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Community News

28th June – 12th July 2024 | Volume 41 – Issue 13

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.

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

Total clicks

16.2K

Total impressions

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NAIDOC WEEK FUN

There are a whole range of free activities being organised for NAIDOC Week in the Hills to Hawkesbury during the school holidays.

Tuesday, July 9th: Free family fun day organized by Hills Community Aid at the Balcombe Heights Estate, 92 Seven Hills Rd, Baulkham Hills between 9.50am and 1pm. There indigenous themed crafts, jumping castle, treasure hunt, community stalls, Hills Daily Grind Coffee and sausage sizzle.

Thursday 11th July: Yarn at the Farm. Hills Shire Council has organised a family fun event at Bella Vista Farm between 11am and 2pm.

Council has partnered with local First Nations enterprise Muru Mittigar to celebrate Aboriginal culture with free arts and crafts workshops, musical performances, sporting activations and free First Nations inspired food from the Wilka Thalta food truck.

The event will commence with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony from Dharug elder Uncle Colin.

There will be didgeridoo performances and storytelling from Uncle Peter Williams, a chance to try boomerang painting and basket weaving or participate in sporting activations from the Western Sydney Wanderers and AFL.

There will be free servings of emu sausage rolls, cheeseburgers with bush tomato relish and spring rolls with Kakadu plum chilli sauce.

Muru Mittigar Executive Officer Wayne Cornish will MC the event alongside Madii Page from Hills Yarning and said he was excited to be part of the biggest NAIDOC Week celebrations in the history of The Hills.

Friday, July 7th: 9am to 12pm. Bligh Park Community Services. Free community BBQ and celebration of NAIDOC Week at Bligh Park Neighbourhood Centre, 4 Sirius Rd, Bligh Park.

Sunday July 14th: 10am to 2pm Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud. Rouse Hill Estate, 356 Annangrove Road, Rouse Hill. Museums of History NSW is joining forces with Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Culture and Education Centre to provide a day of fun activities including dance performances and workshops by the Khuna Family Dance Group and Yarning Circle with elders Uncle Wes and Uncle Colin. Program starts at 10am.

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.

BIRD FLU IN HAWKESBURY

Thousands of birds at two Hawkesbury poultry farms have died since avian influenza was confirmed earlier this month.

The first case was at a Freemans Reach egg farm where 8,000 birds died in 48 hours after the virus was detected.

Biosecurity restrictions were placed around the farm as soon as the CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness confirmed a positive result for High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI H7N) on 19th June.

Just days later a second positive result for the same strain was detected at a second poultry farm located within the restricted biosecurity zone, 1.5km from the original infected farm site.

While the two viruses are the same in the Hawkesbury it is not the same virus that has hit seven poultry farms in Victoria or has been a global cause of concern.

Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty said the State Government's biosecurity plan is working and because teams responded rapidly, teams were able to quickly survey, test and detect another site that had been locked down on Wednesday 19 June.

She said: "This type of avian influenza is highly infectious in commercial poultry and it

was always a possibility that we could detect sites within the control zone. The Government will continue its testing at sites.

The Government's biosecurity team is working closely with the industry using well-established national response arrangements to manage the outbreak and has advised the industry.

The Minister acknowledged the support and collaboration of the industry, which increases the ability to manage this situation.

Eggs and poultry meat are safe to eat provided they are handled and cooked according to safe food handling practices.

She said: "We'll continue our tracing work for anything that has come out of either of these farms for the last couple of weeks, just to make sure that there hasn't been any spread."

A total of 330,000 birds across the two farms are being culled and destroyed.

The quarantine area has been extended to protect surrounding farms. It is believed the highly contagious virus has been spread by wild birds.



ABC image of biosecurity staff at the second Hawkesbury Farm

The ACT Government is currently investigating a suspected case of Avian influenza which is believed to be the same strain as the Hawkesbury virus.

Transmission to humans is very rare, and unlikely unless there is direct and close contact with sick birds.

NSW and ACT are working together to deal with the biosecurity issue.

People should report any sick or dead birds as a priority. This includes all domestic poultry or wild birds. Call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

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RIDESHARE ASSAULT

A man has been charged over the theft of a rideshare vehicle and assaulting the driver in Winston Hills last week.

About 1.35am on Monday, 24th June, emergency services responded to reports of an assault at the intersection of Kindelan Road and Gibbon Road, Winston Hills.

Officers from Parramatta Police Area Command were informed a 49-year-old man was working as a rideshare driver when he accepted a booking from two men – both aged 23 and known to one another – from Dorado Street, Box Hill, at about 12.50am.

The men directed the driver to several locations including a service station on Penmure Street, Rouse Hill, at 1.05am where they purchased food items before returning to the vehicle.

The driver was instructed to attend further addresses.

It will be alleged that during the journey one of the passengers became aggressive towards the driver whilst the second passenger attempted to calm the situation.

When at the intersection of Kindelan Road and Gibbon Road the driver was allegedly assaulted by the man.

Police will allege the driver ran from the vehicle – leaving his mobile phone in the vehicle – and sought assistance from a nearby resident who contacted Triple Zero.

The men then drove from the location in the rideshare vehicle – a white 2018 Volkswagen Tiguan.

NSW Ambulance paramedics treated the 49-year-old at the scene before he was taken

to Blacktown Hospital with head and facial injuries. He has since been released.

Following inquiries, the driver's phone was located damaged in a drain along Lambert Place, Winston Hills, about 8am.

About 9.30am the vehicle was recovered abandoned on Junction Road, Winston Hills, where it was seized for forensic examination.

Shortly after midday on Tuesday detectives – with the assistance of the Public Order Riot Squad – executed a search warrant at a home on Lanhams Road, Winston Hills, where the man who allegedly assaulted the driver was arrested.

Whilst conducting a search of the premises officers located a small fire in the rear yard that was extinguished by Fire and Rescue NSW.

It will be alleged that at the source of the fire was the man's mobile phone and clothing items that were worn by him at the time of the incident. Police allege he drove the rideshare vehicle from the scene and he is the holder of a learner's drivers' licence. Whilst in custody the man allegedly hindered officers in obtaining a forensic sample from his hands.

He has been charged with five offences:

- Aggravated take/drive motor vehicle with person in/on it-inflict actual bodily harm
- Aggravated robbery and inflict actual bodily harm
- Learner not accompanied by driver/police officer/tester
- Tamper with evidence with intent to mislead judicial tribunal
- Hinder or resist police officer in the execution of duty

FATAL BOAT CRASH CHARGES

A man has been charged after a woman died following a boat crash in the Hawkesbury River in Wilberforce earlier this year.

In February 2024, officers attached to Marine Area Command commenced an investigation into the death of a 32-year-old woman who died after the boat she was a passenger in crashed into a riverbank.

Immediately after the collision the driver of the boat – a 38-year-old man – was taken to Westmead Hospital for mandatory testing, which later returned a positive result for alcohol.

About 9am Tuesday, 18th June. Police arrested the 38-year-old man. He was taken to Windsor Police Station where he was charged with dangerous navigation occasioning death. He was granted conditional bail to appear at Windsor Local Court on Thursday 11 July 2024. His boating licence has been suspended.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: **1800 333 000** or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence.

DRUNK DRIVER

A 20-year-old woman has been caught drink driving twice in the same day and faces two charges of high range drink driving.

She was tracked by PolAir, the Police Aviation Command, driving on the M2 at 11.20am on Saturday 22nd June after Police received several 000 calls regarding erratic driving. The Kia collided with a number of barriers before stopping near the Cropley Drive underpass at Baulkham Hills. Hills Police were directed to the scene where the Bidwill woman returned a positive roadside breath test. She was arrested and conveyed to Castle Hill Police Station where she returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.281, nearly 6 times the legal limit. She was charged with High Range Drink Driving and her licence was suspended.

At 4.18pm later that day police say the same woman was driving a Kia Sedan on the M2 near Culloden Road at Macquarie Park and broke down police attended a short time later. She allegedly returned a positive roadside breath test and was arrested and taken to Gladesville Police station where she allegedly returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.126.

LUXURY CAR THIEF

A teenager has been charged over the alleged break and enter of six homes and one business where five luxury cars and three motorbikes were stolen.

Detectives attached to Strike Force Sweetenham were called to a home on Wayfield Way, Glenhaven where a Mercedes GLC and a Dodge Ram were allegedly stolen about 4.30am on Monday 10th June. Police then attended Volmer Street, Oatlands following reports the Dodge Ram was in the vicinity at the time a home was allegedly broken into while a woman was inside about 5.30am the same day.

Police were told eight pairs of luxury shoes, worth about \$14,400, were allegedly stolen.

Police commenced an investigation into the break-ins.

The Dodge Ram was allegedly seen following a break in and theft of three motorbikes from a store in Caringbah about 12.30am on Tuesday 11th June. Investigations continued after an alleged break in of a home on Milson Road, Cremorne Point where a BMW X6 was allegedly stolen on Monday 17th June.

The same car was allegedly involved in a police pursuit at Acacia Gardens about 12.10am on Tuesday 18th June.

The BMW X6 was then allegedly used in a break-in of a home on Kenthurst Road, Kenthurst about 1am the same day.

The car was allegedly used again during the break and enter of a home on Stuart Street Longueville about 2.20am where a Mercedes was stolen. The Mercedes was recovered at a Blackett carpark the same day.

Police were called to investigate the break in of a home on Lismore Street, Hoxton Park on (Friday 21st June) where a Land Rover was stolen before it was recovered in Oakhurst about 7.40am. About 9.40am Friday 21st June, police arrested a 17-year-old boy at a home in Rooty Hill.

He was taken to Mount Druitt Police Station where he was charged with 22 sequences:

- Seven counts of aggravated break and enter commit serious indictable offence
- Enter inclosed land no prescribed premises without lawful excuse
- Face blackened/disguised with intent commit indictable offence
- Take and drive conveyance without consent of owner
- Three counts of aggravated break and enter dwelling etc in company intend steal
- Larceny
- Steal motor vehicle
- Two counts of be carried in conveyance taken without consent of owner
- Three counts of drive conveyance without consent of owner
- Never licensed person drive vehicle on road – prior offence
- Participate criminal group contribute criminal activity.

ONE DEAD SEVERAL INJURED

Emergency services have been called to the scene of several local crashes recently, one of them fatal. A 58 year old female passenger died following a head on crash at Castle Hill on Wednesday, 19th June.

Emergency services were called to Tuckwell Rd at about 5.25pm following reports of a two-vehicle crash involving a silver Mercedes sedan and a white Isuzu Ute.

The front seat passenger of the sedan, a 58-year-old woman, was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics before being taken to Westmead Hospital in a critical condition but later died at the hospital.

The driver of the sedan, a 24-year-old woman, and two other passengers aged 60 and 18 were also taken to Westmead Hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

The 47-year-old Ute driver was taken to Westmead Hospital for mandatory testing. Officers from the Crash Investigation Unit are preparing a report for the information of the Coroner.

On Sunday June 23rd there were two nasty crashes on Annangrove Road. The driver of a car which hit a power pole at 1am (pictured) was lucky to escape serious injury. The impact crumpled his car. He escaped with a broken leg.

At 2pm on the same day the driver of a Mercedes and the driver of a Toyota were trapped when their vehicles collided on Annangrove Road. Both were taken to hospital.

Careflight was called to a crash site on Windsor Rd Riverstone following a collision between two trucks on Thursday June 20th. A driver, in his 40s, was treated for multiple injuries before being conveyed to Westmead Hospital in a serious but stable condition.

Emergency services were also called to collisions on Boundary Rd, Oakville and Andromeda Parkway, Box Hill.



Police credit Hills Police for Crash photo

OPERATION DISRUPT

Police arrested and charged 24 people and seized several knives and replica firearms in a two-day transport safety blitz in the area called Operation Disrupt.

Conducted by officers attached to the Police Transport Command, with assistance from the Dog Unit, the proactive, intelligence-driven operation was aimed at disrupting and preventing crime and improving community safety across the public transport network and surroundings.

Operation Disrupt ran between 1.30pm Friday, 21st June and 12.30am Sunday, 23rd June. During the Operation, police conducted 73 searches, seizing seven knives, two replica firearms, prohibited drugs and various items suspected of being stolen and arrested and charged 24 people with 31 offences.

Incidents of note included:

- About 4.35pm on Friday, 21st June officers responded to reports a person was carrying what appeared to be a firearm on a train from Riverstone. Police intercepted the 15-year-

old boy at Quakers Hills railway station and located a replica firearm with replica ammunition. The teenager was arrested and taken to Riverstone Police Station, where he was charged with possess unauthorised firearm.

- On Saturday, 22nd June at around 4pm, police were patrolling the vicinity of Rouse Hill Metro Train Station and spoke to a 31-year-old man. He was searched and police allegedly located a multi-tool, including a knife, and a hammer. He was issued a field court attendance notice for custody of knife in public place.

Police Transport Command North West Inspector Scott Carr said: "The focus of this operation was to increase community safety on the public transport network through intelligence driven policing and it has been highly successful.

"The Police Transport Command will continue to work cooperatively with the community and our partner agencies to target those who carry weapons, commit criminal

offences and impact upon the safety and comfort of the travelling public."

In another incident a teenager has been charged for robbing a 12-year-old student waiting for a bus on Monday morning (24th June).

Police allege that at 7.30am the student was waiting for a bus at the Castle Hill Metro, when he was approached by two teenage males dressed in black hoodies. It will be alleged that males assaulted him, taking his phone. A bus driver intervened and managed to get the phone back. The two males then ran off.

Following investigations, Hills Detectives arrested a 15 year-old male at 9.30pm that same day. He was taken to Castle Hill Police Station where he was charged with Robbery in Company and bail refused to a Children's Court. Enquiries are continuing as to the identity of the second male.

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.

SPEEDING FINE

At 11pm on Tuesday 25th June, police attached to the Hawkesbury Highway Patrol detected a grey Toyota Camry travelling at 132kph westbound along Windsor Road, Vineyard in a marked 80km/ph zone.

The vehicle was stopped at McGraths Hills McDonald's where Police discovered the 33-year-old male driver from Lethbridge Park was travelling with his female partner in the front passenger seat and his daughter, aged 3

1/2 years old. His young daughter did not have her seatbelt fastened correctly and was not restrained in her seat.

The driver had his licence suspended for six months and received infringement notices for exceeding the speed limit by more than 45kph and driving with an unrestrained child between 6 months and four years of age. The vehicle's plates were not seized on this occasion as the vehicle is a rental.



WASTE AND RECYCLING IN THE HILLS

BY CLR DR MILA KASBY
Greens Councillor for The Hills Shire Council

When I was at school, "Do the right thing!" meant put your rubbish in the bin without littering. We've come a long way from that mindset now, realising that 'out of sight' (at the tip) is not the best solution given that resources are finite, and our 'waste' has value.

I love going to the waste industry conference in May – not only because one of my favourite people, Costa from Gardening Australia (along with Dirt Girl and Scrapboy) are among the key presenters but because it's inspiring to see the seismic shift in thinking that is happening in this space.

One day, hopefully we won't have any waste – the aim is to 'design it out' and this is key to what is called the circular economy. This is a system where products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like reuse, repurposing, recycling and composting.

NSW is moving to a circular economy over the next 20 years and this means we'll be using our resources much more efficiently – ending up with less waste, lower emissions, less harm to our environment and more jobs.

You can't see it but councils are now starting to use more recycled content in everyday infrastructure, driving demand for these products and stimulating new markets.

Rubber crumb from thousands of tonnes of truck and car tyres are now being used in asphalt to build roads instead of going to the tip - with the rubber even improving the performance and durability of the road. Footpaths and paved areas can now contain crushed glass and printer cartridge toner and recycled plastics are being used to create resilient bridges, playgrounds, outdoor furniture and decking.

Our council is constructing 2 pedestrian bridges in Cockayne Reserve, Castle Hill made from recycled plastic (Fibre-Reinforced Polymer) a material that is more durable, corrosion resistant, strong and affordable - and a very impressive reuse of our waste.

FOGO (food organics and garden organics) is a part of this circular economy thinking – all of our food scraps will be collected from 2027 and turned into valuable compost to feed the soils in our gardens, local parks and sports fields.

Clothing is a huge challenge but the Sebastian Foundation has come up with a beautiful circular economy example. Through their partnership with E-Thread they repurpose and recycle all textiles donated to their bins

(none goes to landfill) and use the proceeds to fund an enriching youth mental health program in schools within that community. It would be fabulous to see this in the Hills!

Of course recycling is only part of the solution, we also need to address the generation of waste at the source. Australia needs packaging reform, not just voluntary guidelines – manufacturers should be responsible for the waste their products create. They can't keep churning out products that are not recyclable or difficult to recycle and they need to financially support the recovery of these materials.

I'm pleased that the council supported my motion on June 25th to minimise waste to landfill, encourage the use of materials with recycled content and ask the government to urgently act on waste generation at the source.



The NSW Premier and Cabinet Ministers are visiting Riverstone

If you live in the Riverstone area, you are invited to attend a Community Forum with the NSW Premier and Cabinet Ministers to discuss the priorities for your community.

To find out more and register, visit
nsw.gov.au/communitycabinet



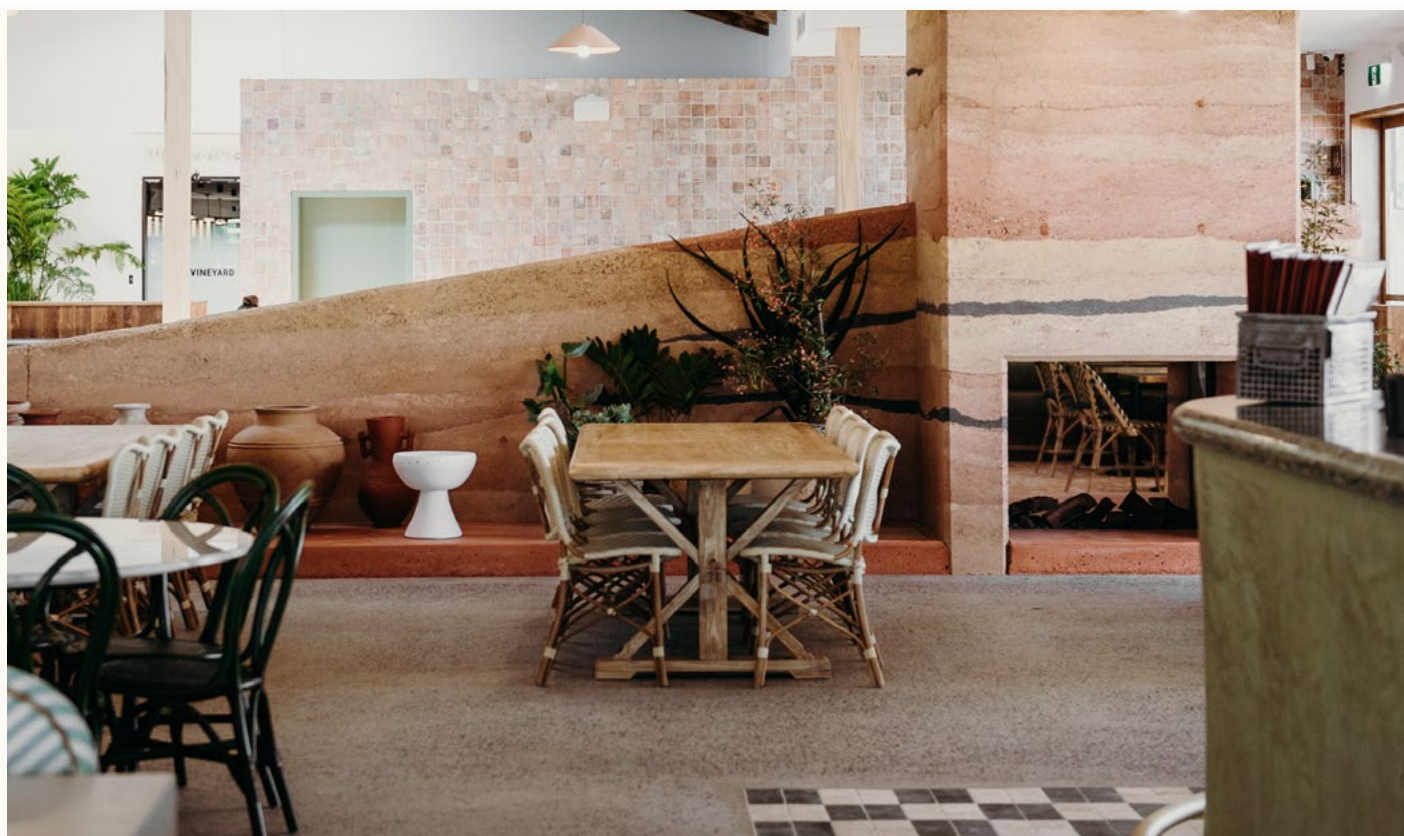
Event details

Date: Tuesday 23 July 2024

Time: 11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Location: Riverstone-Schofields Memorial Club





THE VINEYARD

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The next chapter of our story begins in late 2024, our growing destination will include a new café, the biggest kids playground in the local area and a massive beer garden. You'll be able to bring the whole crew and discover something new with every visit to The Vineyard.

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ST JOHN DAY CELEBRATIONS

At 90 years young, Alexander Crass is St John Ambulance NSW's oldest serving volunteer .

The enthusiastic volunteer is based in the Hawkesbury Division St John Ambulance and was the voice of the organisation this week to mark St John Day ... Monday, June 24th.

The St John Ambulance service was established in NSW over 140 years ago. There are over 2,800 St John volunteers in NSW, 1,000 of them are under the age of 18. St John NSW volunteers deliver event first aid, emergency response, and first aid training.

To Alex Crass it is volunteer work that keeps him young. He served in the Navy before joining the Railways and was in the First Aid corp for 30 years.

In an interview with ABC Radio Sydney he said: "I get great satisfaction assisting people in distress and being able to comfort and reassure people."

He says his volunteering journey with St John started 16 years ago when he honoured a promise to a friend.

He said the camaraderie and knowing he is helping people are what he enjoys most about his volunteering.

"I just encourage people to give a little bit of their time (to volunteering) when they find an area they want to be involved with."

St John Ambulance cadet Penelope Ravn joined the cadet program a year ago when she was just 7 years old, following in the footsteps of her older brother.

As the State's youngest volunteer she also spoke to the ABC saying she had learnt so much as a cadet. Her dream is to work in medicine.

For more information about St John Ambulance and its programs and how to volunteer call 1300 785 646 or visit the website stjohnnsw.com.au



Penelope Ravn and Alexander Crass - St John Ambulance NSW

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LOVE BITES PROGRAM

Is it ok to know where your partner is and what they are doing at all times? How do you know if someone is giving consent?

These are just some of the scenarios played out in the LoveBites program that is teaching teenagers the importance of respectful relationships.

To date, CHRГ (Castle Hill RSL Group) has provided around \$50,000 in funding, through cash and in-kind support, which has helped to train more than 100 facilitators from the Hills, Hawkesbury, Hornsby and Parramatta Local Area Police commands.

CHRG Group Chief Operating Officer Andy Abey said: "CHRG is incredibly proud of the work we have done with the Hills Local Area Command and more specifically, Senior Constable Ethan West and Tara Gleig (Crestwood High).

"Several years ago, we came together to discuss the impact of domestic and relationship violence on youth – with each of us having our own experience as youth and the interaction we have had with youth.

"We recognised that we were in a unique position to provide information and resources to engage, inform and influence better outcomes for teenagers. And we started with offering the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN's), LoveBites training for local police and civilians to enable

them to get into classrooms and deliver the content in a supported environment.

"Training has also been provided to civilians working in the sector. Approximately 1000 students have been delivered the LoveBites program in schools, since the program inception.

"Our ability to deliver these programs is borne from the position and relationships we have in the local community. Tackling the topic of domestic and relationship violence takes a whole of community approach. Importantly, it takes action, difficult conversations and a relentless commitment to effect change.

"The model we have used to train facilitators and support the rollout of the program in local schools, can be replicated community after community – in particular with the support of NAPCAN, Police and frontline

service providers who are in desperate need for funding of education programs and resources that get to the core of the issue.

"CHRG is now working with NAPCAN to identify other programs and partnerships to be able to reach more pre-teens and teens and do our part to bring an end to domestic and relationship violence.

"Clubs are in a unique position to bring so many stakeholders together for a common purpose. And that's exactly what's required if we want to see the dial shift. The community must work together on the rollout of education programs to create enough groundswell in order to gain momentum for change."

CHRG was recently presented with a Highly Commended Award by ClubsNSW for the LoveBites program initiative.

Senior Constable Ethan West Hills Youth Liaison Officer delivering a LoveBites session.

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Helping your loved one with Hearing Loss

TIPS FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION

As we approach Hearing Awareness Week, it's essential to recognise the challenges faced by individuals with hearing loss and how we can support them in effective communication. While hearing aids are beneficial for many, some may still require additional assistance depending on the severity of their condition. Let's explore some practical strategies for helping your loved one navigate their hearing loss:

- 1. FACE-TO-FACE COMMUNICATION:** When speaking with someone with hearing loss, ensure you're in the same room. Avoid talking to them from another room or with obstacles obstructing your face. Seeing your facial expressions and lip movements can significantly aid their understanding, as many individuals with hearing loss have started to also employ their other senses to follow conversations. Also, adequate lighting is crucial for clear visibility, enhancing communication effectiveness.
- 2. GAIN THEIR ATTENTION:** Before initiating a conversation, ensure you first get their attention. Address them by name or gently tap their arm to signal that you're about to speak to them. This simple gesture can help avoiding misunderstandings and frustration, fostering a more attentive and engaged interaction.
- 3. SPEAK CLEARLY AND SLOWLY:** When communicating aim to speak clearly. Be mindful that some individuals may process speech slightly slower meaning they require more time
- 4. MINIMISE BACKGROUND NOISE:** Reduce environmental distractions by minimising background noise wherever possible. Appliances, televisions, and other sources of noise can interfere or compete with conversations, making it difficult for individuals with hearing loss to follow. Sometimes it may be possible to position yourself and the person with hearing loss away from noisy distractions for example outside seating at a café vs inside. If you can't eliminate background noise, make sure the noise is positioned behind the person with the hearing loss making the most of the natural shape of our ears.
- 5. SHOW EMPATHY AND PATIENCE:** Understand the frustration and challenges faced by your loved one with hearing loss. Put yourself in their shoes by imagining how difficult it would be to understand conversations with blocked ears. Approach communication with empathy, patience, and dignity, avoiding

to decipher what you are trying to say. Speaking a little slower can be therefore quite helpful to stay engaged. Avoid shouting, as it can make lip-reading more challenging. If they ask for repetition, refrain from simply increasing volume. Instead, rephrase your sentence or simplify your message. For example, if you state "the weather has been absolutely terrible all week" and they can't comprehend what you're saying, you could rephrase your sentence to "It has been raining all day!" Keeping things little bit simpler.



frustration or annoyance. Remember, they desire to communicate effectively, and your understanding can make a significant difference.

In conclusion, supporting a loved one with hearing loss requires patience, empathy, and effective communication strategies. By implementing these simple yet impactful tips, you can help make conversations more accessible and enjoyable for both parties. Remember, your loved one wants to engage with you, and by creating a supportive environment, you can encourage open communication and strengthen your relationship.

So, as we observe Hearing Awareness Week, let's pledge to be more mindful of the communication needs of those with hearing loss. Let's ensure they feel valued, respected, and empowered to engage in conversations without barriers. Your efforts can make a world of difference in their daily lives. Contact us at Ear Studio today for all your ear health needs on 02) 9159 6122 or you can visit www.earstudio.com.au for more information or to book online.

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Stopping Domestic Abuse

BY BEV JORDAN

Every four minutes police in NSW respond to a domestic violence related issue. Research has shown that on average people will experience 26 incidents before they make a report.

Hills Police Commander Supt Naomi Moore says there is no simple solution to curbing domestic and family violence – “we need to work together”.

In the past 12 months officers for The Hills Police Area Command have investigated just under 3,400 domestic related incidents including 355 domestic violence assaults. Last year the figure was 410. Around 70% of those 355 reported assaults have resulted in an offender being arrested and charged.

In one case a 44-year-old man from Bella Vista, with a history of domestic related charges was charged in April with stalk/intimidate and breach of an apprehended violence order after it is alleged he used a third person to send messages to his ex partner to intimidate her and cause her to fear for her safety.

Spt Moore said: “The Hills PAC DV Team did a great job to support the victim and locate, arrest and charge the offender which resulted in him being refused bail until the court hearing in November 2024.

“This male will spend 7 months in custody for these matters showing how serious police and the court system is currently responding to domestic violence in our community,” she said.

Supt Moore was responding to questions put by the **Hills to Hawkesbury Community News** this week and said the most frequent offences seen in The Hills PAC are assault, harassment or intimidation, contravene ADVO and malicious damage to property.

“Across NSW, not just The Hills, DV assault has increased by 6.7% in the past 2 years and

breach ADVO has increased by 6% in the same period,” she said.

“The state average for time a police crew spends at the scene of a DV incident is 43 mins and we are responding to a DV incident every 4 minutes.”

“Police at The Hills will do everything we can to protect victims and break the cycle of violence in family units but we cannot do it alone.

“We need role models in the community to speak up and speak out.

“If you know your friend or loved one is a victim or an offender of domestic violence don’t be complicit, be a role model and do something to help make a positive change to the situation.”

“Report domestic violence. Whether as a victim, a witness, a family member, a friend or a neighbour. If you hear it, see it, report it to police and provide support, where possible, to the victim.”

She said the EMPOWER YOU APP release by NSW Police provides important support.

“You can use, or encourage a victim to download the EMPOWER YOU APP. This app is designed to allow a victim of domestic violence to record details of an incident.

“There is an ability to catalogue incidents over a period of time which will be important for capturing conduct which may be relevant to coercive control offences.

“There is a diary function where victims can document incidents, capture photos and upload images. The diary entry can be emailed

to a trusted friend or Police and be used in court.

“This is especially important with new Coercive Control legislation coming into effect from 1st July. The app also gives victims of domestic violence access to current information about support services and provides a virtual safety network for victims who can establish this via the app.”

If you have concerns about family violence call 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) If you are in danger call 000.



Council Grants To Help

Two organisations on the coalface of the domestic violence crisis have received a major financial boost from The Hills Shire Council, sharing in \$70,000 in grant funding.

Council will award \$40,000 to The Sanctuary, The Hills Women’s Shelter and \$30,000 to the Lisa Harnum Foundation through its grant program to support the vital work they do in the community.

Hills Shire Mayor, Dr Peter Gangemi said: “Domestic violence in The Hills has escalated by 10 per cent over the last five years, and this is unacceptable. Council is very committed to playing a greater role in reducing this crime in our community. The Sanctuary and the Lisa Harnum Foundation are the two largest organisations in The Hills on the frontline against domestic violence. Their work in our community is indispensable, providing accommodation, counselling and other services to women and children.

Chair of The Sanctuary Yvonne Keane thanked Council for the contribution.

“Every contribution is vital in helping us provide safe refuge and support for those escaping domestic violence,” she said. “Many who come to us, leave without a cent to their name and the clothes on their backs. This funding will help victims to rebuild their lives and reestablish themselves within their community.”

The Lisa Harnum Foundation supports women experiencing domestic violence through their Safe Room program, case management, counselling, education and monthly group support.

Founder of the Lisa Harnum Foundation Aileen Mountfield said: “These much-needed funds will go toward our established Safe Rooms in Castle Hill and Rouse Hill. The Safe Rooms are where women can access help in a safe and confidential space so they can receive the support they need.

The grants to both organisations are the largest grants Council has allocated to organisations supporting domestic violence victims in a financial year.

The Mayor said the funding comes on the back of Council partnering with The Hills Police Area Command and The Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Network on a high-visibility domestic violence awareness campaign.

“Raising awareness is our strongest tool as a community against domestic violence. “Together, we can bring this heinous crime into the light and stop it.”

To receive the funding, both organisations applied for their respective amounts through the Other Financial Grant Assistance program.

For more information about the program, visit Council’s website, www.thehills.nsw.gov.au, and search for ‘Apply for a Grant.’

WITHOUT A **WILL** YOU WON'T HAVE A SAY!

Many people think you only need a Will when you have something to leave behind. This is a common misconception as everyone has something such as a car, personal items, or Superannuation, you want to ensure whatever you have goes to those who are important to you?

Over 50% of Australian's do not have a valid Will, that's half of the adult population who could potentially die without someone knowing their wishes.

When someone dies without a Will, it is called 'dying intestate' and the law decides who gets their assets. Your assets will be divided according to a government formula. This formula usually favours a spouse, children and, if there is no spouse or children, assets may go to parents' or siblings. This process can add additional stress to your family and can take a considerable amount of time and cost to resolve.

However, if you want to ensure that your final wishes are fulfilled, include friends or charities, you can only do this with an up-to-date Will.

There are many services available to help you make a Will, a Solicitor, Trustee Company, do-it-yourself Will Kit, or an online service. All

of these have their pros and cons depending on your needs at the time. They all have one thing in common, without any Will, you won't have a say!

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation encourages people to consider leaving a gift in their Will to their favourite charity. A gift, as little as 1%, can make all the difference to the future needs of the charity.

Anne McFadden, Director of Planned Giving, Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation says, 'leaving a gift in your Will is a way for you to leave a lasting legacy to something you are passionate about.'

'People who leave a gift in their Will to Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation value and share in our mission to provide the best possible health care outcomes for sick kids for future generations.'

Even a small percentage can be the catalyst for change, providing hope, healing, and opportunities for countless sick kids.'

If you would like more information on how to leave a gift in your Will to Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation, visit our website at www.schf.org.au/gift-in-will, call or email the Planned Giving team on 1800 770 122, plannedgiving@schf.org.au or scan the QR code.



**1 in 2 Australians don't
have a valid Will.**



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to chance.**

www.schf.org.au/gift-in-will
1800 770 122



LIBRARY NEWS

Hills Shire Library Events

Let's Talk About - Reducing Plastic Use

Wed, 3 Jul 2024 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Baulkham Hills Library, 1 Railway Street Baulkham Hills

Learn how to make some simple changes to reduce waste in your life, especially single use plastic. We'll inspire you with hints & tips to live more sustainably and reduce your plastic footprint.

This event is for Hills Shire residents only. Presented in collaboration with The Hills Shire Council's Resource Recovery

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

Books you might enjoy: *How to go plastic free* / Caroline Jones, *Waste not* / Erin Rhoads, *How to give up plastic* / Will McCallum

Move & Groove - Castle Hill Library

Wed, 3 Jul 2024 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Castle Hill Library, 14 Pennant Street Castle Hill

On your mark, get set, move! Join us for an interactive, fun-filled session for you and your child including action books, songs, rhymes and musical instruments. FREE. Suitable for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years old | Adults are required to stay with

their child but do not need to book a ticket | Bookings essential online

Bookings for the following week will be available at 9.30am on Thursday morning. In consideration of others, please cancel your booking if you are no longer able to attend.

Bricks in the library (Part of the July School Holiday Activities 2024 collection)

Sponsored by The Friends of the Hills Library- Suitable for children in school years K-6

By The Hills Shire Library Service

Mon, 8 Jul 2024 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Dural Library, Pellitt Lane Dural

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 | Suitable for children in school years K-6

We ask that only children attend Bricks in the Library. Adults are required

to stay in the library for the duration. In consideration of others, please cancel your booking if you are no longer able to attend.

Books you and your child might enjoy: *Incredible LEGO creations from space* - Sarah Dees, *The bricktionary* - Ryan McNaught, *How to build LEGO dinosaurs* - Hannah Dolan

Aboriginal Cultural Session with Muru Mittigar

Featured in 3 collections - By The Hills Shire Library Service

10 Jul 2024 10:00 - 11:00 AM School Yrs K-2 | 10 July, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM School Yrs 3-6

Castle Hill Library 14 Pennant Street Castle Hill

Join us to celebrate NAIDOC Week through these interactive and hands on experiences with members of the Aboriginal community. These cultural sessions will introduce various aspects of Aboriginal culture, history, heritage, traditions, and protocols. There will be an acknowledgement of country, ochre hand painting, artefacts touch and feel, and an interactive clap sticks dance.

FREE. Bookings essential online | Suitable for children in school years K-2

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

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

Books you and your child might enjoy: *Living landscapes* / Jennifer Cunningham, *Junior atlas of Indigenous Australia, Come together* / Isaiah Firebrace

Urban Gardens - Beautiful Bromeliads

By The Hills Shire Library Service

Fri, 12 Jul 2024 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Castle Hill Library 14 Pennant St Castle Hill

Join a representative from The Bromeliad Society of Australia to learn about the fascinating world of Bromeliads, an easy care and water wise plant. Discover how they have evolved using evolutionary tricks! Discuss how to grow, divide, and propagate these beautiful plants.

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

Books you might enjoy: *Growing bromeliads*, *The Kew gardener's guide to growing house plants*, *Tropical plants and how to love them*



Hawkesbury Library Events

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

AUTHOR TALK - THE LIFE AND TIMES OF POET CHARLES HARPUR

Wednesday 3 July, 6:30 - 7:00 PM

Charles Harpur, son of Windsor convicts, was the first important poet of colonial Australia. Paul Eggert and Chris Vening, editors of 'Letter of Charles Harpur and his Circle' will explain their importance to understanding the man and his times. FREE - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

ORGANISE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY - FAMILY HISTORY SESSION

Monday 8 July, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

When undertaking family history research, it pays to be organised. This session will look at the benefits of arranging your notes and documents as well as keeping track of your family history research. DELIVERED ONLINE VIA ZOOM BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

FINDING THE FIASCHI FAMILY - HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 10 July, 10:00 - 11:15 AM

Discover the Fiaschi family with Jonathan Auld. Dr Thomas Fiaschi (1853-1927), surgeon & winemaker of Tizzana Winery in Ebenezer, led an extraordinary life. His first wife Katherine, then second wife Amy, also played major roles in the wine business and medical practice. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL ONLY IF ATTENDING VIA ZOOM

Craft is Alive in the Hawkesbury

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

During the annual Craft Alive event in June, the Hawkesbury Showground pavilion was transformed into a crafter's paradise, bringing together like-minded makers.

Craft Alive, operating for 33 years across Australia, is the largest craft event series, featuring a variety of workshops and exhibitors. Their presence at the Hawkesbury is welcomed year after year by visitors who participate and take home their hand-made goodies.

Within the newly-built pavilion, over 30 exhibitors on the weekend were present, including the Embroidery Guild NSW, Handweavers and Spinners NSW and Western Sydney Woodturners. At every turn, artistic abilities were displayed with mounted quilts and embroidery panels from the Online Quilt Magazine.

But visitors weren't just persuaded to buy colourful fabric or scrapbooking supplies. Guest teacher Sandi Foley-De Vinceo featured her junk journaling class during the show, encouraging makers to reuse scrap material through a therapeutic journaling process. Guest teacher Debbie Hatumale-Uy also appeared at the event, with workshops specialising in the UV 'Direct to Film' fabric printing technique, allowing visitors to practise creating personalised gifts and products.

Two artists at the event I spoke to expressed their deep passion and love for creating. Blue Mountains artist Miss Leela at 'The Maker's Stash', has over 20 years experience in english

paper piecing and is fascinated with slow-stitching projects. She shared why events such as Craft Alive are essential for online businesses to connect with their customers:

"It's wonderful when online customers come and I meet them in person, and I enjoy meeting new customers who haven't yet discovered me. It also gives me the opportunity to share my particular craft and passion, and I love to inspire and encourage others to try English Paper Piecing".

Michelle Kistima-Menser at 'You are Brave Textile' specialises in textile screen-printing, creating products like poplin fabrics and tea-towels. Michelle enjoys working inside her Marrickville studio but also spoke of the importance of building strong craft community:

"Often as a maker, we work alone in the studio for days or months at a time, not really

engaging with many people. That's why I love Craft Alive - I enjoy introducing people to work as a textile designer and screen printer. But more importantly, it's just lovely to meet people who are creative themselves, and I think we can all learn from each other if we are open to listening and sharing".

Sally Taylor, the marketing and event manager for Craft Alive, believes in the difference of leaving a community "craft-enriched" through the connection of art:

"Our classes are designed if you're trying something new or sitting down and having a natter. We'll see generations of families walking through the door all weekend - It's a fantastic show and we are really excited by the new faces as well as the regulars coming back."

If you missed the show, Hawkesbury Papercraft Show will take place from the 1st-3rd November at Hawkesbury Showground, showcasing scrapbooking and all things paper. You can apply as an exhibitor through their Exhibitor Application Form on the Craft Alive website.



Miss Leela in front of her colourful stall, 'The Maker's Stash'



Michelle Kistima-Menser with "You are Brave Textiles", showcasing her new range of 'Illustrative Natives'



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ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION

Disability Service Provider Endeavour Foundation is embarking upon Australia's largest Virtual Reality (VR) rollout in its sector and the new technology has just arrived at its Castle Hill service.

The VR learning programs will benefit 40 Hills locals with disabilities from the Castle Hill Learning and Lifestyle hub, as well as around 100 students from 12 local schools.

The exclusive Virtual Reality suite, which was rolled out earlier this month, features all of Endeavour Foundation's leading VR learning programs, including:

- catching public transport
- how to cross a road through pedestrian safety
- how to use an ATM
- navigating café and barista training
- forklift driving and warehouse safety
- as well as a driving simulation focussing on car license preparations, driving at night, highway driving and parking.

Sixty Endeavour Foundation disability service sites will receive the new tech, directly assisting close to 3,000 people with disability to develop work and life skills.

Endeavour Foundation's Service Design Manager, Chris Beaumont said: "The size of this roll out has been simply staggering. It's an enormous feat, and certainly the largest in the disability sector, but we couldn't do this without support.

"Our VR technologies allow Endeavour Foundation to create new possibilities for people with disability, whether it is improving life skills in our Learning and Lifestyle Hubs or gaining some skills towards sustainable employment while in a safe environment.

"School students can also explore new tasks in a controlled environment, before attempting these activities in real life."

The mass VR release is the result of a generous \$200,000 donation to the leading disability service provider, by its flagship charity car-rally of 35 years, 'Great Endeavour Rally', with an additional grant of \$8,250 from the Australian Government's Stronger Communities Program.

Federal Member for Mitchell, the Hon Alex Hawke MP, helped to launch the VR suite at Endeavour Foundation Castle Hill on Wednesday 19th June, also presenting service awards to people employed in the local Disability Social Enterprise.

"I was proud to support the Stronger Communities grant application as a way of building the skills and capability of people with disability in our electorate," he said. "The service awards are a terrific way to acknowledge the employees' achievements and I am pleased to be able to share this moment with all the recipients."



Launch of VR (L to R) Chris Beaumont (Service Design Manager), Cullen (Client), Alex Hawke MP and Ryan Kungl (Team Lead)

Endeavour Foundation has a range of technologies and programs that help people with disability to live their best lives.

"The tech comes with the additional support of our exclusive 2D video based THRIVE learning platform, enabling another way for people to upskill at their own pace, without the virtual reality setup," Mr Beaumont added.

Castle Hill Learning and Lifestyle Operations Manager, Palani Subramanian, said "not only can our participants enjoy our fabulous Learning and Lifestyle centre, but they can enhance their abilities through different ways of learning while using the VR suite.

"We are very grateful to the Australian Government for their contribution. We're also incredibly grateful for the support from locals and other businesses who contribute to Endeavour

Foundation to help create possibilities for people with disability," he said.

A FUN CAREER CLOSE TO HOME!

Looking for a new, rewarding career? Working locally at Aussie Pumps can provide the ideal mix of stimulation and convenience.

"Our recent move to new premises has enabled us to increase production capacity and productivity. We're actively recruiting professional salespeople, product managers and sales admin staff to support this growth", said Aussie's General Manager Warwick Lorenz. "We'd love to hear from enthusiastic locals who want a rewarding career in a vital industry and have fun at the same time!"

Full on the job training will be provided and excellent remuneration packages are on offer for those who have a talent and passion for good customer service.

"We're proud to be an Australian manufacturer and we're proud of the quality products we've developed, build and sell," said Lorenz.

Aussie Pumps' new headquarters is in the Hills Norwest area, near Hillson, with onsite parking, excellent staff facilities and many retail businesses nearby. With good transport links cutting commute times, working locally certainly offers many benefits.

For further information on all the employment opportunities available check the careers section of the Aussie Pumps website aussiepumps.com.au/careers/ or contact Linda-Sue Karkowski on 8865 3500.



PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT KELLYVILLE INCLUDING 5G

**BERNIE MULLANE SPORTS COMPLEX,
MARELLA AVENUE, KELLYVILLE NSW 2155
(Lot 20/DP1129033)– RFNSA 2155007**

The proposal consists of the addition of a new sector with associated works and includes;

- The replacement of an existing triangular headframe with a new circular headframe;
- The installation of two (2) 4G panel antennas (no longer than 2.8 metres in height), three (3) 5G antennas (no longer than 0.9m in height);
- New ancillary equipment including eight (8) remote radio units and cabling; reconfiguration of existing equipment on the facility and within the equipment shelter; and
- Any other associated ancillary works necessary or desirable for the operation or proper functioning of the facility.

1. Vodafone and Optus regard the proposed installations as Low-impact Facilities under the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* ("The Determination"), based on the description above.
2. In accordance with Section 7 of *C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code*, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Should you require further information or wish to comment, please contact Davidzo Foto at CPS Technology and Infrastructure 9300 1700, submissionsVIC@cpstech.com.au or Suite 1003, 1 Newland Street, Bondi Junction NSW 2022 by **Monday 15 July 2024**. Further information may also be obtained from www.rfnsa.com.au/2155007.

Students hear from Veterans

BY BEV JORDAN

Chris Kirk is one of several veterans from Castle Hill RSL sub-branch who have been talking to students about their service in the Middle East.

The talks are part of the Postcards of Honour campaign as a lead up to the Middle East Area of Operations National Commemoration Day. After the talks students are given blank postcards to decorate and write a message to a Middle East veteran.

So far veterans have spoken at Kellyville Public School, Excelsior Public School and Castle Hill High. The postcards will be posted by Castle Hill RSL sub-branch to local veterans.

Forty-one Australians died in Afghanistan, including former Oakhill student Trooper Jason Brown. Two lives were lost in Iraq and Kuwait and many veterans returned from the Middle

East with long-lasting physical and mental trauma.

Chris Kirk, who served for 17 years in the British Army was the youngest soldier in his troop when he was first posted to Iraq in 2003.

"The others were much older and they looked out for me. When I was deployed in 2006 to Iraq we had a few 18-year-olds in the troop and the roles were reversed. I looked out for them. The friends I made and the comrades I had were brilliant."

He said talking to Year 5 students at Kellyville Public was a rewarding experience. "They listened and asked questions that were respectful and well thought out. They also wanted to know what the food was like."

Co-ordinator of the program in the HILLS, Vietnam veteran Phill Evenden said: "Having learnt the lessons on the way Vietnam veterans were treated both by the public and the military after we withdrew from Vietnam, the RSL movement and the Government decided on a commemoration day specific to the Middle East campaign."

"The significance of the date, July 11th, is that it is the month and day in 2021 that troops were officially withdrawn for the Middle East and the war was declared over."



Talking at Castle Hill High: Wing Commander Frank DiStefano (Air Force) and Major Glynn Potter (Army)

On 11 July 2021, the Minister for Defence confirmed that all Australia personnel had been withdrawn from Afghanistan bringing Australia's longest war to an end. An official National service will be held at the Cenotaph at 11am on Thursday, 11th July.

Chris Kirk won't be part of the Castle Hill RSL sub-branch group because he will be walking the Kokoda track with other veterans.

Castle Hill RSL sub-Branch has arranged for a memorial to be installed at Castlebrook Cemetery to acknowledge the Middle East campaign. It has also been helping schools establish their own memorials. There are memorials at several Primary schools including, Kellyville Public School, North Kellyville, Excelsior, Jasper Road, Castle Hill and Samuel Gilbert Public School. For more information about the talks or the memorials contact Phill Evenden on 0413 715 622.



Talking at Kellyville Public: Petty Officer Haonan Teng (Navy) and Private Chris Kirk



New playground for Frank Mason Reserve – have your say!

South Windsor – a new playground is coming soon to Frank Mason Reserve and we want local residents to have their say on what is built!

A survey, covering everything from how residents access the park on McQuade Avenue to what kind of play equipment they want, is now available at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/frank-mason and we want residents to take five minutes to make their voices heard.

This exciting playground upgrade is scheduled for the 2025/2026 financial year. Your feedback will be used to develop a detailed

plan for the new playground, which will then be placed on exhibition.

As this project is for our residents, it is important that we hear from the users of this park to ensure we deliver the playground that meets the needs of our community.

To have your say, visit www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/frank-mason by 11.59pm, Friday, 5 July 2024.

HCC seeks your say on Bounty Reserve's new playground

The Hawkesbury City Council invites residents to share what they think about a proposal to replace the existing playground at Bounty Reserve in Bligh Park.

A survey, covering everything from how residents access the playground on Wetherill Crescent to what kind of play equipment they want, is now available at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/bounty.

The playground plays a special role in the community due to its proximity to nearby sporting facilities. This exciting playground upgrade is scheduled for the 2025/2026 financial year.

According to the Hawkesbury Council, the community's feedback will be used to develop a detailed plan for the new playground, which will then be placed on exhibition: "We want residents to take five minutes to make their voices heard."

"Works will include shade, seats, drinking fountain, bin, carpark resurfacing and connections to the pathway from the car park. The softfall will be a combination of much with rubber in key wear areas and the design will incorporate a connection to Country."

CASTLE HILL PLAYERS PRESENTS

MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION

at the Pavilion Theatre from 26th July – 17th August

Written by George Bernard Shaw and directed by Steve Rowe

Written in 1893, *Mrs Warren's Profession* proved too much for Victorian sensibilities and didn't debut on the London stage until 1902 at the dawn of the Edwardian age.

Kitty Warren, former prostitute, "spoilt and domineering, and decidedly vulgar", is now a successful businesswoman – due to her owning several brothels across Europe. Her thoroughly modern and pragmatic daughter Vivie, having just graduated from university, seeks to get acquainted with Kitty for the first time in her young life. When Vivie realises what her mother does for a living, their relationship irrevocably changes and she must find her own way forward in a world run by men.

Shaw asserts that prostitution is not caused by moral failure but by economic necessity and, well over a century after its first performance, his play still resonates. How and why do we judge

the choices of others – as well as the choices we make for ourselves?

"This super talented cast and crew have more than done justice to this Shaw masterpiece. It's a must see!"

Steve Rowe, Director

Content Warning: Adult themes

Castle Hill Players presents *Mrs Warren's Profession* By George Bernard Shaw, directed by Steve Rowe 26th July–17th August. Wed, Fri, Sat 8PM, Sun 4PM Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill

Tickets \$30, Concession \$25 The Pavilion Theatre is located within the Castle Hill Showgrounds, Castle Hill. Bookings paviliontheatre.org.au/MrsWarrensProfession or call 0296342929. Enquiries call 0296343846 or email admin@paviliontheatre.org.au. Media enquiries email Abby.marketing@paviliontheatre.org.au



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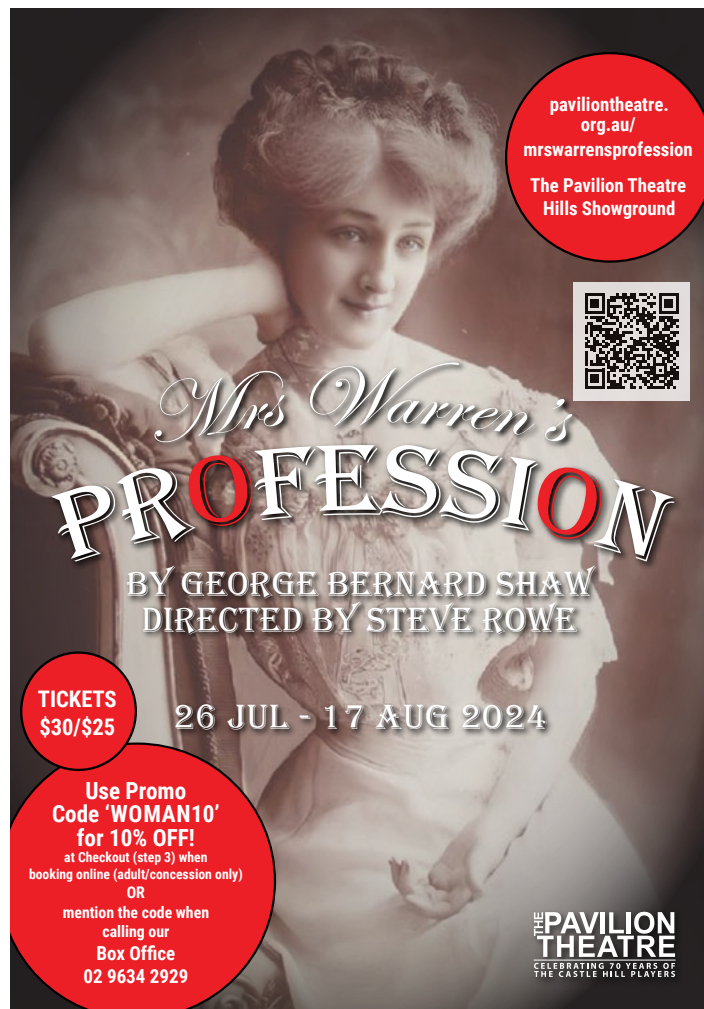
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paviliontheatre.org.au/mrswarrensprofession

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BY GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
DIRECTED BY STEVE ROWE

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THERE'S A NEW WEATHER WARNING FOR RICHMOND, THIS JULY!

The weatherman has forecasted 50 TONNES OF REAL SNOW expected to land at The Richmond Inn for an amazing Snow Festival, from Fri 12th July - Sun 21st July!

Grab your snow jackets and rally the troops for 9 days of frosty fun!
Meet and greet Queen Elsa & Anna at TWO Frozen events, enjoy winter movies, games, snow cannons, Mario Kart competitions, DJs and \$5k in prizes up for grabs! Where else would you spend the school holidays?
Are DJs and dance floors more your style? Join the team for TWO dance parties in the snow and pick your poison: Fire & Ice Party on Sat 13th July featuring electronic dance icon Stace Cadet, and a locals dance party on the 20th July to close out an epic week of celebrating.
Plus, tuck into their delicious winter food menu, with cozy pub favourites and seasonal dishes to keep you warm. Visit their website for the full menu.

They are SNOW excited to see you there! Book now to secure a spot!

SNOW FESTIVAL
❄️ 50 TONNES OF REAL SNOW ❄️
FRI 12 – SUN 21 JULY

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WITH ELSA & ANNA
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Young TAFE trainee wins Australian Web Award

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

TAFE NSW Information Technology student, Arianne Milan, is a recent recipient of the prestigious Australian Web Award, for her award-winning design of Parramatta Riverside Theatre's new website.

The Australian Web Awards, founded in Western Australia in 2009, judge a variety of online ads, campaigns and websites. These technical awards of excellence encourage innovation and development in Australia's web industry, which is worth \$1.4 billion.

Arianne has recently completed a traineeship at web design company, Jala Design, during her Certificate IV in Web Development at Granville TAFE. Jala Design's office is based in Bella Vista and focuses on managing websites and graphic design projects but most importantly, building client relationships.

During her traineeship at Jala, Arianne focused on content management, client communication, and coding. However, it was her recent web project to redevelop Riverside Theatre's website that won her the 'Entertainment and Events' award. Within the project, Arianne built forms and managed content, all whilst balancing quality assurance training. While Arianne has experience with university courses, the hands-on experience offered at TAFE NSW gave her a deeper understanding of web design:

"Mostly everyone within Jala Design had a TAFE background. TAFE gave me a lot more practical experience with industry professionals, and a lot of the work at Jala was based on the work I was doing in my studies."

"Jala worked very hard to achieve this and it's so cool that as a small team we were able to complete this with a major entertainment website. I am learning so much at Jala everyday! After the award, I want to continue developing websites and pursuing education."

At Jala Design, Managing Director Jarrod Langdon has also completed several courses at TAFE NSW Hornsby. He advocates extensively for vocational education and training, as nine of his current staff come from TAFE NSW. Jarrod is also a member of the Australian VET Alumni Advisory Group and has previously mentored competitors at WorldSkills Australia. He also celebrates awards of his own, as a recipient of the gold medal for Website Design at the 2005 WorldSkills International Competition in Helsinki.

Jarrod expressed his congratulations and pride towards his newest staff member at Jala Design, "It was a no-brainer to keep Arianne on

the team after her award and it definitely helped her application process here".

However, he also spoke of the competitiveness for technology roles and the importance of candidates to focusing on building micro-credentials and soft-skills to stand out:

"Each time I'm looking to hire a new staff member, TAFE NSW graduates are a no-brainer. The skills taught are aligned to industry needs and standards, so they're ready to hit the ground running. The pace of the sector is growing far more rapidly than it ever did - creating difficulty for women in particular to secure roles in an oversaturated market geared towards men."

"I've found TAFE NSW also teaches those all-too-important soft skills and focuses on current technology standards. There's a stereotype that IT workers are quiet and reserved, but building client relationships is an essential skill for success," he said.



(L-R) Arianne Milan, Jarrod Langdon, Christianne Marie and Fabricio Munoz

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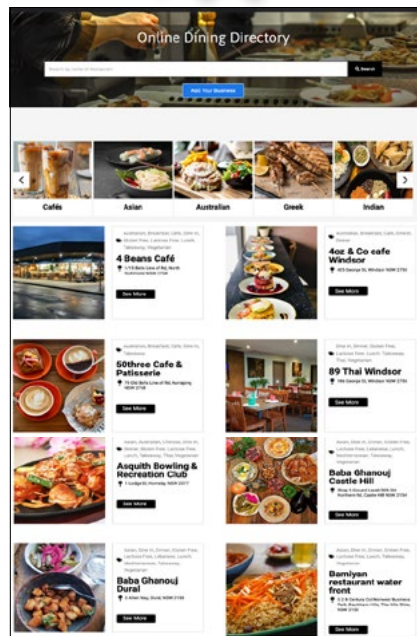
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NURTURED VILLAGE HAMPERS: Supporting New Mums and Bubs in the Hills

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

It may take a village to raise a child, but this registered charity is reconnecting mothers one hamper at a time with their newly opened Hills network.

The Nurtured Village Hampers is a national charity that recognises a gap in the traditional village of support in early parenthood. Starting as a kindness initiative in Brisbane by founder Emma Gray, the campaign has now expanded to include over 21 locations across Australia. Kaitlyn Bywater, Executive Director and Manager of Operations for The Nurtured Village was excited to share the story of the charity's inception in 2019:

"Emma, our founder, received a hamper when she was in a new-born bubble with her first child. There was no knock on the door, it was just dropped off by some of her husband's gym friends who knew that it wasn't the time for new mums to host. Since that moment, she's just been paying that kindness forward".

In a campaign to advocate for and promote maternal mental health, The Nurtured Village organises home cooked meals, store bought foods, and gifts in the form of a hamper that is randomly gifted to a young family each month in each town and city. At the beginning of each month, nominations are opened for any biological mothers, foster, kinship-care or step-mothers. As this charity is not means-tested, the results are drawn at random unless a high-risk case is flagged, allowing mothers to access this service without a mental health diagnosis.

Since January this year, a new village has opened up in the Hills spanning from Wisemans Ferry to Baulkham Hills. Andrea Pateman, Glenorie local, is the group facilitator and would

love mums to join the Facebook Group: 'Nurtured Village Hampers Hills District Sydney'.

Creating support structures for new mums is essential in combating maternal mental health issues such as postnatal depression and anxiety, which affects up to 1 in 3 women. The enormous physical, emotional and social changes after becoming a mum are rarely acknowledged and rather, become an invisible burden for women.

Marketing Manager Michael Holani reflected on the lack of available mental health support as he said,

"Maternal mental health is not something that is talked about, there still seems to be a stigma for mental health. Our charity recognises that there is a gap for mothers and we aim to create strong support networks to address this".

Kaitlyn Bywater, has also seen first-hand the common struggles faced by new parents and why their mission to support new mothers is essential for maternal mental health:

"By creating these virtual mother groups online, we aim to reduce the social isolation that new mums face. But our physical hamper also resolves financial burdens and mental loads, all whilst creating connection and a safe space."

Since January to April 2024, The Nurtured Village Hampers has distributed 107 hampers across Australia consisting of over 8715 donations. Kaitlyn also hopes to continue



Kaitlyn Bywater behind the beautiful hampers and donations with one of her three sons


expanding their locations and reflected on their grass-root approach in 2019:

"We went from a bunch of mums across the country paying it forward with coffee, to a board of nine and 85 volunteers - the growth has been so inspiring!"

If you know a special mum between the ages of 14-51 years who needs a helping hand, you can nominate them through the Hills District Facebook Page or on The Nurtured Village Hamper's website 'Nomination Form'.

Hills District mums can also reach out to hillsdistrict@thenurturedvillage.org to connect to clothing, food relief and other essential services especially for domestic violence situations.

For those passionate about maternal and women's healthcare, The Nurtured Village Hampers is seeking volunteers for roles in hamper coordination, administrative work, and distributing flyers in community centres. This charity is also recognised by Centrelink as a childcare subsidiary activity, and can be contacted at hello@nurturedvillage.org.



Loving and adored mother and mother in law,
nan, great nan and great great nan.
Loved and respected by her extended family and friends.

Nancy's family invites you to a celebration of her life to be
held at St Benedict's Catholic Church, 8 Fagans Rd,
Arcadia on Tuesday July 2nd, 2024
commencing at 10.45 am.

At the conclusion of the service the
Cortege will proceed to the Field of Mars Cemetery,
Quarry Rd, Ryde for a 1pm interment.

The family wish to invite everyone back to the
Glenorie RSL to celebrate Nancy's life.

Fiorino, Nancy
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We salute you, Bill and your 103 years!

Command, 7th Squadron. They flew raids over Germany in Lancaster Bombers.

Bill returned home in 1945 where he returned to the Commonwealth Bank and met his future wife, Elaine. They married in 1955 and had 2 daughters Jennie and Sue. Bill worked as a Bank Manager retiring at age 60 in 1981.

In 1992, 32 years ago, Bill and Elaine came to live in RSL LifeCare Rowland Village. All the residents were ex-service personnel and their spouses. Bill has reminisced about the wonderful spirit of camaraderie and the welcome and help given to each new resident.

Bill enjoyed playing golf on the 3-hole course (now 9 holes) and playing billiards with his old friend and fellow World War 11 veteran, the late Alan Buxton.

Celebrating your 103rd Birthday is quite an achievement! Bill, your longevity must be credited to your constitution and your spirit and in no small part to the loving care of your two daughters who on the death of their mother 17 years ago, began and have continued bringing home cooked main meals that you simply have to heat and eat!

Thank you, Bill for being such a fine neighbour, friend, resident, veteran and example of strength and perseverance. We thank you for your care, courtesy, humour and honesty.

BILL 103 YEARS YOUNG

There were 103 years to mark when family and friends gathered to celebrate Bill Pierce of Galston's birthday on 23rd June.

The World War 2 veteran has been a cherished part of the RSL LifeCare Rowland Village community for over three decades. Fellow resident Ann Lomas wrote the following.

"Celebrations were very festive with 11 members of his extended family, for lunch at the Galston Club.

Bill attended various schools including Sydney Grammar. At 17 he began working for the Sydney Commonwealth Bank following his father.

In 1938 Bill joined the Infantry Scottish Battalion based in Willoughby. In 1939 when war broke out, he was called up and joined the Air Force, he was only 18.

Bill trained in various places with Tiger Moths (single engine planes) and Ansons (twin engine planes). He became proficient as a wireless operator and was promoted to Sergeant.

He sailed to England and was assigned to the Permanent English Airforce Bomber



God, the meaning of life and Barbie!

MURRAY LAMBERT – PASTOR AT THE CENTRE DURAL

I finally got around to watching the film "Barbie" and was amazed at what it had to say about relationship, identity, and God

In "Barbie" life exists in two parallel universes; "Barbieland" - a harmonious, hyper-girlie, Edenic paradise And the real world - full of racism, sexism, corporate greed, and the general degradation of all humanity.

Barbie needs to leave paradise and learn how to move through the imperfect world as a human woman. But she can only achieve this by meeting Ruth Handler; the creator of Barbie. Both times that they meet, Ruth takes Barbie's hands, framed in a way that evokes Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* – coincidence? NO! Greta Gerwig who wrote and directed the film highlighted this directive choice in a recent interview.

It is only once Barbie has met her creator that she discovers her identity, purpose, and value. "Barbie" explores humanity's deep yearning to come back into relationship with their creator so that they can discover their fully realised selves and flourish amidst a broken world.

Would you like to know more about how a relationship with your Creator can provide these things?

Why don't you join us this Sunday at 10am at The Centre – 1 Pellitt Lane, Dural. Or email me at murray@thecentredural.org.au



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Macquarie Towns Garden Club – Treasure Hunt

Louise Johnson of Macquarie Towns Garden Club has been on an unusual year-long adventure, on a quest to establish the age of the Club. Turns out it is VERY old: 130 years old! Most Sydney Clubs don't even get close for longevity!

In her book *Macquarie Towns Garden Club – A Guide to its History and Formation*, Mrs Johnson describes the Trove (National Library) searches that helped back-track her way into the history of the Hawkesbury, and her discovery that the first General Meeting was held on 1 st May, 1894, under its then-name Richmond Horticultural Society.

The book touches lightly on the social history of the area, and covers the impact of war and pandemics, including the so-called Spanish flu of 1918/1919. The newspaper clippings show a seemingly continuous cycle of 'droughts and flooding rains' that the Hawkesbury continues to experience, with huge impacts on local agriculture, and in consequence, the Spring and Autumn Flower Shows which the Society inaugurated and which soon became an important part of the district's social calendar, especially in the late 1890s.

Mrs Johnson also uncovered some interesting tidbits, such as the Horticultural Society having an interest in the state of Richmond Park during 1955. After receiving their letter, the Council assured the Society that "areas under the trees in the Park would be mown more often".

Another incident: it appears there was a flurry of activity in 1934 when the past-President resigned after the Governor's wife was unable to open the Spring Show, but later offered to be reinstated when the Governor's wife suddenly became available. Sadly, it appears that no one wished to take him up on his offer, and as a result he later withdrew sponsorship of prizes for the Show. The Club finally became known as Macquarie Towns Garden Club in 1998. It now meets on the first Thursday of the month in the Tebbutt Room at Windsor Library. For a copy of the book (\$20)



and any enquiries, phone 4575 3858. Visit the website <http://macquarietownsgardenclub.wordpress.com>

For more information, Jill Storrie 0400 225 009; email ardlui3@bigopond.net.au

ARCADIAN QUILTING NEWS

Our much anticipated (end of May) meeting with Andrea Blackford, the Assistance Dogs representative finally arrived.

We had 23 quilts, finished, labeled and ready for "giving"! For this meeting our member's attendance was 99% and Andrea's presentation was wonderfully inspiring.

Training an Assistance Dog is impressive and heartwarming, receiving the care of the dog's health; the affection shown to each dog and the pride from the whole team of trainers when a dog 'graduates' and becomes the lifelong support to a deserving recipient.

This is a most worthwhile charity and we are thrilled to be a small part of this group.

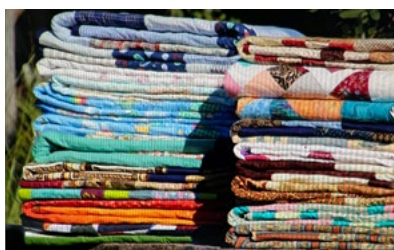
Photos (above) of two dogs-in-training and our completed quilts. The dogs 'approved' of our efforts !!!

We are now in 'winter-working-mode' as the days grow colder, however there is still time for social activities and our celebration lunch of "Christmas in July" will soon be held locally at The Galston Club.

More recent socialising found us participating in The Biggest Morning Tea Charity Event. We had Lucky Door Prizes, a Raffle prize and delicious food. Combining our raised funds with the local Galston Chemist shop made for a very successful morning.

Our meetings are held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of each month at the Community Health Centre, The Glade Galston at 9.30 am.

For further information please call Carole on 9894 7749.



Bromeliad Society of Australia

The guest speaker at our next meeting of the Bromeliad Society of Australia will be Amal Eid who would describe herself as a Bromeliad hobbyist, enthusiast, collector and grower.

She has been growing bromeliads for 9 years and has collected over 50 genera, and thousands of species, hybrids and cultivars.

Amal's presentation will focus on her recent visit to the World Bromeliad conference in West Palm Beach Florida.

She will talk about her experiences as a judge for the BSA show competition, provide a summary on the seven keynote speakers, the topics covered and a photo presentation of the gardens and conference show plants.

There will be our usual 'Show, Tell and Ask' session where members and guests can submit plants for discussion.

We also have our very popular plant raffle.

This will be held at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill on Saturday, 13th July with sales to the public from 10am and the meeting commencing at 12 noon.

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.



out and about
with **MICHELLE BYRNE**

The Hills Winter Sleep Out 2024

The Hills Winter Sleep Out, now in its 11th year, is set to return to Bella Vista Farm on 17 August 2024.

This well loved and memorable event has seen hundreds of residents take up the challenge of becoming "homeless" for the night, raised over \$350,000 for local charities and has helped hundreds of vulnerable locals who are facing homelessness for real.

In 2022/2023 Hills Community Aid (HCA), the primary beneficiary of the funds raised from the Hills Winter Sleep Out reported a 23% increase in calls/emails asking for assistance with 6558 individuals reaching out for help. For 54% of clients, it was their first time visiting HCA indicating that more and more of our community who could once "weather the storm" and cope with an increase in living costs are no longer able to. Sadly, in 2023 the number of clients affected by domestic and family violence increased by 93% with 323 individuals plus their children asking for help.



The Hills Winter Sleep Out funds HCA's Hills Homeless Prevention Initiative that aims to give those facing homelessness or at risk of homelessness a hand up by helping with rent/bond, food vouchers for food and other essential items such as clothes and linen.

Over the past year funds from the 2023 Hills Winter Sleep Out has helped over 100 individuals plus their families. Fiona* is one example. Fiona receives an aged pension and works part time. In 2022, she moved in with her adult son to support him following his divorce. However, Fiona soon found herself a victim of family violence with her son becoming increasingly abusive and forcing her to use her money to purchase cigarettes and alcohol for him. Fiona came to HCA looking for assistance. Through the Hills Winter Sleep Out, HCA was able to assist Fiona with bond on a new rental and with removal costs so she could move homes and enjoy a fresh start away from abuse.

Grace* is a 59 year old Grandmother looking after her daughter's 5 children who are 10, 7, 5, 4 and 4 months. Sadly, Grace's daughter and mother of the 5 children died during childbirth. Grace was struggling with her rent plus providing clothes, nappies and food for the children. Through the Hills winter Sleep Out, HCA was able to assist Grace with rent and food vouchers.

Mick* is experiencing homelessness following a relationship breakdown. He has been living in his car which has a cracked windscreen. The Police were going to defect his car for the cracked windscreen which would have left him with no shelter or anywhere to

sleep. However, with funds from The Hills Winter Sleepout HCA were able to pay for the windscreen to be repaired and provide vouchers for food and other essential items.

Without the Hills Winter Sleep out locals like Fiona, Grace and Mick would not get the assistance they need to help them through some of their darkest days. I encourage you to get involved in this year's Sleep Out and help us help those most in need in the Hills.

To register for this year's Hills Winter Sleep Out or to donate go to <https://the-hills-winter-sleep-out-august-2024.raiselysite.com>

All donations are Tax Deductible and will go directly to HCA and other local charities that work with those of risk of homelessness in the Hills.

**Names have been changed to protect their identities.*



Hills District Retirement Village & Resort Expo

Sun 28th & Mon 29th July 2024 | 10am-3pm daily
Castle Hill RSL Club, 77 Castle St Castle Hill NSW

On display will be the latest resort style developments as well as established villages from many different organisations. All offering a wide range of services & facilities, sizes, prices and locations, all under one roof with free admission.

Wonderful opportunity to ask questions and gather information

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ADMISSION**

www.retirementexpo.com.au

The Hills Shire Council News

Have a Yarn at The Farm

Join us these school holidays at Bella Vista Farm on Thursday 11 July from 11am to 2pm to celebrate First Nations culture for NAIDOC Week.

Things to look forward to on the day include:

- Free servings of First Nations fusion cuisine
- Free coffee
- Free dessert
- Free bracelet weaving, boomerang painting, colouring-in, ochre line face and hand painting
- Free dance workshops
- Free plant giveaways
- Free flag painting
- Sporting activations from Western Sydney Wanderers, AFL and NSW Netball



Mayor of The Hills Shire Council Dr Peter Gangemi with Wayne Cornish and Dennis Moran from Muru Mittigar at Bella Vista Farm.

This event has been made possible in partnership with local First Nations enterprise Muru Mittigar, whose Executive Officer Wayne Cornish will MC alongside Madii Page from Hills Yarning.

Get more details on Council's website by searching 'NAIDOC Week'.

Beeswax Wraps Workshop



Get involved in Plastic Free July these school holidays by visiting Council's Community Environment Centre on Thursday 11 July from 10am to 12pm for a FREE workshop.

Start your plastic-free journey by learning how to make beeswax wraps as an alternative to common plastic products used at home.

This FREE workshop is supported by The Hills Shire Council Resource Recovery Team. Visit Council's website and search 'Plastic Free Living & Beeswax Wraps' to book your spot today.

Discover more about your business

Book a FREE 30-minute Discovery Meeting to see how the Service NSW Business Bureau can help your business.

You will be able to access advice and support from your local Business Concierge and Business Connect advisor at the same time.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Business planning
- Marketing
- Cash flow

Council has partnered with Western Sydney Business Centre, NSW Business Connect and Service NSW to offer local businesses this free session.

Head to Council's website and search 'Business Discovery Session' to find out more and book today.



Council Meetings

Tuesday 9 July 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



Get busy these July School Holidays

A jam-packed July school holiday series will kick off in The Hills Shire with a free outdoor cinema at Castle Hill and a free new sports program designed for children and young people of all abilities.

Celebrate the start of the winter school holidays with a free screening of the family favourite, *The Lorax*, at Arthur Whitling Park, in Castle Hill on Thursday 4 July, accompanied by a free BBQ hosted by the team from Hillsong CityCare.

The Hills School Holiday Sport Program will become a fixture of the next six school holidays thanks to Council being awarded a \$31,000 Play Well Participation Grant from the Australian Sports Commission.

Young beginners aged 7 – 14 will have a unique opportunity to try out the sport with professional coaches and players. Four sessions will be held on Monday, July 15, two of which are specially designed for neurodivergent individuals.

There is something for everyone these school holidays. Have a browse through the various events below.

Outdoor Cinema

What: Enjoy a free screening of *The Lorax*

Who: For young people and families

When: Thursday 4 July from 2.30pm – 4.30pm for the BBQ, followed by a 5pm movie screening

Where: Arthur Whitling Park, Castle Hill

Cost: Free

Multi-Sport Fun Day

What: Children can learn the basics of three sports, including volleyball, soccer and cricket under the guidance of Australian International Sports Organisation facilitators

Who: For children aged 5 – 12 years

When: Tuesday 9 July from 10am – 12pm

Where: Balmoral Road Reserve, North Kellyville

Cost: Free

Technology Workshops

What: Children can learn coding skills at the Skill Samurai – Coding, Maths and STEM Academy

Who: The morning session (9am – 12pm) focuses on a 'Junior Coding Camp' using the Scratch Coding Platform for children 6 – 9 years. The afternoon session (1pm – 4pm) features a Minecraft Coding Camp for 9 – 14 year-olds, which will explore block-based Java coding and game modification

When: Wednesday 10 July

Cost: Free

Hills School Holiday Sport Program – Western Sydney Wanderers

What: Football skills sessions for children and young people

Who:

- Beginners aged 7 – 10 years at 9am – 12pm
- Beginners aged 11 – 14 years at 1pm – 4pm
- Junior session for neurodivergent individuals aged 7 – 10 years at 9am – 10:30am
- Youth session for neurodivergent individuals aged 11 – 14 years at 1pm – 2:30pm

When: Monday 15 July

Where: Brindle Parkway Reserve, Box Hill

Cost: Free

Amazing Mini Beasts Incursion

What: Join us for a fun, interactive, hands-on minibeast incursion, featuring a colourful curation of large, live Australian invertebrate animals such as insects, arachnids, and more

Who: Children in kindergarten to year 4. A special sensory session is also available for children in kindergarten through to Year 6

When: Tuesday, July 16, from 11.30am to 1pm. The sensory session will be held from 10am to 11am on the same day

Where: Castle Hill Library

Cost: \$17pp

Go Plastic Free for Kids Workshop

What: Learn about how plastic can harm the environment and what you can do to reduce plastic use in your own home

Who: For children in school years 2 – 6

When: Thursday July 18 from 10.30am to 11.30am

Where: Vinegar Hill Memorial Library, Rouse Hill Town Centre, Rouse Hill

Cost: Free

For more details on the July School holiday activities, visit Council's website and search 'School Holiday Activities'.



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



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire



Kuyper Christian School



Colo High School



Merana Aboriginal Community Association

The votes are in

HAWKESBURY'S OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO STREET SPEAK

The response to Council's Street Speak public art competition was overwhelming, with 3100 votes cast to choose five winning entries from 24 excellent submissions.

Street Speak is an urban art project that aims to provide a platform for local young people to creatively express their vision and connections to the Hawkesbury through art, and to showcase their talents to the community.

Five grants of \$5000 each have been awarded to:

- Colo High School
- Merana Aboriginal Community Association
- Bligh Park Community Services
- RuffTRACK
- Kuyper Christian School

The winning artists will be invited to work with one of our three professional mural artists on a

prominent project in Hawkesbury – an excellent opportunity to hone their craft and build on their skills.

All submitted artworks will be reproduced and displayed for further viewing, at the following locations:

- Street Speak exhibition, Hawkesbury Central Library from 8 July 2024
- Hawkesbury Fest at Governor Phillip Park, 4 August 2024 from 10am-3pm
- Street Speak Project opening of Clarendon Skate Park Mural, 11 August 2024 from 12pm-3pm

The Street Speak Urban Art Project is funded under the NSW Government's Graffiti Management Grant (Western Sydney) program. Congratulations again to all winners and entrants.



Bligh Park Community Services



RuffTRACK



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SELECTED MEMORIAL
PRODUCTS**
UNTIL 30TH NOVEMBER 2024

Albany Creek Memorial Park—Allamby Memorial Park—Castlebrook Memorial Park
Forest Lawn Memorial Park—Great Southern Broulee Memorial Gardens and Toowoomba
Lake Macquarie Memorial Park—Mt. Thompson Memorial Gardens
Newcastle Memorial Park—Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens—Pinegrove Memorial Park
Rookwood Memorial Gardens—Tweed Heads Memorial Gardens



For more information and to book a park tour
please call 1800 844 080 or visit mymemorial.com.au/20off

*Terms and Conditions: The 20% discount is off selected memorial products only at InvoCare Memorial Parks in NSW & QLD only (excluding Broulee Memorial Gardens and Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance). Types and availability of memorial sites vary by park. Offer valid until 30 November 2024. For full terms and conditions visit mymemorial.com.au/20off.

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"I love my gardens"

Carrie, aged 92

Aged care that's personal

Carrie is an absolute green thumb who brought her passion for gardening with her when she moved into The Donald Coburn Centre a few years ago. "I do love my gardens" says Carrie, "Half the things that are up there are cuttings from my own garden". A beloved member of the Anglicare community, Carrie hates to sit around doing nothing and can often be found playing with The Donald Coburn Centre's resident cat, Duchess or mingling with the staff and her friends. "They've shown me love in just about every way they can. This is my home." Scan the QR code to hear more of Carrie's story and to meet some of the other wonderful residents.



The Donald Coburn Centre

15 Blue Gums Way, Castle Hill

1300 111 278

anglicare.org.au/tdcc



Anglicare

Local Guides first Guides in state to complete SES resilience development program

Annangrove Girl Guides recently took part in an emergency resilience program with the NSW State Emergency Service (SES), emerging as empowered and resilient young women ready to tackle emergency situations with confidence and skill.

The guides took part in a variety of activities led by their facilitator, Mr. Daniel McGovern. They learned how to prepare for storms and floods, tie a variety of knots, load and transport casualties on a stretcher, use fire extinguishers and hand tools, learn basic flood rescue techniques, and build sandbag walls.

"I really enjoyed working with the young people in our community and providing them with the skills and self-assurance they need to handle emergency situations," Daniel stated. It's amazing to watch each guide step outside of their comfort zone in a secure environment

and do new activities, like searching up their address in a street directory or utilising a fire extinguisher."

The programme and the chance to interact with the NSW SES proved to be really enjoyable for the guides. Some guides said, "We loved rescuing each other," and "Can Daniel come every week?"

Annangrove Girl Guides leader, Amanda said, "The course was enormously beneficial to the girls. The subjects covered were broad and very relevant to the girls. Every child and adult can learn from this course."

The NSW SES is a volunteer-based organisation that works with communities to prepare and respond to severe weather events and are the lead agency for flood, storm and tsunami in NSW. For emergency assistance call 132 500. For information on volunteering with the NSW SES, visit <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/> and click 'Volunteer'.

For information on joining Girl Guides, contact annangrovedm@girlguides-nswactnt.org.au



TOP CASH FOR CARS



Do you have a damaged car sitting in your front garden or an unregistered vehicle going nowhere?

There is nothing worse and more unsightly than old cars cluttering up your home.

Would you like it gone without any hassles?

Our business takes away that worry.

We have been specialising in no-fuss vehicle removal services for 25 years. Our competitive prices for rust buckets, cars, trucks, utes, vans and caravans, regardless of their condition, take the worry out of removal. We will take care of it. Free up that space on your property now! We understand the value of your investment and we ensure you get the best deal possible. Our efficient pick-up services will make your life easier.

CONTACT WAL TODAY 0425 304 475

LET US TAKE AWAY YOUR PROBLEM AND TURN IT INTO CASH!

"It's good to laugh"

Suzanne, aged 81



Aged care that's personal

Suzanne is always on the go and enjoys being outdoors looking at the plants, hearing the birds and in her own words, "maybe have a little seat somewhere that's got the sunshine coming on it" she says. Even more than the outdoors though, Suzanne loves being with people: "Friends are important to exchange ideas with. Having a laugh is most essential. It's good to be able to laugh with someone". Suzanne can be found chatting and sharing ideas with all her friends at the place she calls home, The Donald Coburn Centre. Scan the QR code to hear more of Suzanne's story and to meet some of the other wonderful residents.



The Donald Coburn Centre

15 Blue Gums Way, Castle Hill

1300 111 278

anglicare.org.au/tdcc



Anglicare



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: ARABELLA
 BREED: Staffordshire
 Terrier
 SEX: Female
 AGE: 4 yrs 5 mos
 PRICE: \$49



ARABELLA is a beautiful-natured girl with lots of love and fun to bring to her new home according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. Staff say at four years old she's past the puppy stage but she's a bright bubbly girl who will make a great companion for someone with time and love to give her. Arabella has a gorgeous smile and a friendly and outgoing personality and will be a wonderful addition to any family that chooses her. Her adoption price has been reduced to \$49 and includes desexing, the first vaccination, microchipping and lifetime registration.

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

MADONNA is a lovely girl who just loves chin scratches and affection according to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. If you would like to adopt Madonna then please come to the shelter to meet her. As Madonna is desexed she can leave the shelter with you. Her adoption price is \$49 which includes her first vaccination, microchipping and lifetime registration.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is: R251000145.



AT A GLANCE

NAME: MADONNA
 BREED: Domestic
 shorthair cat
 SEX: Female
 AGE: 5 yrs 1 mo
 PRICE: \$49

**80% OF
 DOGS
 AGED
 OVER 3**

Have Dental Disease

Dogs don't show pain like people and can suffer in silence. We can identify painful dental conditions and provide healing solutions.

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BOOK ONLINE sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au



Riding for the Disabled's 10th year anniversary

BY SOPHIE POREDOS

Richmond's Riding For the Disabled centre recently celebrated their ten-year anniversary, reflecting on a decade of offering equine-assisted activities to promote the wellbeing of people living with disabilities.

The ceremony began with student harpist Claire, who created a tranquil atmosphere for volunteers and other community leaders present. Shane Laws, a First Nations speaker from the Boorooberongal clan, delivered a Welcome to Country and gave the audience insight into the nature of the Hawkesbury including its precious waterways. Local MP Susan Templeton also spoke at the event, recognising the excellence of the RDA's (Riding For the Disabled Association) services:

"I feel very privileged to be included in this because I've watched the growth and seen its development. What a better place to have an RDA than the Hawkesbury with its huge history and landscape."

The Riding for Disabled Association was established in Australia in 1964 by Mr and Mrs Peter McIntyre, who introduced horse-riding services as a form of therapy. Richmond's centre is located on the former Clydesdale Stud at the Western Sydney University campus in Richmond. In 2016 founder Deborah Gersbach partnered her horse-riding coaching with Riding for the Disabled (RDA) and received support from North-West Disability Services, offering a unique service for individuals living with disabilities: "I had to come up with an idea of why we needed this RDA and I wanted to offer

riding to adults who have previously missed out. Unlike other centres, we focus on adults with disabilities and the [Western Sydney] University has been amazing for that support, offering us 15 acres.

Well now we have to stay here and continue to build this as a community hub!"

There are now 35 RDA centres across Australia, including Gable's 'Tall Timbers' centre. Senior coach Nicole King at Tall Timbers congratulated the Richmond centre on their anniversary:

"I would like to congratulate the Team at Richmond Centre on reaching the 10 year milestone! Providing equine programs to local community members with a disability is hard work and takes dedication and commitment to continue offering these programs with the reliance of volunteers, fundraising and donations".

Ian Travers, fundraising director for RDA NSW and organiser of this event, spoke passionately about the impact of equine therapy. With over nine years' experience with the Richmond Centre and as a former RDA president, he reflected on his career changes from retail to disability services: "It's a very worthwhile cause, we have a little saying

Rider Aaron Callan with volunteer and local equestrian, Emily Attard

called 'bums in saddles and smiles on faces'! Our clients are so joyous and have big smiles coming up the driveway. We even get involved with equestrian events including dressage, A1 and A2 grades."

Horse riding is incredibly therapeutic and offers a range of physical benefits such as improved balance and posture as resistance training builds bone and muscle strength. However, Ian believes that the trained horses also provide deeper benefits such as enhancing self-confidence, communication and the self-esteem of clients:

"It's just therapeutic magic that just works where they connect with each other. You see the response coming back from the way our horse interacts, and our horses are very sensory. Our animals and clients just seem to understand each other."

For any avid horse lovers out there, Ian Travers would love to hear from volunteers. However, you don't have to be horse-orientated as any assistance with admin or general stable cleaning duties is greatly appreciated. The shifts are between 9am to 1pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Any interested volunteers can reach out to Ian on the Facebook Group: Richmond Riding for Disabled.

Two volunteers at the Richmond Riding for Disabled Stables

WHAT'S ON

IN THE HILLS TO HAWKESBURY



28
JUNE

Volunteering on the Farm – Every Fortnight

by Warrah Farm Shop

09:00 AM to 11:00 AM

20 Harris Road Dural NSW 2158

Join us at our biodynamic farm for a rewarding volunteering experience. Learn about farm work, meet new people, and give back to the community. Tasks include weeding, pruning, watering, and more. Sessions with the Farm Manager are held bi-weekly on Fridays from 9 to 11 am.

If you're interested, please send us a quick email at volunteer@warrah.org.au

29
JUNE

Massive Market Day / Garage Sale

09:00 AM to 02:00 PM

Pitt Town Uniting Church

Massive Market Day / Garage Sale! June 29th at Pitt Town Uniting Church. Shop local produce, crafts & more!

01
JULY

Art for the Kreative

by Dural Art Studio and Supplies

July 01–18, 2024

7/286-288 New Line Rd, Dural

Art for the Creative. Fun Winter Workshops!

- Early Birds: Wed 3rd, Thurs 4th July, 1-2:30 pm
- Winter Art Sessions: July 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18
- Ages: 6 years – Over, 9 – 16 years
- Time: 10:30 am – 12 pm, 12:30 pm – 2 pm

Cost: \$38 per session/child. Bookings at 9651 3546 or www.duralartstudio.com.au

Let's Talk About – Reducing Plastic Use

by The Hills Shire Library Service

10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Baulkham Hills Library, Railway Street, Baulkham Hills, 2153

Learn how to make some simple changes to reduce waste in your life, especially single use plastic. We'll inspire you with hints and tips to live more sustainably and reduce your plastic footprint.

Cost | Free | Bookings essential online | Suitable for Adults

To register for this event please visit www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lets-talk-about-reducing-plastic-use-tickets-907341160837?aff=oddtcreator



03
JULY

Circular Keys Chorus – Taster Night

7:30 to 10:00 PM

St. Joseph's Centre - 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills

Calling all female Singers! Do you want to harmonise with an award-winning a cappella group? Circular Keys Chorus, located in Sydney's North West, is looking for women of all ages who love to sing and are passionate to learn more.

Their free Taster Night is on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 from 7.30-10pm at St. Joseph's Centre - 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills. Come along and join in with helpful breathing exercises, learn to sing close four-part harmonies, listen to the chorus perform, and chat with the community of amazing members whilst enjoying a delicious supper.

- Discover the joy (and goosebumps) of harmony
- Learn great vocal technique from one of Australia's leading professional directors
- Have fun in a friendly, supportive environment!

And feel free to bring a friend. To register, email Frances - enquiries@circularkeys.org

Dare to be different! Let Wednesday nights be YOUR night to take your singing to new heights, and find your inner diva.

Photos credit: Kirsten Graham Photography

06
JULY

Still Life in Oils or Acrylics

by Castle Hill Art Society

Castle Glen Community Centre, 157 Ridgescrop Drive, Castle Hill (at the rear of the carpark at Knightsbridge shopping centre)

Vivienne, a designer for decades, now creates art for the joy of drawing and painting. Her art in oils and watercolors captures rich landscapes and vibrant still lifes. She finds inspiration in meticulously designed vignettes or the haphazard coffee table mess. Her advice: Decide what stays, then quickly create inspired still life paintings!

chasart@bigpond.com. Fee: \$7, Members: \$5.





06
JULY

Winterfest 2024

by Winterfest

July 06, 2024, 10:00 AM to July 07, 2024, 05:00 PM
Hawkesbury Showground, 40 Racecourse Rd, Clarendon

Escape for the weekend into a world of history and fantasy!

From jousting, archery and combat to crafts, cooking and games, Winterfest offers you entertainment to watch and activities to try. You can also browse the offerings of our carefully selected merchants. There's something for all ages.

Winterfest is easy to get to, with free parking on site and a railway station only two minutes' walk away from the venue gates. You could win a prize if you catch a judge's eye with your medieval costume, so come in your best medieval dress, and enjoy the fun of Winterfest!

Colo Heights Markets Day 2024

by Colo Heights Progress Association

10:00 AM to 02:00 PM

Horrie Eley Hall (Colo Heights Hall)

Join us for Market Day! Enjoy food, coffee, cakes, markets, and a raffle with fantastic prizes. River FM will be broadcasting live. Remember to bring cash as not all stall holders have Eftpos and there are no ATMs available on-site. Support local businesses!

Contact Brigitte on 0403 464 991

07
JULY

Annangrove Park Bushcare

by The Hills Shire Council

09:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Annangrove Park Reserve, Currie Avenue, Annangrove

The Stevenson Creek Bushcare Group works in Annangrove Park Reserve. Annangrove Park is unique in that it contains a number of different vegetation communities including the Critically Endangered Ecological Communities; Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest.

There are also a number of threatened plant species found within this reserve, as well as an uncommon and very interesting hanging swamp.

Stevenson Creek Bushcare

by The Hills Shire Council

09:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Stevenson Creek, Cook Street, Baulkham Hills

The Stevenson Creek Bushcare Group works in Excelsior Reserve in an area of Sandstone Gully Forest along the creek line in Baulkham Hills.

This area provides habitat for the Powerful Owl and Grey Headed Flying Fox which are both listed as Vulnerable under State legislation.

Tree Frog Bushcare

by The Hills Shire Council

09:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Oxlade Reserve, Oxlade Street, North Kellyville

The Tree Frog Bushcare Group works in Oxlade Reserve, North Kellyville.

The reserve is situated between Cumberland Plain Woodland and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, which are both listed as Critically Endangered.

This group is helping maintain a planted area by removing weeds and continuing infill planting, which will increase the connectivity between these two plant communities. Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary.

07
JULY

Bella Vista Farm Open Day

09:00 AM to 02:00 PM

Bella Vista Farm Park, Elizabeth MacArthur Drive,
Bella Vista, 2153

Interested in visiting Bella Vista Farm this Sunday? The historic homestead will be open for tours, and there will be plenty to do including exploring the farm buildings, enjoying Devonshire Tea, and listening to music by chamber groups from the Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra.

Send an email to Friends of Bella Vista Farm Park Inc on friends.bellavistafarm@gmail.com

08
JULY

Expand Your Mind, Read A Book

by North West Community Services Inc

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

9 Park Street, Riverstone NSW 2765

Attention all book lovers! The Footpath Library will be visiting us on the 2nd Monday of each month. Come grab some free books and expand your mind by reading.

10
JULY

Cumberland Gang Show

July 10 – 14, 2024

Parramatta Riverside Theatre

The Scouts and Guides of Western Sydney invite you to Off the Record, an incredible revue style show filled with dance, singing, and comedy. Featuring new material and classic favorites, it's a show the whole family will love. Join us for an unforgettable experience!

Six shows only, at the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta these July school holidays.

- Wednesday 10 July, 7:30pm
- Thursday 11 July, 11am
- Friday 12 July, 7:30pm
- Saturday 13 July, 2:30pm
- Saturday 13 July, 7:30pm
- Sunday 14 July, 2:30pm

Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra

by Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra

07:00 PM to 10:00 PM

TLC Theatre, Baulkham Hills High School, 419A Windsor Road,
Baulkham Hills

Calling on all music lovers who play orchestral instruments about AMEB grade 8 or above to joining this dynamic community orchestra to enrich our community's musical culture.



EXCITING LINEUP FOR JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

A jam-packed July school holiday series will kick off in The Hills Shire with a free outdoor cinema at Castle Hill and a free new sports program designed for children and young people.

Outdoor Cinema

Thursday 4 July from 4.30pm - 6.30pm

(5pm movie screening)

Arthur Whitting Park, Castle Hill. Cost: Free

Enjoy a free screening of The Lorax.
For young people and families.

Multi-Sport Fun Day

Thursday 27 June 2024.

Balmoral Road Reserve, Kellyville. Cost: Free

Children can learn the basics of three sports, including volleyball, soccer and cricket under the guidance of Australian International Sports Organisation facilitators. For children aged 5-12 years on Tuesday 9 July from 10am – 12pm.

Go Plastic Free for Kids Workshop

Thursday July 18 from 10.30am to 11.30am.

Vinegar Hill Memorial Library, Rouse Hill Town Centre, Rouse Hill. Cost: Free

Learn about how plastic can harm the environment and what you can do to reduce plastic use in your own home. For more details on the July School activities, please visit The Hills Shire Council website, www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search "School Holiday Activities".



Technology Workshops

Wednesday 10 July.

2/10-14 Market Lane, Rouse Hill. Cost: Free

Children can learn coding skills at the Skill Samurai - Coding, Maths and STEM Academy. For children in school years 2-6 on

The morning session (9am–12pm) focuses on a 'Junior Coding Camp' using the Scratch Coding Platform for children 6-9 years. The afternoon session (1pm–4pm) features a Minecraft; Coding Camp for 9–14-year-olds, which will explore block-based Java coding and game modification.

Hills School Holiday Sport Program – Western Sydney Wanderers

Monday, 15 July

Brindle Parkway Reserve, Box Hill. Cost: Free

Football skills sessions for children and young people. For Beginners aged 7 – 10 years at 9am – 12pm; Beginners aged 11 – 14 years at 1pm – 4pm; Junior Session for Neurodivergent individuals aged 7 – 10 years at 9am – 10.30am; Youth Session for Neurodivergent individuals aged 11 – 14 years at 1pm – 2.30pm.

Winter School Holiday Activities at the Hawkesbury Library, Museum, and Gallery

Keep the kids entertained during the winter school holidays with these fun and educational activities! You can watch movies in the library, get close to nature at the gallery, or build a nebula in a bottle PLUS heaps more fun activities at the Museum.

Library

HOLIDAY MOVIES

Tues, 9 July and Wednesday, 17 July 2-3.30 PM

Blast Off! into another galaxy watching these "spacey" movies. Bring your snacks and drinks. Check Eventbrite or call the library for the title of the DVD to be screened. FREE – For ages 5-16

RECYCLED CRAFT SPACE STATION

Thursday, 11 July, 2-3.30PM

Calling all future Aeronautical Engineers! Help construct a mini space station using a variety of recycled materials.

THE FORCE IS WITH YOU SCIENCE WORKSHOP

Tuesday, 16 July 10.30-11.30AM

The Jedi aren't the only ones who use the force! This fun, interactive workshop, presented by Children's Discovery, explores the laws of force and motion. \$5 - For ages 5-12

GALAXY EXPLOSION BOX

Friday, 19 July 10AM-12PM

Create your own galaxy-inspired explosion box that will be out-of-this-world once it is filled with photos and keepsakes. \$10 - For ages 10+

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

Museum

JUNIOR ASTRONOMERS WORKSHOP

Thursday, 11 July 10.30AM-12.00PM

Learn to make a glittering Nebula-in-a-bottle and discover how local astronomer, John Tebbutt, became world-famous by some remarkable astronomical observations and incredible calculations. \$15 – For ages 5 - 12

CRAFTY RAFTERS

Thursday, 18 July 10.30AM-12.00PM

Build a raft from upcycled materials and learn how to navigate the rich aquatic history of the Hawkesbury inspired by the mighty Dyarubbin (Dyarubbin means Hawkesbury River in Dharug language). \$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

CUSTOMISE IT! STENCIL ART MAKING

Wednesday, 10 July 10.30AM-12.00PM

Have fun creating unique, hand-cut stencils to customize your original graphic designs! \$15 – For ages 5 – 12

NATURE PLAY

Wednesday, 17 July 10.30AM - 12.00PM

We are nuts about nature! If you are too, come and learn how making art connects us to the natural world. In this workshop, you can use imagination to make your mark using foraged leaves and flowers! \$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.

For media enquiries please contact: (02) 4560 4430.
General Enquiries: Phone: (02) 4560 4444 Fax: (02) 4587 7740. 366 George Street (PO Box 146) Windsor NSW 2756. Website: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
Email: council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



WINTERFEST IS ALMOST HERE!!

Fellow adventurers! Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair is back on Saturday 6th July and Friday 7th July at Hawkesbury Showground.

You can step back in time and be part of the action between 10am and 5pm and witness birds of prey, jousting, knights, vikings, archery and more.

There will be a vibrant range of wares at Merchants' Row with over 70 stalls and a chance to browse Artisan Alley with displays featuring blacksmiths, woodworkers and leatherwork.

There are roaming entertainers to add to the atmosphere and delicious food stalls.

Family passes are \$95.

Hills to Hawkesbury Community News is delighted to announce the four winners of our Winterfest competition who have each won a Family Day Pass to this exciting and adventurous event.

Congratulations to:

- Allan and Marg Collins from Baulkham Hills
- Gary Barton from Winston Hills
- Kyra Sharp from Windsor
- Laura Scriven from East Kurrajong

We asked entrants to tell us in 20 words or less why they wanted a family pass and they all had great reasons why they wanted to visit this much-loved Festival.

Three of our winners will be taking their grandchildren for a special treat.

If you don't want to miss out on the amazing magic of Winterfest, you can still purchase tickets online for discounts or buy at the gate.

www.winterfest.com.au, 40 Racecourse Road, Clarendon NSW 2756 (opposite the RAAF Base). Connect with Facebook, Instagram and YouTube



ALIVE WITH CULTURE 3 LATIN AMERICAN

BY LEONIE DIXON

Who doesn't enjoy Latin American music? It's pretty much a universal sound and here at Alive Raul Hernandez is presenting Latin Beats which is your gateway to the vibrant Latin American community in Sydney. His program is dedicated to connecting to the Latin American audience and keeping them informed and entertained. For the latest news from Latin America and even updates about the local weather you should tune in each Friday at 1-2pm. The "World Chart Show" is a segment showcasing the top 5 Spanish-language songs making waves not only across Latin America but around the world. Discover the latest hits that are dominating the Latin music scene. Each episode features premieres and exclusive interviews with your favourite artists. Raul Hernandez is our station manager who has worked in various media outlets, both in community radio and commercial stations. His extensive experience began at Radio Onda Cero 96.1 in Guayaquil and 103.3 in Quito, Ecuador, where he was the director and producer of the show "Agarra La Onda," achieving high national ratings. Later, he moved to Australia and started at Radio 2TripleO, delivering news in Spanish. He then joined Radio Skid Row as a multicultural producer and station manager, participating in projects like "Baby Boomers Guide," which won the MACA Award in 2019.

If you are unable to commit to daytime listening maybe Hora Latina on Saturdays at 9pm could be more your thing. Chairman, Andsley Dennis hosts the show bringing you the best salsa, bachata, reggaeton, merengue and samba. So, for a good time where the Latino feeling never stops tune in to The Latin Hour.



Alive 90.5FM is a leading community radio station serving the Hills, Parramatta and Cumberland Districts since 1992.

Our programs include **Breakfast and Drive** with regular **news, weather and traffic** updates. We have a range of **special interest programs**.

We also have many speciality programs covering hits from the past, smooth jazz, country, blues, rock, rnb, pop and foreign language music.



Your Sound, Your Community

Balcombe Heights Estate
9/ 92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills
Ph (02) 9686 3888
mail@alive905.com.au



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
 julianleesermpp

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

Celebrating the Local Sporting Champions in our Community

If you're a family with a child who is a gifted sportsperson, it can be a great joy. However, I know that it can also place a great financial strain on your family, especially when they are called upon to represent their club, state, or country at major competitions.

One of the great grant programs that I always encourage people to apply for is the Local Sporting Champions. It's an opportunity for families to secure some funding to help manage the costs of going to interstate and overseas sporting competitions.

We need to encourage the next generation of sports stars to pursue their dreams and develop their skills through competition. Developing a competitive ethos in young people makes Australia stronger in the future.

I was delighted recently to provide grants from the Local Sporting Champions program to

students across the area. It was a great pleasure to have many of those students and their families join me recently for a presentation afternoon where we celebrated their great achievements.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge:

- Hayley Schultz, Megan Chia, Leaneeka Bugeja, Angus Wilson, Madeleine Wilson, Elodie Sebire, Matthew and Hannah Costelloe, and Gabriella McBrien, who each swam at the 2024 Australian Age & Multi-Class Age Championships;
- Emma Cherry and George Abbott, who both swam at the 2024 Australian Open Water Championships;
- Mac Tutton, who competed as part of the Australian team at the International Ice Hockey Federation's Men's Under 18 World Championship;

- Vera Gerasimova, who competed in synchronised swimming at the Australian Artistic Swimming Championship;
- Belinda Scott and Thomas Scodellaro, who competed at the 2024 Australian Athletics Championships;
- Cooper Robb-Jackson, who competed at the ACT 23-24 State Championships;
- Jaiden Yu, Alexander Braendle and Sophie Polkinghorne who competed at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships; and
- Aaron Xu, who competed in Judo at the Teplice Cadet European Cup 2024.

If you're interested in applying for a local sporting champions grant in the future, please contact my office by emailing Julian.Leeser.MP@aph.gov.au

\$300,000 BOOST TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The annual NSW Community Building Partnership Grants has been an extremely important resource opportunity for our local community, and communities across our great state. It's a program where the NSW Government assists the community with infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental, and recreational outcomes, while also promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion.

This year, the new Labor Government cut each electorate funding by 25%, and implemented new processes which impacted the ability for a larger spread of these funds across the community. So, less funds and less recipients.

Regardless, I am thrilled that the following organisations will be able to complete some



incredible projects that will enhance the Kellyville electorate and have positive outcomes for our community:

- Crestwood High School P & C Assoc.
- East Coast Eagles AFL Football Club Inc.
- Hills Football Inc.
- Kellyville Public School P & C Assoc.
- KU Children's Services
- Rouse Hill Junior Rugby League Inc.
- Rouse Hill Rams Little Athletics Centre Inc.
- Our Lady of the Rosary Primary Kellyville
- Parramatta District Junior Rugby League Club Inc.

ROUSE HILL HOSPITAL ANOTHER HALF-DECADE TO WAIT

The 2024/25 NSW Budget has just been handed down, confirming once again the completion date for the Rouse Hill Hospital is June 2029. At a time when our hospitals are under increasing pressure and the Minns Labor Government has received record revenue from stamp duty for the sale of new homes, the health of our community is jeopardised by an out of touch Premier more intent on finding another \$6.4 billion dollars to increase wages for his union mates. The health needs of our community has been significantly jeopardised by the Minns Labor Government, who stopped the construction process of the Rouse Hill Hospital which had already commenced prior to the last state election.



ADVERTISEMENT

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



ADVERTISEMENT

2024 Budget to Ease Cost of Living and Boost Small Business on 1 July

1 July is fast approaching and a number of the Albanese Labor Government's key measures from the 2024 Budget are set to start.

These measures are an investment by our Government in our community.

I know that many in North West Sydney are concerned about the cost of living – and that's why our Government is committed to easing pressures faced by many Australians right now.

These measures are designed to provide relief while at the same time ensuring that we do not add to inflationary pressures that drive the cost of living higher. This includes Labor's tax cuts – a key part of our plan to ensure everyone is able to earn more and keep more of what you earn.

Every single taxpayer – including 93,000 in Greenway alone – will receive a tax cut from 1 July.

We will also deliver \$300 to reduce every Australian household's power bill and freeze the

cost of medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. These measures also are an investment in our small businesses. The Albanese Government knows that small business is the engine room of the Australian economy.

In North West Sydney, over 18,500 small business will be eligible to receive \$325 of power bill relief and continue using the \$20,000 instant asset write off to invest in your business.

We are also ensuring that small businesses will play a central role in our plans for a future made in Australia. On top of these measures, we are making historic investments and reforms in the tertiary education sector.

We have wiped \$3 billion in student debt for three million Australians and are investing in our future teachers, nurses, and social workers by supporting them with pay during their practical placements. We are also continuing our partnership

with State and Territory Governments to address future skill needs.

An additional 20,000 fee-free TAFE places will be made available, adding to the more than 355,000 fee-free places already offered.

This initiative ensures that Australians have the skills required for the jobs of the future.

The Albanese Government remains dedicated to fostering a thriving economy while easing the cost of living for Australians.

As your Federal Member for Greenway, I am proud to support these initiatives that will bring real benefits to our community.

Michelle Rowland MP is the Federal Member for Greenway and Minister for Communications. If you need assistance with any Federal issue, you can contact Michelle by phone on 02 9671 4780 or by email at Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au.

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) 30 Year Anniversary 2024

Monday, 24 June was Global MND Awareness Day, together with the motor neurone disease associations from Australia gathered in Parliament House to also mark 30 years of MND Australia. Global MND awareness day recognises the fight against motor neurone disease, a rapidly progressive, incurable neurological disease which weakens the nerve cells and muscles, leading to death. Each week, 14 people are diagnosed with MND across Australia.

Over 30 years in Australia, we've seen some fantastic advocacy. We've seen the memorable ice bucket challenge globally and within Australia, with \$25 million raised. And, of course, there was Woz Acott, who rode 800 kilometres on a lawnmower to Parliament House to deliver a petition to parliament. I'd like to pay tribute to my good friend and MND sufferer Jason and his wife, Anthea, who were also there, for their advocacy, and to Sarah and Phil also, for sharing their deeply personal story of MND today.

As Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of MND, with Senator Carol Brown, we want to ensure that our Parliament is committed to greater research, awareness and NDIS treatments to help the lives of sufferers by doing everything it can.

Official opening and Blessing of new Buildings at St Gabriel's School

It was wonderful to join the Bishop of Diocese of Parramatta, Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL and School Principal, David Cook at the unveiling of the plaque, Official Opening and Blessing of St Gabriel's School Castle Hill new buildings and school tour.

It has been an incredible journey to get here, however this school I believe has the best facilities K-12 for students with special needs anywhere in Australia.

St Gabriel's does fantastic work nurturing independence and transforming lives. They cater to a range of students with varying disabilities with an incredible focus on empowering students to achieve their goals. These new world class facilities will help St Gabriel's to ensure the success of every single student. I look forward to seeing their first cohort of Year 12 students graduate later this year. Visit <https://stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/> for further details.



As your Federal MP, I am here to help.

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

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

📍 Suite 8, 23 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154

☎ 9899 7211

✉ alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au

🌐 www.alexhawke.au

📱 [AlexHawkeMPMitchell](https://www.facebook.com/AlexHawkeMPMitchell)

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

ADVERTISEMENT
ALEX HAWKE MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MITCHELL



JUDO STAR JOSH KATZ

rocks into Olympic contention

Courageous champion Josh Katz doubted he would compete in the Olympics again when he suffered serious injuries over the past couple of years. A knee injury in January had him even pondering the unthinkable: would he ever get back to judo at all?

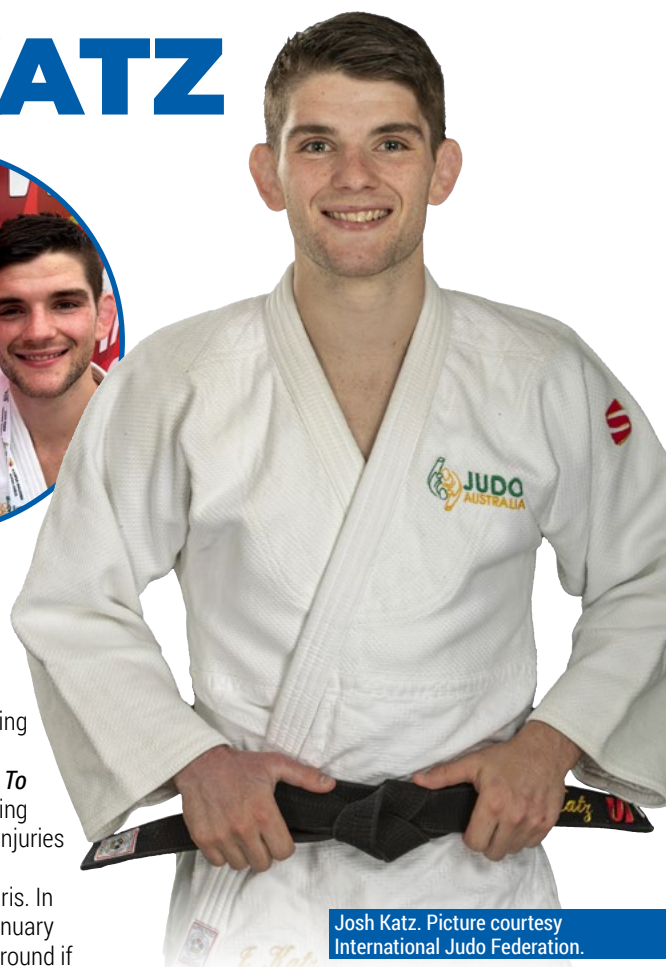
In one of the feel-good sporting stories of the year, The Hills District star not only got back to the sport - where he has won 11 Oceania titles and 12 Australian crowns - but has also qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics starting next month. It did not come easy; Josh had to perform at his best at the last two qualifying events over the past month to earn his spot. The 2022 Commonwealth bronze medallist and 2023 Pan American Oceania

Championship silver medallist now wants to win a rare Olympic judo medal for Australia.

"After the disappointment of missing qualification for the Tokyo 2021 Games, it's been a very challenging couple of years for me during this Olympic cycle," Josh, 26, told the *Hills To Hawkesbury Community News*. "Coming back from a number of really serious injuries that made me really doubt whether or not I was going to be able to get to Paris. In particular, after injuring my knee in January this year, I had so much uncertainty around if I would be able to get back to Judo at all in time, and even more so how I would be able to perform when the time came.

"Needing to reach the final of my last two qualification tournaments in Tahiti and Ivory Coast, it was a huge relief to finally secure my official Olympic qualification after achieving both results. Even more so, it is really special to be able to share that experience at the time with my brother Nathan who was coaching me at the events, and then with my family and friends when I returned home to Sydney."

Josh was the youngest Australian male judoka to compete in the Olympics, making his debut



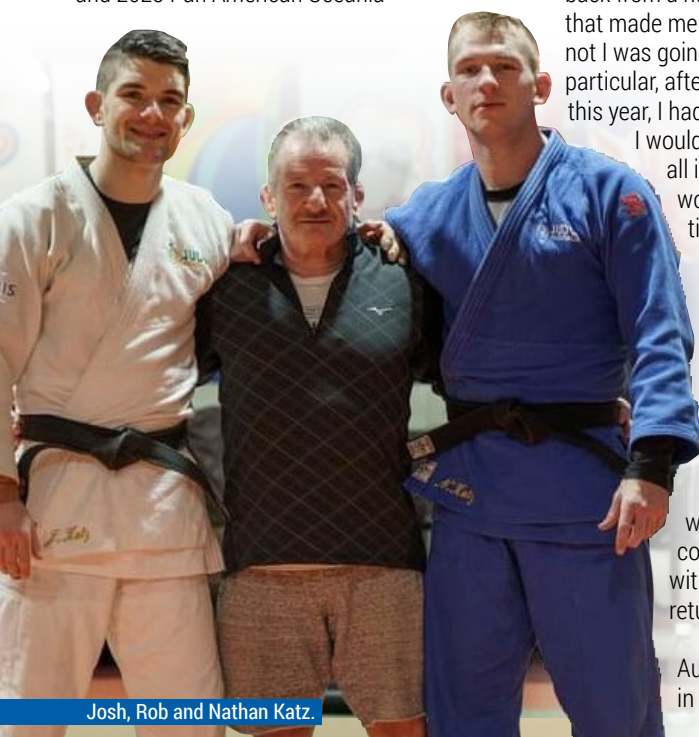
Josh Katz. Picture courtesy International Judo Federation.

at the 2016 Rio Games, aged 18 years and 220 days. He and Nathan were the first brothers to compete for Australia in judo at the same Olympics.

The champion genes run strong in the Katz family with Dad Rob, Mum Kerrye (1988 Olympian), and brother Nathan all masters of judo. The family run the highly-rated Budokan Judo Club in Castle Hill.

"With less than five weeks to go until the Games, I'm extremely excited to be able to prepare once more to represent Australia at the Olympic Games, and see the reward for years of struggle," Josh said. "These last couple of months have really shown me that anything is possible, so I want to put everything on the line once again to win Australia's first Olympic men's medal in judo in 60 years."

Josh competes in the Under-60kg weight class.



Josh, Rob and Nathan Katz.

DURAL BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Three of Dural's newer bowlers, Elizabeth Goode, Cheryle Hobart, and Lyn Luxford had their first taste of success at the Wattle Two Bowls Triples Carnival conducted by Pennant Hills Women's Bowling Club on May 27 at Pennant Hills.

Undefeated in the two-game format, they were delighted that their opponents were notable bowlers.

The Dural team was awarded the overall winners' prize in game one of the carnival. Around 20 other teams competed in the event which saw an excellent day of bowls.

Meeting new people is one of the bonuses of joining a bowling club. New members are always welcome and free coaching is available to acquire the skills to make the game even more enjoyable.

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



The Ladies Wattle Competition winners

JORDAN THOMPSON

hits great form in time for Wimbledon

Hills tennis star Jordan Thompson showed giant-killing form in the prestigious Queens tournament, which was a near perfect warm up for next month's Wimbledon championships, despite being beaten in the semifinals.

The 30-year-old Thompson had a great run of form on grass at the right time, despite suffering a back injury during his 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 semifinal loss to Italian Lorenzo Musetti, who had earlier seen off Australian star Alex de Minaur.

However, Thompson told reporters he would be fit for Wimbledon, having decided to skip the Paris Olympics next month due to scheduling complications. A spokesman for his management told AAP that the injury is "nothing serious. A bit of a sore back after a long week in Queen's so just a little rest and recovery this week, and he'll be good to go for Wimbledon."

Thompson stunned No.7 seed Holger Rune, grand slam champion Andy Murray and fourth seed Taylor Fritz enroute to the semifinals at Queens. His form here was a remarkable turnaround after his five-match losing streak.

Now ranked a career-best 39th in the ATP rankings after his recent exploits and second in Australia, Thompson said he is delighted at his progress.

"It's probably one of the toughest tournaments in the world, so to come through to the semis is extremely pleasing, especially after

I've had a rough run recently," Thompson said. "I'm getting old now; it just goes to show that if you stick at it long enough you can keep improving, whatever age you are, and I feel like I'm getting better."

This was the first time the outstanding Australian player had ever reached a semi-final in an ATP 500 tournament. Thompson said he was sorry to see the great Andy Murray retire hurt during his match. "He is a great champion, a grand slam champion who has won this tournament maybe five times and it is probably one of his favourite courts, so it is disappointing to see," Thompson said.

"I learned a lot of things from him and it is an honour to share the court with him," said Thompson, who had also upset the former number one Scot seven years ago.

Speaking about his decision not to play in the Paris Games, Thompson said: "I love representing my country, everybody knows that. "But clay is clearly not my favourite surface. (The Olympics) is back in Europe when the season of tennis is actually in America and getting ready to play the US Open."



JORDAN THOMPSON IN PRIME FORM FOR WIMBLEDON. Picture courtesy Tennis Australia.

Thompson won his first ATP Masters doubles title in May with American Sebastian Korda, and seems set on making his mark at the Wimbledon which is being held from July 1-14.

Hills United Women want their goal-scoring mojo back

Hills United FC women's high scoring streak has dried up as they had to settle for a 1-1 draw against Mt Druitt Rangers in their FNSW League One Women's clash.

In a clash between two of the best teams in the competition, the Hills scored in the 72nd minute through Kylie Shannon to share the spoils at Bella Vista Public School.

A shock 3-2 defeat to lower-placed Sutherland Strikers in their previous game, followed by last weekend's draw, has seen them slip from their top perch to third. Their plus point is that the Hills women still boast of the toughest defence in the league.

This Sunday, June 30, they face Central Coast Mariners needing a win to reignite their leadership hopes.

Hills Men Look For Revival

Hills United FC slumped to another defeat in their NPL Men's competition, going down 0-2 to Wollongong Wolves at the weekend. The Hills outfit, who lie 14th in the ladder, were unable to breach the defence, despite going close at times.

Australian futsal star Wade Giovenali had a great opportunity to pull one back in the 85th minute but he struck his shot left of the target after a through ball from fellow substitute Jamal Belkadi. The Hills goalie Ryan Wood prevented the scoreline from increasing with some fine saves.

This weekend, Hills United face Rockdale Linden in their 22nd round match. The NPL debutants have won just one match from their last five but could end the streak this weekend.

The Wolves led 1-0 at the interval.



A LANDMARK JUNCTION

Some of Australia's oldest roads in early Colonial Australia exist within our area. When main roads meet they form a junction and one of the major junctions in our area is the junction formed where Windsor, Seven Hills and Old Northern Roads all meet. Possibly referred to as the "Bull and Bush" Junction.

What has caused me to look at this particular junction was a reader asking me, a few weeks ago, "Do you know anything about Wood's store at Baulkham Hills?" I had heard of it and had some photographs of the store. When looking at the photos, it occurred to me that the site upon which Wood's store once stood had changed considerably over time and more changes are in the wind.

The site of Wood's store is currently unoccupied, it being a demolition site next door to Ackling House, the home of dental surgeries and retail premises. Prior to demolition, it was the site of the "Gateway Plaza Centre" which contained a Swimart pool shop, Chinese restaurant, newsagency and other retail establishments.

Prior to the Gateway Plaza centre being constructed, it was the site of a car sales yard and service station. An Ampol service station was built on the site during 1956 which, after a period, became Schmutter's Car Sales which later transferred to Blacktown. The land was excavated in 1982 and the Gateway Plaza Centre building was constructed.

The first store on the site was operated by Charlie Brown who then sold the store to O. A Vecsey in 1916 who operated the store until 1918. The Wood family bought the business in

1918 and operated it until 1956.

A few more readers have also asked about the Moderna building opposite the current Bull & Bush hotel which has been mostly unoccupied for a couple of years which is also located at the same junction.

The landmark Moderna building is a topic which a number of readers have asked about. This site has seen many changes over time. From the late 1800s. A hotel named the "Horse & Jockey" was situated on the site, as Yattendon Oval, which is nearby, was once the location of a racetrack and the hotel would stand to be a profitable enterprise on race days. The Post Office on the site operated at the rear of the hotel, along a general store both operated by Aborn Poulter. In 1880 Joseph Washington Phillips took over the business running it until 1885. In 1915 the hotel and shop were demolished. During 1936, Butter's Newsagency was built on the site, over a period of years serving as a Post Office, haberdashery and as a shoe shop. In 1964 G. J. Coles & Coy built a Coles New World Supermarket on the site which operated until 1981 after which the supermarket was converted to a "Shoppers World" store. A later conversion saw a restaurant included in the building which operated first as Sizzler, followed by Bells Restaurant, and even later as

a Food Star Restaurant. My wife reminded me of the time an elderly gentleman had driven into the front of the restaurant having lost control of his vehicle when turning from Windsor Rd into Seven Hills Rd, I think back in the 1990s.

Developers Dyldam acquired the site much later to build the controversial Moderna apartments, which have been the subject of a NSW Investigation resulting in the discovery of serious defects which has prevented or delayed occupation of tenants and purchasers. Recent work during past months has seen more residents moving in.

The other landmark building at the junction is that of the "Bull & Bush" Hotel. This was also purchased by Dyldam but has since been acquired by other interests after Dydam was put under administration.

A Pub was originally built on this site circa 1810 and was called the 'Lamb and Lark', then renamed 'The Cricketers' c1870, demolished in 1885 to make way for the "Royal Hotel" also referred to as the "Royal Baulkham Hills Hotel"

This was demolished and rebuilt as the 'Bull & Bush Inn' after the 1930's Depression. In 1991 there was a fire in the public bar, so reconstruction took place in 1992, with the latest renovation in 2004.



AS WE WERE

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

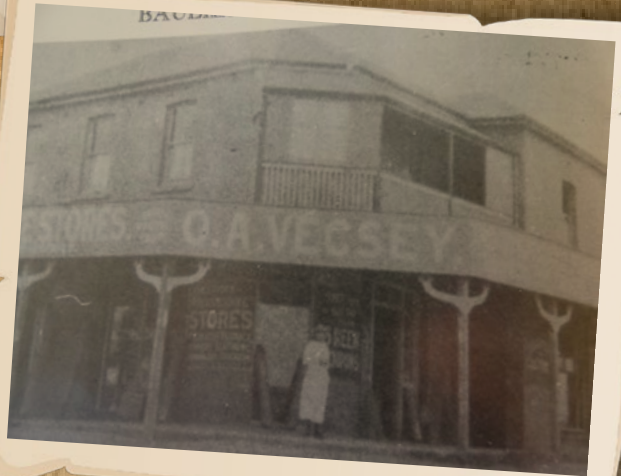
COLLECTION COMPILED BY
IVOR JONES SHOWING LIFE IN
THE HILLS AND HAWKESBURY
AREA DURING PAST DECADES.



Food Star Restaurant Seven Hills Rd. in 1997 Courtesy of Hills Dist Historical Socy



Woods General Store, Cnr Windsor Rd and Old Northern Rd (1932) Courtesy of Hills Dist. Historical Society



Gateway Plaza Cnr Windsor Rd & Old Northern Rd., (1982) Courtesy of Hills Dist. Historical Socy.



CREDIT in FLIKR photos

COMMUNITY groups

2nd Castle Hill Rovers

📍 www.gwsrovers.com.au

Annangrove Environment Centre

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

Arcaid Quilters

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

Baulkham Hills Probus

📍 Meets 1st Thurs each month 1.30pm Baulkham Hills Sports Club, 11 Renown Rd Visitors welcome. Activities every Thurs.
👤 Peter | 0407 013 411
✉ probus56830@gmail.com

Bonsai Society of Australia

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

Castle Hill Art Society

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

Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.,

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

Combined Probus Club of Cherrybrook

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

Computer Pals for Seniors – The Hills

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

Cumberland Bird Observers Club

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

CWA of NSW – Galston Branch

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

CWA of NSW – Castle Hill Branch

📍 Holds its monthly meeting every 2nd Tuesday at the CWA Hall, 2 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst (off Angus Road) from 10am. We also hold our Craft mornings for members on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10 to 12.
👤 Maureen | 0410 582 723
✉ castlehillcwa@gmail.com

CWA of NSW – Toongabbie Branch.

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

Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Grp

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

Dural Country Club Bowls

☎ 04 2131 5074

Dural Men's Shed

☎ 04 0247 8498 📍 www.duralmensshed.org

East Kurrajong School of Arts

📍 1st Tues each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity you're interested in, bring pencil/s or brushes to practice your drawing or painting with Ruth, browse the library for a book to read or simply just relax, have a cuppa and enjoy a chat from 10am to 1pm. Gold coin donation for morning tea.
👤 Ann | 02 4576 5031

Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc Hawkesbury Grp

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

Friends of Hills Library

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

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@mellowcrest.com

Hawkesbury Camera Club

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

Hawkesbury District Agricultural Assn

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

Hawkesbury Historical Society

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

Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of the 1st Fleeters

📍 Meets on 2nd Saturday of each month.
👤 Pamela Hempel | 0407 660 579
📍 www.fffnc.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
✉ hawkeswest.probus@gmail.com

Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

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

Hills District Women's Bowling Club

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

Hills Older Men's Network INC

📍 Meets fortnightly on the first and 3rd Mondays of the month, 10am to 12.30pm at Castle Hill. The group is aimed at retired men over the age of 55
👤 Ron | 0424 462 153 ✉ HillsOM1@gmail.com

Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra

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

Hills Toastmasters

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

Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

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

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

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

Kurrajong Hand Spun Craft

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

Ladies 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.
📍 macquarietownsgardenclub.wordpress.com

National Seniors Australia (Hills Branch)

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

North Rocks View Club

📍 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. New members and visitors welcome.
👤 Lorene | 0429 396594

Pennant Hills VIEW Club

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

Pennant Hills Garden Club

📍 Meets 4th Wed at 10.15am at Pennant Hills Bowls Club. 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

Probus Club of Round Corner (Dural)

👤 Julie; PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

Probus Club of the Hills Inc

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

Probus Club – Glenorie

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

Probus Club - Kellyville Castle Hill Mixed

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

Probus Combined Castle Hill Club

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

Probus Combined Kellyville Club

📍 Meet 2nd Monday of the month 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

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☎ 9679 1246

✉ admin@rdanswtalltimbers.org.au
📍 www.rdanswtalltimbers.org.au

Red Cross – Castle Hill Branch

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

Richmond /Windsor VIEW Club

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

Scouts Australia – Greater Western Sydney Region

☎ 9639 2488
📍 www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Sleep Disorders Australia – NSW

☎ 02 9990 3514
📍 www.sleepoz.org.au

Soroptimist International of Hornsby Inc.

📍 Meets on the first Wednesday evening of the month at Pennant Hills Bowling Club.
👤 Pam | 0425 229 615
✉ sihornsbys@siseap.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
✉ sithills@siwp.org

The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc

☎ 9639 8620

The Hills Learning Centre

☎ 02 8850 0555
✉ RSVPI@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 Hill, 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 at St. Joseph's Conference Centre on the 4th Monday of each month at 6.00pm (dinner optional) for meeting at 7.00pm.
👤 Robyn | 9639 2742

The Sydney Hills Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees

📍 Welcome to Members and Visitors.
👤 Mal Steel | ✉ airsiedneyhills@gmail.com

Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition in the Hills District

📍 hillsladiestennis.org

Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

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

Windsor RSL Fishing Club

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

Windsor Probus Club

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

Winston Hills Joey Scouts

☎ 9862 8482
✉ hsara@optusnet.com.au

Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed Inc

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

YMCA NSW Community Visitors Scheme

☎ 9633 8209 or 0402 255 193

Zonta Club of Sydney Hills

☎ 0414 641 408 | www.zontadistrict24.org



Adventure Camp for Dural Scouts

The 46th Greater Western Sydney Region Jamboree was a three-day extravaganza of scouting spirit and adventure held over the long weekend at Cataract Scout Park. The theme, "Greatest Hits of the 20th Century," brought the past to life, with Dural Scouts and several courageous Cubs joining in the fun.

Leaders and Venturers lent their support, leading a variety of thrilling activity bases including our very own: "Gyro Scout", "Saving Guinevere" - a dual rope/pulley base in which harnessed scouts grappled against each other to save Guinevere; and an electric fence field. Our group took the Gateway competition very seriously - a nod to the 1920s with an impressive rendition of the Harbour Bridge partially incomplete as it was back then.

The boundary fence, humorously warning of an "Electric Fence," caused quite the stir, with many a scout daring to test its veracity. The highlight for most, however, were the

adventurous activities like the Giant Swing, Caving, Zip-lining, and Rock-climbing, along with the night disco, inflatables, and the warmth of new friendships forged around the neighbouring campsites and our own campfire.

A peaceful slumber on the car ride home was a testament to the camp's success and each experience provided unforgettable memories of the jamboree.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS



CWA - GALSTON

As we move into Winter, the ladies from Galston CWA are very busy working to assist those needing help in our communities, here taste treating some new raspberry and strawberry fruit butters for inclusion in the jams and relishes they create.

We do appreciate donations of fruits and vegetables, as well as yarns for knitting and crochet. We meet at the Galston Health and Community Centre and our meetings are on the second Wednesday every month. Please pop in and say hello, we welcome visitors and new members.

We will also have a stall at the Rowland Village Market Day, on 29th June. Come and check us out.

For any enquiries phone Anne 0404 228 209 or Patricia 0412 948 787.

PUZZLE

Numbers in the grid (1-26) correspond to each of the letters of the alphabet from A-Z in some order. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key provided as you find them. Three letters are provided to give you a start.

CODE WORD

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

SUDOKU

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

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

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

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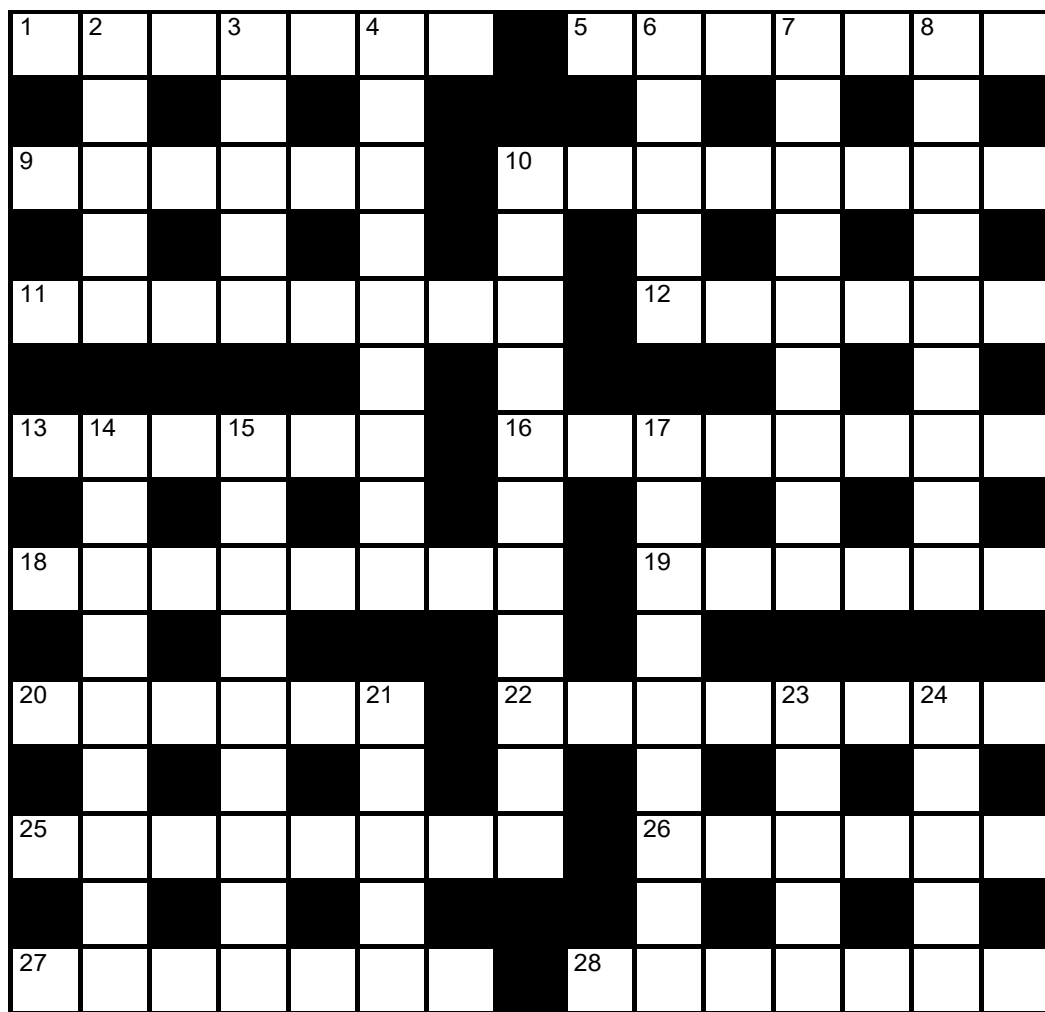


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Across

1. Short prayer
5. Bounded
9. Underlying structure
10. Football's "Captain Blood" of yesteryear
11. Sole wetland in Central West Queensland
12. Tallied
13. Keynote
16. Rhett's belle
18. Software
19. Last movement
20. Designer McCartney
22. Group of spectators
25. Olive-green, black and white avian with a distinctive call
26. Chamber music instruments
27. Preparing for publication
28. 3-D artworks

Down

2. Japanese port city
3. Substantial
4. Red-flowered leafless shrub
6. Obtained on Route 66?
7. Small brush wallaby
8. Primitive
10. Baird Bay, SA, pelican breeding site
14. Out of the race
15. Sydney electronic music band
17. Sworn statement
21. One of 4.5 billion or so
23. Small German WW2 marine raider
24. Pursue

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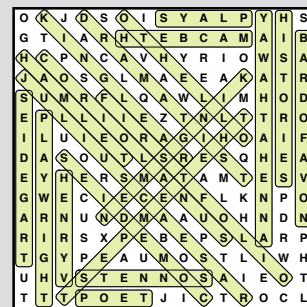
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WORD SEARCH ANNIVERSARY GIFTS

BRONZE	DIAMOND	JADE	PEARL
CHINA	EMERALD	LACE	RUBY
CORAL	GOLD	LEATHER	SILVER
COTTON	IRON	LINEN	STEEL
CRYSTAL	IVORY	PAPER	WOOD

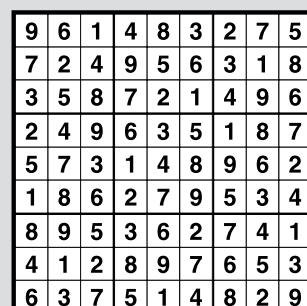
WORD SEARCH



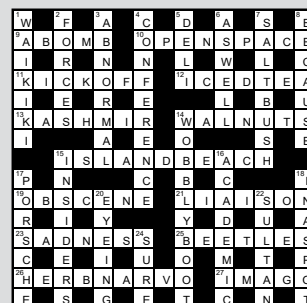
CODE WORD



SUDOKU



CROSSWORD



45

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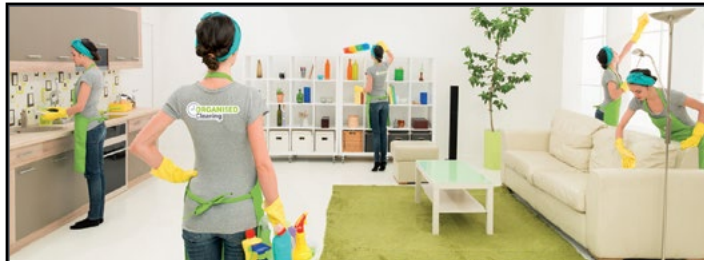


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