDAY 24th MARCH | 9AM - 12PM
Blacktown Leisure Centre, Sentry Dr, Stanhope Gardens

- HUGE selection of boys & girls pre-loved clothing
- Toys, books, shoes, nursery items & more
- Local families recycling their gently used items kids have outgrown
- Prices you need to see to believe

PLUS... Exclusive Market Day deals from local business stalls, showcasing their unique baby & kids brands

Shopper entry \$5, KIDS FREE	Pre Loved and Business Stalls!	Fun activities for the kids and Lucky Door Prizes so bring the whole family along!
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Exclusive HTH Offer: 'Bring a Friend for FREE' when you mention Hills to Hawkesbury upon entry!

out and about
with MICHELLE BYRNE

Businesses making a DIFFERENCE

I am constantly heartened by the community spirit that so many of our small businesses have. Times are tough but so many are still invested in the community they love and strive to make a difference.

Belmonte's has been part of the Baulkham Hills community for as long as I can remember, offering pizza and pasta in a cosy Italian themed restaurant with a wonderful welcoming family environment. Whilst many restaurants have come and gone in the Baulkham Hills Town Centre, Belmonte's has survived the test of time.

When I think of Belmonte's I think of the owner, Tanya Stafa, her love for her restaurant, the community and wanting to create a positive legacy through the pay it forward program. Tanya began her journey at Belmonte's as an 18-year-old when she first joined the staff as a waitress. Over the years, no matter how far she travelled around the world, she always returned to her beloved restaurant, hoping one day she would own it. Six years ago, she achieved that dream with encouragement from her dad, who told her she would be successful whatever she chose to do in life.

If you ask Tanya what it is that she loves about Belmonte, she will tell you that it is her second home, a place that has become part of who she is with so many wonderful memories of her family eating at the restaurant and being part of a community over the years. She will tell you about the amazing customers and watching their kids grow up, their generosity and kindness and their willingness to want to help her and others.

Tanya also has a heart for those in need and is determined to give back. Her drive to help others comes from the help Lion's once gave to her dad's family after tragedy struck leaving Tanya's Grandma to raise six kids alone. The Lions purchased a house for them to live and looked after them. Tanya is now helping many in our own community impacted by homelessness, severe financial stress and domestic violence through the pay it forward program.



Through the program customers donate as little as \$8 when they purchase a meal, this money is then used to assist provide a free hot meal for anyone who walks through the door needing help. Tanya also supports the work of StreetMed by providing hot food for the homeless in North Parramatta and with Ronald McDonald house providing hot meals to seriously ill children and their families.

Tanya encourages those who know someone who is struggling and needs a hot meal to reach out citing that people often are too embarrassed to ask for help or they feel there are people who are far worse off than them. However, she encourages anyone in need to come in for a meal, no question asks.

As Tanya sits in her beloved restaurant and reflects on all she has achieved, she hopes her dad who is no longer here, is watching down on her proudly with "a beer in one hand and a fishing rod in the other smiling". I have no doubt he is!

To learn more about Belmonte and how you can support the pay it forward program visit <https://www.belmontesbaulkhamhills.com.au>



Sydney Hills & District Branch

AIR advances the interests of over 50's who are, or plan to be, fully or partly self-funded retirees.

Next Meeting: 1st March 2024 - 10:45am
Presbyterian Hall, Welham St, Beecroft

Topics:

1. Diabetes Australia: Ways to prevent or live with Diabetes
2. Financial Literacy discussion by Robert Barnes, Superguide.com.au

Visitors Welcome | Contact: airsydneyhills@gmail.com



Looking for info that will help your retirement?
Are you worried about changes to the rules?
Then AIR is for you!

Community Environment Centre, Annangrove Park

Platypus Hub, Koala Project and the office of the Cattai Hills Environment Centre (CHEN) T (02) 9654 3571,
Open Thursdays (9am-4pm), occasional Friday, Saturdays 10-2pm.
Or (02) 9843 0533
(The Hills Shire Council's Environmental Education Officer - Jess Styan)

The Association of Independent Retirees (AIR) is a national organisation dedicated to pursuing the interests of current and future fully and partly funded self-funded retirees.

We have been successful in achieving many improvements to government policy in retirement savings and income, tax, health and aged care. Our speakers provide valuable information to members to improve understanding of important retirement issues in a welcoming social environment. Sydney Hills and district branch meets at 10.30 am on the first Friday of each month at Beecroft.

WHIZ KIDS of The Hills

BY JOSH KERWICK

Watching eight-year-old Micah Manyumwa effortlessly spin the sides of a jumbled Rubik's Cube until it returns to six faces of solid colour is remarkable. With a personal best of 29 seconds, the amount of time the young Micah has spent learning how to spin each individual part of the cube is apparent as he moves columns and rows seamlessly with different fingers.

Micah solving a Rubik's Cube speedily

Micah recalls when he first became interested in the art of speedily solving Rubik's Cubes, affectionately called 'Speedcubing' in the community: "I saw a documentary called 'The Speed Cubers', and that one of the guys Max Park had a lot of world records. And I wondered if I could get a record one day."

Becoming involved with the local speedcubing community has been really healthy for Micah, according to parents Kuda and Ernest. The family of five, which includes younger siblings Joelle and Gabe, moved to Sydney in November 2022 from Johannesburg, South Africa.

The huge move brought both great excitement and challenges for the family. Kuda says: "We were at a point where we were looking for a new adventure as a family. We were looking at Canada and Australia as possibilities, and when the offer to Australia came through, we were packing our bags within three months. I think we're grateful we came here, because the Canadian weather would have been on the cold side for us!"

The family decided to settle down in The Hills due to its high number of Christian schools, initially living in Bella Vista but having now recently moved to Glenorie. Ernest says: "We're loving it here, it's a great place. We settled in well in Bella Vista, but the kids' schools are closer to where we are now, so we decided to move. And it's also a pretty cool place, and very peaceful."

Though the area has been great for the family, the initial move 14 hours away from home was understandably difficult. Kuda says: "Adjusting wasn't easy for everyone, but I think Micah found himself something to help him. At first, we didn't even notice that he was learning to solve a Rubik's Cube. One day we picked up on it, and we saw that he watched YouTube videos and learned all by himself."

"It really helped him to find a hobby that he enjoys, and attended his first competition for speed cubing in December at Knox Grammar School. There, he was able to meet new friends and solve cubes under different circumstances, which he really enjoyed!"

The communal aspect is part of what makes it so much fun for Micah. He explains: "I can solve the cubes with my friends at school - we all come together and often have a Rubik's cube session after we put our bags down."

Micah isn't the only prodigy in the Manyumwa household though: two-year-old Gabe is able to count past 100 and has some of his times tables already memorised. Ernest says: "Gabe loves numbers - he caught onto them more quickly than anything else. You'll just hear him counting and then suddenly he's doing times tables. And we're thinking 'Hey, you can't be doing times tables at two years old!' Even driving around, he's reading all the number plates."

Gabe's numerical ability has been somewhat of an accepted fact in the family, to the point it shocks others who casually hear him counting or multiplying up to double or triple digits. Kuda says: "A friend of ours highlighted it once and said that Gabe really does have a gift. I think you take these things for granted sometimes, but we've been really paying attention to his abilities."



The Manyumwas, clockwise from left: Ernest, Gabe, Kuda, Joelle and Micah

Kuda and Ernest hope to continue nurturing the respective abilities of their children and seeing them continue to flourish. Kuda says: "With Gabe, I think his siblings have helped a lot, and we'll keep helping him count higher. For Micah, our aim is to keep exposing him to the local Cuber community, and hopefully see him advance and have some local role models. It's really good that he has local people that he can look up to who have reached similar heights."

Micah is hoping to trim his best Rubik's cube solve time down to 14 seconds. "After that, I'll be aiming for 3 seconds, which is the world record," he says. With his speed and commitment at such a young age, there's zero doubt Micah will be able to achieve this goal in no time.

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The Hills Shire Council News

New Bushcare Group in The Hills

We are excited to announce the formation of a new bushcare group in Colbarra Place Reserve located in West Pennant Hills.

Help to remove invasive weeds, plant more native species and create a thriving natural environment for the Eastern Pygmy Possum.

Everyone is welcome to join the group, which happens on the second Sunday of the month between 1pm -4pm. Visit Council's website and search 'Pygmy Possum Patch Bushcare'.



Recycle your E-Waste and more



A reminder that the FREE E-Waste Plus event is taking place next week on Saturday 2 March from 9am – 3:30pm at Castle Hill Showground.

Hills residents can bring along any old, unwanted or broken electronic items (excluding white goods) as well as soft plastic, hard plastic, polystyrene and textile waste. Visit Council's website and search 'E-Waste Plus' to find a list of all the acceptable items.

Proposed Partial Road Closure – Oratava Avenue



The Hills Shire Council is proposing to close an unused portion of road reserve within Oratava Avenue, West Pennant Hills, under Section 38B of the Roads Act 1993.

The proposed section of road is irregular in shape, approximately 113.6m² in size, and adjoins Lot 1 DP 1294480 with the Parish of Fields of Mars, County of Cumberland. Once the road is closed, Council intends to sell the land to an adjoining landowner.

If you have any concerns or objections regarding this proposal, you are invited to make submissions within the next 28 days. You can send your submissions to the General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, PO Box 7064 Norwest, NSW 2153.

Enquiries: Isabella Miles | 02 9843 0236
Please quote Council Reference No. 4/2021/RC

Elevate your experience with our new Library App



With a range of new features including quick renewals, family card storage, self-service borrowing, catalogue searches, item reservations and barcode scanning to check stock availability, this app has everything you need in one place.

Download or update the app via the App Store.

Council Meetings

Tuesday 12 March 2024 – 7pm

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



220th Anniversary of the 1804 Rebellion

Visit Castle Hill Heritage Park on Saturday 2 March 2024 from 4pm - 8pm to witness the re-enactment of the 1804 Castle Hill Rebellion. Please note, live blank shots will be fired for the re-enactment.

In addition to the re-enactment, there will be:

- Old-fashioned children's activities
- Live music
- Tours of the Castle Hill Heritage Park
- A BBQ by Castle Hill Rotary Club
- Ice cream and coffee
- Information stalls from The Hills District Society, The Convict Trail, Council's Bushcare Team and Library Team.

Visit Council's website and search '220th Anniversary of the 1804 Rebellion' for more information.

Create your own Recycled Kitchen Garden



Head to our Community Environment Centre on Thursday 14 March 2024 to turn junk into jewels and waste into wonder! In this workshop, we'll use items commonly thrown out into landfill, compost and plants, cuttings and seeds to create a recycled kitchen garden.

This workshop is supported by Council's Resource Recovery team. Visit Council's website and search 'Recycled Kitchen Garden' to register.

Caring for Native Wildlife



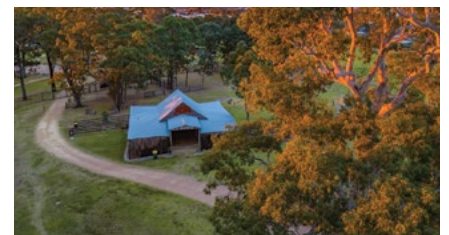
Join us to celebrate World Wildlife Day on Thursday 29 February 2024 and learn about local wildlife, including the Powerful Owl and Growing Food for Wildlife projects.

Discover how to help restore habitats for koalas and platypuses, stay safe around snakes, and care for wildlife during extreme weather. Dinner will be included.

Search 'Caring for Native Wildlife' on Council's website to find out more.

Apply for a Heritage Grant

Did you know you can get financial assistance to help fund the restoration of heritage-listed properties in The Hills Shire?



Individuals, not-for-profit community organisations, commercial or private organisations based in The Hills LGA can apply for \$25,000 on a dollar-for-dollar basis for restoration, repairs, painting, conservation works and like-for-like replacement of heritage materials and fabric.

Applications close on Thursday 29 February 2024. Apply now by searching 'Heritage Grant' on Council's website.



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CASTLE HILL RSL CLUB

for more information scan here or visit www.castlehillrsl.com.au >

Sweetheart Day for HeartKids

CHRG's Sweetheart Day fundraiser this Valentine's Day surpassed expectations, raising over \$2,500 for HeartKids, highlighting the club's commitment to heart health awareness and supporting those affected by congenital heart disease.

In January 2020, Greg Page of The Wiggles suffered a sudden cardiac arrest during a reunion concert at the club's Lyceum Theatre. Quick action by staff who used a defibrillator at the club saved his life, sparking a passion for heart health advocacy within the club.

Similarly, in August 2020, Matt Bailey, General Manager of Lynwood Golf & Country Club, and his family experienced their own heart journey with their newborn daughter.

Harriet was just six days old when she was diagnosed with a hole in her heart and Atrial septal defect (ASD) and Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS). At 8 days old Harriet underwent open heart surgery at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

HeartKids provided crucial support during this challenging time, leaving a lasting impact on the Bailey family.

HeartKids is the only national not-for-profit organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for all people impacted by Congenital or Childhood-Acquired Heart Disease (CHD) – one of the largest causes of infant death in Australia.

HeartKids offers support to 'heart families' on multiple levels – providing care-bags with essential items for a hospital stay, financial assistance, parent education and community support pathways.

Inspired by these experiences, CHRG partnered with Castle Hill Police and Greg Page to equip first responder vehicles with defibrillators, aiming to improve survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest incidents.

The momentum continued with the club's participation in the HeartKids "Two Feet and a Heartbeat" walk in October 2022 and Lynwood Golf and Country Club's inaugural HeartKids Charity Golf Day in November.

At the time the State Manager of HeartKids, Janyne Hogan, said "Every day in Australia, eight babies are born with a form of congenital heart disease – that's one family every three hours whose life changes in a heartbeat. As we strive to increase community awareness of HeartKids, and its services available to families impacted by congenital heart disease in the local community, we are delighted to be partnering with CHRG."



The Bailey family, Verity and Matt with Harriet

Congenital heart disease incorporates a group of abnormalities of the heart and is a general name for any type of malformation of the heart, heart valves or major blood vessels which are present at birth. Childhood on-set heart disease includes children born with congenital heart disease and those who acquire it during childhood.

In 2023, CHRG and its hospitality venues supported Sweetheart Day, a Valentine's Day-themed fundraiser for HeartKids. Members and staff also embraced the initiative this Valentine's Day. The club has also partnered with Heartbeat of Football to offer heart health testing sessions across all venues, furthering their commitment to a heart-healthy community.

With each heartbeat, CHRG and its partners continue to cultivate a healthier, more compassionate community, one act of kindness at a time.



EXHIBITION OF STATE LED REZONING PATHWAYS PROGRAM Railway Terrace, Schofields

Location	249 Railway Terrace, Schofields (Lot 4 DP 1268701), 257 Railway Terrace, Schofields (Lot 3 DP 1268701) and 271 Railway Terrace, Schofields (Lot 5 DP 26987)
Applicant	Provincial Investments (NSW) Pty Ltd
Council Area	Blacktown City Council
Consent Authority	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

The Rezoning Pathways Program focuses on opportunities to rezone land in areas with high potential for increasing housing stock, and maximising community benefit. Railway Terrace, Schofields is one of five proposals identified as part of the pilot program.

Exhibition details

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Department) has received an application for the abovementioned proposal. The proposal involves 1,751 new homes of which approximately 33% are proposed to be affordable or build to rent tenure types. The proposed planning amendments to the Central River City State Environmental Planning Policy include:

- Amend the Floor Space Ratio and maximum height of the building from 16 to 32m, which is approximately 4 to 8 storeys.

The planning proposal, Discussion Paper, and accompanying documents are on exhibition from **15 February** until **14 March 2024**. You can view these documents online at planningportal.nsw.gov.au/ppr/under-assessment/railway-terrace-schofields.

Have your say

The Department encourages online submissions. To have your say online, go to planningportal.nsw.gov.au/ppr/under-assessment/railway-terrace-schofields and click on 'Make a submission'.

If you cannot lodge online, you can write to the address below.

In your submission, please include:

- your name and address (at the top of the letter only);
- the name of the project and the application number;
- a statement on whether you 'support' or 'object' to the application or if you are simply providing comment;
- the reasons why you support or object to the application;
- a declaration of any reportable political donations you have made in the last two years.

For more information, including a copy of the Department's submissions policy, please go to planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say.

For more information: Contact 1300 420 596 or email rezoningpathways@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Address: Director – Precinct Planning and Assessments Regions, Industry and Key Sites | Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

DETS OF THE WEEK

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



AT A GLANCE
 NAME: BUZZ
 SEX: Male
 BREED: Labrador
 cross
 AGE: 2 years old
 PRICE: \$99

BUZZ is a lovely, friendly two-year-old labrador cross who can get a little excited when he first meets you. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say Buzz has been great when playing next to the other dogs in the play area and is generally well-behaved when on a lead. If you are interested in meeting Buzz please bring your family dog and the children to meet him at the Shelter. His \$99 adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.



AT A GLANCE
 NAME: BARRY
 SEX: Male
 BREED: American
 Staffordshire
 AGE: 18 months old
 PRICE: \$99

BARRY is a sweet and very outgoing young guy! Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say that at 18 months old, Barry has lots of fun, vibrant energy that he loves to burn. Daily exercise, toys, fun and family time are on Barry's lists of needs for her new home. Staff say Barry walks well on a lead, sits when asked and takes his treats gently. If you are interested in meeting Barry please bring your family dog and the children to meet him. His \$99 adoption price includes the first vaccination, desexing, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.

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www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au

Exciting News Alert!

Get ready, Baulkham Hills pet parents! We're thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of Sydney Animal Hospitals in your neighborhood, bringing top-notch care right to your doorstep!

Since 1990, Sydney Animal Hospitals has been the go-to choice for pet owners seeking high-quality veterinary services. And now, we're extending our legacy of excellence to Baulkham Hills!

As a proudly independent, vet owner-operated group, we're deeply ingrained in the communities we serve. When you walk through our doors, you'll be greeted by familiar faces who truly care about your pet's well-being. With Dr. Markus Mander at the helm, alongside the founder of Sydney Animal Hospitals, Dr. Sam Haynes and Dr. Rebecca Cassilles BVSc, PGCertScTech (surg), you can trust that your furry family members are in the best hands possible.

What can you expect from Sydney Animal Hospitals Baulkham Hills? We're pulling out all the stops to ensure your pet receives the best care possible. Our state-of-the-art facility will feature an animal rehab center staffed by dedicated rehabilitation nurses, ready to assist your pets on their journey to recovery.

We understand the importance of convenience in your busy lives. That's why we'll be open seven days a week, and most public holidays. Our expert team of vet surgeons will offer a wide range of wellness services, from routine check-ups to specialized surgeries and everything in between. Whether it's arthritis, cancer, cataracts, pet nutrition, or dentistry, we've got you covered!

At Sydney Animal Hospitals Baulkham Hills, your pet's health and happiness are our top priorities. With warmth, care, and compassion, we're committed to providing exceptional veterinary care for your furry friends.

Stay tuned for updates on our grand opening - we can't wait to welcome you and your pets to our brand-new hospital!



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AUSTRALIA'S YOUNGEST FEMALE AUTHOR:

17 Stories by Ashleen Khela

Ashleen Khela is an inspiring eleven-year-old from the Castle Hill Electorate who graduated from Kenthurst Public School in December of 2023. Ashleen has an incredible story as she has recently become the youngest female published author in Australia. She discovered a love of writing at the age of 8 and continued to develop this hobby over the COVID lockdowns. Ashleen and her family often travel to India, and it was during one of these trips before the lockdowns that Ashleen met underprivileged children who were living in rural Punjab that inspired Ashleen and gave her a desire to help underprivileged children.

Over the lockdowns, Ashleen used the time to develop her stories, first drawing on inspiration from the underprivileged children in Punjab, then using her creativity and imagination to create the tales that make up 17 Stories. The book is an inspiring and imaginative collection of stories which takes the reader to a land of fantasy and adventure. India's Punjab



Education Minister, Harjot Singh Bains described '17 stories' as entertaining and inspirational for many readers worldwide.

Not only did Ashleen author and illustrate the book but she also worked hard collecting drink cans, plastic, and glass bottles which she took to recycling stations to fund the publication costs. All proceeds from her book will be donated to the Cancer Council of Australia and Starlight Kids Foundation as well as contributing funds towards underprivileged children of India and other developing nations.

Congratulations to Ashleen for her hard work and contribution to society.



MARK HODGES MP
MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL



AS YOUR STATE MP, I AM HERE TO:

- Help you with any State Government matters.
- Assist in accessing NSW Government services, assistance or grants.
- Provide Justice of the Peace services.
- Arrange congratulatory messages.

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• Suite 1A, 19-21 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154
• 9686 3110
• castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au

SPEAKING UP:

The North West Needs Better Buses

It is no secret that bus services in our growing communities are not fit for purpose. In what has been a continued pattern, we continue to live with the former Government's failure to properly invest in the necessary infrastructure for our communities. This isn't about buck-passing, it's about improving public transport options in our area and reducing traffic.

The Minns-Labor Government recognises the pressing need for better bus services and established the Bus Industry Taskforce last year; a dedicated initiative aimed at listening to the experiences and concerns of local residents. This taskforce shows our commitment to fixing the problems created by population growth that were ignored for far too long.

The establishment of the Bus Industry Taskforce underscores the government's commitment to inclusivity and community engagement. It provides a platform for all of us, as residents, to voice our experiences and ideas directly to decision-makers. This initiative is not just a promise; it is a tangible step toward fostering a transparent and responsive government.

I'm asking all my fellow residents to take this opportunity to make a difference in the North West. The Bus Industry Taskforce is actively seeking submissions from the public- and your voices matters. Share your experiences, voice your concerns and propose solutions that you feel will transform our bus system for the better.

I have been hard at work advocating for this community and pushing Ministers for better services - but to do this effectively, I need your help by providing the taskforce with your perspective.

Make your voice heard.

Submissions to the Taskforce close on the 31st of March and can be made at the QR code next to this article. With your help, we can build better services for our community.

The North West needs BETTER BUSES.

Make your concerns heard and make a submission to the Bus Industry Taskforce!



Have your say!



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WARREN KIRBY MP
STATE MEMBER FOR RIVERSTONE

• (02) 8883 3499 • riverstone@parliament.nsw.gov.au
• Shop 20 Stanhope Village, 2 Sentry Drive, Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768

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As your Federal Member, I am here to:

- Assist with accessing Federal Government services**
- Attend your local community event**
- Arrange congratulatory messages**

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.



JULIAN LEESER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120 02 9980 1822
 julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au julianleeser.com.au julianleesermp

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

My Team and I are here to help

People often ask me what my favourite part of this job is. Without trying to sound like a cliché, it is undoubtedly the opportunity to help our community.

While part of that role is representing you in Canberra, another important part is helping members of our community to access and navigate Federal Government services.

I am hearing more and more about people suffering because the wheels of bureaucracy are turning far too slowly. When that happens, we are here to help.

One of the main areas where we assist is with Centrelink, Medicare and the NDIS. For instance, Jess from Mount Colah applied for paid parental leave but, 3 months later, it still had not been approved. My office raised the

issue with Centrelink and, four days later, she started getting those much-needed payments.

I've long advocated for better telecommunications for our electorate. If you have telecommunications problems, we may be able to help. Recently, Lee from Cherrybrook contacted our office about issues with his phone and internet connection which had continued ever since he moved into his home 6 months before. My office raised the problem with Telstra, who fixed the problem within a week.

Additionally, while we can't influence the migration process, we can draw the

Department's attention to applications and seek updates on your behalf. For example, last year, Taylor from Thornleigh's niece applied for a visa to come to Australia for her wedding. When it still was not approved 3 months later, despite her family's visas being granted, our office escalated it with the Department. A few days later it was approved – making for a much happier wedding!

If I can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me on 9980 1822, or by emailing Julian.Leeser.MP@aph.gov.au.

Hawkesbury residents benefit from Labor's better tax cuts

On the 1st of July this year, the Albanese Labor Government will deliver a tax cut for every single Australian taxpayer.

We understand that many households are doing it tough, we've listened and it became clear that giving more Australians a tax cut would make a real difference to help with the cost of living.

We want people to earn more – and keep more of what they earn. That includes hardworking Middle Australia, who benefit from our tax cuts—people who were getting not much or nothing from the coalition's tax plan.

A childcare worker in Bligh Park on \$40,000 a year will get a \$654 tax cut. Under the Liberal

Party, they would have got zero. A maintenance worker at a Hawkesbury primary school on \$50,000 will get a tax cut of \$929 a year. A cook in aged care at Richmond or a home-care workers will get a tax cut of \$1,166. Workers on \$70,000 a year, like an admin worker at one of our local schools, will get a tax cut of \$1,429. And teachers on \$80,000 a year or a registered nurse in aged care will receive a tax cut of \$1,679—double what they would have got under the Liberals.

In Macquarie 85% of taxpayers will receive a bigger tax cut than under Peter Dutton's and Scott Morrison's old plan. The average tax cut is \$1,624. That's around \$90 million back into the pockets of taxpayers, the pockets of workers, just in the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains alone. That's just for the first year

Whether you're a cleaner, engineer, carpenter, retail worker, beautician or truck driver, you will get a tax cut from Labor on 1 July. That means there'll be more money in your pay packet.

SUSAN TEMPLEMAN MP

Federal Member of Macquarie

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Letter from
THE MAYOR
Mayor congratulates Bella Vista Farm

Dear President of The Friends of Bella Vista Farm,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the ongoing dedication of The Friends of Bella Vista Farm.

For 18 years, The Friends have lovingly tended to the Farm in a variety of ways, from maintaining the grounds and caring for the sheep's every need, to hosting your Open Days and teaching residents and visitors about the history of the complex, with the proceeds of these Open Days going straight back to maintaining the Farm.

At our recent Australia Day event at the Farm, your efforts were recognised by many within Council. I have never seen the grounds look so beautiful. I would also like to thank you for running your Trash & Treasure stall on the day and for providing Devonshire tea, cold drinks and cakes for the 12,000 people who attended the event on such a sweltering day.

Bella Vista Farm is a unique location set within 20 hectares of rural landscape and home to the preserved homestead, which provides our residents with a connection to our history dating back to the 1700s. It is a rare site of cultural significance and a crowning jewel of The Hills Shire.

However, what's particularly pleasing is the manner in which The Friends work with Council to maintain this heritage gem. Council officers report that The Friends always work constructively with Council officers and are proud to welcome visitors from all walks of life to experience and appreciate this wonderful piece of Australian history.

We are extremely grateful for your custodianship of the Farm and our community is lucky to have a committed group of individuals devoted to safeguarding the site. Your passion and wealth of knowledge about the homestead and the first European settlers are unparalleled and extremely valuable for our residents in understanding our humble beginnings as a Shire.

Thank you for everything and I wish you all the best in your endeavours for 2024.

Yours sincerely
Dr Peter Gangemi
MAYOR

There will be no Open Day on Sunday March 3 at Bella Vista Farm. The next date to come and visit the Farm is Sunday, 7 April. We look forward to seeing you then! Cnr Elizabeth Macarthur Drive & Norwest Boulevard Bella Vista. Open from 9am-2pm.



THE MEDIA AND I

Past memories of the local media

A few related events occurred recently. My wife, whilst sorting through things to make room for more things (as you do), decided that perhaps we needed to throw some stuff out. Placed on my desk in front of the computer was laid a number of files with the instruction "to go through and sort out what I want to keep, and what to dispose of."

I opened the first file and found an assortment of my press clippings from 1990, the second and third files similarly contained press clippings from later years. Looking through these clippings revealed to me that I first started writing for this publication when it was called the "Hills District & Toongabbie TV Guide & Entertainment Magazine", with my first column, entitled "Vote", appearing in the issue of February 16, 1990. The choice of the word "Vote" was because the aim of that column was to educate and inform readers of the complexities and issues relating to voting and 1990 was an election year. As an employee of the Australian Electoral Office (later Commission) for 25 years, and Divisional Returning Officer for Parramatta until 1993, I was keen to ensure readers of how their vote would be counted correctly, as I did point out what constituted a formal vote, and an informal vote, according to the rules in place at the time. The "Vote" column continued to be published until at least March 1991. By early 1992, it had been replaced by "Ivor's Column" which continued for a number of years along with my other offerings in the same publication, "From The Pages Of The Past" and "Hills Happenings by Bill". During this time the publication was being printed and published by Ron Stettler Printing in Reynolds St Toongabbie. By 1993, I was also writing a column, "Ivor's Galston Comments" in the, then, "Galston News" also printed by Stettler's. "Ivor's Roundup" appeared in 1994 in the "Dooral Roundup" and around that time the "Hills News" invited me to write pieces for them which I did for a few months. However, in 1996-97 I put away my writing for a while and my wife and I started a new enterprise which grew into one of the largest private election companies in NSW providing election services to registered clubs, credit unions and other non-profit organisations. That business "Metro-Poll Elections" continues to operate under new ownership as a division of the Australian Election Company and is now based in Queensland.

In February 2015, I recommenced writing for the former "Hills TV Magazine" now renamed "Hills to Hawkesbury" with a column named "Memories with Ivor Jones & Friends". In July 2016, I added a photographic page called "As We Were".

Recently, at the February Open Day at Bella Vista Farm, Marge Leary, a volunteer, asked me about something she once read about a lady who had serialised her younger days growing up. I immediately thought of Mary Leonora Smith whose life had been serialised in this column over three years ago during November and December 2020. Mary Leonora (Noreen) Smith featured in this publication once again in January of this year upon celebrating her 100th birthday. I had just seen this article in the aforesaid clippings and was able to pinpoint Marge's enquiry.

Another co-incidence is that Michelle Byrne, in her "Out and About" column in the last issue of this publication, wrote of the Radio Station "Alive 90.5" based at Baulkham Hills. As a former presenter and Chairman of the Board of that station during its early years, I covered that portion of my life in the media within my "Memories" column in the issue of 5th November 2021 which can still be found in our on-line issue of that year.

I enjoy what I do and hope to continue to write about things that interest me and work with people I like for as long as I am able. I have never sought payment for any of my articles even though I had been approached by another publication who offered me employment at one time.

A note that the Stettler family sold the "Hills TV Magazine" back in the 1990's and the "Hills to Hawkesbury" is now owned by the Compton Media Group and published by Adephe Printing. Diana Paton has kept the Community focus that was a hallmark of the Stettler-Touzel founding families, a focus which I enjoy.

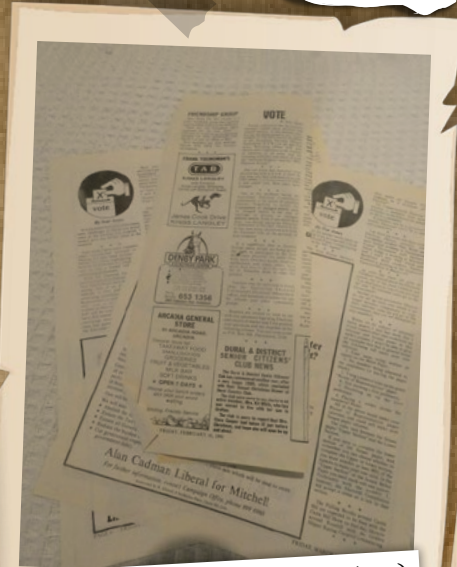
AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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



Hills News & Hills TV Magazines from the 1990s



Vote (Voice of the electors) column 1990



As We Were media people and masheads from the Hills in the 1990s



Front pages of this magazine in 1990 and 2024 Big changes in 34 years



Some favourite memories from the past.



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T&CS APPLY

Huge boost for rugby as Box Hill gets new junior club

Sydney's newest rugby club, the Box Hill Junior Rugby Club aka The Boxers, has kicked off, as a part of the Eastwood Rugby Juniors district.

Eastwood, one of the premium rugby institutions in NSW, are relocating to The Hills with General Manager Robert Frost predicting The Boxers will quickly become an integral part of the rugby community.

NSW Rugby is a strong supporter of BHJRC, which has rugby diehard Darren Kable as its founder president and Matt Hochstetter as vice-president.

Mark Green, General Manager, Community & Participation at NSW Rugby, said it is great to see a new club in North West Sydney, "where rugby union is traditionally strong and growing." "As part of the Eastwood district juniors, I look forward to seeing the Boxers win their first game," he said.

"I'm really excited by the opportunity to kick off Sydney's newest rugby club," Kable said. "Having a junior rugby club in Box Hill is vitally important to the local community. It offers young boys and girls an environment to learn essential life skills including teamwork, resilience, discipline, fitness, strength & respect."

Kable started playing rugby 40 years ago with Beecroft Pennant Hills (now the Northern Barbarians). His sons, Samuel, 16, and Lachlan, 14, represent Hills Rugby Club, Dural Rugby Club and Oakhill College.

"I firmly believe in the adage it takes a village to raise children," Kable said. "I am immensely grateful to the 'Rugby Village' for the friendships, role models, mentors, and coaches who have contributed to shaping my boys into the outstanding young men they are today.

"It is this ethos that drives my aspiration for the Box Hill JRC to cultivate a supportive community where all young individuals can thrive, irrespective of their skill level."

He said the club was ratified with Sydney Junior Rugby Union a few years without any activity until now.

"I have a wonderful group of passionate people with decades of experience running kids

sports helping to build this club," Kable said. "We have a lot of support from Dural Rugby Club & Eastwood Rugby to ensure this club is successful."

Eastwood GM Frost said this is a wonderful opportunity to work with the new communities. "Our re-location to Castle Hill is part of a long term strategy to focus on the new and emerging areas of Sydney and give all the new families an opportunity to try rugby," Frost said.

The Box Hill Junior Rugby Club committee: President: Darren Kable; Vice President: Matt Hochstetter; Treasurer: Bernard Waterson; Secretary: Trevor Robson; General Committee: Mark Swindell and Kyle Wade.

The club is holding "Try Rugby" days on March 13th and 23rd. Details: Call 0424 179 109 or email: president@boxhilljrc.com.au



The Box Hill Junior Rugby Club committee is ready for their first season.



Seniors Equestrian Games in Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury Riding Club is reducing the age limit to 55 years for their highly-successful Senior Equestrian Games to be staged on Saturday, March 23, at Clarendon.

The Seniors Equestrian Games includes dressage, show jumping and hacking. It will be hosted at the Hawkesbury Riding Club Grounds, Gate 5, Racecourse Rd, Clarendon, from 8am.

"We are really excited to again run an equestrian festival exclusively for seniors and this year have reduced the age requirements from riders turning 60 and older to allowing riders turning 55 and older this year to enter," said club president Wendy Pike.

The event is open to all full or associate members of Equestrian Australia who turn 55 years of age or older in 2024 and all Hawkesbury Riding members turning 55 years of age or older this year.

Nominations are open and entries close on March 13.

For more information, please contact: Jane Reid Email syntilla36@gmail.com, call 0401 478 689 or visit Hawkesbury Riding Club. Enter via nominate Hawkesbury Riding Club Senior Equestrian Games 2024

10-MAN HILLS UNITED OFF TO IDEAL START

Newly-promoted National Premier Leagues Men's NSW outfit, Hills United sounded a warning to their rivals with a stunning 2-1 victory over fancied Sydney Olympic outfit in the opening march of the football season.

The win is all the more remarkable because Luke Casserly's team played the majority of the match at Belmore Sports Ground with 10 players after Nicolai Muller was sent off in the 34th minute.

Hills United's Japanese import Yu Okubo stunned the hosts with an eighth minute goal before Sydney Olympic drew level with a Roy O' Donovan penalty in the 86th minute.

However, Hills United had the last laugh when Eion Montford coolly slotted home a penalty two minutes later to silence the home crowd.

United coach Luke Casserly was over the moon saying: "Six or seven years ago, we weren't even an NPL status. So, the work everyone has done over that period to now be in the highest League we can be in and playing a big traditional club like Sydney Olympic and come away with the win, I'm just so rapt for all the fantastic people involved with Hills United."

JACK ATTACK IS BACK

Jack Attack is a lawn bowls game similar to Barefoot Bowls but played over a number of weeks as a competition. Players are mostly inexperienced bowlers, participating for fun, friendship, and prizes.

Dural Bowling Club is hosting Jack Attack from February 16th and March 2nd with prizes donated by the parent club Parramatta Leagues.

It is pleasing to see some returning teams that took part in the competition of last October and November. Anyone interested in playing Jack Attack can contact Robyn Scoble on 0416035655.

*Anyone interested in playing bowls or having a Barefoot Bowls Party, please contact Robert on 0411 375 580.

COMMUNITY groups

2nd Castle Hill Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

Annangrove Environment Centre

☎ 02 9654 3571 (Thurs) | 02 9843 0533 (Wed-Fri)
✉ gnolan@thehills.nsw.gov.au

Arcadian Quilters

☒ Meet in Galston Community Health Centre 1st and 3rd Wed mornings, evening group 2nd and 4th Mon. New members welcome
☎ Carole | 9894 7749

Baulkham Hills Probus

☒ Meets 1st Thurs each month 1.30pm Baulkham Hills Sports Club, 11 Renown Rd Visitors welcome. Activities every Thurs.
☎ Betina | 0419 595 007
✉ probus56830@gmail.com

Bonsai Society of Australia

☒ Club meetings 1st Tues of the month 7.30pm; West Pennant Hills Community Centre, 42 Hill Rd West Pennant Hills.
☎ Ingrid | 0409 963 438

Castle Hill Art Society

☒ Art practice for artists of all ages, either in groups or classes for adults and children. Monthly demonstrations and workshops by well-known artists. Members can participate in exhibitions during the year.
☎ 9899 3179 (ans. machine)
☎ www.castlehillartsociety.org.au

Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.,

☒ Anyone over 55 welcome to come and play carpet bowls, cards and rummikub. Cnr of McMullen Ave. and Old Northern Road, Castle Hill (opp. new Metro station) with parking at the rear.
☎ 9680 3958 ✉ castlehillseniors@gmail.com

Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook

☒ We are a mixed gender club of over 170 retirees and semi retirees. Meetings on 1st Thurs of each month at the Cherrybrook Community & Cultural Centre.
☎ Ross | 0411 104 863
✉ rossfritzpatrick@icloud.com
☎ www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/cherrybrook/Welcome

Computer Pals for Seniors – The Hills

☒ A non-profit club run by volunteers dedicated to providing low-cost tuition for Seniors in a friendly atmosphere, enabling them to stay safe online & become proficient in the many facets of computing.
☎ Colin Wright | 0479 137 131 ✉ cpahills.org.au

Cumberland Bird Observers Club

☒ The Club conducts 3 outings a month to observe birds in their natural environment. General meetings are held at Castle Hill on the 3rd Tues of the month. New members are always welcome.
☎ Peter | 0412 770 757 or Cathy 9809 5668
☎ www.cboc.org.au

CWA of NSW – Galston Branch

☒ Meets 2nd Wed each month at the Galston Community Health Centre, cnr The Glade and 17 Arcadia Rd, Galston. 10am followed by business meeting and BYO lunch. Craft day 4th Wed each month. Visitors welcome.
☎ Jann | 0439 222 217 or Patricia | 0412 948 787

CWA of NSW – Castle Hill Branch

☒ Holds its monthly meeting every 2nd Tuesday at the CWA Hall, 2 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst (off Angus Road) from 10am. We also hold our Craft mornings for members on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10 to 12.
☎ Maureen | 0411 724 925

CWA of NSW – Toongabbie Branch.

☒ Monthly meetings held 1st Tues of the month at Toongabbie Girl Guide Hall in Junia Avenue Toongabbie from 10am. We also hold craft mornings for members on 1st and 3rd Tues of the month from 10-12.
✉ ToongabbieCWA@gmail.com

Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Grp

☒ We meet on the 3rd Mon of every month 7:00pm for 7:15pm at the Blue Gum Centre, Glenhaven Green, 607 Old Northern Road, Glenhaven
☎ Graham | 8677 7896 or 042421062

Dural Country Club Bowls

☎ 04 2131 5074

Dural Men's Shed

☎ 04 0247 8498 ☎ www.duralmensshed.org

East Kurrajong School of Arts

☒ 1st Tues each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity you're interested in, bring pencil's or brushes to practice your drawing or painting with Ruth, browse the library for a book to read or simply just relax,

have a cuppa and enjoy a chat from 10am to 1pm. Gold coin donation for morning tea.
☎ Ann | 02 4576 5031

Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc Hawkesbury Grp

☒ For anyone who loves to stitch or would love to learn. Meetings: 3rd Tues 10am-2pm, 4th Tues 6-10pm Stan Stevens Studio, Deerubbin Centre 300 George St. Windsor (Windsor Library level). Guests always welcome.
☎ Catherine Delaney | 0413340049
✉ cdelaney1@vtown.com.au

Friends of Hills Library

☒ Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at Castle Hill Library. New members welcome.
☎ Lesley Nelson, President - 0478 000 925

Galston VIEW Club

☒ The Club who raises money for The Smith Family "Learning for Life program" holds its monthly lunch meeting on the 4th Wednesday at The Galston Club 21-25 Arcadia Rd Galston. 11am..
☎ President Lesley | 0413 996 783

Girl Guides Australia

☒ Great programs for girls 6-18. They meet once a week in groups relevant to their age run by trained Leaders and Unit Helpers.
☎ Margo | 0417 657 433.

Glenhaven Probus Club Inc

☒ Meets 10 am on 2nd Tuesday of each month at Castle Hill Bowling Club.
✉ secretary.glenhaven.probus@gmail.com

Glenwood Men's Shed

☎ Jim | 0438 701 275

Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail

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

Hawkesbury Camera Club

☒ Club meets at 7.30pm on the first 3 Wed of the mo at the Richmond Club, Francis Street, Richmond. Facebook Hawkesbury Camera Club.
☎ www.hawkesburycameraclub.com.au

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn

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

Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the 1st Fleeters

☒ Meets on 2nd Saturday of each month.
☎ Pamela Hempel | 0407 660 579
☎ www.fffhnc.com

Hawkesbury West Probus Club

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

Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

☒ 9.30am to 2pm Wed. & Sat.
☎ www.hawkesburywoodcraft.org.au
☎ Graham | 02 4576 1517

Hills District Women's Bowling Club

☒ Jenner Street, Baulkham Hills
☎ 9639 2733
☎ www.thehillswomensbowls.com.au

Hills Older Men's Network INC

☒ Meets fortnightly on the first and 3rd Mondays of the month, 10am to 12.30pm at Castle Hill. The group is aimed at retired men over the age of 55 and provides an opportunity to chat in a non-judgemental, safe and supportive environment.
☎ Ron | 0424 462 153 ✉ HillsOM1@gmail.com

Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra

☒ Welcomes new players and gig enquiries. Rehearsals Wednesday evenings.
☎ Chris | 0405 994 605
✉ info@hillsshiresymphonyorchestra.org.au
☎ www.hillsshiresymphonyorchestra.org.au

Hills Toastmasters

☒ Meets every 2nd Tues, 7pm. Restore Church: 47 Britannia Rd, Castle Hill. New members welcomed
☎ Terry | 0488 089 951

Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

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

Kurrajong Hand Spun Craft

☒ Come and learn a beautiful old craft at North Richmond Community Centre. Friendly group just bring yourself. Thursdays at noon.
☎ Margaret | 0403 819 165

Ladies Probus Club of Baulkham Hills

☒ Baulkham Hills Sports Club on Renown Rd, Baulkham Hills meets on the 2nd Wed of the month at 10am and welcomes enquiries about our club.
☎ Suzanne Dennis | 96390324 (home) 0412424593 (mobile)

Learning in the Hills

☒ To find out more about the huge range of courses available call 9639 7918
☎ www.hca.org.au/learning-in-the-hills/

Lions Club of Richmond Inc.

☎ Geoff | 0412 969 651

Lions Club of Windsor Inc

☎ Pam | 0413 395 145

Macquarie Towns Garden Club

☒ The Club meets at 2 pm on the 1st Thurs of the month, in the Tebbutt Room of Hawkesbury Central Library at Windsor.
☎ macquarietownsgardenclub.wordpress.com

National Seniors Australia (Hills Branch)

☒ Meets on the 1st Thurs of every month at Baulkham Hills Sports Club Renown Rd, Baulkham Hills at 9.30am for 10am. New members welcomed.
☎ May | 0414 634 572
✉ maybruce@bigpond.com

North Rocks View Club

☒ Meetings 2nd Thurs each month at 10.30am. The Vikings Club, 35 Quarry Rd, Dundas Valley.
☎ Pam | 047 420 4080 or Margaret | 9872 1405

Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club

☒ We are a breakfast Club and meet every Friday morning at 7.15am. The Rotary Motto is Service Above Self. If you want to meet like-minded people pls join us.
☎ norwestrotary.org.au

Pennant Hills Mens Probus Club

☎ John | 9487 1385

Pennant Hills Combined Probus Club

☒ Meets at Hotel Pennant Hills every third Monday of the month at 10am. New members and visitors welcome.
☎ Lorene | 0429 396594

Pennant Hills VIEW Club

☒ Will hold their first meeting for the year on 13th Feb 2024 at a new venue - Baulkham Hills Sports Club (Renown Road) at 11am. This will be the AGM & Election of Officers. Members can stay for lunch in the Club Restaurant.
☎ Margaret | 9873 2402

Pitt Town Probus Club

☒ Meets at 10:00am on the 2nd Tues of the month at the Pitt Town and District Sports Club, 139 Old Pitt Town Rd Pitt Town. New members welcome.
☎ Denise Fairfax | 0435 447 414

Probus Club of Round Corner (Dural)

☎ Julie; PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

Probus Club of the Hills Inc

☒ Is a mixed club and meets at the Galston Club 21-25 Arcadia Road, Galston on the 2nd Wed of each month commencing at 10.30 am. New members welcome.
☎ Ken | 02 96296459

Probus Club – Glenorie

☒ This Club meets every 4th Wed at 11.00am at Glenorie RSL Club. New members are welcome.
☎ Wendy | 9653 1022
✉ wendyreneblack@yahoo.com.au

Probus Club N - Kellyville Castle Hill Mixed

☒ Meets at 10am on 2nd Thurs of each month at Baulkham Hills Sports Club, 11 Renown Road, Baulkham Hills 2153. New members welcome.
☎ Ian Sandercock | 0419 567 608
✉ patiansandercock@bigpond.com

Probus Combined Castle Hill Club

☒ General Meetings 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10am at Cherrybrook Community Centre..
☎ Helen | 0403 751 934
✉ enquiries@probuscastlehill.org.au

Probus Combined Kellyville Club

☒ Meet 2nd Mon of the month at 10am. At The Glenhaven Community Centre: 76 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven. New members welcome.
☎ Veronica | 0408 025 577
☎ Susan | 0400 039 308
✉ ken_n_sue@hotmail.com

Probus Club of Winston Hills – Northmead Combined

☒ Meets at 10am at Toongabbie Sports Club, 12 Station St, Toongabbie, 2nd Thursday of the month. New members welcome.
✉ winstonhillspobusclub@gmail.com

RDA (NSW) Tall Timbers Centre

☒ Equine assisted programs, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Volunteering Opportunities. Located at Gables/Box Hill 9679 1246
☎ admin@rdanswtalltimbers.org.au
☎ www.rdanswtalltimbers.org.au

Red Cross – Castle Hill Branch

☒ Meetings 2nd Friday of the month 10.15am to 11.45am at Wesley Uniting Church, 32-34 Showground Rd, Castle Hill. New members always welcome.
☎ Donna | 0416 082 626

Richmond /Windsor VIEW Club

☒ Richmond/Windsor View Club Meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Richmond Club. VIEW (voice, interest and education of woman) supports the Smith Family and Learning for Life
☎ Trish Carter | 0417 010 619

Scouts Australia – Greater Western Sydney Region

☎ 9639 2488
☎ www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Sleep Disorders Australia – NSW

☎ 02 9990 3514
☎ www.sleepoz.org.au

Soroptimist International The Hills

☒ Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Crestwood Community Centre Baulkham Hills 6.30pm for a 7pm start.
☎ Cathy | 0435 837 118
✉ sithills@siwp.org

The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc

☎ 9639 8620

The Hills Learning Centre

☎ 02 8850 0555
☎ RSVPinfo@thehillslc.com.au.
☎ facebook.com/thehillslarningcentre

The Hills Shire Garden Club

☒ Meets on 3rd Monday of the month at Barton Hall at 178 David Rd castle Hill at 1 pm. We have guest speakers, raffles, plant sales and bus trips to various gardens..
☎ 9624 5034

The Hills District Pipe Band

☒ Practices at Stamford Hall, Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills every Wednesday night from 7pm-9pm. The band warmly welcomes new members and gig enquiries. Instagram: @hillsdistrictpipeband
☎ Suzie Whitaker
✉ pipeband.hillsdistrict@gmail.com
☎ www.hillsdistrictpipeband.com

The Hills Trefoil Guild

☎ Elaine | 0417 330 196

The Inner Wheel Club of Baulkham Hills

☒ Meets at St. Joseph's Conference Centre on the 4th Monday of each month at 6.00pm (dinner optional) for meeting at 7.00pm.
☎ Robyn | 9639 2742

The Sydney Hills Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees

☒ Welcome to Members and Visitors.
☎ Mal Steel | ✉ airsydneyhills@gmail.com

Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition in the Hills District

☎ hillsladies.tennis.org

Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

☒ Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8 pm at Crestwood Community Centre, Cnr Crestwood Drive and Conway St, Baulkham Hills.
☎ Ted | 0429 790 091
☎ www.bushwalkingsw.org.au/wanderers

Windsor RSL Fishing Club

☒ Meets on the last Tues of the month at Windsor RSL club at 6:30pm. The club has been established for over 40 years and welcomes new members. It holds regular fishing outings including in land water and deep sea fishing.
☎ Les Mison | 0421 821 1990.

Windsor Probus Club

☒ Meets at 10am on the 1st Wed of the month at Windsor RSL 36 Argyle St, South Windsor.
☎ Ross | 0414450900 or
☎ Secretary Ann | 0414298945
✉ ann.jones@jbff.com.au

Winston Hills Joey Scouts

☎ 9862 8482
✉ hsara@optusnet.com.au

Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed Inc

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

YMCA NSW Community Visitors Scheme

☎ 9633 8209 or 0402 255 193

Zonta Club of Sydney Hills

☎ 0414 641 408 | www.zontadistrict24.org

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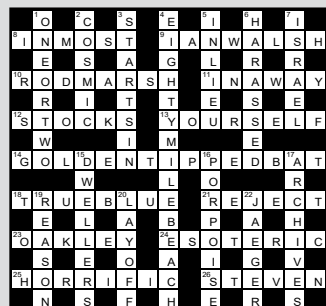
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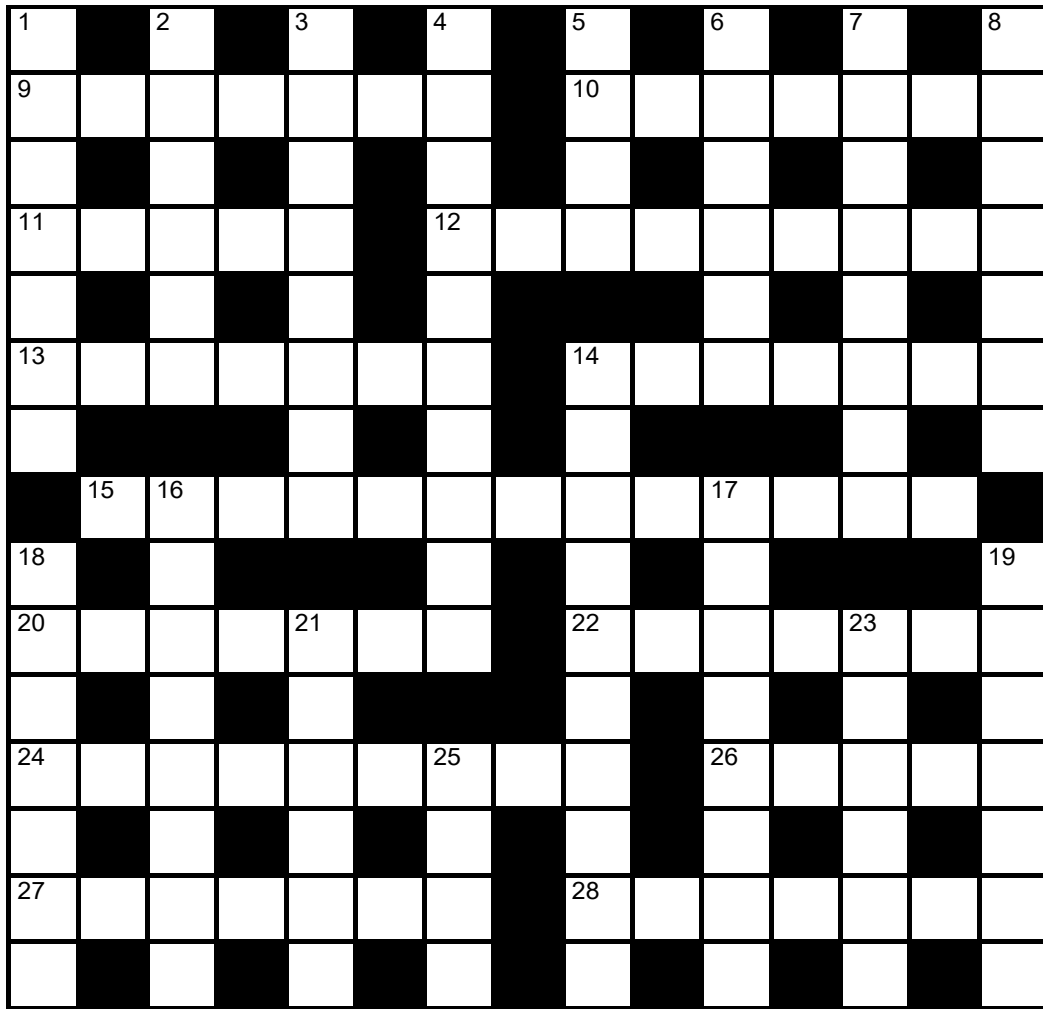
Answers from last issue

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

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



Across

9. Fit
10. Small long-tailed bird (3-4)
11. Claire Hooper, for example
12. Misnamed fruit bat (6, 3)
13. Utopian
14. Some arts
15. Sydney-born country singer (7, 6)
20. At the start (5, 2)
22. Flat-bottomed canal or harbour barge
24. Corner of "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"
26. Register
27. Mocked
28. Developed over time

Down

1. Clairvoyant
2. Consternation
3. Powerful
4. Enforce pit discipline to achieve improvement
5. 180-degree turn
6. Disposable mobile phone
7. Some wall art
8. Banished (2, 5)
14. Popular NSW National Park (5, 5)
16. Bombastic monologue
17. Enlisted (6, 2)
18. Mass-to-volume ratio
19. Musical introduction
21. Like fresh bread
23. Prosper
25. Chucks in

LIBRARY TALK

Castle Hill Rebellion and the Battle of Vinegar Hill

Next date: Friday, 01 March 2024 | 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Join Pam Wilson from The Hills District Historical Society and celebrate the 220th Anniversary of the Castle Hill Rebellion, as she talks about Australia's first convict uprising in today's Rouse Hill.

The talk includes the history of the 1798 Rebellion in Ireland, the Castle Hill Rebellion and the Battle of Vinegar Hill and the use of the name Vinegar Hill in the local area.

In consideration of others, please cancel your booking if you are no longer able to attend. Please note that the information provided at the event is intended for general information purposes only.

Enjoyed the talk? Celebrate the history of Castle Hill Heritage Park at the re-enactment of the 1804 Castle Hill Rebellion event on 2 March. Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant Street, Castle Hill, 2154.



WORD SEARCH DANCES

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

- BALLET
- BARN DANCE
- BEGUINE
- BOLERO
- BREAKDANCE

- CHA-CHA
- FANDANGO
- FLAMENCO
- FOXTROT
- JITTERBUG

- JIVE
- LINDY HOP
- MAMBO
- MERENGUE
- QUICKSTEP

- RUMBA
- SALSA
- SAMBA
- TANGO
- TWO-STEP

Answers from last issue

WORD SEARCH

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

CODE WORD

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

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.

CODE WORD


	19	2	8	15	17	18	26	16	10	5	15			
19		4		22		3		13		3				15
13		3		22	13	6	2	22		23	2			9
3	8	24	3	13		6		21		20				13
22		3		20		5		15	13	18	15	5		
24	3	18	7	26	3	15	20							3
22		15		12				25		11				20
15					13	5	5	15	5	26	3			13
18	13	20	15	24		2		8		22				22
18		19		2		16		13	5	3	14			3
15	13	22		1	13	10	15	8		18				13
22		2		18		15		16		20				8
	13	14	18	15	8	20	15	15	3	18	12			
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	A	
14	15	E		17	Y									26

SUDOKU

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

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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



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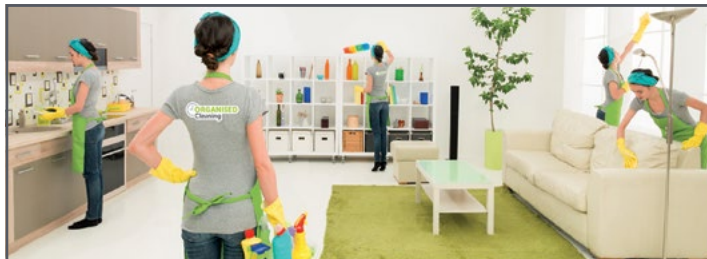


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