

Hills to Hawkesbury

Community News | 21st Feb - 07th March 2025 | Volume 42 – Issue 04
Local Stories, Local People and Local Businesses

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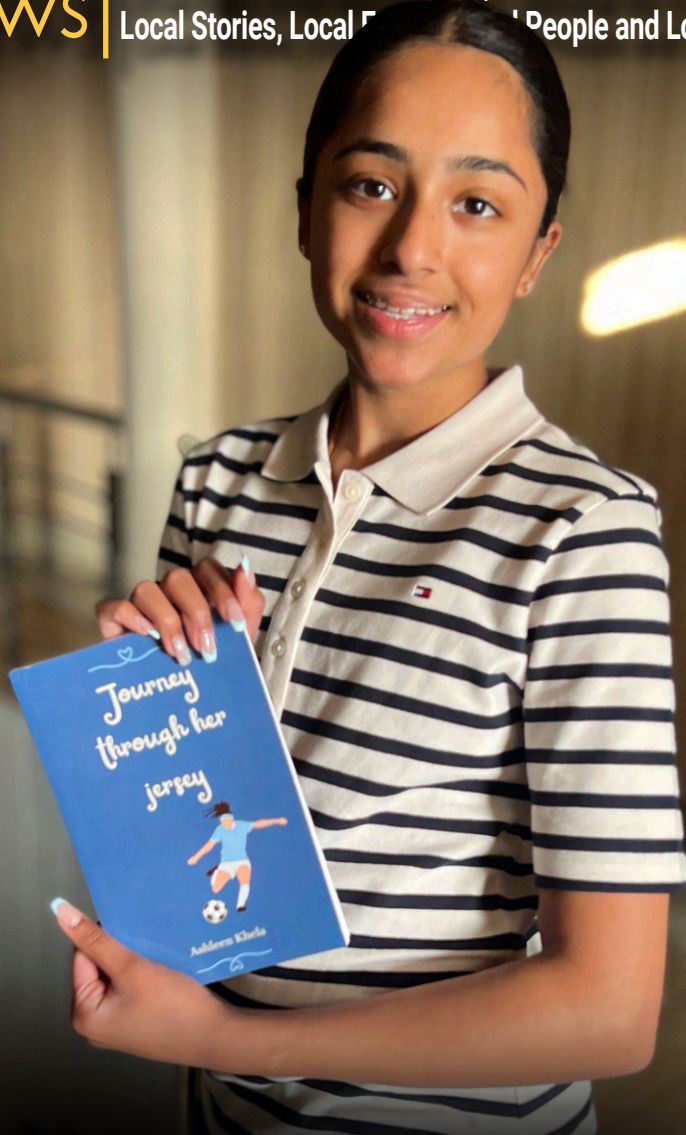
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ASHLEEN'S BOOKED FOR STATE DATE

SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS

Sarah Jones and Eliza Shepherd,
c.1900, Windsor, photographer unknown

HAWKESBURY'S HISTORY SHOWCASED IN NEW MUSEUM DISPLAY

Remarkable stories of everyday citizens

Have you ever wondered how you would be remembered? What could future historians learn from your photo? What stories could be shared from your everyday items?

Hawkesbury Regional Museum has just launched a new rotating museum display, *Imprint: Stories from the Archives*. This exhibition goes beyond famous figures and events to uncover the lives of lesser-known locals who have left an imprint on our historical records. By exploring the stories of diverse individuals who have shaped our community, *Imprint* offers a more complete and inclusive understanding of our past.

Drawing from the archival collections of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, the display provides an intimate glimpse into the lives of

these individuals. Objects such as photographs, personal documents, creative works and more provide an insight into their thoughts, feelings and experiences, as well as the perspectives of those around them.

Imprint is a series of unique curated displays, each showing for a 3-month period. The first instalment is now open, spotlighting stories of five individuals living in the Hawkesbury during the 19th and 20th centuries. These stories include the lives of widow **Sarah Jones** and her devoted caregiver **Eliza Shepherd**, victim of the 'blackbirding' slave trade and popular Windsor personality **Sam Brown/Boyllie**, respected 'bus driver' **Frederick Fewings**, and arts and crafts pioneer **Muriel Danvers Power**.

Imprint[®]
Stories from the archives

Imprint install view. Image courtesy of Hawkesbury

Writing pad holder, 1900-1950, unknown maker. Hawkesbury Regional Museum collection, estate of Bob Power.

Visit the Museum before the end of April to explore the first display and return throughout the year to continually discover new faces and uncover the unique stories within Hawkesbury's history.

Museum entry is free for all ages. Open 10am – 4pm 6 days per week, closed Tuesdays and Good Friday. Hawkesbury Regional Museum is a wheelchair accessible venue.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Hills to Hawkesbury

Community News | Local Stories, Local Events, Local People and Local Businesses

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Owner: Compton Media Group
Publisher: Diana Paton, Adelphi Printing Pty Ltd
ATF Paton Family Trust

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

Please follow us on Facebook @hillstohawkesbury. Printed copies are available at local shopping centres and other outlets. For a full list of drop off points for the Hills to Hawkesbury Community News, visit our website www.hillstohawkesbury.com.au or click on the QR code.



BUS CHANGES

BY BEV JORDAN

Transport for NSW has announced changes to bus services in the Hills from Monday March 3rd.

The changes are being called "minor" and will see adjustments to timetables and adjustments to some routes. School trips are also being adjusted.

A spokesman said the changes in the Hills region will make it easier for passengers to access Metro stations. Improving reliability is also part of the move.

Routes including 605, 610x and 611 will receive extra services to meet demand, while some bus services with low patronage will be reduced.

In the Hills District, the current route 600 will be split to operate from Parramatta to Pennant Hills, and the new route 590 will operate between Pennant Hills to Hornsby. Parents and carers are advised to check services with changes to some bus routes servicing schools in Carlingford including Cumberland High School and James Ruse High. Route 737W, servicing Christ The King Primary School in Carlingford is being discontinued. Route 546 will serve the same route to the school.

Last month Transport announced 106 new services each week linking commuters to North West metro stations with extra service on the

601, 605, 643, 740, 742, 746, 747 and the 748 routes.

In Riverstone and Tallawong, services on route 742 between Riverstone and Rouse Hill are now running every 30 minutes during morning and afternoon peak periods, weeknights, and on weekends between 8am and 6pm. Buses are also running until later in the night on all days of the week.

Route 748, now extends to the growing community of Melonba and operates via Jerralong Drive in Schofields and connects with train and metro services at Schofields and Tallawong.

Bus services in the Gables and Box Hill area have been improved with the 643 route frequency increasing to every 15 minutes in the morning and afternoon peak, and services starting earlier on weekdays. On route 740 from Gables to Rouse Hill, buses are running more frequently during morning and afternoon peaks and later into the evening. The service is using the southbound bus only lane on Windsor Road through the Mile End Road intersection at Rouse Hill to reduce delays and improve travel times for passengers as is the 643 service.

Route 746 from Riverstone to Rouse Hill has earlier and later operating hours on weekdays, and additional service arriving at Rouse Hill after the busy morning peak.

There are also additional services on route 747 between Marsden Park and Rouse Hill via Riverstone. Between Riverstone and Tallawong, buses are running more frequently during morning and afternoon peak periods. Route 732 is also running earlier on weekdays and more frequently during weeknights between Quakers Hill, Tallawong and Rouse Hill.

Route 601 from Rouse Hill to Parramatta via Baulkham Hills has an extra service in the morning peak and weekday morning peak frequency is now 10 minutes on route 605 from North Kellyville to Rouse Hill.

The timetable changes follow a \$139.5 million investment announced in the 2024-25 budget to improve buses across Western Sydney.

Passengers are encouraged to visit transportnsw.info to check the new timetable for services in their area.

Riverside GARDENS



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HEAD-ON CRASH

A crash occurred on Saturday, the 15th of February, at Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill. Both drivers were taken to the hospital.

Fire and Rescue Castle Hill and NSW Ambulance attended the crash scene.

The road was eventually cleared. The police thanked the drivers on the road for their patience and the emergency crews who responded to the incident.

HEAD-ON COLLISION

A serious head-on collision occurred at 10:31 AM, the 12th of February on Gilbert Road, near the Castle Hill Cemetery.

A driver who witnessed the crash immediately called Triple Zero.

Emergency Services, fire, and police crews were activated and attended the scene. According to the police, CareFlight was called to provide immediate medical assistance.

The Gilbert Road was closed in both directions between Tuckwell and Ridgescrop. It reopened at 11:53 AM.

"The parties involved in the collision have been taken to the hospital in stable condition..." the Hills PAC reported.

HOUSE FIRE

The NSW Police and emergency crews attended a house fire at Carmel Close in Baulkham Hills on Wednesday, 19th of February. Fire and Rescue units from Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill, and Kellyville were activated and extinguished the fire.

There were no persons injured or inside the house at the time of the fire. Residents were advised to avoid Carmel Close and Delaney drive during the incident.



DRINK DRIVING

On Wednesday, on the 12th of February at 3 PM, The Hills Highway Patrol stopped a driver on Windsor Rd, Baulkham Hills, with a blood alcohol content of 0.242.

The individual was arrested and charged and will face Parramatta Court mid-March for High Range Drink Driving.

The police remind drivers to stay safe and always to drive responsibly.

.....

On the morning of the 20th of February, at 7:50 AM, a 52-year-old female was arrested at the Windsor Rd Castle Hill RBT (Random Breath Testing) site after returning a positive roadside breath test. She was subsequently taken to Castle Hill Police Station, where she returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.188.

Her driver's license has been suspended, and she is set to appear in Parramatta Local Court next month, facing charges of high-range drink driving.

DISCHARGED GUN

Police are appealing for information after a firearm was discharged towards a home in Stanhope Gardens.

At about 2:00 AM, Sunday, the 9th of February 2025, police were called to a home on Canyon Drive, Stanhope Gardens, following reports a group of people had broken into the home before fleeing the scene.

Following initial inquiries, police have found evidence that a firearm was discharged towards the home.

As investigations continue, any witnesses or anyone with dashcam footage around the area at the time of the incident is urged to come forward and contact Crime Stoppers.

MULTIPLE ASSAULTS

Hills Police have arrested a 37-year-old male resident of Civic Way, Rouse Hill, following several incidents of assault and aggressive behaviour towards other residents and building staff. It will be alleged:

Charge Sequence 1 & 2:

The male had hostile interactions with the building manager, including verbal abuse and physical threats.

On the 17th of January, 2025, the male physically assaulted the building manager at Rouse Hill Town Centre, causing damage to a vehicle during the altercation.

Charge Sequence 3:

On the 5th of February, 2025, the male verbally abused and physically assaulted another resident in the building's lift.

Charge Sequence 4:

On the 6th of February, 2025, the male assaulted a resident in the underground car park, causing damage to the victim's prescription glasses.

Charge Sequence 5:

Later, on the 6th of February, 2025, the male verbally abused and spat on another resident in the building's lift.

The male has been arrested and charged with multiple counts of assault and is now before the courts.

BREAK & ENTER

On 12 February, The Hills Police Area Command arrested a 28-year-old male in connection with a break and enter at a retail store in Victoria Ave, Castle Hill on January 26, 2025. He has been charged and will appear in Parramatta Local Court.

The Hills Police Area Command would like to thank the community for their assistance and remind everyone to stay vigilant.

SPEEDING ON DRUGS

A speeding driver surprises police with a positive drug test.

On Saturday, 15th of February, officers from Parramatta Highway Patrol were conducting speed enforcement in Oatlands when they detected a VW T-Roc being driven by a 47-year-old Eastwood man, travelling at 113km/h in the sign-posted 60km/h area.

Police stopped the driver, spoke with him in relation to his speed and conducted alcohol and drug testing.

His drug test returned a positive indication of methylamphetamine. The driver supplied a secondary sample to be sent for analysis. Further action may be taken once the police receive the results of the analysis.

The driver was issued a penalty notice for exceeding the speed limit by more than 45km/h, carrying a penalty of \$2,959 and 6 demerit points.

The driver's licence was also immediately suspended for a period of 6 months.

Senior Sensations

March means Seniors' Week and both Hills Shire Council and Hawkesbury City Council are celebrating the outstanding contributions of its senior residents with a great range of activities.

Open Day at the Farm

Bella Vista Farm

9am – 2pm on Sunday, 2nd March

Explore historic Bella Vista homestead, shop for local treasures, and enjoy Devonshire tea (FREE for the first 100 seniors to register), whilst listening to a special musical performance by the Hills Symphony Orchestra.

Tai Chi Classes

Baulkham Hills Community Centre

9:30am – 10:30am on Wed, 5th March and

9:30am – 10:30am on Wed, 12th March

Improve your balance, flexibility, and mindfulness during a FREE Tai Chi class which promotes gentle, low impact movements for focus and peace. *Bookings not essential

Aqua Aerobics Classes

Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre

11am – 11:45am on Wednesday, 5th March &

9:30am – 10:15am on Thursday, 13th March

Stay active and improve your fitness in a supportive and refreshing environment, during a FREE aqua aerobics class at Waves.

Movie Screening

4pm – 6pm on Thursday, 6 March

For Over 60s Relax with a FREE screening of *Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy*. Where: Events Cinemas, Castle Towers

Hills Seniors Festival Expo

Hills Community Care, Balcombe Heights Estate

10am – 3pm on Thursday, 13 March

Connect with the local community and enjoy a vibrant showcase of local service providers, businesses, and community organisations. Shuttle buses to the Expo are available from multiple locations.

Jazz at the Pines

Roughley House 'The Pines'

12:30pm – 3:30pm on Sunday, 16 March

Listen to the enchanting sounds of live jazz and tour the grounds of the historic Roughley House. All ticket holders will receive a \$5 voucher to enjoy a complimentary homemade cake, coffee, and/ or morning tea.

For more information and to register, visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Seniors Festival'

Seniors Expo Hawkesbury

Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor

Time: starts 10am

Hawkesbury Library Service will celebrate NSW Seniors Festival with an exciting Seniors Expo at the Central Library, Windsor on Thursday, 6th March.

The Seniors Expo is a FREE 2 hour-event where seniors can meet new people, connect with the Hawkesbury community. There will be tea and coffee, a range of exhibitors as well as interactive well-being workshops.

For more information call the library on 4560 4460.

Tech Savvy Seniors

Central Library, 300 George Street

10.30am-12.30pm Tues 4 March – Tues 25 March

Duration: 4 weekly sessions

The Tech Savvy Seniors program is back at Hawkesbury Library Service. The Introduction to Technology offers four weekly sessions which will cover the essentials of mobile technology in a friendly, hands-on environment.

They are designed for seniors of all backgrounds, whether you're a tech newcomer or just looking to refine your skills. Bring along your device.

For more information call the library on 4560 4460. You may book into individual workshops or the full course.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

March 6th, Baulkham Hills 11.45am to 2.30pm

Hills Community Aid is partnering with Mind Connections Foundation/The Women's Shed Hills Shire to host an International Women's Day African Drumming Celebration.

The event will run from 11.45am to 2.30pm on Thursday 6th March at the Balcombe Heights Estate, 92 Seven Hills Rd, Baulkham Hills, opposite Jasper Road School. Angela from Drumbeats will be leading the communal celebration at Thompson Hall and there will be light refreshments. All are welcome. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at hca.org.au/event/international-womens-day-drumming/

March 7th, Norwest 7am

A powerhouse breakfast is promised at Norwest when four female leaders in their field speak at a special IWD breakfast hosted by Norwest Sunrise Rotary Club.

Speakers are:

- **Melissa Monteiro:** CEO, Community Migrant Resource Centre: a visionary leader, advocate, and changemaker dedicated to empowering communities and driving social impact.
- **Dr Nicole Pearce:** CEO of Aged Care Consultancy Australia is a highly respected nurse, gerontologist, and consultant who continues to advocate in federal and international policy areas for aged care and disability.



- **Azita Abdollahian:** CEO of The Project of You and the Founder and Executive Director of the Shining Light Foundation which works with the homeless. Azita is an author, coach, mentor, global DEI advocate and community leader.
- **Ubah Gabris:** National Deputy Chair Westpac Respect is a passionate leader, advocate, and social impact strategist dedicated to empowering communities and fostering inclusivity.



The event is being held at Hills Shire Café, The Hills Shire Council Chambers, 3 Columbia Court, Baulkham Hills. Tickets are \$35 which includes breakfast and tea/coffee.

Please RSVP by noon on 3 March for catering by booking your tickets securely at <https://www.trybooking.com/CYVIT> or call Robert on 0425 233 783.

“Happy International Women's Day

“Women are the true builders of society.”



Saturday, March 8th Norwest

An inspirational dinner is on the cards at an International Women's Day event organised by three women's organisations: CWA Castle Hill, BPW Sydney and Powerful, Empowered Women.

The event titled: Empower, Inspire, Lead will be at Rydges Norwest 5pm for a 5.30pm start.

As well as a keynote speaker there will be a panel discussion on Women's Empowerment. There will be cultural entertainment and a two-course dinner.

Dress code is shades of green, white, and purple.

Tickets are \$75. And can be purchased via the humntix link. RSVP by 1st March: Call 0431 347 200 / 0472 581 369 events.humantix.com/international-women-s-day-v5plhm5v

Find the right school for your child at the Hills Schools Expo

The Hills Schools Expo will be held on Saturday & Sunday March 15-16, 10am – 4pm, at Castle Hill RSL. Why drive all over the city, looking for a good school, when the schools can come to you?

This free event is a great opportunity to make direct contact with teachers and principals from 22 of Australia's best independent schools in a spacious, air-conditioned venue.

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

Boarding, either weekly or throughout the term, is another increasingly popular option, particularly for older students.

The Hills Schools Expo is an important resource for local families. Parents can cut through the noise to get a real feel for a school's values and culture. This is vital because independent schools do more than teach. They are also tasked with upholding the values of their school communities and passing them on to the next generation.

Every school has its strengths. The right school for your child is the one where they can succeed personally as well as academically. The Expo can help you find that school. Exhibitors at this year's

event include single-sex, co-ed, and faith-based schools from kindergarten to senior high school, including boarding schools in the city, ACT and TAS.

At the Expo, parents are invited to engage in detailed discussions with school staff to deeply explore a school's offerings and suitability for their child. From information on scholarships to extracurricular opportunities and specialised programs for gifted and talented students, families can learn everything they need to know to take the next step in their school search.

You can conduct days of research in a single outing while also establishing a personal connection with your school of choice. Every child is unique. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to find the school to which your child is uniquely suited.

For more information visit: schoolsexpo.com.au



Hills Schools Expo

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th March 2025, 10am-4pm
Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle St Castle Hill | Free Entry

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

schoolsexpo.com.au

Helping
you find the
right school
for your
child

NSW Young Women of the Year

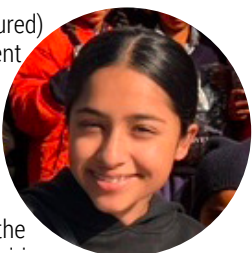
The State Government has announced the finalists in the 2025 NSW Women of the Year and two young Hills residents are among the 10 young women aged from 7 to 15 who have been named in the new Category The Ones To Watch.

ASHLEEN KHELA (pictured) was just 11 and a student at Kenthurst Public School when she wrote her first published book *17 Stories* to raise funds for charity. The 17 individual stories in the book were aimed at inspiring young people to help others and "do something in their life with their talents".

She also raised the money herself to have the book published spending two years raising the funds to cover the cost of publishing the book with all proceeds from the sale of *17 Stories* donated to the Cancer Council Australia, Starlight Kids Foundation as well as towards helping the underprivileged kids of India and other developing nations.

She raised \$10,000 and spent her January school holidays visiting India and distributing items to children in need.

Her second book, *Journey Through Her Jersey*, was published last year and highlights women's empowerment and raises awareness about gender inequality.



She says the story was inspired by her little sister. "She wasn't allowed to be in the cricket team because it was boys and she was really upset."

Sales have already raised \$1000 and this year proceeds will go to UNICEF, United Nations and underprivileged children.

Ashleen said: "I feel deeply honored and humbled to have been nominated and selected as the finalist for NSW women of the year awards 2025 (The ones to watch category)."

She was especially thrilled to receive a letter from the Minister for Women, Jodie Harrison MP who said: "You should be extremely proud of your efforts to produce this book that brings to the fore gender biases women across NSW continue to endure. As the Minister for Women, I have a keen interest in addressing this issue, and I am always delighted when I hear about young women like you who are taking matters into their own hands and driving change."

In January Ashleen was awarded the Young Citizen Of The Year 2025 by Hills Shire Council.

"It is truly humbling, and I am deeply grateful. These recognitions further reinforce my commitment to serve the community and keep making a difference through my writings."

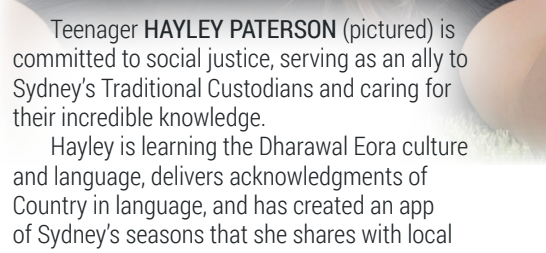
Teenager **HAYLEY PATERSON** (pictured) is committed to social justice, serving as an ally to Sydney's Traditional Custodians and caring for their incredible knowledge.

Hayley is learning the Dharawal Eora culture and language, delivers acknowledgments of Country in language, and has created an app of Sydney's seasons that she shares with local schools.

She is passionate about supporting marginalised communities, Hayley also engages in queer and refugee advocacy through fundraising and representation. She is a volunteer mapmaker, serving global charities and rescue organisations, mapping areas in countries including Mauritania, Grenada and Pakistan to help facilitate emergency responses.

Hayley was appointed to the NSW Department of Education Minister's Student Council for 2024–2025, where she advocates for meaningful change.

The winners of the Women of the Year Award will be announced at a special ceremony at Parliament House on Thursday 6th March.



BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Watering System for Bromeliads

The Bromeliad Society of Australia Inc will hold their next meeting at the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground on Saturday, 8th March with plant sales to the public from 10am and the meeting commencing at 12noon.

If you missed Bob Sharpley's presentation on the system he installed for watering his huge bromeliad collection. The good news is he has agreed to go through the process again at this meeting.

Bob spent many hours researching watering systems and decided to go with an ORBIT brand WiFi watering system called B-Hyve.

The WiFi watering system could be turned on or off as needed, even while he is away on holidays by using his mobile phone.

He will bring to the meeting samples of piping, misting nozzles, tap connector, and the B-Hyve tap timer and he can assist with the costings for the installation.

There will also be our regular meeting activities such as competitions, Raffle, Show & Tell, and a more recent activity called just "Show" for people who would just like to share a plant with others without it being critically judged or discussed.

There is also an opportunity to meet like-minded people in a friendly and inviting environment. Contact Ian Hook, mobile 0408 202 269, email: ianhook1@bigpond.com website: www.bromeliad.org.au



Aussie's Summer Sizzlers

Local pump manufacturing heroes, Aussie Pumps, have launched a "Summer Sizzler" catalogue, loaded with great products at Summer Sizzler prices.

The range includes the world's best high pressure Fire Pumps selling for \$800 each ex GST, hundreds of dollars below other brands that have far less capability. Also on offer are Transfer Pumps from 1" all the way through to big 4" and even 6" pumps for quarries and effluent pump outs.

An added bonus is Aussie's QP self priming pump range comes with a unique five year warranty.

The Summer Sizzler catalogue also has lots of information about the great pressure cleaner range made at their 3.5 acre Norwest factory.

Aussie is proud of the great product range they've developed.

Pressure cleaners from their amazing "Black Box", a pint size pressure cleaner that weighs in at 30kgs, a professional product at a hardware store price!

You'll never see these at Bunnings or Mitre 10.

Yes, Aussie is number one in Australia, with the design and manufacture of high pressure water blasters and drain cleaning Jetters as well.

The Summer Sizzler catalogue is free. You can get it from your local Aussie distributors, Glenorie Stockfeeds, Ace Ohlssen, Hills Irrigation and Dick Petrikas.



Retain Your Independence Living at Windsor Country Village

WINDSOR, NSW – Retirement villages offer a unique blend of independence and community support, and Windsor Country Village (WCV) is leading the way in providing a safe, enjoyable, and supportive environment for its residents. Designed for active and independent seniors, WCV fosters a strong sense of community while offering the necessary framework to support residents as they age.

Independent Living with a Strong Community Focus

The majority of retirement village residents remain healthy and active but seek greater social engagement and security than they might experience in a family home or a general apartment complex. WCV provides a welcoming environment where residents can enjoy both privacy and a vibrant social life.

A key benefit of choosing a retirement village is the opportunity to age in place. The Australian Government's "Ageing in Place Strategy" ensures that as individuals grow older and face challenges such as mobility restrictions or health concerns, they can remain in their homes rather than transitioning to residential aged care.

The Australian Department of Health and Aged Care's recent announcement in January 2025 of **7,615 additional Home Care Packages**—a 10% increase in availability—

means more seniors will have access to essential in-home support, particularly at the Level 3 and 4 medium-priority levels. This ensures they can maintain their independence while receiving professional assistance as needed.

A Village Designed for Comfort and Convenience

Windsor Country Village is committed to making life easier and more enjoyable for its residents. The village features an on-site manager available Monday through Friday, a full-time groundskeeping team, and an on-site sales manager. Additionally, a dedicated village bus operates every weekday, providing residents with reliable transport options for errands, outings, and social events.

Beyond management support, the village boasts an active **resident's committee** and **social club**, working in collaboration with staff to ensure the community's evolving needs are met.

Complementary Services for a Well-Rounded Lifestyle

WCV does not directly provide meals or personal care services but has established strong partnerships with external providers to ensure residents receive the necessary support. This allows care professionals to focus on individual well-being, while WCV's management

and resident community handle property maintenance, social activities, shopping trips, and other daily outings.

Residents also benefit from various on-site services, including:

- Monthly medical visits
- Weekly hairdressing and beautician appointments
- Quarterly hearing tests
- Educational briefings on topics such as government aged care support, online fraud prevention, and estate management

A Trusted and Experienced Community

As part of the **NSW Government's Retirement Villages Act**, WCV adheres to strict regulations that provide residents with peace of mind. While modern retirement villages increasingly offer resort-like amenities such as pools, tennis courts, and cinemas, WCV takes a different approach. Instead, it focuses on fostering a warm, supportive community—one that has been family-run for 38 years with a values-based approach to independent living.

"At Windsor Country Village, we believe independent living is a team effort," says the management team. "Residents can choose how they want to engage with the community, knowing they have the full support of our dedicated staff and neighbors."

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The Hills Men's Shed

In 2009 I remember very vividly sitting in a derelict scout hall surrounded by Castle Hill Rotarians as well as local residents interested in establishing the very first men's shed in the Hills.

As I stared at the night sky through the gaping hole in the roof, I wondered if this old scout hall was really the best we could do for our community.

However, the bushland setting at Eric Mobbs Reserve was perfect and the Castle Hill Rotarians were determined that the falling down Scout Hall could be transformed into something magical. And so the hard work began. The hole in the roof soon disappeared, the electricals were redone, walls were fixed and painted and the new shed fitted out with equipment. In March 2010, the doors of the Hills Men's Shed opened its doors and by 2016 an extension was required to meet demand.

The men's movement began to address the physical and mental well-being of older men in the community by creating spaces for men to connect with one another, to form friendships

and to find purpose by carrying out various community projects.

The Hills Men's Shed certainly does this and offers its members the opportunity to participate in woodwork, metal work, wood turning, pen making as well training programs such as wood engraving, using equipment like the scroll saw and using computers. Some of their projects include making bee hotels, community street libraries, chopping boards, toys for charities and so much more. The Shed also fundraises through Bunnings BBQs, selling its handmade products at stalls as well as hosting its own market and open days at the Shed.

For many the Hills Men's Shed has become a lifeline, a place of comradery and friendship as members work on various projects, solve problems, and teach each other. Some members tend to the wonderful shed garden

which includes the most amazing passionfruit vine whilst others enjoy a cup of coffee, a chat and an endless round of cards. The members also enjoy social events and once a month have a Birthday month BBQ to celebrate the members who were born in that month.

There truly is something for all men at the Hills Men's Shed and it is no surprise that demand has grown so much that the shed is now open 4 days of the week and will most likely need to increase again in the future. Women are also welcome at the Shed and there are currently 3 female members as well.

The next time the Hills Men's Shed hosts an open day, I encourage you to pop in and support this wonderful organisation or if you see them at Bunnings stop and say hello. The Shed Members are very friendly and have some incredible stories to tell.

For more information on the Hills Men's Shed go to <https://thehillsmensshed.org.au>

Uncover stories from the past and learn about your own family history with Hawkesbury Library Service

If you're keen to learn more about history in the Hawkesbury and beyond, then look no further than Hawkesbury Library Service. There is a range of events happening this month, whether you are interested in ancestral research, local histories or beyond.

REX STUBBS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 22 February 9:15am – 2:30pm

If you are interested in history, come along to the Rex Stubbs History Symposium on Saturday 22 February. This year the symposium explores the theme Caring for Local Stories, focusing on how we can share stories, broaden narratives, and gain a deeper understanding of local histories. Speakers include Dr Lisa Murray, Historian and Author, Oonagh Sherrard, Composer and Producer, and Kelsey McMorro, Acting Museum Curator, Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Curatorial Assistant (Science), Chau Chak Wing Museum. Alongside these keynote speakers will be project updates from Hawkesbury City Council's Arts & Culture team Rebecca Turnbull, Museum Curator, Michelle Nichols, Local History Librarian, plus Christopher Reeves, Senior Heritage Officer, Strategic Planning Hawkesbury City Council. Bookings are essential as spaces are limited. Register through Eventbrite.

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY

Wednesday 26 February 10am – 11.15am

Who am I? Want to know where your family came from, who your ancestors were and where they lived? Discover the basics of researching your family history at this free introductory session. Bookings essential via Eventbrite.

These events will be held at Hawkesbury Central Library, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street. To book head to Eventbrite <https://hawkesburylibrary.eventbrite.com/> or phone the Library on 4560 4460.



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SPARKLING DIAMOND WEDDINGS

The Coles



MARJORIE AND DAVE COLE

celebrated their Diamond Wedding towards the end of last year and are now approaching their 60th anniversary of living in Australia.

They were married in Manchester in the UK and hadn't been married for long when Dave saw the adverts for living in Australia.

"He said why don't we give it a go and we did," said Majorie.

"The hardest part was telling my parents. When I told my Gran we were going to see Sydney Harbour she asked who he was."

Rather than come by ship the couple arrived by Boeing 707 "We were one of the first groups to fly to Australia and we were wearing all our winter clothes and our heavy coats and we landed in February and it was so hot."

"We stopped about 4 or 5 times to refuel."

The young couple's arrival in Sydney coincided with the change to decimal currency on February 14th 1966. A few years later Marjorie's parents and her sister moved to Australia.

The couple moved around Sydney for the first few years looking for the right place to live and hit upon Baulkham Hills where they have lived for over 50 years in the same house.

They have two sons, Simon and Nigel, and three grandchildren.

They are lifetime members of the Ulysses motorcycle club for people ages over 40 and for a time they were volunteer guides at Old Parliament House in Parramatta. They are still involved in the Hills Men's Shed.

"We are very happy," said Majorie. "No regrets."

The Bolttons



LIZ AND GEORGE BOLTON are set to celebrate their diamond wedding with family on March 9th and while they may not be dancing on the day they certainly will be soon with two family weddings on the horizon.

The couple, now 89 and 83, have lived in the Hills for 60 years, all their married life, starting in North Rocks before they moved to Castle Hill.

The two met in 1964 at the Five Dock Ballroom Dance Studio and formed a friendship based on their love of dance. They became engaged soon after and married on the 6th March 1965. George has worked in the motor trade over the years in many different capacities.

Their daughter Lisa said her father had followed his father who had a successful mechanical business at Parramatta before moving to Castle Hill.

"He was always supported by Liz," she said.

They have two children, David and Lisa and will enjoy lunch with their children and their partners as well as their five grandchildren who they are very close to.

Liz and George have travelled extensively over the years both around Australia and internationally, including America, United Kingdom, Europe and South Africa and have met many long term friends.

They are both looking forward to their grandson's wedding in April this year and their granddaughter's wedding in February next year where dancing may well be on the cards.

Liz enjoys her card making with friends and gardening. George enjoys being a member of the Men's Shed and has worked as a volunteer at the Castle

Hill Museum for 10 years. He is also a member of the Masonic Lodge.

They love going to Probus outings together.

Daughter Lisa said they are "truly devoted to each other".



YOUR LOCAL JUST GOT CLOSER



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TIPS FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION

Helping Your Loved One with Hearing Loss

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 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.

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 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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Dural Rover-scouts Japan Adventure

By Alexis Taylor,
Dural Rover-scout



Members of 1st Dural Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts recently returned from an incredible 17-day adventure in Japan, where we were immersed in the country's rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking landmarks.

This trip gave us a chance to experience different cultures through unique opportunities ranging from visiting the famous snow monkeys to staying in a Japanese ryokan house.

Over the course of our visit, we explored Japan's renowned shrines and temples, each one telling a story of tradition and spirituality. From the stunning Meiji Shrine in Tokyo to the serene Namba Yasaka Shrine in Osaka, we marvelled at the beauty and history surrounding these sacred spaces. We also saw Mt Fuji on the bullet train, visited the amazing Ghibli Museum, as well as many bustling markets where we sampled delicious local street food, from savory takoyaki to sweet mochi. Throughout the journey, we had the chance to bond with each other and the local community.

Beyond sightseeing, the trip gave us a chance to be independent. We navigated public transport, managed daily

schedules, and made decisions about activities, all while developing confidence. However, the experience was far from solitary—every step of the way, we were supported by our amazing Leaders.

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

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



ARCADIAN QUILTING NEWS

IF ESCAPISM and WHIMSY was your delight on VALENTINE'S DAY then our Exotic Garden Quilt was the perfect choice.



This quilt is the result of our Christmas Holiday Challenge. The blocks were 'judged' by our visiting guest, Beth Miller, a renowned Patchwork teacher, Judge and Quilter. Beth now resides in Canberra and we were delighted to have her company for the day!! The photo shows the quilt still in the early stages, but will soon become a real 'winner'.

We also had a second 'challenge' for those members who wanted to keep busy ??

The theme was A House Block, choosing any style we wanted, School-house, Cabin or Church-block etc. and the results are already looking wonderfully interesting.

Another 'winner' in the making, so please watch-this-space for next month's news !!!

It's February 2025 and great for us to be back, sharing our days and ideas together and looking forward to another rewarding year.

We continue to meet at the Community Hall in Galston on alternate Wednesdays,

Our contact Ph No is : 98947749



We understand weight loss can be a challenge

Deciding to have weight loss surgery is a life changing decision. As a Centre of Excellence in Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery, we're here to provide the information and support you need to make an informed decision about weight loss surgery.

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livingchoice.com.au



You may have to pay a departure fee when you leave this village which may impact on the capital gains received. CGI renders shown are for illustration purposes only. GAL0003

SPENCER VILLA 3 | 2 | 2

The Spencer has a luxurious master suite and expansive living areas. The modern kitchen and dining space flow effortlessly onto a large patio, ideal for outdoor gatherings and relaxation.

ASHDALE VILLA 2 | 2 | 1

Discover the perfect blend of comfort and style in the Ashdale. Enjoy seamless indoor-outdoor living with a spacious patio that's perfect for relaxing or entertaining.



**Galston's Leisure Centre
Now Under Construction.**

CGI renders shown are for illustration purposes only

EmergencyRedi Workshop

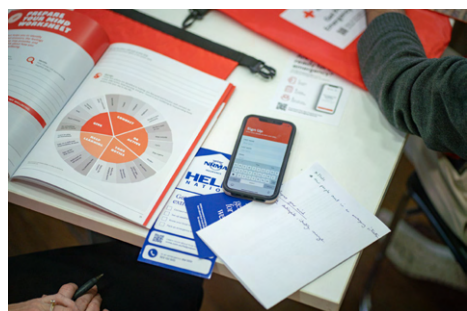
As the weather conditions continue to become more extreme over the years, the Australian Red Cross is partnering with NRMA Insurance for the EmergencyRedi™ Workshop at the Castle Hill RSL on Wednesday, 26 February 2025.

Hills Shire residents can join and learn more about weather risks, as well as knowledge and tools for preparing for future emergencies.

Date: Wednesday, 26 February

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle St, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154



All participants will make their own Australian Red Cross emergency RediPlan with details such as animal plans, key contacts and documents, meeting places, medical information, special items, and stress management strategies.

To register for the Australian Red Cross EmergencyRedi™ workshop and learn more about how to get prepared for extreme weather, visit nrma.com.au/helpnation.

According to NRMA Insurance's Wild Weather Tracker, three in four (72%) Australians say they are worried that natural disasters such as bushfires, floods, and severe storms happen more frequently and stronger than before. One

in three Australians (32%) say they don't have a good understanding of extreme weather risks in their local area, and only 26% have an emergency plan.

NRMA Insurance Chief Customer and Marketing Officer Michelle Klein said: "Our research shows 39% of Australians do not feel prepared to respond to extreme weather. Through these workshops we want to help Hills Shire residents better understand their local risks and provide the information and tools to get prepared," Michelle said.

The workshop is part of NRMA Insurance's Help Nation initiative, aimed at uniting people and preparing them to know their local risks.



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Get a sneak peek of the lifestyle you could enjoy at our free Open Home event. Come along with family and friends to explore all our community has to offer and find out if retirement living will suit you.

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Saturday, 1 March (10am-12pm)



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RSVP is essential. Health and safety practices apply.



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Great Family Home with Ideal Lifestyle Appeal or Investment!

Address: 169 Seven Hills Road Rd, Baulkham Hills
Auction: 1st March 2025, on-site @ 11:00am (unless sold prior)
Land Size: Approximately 687 sqm
School Catchment: Matthew Pearce

Discover the essence of comfortable and modern living at this exceptional single-level residence, perfectly positioned in the sought-after Matthew Pearce school catchment area. Boasting a generous level block of approximately 687 sqm, this home offers a blend of space, convenience, and privacy.



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Modern villa (single Level) in the Heart of Schofields

Address 13 Agave Glade, Schofields NSW 2762

Perfect for Home Buyers & Investors!

We are delighted to present this near-new, beautifully designed villa located in the prime area of Schofields, offering the perfect blend of comfort, convenience, and style. Situated close to local amenities, shops, schools, and transport options, this home is ideal for those seeking easy access to everything the area has to offer.



AUCTION

Spacious and Accessible Single Level Home

39 Macquarie Avenue, Kellyville NSW

Perfect Family Home!

Welcome to this exceptional family home, designed to offer modern comfort and convenience, perfect for today's growing families. This award-winning home offers exceptional design, functionality, and excellence, promising a lifestyle the whole family will cherish. It's newly listed and ready for inspection. Don't miss out - contact us today to schedule a viewing or visit our Open Home.



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NEW PRICE RECORD

Kellyville NSW 2155



SOLD \$1,800,00.00

Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

The Hills Shire Council News

THSC Clean Up Australia Day at Crestwood Reserve

Join The Hills Shire Council for Clean Up Australia Day!

Council's clean-up event will take place at Crestwood Reserve on Sunday, March 2, from 9am to 11am.

Crestwood Reserve is home to the critically endangered Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest and hosts a variety of amazing wildlife, including blue-tongue lizards, tawny frogmouths, rosellas, and bearded water dragons.

Please bring gloves, water, sunscreen, and a hat on the day.

Clean Up Australia Day is a great way to connect with like-minded individuals and make a positive impact on the environment.

Meeting Point

Crestwood Reserve opposite Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills. Parking is available at the tennis courts off Peel Road.

Register via the QR code.



Council Meetings

Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 7pm

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

An evening with Ali Lowe – author talk at Castle Hill Library



Have you ever wondered how to create a captivating suburban noir?

Join us at Castle Hill Library for an exclusive author talk featuring bestselling author Ali Lowe. In conversation with Vanessa McCausland, they will delve into Lowe's latest novel, *The Private Island*, a tale of scandal and secrets set on an exclusive island resort in the Pacific.

This event is open to the public and will conclude with book sales and a signing session. Both cash and card payments are accepted.

When: 6:30pm – 7:30pm,

Thursday 6 March

Where: Castle Hill Library

Cost: \$10pp

Bookings essential online.

Scan the QR code to register.



Places Available at Long Day Child Care Centres



The Hills Shire Council owns and operates five not-for-profit long day care centres:

- Balcombe Heights Child Care Centre, Baulkham Hills
- Castle Glen Child Care Centre, Castle Hill
- Ellerman Child Care Centre, Dural
- Eurambie Park Child Care Centre, West Pennant Hills
- Excelsior Avenue Child Care Centre, Castle Hill

Why choose one of our child care centres?

- For children aged six weeks to five years
- Open 7am – 6pm Monday to Friday
- Small, boutique centres with only 40 places available
- Qualified and experienced educators
- Nutritious meals cooked onsite daily
- Active and inclusive learning environment with shaded outdoor play areas

A United Effort to Prevent Domestic and Family Violence in The Hills

Over the past decade, awareness of domestic and family violence (DFV) has grown significantly across Australian communities, leading to increased advocacy, education, and prevention initiatives.

While progress has been made, lasting change requires a united, strategic, and community-driven approach to ensure long-term impact. Addressing DFV is not the responsibility of any one individual or organisation—it requires collaboration, shared knowledge, and a commitment to proactive solutions.

Enter Click Collab—a powerful initiative designed to unify and strengthen DFV prevention efforts in The Hills through a structured, six-stage annual planning process. This framework offers a clear and inclusive roadmap for individuals, community leaders, and organisations to work together towards meaningful, sustainable change. By fostering partnerships, sharing resources, and promoting proactive strategies, Click Collab empowers local communities to take an active role in DFV prevention.

Co-created by Kirrily Dear and Kerrie Edwards, founders of the non-profit organisation Run Against Violence, Click Collab takes an upstream approach to family violence prevention. Rather than focusing solely on crisis intervention, Click Collab provides a structured approach to unifying prevention efforts,

empowering communities to take proactive and sustained action against DFV. Through education, collaboration, and structured planning, Click Collab ensures that every participant—whether an individual, business, or community group—can contribute effectively to a safer future.

As part of its ongoing commitment to community-driven initiatives, CHRG is proud to support Click Collab. With a strong history of advocating for programs that promote safety, well-being, and social responsibility, CHRG recognises the power of collective action in driving real, tangible change. The organisation stands firmly behind the vision of Zero DFV, Together, reinforcing the belief that a united effort can help create a safer, more supportive environment for everyone in The Hills.

Community involvement is at the heart of Click Collab. Whether you're an individual looking to make a difference, a local leader eager to drive change, or an organisation committed to social responsibility, your participation—no matter how small—can have a profound impact. Even dedicating just 30

minutes of your time can contribute to shaping a future free from DFV.

By registering before 28th February 2025, you will receive a detailed briefing document, an opportunity to provide valuable feedback, and an exclusive invitation to be part of the collaborative planning process. Your voice matters, and your contribution can help shape a strategy that makes a lasting difference.

Ready to Take Action?

Visit clickcollab.co to register your interest and be part of the movement towards Zero DFV, Together.



Hills Wellness Expo

AT CASTLE HILL RSL CLUB

SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 9AM - 4PM

A FREE community event that connects over 40 Health & Wellness professionals of the Hills District to you.

TICKETS ARE FREE HOWEVER WE RECOMMEND YOU RESERVE YOUR SPOT > WWW.CASTLEHILLRSL.COM.AU

www.hillswellnessexpo.com.au



77 Castle Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154

Free
Event



BINNOWEE KINDERGARTEN

90 Years of Nurturing Young Minds

Next month Binnowee Kindergarten celebrates an incredible 90 years of shaping young minds in Sydney's Hills District. Established in 1935 by Miss Winifred Macourt Binnowee began as a small preschool in a private home, set against the backdrop of open farmland where horses and carriages were still a common sight.

Over the decades, as the area evolved into a thriving suburb, Binnowee remained a steadfast presence, adapting to the changing needs of local families while maintaining its strong educational values.

The preschool moved to its **current location on New Line Road in 1956**, where it has since flourished as a fully operational early learning center. The name "**Binnowee**," derived from the Dharug language, meaning "**a green place**" or "**a place of many birds**," reflects its commitment

to providing a nurturing and natural learning environment for generations of children.

Today, **Binnowee Kindergarten is governed by families and community members** ensuring a **community-first approach** to education. With a focus on **play-based learning** and fostering a strong sense of **belonging and curiosity**, Binnowee continues to prepare children for their next educational steps while instilling a lifelong love of learning.

As it marks this significant milestone, Binnowee Kindergarten remains dedicated to its mission—offering high-quality early childhood education in a **supportive, inclusive, and community-driven** setting. With a rich history behind it and a bright future ahead, Binnowee is set to continue shaping young minds for generations to come.



SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate our 90th milestone birthday with us on Saturday, 15th March 2025.

From 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM,
Binnowee Kindergarten, 6 New Line Road,
West Pennant Hills, NSW 2125

Confirm your attendance by clicking here
(<https://tinyurl.com/Binnowee90thBirthday>)

We look forward to seeing you on this truly memorable day!



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GALSTON CWA

With the start of the new year, the members of Galston CWA look forward to continuing our commitment, supporting and assisting those in need. Here at the planning meeting we are excited at the prospect of creating handicrafts and cooking, learning new skills and sharing knowledge in the Galston community. Our meetings are on the second 'Wednesday of the month, and visitors are welcome. For any information please call Anne on 0404 228 209, or Patricia on 0412 948 787.

Computer Pals for Seniors - The Hills

Invites all seniors 55+ to come to our Open Day on Tuesday 18 March between 10 am-2 pm. Visit the Old Caretakers Cottage at the Castle Hill Showground where courses for beginners and computer enthusiasts have been held since 1998. Gain confidence with online banking and MyGov or check out artificial intelligence and photo-editing. Ring 0479 137 131 website cphills.org.au

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HIDDEN IN THE HILLS BY LACHLAN TURNER

FOREST GRASS TREE

Probably by now the Forest Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea media*) is probably towards the end of its August to March flowering period.

One day recently whilst walking along part of the Murri-Yanna Track beside Darling Mills Creek, in Bidjigal Reserve there was a group of this unusual plant growing on the nearby steep slope adjacent to the track. Its typical habitat is along exposed sandstone ridges and hillsides and can be seen in many bushland areas of the Hills District. Some still had the long stalk protruding from the centre of this tufted plant with many tiny flowers clustered along the uppermost section of this stalk. These stalks can grow up to a height of 2.5 m.

We were fortunate enough to see a pair of Silvereyes feeding on the nectar from these tiny flowers.

The Grass Tree can be found in abundance in any of the more accessible bushland areas of The Hills Shire including Bidjigal Reserve. This Reserve and its surrounding bushland

has numerous tracks and trails starting at its many entrances in the suburbs of Baulkham Hills, Carlingford, Castle Hill, Northmead, North Rocks and West Pennant Hills.

I have prepared a booklet entitled "Bidjigal Bushland Tracks and Trails" showing maps and images of the walking tracks that I have explored. Simply enter the following web link <http://online.fliphtml5.com/awdd/aofv/> into your browser to view the contents of this booklet. Please be aware that conditions along these tracks in the Reserve may have changed since this book was published.

One of the tricks that casual bush walkers aren't aware of, is to look beyond the track itself; that is to look to the left and to the right as well as upwards; for this is where some of the most interesting bushland features can be found. Nevertheless, it is still important to be aware of the track along which you are walking as not all may be smooth and well defined.



2025 Annual Giant Book Sale is on again!

WEST PENNANT HILLS & CHERRYBROOK ROTARY CLUB

WHEN: Friday 7th March - 9am to 5pm, Saturday 8th March - 9am to 5pm
Sunday 9th March - 11am to 2pm - CLEARANCE SALE

WHERE: Cherrybrook Uniting Church, 134 New Line Rd Cherrybrook
(Opposite Cherrybrook Public School)

We are currently looking for donations of Books (fiction & non-fiction) in good condition, preferably less than 10 years old, CDs, DVDs - must be originals, Records, Sheet music.

We are unable to accept Text books, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Damaged or dirty/mouldy books, Magazines, Coffee table books, Reader's Digest, Condensed edition books.

If you are able to drop your donations off at the Uniting Church on our sort days -

Saturday 1st February, Saturday 15th February, or Saturday 1st March, between 9am & 12 noon - we would greatly appreciate it! If you would like to come help us to sort books on Saturday 15th February (9am to 12 noon) and Saturday 1st March (9am to 12 noon) at the Cherrybrook Uniting Church, 134 New Line Road Cherrybrook, please call the hotline 0468 330 667 & let them know. Gold coin donation entry. Card payments accepted.



Rotary
Club of West Pennant Hills
& Cherrybrook



Through your donation and purchase of books you can help save lives. Proceeds go to the National Centre for Childhood Grief and other Rotary charities. Thank You!



3000 GRITTERS to show off their mettle in The Hawkesbury

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

Get ready for energy-sapping, adrenalin-pumping action right in the Hawkesbury backyard when True Grit NSW returns on the weekend of March 1 and 2.

The organisers are expecting more than 3000 'Gritters', including around 180 adventurous folks from The Hills and The Hawkesbury, to compete in a 10km course, with 30 plus obstacles or a 5km course, featuring over 15 obstacles.

One of the toughest obstacle course races in the country, originally designed by members of the Australian Special Forces, True Grit will be worked off at Dargle Farm, on the Hawkesbury River in Lower Portland.

"The Hawkesbury has been a wonderful and supportive region to our event for years," said True Grit Managing Director Tom Gilmartin. "We have been working directly with local small businesses and bringing in local expertise to help put out spectacular events each and every year.

"We welcome everyone to our events, those just wanting to have a good time and try something new, all the way to high-performance athletes who want to compete against the very best."

Courses are designed to test the mental resolve and stamina of competitors who will move through Hawkesbury's grasslands, temperate rainforest, dense swamps, granite escarpments and towering sandstone cliffs.

According to True Grit marketing manager Nick Bensley, this event provides the perfect start to the year's activities.

"We see people at different places on their fitness journey participate in our events," he said. "In the past 12 months, we have seen

a large number of gyms putting together teams to bring to our events."

Age is no barrier with even an 88-year-old grandmother competing in the past, showing that the adventurous spirit lives strong regardless of our years.

"From sweeping grasslands to dense rainforest, muddy swamps to rugged cliffs, this course is built straight into the wild landscape," the organisers said. "Expect heart-pounding action as you take on the toughest, muddiest, and most jaw-dropping obstacles we've ever created.

"It is the perfect mix of physical and mental challenge delivered through fun, fitness and friends to give racers of all ages and fitness levels a sense of achievement and accomplishment."

For details, visit: www.truegrit.com.au

All Smiles at Hills Bulls All Abilities Team

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

With the sports season in full swing, it is heartwarming to see more inclusiveness in varied sports. Among them is the Hills Bulls All Abilities team, which is quietly making its mark in the community as it moves into its third season.

All Abilities team coach Andrew Odell said that seeing the smiles makes it very rewarding for everyone.

"This is a great program that the club has started," Andrew said. "Seeing the smiles on the players faces when they are running around with their friends, playing games or scoring a try brings great enjoyment to all of those who are involved. The club and its supporters have been so welcoming to the team and when we play at Crestwood Oval, they all love cheering the team on."

Hills Bulls All Abilities team manager Keirilee Odell said they are pleased with the growth in numbers since their first season. The program is open for both male and female players.

"The Hills Bulls All Abilities team is for players with Intellectual disability, autism, sensory disorders and other disabilities" Keirilee said. "It's an inclusive environment where all are welcome. Their ages range from five up to adults, and the youngest player they have signed up was five.

"In the first year, we had 10 registered players and last year we had 13. We are looking forward to this year as many of our players from last year are returning to play another season."

The All Abilities team train on Wednesdays from 6-7pm at Crestwood Oval, Baulkham Hills, learning new skills through fun interactive games.

"Our team plays one to two games or gala days a month," Keirilee said. "They play touch football against other Hills Bulls teams, local club teams and Try Time (All Abilities) teams across Sydney.

"The Hills Bulls is a family-friendly club that have been extremely supportive in setting up an All Abilities team.

"It's a great opportunity for our players to come together and play the game they love. Each registered player receives a training shirt, shorts, socks and players jersey."



Keirilee said All Abilities is an inclusive program that focuses on fun, making new friends, learning new skills and playing rugby league.

"The club has a dedicated group of coaches and trainers who work with the team to ensure that everyone has fun, has a turn, learns new skills and enjoys themselves," she said.

"The team also provides opportunity for parents of players to meet up and socialise."

For registration, contact Rick at Admin@hillsrugbyleague.com.au.

Touch Footy Cup Gets Bigger

BY LAWRENCE MACHADO

The Hills-based Sri Lanka Touch Footy Club Sydney is gearing for their biggest competition to be held next month.

The Fifth Touch Footy Cup is to be held on Saturday, March 29, at the Penrith Touch Football Fields, Werrington, from 8.30am-5pm. Charith Fonseka, the president of SLTFC, said the tournament has grown significantly since its inception in 2021, with Melbourne teams also expected to compete.

"We started the inaugural event in 2021, which featured over 100 players from multicultural backgrounds," Fonseka said. "From 2022 to 2024, the tournament expanded to include over 40 age-group teams, attracting more than 200 players each year."

"We started as a group of individuals playing touch footy on Sundays and progressed to become a structured club supported by Touch Football Australia," Fonseka said.

He said their group is a mix of players with Australian, Sri Lankan, South Asian and Pacific Islander heritage living locally. "Our mission is to provide members of the Hills Shire community



a sport that everyone can play, regardless of age, gender, experience, or ability," Fonseka said.

"Thanks to Parramatta Eels, we now have a temporary home at Kellyville Memorial Park for Sunday evening social touch.

"After playing touch football for over two decades in the Hills and Parramatta districts, we decided to organise the Sri Lankan Touch Football Cup in 2021 with the participation of Sri Lankan Old Boys Associations (OBAs) in Sydney, including Trinity, Royal, Wesley, St Anthony's, Dharmaraja, Isipathana, S. Thomas, St Peter's and others."

The club runs regular touch football games at the Kellyville Memorial Park on Sundays from 5-7 pm and welcomes newcomers, regardless of their age or skill levels.

For more details on playing or registering for the 5th Annual Touch Footy Cup, contact 0452 658 300.



DURAL BOWLING CLUB NEWS

The regional Pennant competition will start on February 22nd and will run for 10 weeks. Three teams of fours will represent Dural at the competition and the club wishes all the players the best of luck.

DBC played a trial game against Rose Hill Bowling Club on Saturday, February 8, in preparation for the Pennant competition. It was a wonderful practice for the teams and Kate Liu, a new player, showed her excellent skills with a great shot that tied the game.

DBC organising a 'twilight come and try' free competition with top prizes on Friday, March 21st and Friday, March 28th at the Dural Club.

Please call John on 0409 806 632 for further inquiries and registration. Anyone interested in playing bowls contact Robert on 0411 375 580.



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michellerowland.com.au

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



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On Track, But There's More To Do

This week, the Reserve Bank announced it would reduce interest rates, a welcome first-step for families across North-West Sydney who are among the highest rates of household mortgage holders in Australia.

One interest rate cut will not fix the cost-of-living pressures felt by local residents, however, the worst of the inflation challenges are now behind us.

When the Coalition left office, inflation was higher and rising. Under Labor, inflation is almost a third of what it was, and falling.

1.1 million new jobs have been created since May 2022 – the lowest average unemployment rate for any government in half a century.

Critically, real wages are increasing after a decade of being suppressed. This is affirmation of an economy that is improving.

Indeed, helping Australians find work and delivering higher wages is one of the best supports for households under pressure.

I know progress in national numbers doesn't translate into lived experience, that's why I am intent on ensuring our plan for the future improves quality of life, liveability, and is focused on people.

As the Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, has said: there's much more to do.

This includes areas of housing affordability, bulk-billing, and ensuring supermarkets treat customers fairly on grocery pricing.

The reality is the biggest risk to household budgets and the economy is Peter Dutton.

A household with two average full-time workers would have been around \$7,200 worse off under Mr Dutton, based on his opposition to wage increases, tax cuts and energy bill relief alone.

The Coalition has also opposed energy relief and say they will end Free TAFE.

Mr Dutton would risk the economy by spending \$600 billion of taxpayers' money on nuclear reactors, without explaining what cuts the Coalition would make to pay for this.

This would have the effect of not only increasing energy prices, but reducing essential services, leaving the North-West worse off.

In contrast, Labor is focused on building the future with positive policies that invest in infrastructure and expand health services, rather than policies that cut.

By working together, and with the right policies, we can build a better future for all.

Apply Now for the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship

Local students with a passion for history are encouraged to apply for the 2025 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship, with applications now open.

This incredible opportunity allows Year 10 and 11 History students to embark on a fully funded study tour to South Korea and Singapore, where they will explore sites of great historical significance, including the Demilitarised Zone, Kranji War Memorial, and Changi Prison Chapel.

The scholarship offers a unique chance to learn from a military historian, visit key locations, and gain a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by Australian servicemen and women. It is an unforgettable experience that will enrich their studies and broaden their perspectives.

This is an incredible opportunity for any budding young historian in the Hills, and I encourage all eligible students to apply. Applications close Sunday, 9 March 2025.

For more details and to apply, visit www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/education/premiers-anzac-memorial-scholarship.



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!
Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship

Changi Chapel



MARK HODGES MP
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Authorised by Mark Hodges MP, Suite 1A, 19-21 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154.
Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.

Two Years of Building a Better Community For All of Us.

As we approach its second anniversary, the Minns Labor Government is getting on with the job of **building a better community for all of us** in Sydney's booming North West. From investing in record cost-of-living relief, building the Rouse Hill Hospital and rebuilding public education, Labor is addressing the needs of our growing community.

Cost of Living Relief

We recognise that families in the North West are doing it tough. That's why we've invested in a range of measures to put money back in your pocket, including:

- A \$60 weekly toll cap, which has saved Riverstone motorists over \$3 million;
- Record increases to the Family, Seniors and Low-Income Household Energy Rebates;
- \$500 long day care fee relief to reduce the cost of long day care for three year olds.

There's more to do, but when I speak to residents in our community they tell me that these measures have been of immense help in taking the pressure off.

Building Rouse Hill Hospital

The Minns Labor Government is delivering the 300 bed Rouse Hill Hospital, with

construction starting in 2026. The Former Liberal Government promised but never delivered this facility, failing to even plan for an emergency ward. When all is said and done, it took the Liberals twelve years to deliver an empty field, but it's taken the Minns Labor Government two years to design, fund and plan to start building the facility.

Rebuilding Public Education

The Minns Labor Government are rebuilding public education in the North West. Since we came to Government, we've started works on Tallawong Public School and Nirimba Fields Public School, secured a site for the new Tallawong-Schofields High School and funded upgrades to The Ponds High School, Riverbank Public School and Schofields High School. We've



WARREN KIRBY
MEMBER FOR RIVERSTONE

riverstone@parliament.nsw.gov.au
WarrenKirbyMP warrenkirbypm
(02) 8883 3499 warrenkirby.au

AUTHORISED BY WARREN KIRBY MP. FUNDED USING PARLIAMENTARY ENTITLEMENTS.

also seen a 40% reduction of teacher vacancies statewide, meaning more face-to-face teaching time with students.

I want to thank the community, who have backed me in and quantified my advocacy with countless submissions and inquiries. If it weren't for this, many of these local achievements wouldn't have been possible. There's more to do, but we've made great progress and I'll continue building a better community for all of us.



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Our efficient pickup service is designed for your convenience. Whether you have a well-maintained car that's no longer in use or a vehicle that needs some attention, we'll handle it seamlessly.

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KINTYE

PETS OF THE WEEK

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



AT A GLANCE

NAME: KAYLA
BREED: American
Staffordshire Terrier
Cross Mixed
SEX: Female
AGE: 3 yrs and 3 wks
PRICE: \$99



MEET KAYLA, a delightful and well-mannered companion who is sure to capture your heart. According to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Centre, her pleasant demeanor and loving nature make her a favorite among everyone who meets her. Kayla thrives on human interaction and is happiest when she's surrounded by her people. Kayla has a gentle soul that perfectly complements her affectionate personality. According to staff, whether you're enjoying a quiet evening at home or hosting a gathering with friends, Kayla will be right there, ready to soak up every ounce of attention and affection you have to offer. Her calm presence and well-behaved nature make her a perfect fit for any household looking for a loving addition to their family.

If you're looking for a companion who will bring joy and warmth into your life, Kayla is the perfect choice. She can't wait to find a family that will cherish her as much as she cherishes them. If you are interested in meeting Kayla please bring your family dog and the children to meet her just so we can be sure she will be the perfect fit for your family.

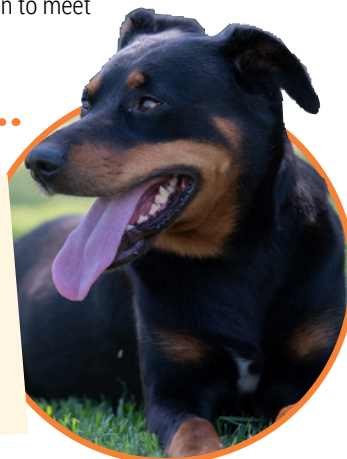
Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is R251000145

MEET HENDRIX, the epitome of a well-behaved and delightful canine companion. According to staff at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Centre, this lovely dog knows how to sit on command and is a pleasure to walk alongside on a lead. His calm demeanor and composed nature make every outing together a breeze, whether it's a leisurely stroll in the park or an invigorating hike on your favorite trail. According to staff, Hendrix isn't just a sweetheart when it comes to humans; he extends his amiable personality to his fellow furry friends as well. His social nature ensures that playdates and interactions with other dogs are filled with fun and harmony. Hendrix would thrive in a welcoming environment where he can share his mellow energy and endearing personality with those who cherish a well-mannered and sociable dog.

Hawkesbury Council's Rehoming Organisation Number is R251000145

AT A GLANCE

NAME: HENDRIX
BREED: Australian
Kelpie Cross American
Staffordshire Terrier
SEX: Male
AGE: 4 yrs and 3 wks
PRICE: \$99



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Baulkham Hills,
NSW 2153
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www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au

2nd Castle Hill Rovers

www.gwsrovers.com.au

Annangrove Environment Centre

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

Arcadian Quilters

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

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. Mthly workshops by well-known artists
9899 3179 (ans. machine)
www.castlehillartsociety.org.au

Castle Hill Senior Citizens Club Inc.,

Over 55's welcome Cnr McMullen Ave & Old Northern Road, Castle Hill (opp. new Metro station)
9680 3958 | castlehillseniors@gmail.com

Christian Over 50s Social Group

Carol | 0412201005

Computer Pals for Seniors – The Hills

Welcomes seniors for low-cost peer-to-peer courses, discussion groups, and one-on-one training on digital phones, tablets, and laptops. Make friends and learn to love technology – new discussion grp. on Artificial Intelligence.
Margaret Moxon | 0412 539 110 | cphills.org.au

Cumberland Bth Observers Club

3 outings/mth to observe birds in their nat. environ. Meetings Castle Hill 3rd Tues of mth. New members welcome.
Peter | 0412 770 757 or Cathy 9809 5668
www.cboc.org.au

CWA of NSW – Castle Hill Branch

2nd Tues/mth at the CWA Hall, 2 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst (off Angus Rd) 10am. Craft mornings 1st & 3rd Tues/mth 10-12.
Maureen | 0410 582 723
castlehillcwa@gmail.com

CWA of NSW – Galston Branch

Meet 2nd Wed/mth. Galston Community Health Centre, Cnr The Glade & 17 Arcadia Rd, Galston. 10am then bus. meeting and BYO lunch. Craft day 4th Wed/mth.
Jann | 0439 222 217 or Patricia | 0412 948 787

CWA of NSW – Toongabbie Branch.

Mthly meetings 1st Tues/mth. Toongabbie Girl Guide Hall, Junia Ave Toongabbie 10am. Craft mornings for members 1st and 3rd Tues of mth from 10-12.
ToongabbieCWA@gmail.com

Dural and District Prostate Cancer Support Grp

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

Dural Country Club Bowls

04 2131 5074

Dural Men's Shed

04 0247 8498 | www.duralmensshed.org

East Kurrajong School of Arts

1st Tues each month 10am to 1pm. Bring along any sort of craft activity, pencil's or brushes to practice your drawing or painting with Ruth. Gold coin donation for morning tea.
Ann | 02 4576 5031

Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc Hawkesbury Grp

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

Friends of the Hawkesbury art community & Regional Gallery Inc.(FOHacRG Inc)

Meets 1st Thursday of Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec.
Margaret | 4577 4440.

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.

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 Thurs 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 Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct.
Pamela Hempel | 0407 660 579
www.fffhnc.com

Hawkesbury West Probud Club

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

Hawkesbury Woodcraft Cooperative Ltd

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

Hills District Historical Society Inc.

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

Hills District Women's Bowling Club

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

Hills Harmony Chorus

Barbershop style 4 part harmony All Singers welcome. 7:30pm @ Kellyville Anglican Church, 45 Presidents Rd. Kellyville.
info@hillsharmony.com.au

Hills Older Men's Network INC

Meets fortnightly on the first and 3rd Mondays of the month, 10am to 12.30pm at Castle Hill. The group is aimed at retired men over the age of 55
Robert | 0425 233 783
HillsOMN1@gmail.com

Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra

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

Hills Toastmasters

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

Hills/Toongabbie Music Club

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

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

A support group of 30+ yrs. We have members who come weekly and find it beneficial for their condition.
Michael Parkin | 0491009557
Parkinson's Choir, www.parkypeople.org.

Kurrajong Hand Spun Craft

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

Ladies Probud Club of Baulkham Hills

Baulkham Hills Sports Club on Renown Rd, Baulkham Hills meets on the 2nd Wed of the mo at 10am and welcomes enquiries about our club.

Suzanne Dennis | 96390324 (home)
0412424593 (mobile)

Learning in the Hills

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www.hca.org.au/learning-in-the-hills/

Lions Club of Richmond Inc.

Geoff | 0412 969 651

Lions Club of West Pennant Hills - Cherrybrook

westpennanthills_secretary@lions.sydney
Raj | 0429 440 746

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 VIEW Club

meets 10.30am at Baulkham Hills Sports Club on the 2nd Tues of each month. A guest speaker will be featured each month. 4th Tues of the month a social outing is organised.
Margaret | 9873 2402

Pennant Hills Garden Club

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

Probus of Baulkham Hills

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

Probus Club of Carlingford North Rocks

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

Probus Club of Cherrybrook Combined

A mixed gender club of retirees and semi retirees. Meetings on 1st Thurs of each month at the Cherrybrook Community & Cultural Centre.
Ross | 0411 104 863
rossfitpatrick@icloud.com
www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/cherrybrook/Welcom

Probus Club of Combined Castle Hill Club

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

Probus Club of Glenhaven

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

Probus Club of 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 of the Hills Inc

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

Probus Club of 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 Club of Kellyville Combined

Mts 2nd Mon/mth 10am-12pm, Glenhaven Community Centre, 76 Glenhaven Rd, Glenhaven
Veronica | 0408 025 577 or Susan | 0400 039 308

Probus Club of Pennant Hills Mens

John | 9487 1385

Probus Club of Pennant Hills Combined

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

Probus Club of Pitt Town

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 Rouse Hill

Mts 4th Fri of mth 09.30am The Fiddler Commercial Road, Rouse Hill NSW 2155. Visitors welcome and membership is open.
Secretary | 0413336005
probusrousehill@gmail.com

Probus Club of Round Corner (Dural)

Julie; PO Box 822, Round Corner 2158

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

Probus Club of Windsor

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

RDA (NSW) Tall Timbers Centre

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admin@rdanswtalltimbers.org.au
www.rdanswtalltimbers.org.au

Red Cross – Castle Hill Branch

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

Richmond /Windsor VIEW Club

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

Scouts Australia – Greater Western Sydney Region

9639 2488 | www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

Sleep Disorders Australia – NSW

02 9990 3514 | www.sleepoz.org.au

Soroptimist International of Hornsby Inc.

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

Soroptimist International The Hills

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

The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc

9639 8620

The Hills Learning Centre

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

The Hills Shire Garden Club

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

The Hills District Pipe Band

Practices at Stamford Hall, Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills every Wednesday 7-9pm. Instagram: @hillsdistrictpipeband
Suzie Whitaker
pipeband.hillsdistrict@gmail.com
www.hillsdistrictpipeband.com

The Hills Trefoil Guild

Elaine | 0417 330 196

The Inner Wheel Club of Baulkham Hills

Meets the 4th week of each month.
Robyn | 0416 035 655

The Sydney Hills Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees

Mal Steel | airsidedneyhills@gmail.com

Thursday Ladies Tennis Competition in the Hills District

hillsladiestennis.org

Wanderers Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tues of each mo at 8 pm at Crestwood Community Centre, Cnr Crestwood Drive and Conway St, Baulkham Hills.
John | 0423167467
www.bushwalkingsnsw.org.au/wanderers

West Pennant Hills Sports Club

Ladies social tennis Tues 9.30 to 11.30 (no play school holidays) 103 new line Rd W. Pennant Hills

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

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

THE INATTENTIVE DREAMER

RICHARD (DICK) IFIELD

In the previous issue of the "Hills to Hawkesbury" I wrote about FRANK IFIELD, a very popular entertainer who lived in the Hills. Frank Ifield, however, was not the only member of the Ifield family to reach fame.

Frank's father also reached a level of fame or renown in an entirely different field to son Frank. Richard (Dick) Ifield was an inventive chap. Forced to leave school at only thirteen years of age due to the family's financial situation and also being called an inattentive dreamer at school, he went on to become a great inventor and a problem-solver to the world-wide defence and motor industries in the 1930s and the War Years (1939-1945). Born in Campsie NSW, Dick spent much of his early life in Eastwood.

After leaving school he worked as a labourer and at other unskilled work. He must have studied also because, at the age of sixteen, he obtained a draughtsmanship diploma in 1925. He worked for the next seven years gaining knowledge and experience. During those years his first invention was patented, a special hinge for the heavy bronze doors of the Melbourne War Memorial.

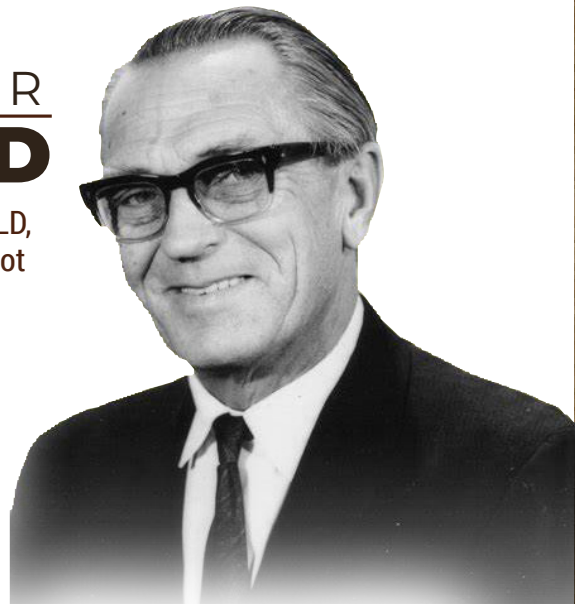
He had an interest in motorcycles and developed a foot operated gear change which was superior to those produced overseas. In 1932, he started his own company to produce and market his invention. The company expanded to sell bikes and bike parts. He married during 1933 and sold his business in 1935.

Richard and his wife borrowed some money from relatives and moved to England, where his son, Frank, was born. In England, he came up with a number of ideas, especially with transmission systems for cars. He got the Riley Car Company interested in some of his ideas, and they engaged him from 1935 to March 1938.

His mind kept looking for things that could be more efficient. His wife called him one day and asked if he could look at the toilet. He took the lid off and found that the flushing system could be made more efficient and then invented a new flushing method.

During the war years in England, the British Army took an interest in his designs for tank steering and transmission systems and were interested in hiring him, however they were in competition with the aircraft industry which eventually won out. Richard continued to work in the British aircraft industry throughout the war. He invented a fuel Injection system for early jet engines which helped Britain greatly in the battle of the skies against the German forces over Britain and Europe. The fuel Injection system was manufactured by Lucas Industries and Richard continued to work for the company for more than thirty years, both in the UK and Australia.

In 1948, Richard decided to return to Australia with his wife and children. They resided at Exeter in the Southern Highlands of NSW for a short period whilst they undertook the purchase of a home at Dural. The home at Dural was to become the site of his family company R. J. Ifield & Sons Pty Ltd and as well as Lucas Laboratories. Lucas in the UK registered the property as part of the worldwide Lucas group although the property was the property of the Ifield family. The property consisted of 89 acres of virgin bush, streams and pools, a variety of flowering plants, a small factory building which became Richard's drawing office,



machine shop and laboratory. Both the home and the factory on the property were able to be extended as needed. In 1951 Richard decided to sell the Dural property to Lucas for 4,650 Pounds plus the cost of improvements and bought another home at Beecroft for 8,750 Pounds. The sale of the Dural property was on the proviso that, if Lucas decided to move their operations to another site, they would sell the property back to Richard Ifield at the cost that they had acquired it. Richard later reacquired the Dural property which then served as a home for his six sons as they each married.

Despite having no formal engineering qualifications, he was recognised by the top British and Australian engineering bodies. He was registered as a Chartered Engineer, a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Engineers, Australia. Not bad for someone described as a "inattentive dreamer" who left school before the age of fourteen years.

ALIVE WITH ROCK'N'ROLL

BY KERIMA-GAE TOPP

We have several Rock'n'Roll shows at Alive but one of the most enduring is Juke Box Jive, which Kerima-Gae describes in her own words:

My mum and dad (Norma & Aub Topp) were foundation members, in 1992, of what was then known as 2CCR (Cumberland Community Radio). Two years later I got the opportunity of being a co-host on Rock 'n' Roll show Juke Box Jive. With the host suddenly leaving I decided to continue on even though I only had about 10 CDs at that time to play. Over 30 years later, now with over 25,000 Rock 'n' Roll songs from the 50s, 60s & 70s in my library, I am still excited about going to air every

Friday night from 9am till midnight, as my show is a request show where listeners can phone in, send an SMS, etc to request a song. For many years my late Mum helped answer request calls, now my partner John Brock fulfils that role. With more modern technology these days I have a number of listeners from overseas, who with podcasting can listen when it suits them rather than having to get up at 5am, etc for a direct broadcast. I certainly have some dedicated listeners as many of my current listeners have been with me since Day 1 as they enjoy the rock 'n' roll nostalgia.



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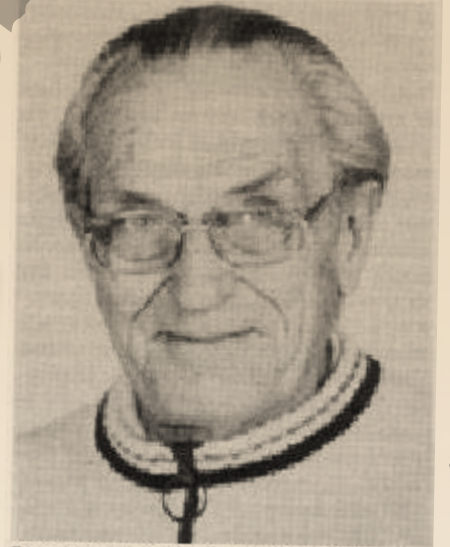
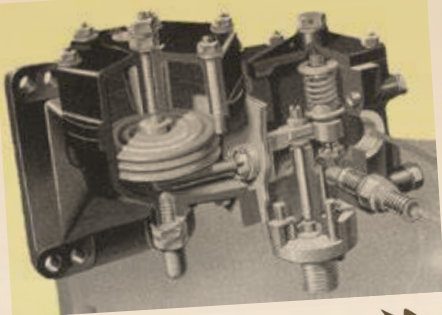
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Richard Ifield: His brilliant ideas produced 112 world-wide patents.



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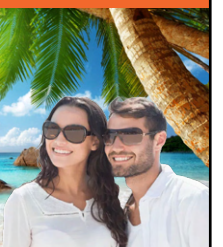
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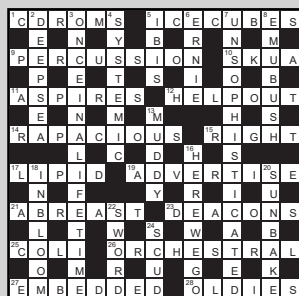
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PUZZLE

Answers from last issue

CROSSWORD



WORD SEARCH



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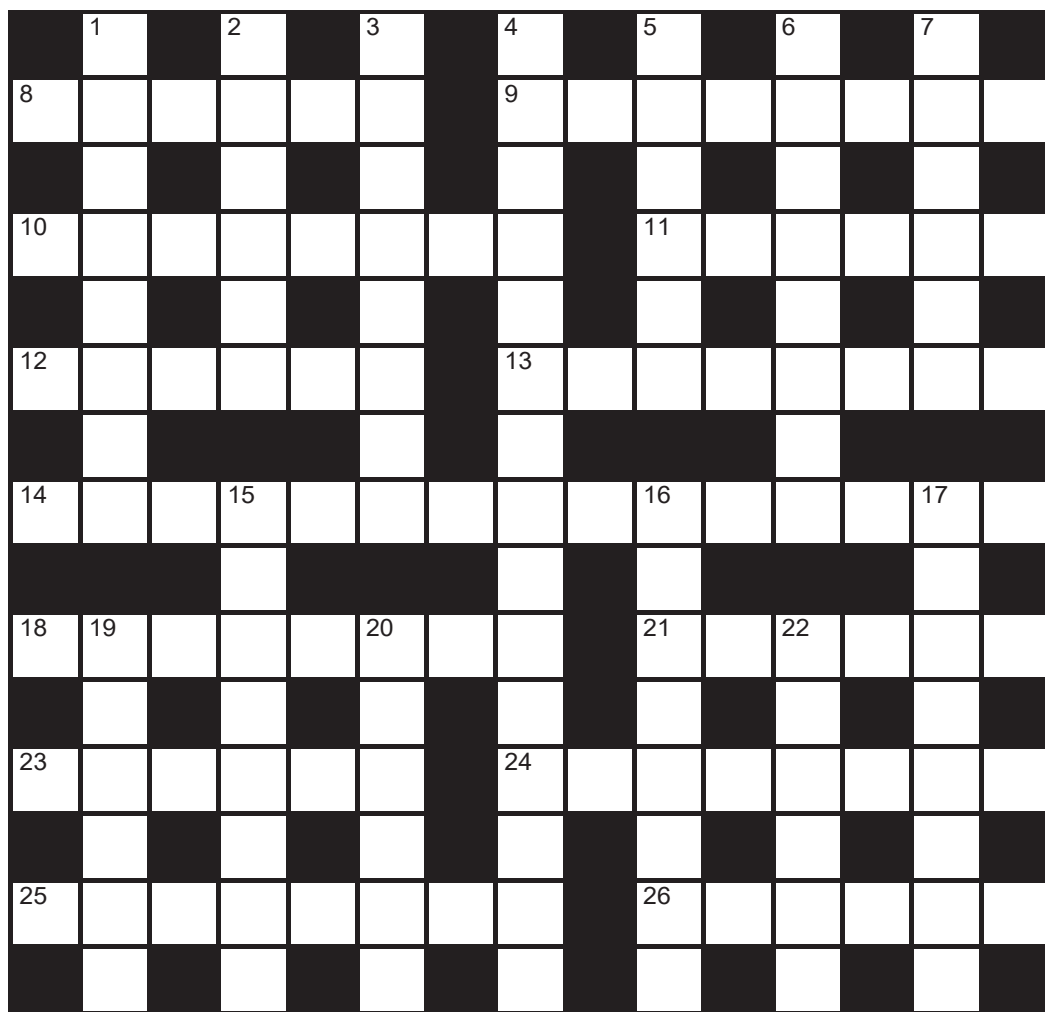


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Across

8. Most intimate
9. Former St. George Dragons pro rugby hooker and national captain
10. "Iron Gloves", Test wicketkeeper
11. Sort of
12. Gun butts
13. What you usually see in a mirror
14. Rare Queensland spider-eating flying mammal
18. Patriotic
21. Refuse to accept
23. Deadeye Annie
24. For the few
25. Ghastly
26. SA leader --- Marshall

Down

1. Not too many
2. Vast
3. Gets cracking
4. Long NW Australian coastal strip
5. Instead
6. Worried
7. East Mediterranean democracy
15. Inhabitants
16. Playful dolphin relative
17. Place for old documents
19. Grounds
20. Give the pink slip
22. Bullying seabird

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CODE WORD

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.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | | | Y | | | J | | | | | | |
| 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.

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

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

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