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Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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FULL STORY ON ON PAGE 13

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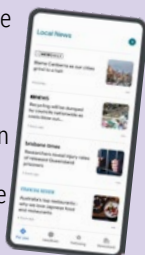
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CLARIFICATION

In the last issue of the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News (September 6th to 20th) we published a story on Page 2 titled Fred Caterson Plea.

It concerned a community meeting held to highlight concerns about plans for part of the reserve which included a rugby union facility.

We would like to clarify that the group which called the meeting is called Fred Caterson Action Group. The story also claimed 350 dead trees will have to be removed. The report

should not have said dead trees as only a few are dead.

To find out more about the action group visit the FB page Save Fred Caterson Reserve.

To find out more about the plans visit Hills Shire Council's website thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for Fred Caterson Reserve Masterplan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

'We acknowledge the traditional Owners and Custodians of the land of the Dharug and Darkinjung People on which we work and pay our respects to Indigenous Elders past, present and emerging'. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the land's first storytellers.



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Hills to Hawkesbury

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

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



Playground Upgrades

BY BEV JORDAN

Work on a \$2 million upgrade and extension at the much-loved Livvi's Place all-abilities playground at Bernie Mullane Reserve in Kellyville is set to start this month with fences blocking off the back area of the playground installed on Monday, 23rd September.

A spokesperson for The Hills Shire Council says council is working hard to ensure that parts of the playground will be kept open for as much time as possible, including the water play area. The construction is expected to be completed by March 2025.

"Some areas of the current playground, located outside the construction zone at Bernie Mullane Reserve, will need to be temporarily closed at intervals to facilitate necessary works. However, Council is committed to minimising disruptions and ensuring that parts of the playground, including the popular water play

area, remain accessible for as much time as possible throughout the construction period," she said.

"The designated construction zone, which is located behind the water park and play area, will remain closed for the duration of the works.

"Council appreciates the community's understanding and cooperation during this time, as we work to enhance the facilities for all to enjoy."

The extended facilities will provide an all-inclusive recreation space for children of all ages and abilities and will boast a variety of new features, including an accessible multi-activity play tower, a double flying fox, slides, a climbing net and swings designed for both toddlers and older children.

The work will also include the construction of an accessible amenities building, complete

with a 'Changing Places' room, with an overhead hoist, shower, toilet, and ambulant unisex cubicles.

Shade sails, picnic shelters, a dry creek bed, accessible park furniture and wide pathways will also feature.

The Livvi's Place Playground Extension Project is funded by the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants (WSIG) Program in partnership with Council. \$1.1 million of the WSIG Program is going towards the Livvi's Place project.

The upgrade is the latest in a huge portfolio of park and playground works completed by Hills Shire Council in the past three years.

So far over \$8million has been spent on upgrades and nearly \$64 million on new parks in the Shire.

Recent upgrades include: Balcombe Heights Estate at Baulkham Hills, Gooden Drive Reserve, Baulkham Hills, Coorumbene Court Reserve, Bella Vista, McGilvray Place Reserve, Rouse Hill and William Harvey Reserve, Rouse Hill.

For those seeking alternative play areas during the closure Livvi's Place at Kellyville will find that Samantha Riley Drive Reserve playground, Golden Grove Reserve, Duncraig Drive Reserve, and Ted Pike Reserve are all within 800 metres of Livvi's Place Playground.

To learn more about the project and to follow construction updates, visit The Hills Shire Council's website, www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search "Livvi's Place Playground Extension – Bernie Mullane Reserve Kellyville".

All work is reliant on weather.

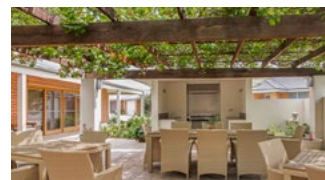
Riverside GARDENS



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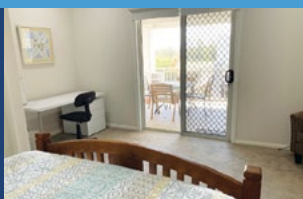
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MUM FACES 2 DRINK DRIVE CHARGES

A 43-year-old mum has been charged with High Range drink driving after she was stopped by Hills Highway police driving to school to pick up her young son. She was five times over the legal limit.

Officers from the Hills Highway were patrolling the streets of Baulkham Hills on Monday 9th September at about 12.25pm when a silver Toyota Camry exiting a driveway almost collided with the passing police vehicle.

The driver was stopped. Officers who began speaking with her, allege it was clear that she was intoxicated. She was breath tested and returned a positive reading.

She was arrested and conveyed to Castle Hill Police Station. The breath analysis returned a reading of 0.269 grammes of alcohol per 210 litres of breath.. The legal limit is 0.05. Her drivers' licence was immediately confiscated and suspended. She was given a court attendance notice to appear before Parramatta

Local Court in October 2024 for Drive with High Range PCA – 1st offence.

Two days later, on Wednesday (September 11th) the same driver was involved in a collision with another car in Winston Hills.

Emergency services were called to Junction Road, Winston Hills, following reports of a crash at about 9.20am.

Officers attached to Parramatta Police Area Command attended the scene and found two vehicles had collided. Minor injuries were reported.

The 43-year-old female driver of the offending vehicle was subjected to a roadside breath test which returned an alleged positive reading. She was arrested and taken to Parramatta Police Station for further testing and taken to hospital for further treatment.

Police are awaiting the results of a blood sample taken at hospital before taking any further action.

SCAM WARNING

Elderly community members are being targeted by offenders posing as an employee from a technology company.

These offenders are calling and convincing victims that their credit cards have been compromised, and that they should leave them in their letterbox for collection.

The credit cards are then taken and then used to withdraw large amounts of cash. For those followers whose elderly friends and relatives may not be connected to social media, please have a chat to them about this.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to call Crime Stoppers NSW on 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police Force social media pages.

If in doubt, just hang up. If you think you have been a victim of a scam, report the scam to ACCC (<https://www.accc.gov.au/>) via the report a scam page. For more information on how to protect yourself from scam visit the Scamwatch website (<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>).

OPERATION RAID RESULTS

Police detect over 470 alleged drug drivers during Operation RAID (Remove All Impaired Drivers) on NSW roads, following concerning road trauma trends across the state.

The operation detected 6,653 traffic offences in total between Thursday, 5th September and 4am Sunday, 8th September.

During the operation, police conducted 120,093 Random Breath Tests and charged 211 drivers for PCA and DUI related offences. Of the 10,885 Random Drug Tests conducted, 470 drivers returned a positive result.

Further, police detected 1,895 speeding offences, 261 mobile phone or distraction related offences, and over 4,200 other driving offences.

Incidents of note include:

- At about 1.15am on Sunday, 8th September, officers attached to The Hills Police District Traffic and Highway Patrol Command attempted to stop a BMW sedan on Green Road in Kellyville allegedly driving at 95km/h in a sign posted 60km/h area. Police stopped the vehicle a short time later and the driver – a

46-year-old man was subject to a Random Breath Test which allegedly returned a reading of 0.188. The man was issued an infringement for speeding and a Court Attendance Notice for drive with high range PCA, to appear in Parramatta Local Court on Wednesday 10 October 2024.

- On Saturday, 7th September, Castle Hill Police Station were conducting stationary random breath testing along Windsor Road, Kellyville. At approximately 11.40pm police observed a black Toyota Hilux, approach the testing site in a northbound direction. Approximately 80m from the testing site, the vehicle conducted a U-turn across double white lines before turning left onto Showground Road towards Castle Hill. Police activated their warning devices and pursued the vehicle, which continued onto Green Road, Kellyville. After approximately 1km police caught up to the vehicle and found the driver standing beside the passenger door. The driver admitted to conducting the U-turn stating he had not seen the testing site. He also admitted to consuming two

PRAISE FOR NEIGHBOUR

Emergency services attended a Kellyville house at about 7pm on Monday, 16th September following reports of a kitchen fire.

Before Police arrived at the home in Tooloom Rd, North Kellyville, a neighbour had rushed over and extinguished the main fire with a fire extinguisher.

Police say the neighbour's prompt response, along with functional fire alarms prevented further extensive damage to the house.

The occupant of the house was assessed for minor burns and smoke inhalation, however they were not transported to Hospital.

Working smoke alarms save lives. It is also important to have a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket in the kitchen.

SPEEDSTER FINED

A driver who was driving at double the sign-posted speed limit has been issued with a fine for \$2959 for exceeding the speed limit by more than 45km/h in North Parramatta. They also received an on the 6 month suspension of their driver's licence.

Police from Parramatta Highway Patrol were performing stationary speed enforcement duties on Pennant Hills Road, North Parramatta, outside The King's School, at about 5.10pm on Tuesday 10th September.

A grey Mercedes was observed at high speed and, utilising a lidar instrument, police detected its speed to be 133km/h in a 60km/h zone. The vehicle was stopped by police and its driver was issued with a fine for \$2959 for exceeding the speed limit by more than 45km/h.

scotches, with his last drink at approximately 10.30pm. He returned a positive roadside test. The driver was arrested and taken to Castle Hill Police Station for further testing, which returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.071. He was issued an infringement notice for driving with a low-range PCA (first offence) and a suspension notice. His licence was confiscated.

- About 1.20pm on Thursday, 5th September, officers attached to Ku Ring Gai Police Area Command Traffic and Highway Patrol attempted to intercept a white Mercedes van on the Pacific Highway at Mt Colah following calls from the public that the driver was allegedly driving erratically. The driver – a 29-year-old man – was subject to Random Breath and Drug Tests, both which returned a negative result; however, subsequent sobriety tests and conversations with the man established he was fatigued and unfit to drive. Police issued the man with an infringement notice for his manner of driving and transported him to the nearest train station.

NSW RFS State Championships

Competition was blazing hot as hundreds of firefighters and catering crew members across NSW gathered together in Albury Wodonga Equestrian Centre for the 26th NSW Rural Fire Service State Championships.

Defending State Champion Oakville Rural Fire Brigade scored 2nd and 3rd positions this season.

Although they were unable to keep the crown, their longstanding State Champion streak is forever written on the books. Oakville RFB held the spot for the last three Championships and has a total of six wins in the past.

Senior Deputy Captain Brandon Beneke, Deputy Captain Cameron Panton, Deputy Captain Mitchell Dalley, and Firefighters Kurtis Ripper and Nathan Jessop made up the Oakville RFB team.

In its RFS State Championship debut, East Kurrajong already placed two 1st place wins in the PACFIRE Hacienda and Code 3 South of the Border scenarios.

The team comprised Deputy Captain Adam Henson, Operational Officer Aiden Hippensteel, and Firefighters Cameron Luck, Kale Chesworth, and Claudia Virzi.

Deputy Captain Henson shared that they are proud of the team placing first out of 15 brigades in the Hacienda scenario. It involved

what they may typically encounter in the Hills and Hawkesbury areas, such as a structure fire, spot fires, a homeowner to protect, locked gates, gas and other flammable materials.

"We are very lucky here at East Kurrajong RFB to have a great bunch of people to work with, and we all get along so well. It is like my 'second family'," Deputy Captain Henson said.

"This is a young team, and I have been lucky enough to be involved in their basic firefighting training from day one and have been able to watch them develop into some of the best firefighters in the state."

"Being our first championships, the 2 first places were an amazing bonus, and reinforces the fact that we are prepared for the readily approaching fire season."

The Hawkesbury Catering Team brought home the bacon in the 'Eat Street' Challenge, coming out on top against Southern Highlands and Clarence Valley in the third. The crew comprised Angela Bateson, David Putland,

Les Jenkins, and Jake Pepper from Dumarsoq Brigade, New England.

Jenkins was also awarded the Individual Team Player Award. The team prepared the Mexican-themed menu items consisting of the Breakfast Burrito, Beef Quesadilla, and Fruit tub.

Hawkesbury Catering Team Brigade Captain Vanessa Mephram commended the team for their team dynamics and efficiency and looks forward to defending their title in Dubbo.

"All teams were judged on numerous tasks which included general hygiene, practices, team work, communication, taste, and presentation, this is just to name a few," Captain Mephram said.

Six groups had to prepare and serve 85 portions of an assigned breakfast, lunch, and snack item according to various food items set by the NSW Rural Fire Service Association. The teams had their own hawker-style booths and were judged on their recipes, budget adherence, and taste, among many.



The Hawkesbury Catering Team

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Democracy Sausages Servicing History

BY MACKENZIE HOLLAND

St Andrews Uniting Church in Richmond spent last Saturday fundraising, with every sausage and cake sold helping to protect the history of the church built in 1845. \$1800 was raised between the two stalls to help finance the renovation of the church ceiling.

The Church also runs other activities through the year such as community lunches – the next one is the 26 September – and the Spring Fair is on the 19 October.

On Election Day church members hosted their own democracy sausage sizzle and cake stall. The auditorium on the church grounds doubled as a polling booth as volunteers served up post-voting lunch and sweet treats.

While church grounds being home to a polling venue may be out of the ordinary, it allows St Andrews to serve their community in more ways and raise money to maintain their church. Denise Aslin, a member of the Church Council, and Beryl Hedges, a member of the Pastoral Leaders Team discussed the importance of the church. As Denise puts it – “It’s an Icon” that they feel needs to be preserved for the whole town.

George Bowman donated the prime spot in the middle of Richmond for a church to be built in 1845 and paid for its erection. The church was formerly called St Andrews Presbyterian

Church but in 1977 the Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist churches came into union to form the Uniting Church.

Over the years the church has seen many upgrades with the church even shutting down in 1987 for five years of restoration work. Throughout those years the Heritage Commission aided with the repairs to the foundations, restoration of timber pews and panelling, installation of damp coursing and repainting of the entire building.

A private residence was added in 1861, a Sunday School Hall in 1876 and multipurpose centre in 1996 that joined the church to the Sunday School. These buildings also endeavoured to keep their original foundations, with the private residence becoming a nursing home and offices before returning to a private residence once again and the Sunday School Hall becoming another multi-use facility.

The renting of rooms and extra space on the church grounds also helps towards the congregation’s goal of preserving the historic building.

St Andrews received the ‘Heritage Near Me’ grant from the NSW Government with



St. Andrew stained-glass window



St Andrews Uniting Church

approved funding of \$100,000 which covered the cost of restoring 8 decorative and stained-glass windows, as close as possible, to original condition.

For more information St Andrews Church is located at 25 West Market Street in Richmond or their webpage is <https://richmond.uca.org.au/>. Historic information taken from Richmond Uniting Church’s page ‘St Andrew’s – a History’.

St Andrew’s Uniting Church Presents: Community Lunch



Address: 25 West Market St RICHMOND

Date: Thursday 26 September 2024

Time: 12 midday

Cost: \$15

RSVP if possible, to Sandi: 0417673757

Guest Speaker:

Senior Constable Carmen Bagust - Crime Prevention
Officer Hawkesbury Police Area Command

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Counting Continues for Some Seats

HILLS MAYOR

Dr Michelle Byrne is the Hills Shire's new Mayor, returning to the post she held for three years from 2017 to 2021 as the Hills Shire's first popularly elected Mayor.

It was an emotion-packed return for the former Mayor who was shattered in November 2021 when the NSW Liberal Party head office selected Dr Peter Gangemi as its Liberal candidate for Mayor ahead of her following a bitter factional dispute which saw local Liberal party branches blocked from taking part in the selection process.

Hills Liberal party members voted in the 2024 selection process in August this year with Dr Byrne winning the Liberal pre-selection by 149 votes to Dr Gangemi's 134 votes.

Dr Byrne returns after 13 years on council, with a total of seven years as Mayor. When she stepped down after the election in December 2021 she said in a statement on social media: "Despite no longer being on Council past December I will continue to actively serve the community through my continued involvement with numerous community groups - in fact I may now have more time to spend working on community-based projects!"

"This is not the last time the community will see Michelle Byrne in Public Office. I intend to return bigger, better and fiercer than ever to fight for the community I love so much."

On Saturday (14th December) Voters had the choice of three candidates as Mayor, Dr Byrne (Liberal) Dr Mila Kasby (The Greens) and Immanuel Selvaraj (Labor). Of the 94,955 votes counted by Wednesday evening Dr Byrne had 59,559 votes (62.39%), Dr Kasby had 18,030 (18.89%) and Mr Selvaraj 17,866 (18.72%).

The count for the 12 councillors to Hills Shire Council are still continuing.

Each of the four wards will be represented by three councillors. The initial counts so far have all three seats in two wards decided and two seats decided in the other two wards. The Labor and The Greens candidates in East and North Wards are waiting for the postal votes to come in to find out who gets the final seat. In East Ward after 33,220 people voted 372 votes separated Labor's Jane Grevtseva ahead of The Greens Suzannah McDonald. In North Ward the contest is even closer with Labor's Dilvan Bircan ahead of Greens candidate and former councillor Mila Kasby by 98 votes in an electorate with 34,243 voters.

Already elected are:

- **CENTRAL:** Reena Jethi (Lib), Jerome Cox (Lib) Tina Cartwright (Labor)
- **WEST:** Frank De Masi (Lib) Rosemarie Boneham (Lib) Immanuel Selvaraj (Lab)
- **EAST:** Samuel Uno (Lib) Alan Haselden (Lib) with the third seat still to be decided.
- **NORTH:** Mitchell Blue (Lib) Jacob Jackson (Lib) with the third seat still to be decided.

All eight Liberal councillors have been on Hills Shire Council before. Four have just served for four years and the other four are returning after a four year break. The Labor councillors are new to council.

Dr Byrne told the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News: "I am completely overwhelmed and very grateful for the support the community has given me."

"I look forward to hitting the ground running and working as hard as I can for all residents across the Hills."



Top priorities include:

- Pushing back on the NSW Government's plan to double the housing targets for the Hills as well as the TOD (Transport Orientated Development) precinct plan for 21,000 dwellings between Bella Vista and Kellyville metro stations and ensuring we have the right levels of development that can be supported with infrastructure, jobs, public amenities and open space.
- Advocate for our share of State and Federal funding to deliver critical infrastructure including road upgrades, footpaths, cycleways, open space, sporting fields, community amenities etc to support our growing community.
- Keeping rates and waste charges as low as possible whilst making the Hills the most business friendly council in the region.

At the moment Hills Shire Council has its special meeting to welcome the new council and install the new Mayor down for Tuesday October 1st.

The first General council meeting of The Hills Shire Council will be on Tuesday, October 8th.

New High School

The State Government has confirmed it will build a new public high school for the growing Schofields and Tallawong area at 201 Guntawong Road, Tallawong.

The 50-classroom school will cater for 1,000 students and is due for completion before the start of Term 1 in 2027.

Tallawong and its surrounding suburbs have recorded the fastest student population growth in the recent Enrolment Growth Audit, with the overall population more than tripling between 2016 and 2021.

The school site is also being master planned for future expansion and will cater for significant growth around the Tallawong Metro Station, supporting the nearby mixed-use precinct and reducing pressure on nearby schools.

The site was identified following collaboration between the Department of Education, Landcom, the Office of Strategic Lands and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

New public schools are also being fast-tracked in Box Hill, Tallawong and Gables as well as major upgrades at Rouse Hill High School and Schofields Public School.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and Early Learning Prue Car said: "It is fantastic to share where we will build the first new public high school for the growing communities of Schofields and Tallawong".

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully also acknowledged the stresses on infrastructure faced by local residents: "As the NSW Government confronts the housing crisis,



Early masterplan impression Stage 1 Schofields Tallawong High School

more homes need to be built across NSW and Western Sydney. Our government is committed to making sure those homes are supported by new schools and infrastructure to make sure families have access to quality education and essential services close to where they live".

"This new public high school investment complements our planning reforms that are focused on building better homes and better communities."

HAWKESBURY ELECTORATE

With 10 groups and a total of 62 candidates vying for the 12 seats on Hawkesbury City Council counting was bound to be a long process.

Unlike The Hills Shire Council where only 1 Independent candidate stood, in Hawkesbury five groups of Independents stood against Liberal, Labor, The Greens, Shooters, Fishers and Farmers and The Small Business Party.

After the initial count after Saturday's election, 9 of the 12 seats up for election had been decided on quotas with the Liberals gaining the lion's share of these.

The Liberals have three seats assured with former Hawkesbury Mayor Sarah McMahon joined by Mike Creed and veteran councillor Jill Reardon. Paul Veigel who was elected on the last council is still waiting to see if the Liberals Group I above the line will get enough in postal

votes for him to claim the fourth seat on quota for the Liberals but it looks likely.

The first preference votes also saw: Greens candidate Danielle Wheeler, Independent candidate Mary Lyons-Bucket, Labor's Amanda Kotlash, Shane Djuric from the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, Independent Nathan Zamprognio and Eddie Dogramaci from The Small Business Party all re-elected to Hawkesbury City Council.

Counting of Votes will continue during the week. With 31,164 votes counted on Saturday there is still 20% of the vote to be counted including below line the votes.

By Wednesday evening the top votes vying for last 3 seats to be decided were:

- Liberals: 9,096 votes
- Shooters, Fishers and Farmers: 3,751

- Labor: 3,605
- IND (Mary Lyons-Bucket team) 3, 593
- IND (Nathan Zamprognio team) 3,540

The count cannot be concluded until all postal votes have been returned to the Electoral Commissioner. The deadline for return of completed postal votes is 6pm on Friday, 27th September 2024.

When all the votes have been counted, the official announcement of the election result will be declared in writing. Results will be declared between 1 and 3 October 2024.

The first meeting of Hawkesbury City Council, when the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be elected by councillors, will be held on Tuesday October 15th.

THANK YOU

In a post on Facebook former Hawkesbury Mayor Sarah McMahon thanked people for voting for the Liberal team in the Hawkesbury Local Government Elections.

"I will continue to work hard and serve the people of the Hawkesbury over the following 4 year term diligently, with compassion, and in a manner that prioritises civic duty as a core pillar of my responsibilities.

"I hope that the makeup of the next Council Chamber looks at this term as an opportunity to hit the 're-set' button, both on how we treat each other and how we communicate our varying policy stances to the community in a professional manner."



FAREWELL NOTE

Hills Mayor Dr Peter Gangemi spoke to the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News on Wednesday, before the official declaration of the poll, and said: "I would like to thank everyone in The Hills for their support during my three years as Mayor and my 12 years on Council.

"As the Mayor, I was proud to lead a Council that delivered a record amount of recreational projects, record amount of road rehabilitation projects and record support for community groups, as well as increased assistance for our business, rural and multicultural communities.

"It was the greatest honour to work as hard as I could for our shire and I look forward to continuing to help our residents and community groups in The Hills however I can into the future."



Housing Plea

BY BEV JORDAN

There are now three transitional housing options for older women in the Hills thanks to the campaigning efforts of a small band of Kenthurst locals.

The fight to turn empty houses in the area into homes for older women and their children in danger of homelessness started seven years ago when friends and Kenthurst locals Dennis Van Someren and James Visione got together and started talking to service providers about the need for accommodation.

Their efforts saw the founding of the Transitional Housing The Hills which is working with Wesley Mission Community Housing to provide accommodation for three women and a total of 6 children. The group is now on the hunt for more housing.

Dennis, who has been lobbying both MPs and local councillors for over a year says it's a dire situation that needs resolving. The search for empty properties has involved contacting over 70 church groups. He said aside from Wesley Uniting Church, The Baptist Centre at Dural, Baptist Castle Hill and The Zoroastrian

Church in Annangrove, the response has been poor.

"We are looking for compassionate landlords who want to make a difference in the community," said Dennis. The tenancy agreement will be with Wesley Mission who will guarantee rent, property damage will be rectified and no vacancy risk.

"There are 110,000 women in NSW over 45 who are either homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. This situation is unacceptable," he said.

A testimonial from one Hills tenant said: "This program literally saved my life and has given us an opportunity to get back on (our) feet."

In a tour of local community groups Dennis has been calling for action saying: "There are 533 empty houses in the Hills and so many people desperate to rent. There are 273 empty



Kenthurst Men's Shed members Rob McLachan, Dave Beck, Billy van Der Heyden, Neville Lines with Dennis Van Someren at the front.

houses in the Hawkesbury and 510 in the Hornsby Council area.

"Nearly half the women (48.2%) who asked for accommodation assistance from a specialist homeless service in 2020/2021 went without help according to The Older's Women Network.

"About 30 women a week are being turned away from Women's Community shelters because there are no rooms."

Story continues on page 17

2024 STATE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

For the past 10 years, the Annual State Gem & Mineral Show - run and organised by the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW has been held at the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Showground, 40 Racecourse Road, Clarendon - and it's back again!

Saturday 28th September 9am - 5pm and
Sunday 29th September 9am - 4pm.

There will be a great range of traders from across Australia and traders will be offering a huge range and variety of fascinating gems and jewels featuring:

- High end minerals
- Faceted stone
- Hand-crafted jewellery
- Rough material for cutting & polishing
- Boulder opal
- Fluoro mineral
- Cut & uncut opal
- Persian turquoise
- Crystals of all shapes and sizes
- Cut stones
- Polished stones (Cabochons)
- Intricate beadwork
- Air plants set on natural stone
- Lapidary equipment

A stand-out feature of this show is the competition. Club members from lapidary clubs all over NSW and interstate enter items in a wide range of competition sections to be judged.

All exhibits are on display. It is a great opportunity to buy that unique present for loved ones - Christmas will soon be here!

FREE parking, ATM, Coffee Van, Food Van, Soft Serve Icecream Van, Lions delicious sausage sizzle are all on site. All this makes for an exciting and fascinating weekend to come and see such a unique display.

Admission: Adults \$10; Children under 16 are FREE!

For more information contact Tony Offord, 2024 State Gem & Mineral Show Coordinator at gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au or on Facebook - [gemlapidarycouncilnsw](https://www.facebook.com/gemlapidarycouncilnsw)

GEM & LAPIDARY COUNCIL OF N.S.W.

2024 STATE GEM & MINERAL SHOW

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 9AM TO 5PM
SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 9AM TO 4PM

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Show Grounds 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon

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ADULTS \$10 • CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE

FREE PARKING AND ATM ON SITE
CAMPING SITES ALSO AVAILABLE

State Gem and Mineral Show formerly known as the Gemkhana run by the Gem and Lapidary Council of NSW.



CONTACT: TONY OFFORD

gemkhana@gemlapidarycouncilnsw.org.au

 [gemlapidarycouncilnsw](https://www.facebook.com/gemlapidarycouncilnsw)





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Register Today

📅 Tuesday 3 September

📅 Thursday 19 September

📅 Wednesday 11 September

📅 Friday 27 September

🕒 10:00am, 10:45am, 2:00pm, 2:45pm

Registrations required so please call to book in for your preferred time today.

Call 1300 111 278

The Donald Coburn Centre
15 Blue Gums Way, Castle Hill, NSW 2154



Hills Rotaract Club is Sharing the DIGNITY

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

A club based in Baulkham Hills is collecting women's hygiene products to make 100 bags for those experiencing homelessness and domestic violence.

Share the Dignity is an Australian charity founded in 2016 by Rochelle Courtenay, which addresses period poverty among homeless women through menstrual product donations. With 6000 volunteers Australia-wide and 80,000 handbags donated to women, the charity embraces up to its mission statement which is to: "Ensure that everyone is afforded the dignity in life that so many of us take for granted".

Hills Rotaract Club is partnering with the organisation through the 'It's in the Bag' initiative, which involves sourcing second-hand bags and filling them with essential products such as soap, pads/tampons, shampoo, and conditioner. Other items include lotion, face-wash wet-wipes, roll-on deodorant, brand-new

makeup, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Over 5 million products have been donated to the charities 'It's in the Bag' initiative since its inception, and Hills Rotaract Club is aiming to donate 100 more bags by November.

President of the Hills Rotaract Club, Joel Devlin, has been a passionate member of the club for five years. The Baulkham Hills local is an active member of his community, focusing on advocacy towards the environment and uplifting the homeless community in his other charity work at 'Shining Light Foundation'. As Coordinator of the club's 'It's in the Bag', Joel expressed how valuable the experience has been so far.



Previous packing day for 'It's in the Bag' including an assortment of hygiene products

"Share the Dignity gives an opportunity to support a mission that both my club and I are passionate about including breaking down the stigma around periods. Since doing this project I've learnt a lot about how to have that conversation about access to period hygiene".

Since 2021, Hills Rotaract Club has participated in the initiative most years, donating hundreds of bags to vulnerable women in partnership with other charities such as Care Van and The Women's Shed at Balcombe Heights Estate. Karenza De Leon who is a dedicated volunteer and previous club

Story continues on page 28



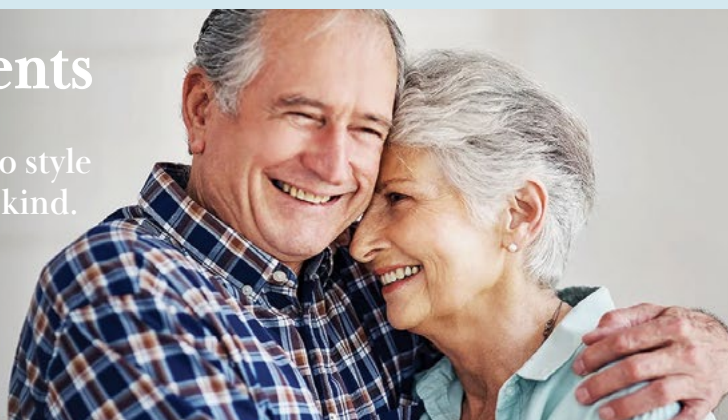
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Savour^{THE} FLAVOUR

Hawkesbury
City Council



SYDNEY'S CAKE QUEEN TO ADD A HEAPING DOLLOP OF COLOUR

Savour the Flavour Hawkesbury is back in 2024 with its biggest helping yet of fun and flavour! This year, we are excited to announce that Sydney cake queen Katherine Sabbath will be our guest MC, ramping up the colour and excitement to a whole new level.

Katherine Sabbath is one of the coolest creatives around, loved equally for her cutting-edge dessert designs and quirky personal style. Her unique designs have garnered her a following of more than half a million on Instagram (@katherine_sabbath) and have featured locally and internationally online, on television, in print and even in a collection of pyjamas, wines and couture tutus.

"My tastebuds can't wait to celebrate the Hawkesbury, with its delicious local food and produce!" Katherine Sabbath said.

"Not to mention dedicated farmers and small business owners. I'm very much looking forward to showcasing



Sydney's original 'food bowl' with our greater community!"

Savour the Flavour is a colourful celebration of the Hawkesbury's food, local produce and beverages at Richmond Oval on Saturday 12 October 2024 from 4pm to 9pm.

Visitors and locals alike will have the chance to sample and purchase delicious food, produce and beverages from local farmers and businesses. We are also inviting primary producers that surround the Hawkesbury to get involved. There will also be cooking demonstrations, a fun family workshop hosted by Council's Arts and Culture Team, carnival rides and live entertainment to enjoy.

Last year's hotly-contested apple pie competition will also return. Do you have the steely resolve, the tastebuds and iron gut to take out this year's trophy? Test yourself, or just sit back and relax with friends and family and enjoy food and drinks prepared by our bumper line up of market stalls in the beautiful surrounds of Richmond Park.

Speaking of colour, we are inviting everyone to come dressed in pink in celebration of the event's official colour, and strut their stuff for their chance to win in our best-dressed competition. We are also inviting Richmond storeowners to get into the spirit by dressing up their shopfronts.



Getting to Richmond is easy. Richmond Oval is adjacent to Richmond train station, and is a short drive from The Hills via Windsor Road or from the Richmond Road M7 turnoff. Parking is available at Hawkesbury Showground, Richmond Marketplace and around the town centre. Please keep your dogs safe and leave them at home – they will not be allowed entry to the event.

The event's dedicated website www.savourtheflavour.com.au will be regularly updated with stallholders, activities and more as the event approaches. Updates will also be available via the Hawkesbury Events Facebook page – www.facebook.com/hawkesburyevents



12 October | 4pm–9pm | Richmond Oval



For more information, scan the QR code or visit
savourtheflavour.com.au

SAVOUR THE FLAVOUR HAWKESBURY IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury Valley • Bilpin Fruit Bowl • Oakville Harvest Bendigo Bank North Richmond and Richmond • Happy Dumplings and Busways

Richmond RDA's Flooding Fixed

BY MACKENZIE HOLLAND

The Riding for the Disabled Association in Richmond has recently received a grant from Endeavour Energy which helped them restore their grounds from the damage caused by continual flooding. After having to cancel important lessons due to the state of the arena and paddocks, Richmond RDA has now been able to resume their usual operations.

The Richmond RDA received \$8,000 through the Powering Communities grant to fix the water damage to the centre. Their land is an old Clydesdale stud on the University of Western Sydney Hawkesbury Campus and is an old premises. Ian Travers, Riding for the Disabled Richmond's President, says that they had installed recycling water tanks to reduce their usage of city water and because they were unable to use the dam recycled water due to the pollution by fruit bats. Ian says the three tanks were installed incorrectly and when they were filling up, they were flooding over the top and pouring in the side of the arena. This was then made worse when strong winds came and blew all the spilled water throughout the whole of the arena.

The grounds then became unusable and during a week of particularly heavy rain lessons had to be cancelled for the whole week, leaving the riders disappointed. The RDA offer therapeutic horse-riding services to people living

with a disability and pride themselves on "being able to put bums in saddles and smiles on faces" and the cancelled lessons meant many riders missing out on their favourite time of the week.

The \$8,000 grant that Ian applied for and received was able to pay for new gutters, pipes and underground drainage pipes. It also facilitated a new drainage system, a new pump for a sprinkler system and a horse wash area to be able to hose the horses down in the summer without it flooding the fields.

Ian says how the grant impacted the Richmond RDA. "Yes, it was important, and it makes a big difference to the way we operate". Endeavour Energy even got hands on, in what Ian calls a giving back day. They had staff volunteer to come down and help out at the Richmond RDA.

Leanne Pickering, Endeavour Energy's Chief Customer and Strategy Office, says "We know that our customers are doing it tough right now with cost-of-living pressures, and our Powering Communities grants program is needed more than ever".

Rider Charlotte with RDA volunteer Anne



Volunteer Karyn Downs from Endeavour Energy

The Powering Communities grant invites community groups, schools and not-for-profit organisations to apply for grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$15,000. They are offering these one-off grants across four categories: STEM and education, community resilience, environmental leadership and social inclusion. Applications are currently open and close Sunday 20th of October 2024. For more information on the Powering Communities program and to apply visit: www.endeavourenergy.com.au/poweringcommunities

Richmond Riding for the Disabled Association is always open and looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested, you can contact them via their Facebook page – Riding for the Disabled Richmond.



Wild dog and fox control program

Greater Sydney Local Land Services will be leading a wild dog and fox control program in the Hawksbury and Penrith regions.

As a result of strong support from local landholders, Greater Sydney Local Land Services has been able to develop and lead a broad, integrated control program.

The below properties are participating in the program and will be laying 1080 wild dog and fox ground baits and Canid Pest Ejectors on their properties between **17 September and 15 October 2024**.

1880 BELLS LINE OF ROAD, KURRAJONG HEIGHTS NSW 2758
1955 UPPER COLO ROAD, UPPER COLO, NSW 2756
182 MOUNTAIN AVENUE, YARRAMUNDI NSW 2753
Lot 6021 DP 852172, BROADWATER ROAD, GLENORIE NSW 2157
Lot 56 DP 752039, FLOYDS ROAD, SOUTH MAROOTA NSW 2756
181 FLOYDS ROAD, SOUTH MAROOTA NSW 2756
357-397 SMALLWOOD ROAD, GLENORIE NSW 2157
411-469 SMALLWOOD ROAD, GLENORIE NSW 2157

842 MULGOA ROAD, MULGOA NSW 2745
752A MULGOA ROAD, MULGOA NSW 2745
6102 PUTTY ROAD, MELLONG NSW 2756 (TINDA CREEK QUARRY)
554 SINGLETON ROAD, LAUGHTONDALE NSW 2775
470 SINGLETON ROAD, LAUGHTONDALE NSW 2775
1055 UPPER COLO ROAD, UPPER COLO NSW 2756
995 UPPER COLO ROAD, UPPER COLO NSW 2756
2500 & 2509 WOLLOMBI ROAD, MOGO CREEK NSW 2775

WARNING: Please restrain all domestic pets at this time. In the event of accidental poisoning, please seek veterinary assistance.

For more information or to sign up for future campaigns, please contact Jacob French, Biosecurity Officer on 1300 795 299.

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Kenthurst Rotary Club Feeds the Homeless in the Hills

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

Kathy and Peter Bray are two Glenorie locals who recently initiated a food van project, which will play a crucial role in supporting the growing homeless and disadvantaged population of the Hills.

Kenthurst Rotary, part of District 9685, is a not-for-profit club that has recognised the need for a food van to feed the disadvantaged members of our community. With Hills Community Aid reporting a 41% rise in requests for homeless assistance in 2024, this van will be essential in delivering hot meals, including sausage sizzles, along with blankets. Once the project has grown, other crucial resources will be available to those in need, ranging from homelessness and domestic violence support.

President of Kenthurst Rotary Club Kathy Bray was inspired to initiate this project alongside her husband Peter Bray after her experience at the Hills Winter Sleepout:

"After listening to statistics from speakers at The Hills Winter Sleepout and anti-domestic violence dinners, it was a no-brainer to do something to help those less fortunate. What better way to get involved than by providing nourishment, support and hope to those directly in need. After conducting due diligence by speaking with others working in this space at Hawkesbury Helping Hands, Hills Community Aid and The Salvation Army - our project was born. Homelessness isn't a choice but a journey many find themselves on.

Peter Bray, a long-standing Rotarian of 21 years and former club President, is equally as passionate about eradicating homelessness in the Hills. As the Project Manager for the Kenthurst Food Van Initiative, he spoke to me about why the club believed in the mission.

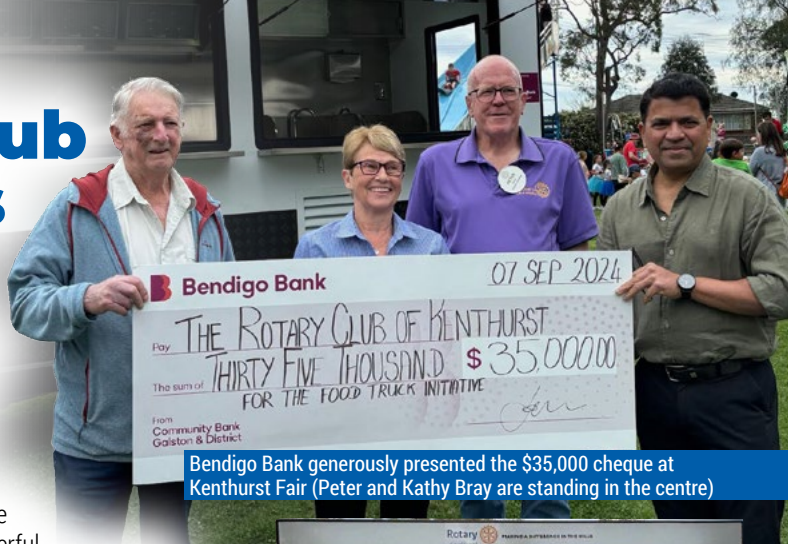
"Our inspiration came from watching the wonderful work of Linda Strickland at Hawkesbury's Helping Hands and Mici Beer at Hills Community Aid".

"With one of the highest levels of mortgage stress in Australia, we realised there was a need to create something in the Hills for people living rough, where they can get a cup of coffee or something to eat. We plan to start off once a week with our services and build up from there."

In September this year, Bendigo Bank generously donated \$35,000 to help the club purchase a food van, presenting the cheque during the Kenthurst Fair. The 4-metre van has since been fully installed and ready to go, with \$5,000 hot-plates courtesy of Nisbets Catering Supplies. It will be unveiled at John Benyon Rotary Park, with free sausage sizzles offered to lucky locals on Saturday the 21st, from 9am to 11am.

The food van initiative is still in its early stages, but Kenthurst Rotary is also exploring other projects, such as clothing donations and the 'Teacher in a Box' program, which uploads school curriculums and textbooks onto a hard drive, enabling students to study without internet access. The club is also reaching out to Galston High School to feed their students on a monthly basis, especially for disadvantaged students who often go without hot breakfasts and lunches.

However, Kenthurst Rotary Club is still searching for a suitable warehouse to store



Bendigo Bank generously presented the \$35,000 cheque at Kenthurst Fair (Peter and Kathy Bray are standing in the centre)



The Food Van ready to 'Make a Difference in the Hills'

extra supplies, as Peter calls on the community to help:

"We are still hoping Council will give us a place to work, preferably in Castle Hill, even though it's prime display. We need a space to offer some privacy for our vulnerable clients. At the moment, we are storing our van at Rotarian's sheds in Kenthurst, but we need a place to store our donations especially as we expand our services".

The club welcomes donations through their GoFundMe page, 'Making a Difference in the Hills Shire', to help support the supplies needed for delivering hot food. Kenthurst Rotary Club is also eager to welcome new members, with meetings held every Monday evening at 7pm at Uniting Hall, 116B Kenthurst Road. You can follow project updates on their Facebook page: 'Rotary Club of Kenthurst', or contact them via email at rotaryclubkenthurst@hotmail.com.

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT: VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT YOUNG FAMILIES!

Support families with young children in the Hawkesbury by volunteering a few hours a week. Build positive relationships and provide valuable care. It's rewarding and truly makes a difference. Scan the QR code below to get started. All volunteers receive necessary training and support.

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lincs@peppercorn.org.au

Housing Plea

from page 9

Transitional Housing The Hills has won the support of several local service groups including Kenthurst Rotary Club, West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Rotary Club, (all integral to the maintenance program) Galston branch of the Country Women's Association and The Hills branch of Soroptimists International which have given a financial commitment.

Dennis said the group hopes to have six houses by the end of 2024 and at least 12 in total next year. The group is calling for an audit of council properties to see if any are suitable for transitional or affordable housing.

Incoming Hills Mayor Michelle Byrne said: "I look forward to continuing to work with local community groups and organisations as well as all levels of Government to solve homelessness in the Hills."

"Already we have seen the success of the Hills Transitional Housing project and what can be achieved when we all work together. I am open to exploring all avenues to find a way to reduce homelessness in the Hills."

Despite council like Randwick council looking at a vacancy residential land tax she said it was "not the silver bullet to solving the overall housing crisis" saying it might mean less houses available on the rental market.

To find out more or contact Transitional Housing The Hills call Dennis on 0421 825 265 or email dennis.vs@bigpond.com or email James at njvisione@gmail.com or call 0427 843 404.

THE STATISTICS

ABS Statics from the 2021 census highlighted by Mission Australia show:

- 1 in 7 people experiencing homelessness are over the age of 55.
- There are over 122,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night.

In NSW the February 2023 street count revealed 1,623 people sleeping rough – a 34 per cent increase compared to 2022.

Street counts took place between 2 February and 27 February 2023, in more than 350 towns and suburbs in 76 local government areas (LGA) across NSW.

The Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) estimates there are 405,000 older women at risk of homelessness in Australia.

Women experience homelessness later in life due to a number of factors including: rising housing costs, eviction, job loss, financial instability, the end of a relationship, sudden illness and disability, domestic violence or elder abuse or a combination of these factors. Limited superannuation is also a problem.

According to HAAG Many older women are "hidden" and do not present at homelessness services. They may be couch surfing, pet sitting, or travelling in vans.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Galston High School Partners with Dural Men's Shed to Enrich Student Experience

BY JULIA PETRULIS

Galston High School has launched a dynamic partnership with the Dural Men's Shed, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities in woodworking, metalwork, and electronics. This innovative program has engaged Year 8, 9, and 10 students in practical skills development, guided by skilled hobbyists and former professionals.

The program began with Year 8 students in Term 2 and continued with Year 9 and 10 students in Term 3. Plans are underway to include another group in Term 4.

Each Friday, students rotate through three workshops. In metalwork, they designed and

Story continues on page 22

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BUSHFIRE READY... ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

Unprecedented wildfires raging in California serve as a sombre reminder of what can happen during hot summers here in Australia. Hills residents need to be on high alert because devastating bushfires can strike anywhere, anytime.

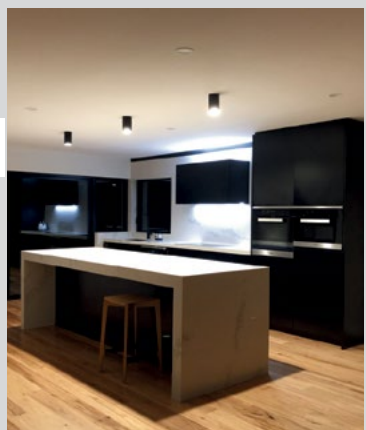
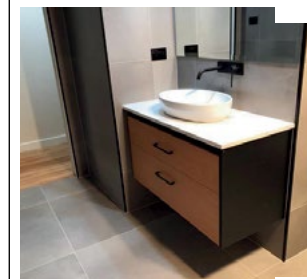
The last few years of La Nina rainfall has generated a huge fuel load in the bush. Although another La Nina is predicted, the threat of bushfires during the hot dry periods is very real indeed.

One Australian company has boosted its fire pump production to make sure they have sufficient product available to protect homeowners.

Aussie Pumps introduced their Aussie Fire Chief almost 30 years ago. The pump is designed to be better than any other product of its kind in terms of performance, features and value for money.

The company supports Hills homeowners to set up their bushfire protection systems, offering guidance in pump selection and operation. Aussie's website features informative videos and their "Bushfire Survival Guide" is free and available through trusted Aussie Gold Distributors. It's also available online at www.aussiepumps.com.au.

For enquiries contact Helen Mahoney Aussie Pumps, 02 8865 3500, marketing@aussiepumps.com.au



Why is Hearing in Noise so Difficult?

Many people struggle to follow conversations in noisy environments, such as family gatherings, BBQs, or meals at a busy pub. In these situations, conversations can seem "muddled up," making it difficult to communicate. But why is this, and what can be done to improve hearing in noisy settings?

The Challenge of Hearing in Noise

Struggling to hear in social settings can lead to tuning out, and in some cases, even social withdrawal. When there's a lot of background noise, it becomes harder to distinguish speech, and this challenge affects many people, not just those with hearing difficulties. The issue arises from how human speech is composed and how different sounds behave in noisy environments.

Speech consists of many different sounds. For example:

Letters like "M," "N," "A," and "O" are low in frequency but have a lot of intensity and have lots of power, so they carry well as they have plenty of "energy".

On the other hand, sounds like "TH," "S," "F," and "SH" are essentially only pressed air through the teeth and tongue. These unvoiced sounds are higher in frequency but have very little intensity. These sounds help provide clarity by distinguishing one word from another.

The difficulty is that these softer, high-frequency sounds are easily drowned out by louder noises. In a noisy social setting, as people raise their voices to compete with the surrounding noise, the louder, low-frequency sounds overpower the softer, high-frequency ones, making speech sound muffled. This effect is often called the "cocktail-party effect."

For people with age- or noise-related hearing loss, this situation is even more challenging because their ability to hear high-frequency sounds is already reduced.

The Impact on Social Life

For some people, even mild hearing loss can make social settings overwhelming. When conversations are hard to follow, it requires a lot of mental effort to

keep up. Over time, this can be exhausting, leading some to avoid social gatherings altogether. The strain on the brain to make sense of the muffled sounds leads to fatigue and frustration. The good news is – that it doesn't have to be this way!

The Path to Better Hearing

Fortunately, there are ways to improve hearing in noisy environments. If you or someone you know struggles to hear in social settings, here are some steps you can take (at Ear Studio we welcome your family member or significant other to any of your appointments) :

Get a Professional Hearing Assessment

Get your hearing professionally assessed (not a quick 15min hearing check as you may find them in many shopping centres). At Ear Studio we conduct in-depth evaluations with measurements of many parameters like middle ear pressure, acoustic reflexes to assess some nerve functions, assessment of air and bone-conduction hearing as well as speech tests in quiet and in noise.

Discuss the Results

After your hearing assessment, your hearing care professional will discuss your results with you and prepare a written report for your GP. In some cases, medical conditions may need to be addressed before proceeding with hearing solutions.

Consider a Customised Hearing Rehabilitation Program

If a hearing loss is the reason for your difficulties, you can start your hearing rehabilitation through our Best Practice Fitting Program at Ear Studio. This involves a series of appointments throughout

which you work closely with a hearing care professional. We start off by choosing devices suited to your needs and customised items for a perfect fit. During your fitting and follow up appointments over the coming weeks we measure your progress, continue with small adjustments if required and answer your questions to ensure the best possible outcome for you.

Enjoy Conversations Again

With the right hearing solution, you'll be able to enjoy social gatherings, participate in conversations, and reconnect with family and friends without feeling isolated or frustrated.

Conclusion

Hearing in noisy environments can be challenging, but it doesn't have to limit your social life. By taking steps to assess and address hearing issues, you can improve your ability to communicate in noisy settings and enjoy social interactions once more.

If you're experiencing difficulties with hearing or know someone who is, reach out to our friendly team at Ear Studio on (02) 9159 6122 or reception@earstudio.com.au to book an appointment. We provide off street parking with easy access, we are located inside Lawton House. Suites 9-10 / 60 Cecil Ave Castle Hill, NSW, 2154. With our best practice principles and being a member of the "Hearing Up Network" you can ensure that you will receive top quality care in a warm and caring environment. www.earstudio.com.au to find out more.

“At Ear Studio we practice genuine compassion and generosity for the good of every single person that comes to see us. A practice where personalised hearing health and positive outcomes are our top priority.”



One of our clinicians, Thuvi treating a patient

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Hakea sericea
Silky Needle Bush Plant

HIDDEN IN THE HILLS BY LACHLAN TURNER

SILKY NEEDLE BUSH

When venturing along walking tracks in our local bushland it is always a pleasant surprise to come across an unexpected wildflower. One of the more noticeable and abundant varieties during cooler months would be the Silky Needle Bush (*Hakea sericea*).

This attractive spreading, open shrub may grow up to 3m high in favourable conditions. It can be found in both open forest and scrubby heathlands which have sandy or clay soils.

Depending upon its habitat, flowering may commence in June and continue into September. The narrow, fairly rigid leaves are about 50mm long, right angled to the branch, having a sharp tip at the end. Hence the word "Needle" in its name. The other word in its common name appears to be derived from the silky hairs that are present on new growth. Delicately formed white flowers are mostly

clustered towards the ends of reddish brown branches. These flowers possess a mild scent that can be detected if you are able to get close enough to them without coming in contact with the sharp spiky leaves while doing so.

The fruits of this shrub develop into a rounded and wrinkled, woody hard shell reminiscent of a walnut shell. The matured fruit may remain on the plant for several years before it opens to reveal a flat, winged seed.

As with many species of our native flora there are frequently similar varieties. One close relative is known as the Warty Needle Bush (*Hakea propinqua*). Another is the Hairy Needle bush (*Hakea gibbosa*). Both may be mistaken for the Silky Needle Bush, as their flowering periods tend to overlap.

It is possible to propagate both these varieties for use in a native home garden.

Hakea propinqua
Warty Needle Bush Fruit

Hakea gibbosa
Hairy Needle Bush

Notice of intention to grant a licence under section 151 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is seeking public comments on a proposal to grant a licence to The Pitt Town and District Sports Club for areas within Scheyville National Park.

The proposed grant of licence is to The Pitt Town and District Sports Club ACN 002 503 540 to use the areas of Scheyville National Park shown in the diagram below for the purposes of:

- maintaining the sporting oval for community sporting activities including sporting, community and fundraising events that are low impact; and
- maintaining and using the playground, pumphouse, septic treatment area and docking area.

The proposed licence term is 10 years plus one 10-year option (total potential term of 20 years).



Figure 1: Licence Area, Pitt Town and District Sports Club, 139 Old Pitt Town Road, Pitt Town NSW 2756.

Have your say

Public exhibition is from [TBC] to [TBC].

You can provide your written submission in any of the following ways:

Post your written submission to:

Property and Lease Management Unit
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Email your submission to:

npws.property@environment.nsw.gov.au

Visit the website: environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say



SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!



**Monday 30 September and
Tuesday 1 October**

Session 1: 10am - 11am

Session 2: 11.30am - 12.30pm

Session 3: 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Session 4: 3.00pm - 4.00pm

Located near Red Dollar



***Please scan QR or visit
www.grovesquare.com.au
to reserve your spot**

*Bookings are essential with tickets strictly limited. Cost \$10 per ticket (non-refundable) and includes: 1 x plush pre-stuffed bear (styles will vary), host for the duration of the activation, birth certificate, colouring in sheets and red heart for heart ceremony. Clothing/accessories are available for additional purchases.

Parents/carers do not require a ticket, however, must supervise their participating child(ren). The event is appropriate for children aged 4-12 years. See website for details.

FREE Shrink Art Workshop

Make your own keyring or necklace!

**Wednesday 9 October and
Thursday 10 October**

11am - 2pm

Located near Red Dollar

*No bookings required for shrink art event, however wait times may apply. The event is appropriate for children aged 4+ years. Parental/Carer Supervision required at all times. While stocks last. See website for details.



 [GroveSquareTheHills](https://www.facebook.com/GroveSquareTheHills)  [grovesquarethehills](https://www.instagram.com/grovesquarethehills)  grovesquare.com.au

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GYG Opening at Olive Grove Lane

The New Casual Dining Precinct at Grove Square, The Hills

We're excited to announce the arrival of Guzman y Gomez (GYG) Mexican Kitchen at Olive Grove Lane, the new external dining precinct at Grove Square - The Hills! Joining an impressive array of eateries including Ooshman, Quadro Social, The Yook, Little Rock Cafe, Sol Bowl, Zeus Greek Street and Burger Room, GYG is set to bring even more delicious dining options to the Baulkham Hills community.

Located on the corner of Olive Street and Old Northern Road, GYG will offer a spacious 160-square-meter dine-in and takeaway restaurant with easy access from Level 1 retail parking. GYG is expected to open its doors in early October 2024.

In conjunction with GYG's opening, the new dining precinct has been officially named *Olive

Grove Lane*. Inspired by the adjacent Olive Street, the name reflects the Centre's identity, "Grove Square," and symbolises the journey from farm to table.

"We are thrilled to unite all these incredible food vendors under the identifiable Olive Grove Lane," says William Koreman, Centre Manager. "This dining precinct offers a welcoming space for families and the local community to enjoy gatherings, with a diverse range of quality, affordable dining options for any occasion."

Olive Grove Lane is the perfect spot for a meal with family and friends. With options for dine-in, takeaway and delivery, each restaurant provides a unique dining experience. Be sure to check individual restaurants for opening hours and menus.



To celebrate the launch of Olive Grove Lane, Grove Square, The Hills is hosting two *FREE* concerts, featuring classic hits from Bon Jovi and The Eagles! Mark your calendars for Born Jovi on Saturday, 9 November from 6 pm to 9 pm, and The Desperados on Saturday, 23 November from 6 pm to 9 pm. During the concerts, there will also be free face painting and 100 FREE beverage cards, redeemable with the purchase of any main meal from participating eateries. Dining options will be available throughout the day and evening, with some restaurants offering licensed drinks for a more relaxed meal experience.

"We're excited to transform Grove Square - The Hills into more than just a convenience shopping destination," says Jessica Pankiw, Leasing Executive. "With the addition of GYG and our other fantastic dining operators, we're meeting the growing needs of the Hills community by offering a multipurpose community destination of service operators and food retailers."

Make Olive Grove Lane your go-to destination for casual dining and entertainment in Baulkham Hills! Corner of Olive Street and Old Northern Road.



THE VINEYARD

TOMMY'S CAFE & BEER GARDEN NOW OPEN

WWW.THEVINEYARDSYDNEY.COM.AU
FOLLOW @THEVINEYARDSYDNEY

ARCADIAN QUILTING NEWS

All the signs are there for us to see ... the beautiful spring flowers, Azaleas, Iris, Daisies, closely followed by Crab Apple blossoms and Manchurian Pear Tree blossoms ... our local gardens look amazing !

Other 'definite' signs of the weeks passing quickly are 'the School Holidays timetable' and love-it or not ... Daylight Saving !

However shared Charity work remains 'a constant'. Arcadian Quilting and The CWA are two groups where friendships can remain for many years. Planning and working with other like-minded people is a good example of commitment. When so much around us keeps changing, the opportunity to work towards a goal and to keep an eye on the bigger picture is of great importance.

These Community Connections can be appreciated when reading this plaque which supports the beautifully crafted Fan Quilt, (pictures below) made by Maxinne O'Toole, her thoughtful, personal memento to past shared friends. Both plaque and Quilt are on display in



The Community Centre, Galston.

The Arcadian Quilting group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of each month at 9.30 am. Meetings are held in the Community Health Centre, The Glade, Galston at 9.30 am for further information please call Carole on 9894 7749.

Galston High School Partners... from page 17

welded custom desk organisers. Electronics sessions involved building battery-powered remote-control cars, culminating in a final race. Woodworking projects included crafting car frames, bowls, and paper towel holders using lathes. A highlight for the boys was the weekly sausage sizzle lunches, where their impressive appetites left everyone astounded.

The program not only engaged students with exciting projects but also helped them develop essential life skills such as persistence, resilience, and focus. They refined their work to high standards and improved project management and communication skills through mentorship.

A key aspect of the program is the opportunity for students to connect with positive male role models from the Men's Shed. The strong rapport between students and volunteers has been a significant benefit, with students eager to learn from their mentors' experiences.

Galston High School looks forward to continuing this valuable partnership and deeply appreciates the Dural Men's Shed for their dedication to helping students achieve their personal best.



THE ARMY MUSEUM OF NSW

Become a Volunteer

We require your help at the Museum

Join our energetic team, all with a common interest in Australian Military History. Previous Army Service is not a necessity but to volunteer within Victoria Barracks, one must be an Australian Citizen as the Barracks is an operational facility.

Volunteers' welcome visitors, conduct research, learn new skills, do restoration work and support display creation.

Please call **Graham Fleeton** on **0412 399 693** or email **secretary@armymuseumnsw.com.au**



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*30% discount offer available with our 12-month plan only. All prices are exclusive of GST.

Barrie Lester Bowls In

Castle Hill Bowling Club had a special guest recently—former Jackaroo star Barrie Lester stopped by for a coaching clinic, and he didn't disappoint.

It was his first time visiting the club, and he left a big impression on the 50 members who came along.

Barrie, who's represented Australia over 250 times, shared some great stories from his career, including his experiences at the World Championships and Commonwealth Games. But what really stood out was how down-to-earth he was.

He made all his advice on strategy, attitude, and mindset easy to understand, no matter what level you play at.

"He was amazing at breaking things down so everyone could easily understand it," said William Harkins, the club's Bowls Coordinator.

"Whether you're new to bowls or have been around a while, his tips on keeping your head in the game really hit home."

One of the coolest things Barrie talked about was his "red zone" and "blue zone" idea. He explained how to mentally switch from stress (the red zone) to a place of calm (the blue zone), using his own happy place—a rooftop in Spain—as an example. It's all about keeping cool under pressure, and the members loved it.

Team play was another big focus of the clinic. Barrie showed how playing smart and working together can make a huge difference in Pennant competitions.

He talked about keeping an eye on the scoreboard and playing safe when needed, which really opened up some new ideas for the club's players.

After all the talking, Barrie took everyone out to the greens for some hands-on drills. The members practiced accuracy, concentration,



and different techniques that will definitely improve their game.

"It was really inspiring to have someone like Barrie here, and he made everything feel doable," added Harkins.

All in all, it was an awesome day that gave the club members a lot to think about—and practice!

Castle Hill Bowling Club is pumped to put Barrie's advice into action as they gear up for the next season.

To find out more about the club visit www.castlehillbc.com.au



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The Hills Shire Council News

Experience a Taste of Wisemans

Orange Blossom Festival's (OBF) new and exciting food event will give you a Taste of Wisemans Ferry, celebrating the best food, wine and produce from local businesses in the rural north of The Hills Shire.

Immerse yourself in foodie heaven with an array of choices within the surroundings of Wisemans Ferry Park, along the banks of the Hawkesbury River.

There will be:

- A range of local producers and businesses
- Picnic tables and hay bales
- Plenty of picturesque scenery and spaces for photos
- Family-friendly entertainment and activities
- Opportunities to meet your local emergency services
- Acoustic performers
- Roving performers
- Plenty of free activities.

Visit the OBF Taste of Wisemans page by scanning the QR code to see more details, including the extensive list of food stalls that will be on-site, on the day. Information on parking and social stories for individuals with disability are also available.



Have your say on Kellyville Memorial Park's Draft Plan of Management

A Draft Plan of Management for Kellyville Park is now on exhibition for community feedback.

The draft plan provides detailed information on the management of the park over the next several years, including directions based on:

- Engagement that was undertaken through the 2019 Master Plan
- A State Significant Development Application in 2022

Scan the QR code to view the Draft Plan of Management and to have your say. Submissions close on Monday, 21 October at 4pm.

Share your road user experience during extreme weather events



The Hills Shire Council is upgrading the flood warning infrastructure at our low-level bridge crossings.

We want to know/hear about your experiences using our rural roads during extreme weather events, including:

- Use of Council's flood warning and gauging infrastructure
- Use of existing bridge crossings across the Shire.

Your responses will support the monitoring and evaluation of this project.

Upon completion of the survey, entrants have a chance to **win one of three \$50 Coles Group and Myer gift vouchers**. Scan the QR code to read more and participate!

The survey closes on Friday, 27 September at 5pm.

Council Meetings

Tuesday 8 October 2024 at 7pm

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



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



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

A FEW DROPS OF WATER CAN CHANGE LIVES

A Drop At A Time

BY GISELA HORNER

In 2010 when local Castle Hill businessman, Craig Hawkins, was courting his wife Hannah, they decided to take a trip to Cambodia. Their guide, Virak, drove them into the mountains to an ancient tower in Battambang, the scene of a shocking massacre during the Cambodian War, now overrun by vines, jungle and monkeys.

Virak introduced them to a local guide, David, who said he took tourists there because of its tragic history. It was there, the Khmer Rouge had rounded up men, women and children, separating them into three different caves, thrown grenades into each cave and fled. The bodies lie there still. David was one of the fortunate ones. He ran for his life and hid but his entire family died. Craig and Hannah, moved to tears, wanted to know why he would take people to this horrifying place. His simple answer was, '...because we forgive, we don't forget. Without forgiveness, we can't move on'.

On their first tour of Cambodia, Craig and Hannah were to learn more important information about the country's history, this time affecting people's day-to-day lives. They had noticed modern signs along the way showing Virak's name. He explained this was his initiative to help locals access water via pumps. Craig asked how much each pump cost and on

departure, Craig gave Virak \$300 to help with his work.

He didn't think any more about it.

A couple of weeks later an email arrived with 12 photos of a water pump being built in Craig's name. An idea formed in Craig's mind and he decided to put aside \$5 from his fee to his client's annual review towards a pump project in Cambodia. Over the next 2-3 years, money was sent to Cambodia and the project grew.

In 2014, Hannah and Craig decided to go on a return visit, to spend Christmas looking at water pumps. When Craig mentioned this to one of his clients, \$50 was immediately donated. Craig knew something was growing, so he let clients know about the project through his business Facebook page and in-house newsletter. By the time he and Hannah flew to Cambodia, they had enough money for 13 pumps.

Over the last ten years, it has become a self-perpetuating exercise.

By 2020, plans had been made to take a team of friends and clients to build more pumps but COVID put a stop to that trip.

In April this year the delayed trip became a reality when Craig took 30 people to Cambodia to create 46 pumps for locals in villages in and around Siem Reap in the north west of the country. The trip consisted of enthusiastic staff members, their partners, family and friends; they dug the 24-metre holes and laid the pipes for the pumps. In one village, 200 families had their lives changed for the better by the three pumps serving their community.

One local woman explained how the pump had been beneficial to her life and that of her daughters. Instead of hand-watering her eggplant crop all day, she could spend time helping her two girls to read and write in English. The extra water meant she could grow more crops and within two years, she had saved enough money to build a brick house. The pump made everything in her life much easier. One daughter is now at international school studying to become a doctor. This could never have happened without the water pump.

Craig and Virak have a handshake agreement going back 14 years. "I will keep sending money and you will keep digging holes in the ground for the pumps," Craig said. In a voice full of emotion, he continued, "This all started as an accident, taking a tour with Hannah in the first year of our relationship,

driving to a temple 70 miles away from Siem Reap. Seeing modern signs in a developing country made me ask what they were. We never knew it would result in this. It's been life-changing for us too. People ask me why I do this - I say, ... because I can".

A number of years ago, it was decided to start dedicating water pumps to clients (and family) who had passed away. Around seventy of the pumps have honoured clients in this way in recent years. Without the knowledge of the family, a photograph of the installed pump dedicated to their loved one is framed and given to the family at an appropriate time. This small gesture has been positively received. The photographs are hung in 'pride of place' and there has been a lot of emotion expressed in the giving of those framed photographs - on both sides.

In all, Craig and dedicated contributors have built 204 wells, creating opportunities and much happiness. His philosophy is that tiny amounts of money and a small effort can create monumental changes in all our lives.

Craig was a proud nominee of the Fred Hollows Foundation 2022 Humanitarian Award.



New Citizens Welcomed in the Hawkesbury and Hills Shire Council

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

Since the origin of National Citizenship Day in 1949, Australia has welcomed over 6 million new citizens from over 200 nations worldwide. We take a look at the Hawkesbury and Hills Shire Council's newest citizens sworn in this September.

The Hills Shire Council proudly welcomed 128 new Australians during a special ceremony held in celebration of National Citizenship Day on Tuesday, 17 September 2024.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi, presided over the ceremony, which coincided with the 75th anniversary of Australian Citizenship.

"It is a tremendous honour to be part of such a significant milestone in the lives of our newest residents," Mayor Gangemi said. "National Citizenship Day is a time to reflect on the value of Australian citizenship and to acknowledge how fortunate we are to call this beautiful country home."

Mayor Gangemi also congratulated the new citizens and encouraged them to embrace their new chapter in Australia.

"I warmly congratulate each of our new citizens and thank them for choosing Australia and The Hills Shire as their home," he added.

This year, The Hills Shire's newest Australians came from nations including Egypt,

India, South Korea, Scotland, and Singapore.

One of the new citizens, Charmaine Grace Montes, originally from the Philippines, spoke about her deep connection to Australia and the journey that led her to become a citizen.

"I have developed a strong connection to the country, including relationships with family and friends [in Australia]," Mrs Montes said.

"Becoming a citizen is exciting for me as it will allow me to fully participate in the democratic process through voting and having a say in the future of this country I've come to call home."

Dinusha Assiriyaage, another new citizen who moved from Sri Lanka seeking better opportunities for his family, echoed these sentiments.



Charmaine Grace Montes pictured at Hills Shire Council Citizenship Ceremony.

Dinusha Assiriyaage pictured with Mayor Dr Peter Gangemi at Hills Shire Council Citizenship Ceremony.

"The most exciting part of becoming an Australian citizen is to be able to call this wonderful country home and to be part of such a vibrant community," Mr Assiriyaage said.

Hawkesbury Shire Council also warmly welcomed 19 new citizens to the Hawkesbury on Monday the 29th of July 2024.

COUPLES AT ALIVE

BY LEONIE DIXON

Concluding our couples series with Angelina and Vince Rossi as well as Rosh Vee and Latif Ismail. If you and your partner are looking for something to do together you might like to consider radio as the Rossis did. Angelina presents Un Tocco D'Italia and last month at the AGM was elected to the Board. One of her portfolios is fund raising and she did an amazing job organising the Castle Hill Bunnings sausage sizzle yesterday, resulting in the best fund-raising record yet. A reason she is so successful is the support Vince gives spending many hours cooking the sausages and returning all the equipment to the station. They really work as a team and obviously enjoy the contributions they make to their volunteer roles.

Rosh and Latif host the first Malay Radio show in Sydney called Satu Suara (one voice) together, but theirs is a real family team. This

year their eldest son also started a youth show called Gen Z Radio Show. The advantages are that the whole family understands the demands of volunteering at a station. Rosh and Latif assist their son, as well as support each other's shows. They are now a radio family doing 3 shows for the community. Initially Rosh took up the challenge of learning radio at 2MFM in 2017 and then started The Busy Mums Radio show at Alive 90.5 FM in 2022 and soon after Latif started the Malay show. The only disadvantage seems to be spending too much time on radio! Rosh told me, "We lead very busy lives at the moment and it's easy to give too much time to radio so we have to make sure we manage our time." There you have another opportunity, you may want to volunteer with your children. If that's the case, email me at mail@alive905.com.au



Angelina and Vince Rossi

Rosh Vee and Latif Ismail

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One of the families at Hawkesbury's Citizenship Ceremony.

The ceremony opened with Dharug woman Rhiannon Wright, delivering the Welcome to Country for the newly sworn in citizens.

Hawkesbury Police Local Area Command Detective Acting Superintendent Virginia Gorman and Air Commodore Bradley Clarke from RAAF Base Richmond also delivered a welcoming address to the new citizens and congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

The ceremony was held at the Hawkesbury Council Chambers, with residents hailing from the United Kingdom, India, New Zealand, Brazil, Peru, Iran, Pakistan and Lebanon taking the oath.

Councillor Sarah McMahon who welcomed in 11 new citizens in May this year, previously expressed the beauty of Citizenship ceremonies:

"Citizenship ceremonies provide us with the chance to promote and recognise active citizenship in our community," Mayor McMahon said. "Active citizenship is about people getting involved in our local community and involved in democracy at all levels, and displaying values such as respect, inclusion and helping others."

Art is in the FAMILY

BY IVOR JONES

To be an Archibald Art winner is a dream that many a budding artist wishes for. Such a dream has come true for a young resident of Glenhaven.

A beautiful portrait of her mother, Jane Blatchford, has seen Leah take out first prize in this year's Young Archies 16 - 18-years old category. Leah who now teaches at her mother's art school at Castle Hill says -

"My mum's unwavering dedication to the arts over the years has undeniably ignited a flame within me. Having been raised in her art school since the age of four, I gained not just technical skills, but a deep appreciation for beauty and boundless creativity. Alongside hundreds of fellow students, I was empowered to express myself through art. From encouraging my early scribbles to my pursuit of art as a young adult, she's consistently instilled confidence that has become integral to my daily life. Now, wearing an apron myself, I join her in teaching children the transformative power of artistic expression."

Leah's technically accomplished portrait "Mum Through Time" pays tribute to the woman who encouraged her creative development.

Leah with mum and grandmother

"It was a long process of deciding how I could capture her essence, but I chose to portray herself in the middle surrounded by the drawings I did of her as a child. The hands around her symbolise, not only, me as a child but also the children she has at the art school. She's taught thousands of children and been a role model."

The commerce student said she was over the moon to win and hoped it meant she could now dedicate more time to her art. Leah is now an inspiration and role model herself to many young budding artists.

Dympna Feneley of Winston Hills who is Jane's mother and Leah's grandmother is justifiably proud of her granddaughter.



Leah's painting of her mother

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whitlam.org/fos



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Hills Rotaract Club is Sharing the DIGNITY

from page 12

President, reflected on her experience coordinating 'It's in the Bag'.

"This project is a great opportunity for the Hills Rotaractors as it allows us to work in conjunction with the community around topics that are important to us. I've been able to see firsthand how these bags have impacted the lives of women and made a world of difference in uplifting their dignity".

President Joel holding an assortment of bags from the 2022 'It's in the Bag'

After collecting products for 100 bags, an intensive packing day will be held in November, before the bags are distributed to collection points across Australia. To reach their goal, Joel encourages the community to add an extra hygiene product to their weekly shop:

"If everyone can just pick up one extra hygiene product from a grocery shop it goes a long way towards our mission".

Communications Director of the Hills Rotaract initiative, Dani Jaric, is also an active participant in the Homeless Outreach Program 'Shining Light Foundation'. As the Secretary for the club, Dani reflected upon her experiences and urges others to get involved in eradicating period poverty, which currently affects three in five women across Australia:

"As a woman, I don't want any person that menstruates to experience period poverty. The essential items in this space should not be considered a luxury, and the 'It's in the Bag Initiative' is a great way to help anyone otherwise going without".

Rotary Club of Kenthurst and Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club are also volunteering alongside Hills Rotaract and are asking their members for donations. However, Hills Rotaract Club is still seeking additional donations, including any of the hygiene products listed above as well as large hand bags or backpacks in good-condition.

To donate, you can drop off items at Baulkham Hills or Quakers Hill, with location details available by messaging Hills Rotaract Club on Facebook or Instagram. You can also reach them via email at hillsrotaractinc@gmail.com or contribute directly towards the 100-bag goal on their website, 'Hills Rotaract Club Incorporated'.



Spring Family FUN DAY

Hills Community Aid is hosting another Spring Family Fun Day in Balcombe Heights Estate on Monday 30 September 10am-1pm and you're invited to come meet your favourite superhero.

This free event is part of Orange Blossom Festival and offers a range of fun activities such as children's arts and crafts, inflatable rides, emergency services, a treasure hunt with prizes, service displays and open Learning in The Hills classrooms.

On top of all the free activities, there will be Hills Daily Grind Coffee, a Rotary Sausage Sizzle and Devonshire tea for sale. More information www.hca.org.au

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LIBRARY NEWS

For a complete list of events go to

www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Library or www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/whats-on



Hills Shire Library Events

Learning For Life - Forest Therapy and Nature Wellness

Part of the Library Health Month 2024 collection

By The Hills Shire Library Service & presented in collaboration with The Hills Shire Council's Environment Centre.

26 September 2024, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant St Castle Hill, NSW

Life can get busy but spending quiet time in nature can help support your wellbeing. Join us during Library Health Month as we present a talk on Forest Therapy and Nature Wellness. You will learn ways to deepen connection and care for nature, learn about the numerous health

benefits and build an understanding of the dynamics of seasons. Free | Bookings essential online | Suitable for Adults

Books you might enjoy: *Skogluff: forest air* / Jorn Viumdal; *Secret therapy of trees* / Marco Mencagli; *The nature fix* / Florence Williams

HSC Study on Sundays - Castle Hill Library

By The Hills Shire Library Service

29 September 2024, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM and 6 October 2024, 9:30 AM

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

Castle Hill Library will be open exclusively for HSC students on Sunday mornings for 4 weeks. Get some serious study done! ENTRY BETWEEN 9.30am - 9.45am ONLY.

Enter via the front door, lift access will not be available. FREE | HSC 2024 students only | Bookings essential online

CHRIS HAMMER in Conversation with Dinuka McKenzie

30 September 2024 | 06:30 PM to 07:30 PM

Join bestselling author Chris Hammer as he discusses his riveting new thriller *The Valley*. His first book, *Scrublands*, was an instant bestseller and winner of the prestigious UK Crime Writers Association's New Blood dagger. The television adaptation is currently screening worldwide. Before turning to fiction, Chris was a journalist for more than thirty years. He now writes full time with his books becoming known

for their atmospheric Australian settings. Chris will be in conversation with Dinuka McKenzie, author of the Detective Kate Miles crime series, *The Torrent*, *Taken* and *Tipping Point*.

Cost | \$10.00 PP | Bookings essential online | Suitable for Adults. This event is general admission. The evening will conclude with book sales and signing conducted by Dymocks Rouse Hill, cash and card accepted.

Sensitive Happy Hands Art Session

A sensitive friendly session for children in school years K-6

By The Hills Shire Library Service

Tue, 1 Oct 2024 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM AEST

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

Join us for a Sensitive Happy Hand art session at the library. In a calm and quiet space, children can explore their creativity at their own pace. Professional artist will guide them through fun art activities, helping them relax and express themselves. All supplies are provided. Come and enjoy a peaceful

time making art. Cost | \$17.00 Per child | Bookings essential online | Sensitive session for children in School Years K-6

Please note your financial institution may charge you to use this service; Refunds will only be given if this event is cancelled. Adults are required to stay with their child but do not need to book a ticket.

Bricks in the library

Sponsored by The Friends of the Hills Library

By The Hills Shire Library Service

2 October 2024, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Get creative and let your imagination go wild with bricks in the library.

Sponsored by the Friends of The Hills Library. Free | Bookings essential online |

4 October 2024, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Baulkham Hills Library, 1 Railway Street Baulkham Hills, NSW

Suitable for children in school years K-6. This event is for children only. Parents/carers are required to stay on library premises throughout the event.

Hawkesbury Library Events

Spring School Holiday Activities at the Library, Museum, and Gallery

Keep the kids entertained during the Spring school holidays with these fun and educational activities! You can watch movies in the Library, get creative with charcoal in the Gallery, create your own potted plant at the Museum PLUS heaps more fun activities.

LIBRARY

HOLIDAY MOVIES

1 & 8 October 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Watch some classic movies in a relaxed setting. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Check Eventbrite or call the library for the title of the DVD to be screened.

FREE – All welcome

JUGGLING WORKSHOP

2 October 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Discover the joy and skill of juggling. This workshop will guide you through basic ball tossing to mastering advanced tricks. \$5 – For ages 5-12

GETTING YOUR "Ls"

4 Oct, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 10 Oct, 2:00 – 3:00 PM

This workshop is presented by Youthsafe, a government approved DLAP. It offers advice to Pre-Learner Drivers to prepare them for their Driver Knowledge Test. All attendees will receive access to reimbursement costs for driving tests and professional driving lessons.

FREE – For ages 16+ - Bookings Essential

Book activities at the Library online at Hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com. Library activities are held at Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor. All welcome.

MUSEUM

MAPPING MY STORY

3 October 2024, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Get inspired by your local environment and create your own personal life-map. We will learn about the land we live on and how to turn our own stories into something to share \$15 – For ages 5 - 12

Book activities at the Museum online at HawkesburyMuseum.eventbrite.com. Museum activities are held at Hawkesbury Regional Museum, 8 Baker St, Windsor

GALLERY

CREATIVE CHARCOAL WORKSHOP (5 – 12 Yrs)

2 October 2024, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Explore charcoal drawing techniques and create expressive artworks on paper! We will experiment and play with this fun, messy material to create unique drawings inspired by movement. \$15 – For ages 5 – 12

Book activities at the Gallery online at HawkesburyGallery.eventbrite.com. Gallery activities are held at Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, 1st Floor, 300 George St, Windsor.



As your Federal Member, I am here to:

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.



JULIAN LEESER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

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

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

An update on my work as your representative

Our electorate is changing. As you may be aware, the Australian Electoral Commission has finalised the new boundaries for Berowra which means I'll now be representing Waitara, as well of all of Normanhurst, Asquith and Hornsby, and also Epping and North Epping – areas once represented by former Prime Minister John Howard. Sadly it means that I'll be losing the Hills Council part of West Pennant Hills and Carlingford, which I've particularly enjoyed representing. I'm looking forward to getting out to even more community events and meeting old and new locals, so please say hi if you see me around.

I've been talking a lot about the concerns of Berowra locals in the Parliament. One issue that I've been speaking about is the cost of living. I know that increased fuel, electricity,

gas and grocery prices and the rise in mortgage repayments and rents is making life tough for people in our community. As your voice to our Parliament, I am determined that the Parliament hears the concerns of our community.

In the most recent Parliamentary sitting I paid tribute to a wonderful local champion, Ray Davis. Ray recently passed away after a life of service for our country and community both at war and in peace through sporting clubs and veteran and community groups.

Did you know a local business grows most of the lettuce sold in New South Wales and Victoria? That is what Bonello Farms in Kenthurst does and I had the chance to visit and check out the operations recently. We have lots of agricultural businesses in our area which



supply food for our nation. I am keen to ensure that our community always maintains its mix of suburban, rural, and river communities.

Finally, after a long wait, the new portraits of his Majesty the King have finally arrived. I've been presenting them to local community organisations recently. If you would like a portrait of the King, please contact my office.

As always, if I can assist you in any way then please get in touch.

A Liberal Landslide

On 14 September, residents of The Hills Shire delivered a strong victory for the NSW Liberals, with Liberal candidates winning 8/9 of the 12 positions on Council plus the Mayoralty. The Michelle Byrne led team has delivered positive results for the area in the past and will continue to do so over the next 4 years.



30 Storey Skyscrapers between Kellyville & Bella Vista?

The Minns Government has a vision for Kellyville and Bella Vista, and it includes 43,000 homes with most of them being apartment and some being up to 30 storeys high. This will increase our population density up to 28,000 people per square kilometre which is more dense than some areas of Haymarket, Green Square and Rhodes. With no proposed infrastructure to support this development, residents can expect traffic gridlock, transport bedlam, increased pollution and overcrowding. SAY NO to this GROSS OVERDEVELOPMENT by signing the e-petition accessed using this QR code.



QR Codes Ensure Fair Taxi Fares

The NSW Liberals have proposed the Minns Government roll out QR codes in the Sydney Taxi Fleet as a solution to ensure customers can pay a fair fare. The proposal would see unique QR Codes placed into taxis to enable customers to choose to pay via the meter or via the QR Code. The QR Code would be linked to the driver, the vehicle, and the customer to balance the security of payment for drivers with a passenger's priority of paying the correct fare and having a safe journey. The proposal follows ongoing concerns over the past twelve months regarding dodgy driver behaviour affecting the positive reputation of the NSW Taxi industry. NSW Taxi Council Chief Executive Officer Nick Abraham commented "This is an innovative solution towards giving passengers financial certainty when using taxis and improve the passenger experience."



Ray Williams MP
Member for Kellyville

As your State MP, I am here to:

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

Suite 202, 10-14 Market Lane, Rouse Hill NSW 2155
8882-9555 castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au
www.raywilliamsmp.com.au

Authorised by Ray Williams MP. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.



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

Albanese Labor Government Delivers for Greenway in 2023-24 Budget

Minister Michelle Rowland MP

✉ PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148

☎ (02) 9671 4780

🏠 Level 1, Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown

🌐 @mrowlandmp

✉ Michelle.rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

🌐 michellerowland.com.au

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



We all have a role to play in keeping our kids safe online

Our children are digital natives who learn, explore, connect and engage with their friends online. They can also wander into harm's way.

As a mother of two young daughters, I understand the concerns parents have around social media, like bullying, peer pressure and negative body image. Or unintentionally accessing harmful, distressing and age-inappropriate content.

Recent research by our online safety regulator, eSafety, found almost two-thirds of 14 to 17-year-olds have viewed extremely harmful content including drug abuse, suicide or self-harm, as well as gory or violent material online. A quarter have been exposed to content promoting unhealthy eating habits.

Digital platforms, government and society all have a role to play in ensuring our children

are safe online. We know that technology moves fast and no government can protect every child from every threat, every day. But we have to do all we can to address this.

The Albanese Government is leading an important national conversation on this issue and we are engaging experts, parents and young people.

Parents I speak to are rightly concerned about the potential for social media to negatively influence or harm their children. Young people are telling me they understand the need for protections too.

Our Government will introduce legislation into the Parliament by the end of the year to create a new minimum age for access to social media. In this pursuit, the national conversation has proposed a range of ages to be considered.

We will be guided by evidence. Our age assurance trial is testing technologies that could be effective to ensure ages from 13 up to 16.

eSafety is also working across multiple fronts to support a safer online environment for all Australians.

It offers a wealth of resources to help put parental controls in place and guide important conversations about children's online experiences. I encourage parents, carers, educators and children to visit www.esafety.gov.au to find out more.

Australia leads the world in online safety, but with technology evolving rapidly, we need to stay vigilant.

Our priority is the ongoing safety of Australians, and that's the forward-facing national approach we are taking.

Getting School Infrastructure Back on Track in Riverstone

Last year, the New South Wales Department of Education conducted an audit of enrollment growth in the state's schools at the request of the Labor government. The audit, which covered the period from 2018 to 2023, aimed to analyze student population trends. The audit revealed significant student population growth in the North-West and South-West growth corridors.

The Schofields-East region in the Riverstone electorate experienced the most substantial increase, with government school enrollments surging from 1,535 students in 2018 to 4,762 in 2023, exceeding the projected number of students by more than 3 times.

The number of students in Schofields was grossly underestimated to the point where actual number of students in this area now is higher than the amount that was predicted for 2041. Three of the top 20 suburbs with the most significant growth were in Riverstone, and another three were in neighbouring electorates like Box Hill and Marsden Park.

Upon taking office in early 2023, I was confronted with the dire situation in our schools. Despite the rapid student enrollment growth, the former Government sold off multiple school sites in the electorate and replaced them with housing. Riverstone students were crammed into overcrowded classrooms, their playgrounds invaded by temporary structures,

and their teachers overburdened. This begs the question: How could such a massive planning failure have been allowed to persist?

The former government's handling of education in the Riverstone electorate can only be described as woeful. The pursuit of rapid housing development blindsided the students and families of Riverstone.

The Minns Labor government is working to bring public education back on track. Under Education Minister Prue Car's leadership, the NSW schooling system is receiving a historic boost in funding \$3.6 billion across the state.

A multitude of school upgrades, temporary schools and new fast-tracked schools, permanent teaching positions and teacher salary upgrades is just the first step to fixing the mess. Addressing the school infrastructure

crisis is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach.

The audit report suggests several actions that can be adopted to address the crisis. Custom school population projections, continually enhancing projection models, engagement with local stakeholders, developing strategic land provisioning strategies, active monitoring of schools in growth areas and short-term enrolment management strategies.

The findings of this report paint a clear image of how the state of schooling was left in when I came into office. I am proud to be a part of a government who values education the way it should be. All students deserve an equal standard of education – and the Minns Labor government is getting education back on track in Riverstone.



WARREN KIRBY MP
STATE MEMBER FOR RIVERSTONE

**Getting Education Back on
Track in the North West**

Bromeliad Society of Australia

The next meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Australia will be held at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill on Saturday, 5th October with sales to the public from 10am and the meeting commencing at 12 noon.

The guest speaker will be one of our dedicated committee member's Bob Sharpley who will discuss his trials and tribulations of installing a suitable watering system for bromeliads.

After too many plants were damaged by the heat because he wasn't home to water, he knew he needed to organise a watering system where his plants could water whenever he was away from home.

He researched watering systems and decided to go with a WiFi watering system which could be turned on or off as needed. Since using this system he hasn't lost or had any damaged plants due to excessive heat. He installed uv protected nylex tubing with several different misting tips every metre. The system can be preset to turn on up to 12 times a day or can be turned on manually.

There will be our usual 'Show, Tell and Ask' session and the very popular plant raffle.

For further details please contact Ian Hook, President BSA on mobile 0408 202 269, email ianhook1@bigpond.com or refer to www.bromeliad.org.au for the latest updates.



NSW Scout State Rally 2024

BY BRIGITTE ZAPLETAL, DURAL VENTURER SCOUT



In August, I had the great opportunity to go to the Scout State Rally in Cataract Scout Camp, at Appin. Despite the freezing temperatures, our patrol, hilariously nicknamed the Beautiful Bananas, had an amazing time, with some amazing bases and epic night activities. With over 2000 attendees, we made new friends, met old ones and created some unforgettable memories.

State Rally is an annual event that allows scouts to have more individuality and freedom over three wonderful days, while encouraging them to learn the importance of making the right decisions, being safe and careful while having fun in an open, rural environment.

The theme, Ready... Set... Adventure! was a fitting title for the State Rally, with some truly adventurous bases, including the Predator, Fair's Fair and the famous Caves, Flying Fox and Abseiling, bringing an adrenaline high to everyone who completed them. In particular, the Predator base involved teamwork and communication to successfully get a tag while not losing any lives to skillfully camouflaged and observant predators (aka Leaders) hidden throughout a small, bushy section of the enormous scout camp.

Afterwards, we had the choice to do some activities. We chose to do ring toss, go-carting and football archery. The famous Flying Fox was a great experience, going backwards to get a bit of a thrill. The second night was full of entertainment, with a large bonfire, carnival rides and a disco with an epic light show.

This annual event is one of the many highlights of being a scout and I highly encourage you to come and try it out.

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

Please contact Phirooza: 0411 731 976 or phirooza@bigpond.net.au or Simon: thewolf_1stdural@bigpond.com

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Baulkham Hills Hawks Swoop Off with Three Titles

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Baulkham Hills Hawks have much to celebrate after three of their four teams won their AFL grand finals recently.

The champions are the Under-11 Tarrant, Under-13 YG Glover and Under-15YG Mack teams. Under-12 Baker finished impressive runners-up in their grand final.

The Hawks Under-11 Tarrant defeated Camden JAF 42 (2 to 2 after being command throughout the grand final. Best on Ground was Sebastian Bush (Baulko Hawks).

Baulko Hawks Year 13 Glover outclassed North West Lightning Youth Girls 82 to 8, after leading 40-8 at half-time. Ana Sue Delana was named the Best on the Field.

In the Year 15 grand final, Baulko Mighty Macks overcame St Ives 23 to 4 despite being held scoreless in the first and third quarters.

Hawks president Kirsten Groll praised all four teams in the grand finals, saying the club was very proud of them. "Hold your heads up high, you have worked hard this year, and making the grand final is something to be proud of," she said.

For Hawks Under-11 coach Trent Sandercoe, it was an emotional day because the Hawks have been his childhood club and also his son's team.

"If you had asked us (assistant coach Casey Norrish) and I at the beginning of the season, with such a diverse group of kids (athletically and skill wise) that we would playing in a Division 1 Grand final, we would have said ... maybe," Trent said. "I was so proud of the way the team developed and played as a team throughout the season to make the grand final. Then on the day, the team played their best game both as a team and as individuals to bring it home.

"On a personal level it was pretty satisfying to help get my childhood club, and now my son's club, a premiership win."

The team was well led by Harvey Irvine, and vice-captain Sebastian Bush. The team managers were Rachael Smith and Joe Rizzuti.

Coach Grant Pittendrigh of the champion Year 13 Glover team, captained by Asher Ally, said their team spirit was exceptional and they were a "brilliant bunch of girls."

"The girls built their teamwork nicely throughout the year to give themselves another opportunity on grand final day," Grant said. "To produce the ultimate team display and turn that opportunity into a great moment that they will remember forever was awesome to see.

"The girls had three team words that they decided played by: strength, determination



TRENT SANDERCOE
the Under-11 coach in full cry

and communication." Darren Hardman was the assistant coach while the manager was Ben Caunt.

Rick Berville, the Year-15 coach, praised the hard work throughout the season. It was a double celebration for skipper Piper Lillia who completed 100 games.

"I am so proud of the girls they worked really hard to get to the GF, and their determination paid off," Rick said. "They played without subs every week and often without a full team.

"On the GF day, we had a few serious injuries, but the girls played on, and that just showed me how much these girls meant to each other and being a part of a well-bonded team. It was my privilege to work with the girls this season."

Darren Peebles was assistant coach while the managers were Merryn Lillia and Jen Murnane.

The Hawks Under-12 Bakers lost their grand final to Penrith 22-46, but coach Wes Komorowski could not have been prouder of his young charges.

"It was fantastic for the team to make their first grand final and for them to put up an amazing performance," said Wes. "To watch the boys improve so much through the year was very satisfying."

Hawks skipper Bernie Irvine was named Best on Field while Kris won the Sportsmanship Award. Daniel Irvine was the assistant coach.



Thompson's First Grand Slam Has a Great Ring To It

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

The Hill's biggest tennis export, Jordan Thompson, can now proudly display his first Grand Slam after partnering good mate Max Purcell to win the recent US Open doubles crown in New York.

"To be grand slam champions, it has a great ring to it, especially after what happened at Wimbledon," Thompson said. "It got a bit tense there at the end, with match points, but we stuck with it and we got there in the end."

The experienced duo saw off the challenge of the 10th seeded Germans Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), becoming the first all-Australian doubles team win the US Open after legends Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge in 1996. The new doubles champs shared a huge cheque for \$A1.15 million.

Thompson, an alumnus of Oakhill College, Castle Hill, is enjoying some of his best tennis at 30 years. He broke into the top 30 singles ranks for the first time after making the last 16 of the US Open singles, and is ranked seventh in doubles.

To top it off, Thompson is a key member of Australia's Davis Cup team which has stormed into the finals of the prestigious event.

Thompson and Purcell, the 2024 Paris Olympics doubles champ, are a terrific combination this year, also capturing ATP doubles titles in Houston, Los Cabos and Dallas.

The US Open win atoned for their heart-breaking loss in the doubles final at Wimbledon in July, when they were narrowly defeated by Great Britain's Henry Patten and Finland's Harri Heliövaara who saved three championship points.

At the US Open, Thompson and Purcell recovered from squandering two championship points at 5-3 in the second set to win the title.



Jordan Thompson and Max Purcell with their US Open doubles title. Picture Tennis Australia Facebook

Purcell said: "I guess the camaraderie of Australian players, we all kind of stick together, Thommo and I especially. That's a huge factor in why we win."

There was no time for Thompson to enjoy his Grand Slam breakthrough title, because he flew to Spain to join the Australian team competing in the Davis Cup in Valencia.

Australia, coached by tennis ace Leyton Hewitt, qualified for the Davis Cup finals to be staged in Malaga, Spain, from November 19-24.

Champion Hills Hornets girls and boys teams vie for national club honours

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

The successful Hills Hornets Under-18 girls and Under-14 boys are competing for national basketball honours after emerging premiers this season.

The confident girls are in Joondalup, WA, until September 22 competing at the first U18 Australian Club Championships. The boys will be gunning for honours thousands of kilometres away in Victoria, but both teams can be assured of great online support from their many fans in The Hills District.



Hornets Under-14 Boys Premiers

This prestigious event is a part of the inaugural HoopFest 2024 in WA, which brings together the professional men and women players from around the country, along with the best club juniors.

The Hornets girls are regarded as one of the top 40 Under-18 female teams in Australia and will relish the chance to have some bragging honours at the highest level.

"It is an incredible achievement to qualify, as our Hills Hornets make the top 40 teams in Australia," the Hills Basketball Association said. "The hard work of the team and their coach, Robert Meyrick has not gone unnoticed, and we can't wait to see how it pays off during the tournament."

Meanwhile, the talented Hornets boys are travelling to Victoria for the Under-14 Australian Club Championships in Casey, Victoria, from September 22-27. The Hills boys will come up against the leading young male basketball players from all the states, giving them the opportunity of bringing home more glory.

Last year, the Under-14 boys finished seventh overall at this competition and were ranked first in the NSW.



The Hills Hornets Under-18 girls are ready for national honours. Picture Courtesy Hills Hornets

"Our Hills Hornets U14 Boys Premier have qualified in the top 24 teams in the country, which is an incredible achievement in itself," the Hills Basketball Association said. "The team was extremely successful in their regular season and will be working hard to show what they've got on a national stage."

"We're excited to watch (head coach) Xander Papadopoulos and the team compete at the highest level."

"HoopFest is the first of its kind and is set to be the biggest and best weekend in the sport's history," NBL CEO David Stevenson said.

Scott putts for more dementia-friendly venues like Pennant Hills Golf Club

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

For people living with dementia, even little changes can go a long way. Take the example of golfer Scott Cooper, 67, who loves playing at Pennant Hills Golf Club. However, he found it hard to distinguish between the colour white on the club's balcony and spoke to the management about it.

The club quickly fixed it, leaving a delighted Scott to say: "There's a door on the balcony outside that had a white handle on it. White on white for somebody with my dementia can be difficult, so I mentioned it, and they changed it to a grey handle. I can easily navigate now."

Pennant Hills GC manager Barnaby Sumner said that one of their mottos is to deliver the little things. "Our team members are encouraged to get out from behind the counter and help whoever is in need of assistance," he said.

Scott, who has a golf handicap of 18, said all venues should be dementia-friendly: "It doesn't matter if it's a golf club, bowls club, restaurant or coffee shop, the more you can make the place more inclusive for people living with dementia, I think the world would be a better place."

Scott was diagnosed with dementia four years ago, but that hasn't stopped him from enjoying his golf. "I have been playing golf since 2014 and it helps me keep physically active and also socially connected to my friends and the community," said Scott, who played cricket and rugby in his younger days.

The retired grandfather of two also loves to snow ski when they visit their family in Canada.

"All sporting clubs need to be inclusive for people living with dementia because if club facilities were easy to navigate and the staff are trained to communicate, then all members of that club will benefit," Scott said.

Dementia Australia is using Dementia Action Week (September 16-22) to highlight

there are the many things people can do in their own communities to make them more "dementia-friendly, which helps to break down the stigma and discrimination."

"It is important that they are not left behind and we actively seek out their participation," Sumner said. "Members with dementia are included in club events and are encouraged to attend our social occasions. I know that Scott continues to enjoy these social moments and continues to engage with his fellow members."

"I am proud to say that our club allows those with dementia the ability to maintain their identity and provides a number of reasons for continuing to live an active everyday life."

"People living with dementia have the basic right to participate in all decisions which affect their lives and wellbeing. What would I say to other business owners who are looking to become more dementia-friendly is that it starts at the top. You need to create a culture of support, one that genuinely looks after people. My best tip is to set an example yourself."



Scott Cooper, left, said all sporting clubs need to be inclusive for people living with dementia.

Dural Country Club Rebranding

The Dural Country Club, which is one of the leading bowling venues in The Hills District, has been rebranded as Dural Club with an updated logo. The club is planning a grand re-opening on Sunday, September 29, with the slogan: To experience the new Dural Club.

"The bowlers as well as all the members are very excited as we have seen the gradual improvements over the last year," a Dural Bowling Club spokesman said. "We have now a great expectation of a more promising future at Dural Club."

Open Gender Pairs: The Open Gender Pairs Competition is currently taking place on Saturdays at the Dural Bowling Club. The last weekend in September will be a busy one for the bowlers with the final of the Open Gender Pairs on Saturday (September 28th), the reopening of Dural Club (29th), followed by Open Gender Triples Carnival (30th).

Anyone interested in playing bowls, please contact Robert on 0411 375 580.



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 Terrier
SEX: Female
AGE: 1 yr 5 mos
PRICE: \$49



Bouncy ROO is looking for a fun family to call her own. Staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter say Roo loves water and is very friendly and playful. They say Roo will need a home that has a yard that has tall, well secured fencing to keep her safe. Staff say that whilst Roo can be an active girl she is also well-behaved in the office and spends most of the day lounging around and sleeping. She especially loves lounging in the sun. Roo can sit when asked, takes her treats nicely and would love to have a family that gives her the attention she deserves. Her adoption price is just \$49 and includes the first vaccination, microchipping and lifetime registration. As Roo is already desexed she can leave the shelter with you.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.

AT A GLANCE

NAME: SASSY
BREED: Bull Terrier
SEX: Female
AGE: 1 yr 9 mos
PRICE: \$49

SASSY is a happy girl that is looking for a family which will offer her a home where she can get the love and attention she deserves. According to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter, Sassy is an active girl who will do well with someone that can give her daily walks and continue her training. If you have been looking for an active dog to join the family please come to the shelter any time during opening hours with your children and dog to meet her.

His adoption price is just \$49 which includes desexing, the first vaccination, microchipping and lifetime registration. *Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.*



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Baulkham Hills 9157 5557 | 472 Windsor Rd, Baulkham Hills

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For more information including terms and conditions visit our website



Pet Blessing Service

BY BEV JORDAN

Don't be surprised to see a gathering of creatures great and small at Wesley Uniting Church Castle Hill on Sunday, 29th September.

All pet owners are being invited to join the 9.30am morning service at Wesley on Showground Road with either their pet or photograph of their pet for the special annual service.

It will be the third Pet Blessing service at the church. Wesley Uniting Church Minister Rev Carmel Ieraci has held animal blessings in both in Australia and in the UK while serving as a Minister and says animal blessings are an important expression of the Christian faith.

The Blessing of the Animals is connected with the Season of Creation and the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, which honours animals.

This year Rev Carmel will be joined by Wesley's new Worship, Creative and Performing Arts Pastor, Abbey Sim who plans to bring her dog Lucy to the service.

Abbey said: "We want to be a church which puts into practice our value of the natural world, the environment and, of course, animals. For many people in the Hills community, pets form a valuable part of their families.

"Lucy has played a significant role in our family over the past 11 years. We are very grateful to have her and still have her with us at her age. Before Lucy we had two rescue cats

who lived until they were 19 - a black and white brother and sister named Quattro and Panda.

"Pets bring so much joy into our lives and can provide a real sense of companionship and love in increasingly busy and isolated lives."

Abbey, who has an Honours degree in zoological fiction, said: "I love interacting with and caring for animals as they remind me that life doesn't have to be quite so complicated."

Abbey has lived in the Hills her entire life and has joined Wesley Castle Hill from Leichhardt Uniting Church where she spent three years.

"I am energised by creativity as an expression of spirituality and community," she said.

All dogs, cats and small animals are welcome to the **Pet Blessing Service on Sunday, September 29th which starts at 9.30am.**



Pastor Abbey Sim (left) with Rev Carmel Ieraci and Lucy the family pet

If your pet is unable to be at church or you are worried about bringing them, bring a photo or soft toy. There is even the opportunity to come dressed as your pet.

All dogs must remain on leads and small animals in their appropriate carriers during the service, to ensure that people and pets remain safe and well throughout the service and their time at church.

Wesley Uniting Church is at 32 Showground Road Castle Hill. For more information visit the Wesley website at wesleycastlehill.org.au or call the office 9894 8999 which is open Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Pet Blessing



at Wesley Castle Hill Uniting Church

**32 Showground Road Castle Hill
Sunday 29th September during the 9.30am service**

Bring your animal for a special blessing by the minister

All dogs, cats and small animals are welcome. If your pet is unable, too shy or you are worried about bringing him or her please bring a photo, soft toy or come dressed as your pet.

Please Note that you as the owner are responsible for your animals at all times. Please consider the needs of each individual pet before bringing them along. All dogs must remain on leads and small animals in their appropriate carriers during the service.



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WHAT'S ON

IN THE HILLS TO HAWKESBURY



21
SEPT

Creating Canopies: Tree Planting and Natural Capital Workshop in Bilpin

by Greater Sydney Landcare

09:00 AM to 02:00 PM

Bilpin Springs Farm, 2570 Bells Line of Road Bilpin, NSW

Come along for a morning of tree planting at Bilpin Springs Farm. We're planting trees to help cool down Sydney and create valuable habitats for birds and other wildlife.

Green spaces aren't just great for wildlife, they're also associated with better physical health, lower stress levels, and greater community satisfaction. Plus they cool down our neighborhoods! Now's your chance to get involved with greening your community.

Before the planting, hear from Madeleine Florin, Natural Capital Advisor from Greater Sydney Local Land Services, and join our host and farmer, Ned Long, for a paddock walk.

Clarendon Classe

by Sydney Antique Machinery INC.

September 21-22, 2024

Hawkesbury Showground, Racecourse Rd, Clarendon NSW

Incorporating the Model and Hobby Show, the Kenworth Klassic Truck Show, and old double decker bus rides from/to Richmond Station. Entry for general public will be 9am-4pm Saturday & 8am-3pm Sunday. Strictly no alcohol. Dogs only allowed if on leashes. No fires! Daily entry for the public is just \$10/Adults and \$5/Child.

OBF Parade

by The Hills Shire Council

11:00 AM to 04:00 PM

Rouse Hill Town Centre, 10/14 Market Lane, Rouse Hill

The iconic OBF parade returns to Rouse Hill Town Centre, even bigger and better than last year.

With more community groups, performers and activations including:

- The Hills Council tent featuring Council Services, Information and Giveaways
- Stage with community entertainment
- Roving Performers
- Free entertainment including face painting and a potting workshop
- This year we will also include a sensory space in the Secret Garden.

22
SEPT

Grose View Public School – Spring Fair

by Grose View Public School

249 Grose Wold Road, Grose Wold, NSW

Spring Fair at Grose View Public School is a major fundraiser for the P&C to purchase much-needed sporting equipment for the kids and upgrade our playground area.

Penrith Dolls, Bears, Collectables Fair

10:00 AM to 03:00 PM

Nepean Creative & Performing Arts High School 115-119 Great Western Highway, Emu Plains.

The annual Penrith Dolls, Bears, Craft & Collectables fair will be held on 22nd September at Nepean CAPA High School. This is our farewell Fair after 30 years, so don't miss out, this is the last chance to get the bits you always meant to or pick up a bargain. There is a wide variety of dolls, from antique to reborn and everything in between, dollhouses and miniatures, hand made bears, toys and more. Pick up some pointers from the Nepean Embroiderers Guild or some interesting woodworks from the Nepean Men's Shed.

Come and enjoy a BBQ, sandwich or an awesome Devonshire Tea while raising much needed funds for Ovarian Cancer research and local Domestic violence victims. Ovarian cancer is the second biggest killer of women in Australia with a survival rate of only 49% and Domestic violence continues to be an issue in the community.

Entry: Adults \$7 Children over 5 \$2

20
SEPT

20th Birthday Storytime – Castle Hill Library

by The Hills Shire Library Service

10:30 to 11:00 AM

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant Street Castle Hill

Join us to celebrate our 20th birthday! Have fun with stories, songs and a fun craft activity.

Free | Bookings essential online | Suitable for preschoolers aged 2-5

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

All About Artist Greg Hansell

by Hawkesbury Library Service

02:00 to 04:00 PM

Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor, NSW

Historian Carol Roberts shares a sense of place and a passion of art and heritage with local artist Greg Hansell. Her extensive research brings a unique insight into the impact, and significance of his works, to Australian Art. FREE BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

Play Pickleball at The Centre

by The Centre

1 Pellitt Lane, Dural NSW

Pickleball is a racquet and ball sport played with a paddle and plastic wiffle ball. It's a mix of tactical shots, patience, and easy-to-learn strokes, suitable for all skill levels and ages. The game fosters an inclusive play environment without needing modifications for different demographics. It offers a blend of fun and challenges, with a combination of long rallies and a mix of soft and rapid-fire shots.

21
SEPT

Soroptimists International of The Hills Public Speaking Competition

by Soroptimist International of The Hills

12:00 AM to 04:00 PM

Glenhaven Community Centre, 76 Glenhaven Rd, Glenhaven

This event is aimed at High School students and often hosts to up to 50 students in the competition broken into 3 different sections.

This event provides an avenue for students to practise public speaking and the opportunity to receive valuable feedback from professional speakers who judge each section.

High schools from the Hills Shire participate in this event and community members are also invited.

Great Southern BioBlitz & Bushcare

by Greater Sydney Landcare

09:00 AM to 02:00 PM | Swallow Reach Place Ebenezer, NSW

Join Wildventure Landcare for the Great Southern BioBlitz at the stunning Charles Kemp Reserve in Ebenezer, located in the picturesque Hawkesbury region. This event is a unique opportunity to take part in a bioblitz, where we'll be listing all species present in this remote and beautiful reserve. Charles Kemp Reserve is home to one of the last remnant patches of the critically endangered Western Sydney Dry Rainforest, making this event both exciting and vital for conservation efforts.

The Vineyard – Grand Opening

by The Vineyard

725 Windsor Road Vineyard NSW

Join us for the grand opening of our Beer Garden, Live Music Lawn, and Tommy's Cafe on Saturday, September 21st. Event Schedule: 6 am: Free coffee at Tommy's Cafe for the first 100 people; 12 pm-2 pm: Pony Rides and Petting Zoo; 1 pm-3 pm: Meet Elsa; 12 pm: Live music until late.

**26
SEPT****Learning For Life – Forest Therapy and Nature Wellness***by The Hills Shire Library Service*

06:00 PM to 07:30 PM

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant St Castle Hill, NSW

Life can get busy but spending quiet time in nature can help support your wellbeing. Join us during Library Health Month as we present a talk on Forest Therapy and Nature Wellness. You will learn ways to deepen connection and care for nature, learn about the numerous health benefits and build an understanding of the dynamics of seasons.

Presented in collaboration with The Hills Shire Council's Environment Centre. Free | Bookings essential online | Suitable for Adults

**29
SEPT****OBF Taste of Wisemans***by The Hills Shire Council*

10:00 AM to 03:00 PM

Wisemans Ferry Park, 5602 Old Northern Rd, Wisemans Ferry

A Taste of Wisemans celebrates the best food, wine and produce from local businesses in the rural north of the Shire and along the Hawkesbury River.

This new event will be a foodie's heaven, with local producers, wineries, distilleries, seafood merchants and food vendors offering an outstanding array of choices within the stunning surroundings of Wisemans Ferry Park.

Great Concerts of Great Classical Symphonies*by Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra*

07:30 PM to 09:30 PM

Pioneer Theatre, 14 Pennant St, Castle Hill, 2154

Directed by Dr Brian Chatpo Koo and with about 50 musicians, the Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra will host a symphony concert that will feature two great classical symphonies – Symphony No.8 by Franz Schubert & Symphony No.5 by L. V Beethoven.

**30
SEPT****Hills Community Aid – Family Fun Day & Open Day***by Hills Community Aid*

10:00 AM to 01:00 PM

Balcombe Heights Estate, 92 Seven Hills Rd, Baulkham Hills

Activities and fun for everyone – arts and crafts, jumping castle, stall & service displays.

**30
SEPT****An Evening with Chris Hammer***by The Hills Shire Library Service*

06:30 PM to 07:30 PM

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant St Castle Hill, NSW

Join bestselling author Chris Hammer as he discusses his riveting new thriller *The Valley*. His first book, *Scrublands*, was an instant bestseller and winner of the prestigious UK Crime Writers Association's New Blood dagger.

The television adaptation is currently screening worldwide. Before turning to fiction, Chris was a journalist for more than thirty years. He now writes full time with his books becoming known for their atmospheric Australian settings.

Chris will be in conversation with Dinuka McKenzie, author of the Detective Kate Miles crime series, *The Torrent*, *Taken* and *Tipping Point*.

Cost | \$10.00 PP | Bookings essential online | Suitable for Adults

**01
OCT****Little Red in The Hood***by Castle Hill RSL Club*

11:00 AM | 77 Castle St, Castle Hill NSW

Little Red is a modern-day super-hero who loves her neighborhood and is always on the lookout for litterbugs. However, trouble arises when Walter, The Big Bad Wolf, threatens her Granny and her awesome chocolate cake. Will Little Red save the day?

**FREE AND AFFORDABLE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FROM POWERHOUSE**

Spring school holidays are just around the corner and Powerhouse has kids and families covered with an expansive program of free and affordable creative activities from **28 September–13 October**.

On Saturdays and Sundays at **Powerhouse Castle Hill**, children aged 5+ are invited to come along to a series of free, engaging artist-led experiences and workshops that will prompt young creatives to design objects using upcycled materials. Highlights include colourful furniture design workshops with multidisciplinary designer **Rachel Vosila**, a drop-in communal art-making workshop using fabric and paper with Kfarsghabi Lebanese artist **Nicole Barakat** and a sensory clay workshop with Sydney-based ceramic artist **Sebastian Conti**.

Tech-savvy kids will have opportunities to problem-solve, create and collaborate in immersive digital spaces when popular **Minecraft** and **mBot** coding workshops return to Powerhouse Castle Hill in October. These sessions start from \$25 and are suited to children aged 8+.

Powerhouse and **TAFE NSW** will present a new series of **Creative Studio** workshops for Western Sydney high school students at **PHIVE Parramatta**. The spring school holiday program will focus on videogame creation and engineering, inviting students to develop creative skills in collaboration with leading Sydney creatives, scientists and educators.

From **2–4 October** and **9–11 October**, aspiring engineers can join experts from **Western Sydney University** and **Lendlease** to learn how to visualise solutions to daily engineering challenges, inspired by some of the world's most impressive structures. This Creative Workshop is supported by the **Tyree Foundation**.

From **30 September–2 October**, **Awesome Black** Founder and Gamilaroi and Dharug artist **Travis De Vries** will use gameplay as a creative tool to guide the next generation of video game developers.

From **8–10 October**, **Big Sand** creative director **Sally Coleman** will lead a three-day motion capture workshop using Unreal Engine, a popular 3D platform used to create iconic games including *Fortnite* and *Ginger and the Vegesaur*.

To view the full school holiday program visit <https://ph.au/3AX3vIQ>

**03
OCT****Spooky Zombie Illustration Workshop with Comic Artist Marcelo Baez! (K-2)***by The Hills Shire Library Service*October 03, 2024, 10:00 AM to October 06, 2024, 11:00 AM
Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant St Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Join us for an exciting and spooky adventure at the library during the school holidays! Illustrator Marcelo Baez will lead a thrilling **Zombie and Spooky Skulls** workshop where kids can unleash their creativity and dive into the world of eerie illustrations.

Marcelo is an experienced illustrator and has even illustrated Anh Do's books! He will guide participants through the process of creating their very own spooky skulls and monster or zombie characters.

Cost | \$17.00 PP | Bookings essential online | Suitable for children in school years K-2

This event is for children only. Parents/carers are required to stay on library premises throughout the event. This event is fully supervised by library staff.

THE RETAILING HORDERNS



After the Pulsford family home was converted to Hordern Bros. hardware and paint department

The Hordern family once controlled the largest Department Store in the World. The store Anthony Hordern & Sons built on a small hill in the Southern part of the Sydney CBD known as Brickfield Hill covered an area of 52 acres (27 hectares).

The company was founded by Anthony and Ann Hordern in 1823 from a small bonnet and corset shop in King Street, Sydney with a saddlery located at the rear. The business eventually grew into a department store located in George St Haymarket. With a growing family most of whom went into the retail trade, some starting their own retail businesses of which at one time amounted to six stores operated by members of the Hordern family. Eventually many were merged into the one company of Anthony Hordern & Sons. In 1926 the site of Anthony Hordern & Sons was sold to a public company of the same name with the family having only one store of Hordern Brothers in Pitt St. Sydney. The public company of Anthony Hordern & Sons was sold to Waltons Ltd. in 1970. The Brickfield Hill store closed in 1973 and is now the site of World Square. The Hordern name is remembered as part of the World Square site was named Hordern Tower.

In 1962 two brothers, Hunter and Ross Hordern, fifth generation descendants of Anthony and Ann Hordern, decided to look

around for another retail business and settled on a company based in Windsor named M H Pulsford & Co. which operated a department store on the corner of George & Fitzgerald Sts which promoted themselves as the Friendly Corner Store. The brothers renamed the Windsor store as H & R Hordern – Value Department Store. Maurice Pulsford had operated the store at the site since 1935 prior to that the original Pulsford store was located next to the old Post Office (now the site of the Post Office Arcade) later in 1910 Pulsford acquired the adjoining William Beard's Ironmongery before moving the business to the George & Fitzgerald Sts. site in January 1920.

A feature of a number of early department stores was a "cash railway" or "cash carrier" and such a system was in use at Windsor during both Pulsford's and Hordern's times and both customers and staff had to be careful not to be struck by the wooden cash cup which carried the customer's cash to the cashier and the change and receipt back to the sales desk for the sales assistant to hand to the customer.

Goods were delivered to outlying customers at Wisemans Ferry, Ebenezer and other locations by the use of buses going to those areas.

The store sold everything from foundation garments (underwear) to hardware and has also sold guns, ammunition and explosives such as gelignite.

Hunter Hordern speaking to a journalist back in 1998 said "We keep the old philosophy of good value and good service" Hunter went on to say "I think that Windsor is a wonderful town for trading. The Windsor people are loyal to the local traders in the town and we have enjoyed giving them the best service possible."

When brothers Hunter and Ross Hordern decided to retire towards the end of the 20th century they sold the business in three lots. The Hardware section was sold in 1996, ladies wear in 1998 and finally menswear in 1999. Several of the fittings and fixtures were donated at around the turn of the century to the Hawkesbury Historical Society and formed the basis of the museum's 2013 exhibition.

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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.



M H Pulsford & Co. Ladies
& Haberdashery 1950



Hordern Bros. 1965

All photos courtesy of
Hawkesbury Library Service &
Hawkesbury Historical Society



Pulsford Family Home

2nd Castle Hill Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

Annangrove Environment Centre

02 9654 3571 (Thurs) | 02 9843 0533 (Wed-Fri)
ngolan@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 Probud

Meets 1st Thurs each month 1.30pm Baulkham Hills Sports Club, 11 Renown Rd Visitors welcome. Activities every Thurs.
Peter | 0407 013 411
probud56830@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
9899 3179 (ans. machine)
www.castlehillartsociety.org.au

Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.,

Over 55's welcome to 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 Probud Club of Cherrybrook

A mixed gender club of 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. Become proficient in the many facets of computing..
Colin Wright | 0479 137 131 | cphills.org.au

Cumberland Bird Observers Club

Conducts 3 outings a month to observe birds in their natural environment. Meetings 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 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

Monthly meeting every 2nd Tues at the CWA Hall, 2 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst (off Angus Road) from 10am. Also Craft mornings for members on 1st and 3rd Tues 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 Ave Toongabbie from 10am. Craft mornings for members 1st and 3rd Tues of the month from 10-12.
ToongabbieCWA@gmail.com

Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Grp

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

Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498 | www.duralmensshed.org

East Kurrajong School of Arts

1st Tues each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity, pencil's or brushes to practice your drawing or painting with Ruth. 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 Probud 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@mellowwrest.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 Probud 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 Historical Society Inc.

Meets at 7pm 4th Mon of each month. Museum located at Building 10, Balcombe Heights Estate, 92 Seven Hills Rd, Baulkham Hills and opens on the 1st and 3rd Sat of each month 12.00pm to 4pm. Volunteers welcome.
Secretary Pam Wilson | 0474 204 080
pam.wilson52@gmail.com

Hills District Women's Bowling Club

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

Hills Harmony Chorus

Barbershop style 4 part harmony All Singers welcome 7:30pm @ Kellyville Anglican Church, 45 Presidents Rd. Kellyville.
info@hillsharmony.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
HillsOMNI1@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. We have members 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 Probud 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.
macquariatownsgardenclub.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

Meetings 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 Probud Club

John | 9487 1385

Pennant Hills Combined Probud Club

Meets at Hotel Pennant Hills every 3rd Monday of the month at 10am.
Lorene | 0429 396594

Pennant Hills VIEW Club

New time of 10.30am for 11.00am start at Baulkham Hills Sports Club on the 2nd Tues of each month. A guest speaker will be featured each month. 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 Probud 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

Probud 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

Probud Club of Round Corner (Dural)

Julie; PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

Probud 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

Probud 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

Probud Club – Glenorie

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

Probud 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

Probud Combined Castle Hill Club

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

Probud Club Kellyville Combined

Meets 2nd Monday of the month from 10am-12pm at Glenhaven Community Centre, 76 Glenhaven Road, Glenhaven (next door to public school and adjoining the park).

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@siheap.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 | sithehills@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 | airsdydneyhills@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.
John | 0423167467
www.bushwalkingsw.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 Probud Club

Meet first Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Windsor RSL club 36 Argyle St. South Windsor
Ann | 041 4298945 or Elaine | 0428844461
windsorprobud2756@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

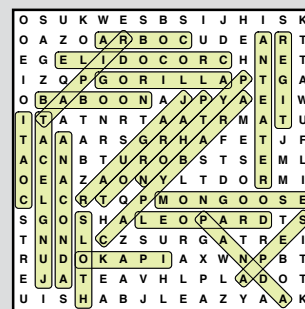
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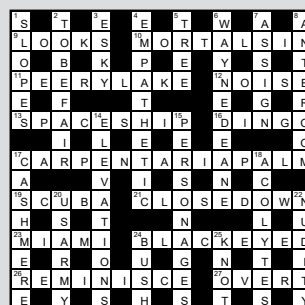
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Answers from last issue

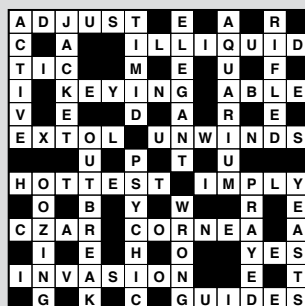
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CROSSWORD



CODE WORD



SUDOKU 1

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

SUDOKU 2

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

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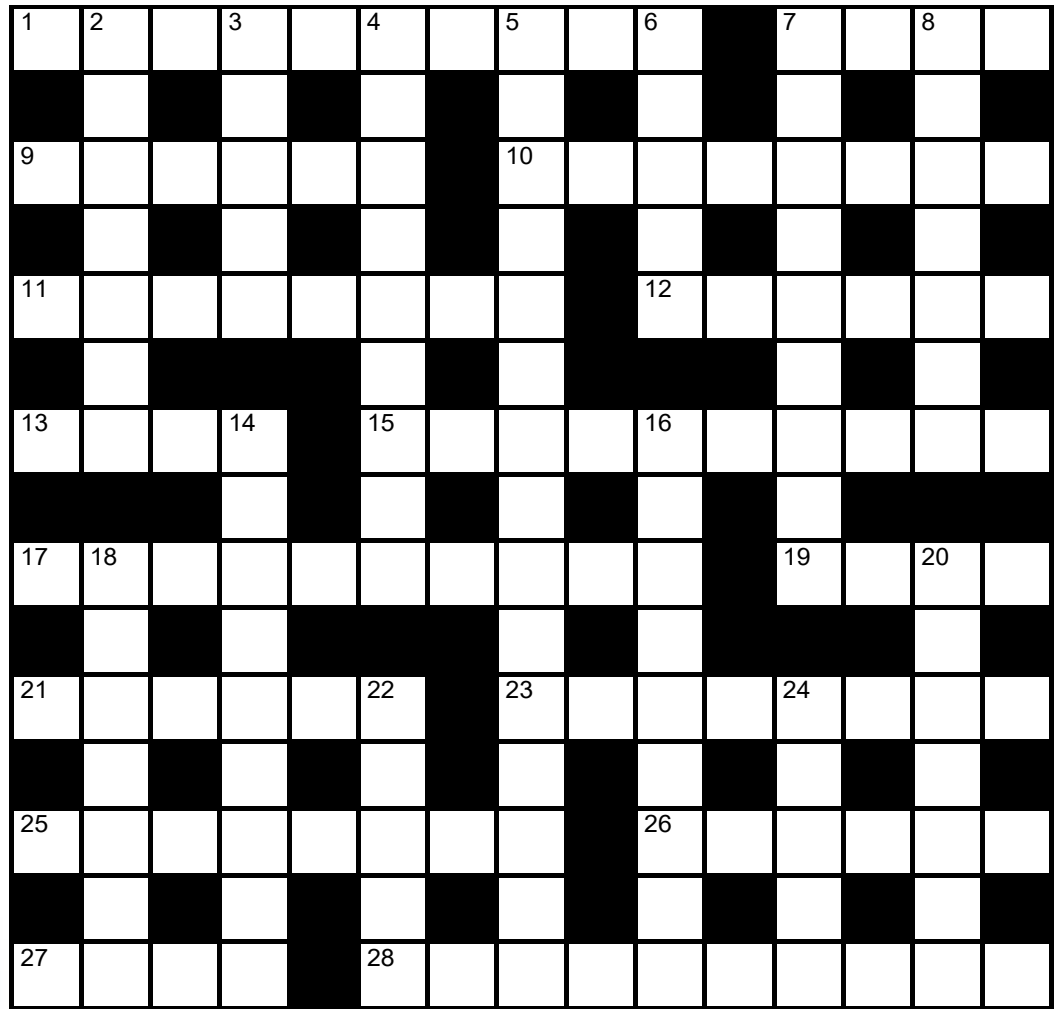
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Across

1. Like rings on a target
7. Allegedly factual TV programme
9. Ramble
10. Having considerable worth
11. Shirley Temple or Manhattan, maybe
12. Outback horror
13. Swamp menace
15. Pesky
17. Generally useful
19. Small blemish
21. Croatian capital
23. One way to order a meal
25. Huge fins adjusted for Chinese space system
26. Stand for hot dishes
27. Body of soldiers
28. Chaotic

Down

2. Alfresco
3. Its produce can be poached
4. It's plain short of trees
5. Stirrers unveil oratories, stirring things up
6. Big star
7. Doctor's news
8. Bone-building element
14. Author's protection
16. Eternally
18. Stet
20. Breakfast dish
22. Get taken
24. She meets a smoking caterpillar

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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

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

SUDOKU

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

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

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