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## Community News

09th – 23rd August 2024 | Volume 41 – Issue 16  
Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Businesses

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# JERSEY DAY

FULL STORY ON PAGE 11



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If you prefer other channels to read news, we are also now on Telegram. Search our channel "Hills to Hawkesbury Community News". The nice thing about Telegram is you see all our news in date order. Unlike Facebook who use an algorithm so THEY decide what you see in your news feed. You can also read our latest news on twitter.

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#### Performance on Search results

Search type: Web Date: 1st March – 30th March 2023

Total clicks

16.2K

Total impressions

706K

# NEW BOX HILL FACILITY

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

**Construction has started on The Hills Shire's biggest community facility and sporting reserve in 20 years at Anthony Skarratt Reserve in Box Hill.**

The completed two-stage project will include four football fields, two synthetic cricket pitches, two baseball fields and six multi-purpose courts. It will also include a community centre, an outdoor gym including an obstacle course and bouldering wall, as well as a playground following community consultation.

The entire project is expected to be completed by late 2025.

Hills Shire Mayor, Dr Peter Gangemi, expressed his hope that the Reserve, which will serve over 12,000 residents in Box Hill, will become a cherished community asset for generations to come: "Anthony Skarratt Reserve will be a focal point of the community in Box Hill as a premier sporting facility, a meeting place for our residents and a place for families to gather, relax and play.

"This project is the biggest sporting and community facility Council has commenced since Bernie Mullane Reserve and will be built in stages as we continue to acquire land needed to realise the full vision of the reserve."

Vicki Giannoulis, President of the Box Hill and Nelson Progress Association, has been involved in the project's consultation, as one of the project's main priorities is to update the Association's facilities:

"This year is a twofold celebration for the Box Hill and Nelson Progress Association. We have commemorated our 80th year as an association, and now construction has begun



Mayor of the Hills Shire Council Dr Peter Gangemi (left) and Vicki Giannoulis, President of the Box Hill Association (right).

on our new home," she said. "I would like to thank the family of the late Anthony Skarratt. Mr Skarratt was a long-term Box Hill resident who donated an acre of land to our association in 1949, which is where our old hall resided. It is due to the generosity of the Skarratt family, that the new Box Hill and Nelson Community Centre can be constructed."

The first stage of construction on the reserve will include:

- Community centre including a satellite library, activity rooms and function room with a permanent space for Box Hill and Nelson Progress Association.
- Playgroup space with outdoor play area.
- Car park with 187 spaces including two EV charging stations.
- Roundabout at the intersection of Nelson Road and Box Road.
- Pavement widening on Nelson Road including a new bus bay.

The construction has been partially funded with \$4.15 million from the NSW Government's \$250 million Public Spaces Legacy Program.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully said: "This first stage of the project will provide an important community hub for Hills residents with exciting local infrastructure upgrades and additional car parking spaces to make the site more Accessible."

# Hills to Hawkesbury

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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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# LOCAL ELECTIONS 2024

BY BEV JORDAN

**Former Hills Shire Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne has won the pre-selection to run for the Shire's top job of Hills Mayor as the endorsed Liberal Party candidate, beating current Mayor Dr Peter Gangemi by a reported 15 votes.**

Candidates have been told by the State Liberal Party to make no comments until an official announcement of the preselection results are endorsed but it is understood that Dr Byrne received 149 votes and Dr Gangemi 134 votes. Dr Gangemi will remain as Hills Shire Mayor until the Local Government Elections on Saturday, September 14th.

The Labor Party endorsed Immanuel Selvaraj as its Mayoral candidate some months ago.

At Hornsby Shire Council where the Mayor is also elected by popular vote sitting Mayor Phillip Ruddock lost the Liberal preselection to Hornsby Councillor Warren Waddell 164 to 104 votes. The voting process and selection was conducted online.

Mr Ruddock, 81, has served as Hornsby Mayor since 2017. At Hawkesbury City Council the Mayor is selected by elected councillors.

Hills Shire residents have been able to elect the Mayor since the 2017 Local Government

Election which is when Dr Byrne became the Shire's first popularly elected Mayor, winning 61% of the votes. There was disruption in the Liberal Party in the lead up to the Local Government Elections in December 2021 with the State Liberal Executive by-passing local branches and selecting the Liberal candidates for that election and Dr Peter Gangemi as the endorsed Liberal candidate for Mayor. Dr Gangemi was first elected as a Hills Shire Councillor in 2012 and was elected Mayor on December 4 2021.

This year the selection was made by Liberal branch members. Hills selectors voted on Tuesday, August 6th at a meeting in Castle Hill RSL's Lyceum where they had to register at 6pm. The selectors were made up of 283 members from the Liberal Party branches that make up the Hills Local Government Conference.

There are reports that selectors did not leave the secure room until just before midnight when the final votes for Liberal candidates

standing for positions as councillors were announced. Selectors voted to decide which candidates would take the top two Liberal spots on the Ward tickets (East, West, Central and North) after hearing from each one.

The NSW Electoral Commission opened nominations for candidates for the Local Government Elections on Monday, August 5th, the deadline for lodgement is 12 noon this Wednesday, 14th August. All Local Government Elections will happen on Saturday, September 14th.

Successfully nominated candidates will be published progressively on the NSW Electoral Commission website from Thursday, 8 August. A final list of candidates, in ballot paper order will not be available until after the ballot paper draws on Thursday, 15 August.

To find out who your candidates are visit <https://elections.nsw.gov.au/>. You can also check your enrolment details on the site and update your details. Voting is compulsory.

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## MISSING PERSONS WEEK

Riverstone police have thanked the community for their help in searching for a 3-year-old boy who went missing in bush in the nearby suburb of Angus.

Xavier was reported missing at 2.35pm on Monday, 5th August. It is believed he followed kangaroos he saw in nearby bush.

A Police appeal for public help sparked a massive response with the toddler found nearly four hours later by a member of the public who had seen the alert.

He found the toddler crying in the bush over 1km away from the area he was last seen and alerted authorities.

NSW police say many people have been found by members of the public following alerts on Police Facebook pages and targeted geo messages to mobile phones in the area.

The Hills Police say in the past three and a half years, followers of The Hills Police page have helped police save the lives of at least seven people, had it not been for followers seeing posts on Missing Persons.

## SPEEDSTER CAUGHT

A 20-year-old male driver speeding in his father's car by more than 45km/ph over the sign posted speed limit in Oakville has lost his licence and been fined \$2,520.

Police attached to the Hawkesbury Highway Patrol performing speed enforcement in Oakville on Friday 26th July saw a silver Ford Falcon G6E turbo approaching their location at excessive speed, along Boundary Road. The speed of the vehicle was recorded at 157km/ph to 144km/ph in an 80km/ph signposted area.

The driver had held his class C unrestricted licence for less than 5 months. He also had a passenger in the front seat.

The driver's licence was suspended for 6 months, and he was issued an infringement notice for exceeding the speed limit by more than 45km/ph.

## HORN BLOWER

At 1.55am on Saturday the 28th July, Hills Police were attending to an unrelated call on Old Northern Road Dural, when a 22-year-old male driving a Mitsubishi Mirage drove past them, sounding his horn continuously.

Police then followed the vehicle which stopped in a driveway further down the road (not his home). The driver was subjected to a roadside breath test, which returned a positive result. He was arrested, and taken to Castle Hill Police Station, where he allegedly returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.162 (more than 3 times the legal limit). He was given a court attendance notice to attend Parramatta Local Court next month, and his licence was immediately suspended.

## DRIVER, 15, STOPPED

A dad who allowed his 15-year-old son to drive his vehicle on a busy Hills road will have to face court for his actions.

Police discovered the illegal action while conducting stationary Random Breath Tests on Windsor Road, Castle Hill on Saturday the 3rd August. A grey Toyota Hilux was directed into the lane for purposes of an RBT and had a 15 year old unlicensed driver at the wheel.

Police say the passenger, the boy's 54-year-old father, had allegedly permitted his son to drive.

The teenager was issued with a Youth Warning. The dad is being sent a court appearance notice to face a magistrate. The minimum age to hold a Learners permit in NSW is 16.

## INTER-AGENCY RESPONSE

On Wednesday 24th July 2024 Police attached to the Hawkesbury Highway Patrol were requested to assist paramedics to respond for urgent assistance to treat a critically ill patient at the Hawkesbury Hospital.

Highway patrol officers were able to secure a safe location promptly at McQuade Park, Windsor. This allowed Paramedics to land their aircraft safely and be transported to Hawkesbury Hospital with haste to treat the critically ill patient.

Often the highway patrol officers work closely with NSW Ambulance and other

emergency agencies in times of need and often require a swift response to help save lives. On this occasion Police were able to assist paramedics in utilising precious time to respond and treat the patient, preventing crucial time delays and preventing their condition from worsening as a result of any delays.

The public are being asked to play their part if they see an emergency response by being aware of their surroundings and not approaching the aircraft. "Please remain at a distance and comply with any instructions given to you by police and or paramedic officers."

## FIREFIGHTERS HEAD OVERSEAS

A group of local Rural Fire Service personnel left Sydney for the United States on Wednesday (7th August) to help boost firefighting resources as wildfires spread. It is the second contingent to head overseas with the first contingent already on the ground in Canada.

More than 2,900 fires have burnt through close to 1.5 million hectares to date in Canada, while around 60 fires have burnt through 485,000 hectares in the United States.

The District Manager at The Hills Supt Glen McCartney has been based in British Columbia looking after Australian volunteers fighting the fires in Canada for the past two weeks including Glenhaven's Deputy Captain Pablo Anwandter deployed to Wood Buffalo, Alberta.

They were among 102 firefighters from Australia and New Zealand who left on July 28th to help with the wildfires.

Operational officers Cameron Wade and Dane Freeman from The Hills RFS district were joined by volunteer Josh Torrens from Kellyville RFS in the second contingent (pictured) which flew to the United States on Wednesday. The



deployment which could potentially be up to 42 days.

Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib said: "These men and women are leaving their loved ones and daily lives to travel a great distance to help their international colleagues battle a huge number of fires."

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers said the international firefighting community has a proud history of stepping up to lend a hand.

At present, the 737 'Marie Bashir' and its RFS crew have been operating in California for 42 days, dropping more than 1.7 million litres of water and retardant on close to 40 different fires.



# Congratulations to Hawkesbury's Future Firefighters

Dubbed the volunteer firefighters of tomorrow by the NSW Rural Fire Service, a number of students from Richmond High School completed the challenging Secondary School Cadet Program on Monday, 29 July 2024.

RFS Operational Officer Michael Gapps presented Certifications of Completion to 15 year nine students at a ceremony held at the school.

"As well as examining fire behaviour, the participants have learned essential fire safety techniques and gained an appreciation of the work emergency services do every day across the state," Officer Gapps said.

"The course teaches young people about the important contribution volunteer firefighters make to the local community, provides them with firefighting skills and knowledge, and instils values such as teamwork, leadership and confidence.

"After completing this course, we encourage the students to take the next step and join their local brigade, and complete their training to become bush firefighters."

Officer Gapps said the RFS has been delivering the Secondary School Cadet Program for two decades, with thousands of students across NSW having graduated.

"It is fantastic to see such enthusiasm for this program, and I would particularly like to thank Richmond High School Cadet Coordinator Nicola Bennet and School Principal Angela Heath for their enthusiasm in organising this training for their students," he said.

"I would also like to acknowledge the 40 volunteers from several local brigades who helped deliver the 13-week program to the students, under the direction of Deputy Group Captain Phil Hurst.

"RFS members enjoy working with schools and communities to ensure everyone is as well prepared as possible for the very real threat of fire."

Richmond High School Careers Adviser Nicola Bennet said the program was a fantastic opportunity for students to know the value of helping the community.

"Our Cadets had an incredible time with NSW RFS and learnt so much about the work of the NSW RFS and many of our other crucial services that help our community. Students also learnt more than just fire safety, but also about the value of community service and the volunteers behind these services," Mrs Bennet said.

"We are immensely proud of them and their representation of our School and our wider community."

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# Celebrating Platypus Month in the Hills

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

**A research project in the Hills and Hawkesbury has highlighted the exciting possibility of 18 wild platypus locations in the Cattai Creek, from Fred Caterson Reserve to the Hawkesbury River.**

Until Dr Michelle Ryan, lead researcher in the 'Hawkesbury Nepean Platypus Project', discovered Bluey in Cattai Creek, the last recorded sighting in the Hills was in 1998. Despite platypuses dating back 110 million years to the Cretaceous Period, human activities such as urban density and pollution led scientists to believe that our humble Cattai Creek population had disappeared.

Dr Michelle Ryan who is the Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Environmental Science at Western Sydney University, has a great passion for understanding our mysterious and murky aquatic environments. As the lead researcher in the 'Hawkesbury Nepean Platypus Project', she aims to study platypus habitat in the Hills to determine their distribution and health.

Sue Martin, who is the Chair of The Cattai Hills Environment Network (CHEN) previously expressed her concern with development in the Hills area and impact on its wildlife. Since 2016, there have been various anecdotal sightings of platypuses in nearby waterways, prompting Dr Ryan to work with the group. Through a Community Grant in 2020, DNA evidence of Platypus monotremes were found in the Hills Cattai Catchment area, exciting researchers to establish a viable population.

For Dr Michelle Ryan, the news is still promising for our Platypus population:

"It appears that platypus are more resilient than we previously thought, and we are seeing them in areas of urbanisation. It makes it even more important for us to protect them. People

don't think about how their storm-water drains on creeks, even just washing your car will end up in storm-water. Picking up litter and hair-ties can make a huge impact on protecting these environments, even if these aren't near any waterways".

Hopes were once again renewed when in January 2023, a platypus was discovered in Cattai Creek in close proximity to an urban area. The Hills eventually named the sly one-year old local platypus as 'Bluey'.

Dr Ryan is looking forward to the 'Urban Rivers and Catchment Program' project next year focusing on Cattai Creek, which has recently been given a \$1 million boost by the Albanese Labor Government. This project will focus on establishing a network of 'Platypus Parks' along the Hawkesbury-Nepean River in collaboration with the Hawkesbury-Nepean Waterkeeper Alliance. Dr Ryan also wanted to share why residents should get excited at the possibility of these webbed marsupials living so close to an urban environment:

"We would really like to have a good understanding of the health and abundance of platypus in the Cattai Creek Catchment. It's also important for us to understand if they're successfully breeding. Platypus are just the most unique and weird Australian species to have - but they're also so wonderful!"

Residents are encouraged to submit any Platypus sightings they have to Dr Michelle Ryan on [m.ryan@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:m.ryan@westernsydney.edu.au). Alternatively, you can submit any photos

The netting set up by Michelle Ryan and her team, to safely catch Platypus populations. Photo taken by Michelle Ryan.



Michelle Ryan holding up Bluey from the Cattai Creek catchment in January 2023.

and location of your sightings on the apps, 'PlatypusSPOT' and 'iNaturalist'.

Despite the cuddly appearance of Platypuses, Dr Ryan advised against handling them due to their venomous spurs:

"If you see a platypus on the banks or somewhere you think it shouldn't be, report it to the Hills Council or ring WIRES, and they can provide the best next steps for you".

As the second year of the Hills Shire Council's 'Platypus Month', a range of workshops is also available this August to educate residents on the practical ways they can help this local platypus population survive and thrive:

Caring for our Platypus and the World of Waterbugs Little Eco Warriors Event on Thursday 15 August, 3.30pm-4.30pm at Castle Hill Library (Suitable for kids).

Bushcare event on Sunday the 18 August 9am-12pm at Connelly Way in Kellyville. Free barbecue provided after the event.

## Camellia Experts Visit Netherby Garden

The garden around Netherby Homestead has many large, well-established old camellias.

Earlier this year Bill Parker and Craig Carol from Camellias R Us nursery, met Karlene Brummer, who is one of The Friends of Fagan garden volunteers, at a camellia propagation workshop. The discussion turned to the many camellias without names in the Netherby garden.

Bill and Craig offered to come when the camellias were flowering, to identify as many of these lovely old trees as possible. May was the perfect time, with many of the camellia sasanquas in full flower. Camellia sasanquas are the ones that like sunshine and flower in early Autumn, camellia japonicas prefer the shade, are more formal in flower shape, and flower later, right into Winter.

Bill and Craig were met by the enthusiastic volunteer gardening team, camera and notebooks at the ready. To our delight Bill and Craig were able

to identify almost every camellia in the garden, including the ones not yet in flower. By bud, foliage and growth pattern they knew them.

Bill and Craig were absolutely positive, occasionally pausing to confer, once or twice not quite in agreement! A few japonicas are 'wait for the flowers'. There are seventy camellias in the garden, six immediately around the house, many more in the larger garden across the lawn, where deep shade creates perfect conditions for camellia japonicas to flourish.

The clipped camellias at the front of the house are pale pink Momozono, two bushes of Setsugekka on either side of the doorway, with wavy white petals and golden stamens, and deep pink Bonanza. Further around on the east side of the house is one of the oldest camellias in the garden, an unusual form of camellia japonica (*Speciosissima*) with a waratah type flower. It was just beginning to flower in May and is still full of blossoms now. Puzzled visitors occasionally remark – is this flower a waratah...?

Our heartfelt thanks to Bill and Craig for so kindly sharing their time and expertise.





# Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Opens in the Hills

You have seen the TV show and read the magazine, and now Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate offers the support of real estate agencies across Australia and the USA.

This is exciting news for the local community! Trevor Leslie has had a 39-year career in real estate, primarily focused on the Hills District and has joined Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate which has opened its doors in the picturesque Hills area, bringing a fresh approach to the real estate market.

This new office is set to transform the home-buying experience with a dedicated team that understands the unique charm and needs of the community. Focusing on exceptional

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Becoming part of the community, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate is eager to connect with residents and make a positive

contribution to the Hills. Whether you're looking to buy, sell, or simply explore your options, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate is ready to help make your real estate dreams a reality.

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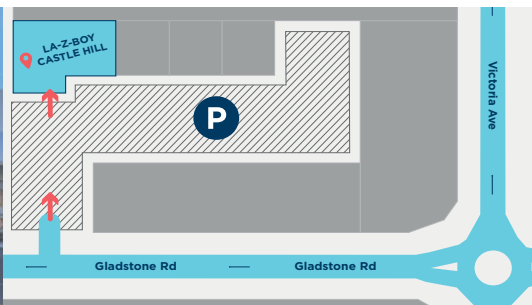


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# The Secret Garden's Advice for August

BY PENNY MCKINLAY | The Secret Garden Manager

**A big welcome to all the gardeners who live and garden in the Hills and Hawkesbury Districts.**

I would like to introduce ourselves to you all - some of you may know the Secret Garden already, and are regulars to our little patch of paradise nestled within the University of Western Sydney, Richmond on beautiful Dharug land.

We are a disability workspace with a full retail nursery and gorgeous cafe, set up as an initiative of North West Disability Service. Our clients often join the nursery programme, participating in garden maintenance and also hospitality service in the cafe alongside our other amazing volunteers. Watching our participants sow seeds or plant cuttings is truly an uplifting process, the joy on their faces is wonderful! The plants we grow from the nursery are then sold, injecting funding back into the programmes.

Each month I will fill you in on what we are up to plant-wise, or more importantly what you should be doing in your own gardens!

What to do now... The depths of winter is a great time to assess the 'bones' of your garden, look at what's working and what isn't. If you've got a tree developing low branches that snag at your mower when you pass by, it's time to 'lift the canopy' by removing them. This will

enable more light to get to ground level while still giving you important summer shade. Winter is also the time to prune your roses, taking out the older thicker wood and encouraging new healthy growth. Always cut them at an angle just above an outward sloping bud. Most roses will love a cleanup spray. Use a pest oil and liberally coat the stems, trunk and leaf litter. Not all deciduous plants need a prune in winter - if they are spring flowering like May bush, Weigela or Viburnums you will actually cut off the flowering wood, leaving you no spring show! So before you get out the chainsaw, have a think (or Google) as to when the flowers are due.

If you are building a new bed, winter is the best time to add all the good stuff to your soil. No matter where you live you can improve your soil so easily by compost. I'm a 'pile it in a heap' kind of gardener, waiting for the heat of summer to do the work. However



Inside our lovely Secret Garden Cafe, with a variety of bee and insect houses for sale



Bearded Iris flourishing in the Secret Garden nursery

if you're starting a new bed, you can easily dig a trench, tip your kitchen scraps directly into the soil and backfill. Add your mulch (like straw, chicken pen scrapings, dead leaves, newspaper strips and cardboard) and keep it watered until it's time to plant. You'll be amazed at the difference! Hope to see you at the SG soon - Happy Gardening to you all!

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# JERSEY DAY 2024

BY BEV JORDAN

Get set to wear your favourite team jersey on Jersey Day, Friday 30th August.

While it is a day to be proud of your team it is also a reminder to register to be an organ donor and to have a conversation about organ donation with your family.

When the Hills-based Gremmo family established Jersey Day nine years ago they had no idea how much it would expand over the years. Jersey Day is now a fixture on calendars all over Australia and has been spreading overseas.

Jersey Day was established as a legacy of 13-year-old Nathan Gremmo who died after a road accident in Glenhaven in 2015.

He was rushed to hospital and placed on life support. When his parents, Michael and Kylie, were asked about organ donation, they and Nathan's younger sisters Annaliese and Ashley knew that's exactly what Nathan would have wanted.

The Oakhill college student had watched a documentary on organ and tissue donation just weeks before the accident and had spoken to his father about organ donation and how donors saved lives.

His sister Annaliese, who is about to graduate as a nurse, says: "Six lives were saved as a result of Nathan's generous gift. We needed something good to come out of this horrible tragedy."

She has been urging people to act on the message of Jersey Day.

"It's as easy as discovering the facts about organ donation, deciding about becoming a donor, registering your decision online and most importantly discussing your decision with your family."

Ashley, who is studying to be a vet nurse said: "The Jersey Day campaign is not about raising money but raising awareness about organ donation and the need to talk to family members about your wishes."

The sisters say Jersey Day is a positive celebration of Nathan's legacy of Organ Donation. "He is still saving lives."

According to figures from Services Australia, as at 30th June 2024: NSW has the biggest number of registered donors with 42.41% of eligible people registering their intent to be an organ donor, the figure is 18.3% in South Australia, 14.59% in Queensland and less than 11 % in Victoria.

Michael said the increase in people registering as an organ donor is a huge positive as is the increase of the number of families following their loved ones wishes.

"The figure used to be that about 50% of families would follow an organ donor's wish, now it's 80%," he told the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News*.

Annaliese says: "Our family has endured the cruelest of possible circumstances. I can only think that if our circumstances were reversed and Nathan was desperate for an Organ Donation we would move heaven and Earth to save my brother; However, the reality is that we would be waiting for a generous organ donor family to save Nathan's life."

Thousands of schools and businesses across Australia are now part of Jersey Day with Nathan's old school Oakhill College one of the first to get onboard.

Marian College at Kenthurst has also been a big Jersey Day supporter. When 13-year-old student Blake Tickell died after a freak waterski accident in 2017 his family agreed to organ donation, saving several lives. Peter Beaumont

organised Jersey Day with his company's staff at Norwest in 2015 and registered his wishes to be a donor online with [DonateLife.gov.au](http://DonateLife.gov.au). The following year he was killed in a car accident in Carlingford. His family supported his wishes and his organs gave five people the chance to live.

Kylie says while they haven't spoken



to the recipients of Nathan's organs they have spoken to other organ recipients who have been given the gift of life and they have heard the positive impact it has had on their family and friends.

She said she loved seeing people wearing their jersey on Jersey Day and seeing the photos posted on social media.

"Nothing else makes us prouder of Nathan's Legacy of saving lives through organ donation than to see people's photos and videos on social media. Please wear your jersey on Friday 30th August and have that important conversation with your family and friends."

Tag your Jersey Day photos [@jerseydayau](https://twitter.com/jerseydayau) [#jerseydayau](https://twitter.com/jerseydayau) [#donatelif](https://twitter.com/jerseydayau)

To find out more about Jersey Day visit [www.jerseyday.com.au](http://www.jerseyday.com.au) to register your wishes as an organ donor visit [DonateLife.gov.au](http://DonateLife.gov.au) and have a conversation with your family.

8 out of 10 families gave consent to donation when their family member was a registered donor.

Around 1,800 Australians are waiting on a life-saving Organ or Tissue Donation and around 14,000 additional people on dialysis.

Since the National program began in 2009 18,144 people have received transplants.





The busy main road at The Australiana Pioneer Village. Source The Australiana Pioneer Village Facebook Page

# Travel through Time with the Australiana Pioneer Village

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

**Rediscover history 100 years ago in the old town of Wilberforce where you'll find tractor rides, heritage-listed buildings and if you're lucky, a churning butter display.**

The Australiana Pioneer Village, 10 minutes from Windsor, explores Australia's gritty colonial history and the lives of our early settlers. Situated in the Hawkesbury on both Dharug and Darkinjung land, the 30 acre-site of The Australiana Pioneer Village was given to William Mackay in 1797. One of his descendants, John Rose, eventually owned part of the land in 1809, naming Australia's oldest timber dwelling on-site the Rose Cottage. After his death in 1961, Thomas' friend Dugald (Bill) Andrew McLachlan, wanted to utilise the site to restore Hawkesbury's historical legacy.

The Village has now become a cultural and historical destination, under the guidance of The Business Group and its devoted volunteers. Tourists flock to the dirt-road site, rediscovering how early settlers lived, and even trying on colonial clothes at the Village Souvenir Shop. The site balances both 'education' and 'entertainment' through its various attractions. The Village Express is a particularly joyous train ride that showcases various barnyard friends, including ducks, mules, and plenty of sheep, which you can feed at midday.

The site is run by dedicated volunteers who are well versed in the local history of the area, offering daily tours from 10:30am. President Kevin Weeks has been managing the Village since 2013 and has seen its evolution into a tourist hot-spot. He is particularly passionate about protecting Hawkesbury's historical legacy and spoke about the importance of the Historic Trust:

"With my vice president, Laurie Archer, we work together within the boundaries of the Heritage Trust to protect the status of our buildings. We strongly believe that our Village and its donated artefacts are insightful for our overseas tourists who may not realise the history of Australia."

As President and volunteer, Kevin wears many hats, including 'Professor Kevin', as the Village is often booked out for school and child-care groups:

"For the first time during the school holidays this June, I performed a Science Show for our theme 'Science in Nature'. Unfortunately, I had 10 experiments to show them and only 1 of them worked! It was the funniest show!"

"We are used to doing school excursions, and we are booked out until the end of the year! We set out programs around the school curriculum to both 'teach' and 'entertain' our young visitors".

However, the Village hasn't been without its challenges. A series of property challenges rose with the Hawkesbury City Council from 1984 to 2000, creating unease about the future of the Village. Through community lobbying, The Australiana Pioneer Village was 'community' zoned in 2002 and has been protected under The Historic Trust of Australia since 2004. The site and its 12 heritage-listed buildings from the 1970s have been recognised as a 'NSW State Heritage Listed Open Air Museum'.

The first intact building to be moved to the Village in 1969 was the ambitious two-storey Perry House from Richmond, built in 1856. It

offers visitors the chance to peruse a unique split-business building of both a saddlery and barber, which was often common for the time. Further up the dirt road, the Riverstone Police Station office, used from 1888 to the 1970s, offers visitors the experience of getting locked up in an antique cell. Younger kids may also be delighted to hear that the 1890 Kenso Cottage built in Kogarah, has a range of lollies to choose from - including red-frogs in traditional glass jars. Make sure to bring cash if you are craving these sweet delights!

Vice president Laurie Archer is another charismatic volunteer who draws in visitors with his warm and bubbly energy. While we experienced some bogged-down tour buses on my site visit, Lorry expressed the satisfaction of bringing a smile to people's faces through his role:

"I've done this for four or five years now. I used to come up on Australia Day and volunteer, and then once I retired, I decided I wanted to stay. It feels like I sleep here some days! The best days here are when you go home exhausted, but you just feel so satisfied, especially when people mention that they have had a great day".

A particular favourite of children and adults alike is the famous 'Teddy Bear Picnic', which Lorry looks forward to every year:

"One of our best days here is the Teddy Bears Picnic, and it's a great atmosphere. Everyone brings their bears in and we do a 'health care' check at the Doctor's surgery, where our volunteer gives out band aids to well-loved bears. I'll be at the gate on the day and ask 'Did you bring your bears in?', the kids will say yes and then the parents will say, 'And I've got mine!'.

If you fancy a trip down a time-capsule of Australia's early colonial history, you can visit the Village at 10 Rose St, Wilberforce. The site is open 10 am - 4 pm on Sundays, and 10 am - 4 pm Tuesday-Wednesday during the school holidays (not including January). Guided Tours are offered at 10:30 am on their open days. To keep up to date with upcoming events such as the Teddy Bears Picnic, visit the 'Australiana Pioneer Village' on Facebook.



Another family-favourite attraction is the Tractor Ride.



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# Gifts in Wills Support Sick Children Long into the Future

"Having a child in hospital affects the whole family in a big way. When a baby, toddler, or teenager comes through our doors, they aren't alone. The entire family comes with them, if not physically, then emotionally," said Anne McFadden, Director of Planned Giving, Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation.

A hospital experience can stir up a lot of emotions, from fear to gratitude, for the family and their extended family and friends. Many people who have had a child in hospital, whether their own or a loved one's, feel deeply impacted by the ordeal. It often sparks a strong desire to give back in some way, whether through direct support to the family, volunteering, or even donating funds to help other children in the hospital.

"Providing support and care for the parents and families is so very important because when the family is supported, they are able to give their full attention to their child in hospital", added Ms McFadden.

Supporting children in hospital now is very important, but so is planning for the many children and their families who are yet to walk through the hospital corridors.

One Mum who is planning for future support of children and families is Lyn Cecil, a Mum of a baby boy who survived thanks to the wonderful care received at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick in the 1970s. 'I'm a retired Mum.

I may not be in the position to make a significant donation today but through my Will I can in the future. Any gift I leave, I know, will go to help little babies like Mark to survive and thrive'.

Everyone has the power to make a meaningful difference to sick kids, ensuring that hospitals can continue to provide exceptional care and advances in paediatric healthcare outcomes for generations to come.

For those unable to support now, leaving a gift in your Will to Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) is a powerful way to make that difference. A gift in your Will, even as small as 5 percent, can create a future legacy of support for children and their families.

Writing your Will is easier than you may think. SCHF has partnered with Gathered Here, one of Australia's most trusted online Will writing services and it is completely free. Simply follow the step-by-step process and in just 10 minutes, you can create your online Will.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to SCHF, simply call 1800 770 122 or visit [www.schf.org.au/gift-in-will](http://www.schf.org.au/gift-in-will)

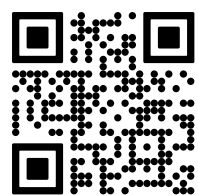


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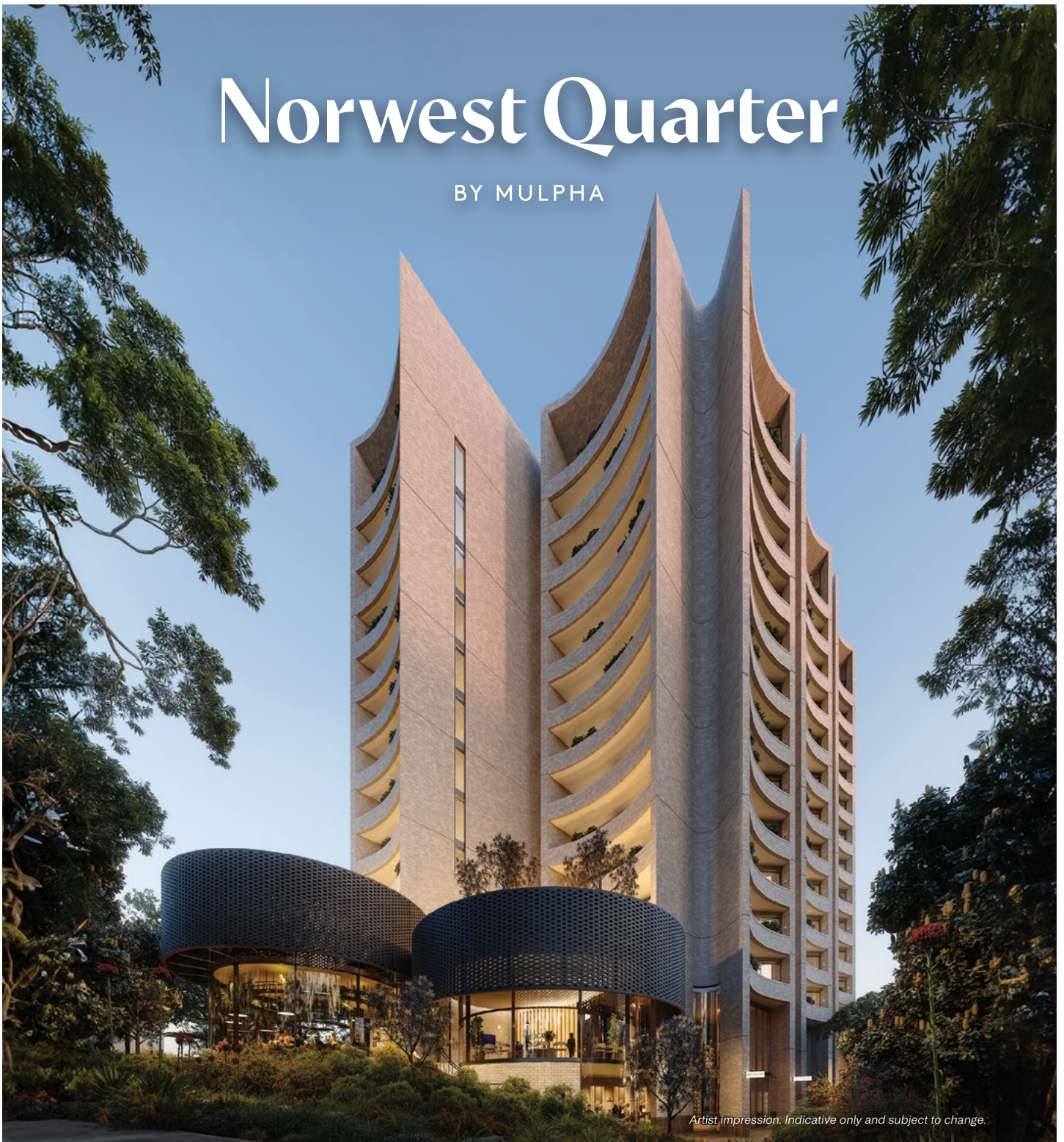
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# Norwest Quarter

BY MULPHA



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# HOUSING HELP

BY BEV JORDAN

**Robert is one of the thousands of people helped by community housing organisation Link Wentworth which has been changing lives for the past 40 years.**

Thanks to Link Wentworth, the 62-year-old now has his own unit and is enjoying the peace and quiet after spending 15 years sleeping rough on the grandstand at McQuade Park, Windsor.

"I spent most of my life in the bush so living outside didn't bother me that much but it can be dangerous because people hassle you," he said.

Robert said while some people gave him a hard time, many people bought him coffees or something to eat and then a worker from the community housing organisation visited him regularly to check on him and see how they could help.

Link Wentworth's has been providing social housing across Sydney, including 750 homes in the Hawkesbury region, for 40 years.

It currently manages more than 6,400 homes across Sydney, with homes in Richmond, South Windsor, Bligh Park, and Wilberforce.

Last year it opened the Hawkesbury's first ever refuge for women, children and their pets. Since April 2023 it has supported 144 women and children and 6 pets.

Link Wentworth CEO Andrew McNulty said: "Our Women and Children's Safety Service which opened with 4 self-contained units for women, children and their pets is always full. ..., last week we had 12 referrals and only three vacancies. There is an upward trend in demand from the Hawkesbury and surrounding areas."

It took decades of advocacy to open the first four units. The service is now expanding, with an additional two independent apartments.

"Our service for women and children escaping domestic violence operates exclusively in the region, with specialist caseworkers providing up to 12 months intensive case management to support women and children to leave unsafe homes," Mr McNulty said.

Link Wentworth also operates a Specialist Homelessness Service to help connect clients with support services to access long-term stable housing and support.

The Hawkesbury Community Support Hub was opened in May 2023 and is run in partnership with St Matthews Anglican Church in Windsor to provide a 'one-stop-shop' where people can access housing support, financial advice, and disability assistance all under one roof.

Since the hub opened 447 people have been assisted.

Mr McNulty said: "Social housing is more important than ever as the cost of living and housing crises continue to pressure individuals and families. Link Wentworth is committed to working with local, state and federal governments and the private sector to make sure that we secure funding for new and much needed housing within the Hawkesbury



Robert Link wentworth in the grandstand where he used to sleep

region – now is the time to build upon our history, and work with partners to do more."

More than 100 former and current residents, staff, volunteers, partners, and support workers gathered at the Richmond Club on 26th July to mark the 40th anniversary Link Wentworth is one of Australia's largest providers of safe, secure, and affordable housing.



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Games in Paris, an equally exhilarating event has been happening on the other side of the globe - right here at Windsor Country Village. Our charming community hosted its very own Residents Olympics, a dazzling display of enthusiasm, camaraderie, and fun which brings the Olympic spirit to life in a unique and heartwarming way.

Nestled in the picturesque Vineyard countryside, Windsor Country Village is renowned for its vibrant community and lively events. Our residents came together to celebrate the Games with an array of thrilling activities and spirited competitions that highlight the true essence of togetherness and joy.

The festivities kicked off with an impressive Opening Ceremony that rivalled those seen in Paris. Our beautiful community centre was transformed into a vibrant Olympic arena, complete with colourful banners and themed decorations. Residents of all ages gathered to enjoy a parade of "athletes" and the culminating event was the torch procession and lighting of the cauldron (the community centre fireplace!). The excitement was palpable as the crowd

cheered for their neighbours, setting the stage for a series of unforgettable events.

The heart of our Residents Olympics lies in the games and activities designed to engage and entertain everyone. From traditional sports like darts and pool, to cornhole, quoits and inventive new challenges, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

In true Olympic fashion, the festivities concluded with a grand Closing Ceremony where we celebrated the achievements of our participants. Medals were awarded, not just for victories, but for sportsmanship, creativity, and community spirit. Our "athletes" were celebrated with cheers and applause, recognizing their dedication and enthusiasm.

The Residents Olympics Party at Windsor Country Village is more than just a series of games—it's a testament to the vibrant and close-knit community we cherish. It's about celebrating each other's talents, diverse cultures, enjoying quality time together, and embracing the spirit of friendly competition and mutual support.

As the world watches the Olympic Games unfold in Paris, visit us at Windsor Country



Village to experience the magic of the Olympics in our own special way. There's no better place to revel in the community spirit. Come and be a part of the community that's as inspiring and exhilarating as the Games themselves!

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# National Collectables Fair Comes to Hawkesbury Showground

Are you a collector? Mark your calendars! The Sydney Collectables Fair & Exhibition is set to take place at the Hawkesbury Showground Pavilion on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th of August.

This two-day event is a must-see for collectors of all levels, featuring thousands of items including toys, dolls, coins, stamps, postcards, militaria, ceramics, bottles, Australiana, glass, cards, badges, tools, jewellery, and so much more!

This year's fair is particularly special, as it will host a National Exhibition of Collectables from around Australia. Visitors can explore over 100 different categories of collectables from private collections, many of which are rarely displayed in public.

For those in the know, this is an event not to be missed!

"It's been five years since our last collectables event and we are all really looking forward to this new venue" said Martin Ruckert of the Antique Bottle, Ceramic & Collectables Club of Sydney. "We have collectors coming from New Zealand, Western Australia, South Australia, and all over the country. There's something about the National that inspires people to bring those rare and hard to get collectables out for sale, giving us all a chance to add that one special item to our own collections." The ABCCCS has been working closely with Lions clubs for over 15 years to bring these events to life. "We are always excited to partner with Lions Clubs to support their important community projects. This way, we can host an amazing event while giving back to our community."

For more information, contact Martin at 0416 169 961 or visit our website at [www.sydneycollectors.org.au](http://www.sydneycollectors.org.au)



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More info: [www.sydneycollectors.org.au](http://www.sydneycollectors.org.au) 0416-169-961

**HAWKESBURY SHOWGROUND PAVILION**

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# INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

BY BEV JORDAN

**A program that is connecting teenagers with people from their grandparent's generation and older on a regular basis is having a positive impact on participants and creating a new mindset for the future.**

Students from The Hills Grammar school at Kenthurst have been taking part in weekly Intergenerational Learning and Wellbeing sessions with residents (the GrandFriends) from Arcare aged care at Glenhaven since 2022.

This year the program has expanded to include veterans from Castle Hill RSL Sub-branch.

If you have watched the ABC TV hit *Old People's Home for 4-year-olds* or *Old People's Home for Teenagers*, you would have seen the positive results that occur when two diverse generations engage in enjoyable discussions and activities each week.

Greg Cronan from Intergenerational Learning Australia who facilitates the program said that the benefits from reciprocal learning for senior adults and students can have a significantly positive impact on the mental and physical health of both age groups.

"The weekly sessions for the GrandFriends and veterans have become a major highlight in their week," he said. "For some students, it was their first opportunity to spend time talking with and listening to much older people. This was especially significant for students who had grandparents and great grandparents in other countries."

"One of Australia's best natural resources is its 'old people'. We are not just indebted to them for their work to build the freedom and lifestyle we now enjoy in Australia, but they are essential to shaping the character and values of this and future generations."

He said the current program integrates school curriculum topics into the discussions.

Last school term, participants sat in groups in Hills Grammar's library to discuss a novel from the English curriculum, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Each of the six groups included a veteran, a GrandFriend and four students. They were asked to consider heroes, what a hero was and their favourite books about a hero.

Greg Cronan said the responses from the GrandFriends were fascinating.

Leny (90) from the Netherlands spoke about her father being a hero because he saved many people during World War 2.

Veteran participant, Bill, said: "It was amazing to watch the change in the students' understanding of the nature of a true 'hero' after Leny explained why her life hero was her father ... because of the courage and conviction he showed by assisting the Dutch Resistance help Allied personnel escape the Nazis even as the enemy occupied the family's hotel."

"Immediately after that revelation, the students obviously re-evaluated who and what was really important in their lives and so started to recognise the generosity and commitment of their own parents. The youngsters' fixation on comic book 'heroes' vanished immediately as the students appreciated the fundamental values of 'family'."

Another veteran - Rees - said his definition of a hero was someone who was compassionate and confident.



GrandFriend Daphne's advice to the Year 7 students was: "Being a do-er is so much more important than being a talker."

The program is run in Sydney and Brisbane and regional areas from Wagga Wagga to Cairns with over 1,100 students and just over 400 senior adults from 41 classrooms participating in the program.

The feedback has been positive:

Elissa Hay, Lifestyle Coordinator at Arcare Glenhaven said it had added value to the lives of residents who have been involved in the program.

"They really do come out of their shell when engaging with the students. Being able to impart knowledge and wisdom onto others is the real cornerstone of the program and it is so delightful to see the friendships develop between not only students and residents but the residents interacting with each other where they normally wouldn't. All because they get the opportunity to get to know each other a little more by participating in this program."

The feedback from schools has been positive too.

Hills Grammar Principal Karen Yager said: "As part of our Graduate Aim, our students look to create and cultivate wider community connections."

"Programs such as the Intergenerational Program provide a unique opportunity for our students to learn from the life lessons, perspectives and stories shared by the GrandFriends and Veterans. These real-world learning experiences complement the curriculum, inspiring our young people to think beyond the classroom."

For more details or to get involved contact Intergenerational Learning Australia via its website or call Greg Cronan on 0433 387 209 or [greg@intergenerational-learning.com.au](mailto:greg@intergenerational-learning.com.au)

## Hawkesbury Disability Expo

Date: 28th August 2024 | Time: 10am - 3pm | Location: Hawkesbury Race Club, 1 Racecourse Road, Clarendon

The Hawkesbury Disability Expo aims to bring together individuals living with disabilities, their families, carers, and service providers in a supportive and informative environment. The event will feature stalls, workshops, and presentations focusing on accessibility, support services, and opportunities for people living with disability and the broader Hawkesbury community.

This event is crucial in raising awareness about disability issues and promoting inclusivity within the Hawkesbury community. For further details contact Joshua on 0479 130 936 or [joshua@healthproofphysio.com](mailto:joshua@healthproofphysio.com)



# Sydney Hills Garden Competition

BY JOHN COLLIGNON

If you have a beautiful garden or have always admired a local garden, now is the perfect time to think about gaining recognition for it by entering the Sydney Hills Garden Competition.

This year marks 65 years since the first garden competition was run and became the forerunner of the annual Orange Blossom Festival.

It was the brainchild of Councillor Eric Mobbs and has a significant place in the cultural history of "The Garden Shire".

Hills residents, businesses and institutions are encouraged to register their gardens by 5pm on Friday, 13 th September 2024 for spring judging during the Orange Blossom Festival.

Entry forms are available at [www.hillsgardencomp.org.au](http://www.hillsgardencomp.org.au) or The Hills Shire Council's website.

The Sydney Hills Garden Competition is run by The Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville every year and has a variety of categories for gardeners from small town houses to residential gardens, to gardens of industrial, commercial and retirement complexes.

The competition covers a diverse range of categories for all types of gardeners – even young gardeners in the schools category. Specialty gardens such as cottage, communal and environmentally friendly gardens are also included.

The competition is open to gardens located in the Hills Shire and adjoining parts

of the suburbs of North Rocks, Carlingford, Northmead, Winston Hills, Baulkham Hills, West Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook, Glenhaven, Dural, Arcadia, Galston and Glenorie.

Gardens are judged by professional and experienced horticulturists and landscapers. In the past judges have included local gardening gurus Judy Horton, Ross Miller, the late Bruce Pike as well as Horticulturalist Lucia Fowler.

Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville President, John van den Burg said: "There are so many beautiful gardens since the weather challenges of the last few years. We're so lucky to have so many garden proud residents who are able to enjoy their surrounds in the Hills district. "Spring is a special time to celebrate the fine gardens of the garden shire."

Judging will be held between 16 th and 20 th September culminating in an Awards Night on Friday 27 th September when award winning gardens and their gardeners will be honored and receive prizes.

For more information about entering or sponsorship opportunities visit [www.hillsrotary.org.au](http://www.hillsrotary.org.au), your local garden centre or call Keith Stapley on 0412 079 014



The Rotary Club of the Hills-Kellyville has had a long association with gardeners in The Hills, having run the Garden Competition for over 20 years and the Hills Open Gardens. The Club proudly opened a Community Garden in Baulkham Hills in March 2021 to mark the 100th year of Rotary in Australia.

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# Castle Hill RSL Club Support Rouse Hill Rhinos

The Rouse Hill Rhinos Junior Rugby League Club, established in 2007, is celebrating its 18th season with great enthusiasm. The club has made significant strides over the years, producing a handful of NRL players in the last three years and boasting two Australian Schoolboy representatives this season: Lachlan Coinakis and Tyson Sangalang. Their success is a testament to the club's dedication to developing young talent and fostering a strong community spirit.

This year, the Rhinos faced a new challenge: increased park hire fees due to their new, larger fields at Samantha Riley Reserve. The fees surged by \$11,000, posing a significant financial burden on the club. However, Castle Hill RSL Club stepped in with a generous cash grant, helping the Rhinos absorb these fees. This support ensures that the club can continue providing essential gear for the kids, such as tackle bags and bump pads, allowing them to develop their skills without the added financial strain.

Castle Hill RSL Club's support doesn't stop there. They have also provided free room hire for the Rhinos' annual trivia night, one of the club's major fundraising events. This gesture

not only helps the club raise much-needed funds but also strengthens the bond between the Rhinos and the community. Additionally, the Rhinos' senior teams have been granted access to the RSL Club's aquatic centre for post-match cool-downs on weekends. This facility is crucial for the players' recovery and overall performance.

The Rhinos recently celebrated their 14th annual Pink Day, raising around \$20,000 for two chosen charities. This event highlights the club's commitment to giving back to the community and supporting worthy causes. The success of Pink Day is a proud moment for everyone involved and underscores the Rhinos' dedication to making a positive impact both on and off the field.



The new home ground and facilities at Samantha Riley Reserve have provided the Rhinos with a much-needed upgrade, enhancing the overall experience for players and supporters alike. The Senior U20s team is also on a remarkable journey, aiming for their third consecutive premiership this season. This level of success is a source of pride for the entire club and reflects the hard work and determination of everyone involved.

The partnership between the Rouse Hill Rhinos and Castle Hill RSL Club exemplifies the power of community support and collaboration. The RSL Club's assistance has been invaluable in helping the Rhinos overcome financial challenges, ensuring the continued growth and success of the club. Together, they are fostering a thriving environment for young athletes and making a lasting impact on the community.

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## WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD A NEW COMMUNITY

WE EXPLAIN THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT COMES WITH BUILDING NEW COMMUNITIES LIKE BOX HILL.

**T**he NSW Government recently set The Hills Shire a new housing target of 23,300 additional dwelling completions over the next five years. This is more than double Council's previous five-yearly dwelling target.

With the increase in population comes the need for new or expanded residential areas, like the new release areas in Box Hill and North Kellyville.

Building a new residential area occurs in several stages and involves approval and funding processes with various stakeholders such as the NSW Government, Transport for NSW and developers.

### PREPARING A CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN AND COLLECTING FUNDS

A Contributions Plan is a document that Council uses to outline the essential infrastructure needed for a new community, including parks, sportsgrounds, drainage, and roads. Under these plans, developers are required to contribute funding towards this infrastructure.

It would be ideal for Council to have access to all necessary funds to complete all necessary infrastructure upfront and before development occurs

within an area. However, the reality of the NSW infrastructure funding system is that councils can only collect these funds in small amounts over time, as each development occurs. As a result, this often creates a lag between the development occurring and the associated infrastructure, such as building parks and upgrading roads.

It is important to highlight that there are types of infrastructure that are handled, funded and managed by other organisations.

FOR EXAMPLE, REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS MAJOR ROADS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, METROS AND MOTORWAYS ARE MANAGED, FUNDED AND DELIVERED BY THE NSW GOVERNMENT.

### LAND ACQUISITION

Once sufficient funds have been collected; to build any new infrastructure such as a sportsground or to upgrade a road, Council first needs to own the land.

Acquiring the land needed for infrastructure within a new release area can be challenging, particularly when

it involves many individual landowners who might not be ready to sell. Once the necessary land has been acquired by Council, new facilities can then only be built once the necessary developer contributions have been received and approvals from respective NSW Government agencies have been received.

### ROADS

In any new community, it is the responsibility of the NSW Government to manage the rollout of utility services such as water, sewerage and electricity. The NSW Government is also responsible for funding and delivering major road upgrades to the regional road network. The rollout of smaller local roads is typically the responsibility of developers to deliver as development occurs.

Council is responsible for delivering upgrades to major local roads when it's not possible for an individual developer to complete the works, as well as key intersection improvements on the local road network such as roundabouts and traffic signals. The cost of roundabouts and traffic signals, along with the cost of acquiring land to facilitate them, are included within the applicable contributions plan. For traffic signals,



Council requires approval from the NSW Government before commencing any works.

To complete a road upgrade, Council needs to collect the necessary funds from developers, acquire the required land, undertake a detailed survey and design and obtain the necessary approvals from NSW Government agencies. This can take some time to complete. For busier roads, the process can take even longer because more approvals are required from state agencies, existing services may need to be relocated, and collaboration with adjoining councils may also be required.

**SPORTSGROUNDS, PARKS AND RESERVES**

Council’s Recreation Strategy informs the planning for open spaces, such as sportsgrounds, reserves and parks.

The Recreation Strategy aims for:

- Most households to be able to walk to a local park within 400 metres of their home.
- One playing field per 2,000 people in low-density areas
- One playing field per 4,000 people in high-density areas.

The location of a sportsground, reserve, or park is determined by many factors, including the nature and scale of development, the likely number of people that will use it, and pre-existing facilities in the surrounding areas.

Open spaces are classified into four categories:

Ancillary	Open spaces consisting of a single playing field that is sometimes smaller than a full-sized playing field such as Ellerman Park, Dural.
Local	Open spaces that usually include at least two full-sized playing fields and infrastructure such as toilets, floodlights, and a car park. E.g. George Thornton Reserve, West Pennant Hills.
District	Open spaces that cater for a minimum of four full-sized playing fields. They include more infrastructure, such as larger amenities and multi-purpose courts that can be used for tennis, netball or basketball. District facilities are generally suitable for grassroots local and representative sport and passive recreation. E.g. Bernie Mullane Sports Complex, Kellyville.
Regional	Open spaces that cater to multiple sports and recreation opportunities, and serve the entire Shire and visitors. They can be used for local, representative, state, and national sports. They are often located close to public transport and several recreational opportunities. E.g. Fred Caterson Reserve, Castle Hill.

**Council Meetings**

Tuesday 13 August 2024 at 7pm  
For more information, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au) and search for ‘Meeting Agendas and Minutes.’

Council identifies a primary function for open spaces to ensure a range of recreational experiences are available in each area. Many functions overlap, or there are a range of functions in one space. These functions include:

Passive recreation	Opportunities to be outdoors in a safe and aesthetically pleasing space that can be used for play, social gatherings, informal games, sports activities, and exercise.
Active sports area	Spaces designed to support individual and team sports training and competition.
Bushland/conservation	Open spaces reserved or provided for the protection of flora and fauna. They may include existing bushland, grassland, wetlands, and waterways.
Waterways	Public areas that often serve as a place to manage stormwater and provide open space such as dams, basins, rivers, creeks, rain gardens, and wetlands.
Conservation and heritage	Open spaces reserved or provided for the protection of cultural heritage.
Linear and linkages	Footpaths and cycleways that provide connections between streets and spaces, which are not located on a road.

**COMMUNITY CENTRES AND LIBRARIES**

The growing population will generate demand for new libraries and community centres. Unfortunately, the NSW Government does not allow for Council to collect developer contributions towards the construction of these facilities. This means that Council is unable to fund these new facilities without alternative funding sources such as general revenue, grants or Voluntary Planning Agreements with developers.

**WATERWAYS AND DRAINAGE**

Waterways form part of The Hill’s landscape and can include dams, basins, rivers, creeks, raingardens, and other wetlands. Many are constructed to manage stormwater, sometimes in open space areas or along drainage corridors next to parklands or providing links to them.

Water management systems in new release areas are different from those in other areas in The Hills. For example, the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure’s plan for North Kellyville requires several systems to work together to filter and improve stormwater runoff before it enters creeks and waterways. These systems include detention basins, raingardens, wetlands, biofiltration swales, pollutant traps and rainwater tanks,

The design of water management systems focuses on conserving water.

If you would like to find more details on infrastructure, particularly in the Box Hill and North Kellyville growth centres, visit Council’s website and search ‘Growth Centre Precincts’.



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THE HILLS  
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# Car Pollution

DR KIM LOO | GP Riverstone

## Introduction

When I was growing up. My dad used to smoke in the car. I sat in the back passenger seat inhaling the cigarette smoke. He did not know he was harming me.

Parents in this generation understand the harm of smoking in front of their children.

## The Problem

Car pollution also impacts health. If you can smell the air pollution, you are breathing it in, and it is entering your airway.

There are numerous studies from Australia, UK, Europe, USA and China on the impacts of traffic pollution and health.

Studies show that populations living near high traffic areas have increases in dementia, lung disease, lung cancer, asthma, heart disease, strokes and diabetes. Pregnant women exposed to constant traffic pollution also have impacts on the growth of their baby. Recent Studies from Barcelona in Spain showed that Car pollution impacts the working memory of children.

The air pollutants include Nitrous dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, benzene and formaldehyde and fine particulate matter. All are harmful for health.

Children are at higher risk of harm because of their smaller stature and greater lung surface

area, which results in them having a higher respiratory rate than adults. Children breathe in more air pollutants. Small children are closer to the exhausts of cars.

Yet we have school pick up zones where parents are idling petrol and diesel cars and students standing there waiting for their parents breathing car fumes.

We know there is more pollution from cars when they are idling. This is just as harmful as smoking directly in front of a child.

It is not just school pick up. Cars are left idling at shopping centres and places where people congregate. Unfortunately, there are also homes that are on major roads.

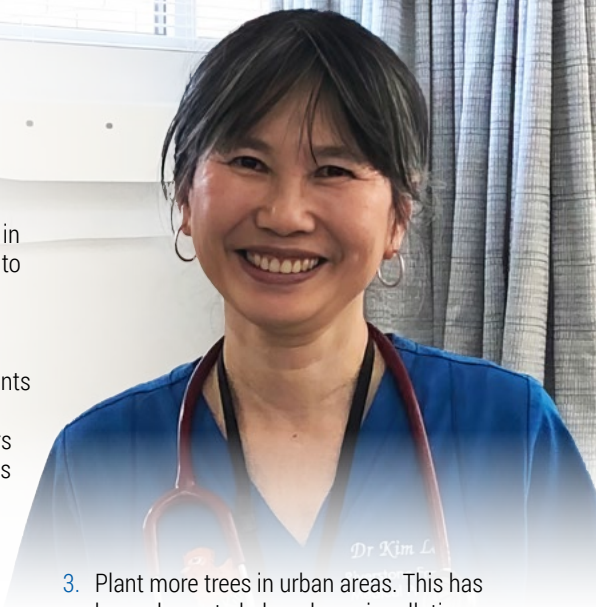
## The Solution

I recently spoke on community radio about the impact of air pollution around school up and the radio presenter, all mothers were horrified.

Car pollution has become such an accepted part of daily life.

What can we do.?

1. Stop idling in front of schools. Turn off the car at shopping centres, school pick up zones, playgrounds and where people are nearby
2. Avoid opening windows when there is air pollution outside



3. Plant more trees in urban areas. This has been shown to help reduce air pollution
4. Reduce the use of your car. Catch public transport or walk.
5. Indoor HEPA filters to help reduce pollution.

## Idle off

This is a campaign for school students to educate their teachers and parents about car pollution. The goal is to stop parents idling at school pick up.

Liveable spaces and clean air are so important for health and to prevent chronic disease. We can make decisions each day to reduce our impact and improve the quality of air that we breathe.

<https://www.idleoff.com.au>

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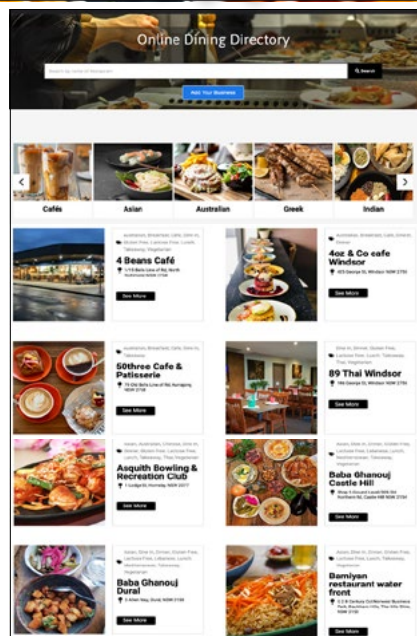
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*out and about*  
with **MICHELLE BYRNE**

# Lynwood Links Mini Golf

Lynwood Links Mini Golf, is fast becoming a popular venue for families and friends wanting to try out the region's latest mini golf course.

What makes this mini golf course completely different from other courses, is that it is designed to look and feel like a real golf course. The 18 holes course is not flat rather there are plenty of humps and hollows you don't notice until you're on the course as well as bunkers and rough grass. Our favourite part of the course was the bridges and the water features including a small waterfall with the water flowing over rocks and down through the mini golf course creating a tranquil peace for all to enjoy.

The course is suitable for children and adults alike and is two courses in one with multiple pin positions on each hole. The yellow course is great for beginners whilst the red course is far more challenging offering plenty of fun for all.

Located at Pitt Town, the course offers beautiful views over the Hawkesbury towards the Hills and at night the stars are beautiful making Lynwood Links the perfect place for mini golf – day or night!

There are plenty of places to sit and enjoy a meal from the clubhouse or a drink from the bar and soak up the atmosphere of Lynwood Links Mini Golf and that country living feeling. Alternatively, pop into the clubhouse for a meal with friends and warm yourself by the fireplace.

For those with children, the playground will always be a hit with plenty of seating to watch them play or try your hand at the arcade games available.

We always enjoy our visits to Lynwood Country Club for birthday parties, family gatherings and nights out with friends but now it's even better with mini golf as another activity to enjoy at the Club. Best of all a round of mini golf is relatively cheap, offering a fun experience for all the family without breaking the bank.

Lynwood Links Mini Golf is not just another mini golf course. It is something different and it is clear that a lot of time, effort and thought has gone into creating the perfect course for all to enjoy. We loved it and I am sure you, your friends and your family will as well!

For more information on Lynwood Links Mini Golf go to <https://www.lynwoodcc.com.au>



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# LOCAL RUNNERS IN RECORD RACE

This weekend's City2Surf is a sold out event which is already a record-breaker with 90,000 entrants set to start on Sunday, 11th August.

Hundreds of local runners will be joining the field for a variety of causes.

Quyen Linh (pictured) is a Cherrybrook local who will be running his first ever City2Surf as UNICEF Australia Charity Superstar.

He has experienced UNICEF's impact on children and families displaced from their homes in countries around the world.

"When I was nine years old back in 1981, I was one of those boat people escaping from the Vietnam war with my father. We ended up in Thailand's refugee camp where we received help in the form of clothing and blankets from UNICEF," Mr Linh said.

"Even though the memories in the Thai refugee camp are quite vague now, I remember the UNICEF logo when we were given a set of clothes and a blanket."

Across the globe, the number of forcibly displaced people has soared, while the situations are becoming increasingly protracted, caused by conflict and violence, climate change and disasters, or a combination. Children make up less than one third of the world's population, but more than 40 per cent, or 47 million, are

displaced people – with the number of children forced to flee their homes doubling in the last decade.

He is among about 160 people who have signed up with Team UNICEF to run, jog, walk or stroll the iconic 14 kilometre course from Sydney's CBD to Bondi Beach to raise critical funds for the world's most vulnerable children.

UNICEF is committed to safeguarding and improving children's lives, across the world and in all areas of health, nutrition, education and protection. UNICEF has an important role to play in advocating for the rights of refugee and displaced children to be supported with continued access to healthcare, education, protection and care, wherever they are.

CEO of UNICEF Australia Tony Stuart said, "It's so inspiring to hear individual stories, like that of Quyen, who as a child received help from UNICEF – and is now finding a way to help other children in need."

Walter Tennikoff from Glenwood will be running his third City2Surf after a gap of 9 years. He is running to raise money for the Heart Foundation.

His previous two runs (2014 and 2015) he completed in exactly the same time of 1hr 19 minutes and 47 seconds. He said he was very doubtful of coming close to that time in Sunday's race after such a gap but he is looking forward to running the event on behalf of the Heart Foundation.

To support Quyen on his fundraiser run visit <https://city2surf24.grassrootz.com/unicef/quyen-linh>

## BREKKY AT ALIVE

BY LEONIE DIXON

Alive by name and by nature! We are your local Community Radio and we're always celebrating something or, as was the occasion last Saturday, encouraging our members to socialise and think of each other as family. Volunteers like to be valued and the Board at Alive invited presenters and members to join us for the morning over some delicious pancakes topped with plenty of fruit, cream and cinnamon. All too often Presenters arrive at the station to prepare and then present their show, only having contact with the hosts before and after their show, so this was an ideal opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet a lot of the newer Presenters. Many friendships have been formed over the years with so many people considering the station such an important part of their lives



they have participated and been members for over 20 years.

We were also fortunate last week to be one of the few stations to be chosen by the Communications Minister- Michelle Rowland for a visit. She was very impressed with the facilities she saw we have available at our site in the Balcombe Heights Estate and provided worthwhile information to listeners about the progress she has made in her portfolio. If you missed her interview with our Chairman,

Andsley Dennis, you can always visit our website, [alive905.com.au](http://alive905.com.au) and download it from our PROGRAM GUIDE- Thursday 25th July at 2pm under the We Get Around Show where Michelle speaks about the 3G Network, and especially for our listeners the progress she is making with Telcos and Councils to improve necessary infrastructure for your mobile reception.



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## MEET THE TEAM:

# HEBA - Our New Vestibular Audiologist

We are thrilled to introduce Heba, our new clinician at Ear Studio! With her extensive experience and passion for audiology, Heba brings a wealth of knowledge and a warm, compassionate approach to her work.

## Professional Background

Heba's journey in audiology began in Sydney, where she spent 15 years honing her skills in diagnostic testing, balance assessments, and hearing tests for all ages, including babies from six months old. She also conducted tinnitus assessments and comprehensive hearing aid workups. Prior to Sydney, Heba worked in Adelaide, focusing on paediatrics and complex cases, which provided a strong foundation for her career. Most recently, she worked with a hearing aid manufacturer, gaining deep insights into the technology. This experience allowed her to understand directional processing, optimise products, predict market trends, and offer solid recommendations to clients.

## Discovering a Love for Audiology

Heba always knew she wanted to work in the health industry. While pursuing a double degree at university, she interned at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. There, she met an audiologist by chance. Heba would deliver public health talks and the audiologist would conduct hearing assessments after the talks, this sparked Heba's interest in the field.

Around the same time, Heba's younger cousin was diagnosed with a hearing loss. This personal connection opened a new world for her. She realised that audiology allowed her to improve people's lives in a medical, yet non-life-threatening way, the emphasis on building relationships and enhancing clients' overall well-being deeply resonated with her.

## Passion for Audiology

Heba is driven by the desire to make a positive impact on people's lives and help them communicate better. Whether it's assisting a child's hearing to facilitate speech development and learning or enabling a grandmother to bond with her grandchild, she finds joy in improving relationships and quality of life, which stems from good hearing.

A simple procedure like an ear wax removal or a sophisticated cochlear implant switch on can make a significant difference to one's life. Seeing clients leave with a smile, knowing how much better they can hear, is incredibly rewarding for Heba. These moments of transformation and the ability to enhance clients' lives are what she loves most about her work.

## A Personal Story

One of Heba's favourite stories is close to her heart. A few years ago, her family noticed her mother was becoming forgetful and confused. Concerned, Heba checked her hearing and discovered significant undiagnosed hearing loss. After fitting her with hearing aids, her mother became more social, engaged and less frustrated, almost like a different person. This profound experience restored her relationships, improved her social confidence and highlighted the immense impact of hearing aids. This story underscores Heba's deep, personal connection to her work.



## Excited to be Part of the Ear Studio Team

Heba is particularly impressed by Ear Studio's professional yet warm and personal touch. The staff feels like family and make everyone feel at home. She appreciates that Ear Studio provides all clients need for their ear health in the one place, supporting clients through their entire ear health journey. Heba is excited to be part of a team that offers such exceptional care and looks forward to improving hearing health care in the community.

If Heba's story resonated with you and you have any ear health concerns, we invite you book an appointment with us at Ear Studio. Whether you need a hearing assessment or want to learn more about the latest in hearing aid technology and how it can benefit you, Heba and our team are here to help. Call us today on 9159 6122 or email us at [reception@earstudio.com.au](mailto:reception@earstudio.com.au). At Ear Studio, we are dedicated to improving your quality of life through better hearing.

"Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people."  
— Helen Keller



**Heba Hamdan**  
Vestibular Audiologist

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# LIBRARY NEWS



## Hills Shire Library Events

### Tax Help - Vinegar Hill Memorial Library

By The Hills Shire Library Service

24 August 2024, 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

Vinegar Hill Memorial Library 29 Main Street Rouse Hill Town Centre Rouse Hill, NSW

Are your tax affairs simple? If you earn around \$60,000 or less, then you could be eligible for help from Australian Tax Office volunteers who will provide free advice and help with basic tax returns.

You will need to bring the following with you for your appointment:

- Your myGov username or email you use for myGov and password – if you are unable to locate or remember your myGov sign in details, or don't have a myGov account, our volunteers can help.
- Your mobile phone to receive your myGov SMS security code.
- Your bank account details (BSB and account number).
- Your tax file number (TFN).
- An original or amended notice of assessment from any one of the last five years.
- Income statements or payment summaries from all sources.
- All your receipts for gifts, donations and work-related expenses.
- Details of any child support payments made.
- Details of your spouse's (married or de-facto) taxable income or a reasonable estimate if you had a spouse at any time during the financial year.

### Little Eco Warriors - Caring for our Platypus and the World of Waterbugs

School Years 2-6 – By The Hills Shire Library Service

15 August 2024, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant St Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Join us during Platypus month as we delve into the world of these amazing monotremes! Learn more about their diet of tiny waterbugs, and how they contribute to the health of our waterways, followed by a fun waterbug activity.

Presented in collaboration with The Hills Shire Council's Environment Centre. Free | Bookings

essential online | Suitable for children in School Years 2-6 In consideration of others, please cancel your booking if you are no longer able to attend.

Books you and your child might enjoy:

*Platypuses* / Sara Louise Kras; *Little platypus* / Anna Brett; *Little explorer's guide to New South Wales National Parks*

### Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, Measurements Study Session School Years 9-10

Part of the Free Study Sessions collection – By The Hills Shire Library Service

15 August 2024; 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM AEST

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant St Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Do you need help with Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry & Measurements? Bring along your toughest questions and join us for FREE Peer Assisted Study Sessions with a qualified tutor. A small afternoon tea will also be provided for attendees to fuel an afternoon of learning!

Free | Bookings Essential Online | Students must live, work or study within The Hills Shire.

Parent consent (for under 18's) is required.

In consideration of others, please cancel your booking if you are no longer able to attend.

### Literary Analysis & Persuasive Writing Study Session School Years 9-10

Part of the Free Study Sessions collection – By The Hills Shire Library Service

Thu, 22 Aug 2024 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM AEST

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant St Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Do you need help with Literary Analysis & Persuasive Writing? Bring along your toughest questions and join us for FREE Peer Assisted Study Sessions with a qualified tutor. A small afternoon tea will also be provided for attendees to fuel an afternoon of learning!

Free | Bookings Essential Online | Students must live, work or study within The Hills Shire.

Parent consent (for under 18's) is required.

In consideration of others, please cancel your booking if you are no longer able to attend.

### Learning for Life- Decluttering, Organising and Sustainable Living Workshop

Only a few tickets left as we go to press – By The Hills Shire Library Service

29 August 2024; 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM AEST

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant Street Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Do you need help with reducing the clutter in your life? Would you like to reduce your housework and create some breathing space? Join this workshop for great tips on how to declutter and organise your belongings.

Presented in collaboration with The Hills Shire Council's Resource Recovery team. Free |

Bookings essential online | Suitable for Adults. In consideration of others, please cancel your booking if you are no longer able to attend.

Books you might enjoy: 10 minute declutter / Skye Alexander; Creating effective spaces / Natasha Swingle; New minimalism: decluttering and design for sustainable, intentional living

## Hawkesbury Library Events

- **Rhymetime** – Weekly every Monday, 10-10.30am at the Central Library. For 18 months – 3 year olds- During school term only. No bookings required. Just turn up.
- **Storytime** – Weekly every Tuesday, 11-11.45am at the Central Library and Thursday at 11-11.45am at Richmond Branch Library. For 3-5 year olds – During school term only. No bookings required. Just turn up.
- **Tech Help** – Weekly every Thursday at 10am in Windsor, and every Friday 3-5pm at Richmond. To book in contact the library on 4560 4460
- **Third Tuesday Night Book Chat** – Monthly third Tuesday of the month 6.30pm - 8.30pm, the Central Library. No bookings required. Just turn up.
- **Third Thursday Book Club** – Monthly third Thursday of the month 10am -12pm, the Central Library. No bookings required. Just turn up.
- **Knit with Friends** – Monthly Last Friday of the month 10am - 12pm on the Central Library. No bookings required. Just turn up.
- **Hawkesbury Family History Group meeting** – Monthly second Wednesday of every month 10 -11.30am at Windsor or via zoom.
- **JP Services** – Weekly every Tuesday and Wednesday, 10am-12pm at Windsor. No bookings required. Drop in service.
- **Legal Clinic** – Monthly on the first and third Wednesday 10am-1pm. No bookings required. Drop in Service.

AN EVENING WITH BESTSELLING AUTHOR

## BELINDA ALEXANDRA

Castle Hill Library on 30 August at 6.30pm.

The Hills Shire Library Service is thrilled to announce that beloved author and fan favourite Belinda Alexandra is returning to Castle Hill Library this August. Tickets cost: \$9 per person

For more information about the event and to book your ticket, visit [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library) and click on the 'Evening with Belinda Alexandra' tab.

Belinda Alexandra.  
Photo credit:  
Paul Wesley  
Photography





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**JULIAN LEESER MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

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julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au julianleeser.com.au julianleesermp

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

## Have you thought about taking a tech detox?

For a while now my wife Joanna has been telling me that I'm on my phone too much and that it's a bad influence on our kids. I've recently done some reflection and I think that Joanna might be right.

From the outset, I think most people would agree that advances in technologies like the internet, smart phones and social media have been a good thing. Being able to connect with distant friends and family on FaceTime or Facebook has been revolutionary, as has being able to access news from right across the world 24/7. It's shaping the way more and more young people communicate too.

As your local Member of Parliament, I've had to maintain a focus on new tech and ways of staying connected, to let people know about things happening in our area. A smart phone is another tool I use to understand the issues that people want me to focus on, get the most up to date local and national news and to connect with constituents. But I wonder, when is it too much of a good thing?

I've been wondering how reducing the amount of time spent looking at my phone would impact my work and my ability to connect, if at all. So, I'm in the process of finding out.

In July I began a 'tech-detox'. I was using an old school flip-phone that can make and receive calls and text messages – but no emails, Facebook, WhatsApps or endless scrolling news websites. I was still able to work on the computer but I stopped carrying my work around with me and I wasn't jumping to respond each time my phone buzzed.

Despite bets to the contrary, I'm pleased to report that I survived the whole month! I was able to work, respond to emails, and focus on local issues. My staff kept me up to date with the world of social media. In my personal life, I discovered that I had more time to read books, and as a husband and father I feel a lot more present and engaged with the family when I'm at home.

If you can, I'd encourage you to give it a go. Even trying it for a week could make a big difference.

## NEW METRO LINE OPENING DELAYED: A Disappointment for Commuters

Sydney Metro is Australia's most ambitious public transport project. Designed, funded, and built by the former Liberal National Government, it shows what can be done when governments have vision and strong economic management. Sydney Metro is revolutionising travel in Australia's biggest city. By seamlessly connecting Sydney's northwest, west, southwest and greater west with fast, reliable turn-up-and-go metro services, it promises to transform daily commutes. Residents were eagerly anticipating the direct connection into Sydney CBD and beyond.

The much anticipated opening of the City and Southwest Metro Line has been unexpectedly delayed, causing disappointment for thousands of Sydney commuters. My own electorate has been affected by these delays, as, in preparation for 4 August, significant changes to bus routes occurred. People had begun to plan the changes to their commutes with the promise of an easy commute into the city on the new Chatswood to Sydenham stretch of the Metro. The Metro was envisioned to alleviate travel congestion and enhance transport connectivity. Now the delays have left Sydney's residents frustrated and disappointed.

Just days before the line was set to open, the Minister for Transport announced the postponement of the Chatswood to Sydenham line would be delayed. The Transport Minister blamed several factors for the delay, including industrial action. A critical factor was the Fire Brigade Employees Union's refusal to participate in final emergency drills, preventing essential safety tests from being conducted in July. Additionally, the National Rail Safety Regulator has yet to grant approval for passenger services, compounding the delay.

The ongoing setbacks starkly highlight the significant shortcomings in the current Labor Government's management of the Metro project. The evident disorganisation and last-minute management of crucial safety

checks and regulatory approvals have plunged Sydney commuters into uncertainty and frustration.

The government's failure to anticipate and address these critical issues in a timely manner has exacerbated the disappointment felt by residents. Promised a seamless transition to improved public transport, Sydney residents have instead been let down. With no opening date in sight, as the project remains stalled amid bureaucratic and operational delays, it becomes increasingly clear that the government's oversight and planning has been woefully inadequate.

*Authorised by Mark Hodges MP. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.*



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

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## More affordable energy for Hawkesbury homes

I know households in the Hawkesbury are feeling the pressure from higher energy prices. While we can't control the many global factors contributing to this rise that many households are feeling, we're taking action to help ease the pressure, without adding to inflation.

From the billing period that started on July 1, every household will receive \$300 off their power bills.

On top of this, we're providing small businesses with an energy rebate of \$325 – which is good for local businesses and local consumers.

As well as helping people pay the power bill, the way we've provided the rebate actually puts downward pressure on inflation.

Tackling the immediate cost of living pressures is our top priority, at the same time we're looking ahead to make sure Australians have long term access to reliable and affordable energy.

The federal government is working with state governments, energy providers and communities to manage the exit of coal from the grid, while ensuring that we seize the economic opportunities of renewables.

Under the Albanese Labor Government, we've already seen a 25 per cent increase in renewable energy in our grid. Fifty-five new renewable energy projects have been approved since we came to office, with these projects powering over 3 million homes. They

are an essential part of our plan to deliver cheaper power bills and cleaner energy for all Australians.

Last year Australia had 330,000 rooftop solar installations, which is helping to lower home energy costs. And it won't be long before the first community batteries in the Hawkesbury start appearing in Hobartville, to help people who have rooftop solar but no battery.

The world is undergoing its biggest economic transformation since the industrial revolution – the transformation from old to new fuels. While the Opposition exist in a half-baked and uncoded nuclear energy thought-bubble, we're focused on creating a reliable energy system, one that can secure jobs and investment for communities that need it, and one that can reliably power our nation now and into the future.

## Riverstone Community Cabinet

The decision to hold a Community Cabinet in Riverstone highlights the government's commitment to address matters affecting the Northwest Growth Area.

Community Cabinet offered individual meetings between Ministers and local stakeholders – allowing groups to directly voice concerns to the relevant Minister. Sporting groups, cultural organisations, schools and local businesses were just some of the local stakeholders involved. This opportunity empowered local groups and individual to collaborate and engage in conversation with the state's key decision makers. The NSW cabinet was keen to hear the voices of Riverstone locals

to shape informed policy decisions, planning adequately for the future and putting community minded living at the forefront of service delivery.

Home to the most youth and young families in the state, whilst being the fastest growing electorate, Riverstone faces a unique set of challenges. The aftermath of over a decade of poor planning decisions by the former Liberal and National government further necessitates the need for smart planning decisions into the future. The 2 State budgets handed down by the Minns Labor government highlights their commitment to the Riverstone electorate and Sydney's North West growth area.

The Minns government is prioritising the people of North West Sydney by hearing local voices and backing it with adequate investment by funding projects like the Rouse Hill Hospital, upgrades to Garfield Rd East, Bandon Rd and Richmond Rd, new schools for Nirimba Fields,

Tallawong, Box Hill and Marsden Park, improved public transport connections and planning for the Riverstone town centre.

Community cabinet in conjunction with the delivery of a strong budget for the Riverstone area emphasises the government's proactive approach and willingness to give Northwest Sydney the fresh start they deserve.

Riverstone's community cabinet was a booked-out event with over 260 attendees. Following the ministerial meetings session – the attendees were given the chance to ask the Premier directly about the NSW government's plans for Riverstone. The forum highlighted the Premier's willingness to engage directly with locals, hear their voices and answer the hard-hitting questions.

### Local member Warren Kirby says:

"The decision to hold a Community Cabinet in Riverstone is a testament to NSW government's commitment to our electorate. I am proud to be a part of a proactive government who engages with our community through forums like the Community Cabinet as well as delivering strong investment to the area."

The Community Cabinet held in Riverstone marked a momentous occasion being the first time the whole NSW Cabinet have visited the area to undertake in meaningful engagement with local stakeholders. This event demonstrated NSW government is listening to the people of Riverstone and delivering the fresh start they were promised.







## HILLS UNITED TRIO Join 50-Match Club

Hills United FC have feted three of their NSW League One Women stalwarts Bella Donaldson, Desiree Galea and Kaylie Shannon. The trio are among a rare group to have played 50 first grade games for their club.

Bella, Desiree and Kaylie have always played their hearts out for the team which have set high standards for women's football in the Hills and across NSW. Last year, Hills United finished runners-up after losing the grand final.

Thanks to the hard work and remarkable ability of these three players and many others in the club, Hills United have built a very strong foundation in women's football and a pathway to representative football in NSW and Australia.

## HILLS GO DOWN FIGHTING

Hills United FC went down fighting to league leaders SD Raiders FC 2-1 winners in their FNSW Women's One League match at Bella Vista Public School on Sunday afternoon.

Hills United scored first through their sharpshooter Kylie Shannon, playing in her 50th league match, in the 50th minute after a scoreless first half.

Madeleine Malone equalised 11 minutes later for SD Raiders FC after experienced Hills goalkeeper Sarah Easthope had to make two quick saves.

SD Raiders FC grabbed the two points after substitute Sarah Mandile found the nets in the 71st minute. The win took the Raiders to the top of the ladder with 57 points, with Hills United in fifth spot on 47.

Hills United, who began the season in terrific form before sliding a bit down the ladder, are away this Sunday to Marconi Stallions, with kick off at 3pm. Last year's runners-up are keen to complete the regular season on a high as they eye a place in the finals.

## Glenwood to host Football4all Gala Day

Football NSW's annual Nova Employment Football4all Gala Day is back at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood. The event, to be held on Sunday, September 15, is a celebration of people with special needs and disability football programs and is open to all ages and abilities.

Football4all Gala Day was first held back in 2008 and is regarded as one of the most popular events held by FNSW.

The Gala Day will be held from 9am to 3pm at the 'Home of Football' in Glenwood. "It creates a support network for volunteers, coaches, parents and players to get involved in inclusion football and experience all its benefits," a FNSW spokesman said.

Members from the elite ParaMatildas and ParaRoos are scheduled to attend the event along with representatives from A-League clubs Western Sydney Wanderers, Sydney FC, Macarthur FC, and Central Coast Mariners.

The organisers are expecting a full house from all over NSW, including regional participants as far as Wagga Wagga. Young fans have plenty of entertainment outside the



field with a police car, fire truck, jumping castle, inflatables and face painting giving them quite a few options to have some fun.

Entry is free and make sure you support these amazing footballers.







## Nations of Origin celebrates sports and culture

Windsor hosted a celebration of indigenous sport and culture at a very competitive Nations of Origin event.

The recent competition was hosted by PCYC NSW to mark NAIDOC Week with the youth representing their local Aboriginal Nation in rugby league, netball, basketball and gymnastics tournaments. Teams had

to comprise a 70:30 ratio of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal players, according to the organisers.

One of the main criteria was that all the participants had to have

80% school attendance. Organisers said the competition helps to build skills, character and leadership qualities while encouraging cultural respect and connections among the youth.

PCYC said the annual Nations of Origin tournament is a multifaceted program offering youth the opportunity to develop leadership skills, forge lasting friendships, and honour the elders who have guided them.

"The Nations of Origin tournament is more than just a sporting event; it's a celebration of cultural identity and a powerful platform for promoting reconciliation," said PCYC NSW CEO Ben Hobby.

"As the competition follows the celebration of NAIDOC Week, it is especially significant as we honour the history, culture, and achievements of indigenous peoples. This event fosters leadership and lasting friendships, leaving a legacy that honours the elders whose custodianship of the land and culture we respect and acknowledge."



## Hills United Men Battle To Stay In NPL

It is a tough battle ahead for Hills United who are keen to avoid being relegated in the NPL Men's football championship. The Hills team slumped to a 3-1 defeat at the hands of St George City last weekend.

This leaves Hills United stuck one place above the bottom and they have to pull out something special in their last games if they wish to stay in the top rung next season. The Hills defence was breached thrice in the first half as St George romped to a 3-0 advantage by the breather.

Hills keeper Ryan Wood prevented the scoreline from becoming 4-0 when he stopped a penalty from Jason Romero in the second half. And Hills United scored a consolation goal when substitute Thomas Lopez made it 3-1 in

the 81st minute. Seasoned Hills coach Luke Casserly said it was a tale of two halves for his battling side. "It was a tough game, they were all over us in the first half," Casserly said. "They were all over us on the ball and anticipated things which made it tough."

"You have to take your hat off to them, we will need to regroup and do what we need to secure three points next week."

Hills United are hosts to Marconi Stallions this Saturday, August 10, at 7pm.





# PETS OF THE WEEK

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter (CAS) is at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave.  
Call 4560 4644 for opening hours or visit the new webpage  
<https://hawkesburycas.com.au/>



## AT A GLANCE

NAME: ROO  
BREED: American Staffordshire  
SEX: Female  
AGE: 1 yr 4 mos  
PRICE: \$49

**ROO** is a bouncy girl who is looking for a fun family to call her own. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say that to keep her safe Roo will need a home with tall and secure fencing. While Roo is active she is also well-behaved with staff in the office. They say Roo enjoys lounging and sleeping. She can sit when asked, takes her treats nicely and would love a family that can give her the attention she deserves. Roo is currently in the care of the Pound Patrol while renovations are done at the shelter. Roo's adoption price is just \$49 and includes desexing, the first vaccination, microchipping and lifetime registration.

*Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.*



## AT A GLANCE

NAME: KARMA  
BREED: American Staffordshire/Terrier cross  
SEX: Female  
AGE: 1 yr 3 mos  
PRICE: \$49

**KARMA** is a happy friendly dog who has been great with the other dogs out in the exercise run according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. Being only young, staff say Karma will need a reminder of her basic manners and also be taken for daily walks. If you are interested in adopting this lovely friendly girl please come to the shelter to meet her with your family dog and the children so that staff can be sure they are all going to get on well together. Karma is already desexed and is currently in the care of Pound Patrol. Her adoption price is just \$49 which includes the first vaccination, microchipping and lifetime registration.

*Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.*



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For more information including terms and conditions visit our website



# Tick Prevention

The paralysis tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*) is a small, eight-legged tick that produces a potent toxin. This toxin causes paralysis in dogs and cats, and is potentially fatal. Paralysis ticks are commonly found on the east coast of Australia. They are most active in the warmer months especially after wet weather which initiates hatching of eggs in the environment and activity of the larval stages which feed on mammals. This unfortunately means that they are a serious problem for pets in the Sydney area, particularly the Northern beaches.

After the tick has been attached for a day or two, enough poison will have been injected to cause significant neurological disease in pets due to blocking of nerve receptors. The most common symptom is a weak or flaccid paralysis starting in the hind limbs due to nerve signals being blocked from accessing the muscles of movement. As time progresses the paralysis ascends up the body to eventually affect the muscles of breathing and swallowing. This process causes significant illness and death unless an antiserum is administered to neutralise the toxin before it attaches to more nerve receptors. Other symptoms of tick paralysis include vomiting, coughing, excessive panting and grunting, an altered bark or limping if the tick is lodged in a foot or leg.

Tick poisoning is common, severe and very preventable. Our top tips for tick prevention are:-

- Tick clipping by an experienced groomer and daily tick searching.

- Administration of highly effective and safe tick preventatives such as the recently released Bravecto Quantum yearly injection. Never rely on an animal's natural immunity against ticks or herbal or natural remedies that have not been properly tested and proven to be effective and safe.
- Avoid taking your pet into long grasses and bushland during the warmer months.
- Ensure that you have adequate pet insurance for your pet and that this covers tick paralysis.

Finally, knowing the symptoms of tick paralysis is key. Signs of tick paralysis vary depending on the length of time the tick has been on the animal, as well as the potency of the toxin, which can vary between ticks.

*Signs include:*

- A change in bark
- Increased or laboured breathing
- Coughing
- Excessive salivation
- Vomiting or regurgitation
- Weakness in the hind legs, which typically progresses to involve the forelimbs also
- Reluctance to get up or walk
- Because the ability to breathe and swallow are affected, some animals will inhale saliva or food (aspirate) resulting in life-threatening pneumonia.



It is important to seek veterinary attention to determine whether your pet needs tick anti-toxin. Until then, there are some important steps you can take to reduce the risk of complications.

Keep your pet calm, quiet and cool. Excitement, exercise and overheating can exacerbate illness associated with tick paralysis.

Remove food and water. Your pet's ability to swallow may be compromised, putting your pet at risk of aspiration pneumonia.

Search for other ticks on your pet.

Prevention of tick paralysis is essential to maintain the health of your pet. With the new release of Bravecto Quantum yearly injection, your vet at Sydney Animal Hospitals can provide a long term prevention to keep your pet safe, without the worry of needing to remember to give your pet a regular tablet at home. Book your appointment today.

# Homeless pets win big in major shelter revamp

Dogs and cats waiting for their new forever home will now do so in far more comfort thanks to a \$375,000 revamp of the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter.

The funding, provided through the NSW Local Government Recovery Grants Program (Flood), also significantly strengthens the resilience of the shelter during emergencies.

All dog kennels have now received underfloor heating, which will significantly improve the comfort of animals during colder months. This provides major benefits to their health and their temperament, helping maximise their chances of rehoming.

The cattery has also had a major revamp, with new kitty condos and a meeting space now open. The old male cattery has been overhauled to provide an intake and quarantine area for sick cats that may arrive at the shelter so they can receive the TLC they need without sharing their bugs with others. During emergencies, the shelter can now switch over from mains power to a backup generator. This will keep the animal shelter operating in times of emergency, enabling staff to keep the animals safe and warm by not losing power.

Directional and site signage has also been given a colourful and friendly makeover, improving the appearance of the shelter and making it more welcoming for visitors and prospective adopters.



Families looking to adopt a pet or find a lost pet are also encouraged to check out the shelter's new dedicated website [www.hawkesburycas.com.au](http://www.hawkesburycas.com.au) which is packed full of information on available pets, caring, registration, frequently asked questions, and success stories.

Adoption costs are \$49-\$99 for dogs and cats, which includes microchipping, lifetime council registration, desexing and first vaccination.

Under a separate funding package, Hawkesbury City Council also built two new large meet and greet yards away from the main shelter building to provide a more relaxed opportunity for families to meet the dogs.





# WHAT'S ON

IN THE HILLS TO HAWKESBURY



10  
AUG

## Castle Hill Science Day

by Powerhouse Museum

10:00 AM to 02:30 PM | Museums Discovery Centre,  
172 Showground Road, Castle Hill

An all-day family-friendly event exploring space and scientific concepts.

Artists Lauren Brincat and Michaela Gleave will facilitate space-themed workshops. The Australian Centre of Field Robotics will educate visitors about the search for life on Mars.

There will be storytime sessions, including readings of *Stellarphant* by James Foley and *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers. Guided tours will allow visitors to discover more stories about fascinating objects in the Powerhouse Collection.

## Talk by acclaimed author Dr Grace Karskens

02:00 to 04:00 PM

Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston, 2159

Talk by acclaimed author Dr Grace Karskens, author of the award-winning book *People of the River*.

Grace will tell us about how she in 2017 she came across a handwritten list, created in 1829, of 178 Aboriginal place names for Dyarubbin and Ganangdayi, the Hawkesbury and Macdonald Rivers.

Grace will outline how she worked with Darug researchers to identify and locate these places. Bookings not required – Gold coin donation

### Event Organiser

Judy Horton – Dural & District Historical Society  
0419604701 or email [judyhorton949@gmail.com](mailto:judyhorton949@gmail.com)

11  
AUG

## Currawong Bushcare

by The Hills Shire Council

08:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Currawong Reserve, 20Z Bellamy Farm Road,  
West Pennant Hills

The Currawong Bushcare Group works in Currawong Reserve, West Pennant Hills. The group is working in an area of Blue Gum High Forest which is listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community under both State and Federal legislation.

This reserve contains Powerful Owl habitat as well.

## Ellerman Park Bushcare

by The Hills Shire Council

08:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Ellerman Park, 22Z Pellitt Lane, Dural, 2158

Ellerman Park Bushcare Group is restoring the Critically Endangered Ecological Community of Sydney Turpentine – Ironbark Forest. Grants from DECC and HNCMA are being used for the restoration. No experience is necessary to join the group.

## Kenthurst Preschool Fete

by Kenthurst Preschool

10:00 AM to 04:00 PM

John Benyon Rotary Park, 135 Kenthurst Road, Kenthurst NSW

The first Sunday in August each year is known as "Fete Day" in Kenthurst. The Kenthurst Preschool Fete is a fun celebration of community, with support from families, local groups, and over 50 businesses. This event showcases local talent and services, alongside fun activities and great food. For over 50 years, the fete has been a vibrant and successful event supporting the important role of the preschool in the Kenthurst community.

11  
AUG

## Dural Village Markets

by Skye & Brad Browne

09:00 AM to 01:00 PM

Dural Country Club, 662 Old Northern Road, Dural, 2158

Community Markets – Growers, Produce, Artisans and food.

## Blue Gum Creek Bushcare

by The Hills Shire Council

01:00 to 04:00 PM

Blue Gum Creek Reserve, Blue Gum Road, Annangrove, 2156

The Blue Gum Creek Bushcare Group removes weeds in Blue Gum Creek Reserve, Annangrove (Cattai Alluvial Tall Forest). They meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month (except heavy rain) from 1pm to 4pm. Entry is off Blue Gum Rd (eastern side) near the fire trail. All welcome, no experience needed!

## Pygmy Possum Patch Bushcare

by The Hills Shire Council

01:00 to 04:00 PM

Colbarra Place Reserve, 16 Colbarra Place, West Pennant Hills, 2125

Join the Pygmy Possum Patch Bushcare Group! We remove weeds and plant natives to help these adorable possums thrive in West Pennant Hills' Colbarra Place Reserve. All welcome, no experience needed.

## Richard Webb Bushcare

by The Hills Shire Council

01:00 to 04:00 PM

Richard Webb Reserve, Aiken Road, West Pennant Hills, 2125

The Richard Webb Bushcare Group cares for critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest in Richard Webb Reserve, West Pennant Hills. They meet at the Aiken Rd playground.

12  
AUG

## Footpath Library

by North West Community Services Inc

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

9 Park Street Riverstone 2765

The Footpath Library is a Mobile Library Service that gathers new & excellent quality second-hand books from publishers from around Australia and distributes them to people within the community, giving away more than 10 000 books every year.

Reading is food for the mind & soul.... no matter who you are

Come and visit us at North West Community Services Inc on Monday 12 August from 11:30am-12:30pm and pick yourself up a book to read!

13  
AUG

## Seniors Fitness Class

by North West Community Services Inc

11:30 AM

Seniors Hall, Sam Lane Complex, 9 Park Street Riverstone

Seniors' exercise classes are back. Join us for Seniors Fitness every Tuesday at 11:30 am! For individuals aged 65 and above. Cost: \$5. Limited spaces available – please register at 9627 3622 or email [hgale@nwcs.org.au](mailto:hgale@nwcs.org.au).

## UK 1921 Census Family History Session

by Hawkesbury Library Service

06:00 to 07:00 PM

Online event

Find my Past is an online genealogy service. The website hosts billions of searchable records of census, directory and historical record information.

Discover the UK 1921 census and how it can expand your family research.

\$5.00 – BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. Delivered online via ZOOM.



**14  
AUG****Bringing NAA record to light – Hawkesbury***by Hawkesbury Family History Group*

10:00 to 11:15 AM

Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor

Manager, Access and Public Engagement at the National Archives of Australia, Rachel Cullen, will discuss how its digitisation projects make archival records more accessible. The talk will highlight examples from the unique collections.

Presented by Hawkesbury Family History Group

FREE – IN PERSON NO NEED TO BOOK. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL ONLY IF ATTENDING ON ZOOM.

**Friendly Friendship Bingo***by North West Community Services Inc*

10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Community Hall, 9 Park Street Riverstone

Join the fun every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month! Register by email to rkhan@nwcs.org.au or call 9627 3622

**15  
AUG****Getting to know your camera***by Hawkesbury Library Service*

07:00 to 09:00 PM

300 George Street #Deerubbin Centre Windsor, NSW

Do you have a digital SLR camera and are not sure what to do with it? Come along to the getting to know your camera workshop on Thursday 15 August 7pm – 9pm.

Presented by the Hawkesbury Camera Club in conjunction with Hawkesbury Library Service, this informative and fun workshop will be presented by seasoned photographers.

Learn basic techniques for digital photography, how to make the most of your camera as well as ways to take more creative shots. BYO digital SLR camera is essential.

FREE – Bookings Essential

**16  
AUG****The Sydney Collectables Fair & Exhibition 2024***by Sydney Collectables Fair & Exhibition*

August 16 – 18, 2024

Hawkesbury Showground Pavilion, 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon

The 2024 National event in Sydney will be our biggest yet! Featuring a new indoor location, over 100 stallholders and dealers, special exhibitions, and great food and atmosphere. Don't miss out!

**17  
AUG****The Hills Winter Sleepout 2024***by The Hills Winter Sleep Out*

05:00 PM

Bella Vista Farm

The Hills Winter Sleep Out is a unique event that raises awareness of homelessness and factors such as Domestic Violence, Financial Hardship, or Mental Illness that can lead to homelessness in The Hills. The Hills Winter Sleepout raises funds and awareness to support people in The Hills who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The sleepout was first held in 2014 with 40 people sleeping rough for one night to raise awareness and funds for people who are at risk of homelessness in The Hills. Today the sleepout is an annual event with over 100 people, including families and youth sleeping rough for one night to support our community.

**THE HILLS  
WINTER  
SLEEPOUT<sup>2</sup>**

**18  
AUG****Household Chemical CleanOut***by Hawkesbury City Council*

09:00 AM to 03:30 PM

Hawkesbury Showground, Racecourse Road, Clarendon

It's time to start preparing for a chemical clean out! Hawkesbury City Council's free annual Household Chemical CleanOut will be held on Sunday, 18 August 2024 from 9am to 3:30pm at Hawkesbury Showground, Racecourse Road, Clarendon, entry via Gate 1.

**Maroota Muster 2024***by Maroota Muster*

10:00 AM to 03:00 PM

4540 Old Northern Rd, Maroota NSW 2756

The Maroota Public School is hosting its annual fundraiser, the 2024 Maroota Muster, on August 18th. The event promises a fun-filled day for the whole family with food, rides, entertainment, a chocolate wheel, classic cars, and artisan stalls.

**18  
AUG****Claiming small business tax deductions – an ATO Masterclass**

06:00 to 07:00 PM

Online event

Join the Masterclass to ask about business expenses you can claim for now, over time, or never deduct. Understanding this will help you strategically spend in the future.

**21  
AUG****Workshop – Savings Finder***by Hawkesbury Library Service*

10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor

Learn about the savings and rebates available from NSW Government Services including Active and Creative Kids vouchers, Energy rebates, transport and driving concessions, toll relief rebate, NSW Senior Card, NSW Senior Savers Card, Fee-free apprenticeships, Pensioner travel vouchers and more. Morning tea provided. FREE – BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

**An Afternoon with Andy Griffiths***by The Hills Shire Library Service*

04:00 to 05:00 PM

Pioneer Theatre

Join bestselling author Andy Griffiths, as he discusses his brand new book Adventures Unlimited: The Land Of Lost Things! The first book in his hilarious, action-packed new adventure series.

Cost | \$10.00 PP | Bookings essential online

**22  
AUG****Bead and Handcraft Workshops***by North West Community Services Inc*

10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

9 Park Street, Riverstone

Bead & handcraft workshop session starts soon 10: 30 at our Youth Centre! Come join us for a fun and creative time.

Limited Spots – Call 9627 3622 or email hgale@nwcs.org.au to register.

**31  
AUG****Glenhaven Green Market Day***by Anglicare*

10:00 AM to 02:00 PM

607 Old Northern Road, Glenhaven, next to Flower Power

Glenhaven Green Retirement Village is holding a Market Day on 31st August from 10am to 2pm.

All are welcome, bring your friends and family and enjoy shopping, indoors, for gifts, crafts, accessories, plants and many more stalls.

There will also be a pop up cafe and a sausage sizzle

If you need any further information please contact 0433 502 661.



# THE FRENCH CONNECTION

France has been in the news recently with the Olympics held in Paris so I thought – “what connection does our area have with France”? Did I know of one French connection of the Hills District?

It is claimed that the first white settler in Castle Hill was a Frenchman, Pierre Lalouette de Vernicourt who was born in Paris, on 4th April 1754. Pierre arrived in Sydney on 14th December 1801, aged 47 years, after serving in the French army and then later with the forces of an Indian Prince in India.

Governor, Phillip Gidley King, granted him 100 acres at Castle Hill in the district of Dundas on 1st February 1802 on which he built a slab hut. The residence was named The Hermitage and has survived more than 200 years through the fortunate use of turpentine timber which is resistant to termites, and which was cut on the estate. A secondary dwelling was built around the original building which further protected this historic structure. It is considered by historians as possibly the oldest surviving slab building in Sydney. It is located at 340 Old Northern Road (Rogans Hill) occupied by Hills Family Funerals Limited.

De Vernicourt was also assigned the use of six convict labourers to work his land. His life at Castle Hill was short but tumultuous, dying in 1804. During his time at Castle Hill. He had acquired an additional 14 acres of land on the 4th April 1804 by purchasing Ramsay Farm, part of William Cox's estate at Dundas, for 37 guineas. He had been visited by fellow countryman François Péron, who met him when Nicolas Baudin's expedition visited Port Jackson, referred to him as 'M De La Clampe', and found him "presque nu [almost naked],

like his convict labourers. On visiting the home, which he had named "The Hermitage", Francois Peron wrote in his journal, "l'agréable alliance d'une extrême simplicité et d'une sorte d'élégance, qui prouvoit d'autant mieux l'esprit et le goût délicat de son auteur, quelle étoit plus complètement étrangère à toute espèce de luxe". Translated as, "an agreeable union of extreme simplicity and a sort of elegance, which proved the delicate taste of its owner, at the same time that he was an utter stranger to every sort of luxury." A report by Peron goes on to state that De Vernicourt "ran precipitately into the house to make himself decent, and soon afterwards joined us."

Just five feet two inches (1.57 metres) tall, with black eyes, a very dark complexion and a greatly protruding lower lip, Vernicourt lived an isolated and frugal existence – growing wheat and maize, but also planting coffee from 'seeds he brought with him'; and, according to Péron, cotton. Although he is said to have largely shunned colonial society, Matthew

Flinders encountered him in August 1803, as did the visiting French merchant Louis Charles Ruault Coutance.

Earlier in 1803, De Vernicourt found himself in the midst of tumultuous events. On 15 February 1803, his farm was attacked by 15 fugitives from the government farm (largely worked by Irish nationalist political prisoners) at Castle Hill. The very first issue of the Sydney Gazette reported that his house was ransacked,

and stripped of many articles of plate, wearing apparel, some fire and side-arms, provisions, spirituous and vinous liquors, a quantity of which they drank or wasted in the house. The culprits were caught and several were later sentenced to death.

De Vernicourt died of what was diagnosed, at the inquest, as apoplexy on the night of 4 June 1804. Ironically, he was on his way to a dance at Government House – one of the very few social invitations he appears to have accepted in the colony, and one which fate prevented him from keeping. He was buried on his estate which was sold at auction by his administrator, Robert Campbell, on 3 August 1804.

The advertisement offers a picture of his domain:

*Several Head of Horn Cattle, a capital Mare, 69 Sheep, two female Goats, and fifty-nine Pigs: with A Quantity of WHEAT, MAIZE, and POTATOES, Farming Utensils, Household Furniture, &c. &c.*

*And to be Let at the same time, for the Space of two Years,*

*That excellent FARM known by the name of the HERMITAGE; containing One Hundred and Fourteen Acres, of which about Fifty are cleared, Eleven and a half under Wheat, and Three laid out in a Garden well stocked with Fruit-trees and Vegetables. On the Premises there is a small Dwelling House, Barn, &c.*

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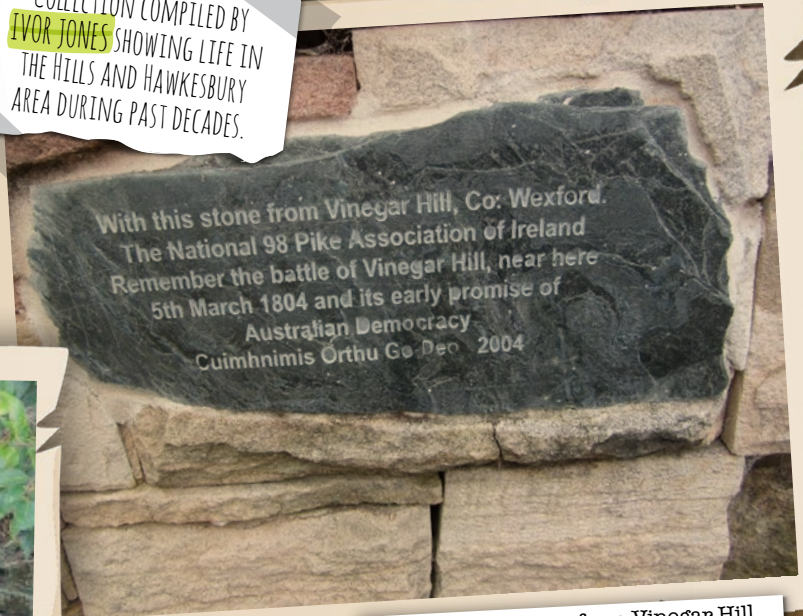
# AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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



A convict built well at  
Castle Hill Heritage Park



Monument Stone from Vinegar Hill,  
Ireland at Castle Hill Heritage Park



The Hermitage Homestead,  
Rogans Hill photo by Pam Wilson,  
Hills Dist. Historical Socy.



View of Train at Rogans Hill,  
close to The Hermitage at Rogans Hill

iss

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## 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.  
Peter | 0407 013 411  
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  
rossfitzpatrick@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 | cphills.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 | 0410 582 723  
castlehillcwa@gmail.com

## 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 from 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).  
Catherine Delaney | 0413340049  
cdelaney1@town.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

## 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 Historical Society

Meets 4th Thursday of Feb, Apr & Oct at 7.30pm and 4th Saturday in Jun & Aug at 2pm.  
secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com

## 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  
hawwest.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  
Robert | 0425 233 783  
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

## Hornsby Kuring-gai Parkinson's Assoc'n Inc.

A Support group of 30+ yrs. with 100 members from. We have members from Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill and Galston who come weekly and find it beneficial for their condition  
Michael Parkin | 0491009557  
Parkinson's Choir, www.parkypeople.org.

## 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 at 9.30am for 10am. New members welcomed.  
May | 0414 634 572  
maybruce@bigpond.com

## North Rocks View Club

Meets 2nd Thurs each month at 10.30 am. 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 3rd Monday of the month at 10am.  
Lorene | 0429 396594

## Pennant Hills VIEW Club

Meets at the new time of 10.30am for 11.00am start, at Baulkham Hills Sports Club on the 2nd Tues of each month. An interesting guest speaker will be featured each month. Members can stay for lunch in the Club restaurant. On the 4th Tues of the month a social outing is organised.  
Margaret | 9873 2402

## Pennant Hills Garden Club

Meets 4th Wed at 9.30am at Pennant Hills Community Centre. Inquire or just come along to a meeting.  
pennanthillsgardenclub@gmail.com

## 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. New members welcome.  
Denise Fairfax | 0435 447 414

## Probus Club – Carlingford North Rocks

Meets at the Vikings Sports Club every 3rd Mon of the month at 10.30am. Membership is open to recently retired and semi-retired members.  
Ken | 0408 963 060 | thebunts2@gmail.com

## 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.  
Ken | 02 96296459

## Probus Club – Carlingford North Rocks

Meets at the Vikings Sports Club every third Monday of the month at 10.30am. Membership is open to recently retired and semi-retired members.  
Ken | 0408 963 060  
thebunts2@gmail.com

## Probus Club – Glenorie

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

## Probus Club - 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 Club Kellyville Combined

Meet 2nd Mon of the month 10am – 12pm at Glenhaven Community Centre, 76 Glenhaven Rd, Glenhaven

Veronica | 0408 025 577  
Susan | 0400 039 308

## 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.  
Donna | 0416 082 626

## 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 of Hornsby Inc.

Meets on the first Wednesday evening of the month at Pennant Hills Bowling Club.  
Pam | 0425 229 615 | sihornsbys@siaseap.org

## 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 | siethehills@siwp.org

## The Hills Community Aid and

### Information Service Inc

9639 8620

## The Hills Learning Centre

02 8850 0555 | info@thehillslc.com.au  
facebook.com/thehillsllearningcentre

## The Hills Shire Garden Club

Meets on 3rd Monday of the month at 1pm; Barton Hall, 178 David Road Castle Hill.  
9624 5034

## The Hills District Pipe Band

Practices at Stamford Hall, Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills every Wednesday 7-9pm. 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 the 4th week of each month.  
Robyn | 0416 035 655

## The Sydney Hills Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees

Mal Steel | aairsydneyhills@gmail.com

## Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition

### in the Hills District

hillsladiestennis.org

## Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

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

## Windsor RSL Fishing Club

Meets on the last Tues of the month at Windsor RSL Club at 6.30pm. New members welcome.  
Les Mison | 0421 821 1990

## Windsor Probus Club

Meet first Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Windsor RSL club 36 Argyle St. South Windsor  
Ann | 0414298945 or Elaine | 0428844461  
windsorprobus2756@gmail.com

## 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



# Entries Open for 10th Smart Phone Movie Fest!

Aaron Scully from The Hills Drama School in Glenhaven is making a feature film with all of his teenage students for SF3. This will be one of the first Sydney based feature films in this year's Smart Fone Flick Fest finals (SF3) and the first ever from filmmakers under 18!

Aaron and his students are regular and prolific participants in this international festival (now in its 10th year!)

Entries are now open for the local Flick Fest gone global that puts movie-making and story-telling in the hands of anyone with a smartphone or tablet!

SF3 has welcomed thousands of films from over 80 countries the past decade, with entrants ranging in age from 5 to 76. This year's fest is set to be the biggest yet, with a slew of super cool masterclasses, partnerships and – as ever – rich prizes in their dozens up for grabs!

The live festival screenings will again be held in Sydney's Hoyts Entertainment Quarter cinemas over the weekend of 15-17 November and the festive fun includes filmmaker networking drinks, VIP Red-Carpet Finals and Awards ceremony, the SF3 Kids Finals and Mini & Feature Film screenings. Plus Masterclasses including a screen composing masterclass in



partnership with the AGSC (Australian Guild of Screen Composers)! More than \$50,000 worth of prizes are on offer including Black Magic Design gear, rigs,

mics, apps, iPads, cash prizes and more. Well-know Director, Phillip Noyce said: "SF3 breaks down barriers. This festival opens up the world of cinema to a vast untapped reservoir of talent. I believe everyone has a story worth telling. Now, more than ever, these stories can be shared with the world!"

SmartFone Flick Fest 2024 is Now Open for Entries. For more information, entries, workshop info and more, visit [www.sf3.com.au](http://www.sf3.com.au)  
Entries Close 1 September 2024

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Hawkesbury Song Company Inc. is a local community choir based in Richmond.**

**We are currently looking for new members, men and women, who love to sing and no audition is required.**

We meet Thursday nights during the school term. We have been performing for over 20 years at ANZAC day ceremonies, Christmas Carols, markets and other events and have a broad repertoire of songs.

Call Veronica on 0403 303 671 or Elisa on 0414 575 452 for more information.



## PUZZLE

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 P Q R S T U V W X Y Z												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
												A
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	E		Y									

## SUDOKU

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

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



# PUZZLE

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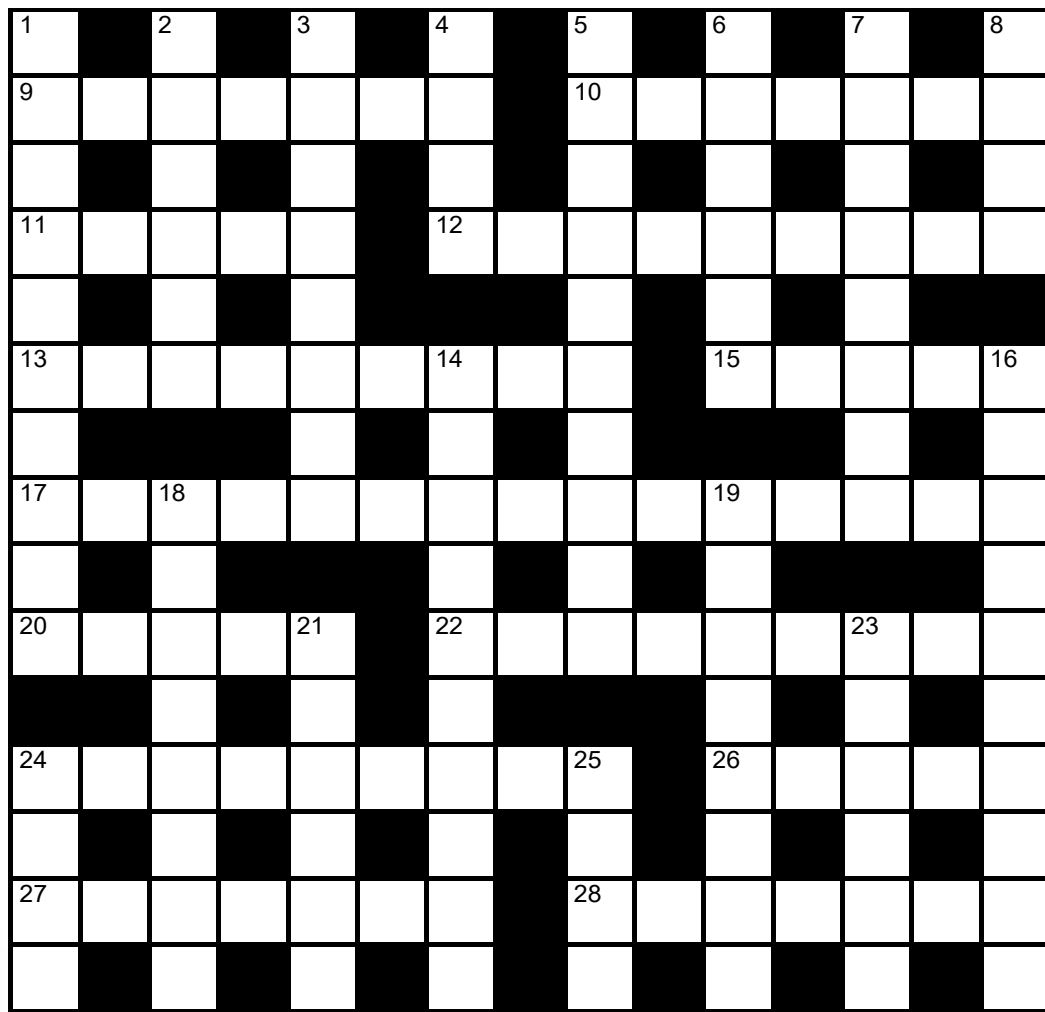


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## Across

9. Fleet commander
10. New Mexican ufology centre
11. Author Asimov
12. Gold, silver and bronze Olympic swimming medal-winner
13. Train isn't running badly, coming or going
14. Walked vigorously
15. Negotiations
17. Body snatchers
20. Arduous journeys
22. Debugger?
24. Won over
26. Seedless orange
27. American reindeer
28. Crash the party

## Down

1. The kiore, an unwelcome visitor
2. Transmit
3. Living-room item
4. Cheese chunk
5. Crazy, eats at bars on the Persian Gulf
6. Textile souvenir
7. Regular swinger
8. Fight
16. Summer-visiting coastal wading bird
18. Rob ---, Virgin Blue co-founder
19. Spatially adjusted
21. Beer bottle
23. Call forth
24. Ice breaker
25. Culinary creation

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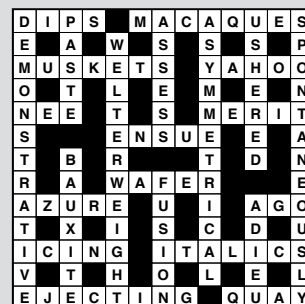
BALLET	CHA-CHA	JIVE	RUMBA
BARN DANCE	FANDANGO	LINDY HOP	SALSA
BEGUINE	FLAMENCO	MAMBO	SAMBA
BOLERO	FOXTROT	MERENGUE	TANGO
BREAKDANCE	JITTERBUG	QUICKSTEP	TWO-STEP

Answers from last issue

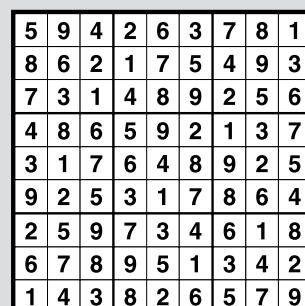
WORD SEARCH



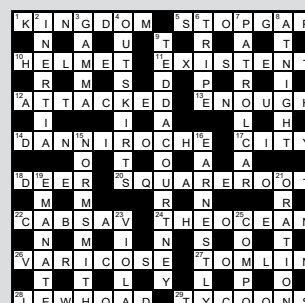
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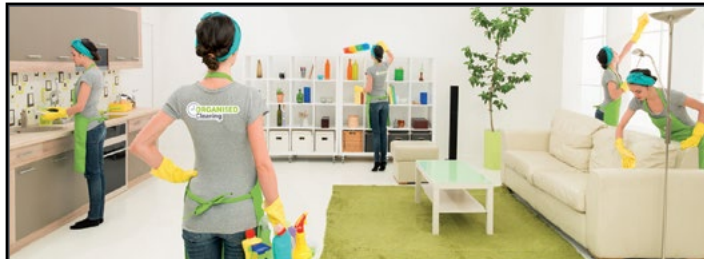


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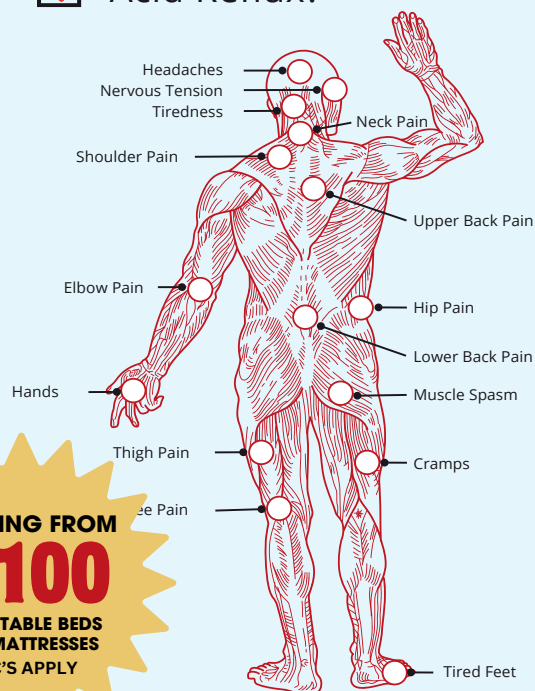
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