

Hills to Hawkesbury

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Community News

5th – 19th April 2024 | Volume 41 – Issue 07

Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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

Why Advertise with Hills to Hawkesbury

Having our news published on different platforms means we are consistently increasing our website traffic month on month. Last month 46,000 readers visited our website, So if you are thinking of advertising with us, your ads will be seen by up to 46,000 users per month. We also send our weekly newsletter to over 6000 subscribers. In March our website was shown in search results to 706,000 potential new readers, who clicked through to our website 16,200 times.

Performance on Search results

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

Total clicks

16.2K

Total impressions

706K

Name Change

The Geographical Names Board (GNB) is seeking community feedback on a proposal by The Hills Shire Council to name a reserve in the locality of North Kellyville as Kiliyurra Reserve.

The reserve is located on the corner of Withers Road and Hezlett Road and is known locally as Withers Road Reserve, however this name has not been officially assigned.

The name Kiliyurra (pronounced *Kil-ee-yor-rah*) is a Dharug word for the turpentine tree which is one of the dominant species on the reserve.

The proposed name acknowledges the local Aboriginal people's connection to this part of the North Kellyville area.

Withers Road reserve was officially opened in August 2023 and The Hills Shire Council proposed the name change in December after it received significant support from Muru Mittigar, a local indigenous social enterprise group, as well as Dharug elders with strong connections to The Hills Shire.

"The use of the Dharug language on Dharug Country is a significant act of cultural preservation and identity for the Dharug people," a spokesperson from Muru Mittigar said.

"It represents a deep connection to their heritage and a commitment to maintaining linguistic diversity. This practice not only honours their ancestors but also enriches the Australian cultural fabric, ensuring the

Dharug language continues to thrive for future generations."

NSW Surveyor-General Narelle Underwood said: "Names are not just labels; they tell the stories of their community, and it is important that they reflect the character and history of the local area. Community consultation on the proposed names is an important step to make sure everyone has an opportunity to provide their feedback and ensures that each voice has a chance to contribute."

Details of the proposal can be viewed and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board's <https://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au>

Alternatively, written submissions may be mailed to the Secretary, Geographical Names Board, 346 Panorama Ave, Bathurst, NSW 2795.

The closing date for submissions is 4th May 2024. This park includes a playground protected by a shade sail, a basketball half court, walking and bike pathways. The park is home to 300 trees, winding sandstone steps, and a picnic shelter.

The Geographic Names Board is seeking feedback to gauge community sentiment for the proposed name. Suggestions for alternative names are not being sought at this time.

Hills to Hawkesbury

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

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.

Box Hill Latest

BY BEV JORDAN

A section of Terry Road, between Monmouth and Hedgewood Drive, Box Hill has been closed for possibly the rest of the year as major works begin on raising the road's surface to prevent further flooding at the culvert crossing.

The road was closed on Tuesday 2nd April. Works will be carried out from Monday to Saturday between 7am and 5pm for a period of 6 to 9 months.

During this time, a detour will be provided for light vehicles and buses via Brindle Parkway, and for heavy vehicles via Mason Road and Old Pitt Town Road.

General Manager of The Hills Shire Council Michael Edgar said this upgrade was necessary after years of road closures on this troublesome stretch of road.

"Over the past six years, Terry Road has been closed twelve times due to flooding," Mr Edgar said. "We understand that this closure will be frustrating, however the ongoing works will make the road safer and significantly reduce the risk of vehicles getting stuck in floodwaters.

"The upgrade will also equip Terry Road to support our expanding Box Hill community and the growing number of people using this road, as well as the traffic expected from users of Brindle Parkway Reserve once it has been constructed. We ask residents and commuters

to drive to the conditions of the road closure and thank them for their patience."

During the closure, detours will be in place for light and heavy vehicles. Light vehicles and buses will be detoured via Brindle Parkway and heavy vehicles will be detoured via Mason Road and Old Pitt Town Road. The construction progress is highly dependent on wet weather, as this work is being carried out in an area already prone to flooding. Heavy rain is predicted for the next few days.

There are several major road projects currently under way in the Box Hill area. Design work for the \$75.5million upgrade of Boundary Road by The Hills and Hawkesbury Councils is also now underway. When completed Boundary Rd will be widened to four lanes between Windsor Road and Old Pitt Town Road.

There will be Boundary Road bridge over the Killarney Chain of Ponds, traffic signals at the intersection of Boundary Road, Commercial Road and Brocklebank Street, a roundabout at the intersection of Boundary Road, Harkness Road and Brahman Road, traffic signals at the

intersection of Boundary Road, Menin Road and George Street and traffic signals at the intersection of Boundary Road and Old Pitt Town Road.

Hills Shire Council is currently upgrading the intersection of Fontana Drive, Terry Road and Old Pitt Town Road, Box Hill to a signalised intersection.

The works, which are due for completion in March 2025, will result in:

- new traffic lights,
- widening of Old Pitt Town Road,
- a 60m right turn lane on Fontana Drive,
- shoulder pavement
- safety barriers on both sides of Old Pitt Town Road
- new footpaths, street lighting and landscaping.

Works to upgrade the intersection of Edwards and Annangrove Road, Box Hill / Rouse Hill are also due for completion in March 2025 and will include a roundabout.

For more information and project updates, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and look up the project's name.



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FINES FOR NOISY CAR

A suspended P-plate driver has been fined for vehicle modifications by police who stopped him on Windsor Rd, Northmead in the early hours of Monday morning 25th March. A week later police caught him again.

On the first occasion General Duties Police attached to The Hills Police Command were conducting patrols along Windsor Road, Northmead when they observed a grey coloured Toyota Hilux ute at around 1.35am on March 25th travelling in a northerly direction.

Police activated their warning devices and followed the vehicle which was stopped for a random breath test and vehicle roadworthiness compliance checks. The driver produced a suspended P1 driver's license which was suspended in relation to Demerit Point exhaustion.

The driver was issued a Field Court Attendance notice for: Drive Motor Vehicle While Licence Suspended - 1st Offence.

He was also issued a defect notice for a range of major vehicle modifications without

a compliance certificate and the following infringement notices:

1. Use modified vehicle on road without compliance Certificate - \$987
2. Use light vehicle not comply emission/silencer/noise standard - \$215
3. Use light vehicle not comply with tail lights standard - \$129
4. Use light vehicle not comply with tyres standard - \$129

On Monday, April 1st (no joke) at about 12am police were conducting patrols in Northmead when they noticed the same Toyota Hilux travelling along Windsor Road.

Police recognised the driver to be the same P1 suspended driver they dealt with last week for drive while suspended and multiple vehicle defects. The driver was issued another Field Court Attendance Notice for: Drive Motor Vehicle While License Suspended.

No faults listed on the previous defect notice had been rectified. The driver was issued



Impounded vehicle Photo from The Hills Police Facebook page

a 'Major Grounded' defect notice and the following infringement notices:

1. Use light vehicle not comply frontal protection system standard - \$215
2. Use light vehicle not comply with standard - other - \$129

Police are reminding vehicle owners that fishing rod holders are NOT permitted to be fitted to the bulbar. For vehicles manufactured on or after 1 July 1988, ADR 42/... prohibits external or internal protrusions that are not technically essential and are likely to increase the risk of bodily injury to any person.

SPEEDSTERS STOPPED

A Baulkham Hills man is to face court on several offences after police allegedly detected him driving at over 200km/h in North Rocks.

Officers attached to Parramatta Traffic and Highway Patrol were performing speed enforcement duties on the M2 at North Rocks when they detected a Lexus travelling at 203km/h in a signposted 100km/h zone at about 1am on Sunday, 31st March.

The 38-year-old driver was subjected to a roadside breath test, returning a positive result. He was arrested and taken to The Hills Police Station where a secondary breath analysis returned an alleged reading of 0.089.

An oral fluid test also returned a positive result for cocaine. He was issued a court attendance notice for mid-range PCA and drive with illicit drug.

He is due before Parramatta Local Court on Thursday 16th May. He was also issued an infringement for exceed speed limit more than 45 km/h and his licence was suspended. Hawkesbury Highway Patrol have stopped three drivers for excessive speeds recently.

On Friday 22nd March, at about 5pm, a male driver was detected travelling along Wisemans Ferry Road, South Maroota at a speed of 136km/h in a 80km/h zone. Later that evening a male P2 driver was detected travelling along Springwood Road, Agnes Banks at a speed of 133km/h in a marked 60km/h zone on Friday 22nd March at about 11pm. At about 8pm on Thursday 21st March a male driver was detected travelling along Boundary Road, Oakville at a speed of 130km/h in a 80km/h zone. The driver also returned a positive roadside breath test.

HOME INTRUDERS

Officers from The Hills Police Area Command have commenced an investigation following a report of an aggravated break and enter at Pennant Hills.

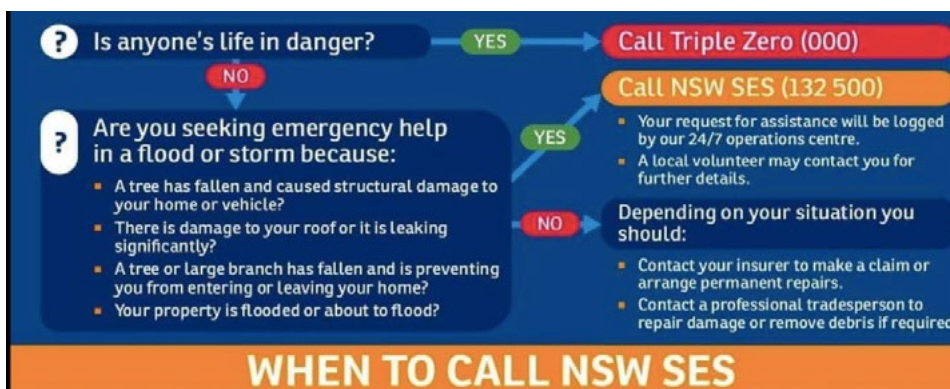
Police have been told that about 12.30am on Sunday 17th March, the residents of a house in Swan Place, Pennant Hills were asleep when two males, one described as wearing a dark coloured hoodie, the other wearing a light-coloured hoodie and a balaclava, gained entry to the house.

The resident reported the incident after reviewing footage from inside the house.

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.

FLOOD WARNINGS

Hawkesbury City Council has created a one-stop resource for all things disaster and emergency related. The single source of information will provide people with the necessary details to be prepared, informed and ready. Visit <https://disaster.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/>



DRIVER SUSPENDED

Officers from The Hills Highway Patrol suspend a 26-year-old male from Kellyville for travelling 65 km/hr over the sign posted speed limit.

Police were conducting mobile speed enforcement along Windsor Road, Kellyville when they detected a blue BMW M3 travelling at 125 km/hr in a sign posted 60 km/hr zone at about 8pm on Friday, 22nd of March. The driver returned a negative roadside breath test however the roadside drug test was positive to Cannabis. He was conveyed to Castle Hill Police Station where the secondary drug test also returned positive to Cannabis.

He was issued an infringement notice for Exceed Speed Limit - over 45 kph, his NSW driver's licence was suspended and confiscated for a period of 6 months. The vehicle was owned by a company, the number plates were seized and confiscated for 3 months.



Hills Community Aid's New Bus 'Rosa'

BY JOSH KERWICK

After 22 years of service from their old wheels, Hills Community Aid launched their new bus on Wednesday March 27th with a huge turnout from the local community.

The new Mitsubishi bus, already affectionately known as 'Rosa' by members of HCA, was purchased by the group through \$50,000 given by the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership grant program and a \$30,000 allocation from the Hills Shire Council. The remaining \$30,000 was raised by Hills Community Aid.

Mici Beer, Executive Officer of Hills Community, led the ceremony and shared her excitement at seeing the brand new

bus available to support the community: "Everybody's very excited about our new bus, and we're looking forward to continuing our mission of serving the needs of our community and fostering a sense of belonging while creating memorable experiences."

Rosa has a significant amount of benefits over the old HCA bus, including additional seats, air conditioning for all seats on the bus, an automatic transmission system and a navigation system; a feature which the volunteer drivers are very excited about. Rosa is expected to be in operation six days a week and transport around 20,000 people per year.

Mici told Hills to Hawkesbury Community News about the journey to securing the bus for HCA, which she described as a 'mission': "We were very fortunate to receive the funding from the NSW Government and Hills Shire Council, and with \$110,000 in our pocket we went looking for a bus."

"And though it took us eight months and a lot of learning about buses, we found the perfect vehicle for us. We found a bus that didn't have a lot of kilometres on it and hadn't been involved in any accidents. And now today, we have our Rosa!"

Hills Shire Mayor Peter Gangemi was present at the launch of the bus, commenting on why Council believes it's important to allocate funding to groups like HCA. He said: "It's a real team effort for a project like this. What I particularly love about this project is that we often get grant requests for incredibly worthy events and activities, but this is a great piece of hardware that will serve the community for 10 or 15 years."

"It's an incredible investment to keep the community more connected and to build more memories. I'm personally very excited - we're looking forward to seeing the team transporting our community members to locations within The Hills and beyond."

Rosa's maiden voyage was on Tuesday April 2nd, taking members of the community to Fagan Park. Other planned trips include visits to Katoomba, the Central Coast, Wollongong and the Tulip Festival in Canberra.

* The Hills Community Aid Family Fun Day is also happening on Wednesday April 17th.



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Years Worth Celebrating

BY BEV JORDAN

Over 80 years ago Bruce Robertson was posted to RAAF Base Richmond in June 1942 to join the newly formed 30 Squadron as a wireless operator.

Last week he was the special guest at a big birthday bash at the base on March 27th to celebrate the Royal Australian Air Force's 103rd birthday with Air Commodore Bradley Clarke and invited guests.

Bruce, who lives in West Pennant Hills is a tad older than the RAAF as he has just turned 104 years old. As President of No 30 Squadron Beaufighter Association he was asked to cut the special RAAF cake with the youngest serving member on the base, Aircraftwoman Danielle Woolard (pictured).

Castle Hill RSL Sub-branch President Cheryl Hill said the reception was held at the Sergeants Mess.

"It was a lovely evening with an ensemble from the Air Force Band providing music for the evening, Bruce was disappointed that no one was dancing. He did a jig on his own."

Bruce joined the Scottish Regiment in 1937 and was in the militia and was working in radio

sales and radio repairs in Angel Place Sydney at the time.

In an interview with the *Hills to Hawkesbury Community News* a few years ago at the age of 102 Bruce said: "I had radio training so that led me to be a Wireless Operator."

One night, during training in Sydney, while helping to monitor wireless communications he picked up Morse code he couldn't transcribe.

"I heard some strange signals in my headset and called the Signals Officer over. He got onto the Direction Finding stations and got a fix; they confirmed my original suspicion that it was a Japanese transmission in Kani Code."



PHOTOS courtesy Department of Defence

When he volunteered to fight in World War 2 Bruce decided to enlist in the RAAF rather than in the Army because he had fallen in love with airplanes as an 8-year-old when he met aviator Charles Kingsford Smith after his trans-Pacific flight.

During the war he was posted to the newly-formed 30 Squadron based at RAAF Richmond and then headed to New Guinea for two years, where the Beaufighters were involved in Kokoda, Milne Bay and the Battle of Bismarck Sea.

Proposed Road Disposal Section 152D Roads Act 1993

In accordance with section 152D of the *Roads Act 1993*, notice is hereby given of the proposed sale of the Crown public roads listed in Schedule 1. If a sale proceeds, the road(s) will cease to be a public road upon transfer of the road to freehold land in accordance with section 152H of the Act.

Schedule 1:

- Crown roads at Kurrajong, adjoining property at 917 Comleroy Road. (File Ref: 13/10908, Cluster: 644499)

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure—Crown Lands, PO Box 2215, DANGAR NSW 2309 within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of this advertisement.

Any person is entitled to make submissions with respect to the sale or disposal of the road. Please note that submissions may be referred to third parties (such as council or the applicant) for consideration in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

For the Manager, Business Centre Newcastle

For further enquiries please visit the website roads.crownland.nsw.gov.au or contact Margaret Attwater by email at Margaret.Attwater@crownland.nsw.gov.au or on (02) 6640 3935 quoting file references above.

Clean Up with an Aussie!

The range, starting with the 3,000 psi Aussie AB30 "Pocket Rocket" offers models all the way to 7,000psi (500 bar). Available in both Honda petrol or Yanmar diesel drive, these industrial machines are robust, mobile, and easy to use.

The heavy duty range of gearbox drive pressure cleaners are designed for continuous use. Called the Aussie Scud, the machines are a breakthrough in design.

They offer a unique ergonomic, stainless steel frame with four 13" steel wheels and big flat free tyres. This means the machines are easy to move around and, there are models available to suit virtually every application. The heart of the system is a "Big Berty" Bertolini pump, running at 1450 rpm. They are designed for a long and trouble-free life.

A wide range of attachments make clean up faster and more efficient. Extension wands for hard to reach areas, flat surface cleaners and even turbo lances all help to cut cleaning times.

"We always talk to users to get feedback as part of the design process" said Aussie Pump's Chief Engineer, John Hales. "The engineering and design team always want to know what the user thinks because after all, they have more experience on the job."

Aussie Pumps' new production facility line is now up and running in Norwest with the latest pressure cleaners and Jetters running off the line!

Aussie Pumps top range of Pressure Cleaners and Jetters are available from IPCS at Seven Hills, you can contact them on 9674 9088 or aussiepumps.com.au.



Lexi Hope & Mitchell Fallout from IPCS Seven Hills with Aussie's Pressure Cleaners

PROTECT YOUR HEARING: Understanding Industrial Deafness and How to Prevent It

As we commemorate World Day for Safety and Health at Work on the 28th of April, it's crucial to address a significant occupational hazard: industrial deafness. This condition, also known as "noise-induced hearing loss", poses a considerable risk to individuals exposed to loud environments, especially those born between 1940 and 1960. At highest risk are boilermakers, plumbers, rail-workers, metalworkers, builders, machine operators, miners, panel beaters as well as vehicle and aircraft mechanics. At Ear Studio, we encounter cases of industrial deafness frequently, and we're committed to raising awareness and providing guidance on prevention and assistance.

Understanding Industrial Deafness:

Industrial deafness results from prolonged exposure to loud noises, causing damage to the delicate structures of the inner ear. Once hearing is damaged, it often cannot be restored. Symptoms may include difficulty hearing conversations, ringing in the ears (tinnitus), and sensitivity to loud sounds.

Preventing Industrial Deafness:

Prevention is key to safeguarding your hearing. Here are some practical steps you can take to minimise the risk of industrial deafness:

- 1. Avoid Noise Exposure:** Whenever possible, stay away from noisy environments. If you're concerned about noise levels in your workplace, consult with your occupational health and safety officer.
- 2. Wear Hearing Protection:** When exposed to loud noise, use personal hearing protection such as earplugs, earmuffs, or both. This is crucial in environments like concerts, motor

racing events, and workplaces with high noise levels.

- 3. Limit Exposure Time:** Be mindful of the duration and intensity of noise exposure. Remember, even everyday equipment like lawnmowers and power tools can be damaging to your ears.

Understanding Noise Levels:

It's essential to understand how noise levels can impact your hearing health. Sound is measured on the decibel scale, think of it like a "ruler for sound", which measures sound intensity. It's important to understand that even small changes in decibel levels, represent significant differences in the power of sound and therefore the effect on your ears. Here's a glimpse into the relationship between noise levels and exposure time:

- Everyday sounds - for example, having a conversation with someone about an arm's length away is roughly 60dB(A) and regarded as safe.
- An exposure standard of 85 dB(A) averaged over eight hours is considered safe. Examples of environments where this level may occur include a noisy restaurant or café, a busy office with multiple people talking, and a close distance to a blender or food processor.
- Peak noise levels exceeding 140 dB(C), such as those emitted by a jet engine during take-off at close range, explosive noises, or heavy machinery like the use of a jackhammer, can cause immediate damage to hearing.
- Every 3 dB increase in noise level doubles the intensity of the sound, leading to potential damage in half the time.

Seeking Assistance:

If you suspect you're experiencing industrial deafness, don't hesitate to seek help. You may be entitled to benefits through workers' compensation, even years after leaving your job. At Ear Studio, we begin with a comprehensive hearing assessment, in this appointment we will thoroughly discuss your history. If applicable, we can then guide you through the process of seeking assistance, whether it's for hearing rehabilitation costs or financial compensation.

Conclusion:

Protecting your hearing is paramount, especially in environments where noise levels are high. By taking proactive measures to prevent industrial deafness and seeking assistance when needed, you can preserve your hearing health for years to come. On this "World Day for Safety and Health at Work", let's prioritise our well-being and raise awareness about the importance of hearing protection in the workplace.

If you believe you may be suffering from industrial deafness, contact our friendly team at Ear Studio today on 02 9159 6122 or you can visit www.earstudio.com.au for more information or to book online. We can help you with customised hearing protection and we can support you on your journey to better hearing health!

"If you believe you may be suffering from industrial deafness, please contact our friendly team at Ear Studio today!"



Daniel Fechner
Director/Founder

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Easter Show SUCCESS

A team of 20 Agriculture students from TAFE NSW Richmond are celebrating their success in cattle competitions at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show, placing in both the middleweight steer and the Simmental stud classes.

This achievement comes as the demand for skilled professionals in the agricultural sector is on the rise, with job growth expected to be 5.8% over the next five years.

"This is the first year we've had a team purely made up of Certificate III in Agriculture students," said Gareth Hough, TAFE NSW Teacher.

"Preparation for the Easter Show began late last year; it takes a lot of time and dedication to get the animals up to the required standard."

Students were not only responsible for presenting the animals during the competition but were also involved in the breeding process as part of their studies. Two of the 10 animals entered by TAFE NSW were bred on-site, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of animal husbandry.

"Participating in the Royal Easter Show allows students to meet people in the industry, including breeders, and see what's currently happening," explained Mr. Hough. "It's a fantastic

opportunity to gain experience and knowledge from people who have been working in agriculture for generations."

The competition experience proved to be a valuable learning opportunity for students like Sara Mallison, a 23-year-old from Baulkham Hills who is already working in the industry.

"I chose to study at TAFE NSW to gain more skills to benefit my career path," said Sara. "As part of the Easter Show, I had the opportunity to enter the Open Paraders' Competition and experience being part of a steer auction."

Being involved in the Show allowed Sara to network with industry professionals and gain practical skills. Her dedication was evident as she was responsible for parading the steer that received a highly commended placing Fiona Archer echoed the sentiment that involvement in the Show was a highlight of her TAFE NSW studies.

Students play a crucial role in preparing the animals for competition, a process that demands dedication and early mornings.

"We'd get up between 4:30 and 5:00 am most mornings," said Fiona. "We'd take the animals out of the stables, clean up, prepare feeds and water, wash them, shampoo them, brush and blow dry them."

Sara Mallison from Baulkham Hills in the Show ring.

Bridget Archer

ADVERTORIAL

A child very near you could be counting on your help.

Foster care agency MacKillop Family Services is focusing attention on the urgent need for foster carers in all locations, to provide stable and secure care for children and young people unable to live safely in their own homes.

The long-term impacts of COVID-19 and the current cost of living crisis have led to fewer people applying to be new foster carers. In some areas the numbers have dropped by up to 50%. This comes at a time when there are nearly 48,000 Australian children needing out-of-home care support, with only 26,000 foster and kinship carers to care for them.

Christina D'Acunto, MacKillop's Carer Recruitment & Development Coordinator who oversees the Hawkesbury region, says many people in the community are surprised to learn there is a critical shortage of foster carers within regions like Hawkesbury and its surrounds.

"People think foster care is something that is needed in other communities or only in larger cities. But right across Australia, in every local town and community, for a wide variety of reasons, there are kids who need safe homes where they are nurtured and secure.

"We know that stability is key to a young person's wellbeing as is keeping them within their local community where they can

maintain connections and thrive in a familiar environment. We are putting the call out for people to think about how they can support local children by opening their home and making that difference to a child's life," says Christina.

Foster carers come from diverse backgrounds: you could be married, single, in same sex relationships, working or retired, own or rent your home - the most essential criterion is that you have the capacity to create a safe and nurturing home to support vulnerable children. Foster carers are part of a larger support network, working with health professionals, case managers and therapeutic practitioners who support both the child and carer.

Typically, foster carers say that if someone has that 'inner sense' of wanting to give to the community, and to most of all help a child, then foster care is a very rewarding thing to do.

If you've considered making a difference in your community, learn more about foster care at mackillop.org.au or by calling 1300 791 677.



The MacKillop Family Services team will also be at the Hawkesbury Show this 19-21 April, so it's your opportunity to ask all the questions you have about making a difference to a child.

out and about
with MICHELLE BYRNE

Nancy's Freedom Farm Arcadia

For the past 15 years, Nancy, the owner of Nancy's Freedom Farm has strived to bring an authentic farm experience that is exciting and engaging for all the family.

It is an opportunity to get up close and personal with friendly farm animals including goats, sheep, alpacas, ducks, turkeys, rabbits, chickens as well as dogs and cats. Most of these animals were born or raised at Nancy's Freedom Farm or were rescued and bought to the farm for a better life.

The farm animals are free to wonder around the paddocks including the chickens that spend their days happily roaming about foraging for grains, seeds, grasses and insects that are sourced especially for them. As part of the farm experience, families can collect delicious, healthy free range eggs from these chickens straight from their nesting boxes as well as feed hay to the other animals.

Depending on the time of year of your visit, there is also an opportunity to see and cuddle new born animals such as bunnies, chicks and ducklings which of course led to my daughters asking to bring these cute new born animals home with us!

There is no food sold on site, although a picnic lunch is welcome, it is easy to make a visit to Nancy's Freedom Farm a whole day out by venturing into Galston, Dural or Glenorie for a café lunch.

Farm visits at Nancy's Freedom Farm are available on weekends from 11am to 3pm weather permitting. Bookings are essential. Fresh farm eggs are also available every day from 11am to 3pm via the self-service option provided by Nancy and her team.

For Nancy who has lived in the area her whole life, the excitement on the children's faces enjoying the interaction with the animals she has lovingly raised makes the hard work of running a farm worth it.

Nancy's Freedom Farm is a secret gem for children and possibly one of the very few places in the district where families can experience farm life up close. My daughters and I are looking forward to visiting Nancy's Freedom Farm again.

For more information on Nancy's Freedom Farm including booking a visit go to www.nancysfreedomfarm.com.au



NSW Department of Education

Application period for opportunity class entry in Year 5 in 2025

Applications are open from **Thursday 4 April 2024** to **Monday 20 May 2024** for placement in an opportunity class in Year 5, 2025.

Parents who have a child in Year 4 can now apply for a place in opportunity classes across NSW. This includes Aurora College, which provides online opportunity classes for students in rural and remote NSW public schools.

Opportunity classes are one of the ways that the department supports our high potential and gifted students. High potential and gifted students are supported across all NSW public schools through our High Potential and Gifted Education policy.

For more information and to apply visit: edu.nsw.link/oc



Selective Education Unit:
Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 880 367

Applications close
Monday 20 May 2024



SEI388



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

ANZAC SERVICES 2024

RICHMOND WAR MEMORIAL

ANZAC SUNDAY MARCH

SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024 | 2:30PM

The local community is invited to support the District's past and serving military personnel, as well as their descendants and local community groups, as they march to the Richmond War Memorial and to then participate in the official commemoration service and laying of wreaths.

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2024 | 4:45AM

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

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




Cheeky 'Caravan' Comedy

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

If you're looking for a laugh this April, visit the Castle Hill Player's current production of 'Caravan', a cheeky and nostalgic Australian comedy at the Pavilion Theatre.

Four friends are invited to holiday in Parkes and in Penny's prized caravan along the beautiful NSW coast. But with the six of them stuck in a confined space for two weeks, tensions begin to rise and secrets are aired. When a tumultuous rain storm begins, decade-long friendships and relationships are greatly tested.

Actor and playwright Donald Macdonald's production is revisited with the same colourful characters in a refreshing and modern take, without losing any of the quintessential Australian humour.

Director Bernard Teuben has always wanted the chance to rework this '80s production and his attention to detail and set design brings the stage to life, as you feel drawn into the lives of these very messy couples and wonder if anyone will make it out of the caravan alive.

"I love a good Australian comedy and there's not a lot around these days. It's a very funny show with lots of jokes and situations. Plus everybody needs a good laugh these days," he said.

Jason Spindlow, with over 12 years acting experience, plays Parkes Robinson, who paints the perfect picture of a dysfunctional

relationship with his tired and overworked wife Penny, played by Vanessa Henderson.

Monica Rice's melodramatic theatrics and iconic screeches for "brandy" is wonderfully pulled off by Margareta Moir. Her previous experience in *Communicating Doors* in 2018 and *Cactus Flower* in 2023 brought her back to the stage.

She said: "(Castle Hill Players) always do fantastic shows here and fortunately enough I was lucky enough to get a role and it's been a hoot. We're looking forward to hearing the audience laughing and having a good time!"

Her "husband" Rodney Rice, who begrudgingly answers her many demands is played by Daniel Ferris with over 20 years acting experience.

"I saw *Caravan* five years ago and I loved it so much that I knew I had to get involved! It's an Australian play which is fabulous as you just don't see enough in amateur theatre," he said.



Pierce (Ben Wheeler) shamelessly flirts with all the women on stage. His partner on stage is Gwendolyn played by Jade Brimfiel, a first-time actor with Castle Hill Players. She embraces her character's quirks wonderfully in this role of a naive young 22 year old finding her path on a spiritual journey.

Get in quick for tickets as most of the show's tickets are already sold!

*** Caravan will be on stage from the 5th April to the 27th April, every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 8pm at the Pavilion Theatre in Castle Hill. Sunday shows start at 4pm. Book online or contact the box office on 02 9634 2929. Tickets are \$30 for adults or \$25 for concession. The Pavilion Theatre is at Castle Hill Showground.**



2024 ANZAC

SERVICES IN GALSTON

21st April, 2.30PM

ANZAC SUNDAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT THE GALSTON MEMORIAL CLUB

Attendees are asked to be seated by 2.15PM to receive the marchers who are to assemble in the foyer of the Club by 2.10PM. There will be a recital by the Hills District Pipe Band, following the service in the Galston Club. Afternoon tea will be available.

**25th April,
ANZAC Day, 6AM**

DAWN SERVICE AT THE GALSTON CENOTAPH

A limited number of sheltered seats will be available.

Lest We Forget

Bill Rosier OAM, Coordinator
Hills District RSL sub-Branch Chapter
M.: 0432 847 137

Geographical Names Act 1966

The Geographical Names Board is seeking public comment on a proposal from The Hills Shire Council to name the following:

Kiliyurra Reserve for a reserve located on the corner of Withers and Hezlett Roads, in the suburb of North Kellyville, The Hills LGA.

The proposal can be viewed and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board website at gnb.nsw.gov.au from 4 April to 4 May 2024. Alternatively, written submissions may be mailed to the Secretary, Geographical Names Board, 346 Panorama Avenue, Bathurst, NSW 2795.

In accordance with Section 9 of the *Geographical Names Act 1966*, all submissions lodged may be subject to a Government Information (Public Access) application and may be viewed by a third party to assist the Board in considering this proposal.

Narelle Underwood
Chair

For more information:

visit gnb.nsw.gov.au
 346 Panorama Ave
 BATHURST NSW 2795

Caring for those in their twilight years

As an Occupational Therapist, Amira always knew she wanted to care for a living, but working with older people had never been on the cards. It turned out to be the best career move she ever made.

Amira is exactly the sort of person you'd want as your Occupational Therapist. She's warm, caring, patient, and deeply passionate about supporting older people to stay in their homes for as long as possible, and empowering them to engage in meaningful activities which give their life purpose.

Based in a quiet village in the Blue Mountains with her husband, mother-in-law, and three grown daughters, Amira has been supporting BaptistCare clients across the Nepean, Blue Mountains, and Western Sydney regions for over three years.

CONNECTING WITH OLDER GENERATIONS FROM A YOUNG AGE

As a first-generation Australian, Amira grew up in a close-knit, multi-generational family who, having recently migrated from Lebanon, were trying to make their mark in a new country full of opportunity.

"It was my Grandmother who raised me while my parents were out at work," says Amira.

As an occupational therapist in home care, Amira works with clients like Beryl (pictured above) to help them live an independent life in their own home.

"I would hang out with her and her friends every day until I started kindergarten."

Spending her childhood with her grandmother's generation gave Amira a natural ease around older people, and yet when she qualified as an Occupational Therapist, she initially rejected the idea of working in aged care.

"I never thought I'd be any good at it," Amira admits. "It's a challenging space, and I wasn't sure I had enough resilience. It was only later that I realised how special it is to work with this generation – I wish I had known sooner."

"A privilege to serve humans in their twilight years."

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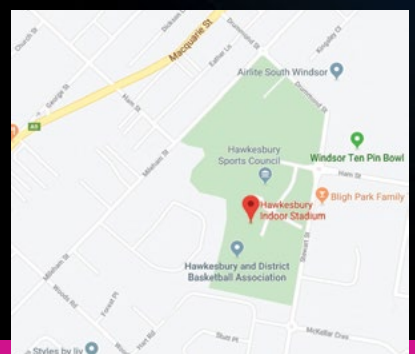
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PETS OF THE WEEK

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: BART
SEX: Male
BREED: American
Staffordshire Terrier
AGE: 7 yrs 4 mos
PRICE: \$49

BART has been very well behaved since he has been at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter (CAS), say staff. Bart is a gentle, calm dog who loves being with people, say the staff at the shelter. If you are interested in adopting Bart please visit the shelter any time during opening hours with your family dog and children. His adoption price has been reduced to \$49. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, microchipping, desexing and life-time council registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145



AT A GLANCE

NAME: DAKOTA
SEX: Female
BREED: Domestic
Shorthair cat
AGE: 4 years
PRICE: \$49

DAKOTA is a sweet girl with a beautiful nature according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. They say Dakota is ready to find her forever home. If you are looking for a lovely new addition to your family that will snuggle with you while watching TV or just relaxing then please come and meet Dakota. Her adoption price has been reduced to \$49. The adoption price includes the first vaccination, microchipping, desexing and life-time council registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.



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The Hills Shire Council News

Participate & Celebrate Youth Week in the Hills

Free films, festivals, workshops and art exhibitions are on offer to young people from The Hills Shire to enjoy in celebration of Youth Week 2024.

Youth Week is held state-wide in April each year with activities organised by young people, for young people from 11 to 21 April.

Local events and activities include:

- **Free film, food and fun times** | 11 – 28 April at Rouse Hill Town Centre
- **Kung Fu Panda 4** | 15 April from 3pm – 5:30pm at Event Cinemas, Castle Towers
- **Art Therapy Workshop** | 16 April from 2pm – 4pm at Castle Towers Community Hub
- **Hills Community Aid Family Fun Day** | 17 April from 10am – 1pm at Balcombe Heights Estate, Turner Buildings carpark
- **Hills Youth Fall Festival** | 18 April from 1pm – 5pm at Castle Hill Showground, Aub Juleff Arena
- **Creative Arts Competition** | Exhibition is on 18 April 2024 at Castle Hill Showground, as part of the Hills Youth Fall Festival.

In addition to the above, there are several other community-run Youth Week events. Information can all be found on Council's website by searching 'Youth Week 2024'.



Council Meetings

Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 7pm

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

Shining sports stars acknowledged



More than 40 young athletes, coaches, and umpires from the Western Sydney Academy of Sport were honoured for their accomplishments during a ceremony at The Hills Shire Council on Wednesday 20 March.

The Academy, celebrating 20 years in 2024, offers opportunities to assist young athletes achieve their full potential through skills training, education, and personal development. The Hills Shire Council has been a foundation partner and proud supporter of the Academy since its inception.

Mayor of The Hills Shire, Dr Peter Gangemi said Council's goal is to provide quality sports and recreation opportunities as well as to create pathways to excellence.

Western Sydney Academy of Sport CEO Martin Bullock said the Academy started with three programs and 30 athletes and has grown to provide 14 programs for over 3000 athletes.

Hills Shire athletes representing volleyball, netball, BMX, badminton, cycling, softball, triathlon, racewalking, and athletics were honoured during the ceremony.

The Academy's Athletics Future Stars program participant, 13-year-old racewalker Sophie Polkinghorne, and Indigenous Future Star 14-year-old soccer player Damien Ferris spoke about their personal goals and experiences.

"The Academy has helped me change my mindset. My long-term aim is the Brisbane 2032 Olympics," Sophie said.

"I want to achieve a higher level of sport and represent my culture. The Academy is helping me figure out new ideas and processes," Damien said.

You can read the full interviews with Sophie and Damien at: hillsfocus.com.au

What are your thoughts on housing in the Hills?

Hills residents, businesses, stakeholders and community groups are invited to have their say on the rate of development in the Hills and infrastructure to support this.

The Hills Shire Council is one of Australia's fastest-growing local government areas, selected by successive state governments to accommodate much of Sydney's housing growth.

Over the last 10 years, The Hills Shire Council has approved more than 30,000 dwellings.

Much of this has occurred in new release areas like Kellyville, North Kellyville, Box Hill and the Gables in the form of single-lot housing. In other areas, the housing has come in the form of apartments, particularly around Sydney Metro stations.

Help feed our wildlife

Join us as we help to grow food for sick, injured and orphaned native animals in the care of local wildlife rescue groups.

Our Growing Food for Wildlife initiative is a great opportunity to learn about native gardening, local plant species, local wildlife, and to have a laugh and connect with locals and wildlife carers in your area!

The next working bee is on Saturday 13 April from 10am to 1pm at Council's Community Environment Centre, Currie Avenue, Annangrove. Visit Council's website and search 'Growing Food for Wildlife' for more information.



Amidst the housing crisis, The Hills Shire Council has done much of the heavy lifting. Only our neighbours in Blacktown have approved more than the 3,799 approved by The Hills Shire in 2022 – 2023.

We are second only to Blacktown in terms of the number of homes expected over the next five years, with 13,380 forecast to be constructed.

Have your say on Council's brand new community engagement platform hillshaveyoursay.thehills.nsw.gov.au

Terry Road Closure

Terry Road between Monmouth and Hedgewood Drive, Box Hill is now closed to upgrade the culvert crossing.

The purpose of this project is to raise the road's surface. This road is highly susceptible to flooding and these works will help prevent further flooding in the future.

This work is crucial to support the expanding Box Hill community and the increasing number of people using this road to commute to and from their homes and workplaces. Traffic is also expected from users of Brindle Parkway Reserve once it has been constructed.

During this time, a detour will be provided for light vehicles and buses via Brindle Parkway, and for heavy vehicles via Mason Road and Old Pitt Town Road.

Works will be carried out from Monday to Saturday between 7am and 5pm. Some night work may be necessary for this project.

As this work will be carried out in an area already prone to flooding, construction progress is also dependent on any wet weather.

Council would like to thank the community for their patience during this project.

For project updates, visit Council's website and search for 'Terry Road closure.'



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TUESDAY
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THURSDAY
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Wednesday 17th April - \$80.00 Alicia's Taekwondo Day	Wednesday 24th April - \$75.00 Owen's Donut Day
Thursday 18th April - \$80.00 Ally & Maddie's Reptile Excursion @ The Galston Club	Thursday 25th April CLOSED for ANZAC DAY
Friday 19th April CLOSED	Friday 26th April CLOSED
Monday 29th April CLOSED	

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EMPLOYMENT EXPO

In a bid to empower migrants and refugees, Club Parramatta, with the backing of Castle Hill RSL Club Group (CHRG), played host to an Employment EXPO on Tuesday, March 19th.

The EXPO, held in collaboration with AMES Australia provided a unique platform for educators, employers, and job seekers to interact directly, fostering open communication and eliminating the barriers of online applications.

AMES Australia, a longstanding Government Statutory Authority supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities since 1951, spearheaded the event.

It was a huge success with more than 200 AMES Australia NSW clients attending and a further 76 attendees from the MTC Program, Parramatta.

More than 30 employers and training providers set up stalls, creating a marketplace environment at the roof top garden at Club Parramatta.

AMES Employer Engagement Specialist Gill Bedford said the event's setting made for a relaxed and friendly environment.

"The bi-fold doors were open to the patios overlooking the famous Parramatta Park which extended an open-air break-out space for client/ employer discussions in an open, friendly and beautiful environment," she said.

"The outcome to date is a total of 394 client/employer connections."

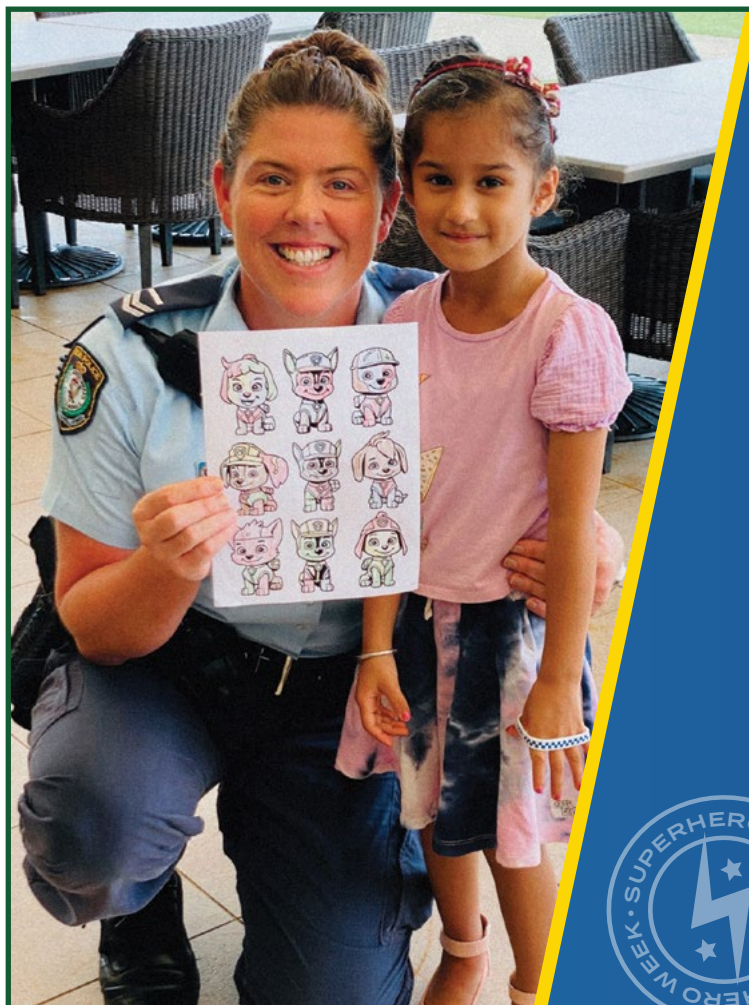
VIPs at the EXPO, including the Lord Mayor for the City of Parramatta Pierre Esber, Deputy Lord Mayor Patricia Prociw and Mark Buttigieg MLC who were warmly greeted by Cath Scarth, CEO of AMES Australia, and Peter Harrison, General Manager - Employment. Also present were Club Parramatta Board Members, including Mike Yeo, Vice President of Castle Hill RSL Group (CHRG).

The team at Club Parramatta, a CHRG (Castle Hill RSL Group) venue, lead by the venue manager, Cameron Bates with the support of Paul Koungias, Sport and Community Development Manager at CHRG, played a pivotal role in organising the Employment Marketplace, creating an inclusive environment where CALD clients could explore employment, training, and educational pathways.

The event aimed not only to provide job opportunities but also instill confidence in CALD individuals, fostering a sense of unity and trust within the community.

Club Parramatta was proud to host the event by offering free room hire, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the economic and social integration of CALD communities.

To find out more about AMES, visit www.ames.net.au



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PART 1

Growing Up 100 years ago.

Back in 1992 I received a letter from Mary "Poppy" Heiler (aka "Poppy" Warren) of Castle Hill. Some 32 years have now elapsed since this letter was published in the "Hills TV Magazine" in the issue of July 31st 1992 and we have many new readers since that time. What "Poppy" wrote regarding her memories reminds me that, amongst our many readers, we have quite a few who would have similar memories. Not all of our readers have grown up in the Hills district, many could have been born out in the country, or bush as we like to call it, or even in another state or country .

These are the words of Poppy as she wrote in 1992 about growing up in the Depression years at Peak Hill, southwest of Dubbo in western NSW.

"I guess, in modern-day language I would have been named a "Gofer". Go for the father of the new baby; go for the doctor; go for the nurse; and messages here , there and everywhere in our end of town.

You see we were the only ones with a phone, a car, and a wireless, so in case of a fire the exchange rang my dad who got the car out to pick up the firemen (from the town), while I ran to close-by firemen.

My first memories were of a hand-drawn fire cart. There were many fires in those days; candles, open fires, timber houses. Each side of our house the houses were burnt, also two houses away. My mother was ill in bed once, and I was standing at the window watching sparks and flames reaching out for our house. The whole town turned out in night attire to watch a fire.

Speaking of fires, bushfires were very often. Once, while at school, a huge bushfire rushed towards town. We were all marshalled into brick classrooms. The fire passed across the northern end of town and destroyed the old weatherboard hospital. As our house was towards the northern end of Caswell Street, I feared it would be gone when I got home.

The risks of fire were not so great when the electricity was switched on. What an historic and exciting event. On Melbourne Cup day our house became a venue for townspeople to listen (static and all). We sat up all night to get overseas results of cricket and tennis events to pass the news around.

Floods from the Bogan River often came over the railway line and advanced towards the town across "The Flat" (open land dotted with mine shafts), between the railway line and the lane behind Caswell Street.

During severe storms and heavy rain, these shafts often collapsed, as did tunnels running from open cut mines under the town, and carried waste earth and dumped it on the far western side of "The Flat". Once one of these tunnels collapsed in our back lane in a direct line under my bed. Also, another tunnel collapsed across the street and you could always hear the torrents rushing through.

What fun we children had on the dump (a man-made mountain dug from mines) and "The Hill". The great crevices from top to bottom gave great excitement to have races down on sheets of cardboard. Paper chases around town and over the real hill were another school holiday entertainment, along with a makeshift tennis court at school; hockey with sticks we fashioned ourselves from branches; cricket bats carved from packing cases with stumps of kero tins. There was no coaching."

I will continue with Mary "Poppy" Heiler's reminiscing in the next issue of this magazine and perhaps some of our current readers may like to tell us of some of their memories. You can email me at the address shown under my image on page 2 of the magazine.



Arcadian Quilting News

The Easter Eggs have been eaten, the enjoyable 'long weekend' has also passed by and it's back to life as we knew it before all-that-summertime-fun came along.

At our last meeting Philomena Henriksson (our very generous machine-quilting AQ member) was presented with a lovely bouquet

of flowers from the CWA ladies who had recently completed a Raffle Quilt (photo).

Made from lovely soft linen fabric this quilt will bring great pleasure to the "lucky winner" of their Raffle. Contact the CWA or look out for the CWA Raffle tickets in your area. Come and join us for a day, see what we do, visitors are always welcome!

Our group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of each month at 9.30 am. We meet at the Community Health Centre, The Glade, Galston. For further information please call Carole on 9894 7749.



Peak Hill Newsagent 1800s

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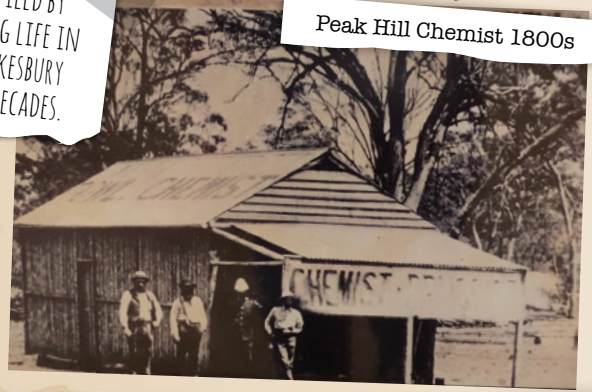
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PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

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AREA DURING PAST DECADES.



Carrington Hotel



Peak Hill Chemist 1800s



Peak Hill Post Office 1890s



Caswell Street





Peak Hill PO 1910

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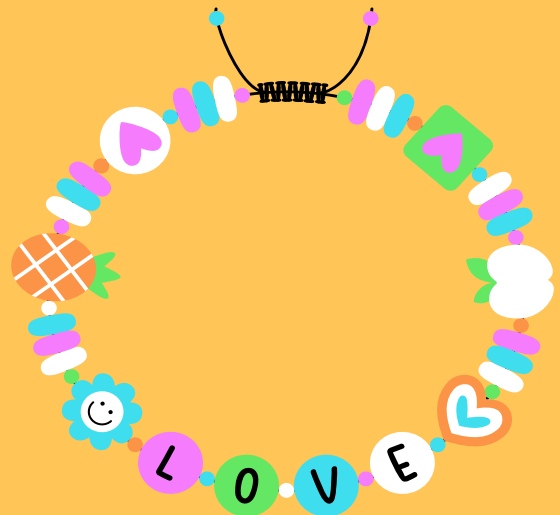
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One year as your Local Member

It only feels like yesterday when I was on the campaign trail, embarking on a journey I never expected to take.

Meeting with the residents of the Riverstone electorate and hearing their concerns kept me going. I knew that after 12 long years of neglect from the former government, Riverstone needed a change, a fresh start. I am glad that, for the first time in a long time, the Riverstone electorate is being given the attention it needs and deserves.

One year in government for this Minns Labor Government and 1 year as your local member is a surreal feeling, and I can't thank you enough for allowing me to represent our community.

Before taking office, it was clear that the Riverstone electorate had been left in the past – the combination of ageing infrastructure, poor planning and rapid population growth has culminated in an electorate facing a wide set of challenges. From a broader perspective, the Liberals and Nationals in both Federal and State government had eroded our economy; in the case of NSW, our State was left with a \$186,000,000,000 debt and a \$7,000,000,000 black hole. The financial mismanagement of the Federal and State budgets left us with a cost-of-living crisis.

Riverstone families were hit with a double blow. A burgeoning population on inadequate roads, failing public transport, overloaded local schools, and a promised hospital that was never funded, coupled with a cost-of-living crisis, meant that everyone in the Riverstone electorate was doing it tough.

However, people voted for change, and change is what they got. Before any decisions that would affect our community were made, I knew ministers and department heads needed to see our situation firsthand. Countless meetings and tours, including a full day with the Treasurer in Riverstone, meant that the government was making informed decisions.

These informed decisions were seen in our first Budget, which ended the era of putting private interests before public need, and a budget that puts funding into the places - and people - who deserve it the most.

From an infrastructure perspective, there were 3 big-ticket items that needed to be addressed. Rapid population growth coupled with inadequate planning rendered our education, health, and road infrastructure unfit for purpose.

EDUCATION

Riverstone is home to the fastest-growing population in the state. It also has the youngest families in the state and, as a result, the most school-aged children in NSW. The previous Liberal Government left schooling in Riverstone overwhelmed, with overfilled classrooms, demountable diminishing play spaces and overworked teachers. The budget delivered temporary primary schools for Nirimba Fields and Tallowing – while sites and funding have been locked in for their permanent homes. A much-needed high school will come in the form of Tallawong-Schofields High, which has also had a site and funding secured. Importantly, existing schools such as Riverstone Primary and John Palmer Public Schools will receive much-needed upgrades to support a growing student base. These measures, in conjunction with record teacher pay rises and the securing of permanency for over 16,700 teachers across the state, this government has injected much-needed consolidation into our local network of schools.

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As your local member of the State Parliament, I seek to make myself accessible and available always.

Reach out:

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WARREN KIRBY MP

STATE MEMBER FOR RIVERSTONE

Authorised by Warren Kirby MP, Shop 20 Stanhope Village, 2 Sentry Drive, Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768.
Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.

ROADS

With increased population – there comes a larger influx of cars on the road. Growing up in Riverstone, some of the roads I used to ride my bike along during my youth have remained the same. Now with population increased and continuing to do so, these roads cannot cope. Hence, we have funded upgrades to Bandon and Garfield East Roads to reduce the number of heavy trucks and vehicles relying on suburban roads. Upgrades in and around the electorate such as the Sunny Holt and Windsor Road intersection will bolster crucial thoroughfare for residents in Stanhope Gardens and Kellyville Ridge. Safety upgrades and repairs to key flood evacuation routes throughout our electorate including Richmond Road – further improves the state of these crucial routes. This government is committed to delivering a holistic road plan for the fastest growing electorate to keep our traffic flowing.

HEALTH

A critical point of failure of the past government was their inadequacy for health planning, especially in Western Sydney. Since 2015 the people of Riverstone were promised a new Rouse Hill hospital – one that was failed to be delivered. With even more residents in Northwest Sydney than ever before, the existing Western Sydney health network is burgeoning with increased patient loads. Our government has increased the proposed number of beds to 300 – transforming the original proposal of a glorified medical centre to a full-fledged hospital with the inclusion of an emergency department. Alongside securing the hospital – supporting health workers has been a hall mark of this government, ensuring fairer wages and job security all to provide a health network that adequately serves Northwest Sydney and broadly the state.

When I look back on these achievements, I cannot help but feel proud of this Government. This first year as your Member for Riverstone has been the greatest privilege of my life. For years, I was on the outside – now I have a seat at the table and, every day that I am there, I am advocating for the needs of our community.



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Ray Williams MP

Member for Kellyville



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- Arrange congratulatory messages.
- Assist in accessing NSW Government services, assistance or grants.

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Senior Local Achievement Award

Ralph Warren has been recognised for his valuable contribution to The Hills community, receiving a Local Achievement Award as part of the 2024 NSW Seniors Festival.

I congratulate Ralph who has been a long-standing volunteer in The Hills Shire community, and who has been incredibly active with Computer Pals for Seniors and the Glossodia Rural Fire Service. I thank you for your generous and remarkable contribution.



PAWSITIVE STEPS FESTIVAL

Four-legged companions play a vital role in many lives, contributing significantly to mental health awareness. Pawsitive Steps is the only festival dedicated to celebrating dogs as champions of mental health. Mindconnections Foundation champions dogs as advocates through this incredible initiative and the festival offers diverse programs promoting holistic mental well-being by providing enjoyment, physical activity, and valuable insights into mental health challenges. Join in the fun on 27 April 2024 from 9am-5pm at Rouse Hill Town Centre.



ANZAC DAY

On Anzac Day, we honour people who have served, and those who continue to serve, in Australia's armed forces. We gather together, attend a dawn service or Anzac Day march, and we wear a sprig of rosemary as a symbol of remembrance. Be part of the tradition at one of the local Anzac Day Dawn Services – Thursday 25 April 2024.

The Ponds Deserves Better Mobile Coverage

Reliable mobile coverage is an essential service for every Australian – regardless of where they live. When you move into a new build suburb, you expect to have access to decent connectivity. This hasn't been the experience of residents of The Ponds here in North-West Sydney.

Households have been frustrated with poor mobile coverage since the suburb was built close to a decade ago. Residents are not able to make phone calls from their homes, instead forced to connect from the street or even the next suburb along. This is worsened in many cases as calls that do connect continuously drop out.

As your local Member, I have made it a priority to drive a practical solution to improve coverage for the good people of The Ponds. Our concerted community advocacy led to the

construction of a new mobile tower. Optus and Telstra have since switched on their signals – and data shows it is being used by more than 3,000 customers in the area. We have also been working to bring Vodafone/TPG to the table, so their customers can also get the connectivity they deserve. Despite the new tower, I am still hearing that coverage issues remain. It is my priority to campaign for my constituents and to follow-up on their concerns – this is a pressing one. My team and I went door-to-door in The Ponds recently to find out more. The initial feedback shows that while mobile phone reception is improving for some, this experience is not shared. This is not good enough. To residents of The Ponds, I want to hear from you. I've launched an online survey, asking for you to

share your coverage experiences over the last few months since the tower was constructed. Your experiences will help me better understand where coverage is at its worst, and fight for our community. The good people of The Ponds deserve access to reliable mobile coverage. This is not a nice to have; it is a necessity. And one that I will continue to fight for – for you and your family.

To let me know about your phone reception, complete my survey @ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HMGJJN7>. Greenway Mobile Phone Connectivity Survey ([surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com))



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JULIAN LEESER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120 02 9980 1822
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Authorised by Julian Leeser MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills NSW 2120.

An update on the 3G Network

Part of the attractiveness of our community is that it offers the benefits of city and rural life – a relaxing lifestyle but with proximity to all the benefits of the city. However, when it comes to telecommunications this peri-urban location is a liability. Our community along with other similar areas are neglected by Australia's telcos.

For many years, it has been a deliberate priority of mine to champion a better deal for our area from the telcos – for more towers and less blackspots. Only weeks ago, we got a new phone tower in Glenhaven. This is a cause of celebration after years of lobbying and a community campaign for the tower to be located at Glenhaven Green.

As the Minister for Communications Michelle Rowland said about a communications blackspot in her own electorate, reliable communications is not “a nice to have, it's a necessity”. I agree with her.

In recent months, it has become apparent to me that Telstra's decision to shut down the 3G network has not been totally thought through. It's also a deep concern to local residents.

Residents have told me in emails, “All I know is that lately my signal bars have reduced to one bar only and I appear to only have 3G”. And “We don't rely on 3G unless 4G is down which happens. We seem to be in a black spot or hole. We need 3G when this happens”

Another resident wrong, “Yes 4G is very bad at our address. We needed to install a phone booster. The phone booster works better on 3G than 4G.

Feedback I have received that shown deep concerns in Galston, Arcadia, Wisemans Ferry, Milson's Passage, Maroota, Annangrove, Mount Colah and Laughtondale about the end of 3G. Many residents in these areas are still relying

on the 3G network and cannot get the 4G or 5G network. As well, for those in boats on the Hawkesbury River, 3G is the vital link with emergency services. There is not a shortage of technology, only a shortage of will.

It's a cause I took up during the recent parliamentary sitting fortnight. I am pleased that Minister Rowland has formed a working group inquiring into the 3G shutdown - with a particular emphasis on triple zero calls.

My concern is that this process should be robust. I simply don't trust the telcos when they say “trust our maps”. My answer is “trust but verify”.

It is why in 2021, I proposed in a private member's Bill that a Telco had to continue to operate a 3G network until the Minister could certify that a substitute 4G or 5G network was available. That's the only way to ensure nobody gets left behind and I encourage the Minister to adopt my plan.



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KYAH SIMON

Sparkles on the comeback trail

Quakers Hills football star Kyah Simon is relishing her comeback in the A-League Women at Central Coast Mariners, 16 years after lacing her boots for the same club.

After more than a year on the sidelines with a series of injuries, Simon, 32, has a golden chance of finishing this season as part of a champion outfit as the Mariners take on Melbourne Victory on Sunday, April 14, in an elimination final.

Simon's resurgence coincides with the second coming of the Mariners, a team she made her first-class debut way back in 2008. Her rich experience - she has netted 29 goals in 111 matches for Australia and also played in the UK, US and the Netherlands - makes her an integral part of this Mariners side.

"Victory are a quality side, they showed that against the almost premiers Sydney FC," Kyah said. "They are a great team on paper and when we've faced them, it's been really competitive."

"When we first came in as a group, there wasn't a lot of us that had played together. It was a completely new squad, players from different teams and parts of the world but one consistent theme is we have a great group of people. That makes it so easy when you come into work, getting along with the girls in the

dressing room and being able to work together on the pitch.

"It's just a really great group of girls who want to learn and buy into what (coach) Emily Husband wants to do. For me, it has



been so enjoyable to be a part of this group and share the dressing room with that group."

National women's coach Tony Gustavsson must be pleased with Simon's resilience, having picked the injured forward for last year's World Cup historic campaign. Simon, however, did not play a single game in the World Cup.

"Mariners being my first A-League club in the inaugural season, they've always held a special place in my heart and it's a real full circle moment for me," said Simon, when she was announced as their key signing last October.

HILLS WOMEN

EYEING TOP SPOT

Hills United women are thriving at the top of the FNSW Women's One competition, with four wins from five matches.

They sit second on the ladder, with table leaders Bankstown City ahead only because of their greater goal difference. Hills United and Bankstown City have one draw apiece, with both teams boasting potent attacks.

The Hills-Bankstown clash this Sunday, April 7, at Jensen Park, promises to be a thriller with bragging rights and outright leadership at stake. The match, which kicks off at 5.30pm, is the match of the week and could potentially give the winners the upper hand for the rest of the competition.

On Easter Monday, Hills United stormed to a 5-2 victory over visitors Central Coast Mariners, with all the goals coming in the second half. The Mariners led 1-0 at half-time after a last-minute goal. But something clicked for the Hills outfit after the break and before long, they were 3-1 ahead within just six minutes. The brilliant Isabella Sciberras flicked levelled the scores in the 46th minute with the in-form Kaylie Shannon firing in a brace within three minutes against a shell shocked Mariners side.

The Mariners recovered briefly cutting the lead in the 60th minute to 3-2 but the red carding of Tess Quilligan in the 71st minute

allowed the Hills United to wrest back the advantage. Ellen Berios pushed the advantage back to two goals with her 73rd minute strike and first grade debutant Portia Berios rammed home the late punch in the 90th minute for a comprehensive win.

Earlier, in the under-20 game, Hills United defeated the Mariners 3-1.

Thanks to their successes, Hills United are heading the overall club championship with 65 points from 10 matches, followed by Bankstown City on 61.

Hills United take on St George FC at Bella Vista Public School ground on Sunday, April 14 in their seventh round match, kick off at 3.45pm.



First grade debutant Portia Berios with Hills United president Tristan Rimmer.
Picture Courtesy: Hills United FB

CASSERLY

Delighted with team's form

Hills United FC coach Luke Casserly is delighted with his team's defence after they notched up their third victory in the highly-competitive Premier Leagues Men's NSW football championship. The Hills edged out Manly 2-1 in an entertaining eighth-round match at Landen Stadium last Saturday to regain their winning form after a string of losses. This is the first time Hills United are competing in the Premier Leagues Men's NSW competition, and they lie 10th out of 16 teams.

This competition is among the most respected in Australia and is a great opportunity for Hills players to get noticed by talent scouts for the premier A-League.

"We were really well organised because we have conceded too many goals recently," a relieved Casserly said after their much-needed victory. "We wanted to be hard to break down and play through and we did that well."

Anthony Frangie put the Hills outfit ahead with a brilliant long distance curling strike in the 37th minute with Thomas Lopez doubling the lead in the 58th minute with a delightful header. Hills United FC 'scored' a third in the 85th minute through substitute Mitchell Smith but the goal was ruled offside.

Both goalkeepers, Ryan Wood for Hills and Levi Kaye (Manly) made several fine saves, in a game of close misses. Manly United netted a late consolation goal in the 88th minute through Alen Aganovic's effort from a corner.

Hills United threatened to score more goals throughout the match as their forwards made some fine attacking moves. Cameron Philp's attempt from a Sunday Yona pass, sailed over the bar in the second half. Philp caused more headaches for the Manly defence but was unable to make his shot count in the 74th minute. In another close miss, Yu Okubo's brilliant kick from outside the box hit the upright with the goal at his mercy.

This Saturday, April 6, Hills United should be able to take full points from bottom-placed Sutherland Sharks. The match kicks off at Seymour Shaw ground at 4.30pm.

GOAL SCORER ANTHONY FRANGIE.
Picture courtesy: FNSW



Hit the ground running!

Term 1 is well underway, which means so are our summer competitions! We've had a huge start to the year, with the kick off of our new early morning boot camps, our mid-morning ladies boot camps, and added classes for our over 55's movement class. Our community is loving all the opportunities to move their bodies in a fun way, with the added advantage of smaller class sizes.

Our Summer competitions are nearly at an end, with Grand- Finals being played from the week of the 25th March, and we are gearing up for an action packed Winter Competition. Winter Competition brings with it the introduction of a Men's Netball competition, the re-introduction of Dural 5's Netball, and the introduction of our

junior boys netball J League. We are all super excited to get these off the ground.

That's not to say though that our old faithful competitions are not getting the same amount of excitement. Men's, Mixed and Ladies futsal will be back with a bang, as will our ladies and mixed netball.



That's all for this month!

If you would like to know more about what goes on at The Centre, check out our website thecentredural.org.au/sports-competitions or call the sports team on 8989 0000.





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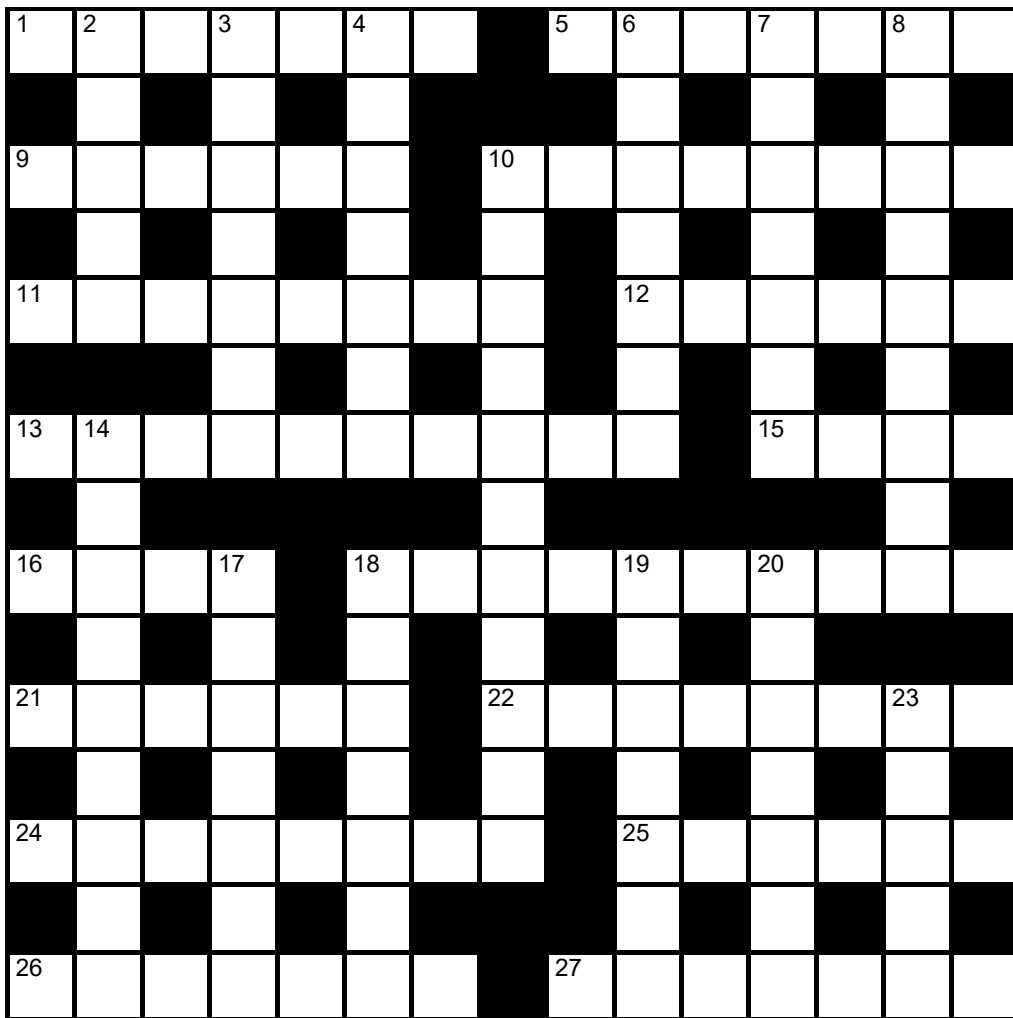
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12. Poverty-stricken
13. Victorian surf pioneer and board designer
15. Sometimes syphoned in bars
16. Sour
18. Study of pictures and painters
21. Work schedules
22. Not normal
24. Widespread type of fern
25. In recent times
26. Educates
27. Wheeled status symbol

Down

2. Covered with water
3. Vagabond
4. Overall
6. Iberian tongue
7. Prolongs
8. Bundaberg hockey striker who won Olympic Gold in 2004
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14. Boozy
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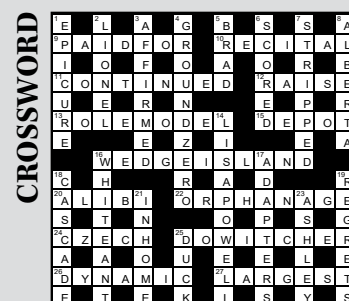
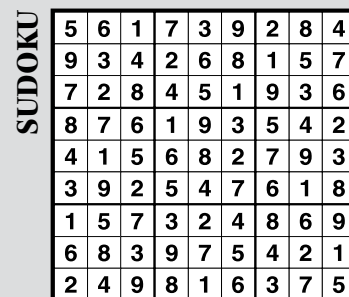
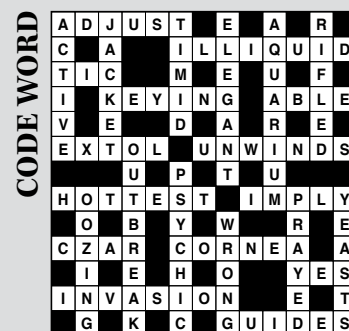
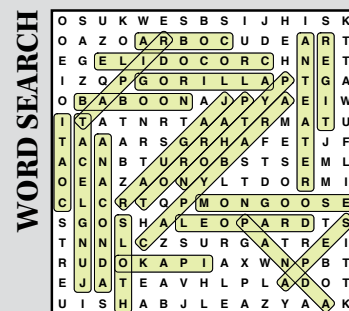


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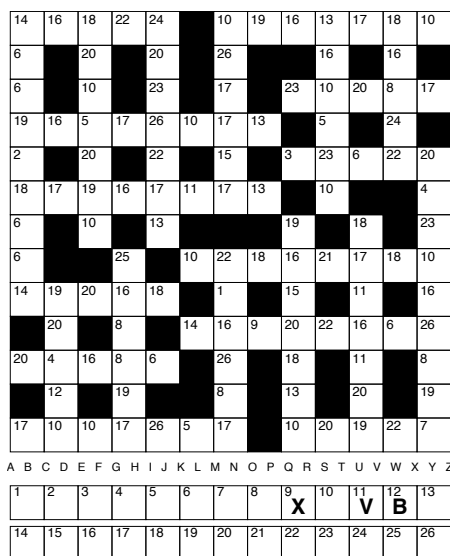
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Answers from last issue



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.

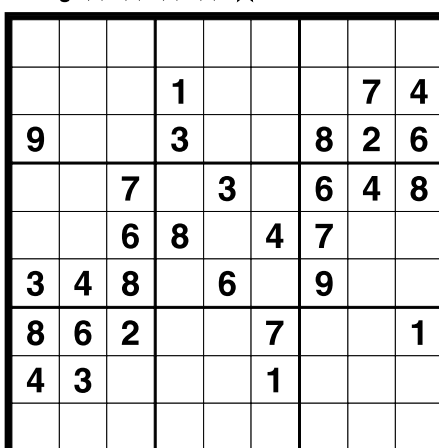
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